

## P R E F A C E

This history of Bethel Christian Church was prepared during 1984 and 1985 by Paul Cronan with the help of members of Boy Scout Troup 209 and members of this congregation. This is Paul's Eagle Project and completes his requirements for his Eagle Rank in scouting.

Bethel Christian Church is this year celebrating its 100th year.

Thanks especially to the Elders and Deacons of Bethel Christian Church for their trust in allowing me to pursue this endeavor.

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Georgia  
 Rockdale County } Know all men by these  
 presents, that I Thomas A. White of the County and State aforesaid, for and in consideration of the love & favor for the cause of Christ and his Church, and from an earnest desire to promote his heritage on earth, do hereby give, grant, and convey to N. H. Leaphart, G. J. Smith, G. P. Sigman, J. M. Barn + W. H. Trimble building committee for the Christian Church near Indian Camp Spring in said County, and their successors and assigns, one tract or parcel of land lying along the South side of the said Church lot, in said County, commencing at the South East corner of said lot, running West thirty seven rods, and

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two rods wide, containing seventy four square rods, with all the rights and privileges thereunto belonging forever in fee simple.

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Signed, sealed and delivered in presence of:  
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 J. M. Barn, J. P.

T. A. White. (L.S.)

Recorded Dec. 31-1889.

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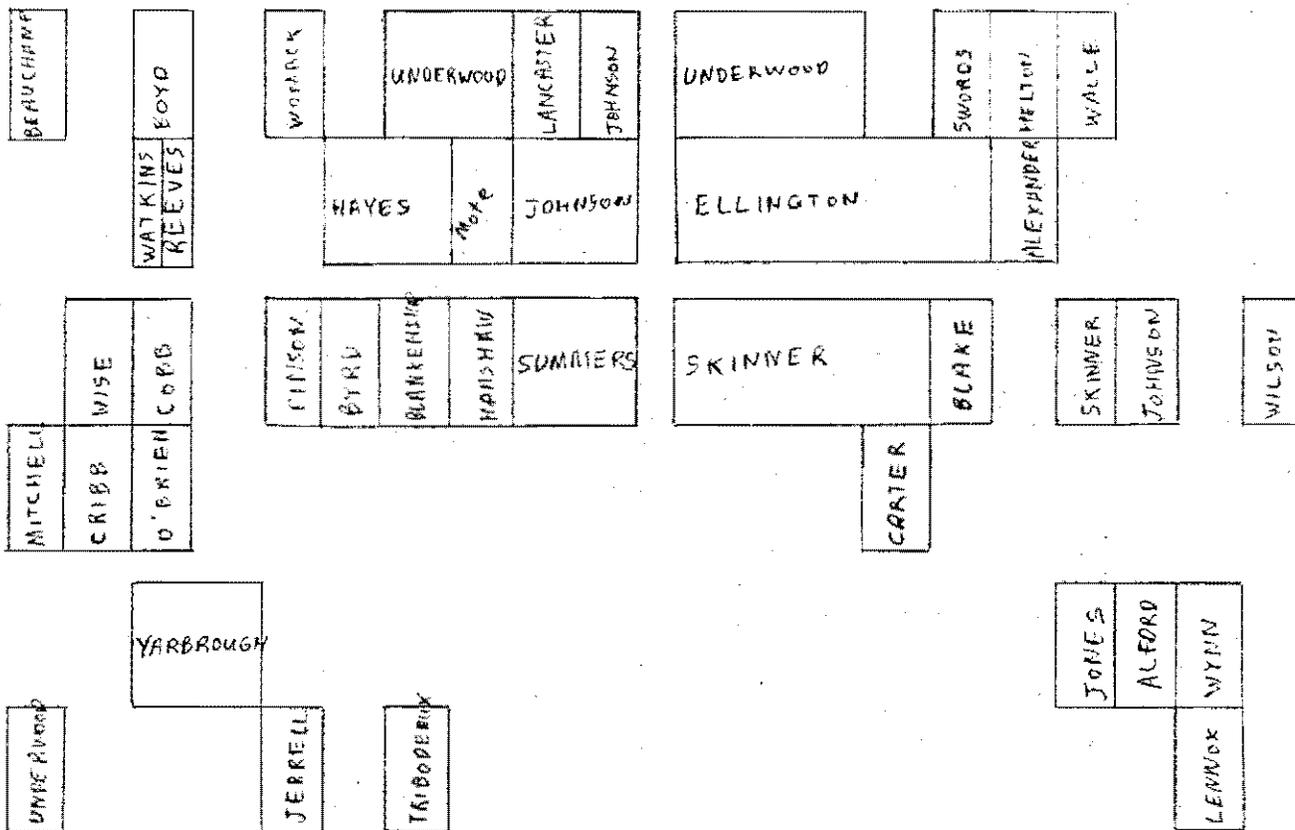
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Flowers, and Nursery Committees.

