

## Rock Chapel Methodist

# Church, Community Intertwined

By REBECCA WHITCOMB  
Feature Writer

The drive down Stephenson Road toward Rock Chapel United Methodist Church is not quite the same as it was 150 years ago when the church's first parishioners travelled to the area.

The road is still heavily wooded, but there are signs of new housing construction apparent on either side of the road. The growth of the South DeKalb community area, and the growth of Rock Chapel United Methodist, are closely intertwined. "Community" is the key to this historic church, whose buildings have stood on the Stephenson Road site for 156 years.

Rock Chapel is considered the oldest United Methodist Church in DeKalb County, the Rev. Kenneth Kulp of Rock Chapel said.

In 1825, according to church archives and a book by Atlanta historian Frank M. Garrett, settlers from the eastern part of Georgia and the Carolinas moved to the area and built a log meeting house which served as a church and a school. Members of the congregation built a second church in the same area in 1834. That structure burned in 1870. A third church was built then. It was in 1886 the congregation voted to build a better church, and that white clap-board structure still stands today.

Rock Chapel has seen many changes. The most recent is the dedication of a 9,000 square foot community center behind the old-fashioned building. The gymnasium and activities center was dedicated to Kulp's son, David, who drowned in a church retreat accident three years ago.

"This area doesn't have a real central community center and we hope to provide it," said Kulp. The activities center is open to scouting groups, clogging groups, garden clubs and of course, members of the congregation," he added.

"We are here to serve the community," Kulp emphasized.

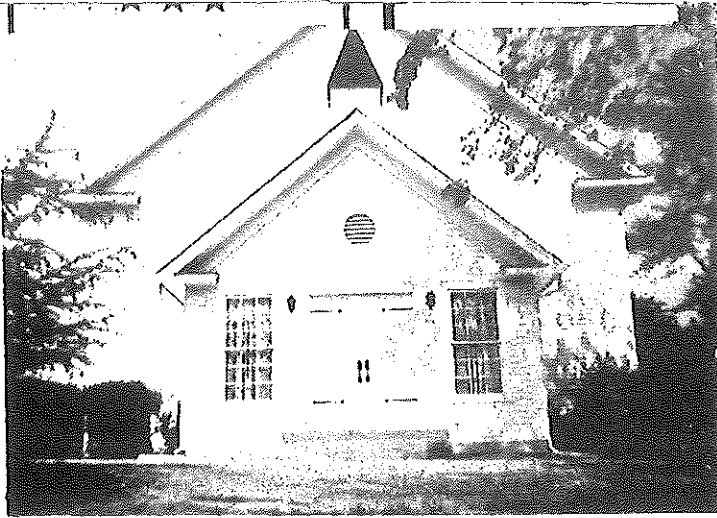
"We are a church family, and although we have many families who belong to the church, we are not a 'family-only' oriented church. We want everyone, from younger people to older people to feel like a

part of the entire church family," he added.

Kulp says the church and the community center is a way residents can "find some roots" and become part of the community.



Staff Photo By Rebecca Whitcomb  
ROCK CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST IS 156 YEARS OLD



**ROCK CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**-The church who hold a special service of recognition May 24.

## Service Of Recognition To Be Conducted May 24 - 1970

A special service of recognition will be conducted Sunday, May 24, during the 11:00 a.m. worship hour. A former pastor, the Rev. William O. ("Pete") Dinkins, will be visiting speaker. Mr. Dinkins is presently serving as Director of the Potter's House, an alcoholism rehabilitation center in Jefferson, Georgia. Following the morning worship service there will be a covered dish dinner in the church fellowship hall.

Recent renovations and additions will be consecrated. These include building of a vestibule at the front entrance of the church; renovated sanctuary (new walls, lowered suspended ceiling, and new lighting); and central air conditioning of the entire church plant. Remodeling has also been done to the parsonage. Plans include laying out a new cemetery adjacent to the church.

Members of the church ex-

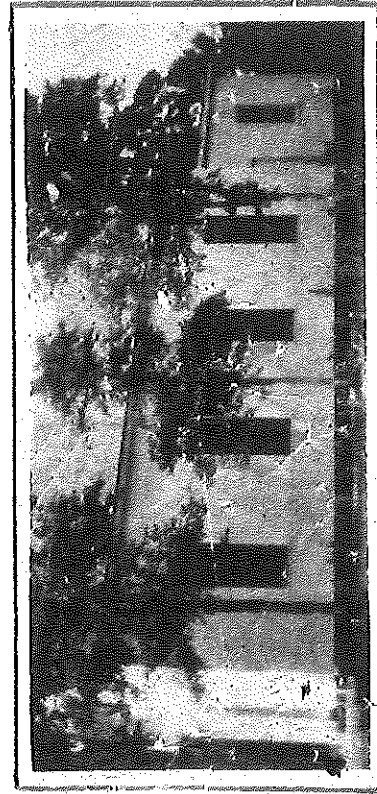
tend a warm welcome to the public, and invite all to attend the service and enjoy the fellowship period to follow. Pastor is Jerry L. Reed.

The Spring Band Concert, the final one for this school term, will be held Friday, May 22, at 8 o'clock in the L.H.S. Cafetorium. Mr. X. J. Lenoir will be directing.

A most interesting and challenging program will be presented. The concert will feature Dixieland Combo, also a Stage Band playing music from the era of the big bands such as Woody Herman.

The program will be selected from the following music: Suite in F for Military Band by Holst; Original Dixieland Concerto by Warrenton; Vincent Youman's Fantasy, comprises dance tunes of early '30's and '40's; Man of LaMancha: Toccato for Bank; and Marches.

Parents, band members and students have tickets for sale at \$1.00 for adults and 50¢ students.



**100-YEAR-OLD CHURCH**, Rock Chapel in DeKalb County, near Lithonia, Ga., which held its centennial celebration, July 29.

May 18, 1970

To All Members and Friends of ROCK CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH

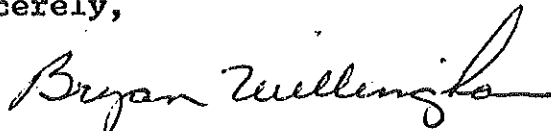
Sunday, May 24, 1970, at 11:00 a.m., the new Vestibule and other improvements to the church will be dedicated. We plan to have the Reverend Pete Dinkens, a former Pastor at Rock Chapel, conduct the service, after which we will have lunch in the Fellowship Hall.

Won't you plan to be with us and help make this memorable day a day of fun and fellowship for all.

It is our privilege to dedicate the new Vestibule to the memory of Mr. James Ledford King, Sr., a person who loved and supported Rock Chapel Church to the fullest throughout his lifetime.

Please plan to join with us and bring your dinner this Sunday, May 24, 1970.

Sincerely,



J. Bryan Willingham, Jr.  
Chairman - Trustees

EARLY HISTORY - ROCK CHAPEL WAS IN CREEK TERRITORY BEFORE THE TREATY MADE AT INDIAN SPRINGS. ~~IN 1805~~ THERE WERE LAND LOTTERIES AND IN <sup>1821</sup> 1820, EIGHT COUNTIES WERE DISTRIBUTED. ONE OF THESE WAS HENRY COUNTY. LATER DEKALB (1822) WAS MADE FROM PART OF HENRY COUNTY, AND LATER, FULTON COUNTY WAS MADE FROM PART OF DEKALB. "CHOPPED OFF AT MORELAND AVENUE", ACCORDING TO HISTORIAN GARRETT.

