

1972 Dalton Dist.

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History of Mount Carmel Methodist Church

(Adairsville Charge) Dalton District,
Halls Station Community
Bartow County

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And they "builded an altar unto the Lord" ... Genesis

Elisha and Elijah went up on the mount Carmel to commune and fellowship with God that their spiritual needs might be met and that God's will for them might be made known.

In 1847, or there about, the people of "Rockdodger" - Halls Station - Linwood - felt the need of a building, an altar, where they, too, might commune and worship God; so they organized Mount Carmel Methodist Church. They first worshipped in a log building. Many of the early members came from the Kingston Church. James F. Morton is on record as having transferred to Mount Carmel by certificate in 1847. Thomas Kitchens united by vows in 1853. Rev. J. O. Strickland was the pastor. At this time Mount Carmel was on the Calhoun Charge, Marietta District.

In 1856, the Kerr Family moved to the Halls Community. Robert Nelson Kerr, affectionately known as "Uncle Bobby", gave the land upon which a frame building was erected. This building was located between the present church yard drive and the cemetery. In the rear of this church a place was reserved for the slaves who came regularly with their masters to learn of God. After the Civil War, the Negroes who would not leave their masters still came to worship with their white folk. The church was made warm in winter by using a heater.

Services were held on Saturdays and Sundays. Some ladies came riding side saddles, holding their babies in front of them; while the father had other members of the family riding behind him on his horse. Other families came in ox carts.

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The Kerrs, Mortons, Kitchens, Seays, McGuires, Nevilles, Copps, Shermans, and Wards were strong pillars in this early church. Many of these are now resting in the cemetery belonging to the church which they loved so well.

In 1866, Mrs. Frances Hood united with the church while Clement Evans was pastor.

In 1867-68, W. C. Dunlap was pastor. At this time, Mount Carmel was transferred to the Kingston Charge in the Rome District.*

In 1871, the Dalton District was established and the Kingston Charge was transferred to this new district. J. O. Reynolds was pastor. In the 1870's, many who served long and well as stewards, trustees, and Sunday School Superintendents united with the church; namely, J. C. Kerr, Calvin J. Ward, William Sherman, John N. McGuire, and many other lay members who gave their all to the Master.

On October 5, 1891, J. C. Kerr deeded to the Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church South the land which his father had given. (If a deed had been given by Robert Nelson Kerr, the record was burned in 1864 when the courthouse at Cassville was burned during the Civil War.) The deed is recorded in Book DD, page 11, in the County Clerk's Office in Cartersville, Georgia. It calls for two acres of land, more or less, and is given "for and in consideration of the love I bear for the Cause of Christ and from an earnest desire to promote his heritage on earth - for the use and benefit of place of worship and burial ground". R. N. Kerr, T. S. Kitchens, J. F. Morton, C. J. Ward, and J. C. Kerr composed the board of trustees at this time. In 1896, an additional triangular plot starting at the south corner running north and back to the starting point was deeded to the trustees. This deed is on record in Book II, page 739.

* Conference Journal

Rev. Joseph Singleton, Rev. W. F. Robinson, Rev. W. J. Cotter, Rev. J. W. Stipe, Rev. J. E. England, Rev. J. M. White, Rev. J. T. Lowe, and Rev. J. M. Lowry were other ministers who served faithfully while Mount Carmel was on the Kingston Charge.

In 1895, Mount Carmel was transferred to the Adairsville Charge, so the records of the First Quarterly Conference of that year show. Rev. H. J. Adams was presiding elder and Rev. F. S. Hudson was pastor. The minutes revealed that very little in money was given in support of the ministry - \$ 4.50 to \$ 21.00 per quarter. Much more was given to Missions. A report from the trustees to this conference valued Mount Carmel Church Property at \$ 250.00. C. J. Ward and J. M. Copp were stewards and J. C. Kerr, J. W. Morton, and T. S. Kitchens were stewards and trustees. S. J. Kitchens was Sunday School Superintendent.

In 1896, Marion Copp was Sunday School Superintendent. Esther, "Sis", Copp, a strong member, was an "angel of mercy" always ministering to the physical and spiritual needs of those about her. She was the first woman to pray in public at Mount Carmel.