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The Church Treasurer and his Assistant keep track of the finances and the church clerk keeps a record of the membership and the minutes of all church meetings.

The Bible School Superintendent looks after the needs of the Bible School and the Teachers. The Teachers and Youth Coaches plan interesting programs for their classes and they plan outings in addition.

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## S E N I O R   S A I N T S

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In 1984, a regular program began with a dinner every 3rd Wednesday especially for these special members of our community. They even have their own band, they sing the songs of their youth and enjoy their fellowship; and, oh, don't forget the food; these ladies are the best cooks in the congregation.

the Ladies Ministry. The ladies work in many areas of the church many times unseen by other members of the congregation. They prepare communion, keep the baptismal robes cleaned, wash windows around the church, clean carpet, and when the educational building was being built some of the ladies even stained the trim and painted the walls.

Each year the ladies have two major events; the Women's Retreat and the Mother/Daughter Banquet. The Women's Retreat is a week-end away from home when they study, have fellowship, and get to know each other better.

The Mother/Daughter Banquet is the time that the hard work of the Ladies of the church is recognized. Each year a Woman of the Year is honored and a lady is added to the Bethel Hall of Fame. This practice began in 1979 and 1980 respectively. The ladies so honored are listed below:

WOMAN OF THE YEAR

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1980	-	Esta Cash
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The men at Bethel Christian Church are busy in the Lord's work. They visit with prospective members, help those in need, and anytime the senior saints need repair work done they know that the men of this congregation will be there to help.

The men of Bethel worked hard to make the Annex, the Educational Building and the Ballfield a reality.

They enjoy special times of fellowship also. They have had father/son campouts, retreats, and special meals just for them--no ladies allowed.

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Woodland Christian Camp is the camp that the church supports and the youth from the congregation go there for a week or more during the summer. This is a special time and many of our young people become Christians during that week. Woodland has a swimming pool, a vespers area where the Word of God is preached each evening, a recreation area complete with a ball field, and a chapel. There are always special nights during the week for us to display our talent, play games with the adults, there's the Galilean Service with the cross out over the lake (it used to be in the ball field). This is a special time and a very emotional time for all involved. And, of course, no week of camp would be complete without the faculty ball game or the boys serenading the girls on Friday night.

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Many times special groups that are in the area provide an evening of inspiration. We've been fortunate to have such groups as The Gospel Lads, The Dill Family and choirs from Atlanta Christian College and Milligan College to name a few.

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The summer affords some extra special times with Vacation Bible School soon after school is out and Homecoming and the Revival in August. One former member of the congregation recalls fond memories of Homecoming. She said that the ladies would get up early on Sunday morning and kill the chickens and dress them. She described frying them after soaking them in buttermilk. As a youngster around Bethel she always looked forward to Homecoming as "a feast".

With the fall, of course comes Halloween and for the youth at Bethel, that means the "Autumn Celebration". This is like a huge Halloween Carnival on Halloween night. The boys and girls in the community look forward to that as much as they would look forward to "Trick or Treat".

## S E R V I C E

There are many areas for service at Bethel Christian Church. We could never do without the volunteers who give unselfishly of their time; many times this service is done without the knowledge of other members of the congregation.

Members keep up the buildings and cut grass, as well as keeping up the cemetery. There are times during the year when a "Work Day" is called; lunch is provided by members of the congregation, and everyone enjoys the fellowship of working side by side with other members of the congregation.