~~THERE ARE NO RECORDS OF DEKALB COUNTY PRIOR TO 1842, ... ALL BURNED IN A FIRE AT COURTHOUSE.~~

*It was at Moreland Ave. Buried*

DIAMOND'S DISTRICT IS NAMED FOR JAMES ("JACK") DIAMOND, AN EARLY SETTLER AND FIRST SURVEYOR OF DEKALB COUNTY. ALSO SERVED ON THE FIRST GRAND JURY. HE IS BURIED IN THE FAMILY CEMETERY IN THE WOODLANDS BETWEEN ALEXANDER'S PLACE AND STEPHENSON ROAD.

MR. JOE BOND SAID THAT BURIED IN ROCK CHAPEL CHURCH CEMETERY IS A VETERAN OF EVERY WAR IN WHICH THE UNITED STATES HAS FOUGHT...EVEN A REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIER WHO LIVED "OVER BY THE RIVER."

THE HIGHTOWER (OR ETOWAH) TRAIL WAS THE DIVIDING LINE BETWEEN THE CREEKS ON THE SOUTH AND THE CHEROKEES ON THE NORTH. IT WAS A TRADING PATH OF THE CHEROKEES, STARTING THIS SIDE OF AUGUSTA, GOING UP THROUGH ATHENS, MONROE, NORTH OF CONYERS, ACROSS THE YELLOW RIVER TO NEAR JUHAN'S STORE, BERMUDA ROAD TO JUST NORTH OF STONE MOUNTAIN, ON WEST TO JUST SOUTH OF ROSWELL (THERE IS A ROAD THERE STILL CALLED "HIGHTOWER TRAIL") TO THE CROSSING ON THE CHATTAHOOCHEE. HERE THE ROAD FORKS, ONE GOING NORTH TO THE CHEROKEE CITIES AND NEW ECROTA, THE OTHER CONTINUING WEST ABOUT HALFWAY ACROSS ALABAMA, WHERE IT MEETS A NORTH-SOUTH TRADING ROUTE.

THE HIGHTOWER TRAIL IS THE DIVIDING LINE BETWEEN DEKALB AND GWINNETT COUNTIES. YEARS AGO, AFTER A RAIN, YOUNG FOLKS WOULD HUNT AND FIND INDIAN ARROW HEADS. THE AREA ALONG THE TRAIL WAS NEUTRAL TERRITORY FOR THE INDIANS, SO ONLY ARROW HEADS USED FOR SMALL ANIMAL HUNTING WERE FOUND.

SCHOOLS - THERE WAS A SCHOOL CALLED "PINE SOMETHING"...MARY SORROW CAN TELL YOU MORE ABOUT THAT. AND A LONG TIME AGO, THERE WAS AN ENGLISHMAN, "PROFESSOR WHITE" ABOUT WHOM NOBODY KNEW VERY MUCH, EXCEPT THAT HE WAS A GENTLEMAN OF THE OLD SCHOOL, WITH A VERY ENGLISH ACCENT, WHO WORE CUTAWAY COATS, AND AS I RECALL, A BLACK CAPE. HE KNEW GREEK AND LATIN AND HELD CLASSES AT HIS HOME ON THE ROAD THAT GOES SOMEWHERE OFF THE NORTH SIDE OF THE SNELLVILLE ROAD. THE YOUNG PEOPLE HE TAUGHT WERE SEVEN OR EIGHT IN ALL. HE MARRIED, BUT NO ONE EVER KNEW WHO HE REALLY WAS OR WHY HE SETTLED IN ROCK CHAPEL.

THE OLD ROCK CHAPEL SCHOOL (PRIOR TO PRESENT BUILDING) WAS BUILT IN \_\_\_\_\_ AND WAS USED UNTIL 1940. THE NEW SCHOOL WAS BUILT WITH WPA FUNDS. MR. JIM CHERRY SAID MORE STUDENTS FROM ROCK CHAPEL "MADE" THE BETA CLUB THAN ANY OTHER. WE HAVE HAD FINE TEACHERS AND GOOD STUDENTS. THE SCHOOL BOARD, COMPOSED OF PARENT MEMBERS, WAS MOST HELPFUL. NEW ADDITIONS HAVE KEPT IT UP TO DATE. (BEHIND THE SCHOOL IN THE TREES IS A CEMETERY OF SLAVES WHO BACK IN THE 1850'S AND 60'S, ATTENDED ROCK CHAPEL REGULARLY.) AS PART OF THE DEKALB SCHOOL SYSTEM, IT HAS KEPT OUR YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE FOREFRONT OF NEW EDUCATION, AND THE BUILDINGS HAVE PROVIDED MEETING PLACES FOR PTA'S, CARNIVALS, AND GATHERINGS OF ALL KINDS.

THE ACT OF DEDICATION CONTINUED:  
MISSIONS, OF CHRISTIAN CITIZENSHIP, AND THE BROAD  
FIELD OF SOCIAL RELATIONS.

People: The kingdom of this world are become the  
kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he  
shall reign forever and ever.

MINISTER AND THE PEOPLE:

WE DEDICATE OURSELVES ANEW TO THAT SERVICE OF  
OUR FELLOW MEN WHEREIN CAN BEST BE PERFORMED  
OUR TRUE SERVICE OF GOD, IN OBEDIENCE TO THE  
SPIRIT OF THE MASTER WHEN HE SAID; THOU SHALT  
LOVE THE LORD THY GOD WITH ALL THY HEART, AND  
THY NEIGHBOR AS THYSELF.

Prayer of Dedication

Benediction

Postlude



# DEDICATION

Let the beauty of the Lord  
our God be upon us: and  
establish Thou the work of our  
hands upon us.

PSALM 90:17a

Let your light so shine be-  
fore men, that they may  
see your good works, and glory  
by your Father which is in heaven.

MATTHEW 5:16

ROCK CHAPEL METHODIST CHURCH  
DEDICATION SERVICE  
September 24, 1961

Prelude

\*Hymn # 9....."Come, Thou Almighty King"

\*Call to Worship

Minister:OUR HELP IS IN THE NAME OF THE LORD,WHO MADE HEAVEN AND EARTH.

People: Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it.

Minister:ESTABLISH THOU THE WORK OF OUR HANDS UPON US;YEA,THE WORK OF OUR HANDS ESTABLISH IT.

People: Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time forth, and for evermore. Amen.

Invocation

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn # 8....."The Church's One Foundation"

Reading of the Holy Scriptures

Choral Anthem

Address.....Bishop John Owen Smith

Offertory

\*Doxology

Act of Presentation..Mrs.Conley Sorrow

ACT OF DEDICATION:

MINISTER:IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, WE DEDICATE THIS BUILDING TO THE WORSHIP OF GOD.

People: God is a spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

MINISTER:WE DEDICATE THIS BUILDING TO THE PURPOSE OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: TO THE WORK OF THE GYMNASIUM SCHOOL, TO THE STUDY OF THE SCRIPTURES, AND TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF CHRISTIAN CHARACTER.

People: Thatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning. Blessed are they that hear the word of God,and keep it.

MINISTER:WE DEDICATE THIS BUILDING TO THE BROADENING OF MENTAL HOPIEWS AND THE FLEETING OF KNOWLEDGE, THAT YOUNG AND OLD MAY BE AWAKENED AND INFORMED.

People: Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

MINISTER:WE DEDICATE THIS BUILDING TO CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP AND TO RECREATION OF MIND AND BODY.

People: Thou wilt show me the path of life; in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand are pleasures for evermore.

