

The Formal Opening
and
Dedication
of the

FELLOWSHIP HALL

INDEPENDENCE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Independence Street
Tignall, Georgia
May 26, 1974



THE MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH

William R. Cannon, Bishop

Robert L. Taylor, District Supt.

W. L. Buffington, Pastor
Mrs. A. L. Roberson, Director of Music

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

For nearly two centuries God's message has been proclaimed and God's Presence felt in Independence Church. Our fathers gathered here and were strengthened and have gone out from the walls of the sanctuary to witness — to be the church in the community. For many years, the sanctuary housed both Church School and Church; then Church School rooms were added. The pastor and congregation, in all of this time, sought to make the most effective use of existing facilities. Pleasant memories surround this sacred spot. A little more than a year ago, Mr. and Mrs. John W. Boyd requested permission of the Administrative Board of Independence Church to appoint a Building Committee to plan and execute the erection of a Fellowship Hall. This was done — and immediately the entire congregation began planning for this building and this day.

We welcome you to this Dedication Service. We invite you to share with us this high moment in the life of this Church. The proclamation of God's Word and the strengthening of the "fellowship of the forgiven" is our mission. This well-planned facility will be an added instrument to bring glory to our God and to serve the physical, mental, moral and spiritual needs of mankind.

We are everlastingly grateful to God for our heritage in this place; for the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Boyd; and for the devotion and sacrifice of the members and friends of Independence Church who made the building possible, along with all the furnishings.

This Fellowship Hall adds a new and larger dimension to the ministry of the Church in this community. It will make possible

“. . . A church that dares
Imitate the heroism of Jesus;
Seek inspiration as He sought it;
Judge the past as He;
Act on the present like Him;
Pray as He prayed;
Work as He wrought;
Live as He lived.
Let us have a Church for the whole man;
Truth for the mind,
Good work for the hands,
Love for the heart.
And for the soul, that aspiration after perfection,
That unfaltering faith in God
Which like lightning in the clouds
Shines brightest when elsewhere it is most dark.”

—Theodore Parker

May 12, 1974
Tignall, Georgia

W. L. Buffington, Pastor

A BRIEF HISTORY OF OUR CHURCH

The exact date of the founding of this church is not known, but is thought to have been around 1783, since when the church history was compiled in 1953, Mrs. Rebecca Gore Wright, mother of C.B. Wright, stated she remembered as a 12-year-old girl, attending the Centennial of Independence Church in 1883. Mrs. Wright's grandfather, Thomas L. Wootten, had given the land on which the church was built.

This was the first church to be built in the Tignall area, and since at first it was an independent organization for all denominations it was given the name "Independence." Since Methodists were the only denomination that organized a membership, they claimed the church. This matter was carried to court for adjudication and General Robert Toombs represented the Methodists and won the case for them. It is also significant that 1783 was the year in which the Revolutionary War ended and our country gained its "Independence."

How long the church was interdenominational is not definitely known, but it was said to have been designated as a Methodist church sometime after 1820, the date General Toombs began the practice of law.

In 1840 Thomas L. Wootten deeded the lot on which the church was located to the church trustees, namely: William L. Wootten, Jarvis Sale and J. T. Wootten. The deed was witnessed by G.H. Wootten and Samuel Wootten. In 1870 the old church building was sold to the colored people and moved away. A new building was erected and in 1871 Bishop George F. Pierce preached the dedication sermon.

One of the pioneer missionary societies was organized in the 1870s by Miss Ellen Wootten.

A Sunday School was organized around 1886, with E. J. Wilkinson serving as Superintendent for a number of years.

Independence Church was at first in a charge with Hill's Chapel, which was located in this county near the Gus Anthony or old Hill place. Eureka Church in Oglethorpe County and New Erie Church on Long Creek, all having preaching only one Sunday a month.

When the other churches were abandoned, Independence joined the Broad River Circuit with Pope's Chapel and began having services on two Sundays a month, as it now does.

The parsonage in Washington was used until about 1889 when J. N. Wilkinson deeded the land in Tignall for the Broad River Circuit parsonage to the following trustees: L. A. Wootten, J. W. Boyd, L. W. Latimer, E. J. Wilkinson, W. A. Gavis, B. T. Barksdale and W. R. Smith. The same year additional land was deeded to the parsonage by J.A. Moss. The parsonage burned sometime between 1899 and 1903 but was soon rebuilt and used until 1965 when it was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Lloyd for their home.

