

H I S T O R Y

of

EBENEZER METHODIST CHURCH

Fayette Circuit

Fayetteville, Georgia

1882 - 1951

Mrs. W. W. McEachern, Historian

HISTORY OF EBENEZER METHODIST CHURCH

Ebenezer Methodist Church was organized in the year 1882. At first it was known as Old Field Church because the services were held in the Old Field School building. The charter members of the church were G. M. Davis, James Davis, Frank Davis, Barney Tinsley, James Speer, William S. Brown, F. B. Brown and Ed Speer.

A Brother Parks was the pastor and Brother Hunnicut of Newnan was Presiding Elder. Brother Hunnicut preached the Dedication sermon in 1884. His text was, "Thy kingdom come." The first song to be sung in the church was "Nearer My God, To Thee."

The lot of land on which Ebenezer Church stands, 1 acre, was donated by Aunt Polly Palmore for as long as it was used for a church. Uncle Chub Davis donated the land for the cemetery.

Prominent in the memories of older members of the church are numerous revival services. The first of these were held under brush arbors built on the school grounds. It seems that the organization of the church grew out of one such meeting in which Brother Bogan Mass preached.

Another series of "protracted" services under the brush arbor which some of the older members still remember was one in which the evangelist was a woman, Miss Janie Jamison.

Some men from Ebenezer Church who have been licensed to preach are: Joe Farr, Faye Landrum, Jimmy Guy, Homer Guy, Wight Chandler.

Many names of former pastors are still in the memory of the people of Ebenezer: Brother Mass, Wurley, Rembert Smith, Henry Embree, E. H. Wood, J. E. Keithley, Milton, A. B. Sanders, DeBardleben, Askew, Byrd, Snider, Sanders, Zack C. Hayes, Jr., W. B. Hughes, B. W. Hancock, J. E. Cline, T. R. Rutland, Geo. E., Gary, M. C. Allen, G. H. Bailey, G. C. Burtz, Jimmie Moore, J. F. Thompson, and Hunter Bassett. The present pastor is LeRoy Smith.

Ebenezer has been on several different circuits during its history of nearly seventy years. It has been on the Turin and Palmetto circuits at different times, on the Fayetteville circuit with the Fayetteville Church and later with Hopewell and Bethany Churches. At present it is on the newly organized circuit, the Fayette Circuit, with Hopewell and Mt. Zion Church at Mt. Zion Camp Ground near Griffin, Georgia.

One of the best loved of the former pastors of Ebenezer Church is Brother DeBardleben, who is now retired and living in Atlanta. He is said to have preached in every church in Fayette County and is remembered and loved all over the county. Still in circulation is one amusing story from his ministry at Ebenezer where he preached from 1911 to 1914. It was during a summer revival meeting and Brother DeBardleben had been in swimming with some of the boys during the afternoon. That evening in his sermon he added a gesture to emphasize his zeal in kicking out the Devil and when he did his shoe went up nearly to the ceiling and landed in the lap of one of the ladies

in the congregation. Mrs. McEachern remembers this well, for she was the one who caught the shoe.

Some traditional dates at Ebenezer Church are the Second Sunday in June every year when there is a Homecoming, singing, and "dinner on the ground," and the week of the Second Sunday in August when there are revival services. The Second Sunday of every month has long been the regular preaching day.

There are Methodists from all around, Atlanta, East Point, College Park, Newnan, Griffin, and many other places who claim Ebenezer as their home church.

At present Ebenezer has an active organization of the Woman's Society of Christian Service and a growing Church School which was just recently reorganized. For many years Mr. W.W. McEachern was superintendent of the school. At present Mr. "Buster" Davis is the superintendent. The president of the W.S.C.S is Mrs. W. W. McEachern.