MINISTER:WE DEDICATE THIS BUILDING TO THOSE TASKS AND AIMS IN WHICH THE CHRISTIAN SERVES HIS PLACE AND TIME: TO THE CAUSE OF

Robert L. Dixon

James and Vergie Dixon

Dee and Bertie Mitchell

Myrt Snead Mitchell  
and Herman Mitchell

PEWS GIVEN BY

Mr. and Mrs. W.A. Moore

Mr. and Mrs. Ledford King

Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Pearce

Choir Chairs

The Wesleyan Service Guild

We also wish to express our appreciation to the people, many of whom are not members of this church, who have given of their time, talents, and resources to make possible this Educational Plant.

**ACT OF DEDICATION:**

MINISTER: IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, WE DEDICATE THIS BUILDING TO THE WORSHIP OF GOD.

People: God is a spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

MINISTER: WE DEDICATE THIS BUILDING TO THE PURPOSE OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: TO THE WORK OF THE CHURCH SCHOOL, TO THE STUDY OF THE SCRIPTURES, AND TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF CHRISTIAN CHARACTER.

People: whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning. Blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.

MINISTER: WE DEDICATE THIS BUILDING TO THE BROADENING OF MENTAL HORIZONS AND THE FURNISHING OF KNOWLEDGE, THAT YOUNG AND OLD MAY BE AWAKENED AND INFORMED.

People: Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

MINISTER: WE DEDICATE THIS BUILDING TO CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP AND TO RECREATION OF MIND AND BODY.

People: Thou wilt show me the path of life; in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand are pleasures for evermore.

MINISTER: WE DEDICATE THIS BUILDING TO THOSE TASKS AND AIMS IN WHICH THE CHRISTIAN SERVES HIS PLACE AND TIME: TO THE CAUSE OF



A BRIEF HISTORY OF  
ROCK CHAPEL METHODIST CHURCH  
FOR  
HOMECOMING -October 7, 1984

Rock Chapel is the oldest Methodist Church in DeKalb County, Georgia. In the year 1825, pioneers, who had moved into this area from the eastern part of Georgia and the Carolinas, built a log meeting house. This place of worship was located near the corner of a rock mountain close to a spring, about two hundred yards east of the present church site in Land Lot 195 of the 16th District. The name, Rock Chapel, was given to the church and the mountain. The church was given the nickname "Soap Factory" because there was an old ash hopper on the premises.

In January 1834, Joseph Ballenger Bond gave the Commissioners of Rock Chapel Church, Benjamin Carr and Joseph McGuffy, a deed to a parcel of land in Land Lot 190 of the 16th District about two hundred yards due west of the original site. On this land a frame church was built, approximately where Dr. Bond's Monument now stands. This building was used for church and school. After this structure burned in 1870, the school was moved to another location and another church was built near the present site. This building was sold to a black Baptist congregation in 1886, when Rock Chapel members voted to build a new and better church.

For this building, which is the sanctuary in use today, Edmund Lee gave the yellow pine timber. Members David B. Chupp, Tandy Y. Nash, Easom J. Bond, Simeon Duncan and J. L. Chupp moved a sawmill to the pool near the site to prepare the timber for use. Nathaniel Patch made the shutters, window frames and doors at his shop on Shoal Creek. T. L. St. John turned the altar rails and built the pulpit. The church was hulled in that year, 1886, and completed in 1887. It was dedicated November 7, 1887 by Bishop Key. M. L. Underwood was the pastor and G. W. Yarbrough, presiding elder (presently called District

Superintendent.

The first addition of Sunday School rooms was made in 1923, when Walter M. Twiggs was pastor. In 1961, additional rooms were completed and the sanctuary renovated, at which time the pastor, W. O. Dinkins fell from the scaffolding and broke his nose.

The membership of Rock Chapel Church has never been very large. During the Civil War the male membership was reduced to eighteen. During slavery years the slaves joined the church with their masters and they are listed as: Lee's Ransom, Smith's John, etc. The names of sixty-one slaves are found on the membership roll for 1858. Separate services were usually held for them. Lee's Hannah, who married Ollie Weaver, remained a member after freedom, until her death in 1902. She is buried beside her husband in a cemetery on the church grounds.

William F. Parks and Allen Turner were two of the first pastors. Although there is no record, it is believed the church was on the Gwinnett Circuit at this time. Dr. Yarbrough, in his history of Georgia, reveals that in 1848 his father was sent to the Decatur Circuit, which embraced Rock Chapel on the east and Mt. Gilead on the west. Later the church has been on Stone Mountain, Lithonia, Redan and Rock Chapel Circuits. Since 1974 Rock Chapel has been a station church with Thomas C. Tout as its full-time pastor, 1974-1977.

Preachers who entered the ministry from Rock Chapel include: James W. Lee, Robert M. Wesley, Francis Asbury Ragsdale and Ira Newton Scott. Families who helped the church in early years were: Chupp, Lee, Nash, Bond, McGuffy, Mitchell, Ragsdale, Evans, Smith, Braswell, St. John, Diamond, Phillips, Duncan, Corley, White, Venable, Veal, Wesley, McGuire, Anderson, Turner, Cleland, Marbut, Johnson and Starnes. Members from Rock Chapel helped to organize churches at Lithonia (approximately 1860), and Redan; therefore, Rock Chapel can be called the "mother church" for these two congregations.

In the cemetery adjacent to the church, many of the early pioneers are buried. They not only worked to build the church but to serve the community and state, as well. Veterans of all major wars since the War of 1812 rest in the cemetery.

It is thought that the first camp meeting was held about 1840, but it is known that this activity ceased during the Civil War. In 1872, members decided to rebuild the campground. The first meeting was under a brush arbor, but the following year a large tabernacle was erected. Near the tabernacle, tents, rough wooden structures, were built for worshipers. Singing, preaching and eating were features of these meetings. Death, Hell and Judgment were popular subjects for sermons. The camp meetings were discontinued in 1902. The tabernacle remained in use for revivals and special events in the community until 1947. Since the old structure was declared unsafe, it was demolished.

Rock Chapel is proud of her heritage and hopes to continue to grow spiritually upon this foundation. Under the leadership of Rev. E. Kenneth Kulp, plans got underway to enlarge and improve facilities. In March, 1982, the vestibule floor was renovated. In August, 1983, the parsonage on the church premises was renovated, and our pastors have lived in it since that time. In 1984, steps to the upper level of the Activities Building were completed, and class rooms will be finished. Hopefully, we will grow spiritually as well as numerically and necessitate more enlargements and improvements!

Information concerning the period prior to 1957 was compiled from the writings and collections of Joseph Bryan Bond( 1872-1952). Courtesy of Mrs. Rachel S. Sheppard.