The Rev. W. L. Wootten, a local preacher, held services once a month at both Independence and Pope's Chapel, never accepting any pay for his preaching. There is no record of preachers before Independence joined the Broad River Circuit.

In its early years the church had two separate doors, for the men and women, and was built with a three-foot high partition down the center – with the women sitting on one side and the men on the other.

The church has been remodeled many times and many changes have taken place. While J. H. Cameron was pastor in 1950 money was raised at a Homecoming Day and the Church School Annex was built. In 1951 the money collected at a Candle Lighting Service was used to remodel the church. In 1965 members of the Tignall charge, without guidance of a pastor, raised funds and built a new parsonage. Rev. Guy Kent and wife Ann moved in as bride and groom.

Today, May 26, 1974, another great event is added to the History of Independence – dedication of our new Fellowship Hall by our Bishop, William R. Cannon.

Mrs. Charles B. Wright, Chairman
Committee on Records and History

FROM THE BUILDING COMMITTEE

With the help of God, and the full cooperation of the members of the Building Committee and others, it has been a pleasure to serve as Chairman of this group.

We are grateful to Mr. Alton P. Freeman and Mr. Lamar Freeman who, after their retirement, constructed this building for us.

Constant use of this Fellowship Hall to the glory of God will help us show our appreciation of it to the donors, Mr. and Mrs. John W. Boyd.

Jack M. Rhodes, Chairman

THE BUILDING COMMITTEE

Jack M. Rhodes, Chairman
John W. Boyd
Charles B. Wright

Roy Harrison, Jr.
W. F. Norman
E. W. Price

THE SERVICE OF DEDICATION

FELLOWSHIP HALL

INDEPENDENCE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Tignall Charge
Augusta District

May 26, 1974

4:30 p.m.

PRELUDE: "How Great Thou Art" Mrs. A. L. Roberson

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsively) W. L. Buffington

Serve the Lord with gladness.

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise.

O Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our maker.

For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His land.

This is the day which the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

I was glad when they said unto us, 'Let us go into the house of the Lord.'

This is more than the house of God, this is the gate to heaven.

Blessed be the name of the Lord: may His glory fill the whole earth.

Let us pray:

Almighty and everlasting God, whom the heaven of heavens cannot contain, yet who art willing to have a house fashioned and furnished by man, wherein you are glad to fellowship with man: where men can commune with Thee and have fellowship with one another. We pause this day to thank you for your mercy that has followed us all our days. We thank Thee for Thy presence with us now: we ask thy blessing and continuing favor upon this people and this Fellowship Hall, which this people have raised here to the glory of Thy name, and for the service of mankind. May it be accepted by Thee, hallowed by Thee, to the end that Thy name may be glorified in all that takes place in it: that it may be the means of meeting the deepest needs of the human hearts who gather here from time to time: that their souls are nourished in Thy love, and made fruitful in Thy service: through Christ our Lord. Amen.

O God, by whose providence we come to this good hour: grant us your presence and power. Enable us to again dedicate our hearts and lives unto thee: make us faithful and useful servants: always abounding in the enduring work of the Lord. In the name of, and in the spirit of a deathless Christ we pray. Amen.

- ** HYMN NO.1: "O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing" Azmon C. M.
Charles Wesley
- ** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Apostles Creed
- SOLO: "Bless This House, O Lord" Mrs. Jerry Roberson
May H. Brahe, Helen Taylor
- ** RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 24 Dr. Robert Taylor

The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof,
The world and those who dwell therein;
For He has founded it upon the seas,
And established it upon the rivers.
Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord?
And who shall stand in His holy place?
He who has clean hands and pure heart,
Who does not lift up his soul to what is false,
and does not swear deceitfully.
He will receive blessing from the Lord,
And vindication from the God of his salvation.
Such is the generation of those who seek him,
Who seek the face of the God of Jacob.
Lift up your heads, O ye gates!
and be lifted up, O ancient doors!
That the King of Glory may come in.
Who is the King of Glory?
The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle!
Lift up your heads, O gates!
and be lifted up, O ancient doors!
That the King of Glory may come in!
Who is this King of Glory?
The Lord of Hosts, he is the King of Glory!

** GLORIA PATRI

INTIMATIONS – CONCERNS – COMMENTS

OFFERTORY

** DOXOLOGY

LESSON FROM GOD'S WORD Bishop William R. Cannon

SERMON Bishop Cannon

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

- ** HYMN NO. 283: "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" . . . Beecher, John Zundel
Charles Wesley

ACT OF DEDICATION:

Mr. and Mrs. John W. Boyd: We present this building to be dedicated to the glory of God and the service of mankind.

