WILLIAMS CHURCH HISTORY

After the turn of the century the Methodists and the Baptists, with seven members, organized the Pantertown Church. After meeting together for several years the Baptists purchased the Methodist interest in the church for seventy-five dollars and the Methodists moved to a little school house in the hollow near the present site of Williamstown Church. After the move the Methodists and the Baptists alternated preaching services, each having two monthly.

The late W. A. Williams organized the Williamstown Sunday School in the school house about 1912. The present Sunday School Superintendent, Tommy Ware, is a grandson of Mr. Williams.

In the meantime plans were being made to build a church building in Williamstown. The ground for the building was donated by the late Luther Abernathy. Funds to build the church were donated by the members, raised by having box suppers, and solicited from the townspeople of Copperhill and McCaysville. The people of Williamstown furnished free labor for the building.

Some of the members who took an active part in raising funds and erecting the building were the families of W. A. Williams, John Turner, Olen Cole, John Cole, Pearl Cole, Marion Falls, Bob Harper, Oscar Mitchell, N. E. C. Vellenoweth, and Hamby Williams.

The Church was dedicated, free of debt, on the third Sunday of September in 1916 with Bishop F. D. Leet presiding. Eight ministers preached during the day. The pastor at that time was Jerry Chastain who served for four years.
Mrs. Ethel Pope played the organ in the church the first time. The hymn she played was "Till We Meet Again".

The first member to join the church was Mrs. Elizabeth Turner, the second Mrs. Oscar Mitchell, the third Mr. Oscar Mitchell, the fourth and fifth Mr. and Mrs. N. E. C. Vellenoweth. These comprised the charter members.

N. E. C. Vellenoweth was the first Sunday School Superintendent, serving in this capacity the first twenty years.

Mrs. Ella Vellenoweth organized the first Ladies Aid Society.

Some of the former pastors of the church are Wilburn Cook, C. M. Rogers, Cowan, John Cook, W. S. Galloway, F. L. Cochran, Millsaps, Fascion, Bias, Frank Cook, Willard Cochran, Adrian Warwick, Jack Atha, Roy Neal, Carl Thomas, Lupo, Silvey, Claud Patterson, Oscar Dyer, Olliver Scott, Jr., Clayton Gilmer, and O. M. Blackwell.

In 1938 the growing church saw the need of Sunday School class rooms. Two were built on the back of the church. In 1948 two more class rooms were built, the interior of the church painted, and a furnace installed. A new piano for the church was purchased in 1950. The church was remodeled again in 1954 when new pews were installed, the sanctuary repainted, colored glass put in the windows, and asphalt tile laid on the floor, an acre of land was also purchased at this time.

Some of the most outstanding work of the church has been carried under the direction of the Sunday School Superintendents. Honorable mention should be made of Carl Ware, Jr. who served as Sunday School Superintendent for one year, then entered the ministry, and is now a member of the Methodist Conference. Tommy McGill,
another young man from Williamstown Church, entered the ministry at the same time as Mr. Ware.

Claud Pittman, one of the former Sunday School Superintendents who deserves recognition as a leader in Williamstown Church. He has served his church faithfully for twenty five years. Seventeen of these as Superintendent, and for the last three years as Chairman of the Board of Stewards. Almost all of the remodeling of the Church took place under his leadership.

The past history of Williamstown Church has been as inspiration to those of us who will make the history of the future.
The History of Williamstown Church was written by Virginia Williams with information furnished by N. E. C. Vellenoweth, Ruth Ann Coffee, Mrs. Ada Cole, Mrs. Bessie Davenport, and Mrs. Elizabeth Turner.