

FAITH CHAPEL

Bruceville, Maryland

1885-1956

The Methodist Church in Bruceville began in a private home not far from the present church site. With the passing of time, the people in the community decided to erect a church building and such records that are available, show that by 1885 under the pastorate of J.W. Grubb, this church became a part of Trappe Circuit in the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

While it is not possible to remember the names of every person who was responsible for the erection and continuing program of the church, records and memories have given us a few of them. Among the men who helped to erect the building and who were active in the earlier days were Mr. Charles Lyons, Mr. Hugh Kemp, Mr. Edward Brinsfield, Capt. Adam Bryan, Mr. Hicklas Parrott, Capt. Samuel Merrick and Capt. William T. Cryer, among others. One of the most prominent and best remembered members of the church was Mr. William Sard, who for forty two years served as Sunday School Superintendent. Those who remember him report that the church was the center of his community activities and that he served it with loyalty and devotion. Church school records also show the name of one other superintendent who was active in the earliest days of the church - Mr. James Wherett, who was servicing as early as 1887.

Two ministers, the Rev. J.W. Grubb and the Rev. B.S.Highley labored together in the first years that Faith Chapel was

established. Then, in 1902, under the pastorate of the Rev. H.M. Reed, the church was enlarged to its present size. It is also known that the pulpit Bible was given by Capt. William Kemp and that Mrs. Hugh Kemp made the cushion upon which the Bible now rests. The pulpit furniture which is in use today was purchased from the Upper Bambury Church as the time of its closing.

It is dangerous to attempt to name all of the active laymen of early years of Faith Chapel, for some names are certain to be omitted, but perhaps to this incomplete list others may share their recollections with us, correct us where we are in error and help to make the history of this church more complete. In addition to those already named, it is known that among the active members of yesterday there appear the names of Mr. Lacy Cox, Mr. Alex Skipper, Mr. Roby Corkran, Mr. William Chessemann, Mr. Logan Talley, Mr. George Phillips, Mr. Henry Hummer and Mr. William Talley. Mrs. James Dulin is remembered as one who took it upon herself to always keep the little church in readiness for service. Other ladies who added their labors to those named above were Mrs. Florence Watts, Mrs. Hugh Kemp, Mrs. Lizzie Bryan, Mrs. Ada Lyons, Mrs. Dora Lyons, Mrs. Sudie Harding, Mrs. Sallie Parrott, Mrs. Lyda Fleetwood and Mrs. Sudie Ross. We are sure that there are many others who have labored faithfully to keep the church alive.

While to many, this small building of worship may seem a wasted effort because of its size, but let no one ever forget that the church of which it is a part, has been built upon a

foundation of small churches. We cannot disregard the fact that no place is too small for God. This church and hundreds like it have, in a small way, kept the message of the Christian gospel alive in every corner of our land. We worship here today because a little group of people cared enough for their God to build a house of worship and because their successors have labored to keep it alive. What the future holds we do not know, but we can be sure that the only future for Faith Chapel can be expressed in the continued love of the people of this community as they come to this holy spot to worship Almighty God.

Rev. Mark, Rev. Maize & Rev. Mitchell

[Editor's note - R. Croswell 2014]

Rev, Mark assumed to be C. W. Mark, 1895-1897

Rev. "Maize" assumed to be G. R. Mays, 1898-1901

Rev. Mitchell assumed to be J. W. Mitchell, 1905-1907

This document purports to be the history of Faith Chapel 1885-1956 by Reverends Mark, Mays, and Mitchell but the actual author of the document remains unknown. The original document, circa 1907 appears to have been expanded to include the period from 1907 to 1956 by a person or persons unknown. There is no way to know which parts of the document are attributable to whom.