

Gatesville Methodist Church.

In the beginning Gatesville church was known as Friendship Methodist church.

It was founded in the year 1853 by the families of Stanley Peurifoy, Donald McDonald, Mr. and Mrs. Revere and Mr. Saunders.

In the beginning it was in The County Line circuit.

The building was a long unceiled house without any heat. The pulpit was boxed in and entered at the side by a door and two steps.

The pews were divided by a center aisle.

Services were held one Sunday in month also a service on Saturday.

The first pastor was J. M. Della assisted by a local preacher, Abram Ansley.

In the early years such men as Wesley Smith, John Pate, W. L. Patillo, Leonard Rush, the grand father of John, Charles and Frank Jenkins.

Such names as C. S. Owens, J. H. Little, J. B. Hanson are called to mind.

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Early presiding elders were such men as Dr. Jessie Boring, W. L. Paine, Dr. Luke Johnson.

One preacher, Artemas Lester went from this church.

About 1885 a new and more commodious building was erected. It had a vestibule and bell tower. This house was razed and the present brick structure was built in 1919.

During the ~~the~~ pastorate of Douglas Lewis Culloden and Yatesville were united and made a station, with two Sundays each in a month.

The first missionary society was organized about 1890 with Miss Helen McDonald, President and Miss Martha Yates, secretary.

Many pastors have served this church. The present pastor is Henry Kinnard.