Mr. C. B. Wright, Chairman of Board of Trustees: It is with gratitude that I, as Chairman of the Board of Trustees, accept this building on behalf of all the members of Independence United Methodist Church. We are deeply grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Boyd, and to all who shared in furnishing of the building.

Dr. Buffington: By what is the building to be called?

Mr. Boyd: Independence Fellowship Hall. In loving memory of David Andrew Whitener, and in honor of all of the youth of the Church. A plaque has been designed and ordered that will so memorialize our purposes in this gift for the extension of the Church's outreach.

Dr. Buffington: Christian Friends! We rejoice that God has put it in the hearts of Mr. and Mrs. Boyd to contribute this building: that he has put it in the hearts of the members and friends of this church to furnish this building: that he has put it in the heart of so many of you to be here today and share in this high moment with us. We rejoice that our Episcopal leader for Methodism in Georgia is with us to dedicate. . . to set apart. . . to ask God's blessings upon what we now accept. . . to be used for God's glory and the service of God's people as they seek to grow up to the stature and maturity of Christ. Let us now, solemnly and reverently dedicate this Fellowship Hall to its proper and sacred uses.

**** Bishop Cannon:** To the glory of God the Father, who has called us by his grace: To the honor of His Son, Jesus Christ, who loved us and gave himself for us: to the praise of the Holy Spirit, who illumines and guides us.

We dedicate this fellowship hall.

For the worship of God in prayer and praise;
For the spreading of the truths of God's Word;
For the growth and development of the life of all ages.

We dedicate this fellowship hall.

For the Light that will come to all who study here;
For the guidance of all who come this way.
For the inspiration of all who meet their God here;

We dedicate this fellowship hall.

For the hallowing and strengthening of family life;
For the teaching and the guiding of the old and the young;
For the perfecting of the faith of all saints;

We dedicate this fellowship hall.

For the redemption of all mankind;
For the promotion of righteousness and
justice in the social order;

For the extension of God's Kingdom among men,

We dedicate this fellowship hall.

In the unity of a holy faith;
In the bonds of Christian fellowship
In charity and goodwill to all;

We dedicate this fellowship hall.

In gratitude for the love and labors of all who love and serve the Christ in this Church: In loving remembrance of those who have finished their course; In anticipation of many, many more "heart-warming experiences;" In the hope of a blessed immortality through Jesus Christ, Our Lord;

We dedicate this fellowship hall.

We, the people of God, from this congregation and from the churches, compassed about by friends present and spirits invisible: a great host of witnesses; grateful for our goodly heritage; sensible of the sacrifices of our fathers in the faith; confessing that apart from us their work cannot be made perfect, we do now dedicate this building to its proper and sacred uses; and ourselves anew to the worship and service of Almighty God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF DEDICATION (To be led by former pastors)

Dr. Taylor: Eternal God, mighty in power and of majesty supreme, who the heavens cannot contain, much less the walls of buildings made with human hands: graciously accept, we pray, the dedication of this Fellowship Hall to your glory and for the enrichment of human life in this community and around the world.

Grant, O Lord, that by thy holy Word, which shall be read and studied here, may find lodging in many hearts, and with the guidance of your Spirit and others may result in redirected lives. Grant that all who worship here and all who study here may come to know the things they ought to know and ought to do. . . and may have the power and strength to do them.

Almighty, Everlasting God, bless, we beseech thee, and take under thy protection this Fellowship Hall and all Thy children. Pour into their hearts thy rich grace; enlighten and instruct all who mind to learn of thee: helping all to grow in wisdom and stature and in favor with Thee and their fellow man.

Almighty God, who through Thy Son called us into Thy light; wherein we know Thee and are bound together in a fellowship that supports life. We thank you for your presence with us now. Grant that here in this facility. . . as Thy children meet from time to time they may know Thy presence: here may Thy Way be taught and demonstrated: Thy holy name hallowed; and Thy name be praised. Here may life be

nourished and guided; love demonstrated and made real; and the bonds of Fellowship in Christ be nurtured and respected until life is whole and abundant. In the name of Christ,

Bishop Cannon: Now, O Lord, let Thine eyes be ever open towards this house by day and by night. Give attentive ear to all the prayers and petitions of Thy children as they gather here from time to time. Grant their earnest petitions as they are in accord with thy holy will. Bless this building and all who use it. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, be glory and praise, world without end. Amen.