The Educational Building which was dedicated in 1984 was built largely by ladies and men who gave many hours. Ladies spent countless hours staining trim, painting, cleaning windows and many other tasks like picking up trash around the building and hauling off rocks.

Several men in the congregation spent many hours after working at their jobs each evening working at the church, and then spent all day on Saturday. These were dedicated men who have worked endlessly without expecting glory. Bethel Christian Church is fortunate to have men who love the Lord so much.

The church office is run by ladies who give of their time week after week in order that the church paper "the Beacon" can be printed. The church paper has changed over the

## M I S S I O N S

"And Jesus came and spake unto them saying, 'All power is given unto me in Heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.'"

Matthew 28:18-20

The above scripture is known as the Great Commission. Bethel Christian Church is active in Missions. At least 10 per cent, which is a tithe, of the church's income goes to Missions.

The church has a Benevolence Funds which is used first to help families in the church and second to help those in the community who are in need. A committee from the board oversees this fund.

The church supports two foreign missionaries; Lee and Sandra Jones in Hiroshima, Japan and Georges and Laverne Carillet in New Guinea.

The Jones' are preaching the gospel to the Japanese and are in hopes of building a church building in which to meet in the near future. They have purchased a piece of land for this purpose.

They have facilities for both girls and boys. There is a wilderness type vespers area, a lake, a large dining hall, swimming pool, chapel, and facilities to park campers. Woodland offers a wide variety of camping possibilities; they have regular camp for 3rd grade thru high school; 2 Appalachian Trail Camps; a Cumberland Island Camp and a Canoe Camp. They are presently constructing a Railroad Camp which will open in 1986. This camp is real railroad cars and is located on the other side of the lake from the present camp. They plan to operate two separate camps at the same time each summer.

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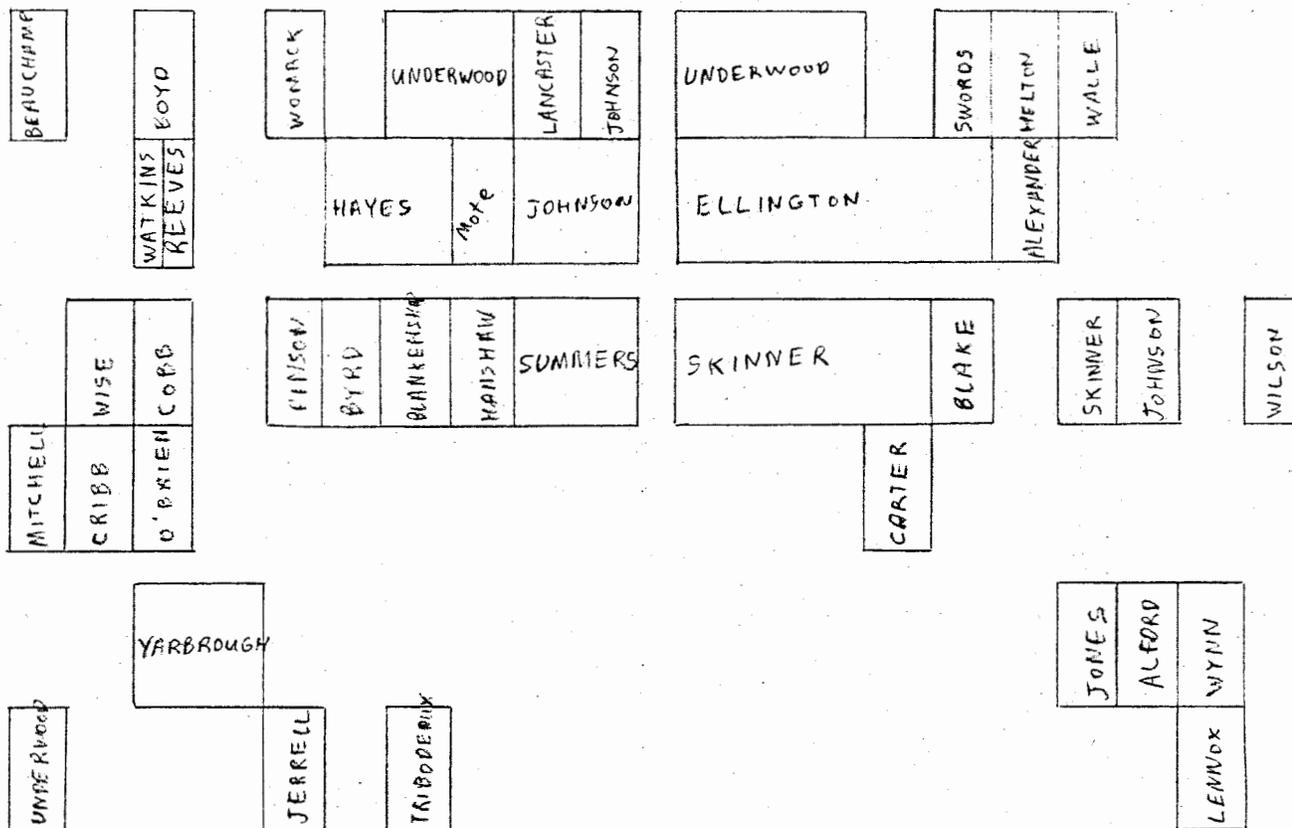
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The Mother-Daughter Banquet is a favorite time for the ladies. Sometimes the food is catered and sometimes the banquet is held in restaurants in the area.

