

The following was in the program  
when the <sup>present</sup> Church was dedicated  
on Nov. 24, 1955.

## CHURCH HISTORY

In reviewing the history of Methodism in Campbell's Creek, one finds that when the small community was first settled, which at the time was called Bates, there was no church for worship service. In 1853 the leading citizens called a meeting and decided it was time to build a church. This was the outgrowth of work done by the early Methodist Circuit Riders, who with the burning zeal of the Wesley Movement carried the word of God to all areas of life. The site was donated by Miss Sallie Mixon and the following men were appointed as trustees, David Mixon, Zedakiah Mixon, W. W. Norman, Charles Tripp, James Mixon, Noah Guilford and James Patrick. They named this church Wesley's Chapel.

This chapel served the needs of the people for many years. With growth it was decided that a larger building was needed to accommodate the congregation. A larger church was erected on the same site and down through the years this church grew and flourished under the consecrated leadership of a host of devout men and women. The old structure was moved on public property and used as a school building. It is gratifying to find many descendants today wearing the mantles of their forefathers. The Lord was surely with this church when on one occasion a cyclone came through the community destroying everything in its path but when it reached the church it passed on each side and left it unharmed, as though God had His eye on His Church.

In 1947, under the leadership of Rev. Graham S. Eubanks, the congregation began talking and planning the construction of a new and more modern church. This seemed almost like a dream but the enthusiasm soon spread throughout the community and plans were started. A short time later the old wooden building was torn down and the present church erected. Almost a year passed before plans were completed and pledges made to finance the project. Church services were held in the community building until the new church was completed. Finally in 1948 the foundation was started and work began. It was inspiring to watch the church grow from day to day. Sunday, January 29, 1950 was a proud day for everyone, Sunday School was held in the new church for the first time. Rev. H. R. Rogers was pastor of the charge at that time and preached the first sermon in this church on that same day.

This beautiful church, its cross pointing upward is a constant reminder of the love and cooperation of a community working together. The lovely sanctuary is finished in white with the pews of white and mahogany all lend an air of reverence and worshipful beauty. No part of the sanctuary is more inspiring than the beautiful stained glass windows. These windows bearing the names of Mayo, Austin, Lewis, Mixon, Overton, Godley and Paul were given in memory of departed loved ones that loved and served this church so well.

Rising three steps above the floor, the chancel, lectern, pulpit and choir stalls are all in white, make the building distinctly worshipful. Through the generous contributions of Mr. Arthur Lewis, a former member of this community, and the congregation, The Hammond Organ was installed when the church was finished. The Altar Worship Service was given in memory of the late O. K. Mayo, a faithful steward, as a reminder of his life of service and love he had for the church. The new Bible and carpet donated by the Women's Society of Christian Service expresses the love and reverence they have for the church.

Much work was done to the grounds around the sanctuary. The green grassy lawn and shrubs all enhance the beauty of the building. The prayers of our congregation today is for this church to continue to serve God and the people as it grows to be the church God had in mind when he made it.