ROCK CHAPEL METHODIST CHURCH

CHURCH ROLL - 1846

MALE MEMBERS

Joseph B. Bond  
William O. Lee  
Jacob Chupp  
Green Diamond  
Bartley Thomason  
James McGuffey  
James M. Griffin  
Samuel Hamilton  
Jno. C. Turner  
Edmond Lee  
Patrick Buchanan  
Charles McGuffey  
Joseph T. Bond  
Joshua Coggins  
Henry Mise(Mize)  
Ned Hudgins  
Jesse Warren  
Henry Warren  
Thomas Warren  
Wm. B. Thomason  
Whitmore McGuffey  
Henry Weaver  
Edward A. Turner  
Young J. Marbut  
John Boyd  
James Morse  
Jesse Wiggins  
George Morse  
Phillip Duncan  
James T. Bond  
James Thomason  
James M. Evans  
Zachary Alford  
George Turner  
Wm. P. Bond  
Eason J. Bond  
Francis M. Wellborn  
Zebulon Swann  
Robert Jason  
William Argo  
John Wiggins  
Elijah Swan  
Mansel Starnes  
Alford Hudgins  
Thomas Evans  
Phillip McGuffey  
James McGuffey  
James Bradbury  
Daniel Chupp  
Wylie Graham

FEMALE MEMBERS

Sarah Bond  
Lucy Ann Lee  
Elizabeth Chupp  
Mary A. Diamond  
Matilda Bond  
Mary Thomason  
Mary McGuffey  
Elizabeth Griffin  
Sarah Ann Lee  
Catherine Lee  
Rebecca Marbut  
Amanda Mise(Mize)  
Elizabeth Warren  
Rebecca Lee  
Mary Johnson  
Nancy Thomason  
Mary Graham  
Jane Wellborn  
Permelia Coggins  
Rebecca Ann Lee  
Martha Lee  
Nancy Diamond  
Catherine Hammond  
Temperance Morse  
Martha McGuffey  
Elizabeth Davis  
Lucinda Boyd  
Centhy Higgins  
Corsey Wiggins  
Emely Duncan  
Mary Ann Hammond  
Sarah Ann Bond  
Dicy Evans  
Berthany Starnes  
Mary F. Bradberry  
Catharine Wellborn  
Arminia Thomason  
Mary S. Veal  
Sarah Griffin  
Catharine Diamond  
Mary Swan  
Dicy Rutledge  
Nancy Hudgins  
Matilda Graham  
Martha Hudgins  
Catharine Owens  
Mary Ann Owens  
Emeline Diamond  
Susannah Watts  
Mary Watts

ROCK CHAPEL METHODIST CHURCH

CHURCH ROLL - 1846  
(continued)

MALE MEMBERS

James Swan  
Charles W. Griffin  
H. H. Hudgens  
William Rutledge  
Marion Mise (Mize)  
Jacob Samples  
David Flore  
  
Matthew(?) Harmon  
John Diamond  
William M. Watts  
John W. Watts  
James New

FEMALE MEMBERS

Sarah Watts  
Elizabeth Watts  
Mary E. Watts  
Mary Ann Wright  
Malinda Goddard

SLAVES

CHURCH ROLL - 1846  
ROCK CHAPEL METHODIST CHURCH

Slaves joined the church also with their white masters. The following were members in 1846:

Lee's Ransom  
Marbut's Calebe  
Maguire's William  
Thomason's Daniel  
Turner's Nancy  
Turner's Henry  
Lee's Dorcas  
Chupp's Rebecca  
Thomason's Luizy  
Marbut's Jane  
Diamond's Chanie

In the year 1858 there were 61 slaves who belonged to the church. Among them was Hannah Weaver, who remained a member until her death in 1903.

Note: This was transcribed from an original list on which was written the following note: "This paper was read at the Centennial July 29, 1925 by Rev. F. A. Ragsdale."

This is from the papers of Mr. Joe Bond (1872-1952), courtesy of Rachel S. Sheppard.

## HISTORY OF ROCK CHAPEL METHODIST CHURCH

Compiled by J. B. Bond, September 1950

Sometime in the year 1825, exact month and year not known, while some scattering Indians were still around, early settlers like William Lee, Ben Carr, William Griffith, Charles McGuffey and others united and built a log meeting house near a spring in Land Lot No. 195 near the Northwest corner of a rock mountain and both took the name of Rock Chapel. A nickname of "Soap Factory" was given the meeting house because an old time ash hopper stood near it.

A few years later Joseph B. Bond of Hall County bought Land Lot No. 190 West of 195 and moved on it. In January 1834 he gave the Commissioners of Rock Chapel a deed to a parcel of Land lot 190 about 200 yards due west of the original site, most of which is now the cemetery.

On this lot a frame church was erected about where the Dr. Bond Monument now stands. This building was used for both church and school. In 1870 this building was burned. The school was moved to another location and another church built near the present site. This building was sold to colored Baptist Church in 1886 when the congregation voted to build a new and better church.

Edmund Lee who owned a lot of fine yellow pines just East of the mountain gave the timber and my father Eason J. Bond, David B. Chupp, Tandy Y. Nash, Simeon Duncan and J. L. Chupp moved a sawmill to the pool near it and sawed the lumber which was stacked and dried. D. B. Chupp had a planer. The church was hulled in that year and finished in 1887 and dedicated November 7th, by Bishop Key, M. L. Underwood was the pastor and G. W. Yarhough presiding elder. The Sunday School rooms were added in 1923. Walter M. Twiggs was the pastor; Rock Chapel was regarded a spiritual fountain of all the section round about in the last century. The membership of the church has never been very large, from a low of 75 to a high of 150.

In 1860 the Lithonia Church was organized and many of the leading members transferred to that church, and the war between the states reduced the male members to only 18. In the days of slavery the slaves joined the church with their masters and their names are recorded as Lees, Ransom, Smiths, John, etc. On the roll of 1858 we find the names of 61 slaves, generally separate services were held for them.

In the old days Hymn books were very scarce. The preacher would read two lines and the congregation would sing and they knew songs like: The Old Ship Of Zion, How Tedious and Tasteless The Hours, Come Ye Sinners Poor and Needy.

From this church James W. Lee joined the North Georgia Conference and filled the highest pastorates in Southern Methodism. Robert M. Wesley joined the South Georgia Conference where he was a faithful soldier for many years. Francis Asbury Ragsdale, a local preacher, served as a supply for many years for several circuits and married more couples and buried more people than any man I know. His daughter Miss Jean, joined this church here and is known all over North Georgia as a young peoples worker. Hundred of others have gone from this church to make the world better. I will name a few families who have helped build a good name for Rock Chapel. Some did not belong to this church but helped it morally and financially long ago. Chupp, Bond, Lee, Nash, McGuffey, Wesley, Mitchell, Ragsdale, Evans, Smith, Diamond, Braswell, St. John, Phillips, Duncan, Corley, White, Veal, Venable, Maguire and Anderson; I cannot name those who are carrying on today. William P. Parks and Allen Turner were two of the first pastors and it is very likely that the church was in the Gwinett Circuit. We know it was in the Decatur Circuit in 1848 and later in the Stone Mountain and then Lithonia and then Redan and Rock Chapel.

Now a word about the campmeeting which made the name famous. Just how long these meetings were held before the Civil War is not known, but it must have been twenty years or more but ceased during the war.

In 1872, Eason Bond, Dr. W. P. Bond, David Chupp, Dr. Chupp, Thomas Johnson, B. B. Braswell, Jacob Braswell, Ruben Evans, Marion Wellborn, Dan Venable and many others rebuilt the campground. The first meeting was held under a brush arbor. The next year a large tabernacle was built. These meetings were great occasions. At one of the "Grove Meetings" my father was beside a paleface youth, praying for him, who was converted and joined the church. He later was the Dr. J. W. Lee mentioned above. At these meetings mourners were called to come to the altar and kneel in the straw while Marion Wellborn and my father led in singing: "I Will Arise and Go To Jesus", "I Am Bound For the Promised Land," "We Have Fathers Over Yonder", etc. John W. Ozmer, Tandy Y. Nash, and F. A. Ragsdale were mighty men of prayer at these meetings. Oftentimes Mrs. Rachel Norton, Mrs. Roan Venable and others would shout the Lord's praises.

For various reasons the campmeetings were discontinued in 1902 and tents removed. The tabernacle was repaired and used for revival celebrations, fairs, etc. and was torn down in 1947.

