

History...

Several histories of First United Methodist Church of Troy are available in the Heritage Room, including those written by Miss Catherine Gardner, Mrs. Margaret Pace Farmer, and Mr. and Mrs. Grady Post. The Heritage Room also has a “work in progress” binder being compiled by John Harvell with information on the past ministers of the church. The *Pike County Heritage* includes a brief history listing all of the past ministers.

Widowed pioneer inn-keeper, Ann “Granny” Love is credited with being the founder of the church. Legend tells us that she contacted the Alabama Methodist Conference requesting a minister and in 1842 the Reverend John T. Roper was assigned to Monticello, the earlier county seat. By this time, the Court House (and the Love family) had moved to Troy and, in 1843, Roper was assigned to Troy.

Ann Love and a faithful fellowship of believers met in various locations until fifteen years had passed and fifteen different ministers had been assigned before a small house of worship was built on property donated by Ann Love on what was later named Church Street between the present railroad and Brundidge Street.

Thirty years and twenty pastors later, in 1888, the church moved into a larger and more pretentious building on the corner of Brundidge and Church Streets. This building was built during the terms of the Reverend W. S. Wade and the Reverend V. L. Mathison. The pulpit and chairs, the altar rail, and the original church bell from this church are still being used in our present church building. The pipe organ was also moved and used for many years.

Construction on the present building was started in 1904 during the pastorate of the Reverend J. M. Dannelly, who was the grandfather of the Reverend James D. Dannelly who served the church from 1972 to 1979. The architect was Frank Lockwood of Montgomery and the local firm of Henderson and Minchener was the contractor.

Parsonages have been located on Church, Montgomery, North Three Notch, and Lamar Streets.

In their summary of the first 150 years of the church (published in 1993), Grady and Martha Jane Post reported that one of our longtime members, when asked what she liked most about our church, replied without hesitation, “I feel the presence of a long secession of people who have knelt at this altar rail before me to worship God.”

Today we proudly celebrate our history as this “presence” propels us into our future in a new century.

This history was compiled and written by John J. Harvell