
Grady County Historical Society – Churches

Spring Hill Methodist Church

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THE PRESENT SPRING HILL CHURCH, located approximately 8 miles north of Whigham and built around 1940 is the fourth building in which the congregation has worshiped since the church was founded well over one hundred years ago. (Photo by Hugh Gandy).

History Of Spring Hill United Methodist Church

This is another article in a series about Methodist Churches in Grady County being published this year in commemoration of two hundred years of Methodism in America.

It's about Spring Hill United Methodist Church which is located approximately eight miles north of Whigham.

Sitting on a clay hill with a spring at the bottom, a location which gave the church its name, Spring Hill Methodist Church has long been a center for religious and cultural activity in the northwestern part of Grady County which surrounds it.

Although written membership records only go back as far as 1873, by that time it

to 1942 that the project was begun.

Construction began under the leadership of A. J. Miller, Sr., a Steward of the Church.

Members gave their time and labor as well as trees for lumber with only the painting and stucco work being contracted for.

According to a church history, "Work began with faith in God and \$1 and when the project was completed nearly \$2,000 had been raised

through pledges and contributions from church members and friends.

The present church is a two-story structure with the basement used for Sunday School, recreation and other church activities.

In the early 1950s during the ministry of Rev. James L. Hendrix, a wing including six Sunday School rooms and a basement were added to the main building.

During renovation of the

sanctuary in about 1970 a wooden cross was built by Elton Moore and Rev. Marshall Strickland and placed at the front of the sanctuary.

In addition to inspiring the construction of a new church during his 1929 ministry, Rev. Shearouse also helped organize the first Missionary Society with Mrs. John W. Gainous as president.

It later became the Women's Society of Christian

Service with Romelle Barineau Harrell, Evelyn Gainous Hester, Linnie Pearl Newberry Miller, and Annie Palmer Whigham serving as early presidents.

The Linnie Pearl Miller Guild was organized in 1962.

At various times through the years Spring Hill Methodist Church has been part of the Pelham, West Bainbridge, and Cairo Circuits.

Today it is part of the Whigham-Climax Charge and Rev. Charles Whatley has served as the pastor since 1980.

Morning worship is held at Spring Hill each Sunday at 9:45 with Sunday School following at 11 a.m. and its Methodist Youth Fellowship meets jointly with similar groups from the Whigham and Climax Methodist Churches.

Johnson Selected For Outstanding Young Men Of America

The Board of Advisors for the Outstanding Young Men of America awards program announced that David Johnson of 1185 W. Washington Dr., Cairo has been selected for inclusion in the 1984 edition of "Outstanding Young Men of America."

These men were selected from nominations received from Senators, Congressmen, Governors, Mayors, State Legislators, University and College Presidents and Deans as well as various civic groups, including the United States Jaycees which also endorses the Outstanding Young Men of America program.

In every community there are young men working diligently to make their cities, as well as their country, better places in which to live. These men, having disting-

uished themselves in one or more fields of endeavor, are outstanding and deserve to be recognized for their achievements. The criteria for selection include a man's voluntary service to community, professional leadership, academic achievement, business advancement, cultural accomplishment and civic and political participation.

Our Board of Advisors and Editors salute all chosen as Outstanding Young Men of America. We take great pride in bringing their accomplishments to the attention of the American public.

Flu Vaccine Now Available At The Health Department

The Grady County Health Department now has flu vaccine available to anyone for \$3.00 each. They will be given on Wednesdays from 1:00-4:00 p.m. and anytime on Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. as long as the supply last.

Dorothy R. Randall Appointed Acting Chairman At BJC

Dorothy R. Randall has been appointed acting chairman of the developmental studies department at Bainbridge Junior College, President Ed Mobley has announced.

Mrs. Randall will continue to serve as assistant professor of reading and developmental studies.

She holds the bachelor's degree in speech education and the master's degree in reading, both from Michigan State University, and has done post graduate study at Valdosta State College.

A charter faculty member at BJC, Mrs. Randall is a member of the International Reading Association, the College Reading Association,

and the Reading Test Committee for the state Regents' Examination. dependent upon a strong developmental studies department."

She and her husband, Asa, have a five-year-old daughter, Elizabeth.

President Mobley comments, "We are fortunate to have Mrs. Randall accept this position. She has the knowledge, experience, and enthusiasm to continue this important program in the manner it deserves on this campus. The college is very

Harrell Family Reunion Set For Oct. 7

The John Harrell family reunion will be held Sunday, October 7, 1984, at the Cairo Woman's Club. Bring your picnic lunch and join in the fun and fellowship. Lunch will be spread at 12:30.