Among the prominent preachers we recall who preached from its pulpit were: Bishop A. G. Haygood, Bishop W. A. Candler, Bishop Marvin Franklin, conducted a weeks revival in his early ministry. H. H. Parks, W. F. Glenn, G. A. Evans, G. W. Yarbro, J. B. Robins, W. D. Anderson, W. F. Quillian, Elam Dempsey, J. W. Quillian and others on the roll of pastors who have served the church since 1900. We find H. M. Strozier, J. S. Sappington, J. A. Quillian, W. P. King, Marvin Williams, W. N. Twiggs, J. D. Milton, Fred Quinn, Young Oliver, Rembert Sisson, Ed Elliott, J. V. Hawks, Allen Montgomery, Paul Wohlgenuth and others.

MEMBERS OF ROCK CHAPEL METHODIST CHURCH  
JANUARY 1st, 1893

- |                            |                      |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Eason J. Bond           | 56. Sallie Chup      |
| 2. David B. Chupp          | 57. Jane Mitchell    |
| 3. Sarah Lee               | 58. Tom Mitchell     |
| 4. Thomas L. St. John      | 59. Wesley Mitchell  |
| 5. Mollie E. Bond          | 60. Nancy Mitchell   |
| 6. Smitha E. Bond          | 61. Malinda Marbut   |
| 7. Mary J. Chupp           | 62. Ella Mauldin     |
| 8. Pleasant C. Ragsdale    | 63. Elizabeth Nash   |
| 9. Francis Ragsdale        | 64. R. L. White      |
| 10. Tandy Y. Nash          | 65. Sara White       |
| 11. Mollie Nash            | 66. Danial Venable   |
| 12. James Howell           | 67. Roan Venable     |
| 13. Penelope Howell        | 68. Mary Jane Wesley |
| 14. Martha Johnson         | 69. James Weeks      |
| 15. Eliza Braswell         | 70. Eugenia Weeks    |
| 16. Melina Baker           | 71. Joe Widby        |
| 17. Demarius Bailey        | 72. Mary Whidby      |
| 18. Francis Corley         | 73. Mary Waldrop     |
| 19. Lucinda Chupp          | 74. Mary Weaver      |
| 20. Joseph Starnes         | 75. Walter Weaver    |
| 21. Nathaniel Patch        | 76. N. A. Weaver     |
| 22. Elizabeth Patch        | 77. Sallie Turner    |
| 23. Lucy Phipps            | 78. Mercia Wade      |
| 24. Francis A. Ragsdale    | 79. E. H. Wade       |
| 25. Charles Sexton         | 80. Mrs. E. H. Wade  |
| 26. Mary Sexton            | 81. William Coggins  |
| 27. George St. John        | 82. Sara Coggins     |
| 28. Atticus Y. Bond        | 83. Martin Ethridge  |
| 29. George R. Bond         | 84. John Hammock     |
| 30. L. T. Y. Nash          | 85. Thomas Lee       |
| 31. Lundle Nash            | 86. Willie Lee       |
| 32. James E. Bond          | 87. Mary Patch       |
| 33. L. E. Hicks            | 88. Dunbar Patch     |
| 34. Susie Hannah           | 89. Welton Patch     |
| 35. Hannah Weaver, Colored | 90. Fletcher Patch   |
| 36. Gresie Hunt            | 91. Arbrilla Ragan   |
| 37. John Davis             | 92. Mary Ragsdale    |
| 38. Ella J. Johnson        | 93. Cindy Snead      |
| 39. Pierce Johnson         | 94. F. P. Sexton     |
| 40. Ira A. Bond            | 95. James R. Fields  |
| 41. William A. Bond        | 96. N. D. Sexton     |
| 42. David Bond             | 97. Mary St. John    |
| 43. Daniel E. Bond         | 98. John St. John    |
| 44. Ben Blankenship        | 99. James St. John   |
| 45. Vicella Blankenship    | 100. David St. John  |
| 46. Berry Lee              | 101. Roscoe St. John |
| 47. James R. Lee           | 102. Lizzie St. John |
| 48. Joe B. Bond            | 103. John Smith      |
| 49. Washington Fields      | 104. Missouri Smith  |
| 50. Elizabeth Fields       | 105. Birda St. John  |
| 51. Annie Beaucham         | 106. Della St. John  |
| 52. James R. Still         | 107. L. A. Ragsdale  |
| 53. John Lee               | 108. Lilla Nash      |
| 54. A. G. Beaucham         | 109. Mammie Mitchell |
| 55. Emma Beaucham          | 110. Tallula Moore   |



111. George Venable
112. Ina Venable
113. Charley White
114. Wason White
115. Floy White
116. Ludie White
117. Mamie Nash
118. Cora Phipps
119. Ella Phipps
120. Sara Ragsdale
121. Willie Shidby
122. Emma Whaley
123. Lucius Williams
124. Jane Williams
125. Ella Brooks
126. Minnie Brooks
127. Jimmie Bailey
128. Cora Goggins
129. Sallie Goggins
130. Milton G. Ginn
131. Dosis Ginn
132. Emma Gorley
133. Rosie Treadwell

PASTORS OF ROCK CHAPEL METHODIST CHURCH

1825 to 1846-W.J.Parks and Allen Turner are the only two known.

1846-J.B.Jackson and T.E.Whitley

1847-A.Kay and E.A.Speer, Jr.

1848-J.W.Yarbrough and J...Hinton

1849-J.W.Yarbrough and A.M.ynn

1850-N.Smith and A.Neese

1851-J.E.Smith and J.E.Sentell

1852-Richard Lane and J.R.Owen

1853-J.L.Davies and V.M.Watts

1854-J.H.Ewing

1855-Albert Gray

1856-Alfred Dorman

1857-James M.Armstrong

1858-59- Newdaygate B.Ousley

1860-Thomas T.Arnold

1861-J.H.Mashburn

1862-G.Bright and J.S.Gowrey

1863-B.W.Williams

1864-O.S.Means

1865-John J.Morgan and W.A.Podge

1866-67-W.A.Dodge

1869- William A.Florence

1870-Albert Gray

1871-M.W.Arnold and W.R.Branham

1872-W.F.Wardlaw

- 1875-G. J. Pearce and J. E. Godfrey  
1876-John A. Reynolds  
1877-78-W. F. Smith  
1879-80-B. E. L. Timmons  
1881-82-V. F. Quillian  
1883-W. T. Hamilton  
1884-85-J. S. Bryan  
1886-87-M. L. Underwood (Letter)  
1888-T. S. L. Harwell  
1889-W. A. Parks  
1890-G. K. Quillian (wife died. Ashes lie in our cemetery)  
1891-92-J. W. Stipe  
1893-O. C. Simmons  
1894-95-96-C. L. Pattillo  
1897-M. H. Eakes  
1898-99-J. T. Lowe  
1900-R. P. Martyn  
1901-02-H. M. Stoezier  
1903-04-T. S. D. Sappington  
1905-06-07-08-J. A. Quillian  
1909-10-11-12-W. P. King  
1913-14-15-Marvin Williams  
1916-M. D. Cunningham  
1917-G. W. Barrett  
1918-19-J. H. Allison  
1920-O. M. Blackwell  
1921-22-23-24-W. M. Twiggs  
1925-A. J. Sears

- 1925-27-Frank Pippin
- 1927-W. A. Langloy
- 1929-J. D. Milton
- 1930-Young A. Oliver
- 1931-32-M. H. Davis
- 1933 -Rembert Sisson
- 1934-L. M. Davidson
- 1935-Neel McLennon
- 1936-37-Fred Ginn (GWINN)
- 1938-J. L. Peck
- 1939-R. E. Elliott
- 1940-J. S. Robertson
- 1941-42-43-J. V. Hawkes
- 1944-W. C. Strickland
- 1945-46-Allen D. Montgomery
- 1947-M. C. Phillip and Paul Wohlgenuth
- 1948-Paul Wohlgenuth
- 1949 Hunter
- 1953 Sam Gatten
- 1954-55 Ken Porter
- 1957 A. J. ...
- Charles Barnes
- 1962 Kim Porter
- 1965 Lane Scott
- 1968 Jerry Reed
- 1970 S. B. Landrum
- 1974 Tom Gout
- 1972-CHAS. STOFFORD
- 1977 - KEN KULP

Rock Chapel Methodist Church

Presiding Elders from 1861. Names are not on record previous  
to that date.