The summer affords some extra special times with Vacation Bible School soon after school is out and Homecoming and the Revival in August. One former member of the congregation recalls fond memories of Homecoming. She said that the ladies would get up early on Sunday morning and kill the chickens and dress them. She described frying them after soaking them in buttermilk. As a youngster around Bethel she always looked forward to Homecoming as "a feast".

With the fall, of course comes Halloween and for the youth at Bethel, that means the "Autumn Celebration". This is like a huge Halloween Carnival on Halloween night. The boys and girls in the community look forward to that as much as they would look forward to "Trick or Treat".

## S E R V I C E

There are many areas for service at Bethel Christian Church. We could never do without the volunteers who give unselfishly of their time; many times this service is done without the knowledge of other members of the congregation.

Members keep up the buildings and cut grass, as well as keeping up the cemetery. There are times during the year when a "Work Day" is called; lunch is provided by members of the congregation, and everyone enjoys the fellowship of working side by side with other members of the congregation.

The Educational Building which was dedicated in 1984 was built largely by ladies and men who gave many hours. Ladies spent countless hours staining trim, painting, cleaning windows and many other tasks like picking up trash around the building and hauling off rocks.

Several men in the congregation spent many hours after working at their jobs each evening working at the church, and then spent all day on Saturday. These were dedicated men who have worked endlessly without expecting glory. Bethel Christian Church is fortunate to have men who love the Lord so much.

The church office is run by ladies who give of their time week after week in order that the church paper "the Beacon" can be printed. The church paper has changed over the

## M I S S I O N S

"And Jesus came and spake unto them saying, 'All power is given unto me in Heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.'"

Matthew 28:18-20

The above scripture is known as the Great Commission. Bethel Christian Church is active in Missions. At least 10 per cent, which is a tithe, of the church's income goes to Missions.

The church has a Benevolence Funds which is used first to help families in the church and second to help those in the community who are in need. A committee from the board oversees this fund.

The church supports two foreign missionaries; Lee and Sandra Jones in Hiroshima, Japan and Georges and Laverne Carillet in New Guinea.

The Jones' are preaching the gospel to the Japanese and are in hopes of building a church building in which to meet in the near future. They have purchased a piece of land for this purpose.

They have facilities for both girls and boys. There is a wilderness type vespers area, a lake, a large dining hall, swimming pool, chapel, and facilities to park campers. Woodland offers a wide variety of camping possibilities; they have regular camp for 3rd grade thru high school; 2 Appalachian Trail Camps; a Cumberland Island Camp and a Canoe Camp. They are presently constructing a Railroad Camp which will open in 1986. This camp is real railroad cars and is located on the other side of the lake from the present camp. They plan to operate two separate camps at the same time each summer.