An Epworth League, Chapter No. 2698, was organized in 1896. The Spurlocks and Greers were responsible for this organization. J. R. Gibbons was president; S. J. Kitchens, first vice-president; Adair Smith, second vice-president; and J. C. Kerr was treasurer. There were twenty-five members. W. B. Farpley, pastor in 1896-97, said, "The League seems doomed to failure due to lack of interest of the people". However, it continued to function for a number of years. George B. Ward recalls riding a horse to this Epworth League. The horse threw him breaking his arm.

In this first church Cupid smiled as on a rainy afternoon a number of children on their way home from school found shelter in the church during a downpour of rain. Among these were Lura Anderson and George Ward. They were sitting on the pulpit platform when George proposed and Lura said, "Yes".

It was in the old church that Mrs. S. A. Harris, the former Lollie Terry, met Rev. S. A. Harris. They later married and Mrs. Harris recalls coming back to Mount Carmel as the presiding elder's wife. This was in 1922-25. The late Rev. S. A. Harris and Mrs. Harris are the parents of our beloved Dr. Pierce Harris.

As the membership grew and people became more concerned about an adequate building in which to worship, it was decided with the help of the North Georgia Conference to build a new church. The minutes of the First Quarterly Conference of 1902-03 states, "We hope to be in the new church soon". The church members gave the timber for the framing, and the men went to the woods, cut the logs, hauled them to the sawmill where they were sawed into lumber, and then hauled the lumber to the church yard. The dressed lumber - ceiling, weather-boarding, and flooring - was shipped from Dalton, Georgia, by railway freight. The windows, doors, and blinds, were hauled in wagons from Rome, Georgia. George Gain, a carpenter, was hired and all the men in the church assisted him. Some sacrificed much in order that the church might be completed. Some "nearly lost their crops while working on the church". In the spring of 1903, the new church was completed. Rev. B. A. Ware was pastor.

Ed Morton served long as Sunday School Superintendent. Others who served in this capacity in later years were: J. C. Kerr, Sr., Charlie Harris, Jesse Pye, S. J. Biggers, Mrs. Kittie Brown (McGuire), Howard McDonald, Charles Kerr, Mrs. Blanche Clemmons, and G. B. McGuire who has served for the past fourteen years and is the present Superintendent.

Many worthwhile citizens have gone out from our church to build for the Master. Charlie Dunaway, the evangelist, grew up in the Mount Carmel Church; Charles Kerr, a Baptist minister, accepted God's call to preach while a member of this church; Kelly, Cregg, and Eli Hutto were local preachers from this church.

Miss Louise Ward served as secretary of the Dalton District Wesleyan Service Guild four years - 1950-54.

In 1919, Rev. I. J. Lovern was pastor. Forty-two members were added to the church during "protracted meeting".

In 1920, Rev. Lovern organized Barnesley Chapel Methodist Church. The Calvin Shermans, John Hoods, Saylor, and others living in the Barnesley area moved their membership from Mount Carmel to Barnesley to help establish that church.

In 1922, Dr. Lester Rumble began his ministry. So zealous for the Master was he that he walked many times the five miles between Blairsville and Mount Carmel to visit his flock or to fill his appointments. An Epworth League was organized in that year.

Mrs. Carrie Ginn Goodwin was counselor. This League was active for many years, dying out in the early forties due to the fact that there were no young people of League age for a period of time. In 1949, the Youth Fellowship was organized while Rev. B. L. Betts was pastor. This was short-lived but was reorganized in 1952 and is still active. Mrs. Mary Kerr Lockridge is counselor.

A Missionary Society was organized in June, 1925, with thirteen members. Mrs. George Ward was its first president. Rev. W. B. Hughes was pastor. Records reveal that this Society was active for eleven years. The purchasing of a piano for the church was the Society's outstanding project. The Lord's cotton patch was cultivated by the members, and the proceeds were applied as part payment on the piano. The balance was raised by contributions.

In 1929, while Rev. John K. Dean was pastor, a door was cut in the back of the church and a new porch and steps were built of lumber. These deteriorated in time. So in 1942, while Rev. Charles Gilhe was pastor, a movement was begun to build a concrete porch and steps. This project was completed while Rev. Eugene Gilreath was pastor.

While the Rev. Grilhe was pastor, the Kerr, Ward, and Anderson families gave beautiful pulpit chairs to the church in memory of J. C. Kerr, Sr., John T. Anderson, and Calvin Ward.

In 1947, electricity was made available. Three large fluorescent light fixtures were installed. One of these was given by Albert Jolly in memory of his father and mother, W. A. and Annie Jolly.