1861-65-John W. Yarbrough	1925-
1866-J. B. Payne	1927- Elem Dompsey
1867-H. J. Adams	1931-32-Nath Thompson
1868-T. L. Pierce	1933-P. J. (Bob) Tyler
1869-70-71-A. G. Haygood	1934-35-36-37-Wallace Rogers
1872-73-74-W. H. Potter	1938-39-40-41-T. M. Sullivan D.S.
1875-76-J. E. Evans	1942-43-44-45-H. H. Jones, D.S.
1877-78-79-W. F. Cook	1946-47-48-C. L. Middlebrooks
1880-81-82-83-Jess Boring	
1884-85-86-H. H. Perks	
1887-88-89-90-G. W. Yarbrough	1958- Delma Haygood
1891-92-R. J. Bigham	- Nat Long
1893-W. D. Anderson	- Prince
1894-W. A. Candler	1977 - GARNETT WILDER
1895-96-97-Walker Lewis	- <del>W. H. [unclear]</del>
1898-99-J. S. Bryan	-
1900-01-02-W. R. Foote	
1903-04-05-06-J. W. Heidt	
1907-08-09-10-C. E. Dowman	
1911-12-13-14-J. W. Quillian	
1915-16-17-B. F. Fraser	
1918-19-20-J. H. Eakes	
1921-22-H. B. Mays	

ALL A CHURCH SERVICE

God bless all those whose membership is here:

My people, Lord, who love My house and My her,

And may we find in My great book at last,

Each name recorded for Eternity.

God bless the strangers gathered in our midst:

Lonely, perhaps, and far from home they need

The blessed comfort of their Father's house,

The proffered bread of life on which to feed.

God bless the one who here proclaims My truths.

Be in his heart, speak through the words he speaks,

That every listening, eager one may find

The wisdom and the comfort that he seeks.

And when at last, the benediction said,

May we go, strengthened for the days ahead.

*Grace Nell Howell*

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

ROCK CHAPEL METHODIST CHURCH

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1950

10:15 A. M. SUNDAY SCHOOL

11:00 A. M. INTERMISSION

11:10 A. M. MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

PRELUDE PIANIST

HYMN "All Hail the Power" PAGE 164

PRAYER PASTOR

HYMN "There is a Fountain" PAGE 140

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RESPONSIVE READING Second Reading PAGE 581

CYBERING

DOKOLOGY

SERMON

DR. EDWARD G. MACKAY  
DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT  
DECATUR-OXFORD DISTRICT

HYMN "How Firm a Foundation"  
(Second Tune) PAGE 315

BENEDICTION.

12:15 P. M. DINNER-ON-THE-GROUND  
\*\*\*\*\*  
2:10 P. M. AFTERNOON PROGRAM

HYMN "Faith of Our Fathers" PAGE 256

HISTORICAL SKETCH

ROLL CALL OF FIFTY-SEVEN YEARS AGO

HYMN "How Tedious and Tasteless" PAGE 349

THE CHURCH TODAY

ADDRESS REV. H. A. MCNIEL, PASTOR  
LITHONIA METHODIST CHURCH

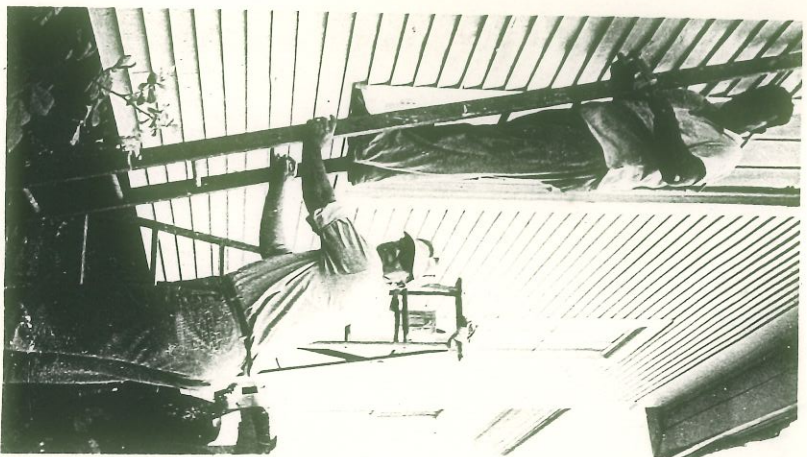
SHORT TALKS (Time Permitting) OTHERS

HYMN "God Be With You" PAGE 557

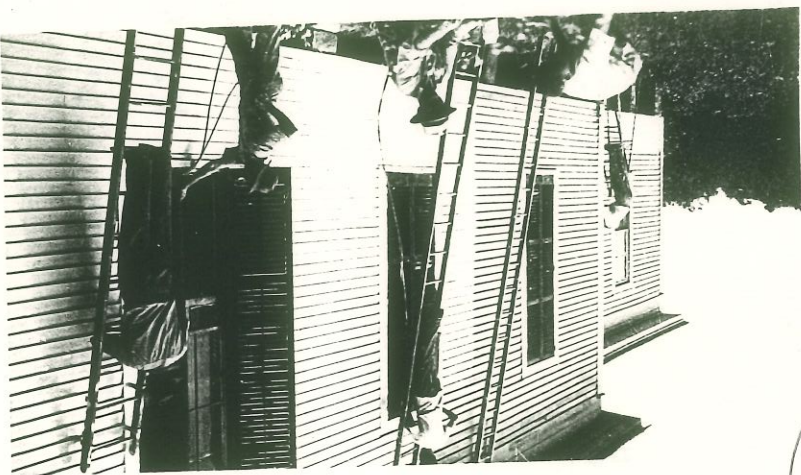
BENEDICTION.