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Blaker, Strange, Mills, Cannon, James, King, Martin, Larkin, Whigham, Wheeler, Knight, Harrell, Gainous, Cox, Adams, Barineau, Cliett, Gandy and Bell on its rolls.

The first church built on the site many years earlier was a small one-room log building with wooden shutters and a single center entrance.

This primitive structure rooted down according to a church history, and a larger building with a petition in the center and a porch was built. This second building served as a church and school until sometime in the 1890s when a new church was built across the road.

The earlier building continued to be used as a school until it burned in 1920.

In 1890, according to Decatur County records, five acres of land were deeded by J. T. Larkin to Charles Blaker, J. T. Larkin, and Robert H. Whigham, who were serving as Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church South.

The deed described the tract as being "part of Lot No. 170 in the 16th District now occupied as a church called Spring Hill embracing burial grounds adjoining said church."

In 1954 the William Perkins family deeded an additional one and one-third acres to the Spring Hill Trustees.

The church built before the turn of the century was larger than the old church/school building and was built of hewed logs and sawmill timber held together with wooden pegs.

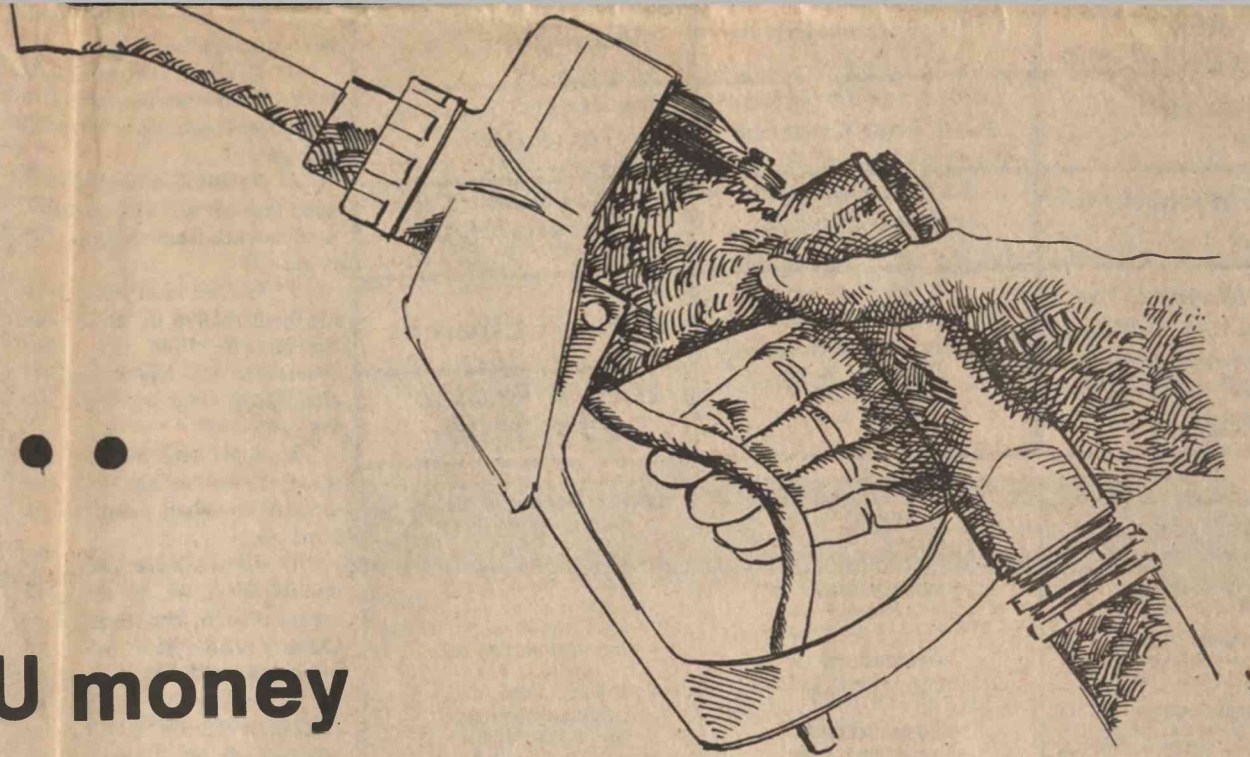
It also had two entrance doors, ten windows equipped with glass panes and two aisles with a small board installed in the long central pews to separate the men's side of the church from the women's side.

This church served as a meeting place until around 1940 when "the congregation moved out under the trees" and it was torn down to make way for the present church building.

Rev. Henry Grady Shearouse, as early as 1929, had proposed construction of a new church building but it was not until during the pastorate of Rev. Marvin Vincent who served from 1938

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