History and Directory

First Methodist Church

Winder, Georgia

Delma L. Hagood, Pastor

MCLOWERY ELROD, District Superintendent

ARTHUR J. MOORE, Bishop

1948
HISTORY OF THE WINDER METHODIST CHURCH
By DELMA L. HAGOOD, Pastor

The Minutes of the first session of the North Georgia Conference which was held in Atlanta, Georgia, beginning on November 27, 1867 do not list the churches making up the various circuits of that day. It cannot be stated definitely as to what circuit the Methodist church in this community (then called "Jug Tavern") was listed. The church must have been served from the Jefferson Circuit which was then listed in the Elberton District. Rev. J. H. Mashburn, Sr. was listed as the pastor in 1867 through 1869 with Rev. H. J. Ellis as Junior Preacher. Rev. Robt. A. Conner and Rev. Benj. E. Ledbetter served the Jefferson Circuit in 1870 and 1871. The Conference of 1872 listed the Mulberry Circuit as a new charge and the church in this community was one of the churches making up this new appointment with Rev. J. H. Mashburn, Sr. serving as pastor.

HIRAM P. STANTON
OLDEST LIVING MEMBER OF CHURCH

According to an account of the early history of the church related by Mr. Hiram Stanton, one of the oldest citizens of Winder, the church was organized in 1836. Mr. Stanton, the oldest living member of the Winder Methodist Church, was born just three miles from this community on March 11, 1858. He learned the history of the church through his father, Jordon Stanton, who was one of the founders. Mr. Hiram Stanton, whose picture is given above, united with this church in 1870 when he was twelve years of age, and he has been a member of this church through the seventy-eight years that have followed, except for three years 1889-91 when he was a member at Rome. He has been an officer in the church for more than 60 years. The pastor is indebted to Mr. Stanton and many others for their help in compiling this brief account of the early history of the church.

Mr. Stanton states that in the year of 1836 Mr. Byrd Betts, one of the first Stewards of the church, gave about ten acres of land to be used as property for a Methodist church in the Jug Tavern community. The land was located on both sides of the Hog Mountain road, now called Athens Street. The first church building was erected in the fall of 1836, and the church was named "Concord." The building was located on the North side of the Hog Mountain road, and stood across the street and about 300 yards below where the Presbyterian church now stands. This building was constructed of rough pine boards with rough lumber used as a floor. The structure was a one room, unceiled building with rough boards serving as pews. It was arranged so that the men were seated on one side and the women on the other. The church was served by Conference and Lay Preachers with preaching on Sunday each month.

The first church building was used until sometime after 1870 when (Continued on Page 50)
as follows: Paul S. Hosch, president; Paul Brookshire, Sr., vice presi­
dent; Walter Adams, secretary-treasurer. Directors: Harvey Lokey
(later replaced by Loy Etheridge), A. Y. Eavenson (later replaced by
Charles L. McWhorter), Frank S. Bondurant, W. J. Burch, Vernon Hen­
son, Willie Hill, Harrold Herrin and James P. Robinson, ex-officio mem­
ber as past president. The above officers took office in July, 1943 and
the club continued to prosper under their leadership. During their
administration a committee was appointed under the leadership of the
president to raise funds for the remodeling of the church auditorium.
The drive was endorsed by the pastor, the Rev. W. H. Clark, and was
most successful. The committee was instrumental in raising approxi­
mately $4,000 for this work. Mr. Clark was superannuated at the end
of this conference year. On leaving Winder he expressed his appreci­
ation for the work the men's club had done and how much it had meant
to him as pastor.

The third year of the club brought the Rev. Delma Hagood as pas­
tor. The following officers were elected and took office in July, 1946.
Walter Lester, president; Walter Adams, vice president, Norman Camp,
secretary-treasurer. Directors were J. H. Jackson, Cliff Henson, C. L.
McWhorter, James P. Robinson, E. A. Starr, Harry O. Smith, Harrold
Herrin, and Paul S. Hosch, ex-officio.

During this year the club started on the repairing of the church
interior. The club underwrote this work including repairing the roof,
church windows, repairing the furnace and installing an oil heating sys­
lot, remodeling the parsonage (painting interior, papering, installing
floor furnaces, etc.) All of the project was not finished during the
year and the program was carried over into the next administration for
completion of the plans drawn and outlined by an architect.

In July, 1947, officers for the fourth year took office. They were:
Harry O. Smith, president; Charles L. McWhorter, vice president and
Larry Jones, secretary-treasurer. Directors were: Harrold Herrin, Paul
S. Hosch, J. H. Jackson, E. A. Starr, Eugene Edwards, Walter Adams,
James P. Robinson and Walter Lester, ex-officio.

The work of the previous administration on the church property
was completed by this group. This included adding a nursery, a church
office, and a study for the pastor. In addition the club furnished the club
building with new kitchen equipment, silver, chinaware and a dozen
new tables. A motion picture projector was bought for the young peo­
ple of the church. This completed all immediate objectives with the
exception of rearranging the auditorium and building a new choir loft,
which is one of the chief future objectives.

Since organization the club has actively supported the Crusade for
Christ program with a visitation committee that has done a remarkable
job. The Club will also sponsor a revival in the church in October,
1948.

From the accomplishments of this worthy organization it is easy
to understand their slogan, "A man's club with every man at work."