\*\*\*\*\*  
On this, the one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary of Rock Chapel Methodist Church, the pastor, on behalf of his family and the members of the church, wishes to extend to our many friends a most cordial welcome. It is our hope that this day will prove a blessing to each of you. We are glad that you could be with us on this great occasion. We would also like to acknowledge our indebtedness to those who helped to make our program possible.  
\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\* -Hunter J. Bassett  
\*\*\*\*\*

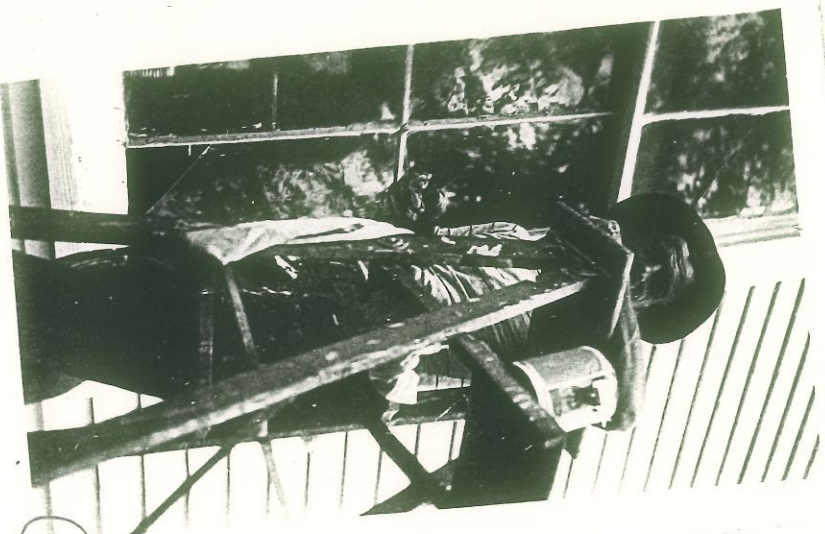
"I was glad when they said unto me,  
Let us go into the house of the Lord."  
-Psalm 122:1



1



2



3



4

Original photographs  
filed in photographs  
Sevensmiths collection



#1987-52

8712

Rock Chapel  
Methodist Church  
1957

(1)

Rock Chapel  
1957  
Methodist Church

#1987-52

(3)

Whole families  
came  
From 1st  
one  
also

(2)

1957  
Rock Chapel  
Methodist Church

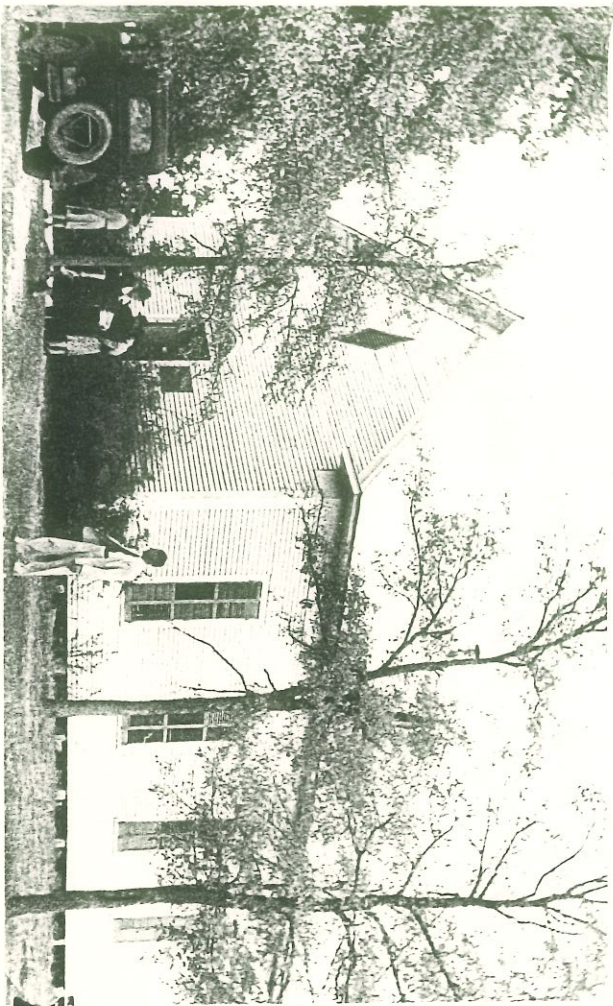
25-681#

Rock Chapel Methodist  
Church  
abt. 1957

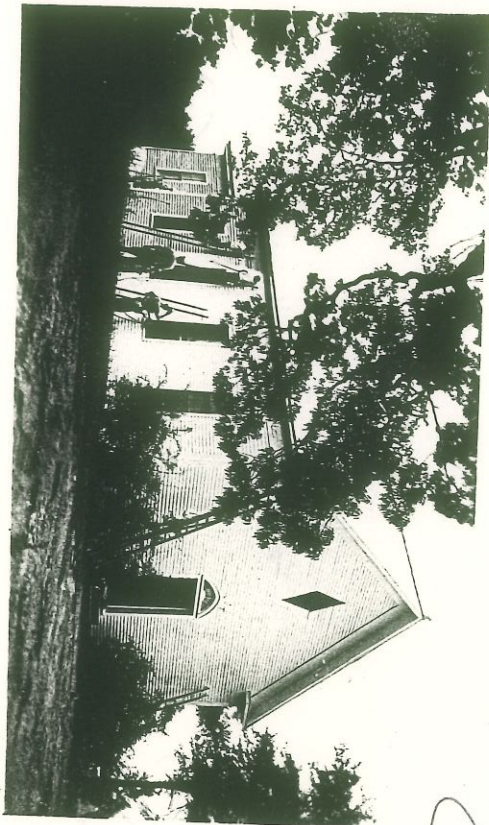
File's special collection -  
(SEVERINGHAUS  
COLLECTION)

#1987-52

(4)



2



4



5

Rock Chapel church  
getting painted

5712

1957

#1987-52

(9)

Rock Chapel  
Methodist Church

1957

#1987-52

(5)

POST CARD

MADE IN U.S.A.

CORRESPONDENCE

ADDRESS

#1987-52

(9)

A G F A  
N PLACE S S C  
S STAMP HERE C O  
O ☆ ☆ O

EMMA  
Mrs Bond - Day Mc Lendon

Rock Chapel Methodist  
Church  
ABOUT 1933



(6)



(8)



(10)



(11)

#1987-52

photograph made  
in front of Rock  
Chapel Methodist  
Church  
date -

(8)

#1987-52

photo made in front  
of Rock Chapel  
Methodist Church

(9)

(11)

#1987-52

Rock Chapel  
Methodist Church  
abt 1957

(10)

#1987-52

1957  
Rock Chapel Methodist  
Church

See original photos in  
# 1987-52  
Photographs

Rock Chapel Methodist  
Church young people  
class



(A)



(B)

see original photos in

Photographs - Rock Chapel Methodist  
Severingham collection  
Young People's Class

(A)

Rock Chapel

Methodist Church

Young People's Class

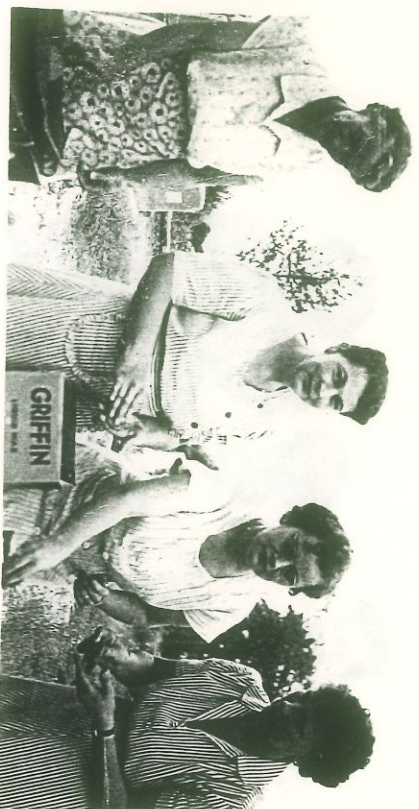
About 1942

#1987-52

Rock Chapel Methodist Church  
Young Peoples Class  
About 1942

(B)

#1987-52



Colie Sorrow  
 MITCHELL  
 (Mrs. Bryson)  
 Emma Lee  
 David?  
 Ragdale  
 (Mrs. Annan)  
 Bettie Tealy  
 MITCHELL  
 (Mrs. Bee)  
 (MITCHELL)  
 Ola (Sorrow)  
 (Mrs. Letford King)