- ** HYMN NO. 306: "Blest Be The Tie That Binds" — 1, 3 Dennis SM
John Fawcett, Lowell Mason
- ** BENEDICTION Bishop Cannon
- ** POSTLUDE Mrs. A. L. Roberson

THE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

Chairman	John W. Boyd
Vice Chairman	David Tyler
Secretary	Mrs. Jack Rhodes
Superintendent Church School	E. W. Price
Assistant Superintendent Church School	Jack M. Rhodes
Lay Delegate to Annual Conference	John W. Boyd
Alternate Delegate to Annual Conference	Charles B. Wright
President United Methodist Women	Mrs. John W. Boyd
Charge Lay Leader	Charles B. Wright
Church Lay Leader	Charles B. Wright
District Steward	Charles B. Wright
Church Treasurer	Mrs. John W. Boyd
Chairman, Council on Ministries	John W. Boyd

Work Area Chairmen:

Evangelism	Mrs. H. M. Wansley
Education	E. W. Price
Missions	Mrs. Jack Rhodes
Stewardship	John W. Boyd
Social Concerns	Mrs. Milton Whitener
Worship	Thomas L. Bamford
Ecumenical Affairs	Mrs. Charles B. Wright
Health and Welfare	Thomas B. Wiggins
Christian Vocations	Dr. Sophia B. Bamford
Buildings and Grounds	Milton Whitener

Chairman, Committee on Finance Jack M. Rhodes

Age-Level Coordinators:

Children's Ministries	Dan Whitener
Youth Ministries	Mrs. Billy Hall
Adult Ministries	Mrs. Robert Sale
Family Ministries	John W. Boyd

Youth Member on the Council on Ministries Dan Whitener
 Chairman, Pastor-Parish Relations Charles B. Wright
 Chairman, Parsonage Trustees Charles B. Wright
 Chairman, Committee on Records and History Mrs. Charles B. Wright

Administrative Board Members:

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas L. Bamford	Mr. and Mrs. Jack M. Rhodes
Mr. and Mrs. John W. Boyd	Mrs. A. L. Roberson
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Burette	Larry Roberson
Miss Grace David, Honorary Member	Miss Lisa Roberson, Youth Member
Mr. and Mrs. Roy Harrison, Jr.	Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sale
Don Harrison, Youth Member	Mrs. Kathryn Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Harrison	Mr. and Mrs. Herman Tyler
Mr. and Mrs. Billy Hall	Mr. and Mrs. Fred Vickery
Miss Pamela Ann Hall, Youth Member	Mr. and Mrs. Milton Whitener
Mrs. W. F. Lindsey	Dan Whitener, Youth Member
Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Norman	Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Boyd Wiggins
Mr. and Mrs. Henry O'Pry	Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Wright
Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Price	

Trustees:

W. F. Norman, Jack M. Rhodes	Term Expires 1974
John W. Boyd, Billy Hall	Term Expires 1975
Herman Tyler, C. B. Wright	Term Expires 1976

THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBES TWO PLAQUES THAT WILL BE PLACED IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL,
AND A MEMORY BOOK OF DONORS..

Plaque # 1

INDEPENDENCE FELLOWSHIP HALL

May 26, 1974

This building given by Mr. and Mrs. John W. Boyd
in memory of David Andrew Whitener and in honor
of the youth of the Church.

Michael Buretta
Samantha Buretta
Bruce Driggers
Connie Driggers
Jenette Driggers
Mike Driggers
Terri Driggers
Marie Hall
Pam Hall
Bud Harrison
Mike Harrison

Debra Johnson
William Johnson
Gwyn Roberson
Hamp Roberson
Lisa Roberson
Sandy Roberson
Wanda Truitt
Dan Whitener

(The plaque will be made so that additional
names can be added as needed.)

Plaque # 2

INDEPENDENCE FELLOWSHIP HALL BUILDING

Dedicated May 26, 1974

William R. Cannon, Bishop - Robert L. Taylor, D. S.

W. L. Buffington, Pastor

BUILDING COMMITTEE -

Jack M. Rhodes, Chairman
John W. Boyd
Roy Harrison, Jr.
William F. Norman
E.W. Price
Charles B. Wright

TRUSTEES -

Charles B. Wright, Chairman
John W. Boyd
Billy Hall
William F. Norman
Jack M. Rhodes
Herman L. Tyler

MEMORY BOOK

A MEMORY BOOK will be provided in which the names of all donors of gifts
and persons memorialized will be kept. A glass enclosed case for the book
will be provided and kept on a stand in an appropriate place in the building.