In 1952, a Butane gas heating system was installed to replace the old coal heater.

The church has been painted several times, but its latest coat of paint was put on in 1954 due to the untiring efforts of Mrs. Howard McDonald in soliciting funds.

The present trustees of the church are: G. B. Ward, G. H. McDonald, and L. O. Lockridge.

Miss Louise Ward is Church Treasurer and has served in this capacity for the past thirteen years.

Members of the Official Board are: Miss Louise Ward, Mrs. C. H. McDonald, Mrs. C. B. Ward, H. Y. Clemmons, L. O. Lockridge, G. B. McGuire, Mrs. C. B. McGuire, G. H. McDonald, G. B. Ward, T. O. Ward, Mrs. H. Y. Clemmons, and Miss Lynelle Lockridge.

The record would not be complete without the names of the pastors, great men of God, who have given of their love unceasingly and labors untiringly that His Kingdom might come - that His Will be done - the following list is taken from available sources:

Calhoun Charge - Marietta District - J. O. Strickland

Kingston Charge - Rome District:

W. C. Dunlap - 1864-65 - Kingston Register of Pastors

Clement A. Evans - 1866-68

James Pierce - 1869-70

Joseph Carr - 1871

Kingston Charge - Dalton District:

John A. Reynolds - 1871-73
Joseph Singleton - 1874-77
W. F. Robinson - 1878-79
W. J. Cotter - 1881-82
J. W. Stipe - 1883-84
J. E. England - 1885-86
J. M. White - 1887-88
J. T. Lowe - 1889
J. M. Lowry - 1890
J. E. England - 1891-94

Adairsville Charge - Dalton District:

F. S. Hudson - 1895
W. E. Tarpley - 1896-97
O. L. Kelley - 1898
G. O. A. Grogan - 1899-1900
B. P. Searcy - 1901
John W. Stipe - 1902
E. A. Ware - 1903 part of 1904
J. M. Hawkins - Balance of 1904-07
J. W. Snyder - 1908
A. S. Hutchinson - 1909-11
J. O. Pettis - 1912-13
J. E. Russell - 1914-15
T. H. Maxwell - 1916-18
I. J. Lovern - 1919-21
Lester Rumble - 1922
Reynolds Green - 1923
W. B. Hughes - 1924-25
McLowry Elrod - 1926

- Roger Stone - 1927-28
- A. P. Foster - 1929 Left in May
- John K. Dean - July 1, 1929-30
- W. R. England - 1931
- Autrelle Vincent - 1932
- Barrett L. Barton - 1933-34
- W. W. Spence - 1935
- J. B. Stephenson - 1936-37
- T. C. Ford - 1938-41
- Charles J. Grilhe - 1942-44
- J. B. Ward - 1944-46
- Eugene Gilreath - 1947-48
- B. L. Betts - 1948-52
- Loren Parker - 1952-53
- Jack Travelstead - 1953-54
- W. A. Allen - 1954-

Presiding Elders or District Superintendents:

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|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Wm. F. Quillian - 1884-86 | W. T. Irvine - 1912-15 |
| John M. Lowry - 1887 | S. B. Ledbetter - 1916-19 |
| A. G. Worley - 1888-90 | John F. Yarbrough - 1920-22 |
| J. B. Robbins - 1891 | S. A. Harris - 1923-26 |
| W. C. Dunlap - 1892 | Frank Quillian - 1927-30 |
| H. J. Adams - 1893-96 | J. R. Turner - 1931-34 |
| A. W. Williams - 1897-99 | A. M. Pierce - 1935-38 |
| B. P. Allen - 1900-02 | J. S. Thrailkill - 1939-41 |
| Ford McRee - 1903-06 | C. M. Lipham - 1942-47 |
| W. P. Lovejoy - 1907-10 | Peter Manning - 1947-51 |
| T. J. Christian - 1911 | H. C. Stratton - 1952-55 |

Compiled by Kittie Jolly McGuire
 (Mrs. G. B.)
 - Church Historian

January 25, 1955

We gratefully acknowledge help from these people and sources:

Mrs. Nola Sherman

Mrs. Ada Braden

Bob Holt

Henry McGuire

George Ward

Mrs. George Ward

Mrs. Banner Smith

Herman Henderson

Mrs. S. A. Harris

Miss Emma Gardner

Miss Louise Ward, Typist

Quarterly Conference Records

Annual Conference Records - Rev. W. A. Allen

Church Registers