Juniors  
 help too  
 Rock Chapel  
 Methodist  
 Church  
 1957

# 1987-52

Original photo free  
 in photographs  
 Severinghaus Collection



Methodist Church  
Rock Chapel

9712

January  
1957

The pastor and  
his family

Methodist  
Church  
Rock Chapel

9712

1957

Green paint  
for the building

The pastor paints

Mr. Wadsworth

1957

9712

Rock Chapel  
Methodist  
Church

#1987-

Methodist  
Rock Chapel  
Church  
#1987-

1957  
1947

Applying under  
the eaves -  
in the shade of  
an elm tree



photo made in front of

Rock Chapel Methodist Church

# 1987-52

Original photo filed in Photograph  
in Severinghaus Collection

# 1981 - 52

photo made N. front of  
Rock Chapel Methodist  
Church

1. Basom J. Bond	76. N. A. Weaver
2. David B. Chupp	77. Sallie Turner
3. Sarah Lee	78. Mercia Wade
4. Thomas L. St. John	79. R. H. Wade
5. Mollie E. Bond	80. Mrs. R. H. Wade
6. Smitha E. Bond	81. William Coggins
7. Mary J. Chupp	82. Sara Coggins
8. Pleasant G. Ragsdale	83. Martin Ethridge
9. Francis Ragsdale	84. John Hammock
10. Tandy Y. Nash	85. Thomas Lee
11. Mollie Nash	86. Willie Lee
12. James Howell	87. Mary Patch
13. Penelope Howell	88. Dunbar Patch
14. Martha Johnson	89. Melton Patch
15. Eliza Braswell	90. Fletcher Patch
16. Melina Baker	91. Arbrilla Reagan
17. Demarius Bailey	92. Mary Ragsdale
18. Francis Corley	93. Cindy Shead
19. Lucinda Chupp	94. F. P. Sexton
20. Joseph Starnes	95. James R. Fields
21. Nathaniel Patch	96. N. D. Sexton
22. Elizabeth Patch	97. Mary St. John
23. Lucy Phipps	98. John St. John
24. Francis A. Ragsdale	99. James St. John
25. Charles Sexton	100. David St. John
26. Mary Sexton	101. Roscoe St. John
27. George St. John	102. Lizzie St. John
28. Atticus Y. Bond	103. John Smith
29. George R. Bond	104. Missouri Smith
30. L. T. Y. Nash	105. Birds St. John
31. Lundie Nash	106. Della St. John
32. James E. Bond	107. L. A. Ragsdale
33. L. E. Ticks	108. Lilla Nash
34. Susie Hannah	109. Mamie Mitchell
35. Hannah Weaver, Colored	110. Talinia Moore
36. Crestie Hunt	111. George Venable
37. John Davis	112. Ina Venable
38. Ella J. Johnson	113. Charley White
39. Pierce Johnson	114. Wamon White
40. Ira A. Bond	115. Floy White
41. William A. Bond	116. Luddie White
42. David Bond	117. Mamie Nash
43. Daniel E. Bond	118. Cora Phipps
44. Ben Blankenship	119. Ella Phipps
45. Vlcella Blankenship	120. Sara Ragsdale
46. Berry Lee	121. Willie Whiddy
47. James R. Lee	122. Emma Whaley
48. Joe B. Bond	123. Lucius Williams
49. Washington Fields	124. Jane Williams
50. Elizabeth Fields	125. Ella Brooks
51. James R. Still	126. Minnie Brooks
52. John Lee	127. Jimmie Bailey
53. Annte Beaucham	128. Cora Coggins
54. K. C. Beaucham	129. Sallie Coggins
55. Emma Beaucham	130. Milton G. Ginn
56. Sallie Chupp	131. Dosta Ginn
57. Jane Mitchell	132. Emma Corley
58. Tom Mitchell	133. Roste Treadwell
59. Wesley Mitchell	
60. Nancy Mitchell	
61. Malinda Marbut	
62. Ella Mauldin	
63. Elizabeth Nash	
64. K. L. White	
65. Sara White	
66. Denial Venable	
67. Roan Venable	
68. Mary Jane Wesley	
69. James Weeks	
70. Eugenia Teeks	
71. Joe Whiddy	
72. Mary Whiddy	
73. Mary Waidrapp	
74. Mary Weaver	
75. Walter Weaver	

*To be kept in locked compartment -  
The Rock Historical Society Copy to the members*

THE ROCK CHAPEL METHODIST CHURCH WISHES TO EXPRESS ITS APPRECIATION TO THE FOLLOWING:

Mr.S. Walter Peabody,Sr.....Architectural Work.:

Mr.Otis Jones.....Initial Contractor

Woman's Society of Christian Service.Communion Table

Mr.Wm.C.Davidson.....Electric Stove

Henson Furniture Company.....Refrigerator

GIVEN BY: IN MEMORY OF:

Consolidated Quarries  
Pulpit Furniture W.A.Bond

Mrs.E.U.Guest  
Pulpit Lighting E.U.Guest

Mr. and Mrs.Fred Ginn  
Miss Vera Plunkett  
Punch Bowl Set Mrs.Floy Ginn

Woman's Society of Christian Service  
Sanctuary Picture Mrs.Frank Alford  
Mrs.E.M.Johnson

Mrs.I.M.Starr,Jr.  
Altar Set R.Inman Ragsdale

PEWS

Inman Ragsdale Family Rev.F.A.Ragsdale

H.O.McLendon Family J.S.Cupp Family

His Children Byron Mitchell

His Family

Mr.and Mrs.Nelson Servinghaus Sr.

Their Children

Mr.and Mrs.Herman Mitchell

Their Daughters

Children of Wesley  
Hamilton Weekes

Mrs.J.T.Nash

Her Son and Daughter

Evie King Plunkett

Mary Darby Jordon

Vera Plunkett and  
Fred Ginn Family

Their Grand-Children

Given By

Jean R.Chapman and  
Irene R.Jenkins

Their Children

Charles C.Rogers

Milton Wesley Thompson

Myrtice Mitchell  
Eddleman and  
Gus Eddleman

Mary Frances and  
W.D.Mitchell Family

Emma Mitchell Bond  
Wm.A.Bond

Weekes Family

Joseph Thurman Nash

Genie Haney King

Henry L.Plunkett

Lemma Robinson Darby

Ginn Family and  
Henry and Lois  
Plunkett

Mr.and Mrs.J.A.King

In Honor Of;

Mattie Ozmer Ragsdale

Ola Sorrow King and  
J.Ledford King

## Rock Chapel Sets Dedication Service Sunday, Sept. 24

Sunday afternoon, Sept. 24 at 3:30 p. m. Bishop John Owen Smith will dedicate the recently completed educational plant of Rock Chapel Methodist Church on the Redan-Rock Chapel Charge in the Decatur-Oxford District.

Rock Chapel is one of the oldest churches in the Lithonia area. The exact date of founding is unknown, but present records show that in the year 1825 the members met to build a "meeting house" on lot no. 195 near the northwest corner of a rock mountain. Both the mountain and the church were later given the name "Rock Chapel."

The 1858 membership roll included 61 slaves. They were the property of Rock Chapel members, but usually worshipped at separate services. Many of the slaves are buried nearby.

In 1860 the Lithonia Methodist Church was organized and many of Rock Chapel's leading members transferred to that church.

The present sanctuary was built in 1887 and on Nov. 7 of that year Bishop Key dedicated it.

Rock Chapel Church invites its friends, former members and pastors to join them on Sunday afternoon Sept. 24 in a service of dedication to mark another milestone in its long and illustrious history.

—W. M. O. Dinkins, pastor.

1961