

History of the Barnett, Georgia, Methodist Church.

Seventy four years ago the Methodist Church was built on land granted by Lawrence Battle Sr. This historic old building stands in the heart of this little village and also in the hearts of the many who have come to worship here. Many have passed on and rest peacefully in the pine sheltered cemetery adjoining. Many who have moved away but have never forgotten the sweet tones of the great bell that called them to worship. This dear old church stands yet, in dignity and solemn repose, whose walls have rung with joyous hymns of great revivals or the solemn measured tread of hearers of some loved one to their last resting place. Yet whatever the occasion, when one entered its doors it seemed to fold protecting arms about one, giving a sense of peace, comfort, and hope and the writer is slightly partial to old fashioned ways, yet some how the more modern churches of today do not seem to create the feeling of peace in one's heart that the old buildings do. There have been many sincere and gifted Preachers on this charge and from my earliest recollection I can first remember the preachers for the home I was reared in by the most refined and saintly old grand-mother, was always a place preachers just came, her religious character was a joy to know, and come meeting day, we went to church and sat on the front seat and woe be to me if I got curious to see who was behind me or suddenly asked out loud was I going to hell. After a particular "hell fire and brimstone" sermon for which Reverend Felix Brown could really bring a vivid picture. Much as I dreaded going to church, mostly because my shoes always hurt, I soon understood that a child's character was being shaped and taught the ways of the Christian, by a saintly old grand-mother who was a charter member of this church. Mellie Messengale Taylor and she taught and she lived the teaching day by day. Another dear old lady who too has passed away was also a charter member, she was Mrs. Elizabeth Crenshaw Ledbetter. There are many more of course but these two I knew so well. Lack of time and space keep me from naming but these two. I do not have the time to search for the names of all the preachers I knew here, but the following are remembered very well-- the first in my recollection was Reverend Felix Brown along with Ben Graham who was ever smiling; J.E. Russel; L. W. Browder; Jeff Davis; J. J. Sneed; L. B. Harrell; all these and many more were familiar faces in my own home. Since I married this writer came into the church by certificate in 1906. This Church has been famous for it's quarterly meetings with dinner on the grounds where everybody was welcomed. Recently workmen advised that the steeple was unsafe and it was with real grief and regret that the community had it done. However, plans are under way to replace it. The membership is very small and more than once it's very existence has been threatened but somehow the challenge was met. In the past three years a WSCS was organized and they proudly proceeded to have concrete steps built. The present preacher the Rev. C.B. Drake, has made a name for himself in his encouraging and uplifting example. Several years ago a former member and steward had the silver communion service replated. May this church continue to stand as a precious memory of by gone days and first- last and always a call, an invitation, and entreaty for souls to work in the vine yard of the Lord and a blessing to this community.

A member.