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METHODIST GROUP FORMED IN 1855

Windsor residents worship in 'new' 74-year-old church

By SYLVIA NICHOLS Sun Staff, Writer

sville Sun (published as Gainesville Daily Sun) - April 30, 1958 - page 3

church body formed over 100 years In this clearing in 1855, before pay homage to the same God and doll good fight? in Windsor.

The pine-hewn log edifice erected in 1855 has been succeeded by a trim white clapboarded sanctuary for almost 74 years, though.

The Windsor resident who could tell the most about the church, Ed Phifer, died at the age of 97 two years ago. Other residents say he knew more about the history of Windsor than anyone living today.

the cemetery, in which most of the old pioneers of Windsor and WITHOUST their successors are buried. Family names on the 'tombstones include Beckham, King, Phifer, Ormond, Lewis, Howard, Bell, Roseborough, Dickinson Miller and Creeves.

Names Still Familiar

Descendents of these families are now residents of Windsor, Gainesville and other towns in the county. Rev. J. F. Bell, past Methdist minister in Gainesville, is the son of a former Providence Methodist Church steward.

The interior of the church, decorated much as it was in 1884, is spacious, painted white. Original pews seat 200. An organ once lent melodic airs to the church, but it has since been replaced by a piano.

Residents believed the piano was "stored" in the old Windsor school. A Bible, presented to the church April 19, 1942, was given by Edward King Fagan, Gainesville merchant.

The original Bible had apparently served its years of usage well.

Improvements .

With the exception of a few weak spots in history, when attendance dwindled away, the church has administered constantly to the religious needs of the people in the Windsor vicinity. It boasts some modern improvements such as electricity and space heaters. Two window fans were the property of the church until someone decided they needed them worse and picked them up.

A letter to Rev. H. J. Foley, written in 1951 by Rev. Bell, says Robert H. Barnett was the pastor in 1873, the first pastor on record. Rev. Foley was then pastor of the Waldo Methodist Church. This letter is now enclosed in the Providence Bible.

Old members of the church and descendents of Windsor families still gather at the church on the fourth Sunday in October each year for homecoming.

Almost a homecoming is the annual cemetery working day, held the Saturday before the third Sunday in May.

The church celebrated its centennial in 1955.

Rev. C. W. Rogers is present minister to the congregation. "Preach-· ing" is held the second and fourth Sundays of the month at the church, and each Sunday evening. Opposite Sundays feature a "preaching" at Campville in the morning.

A long tree-arched lane leads to the church grounds, almost a spa-

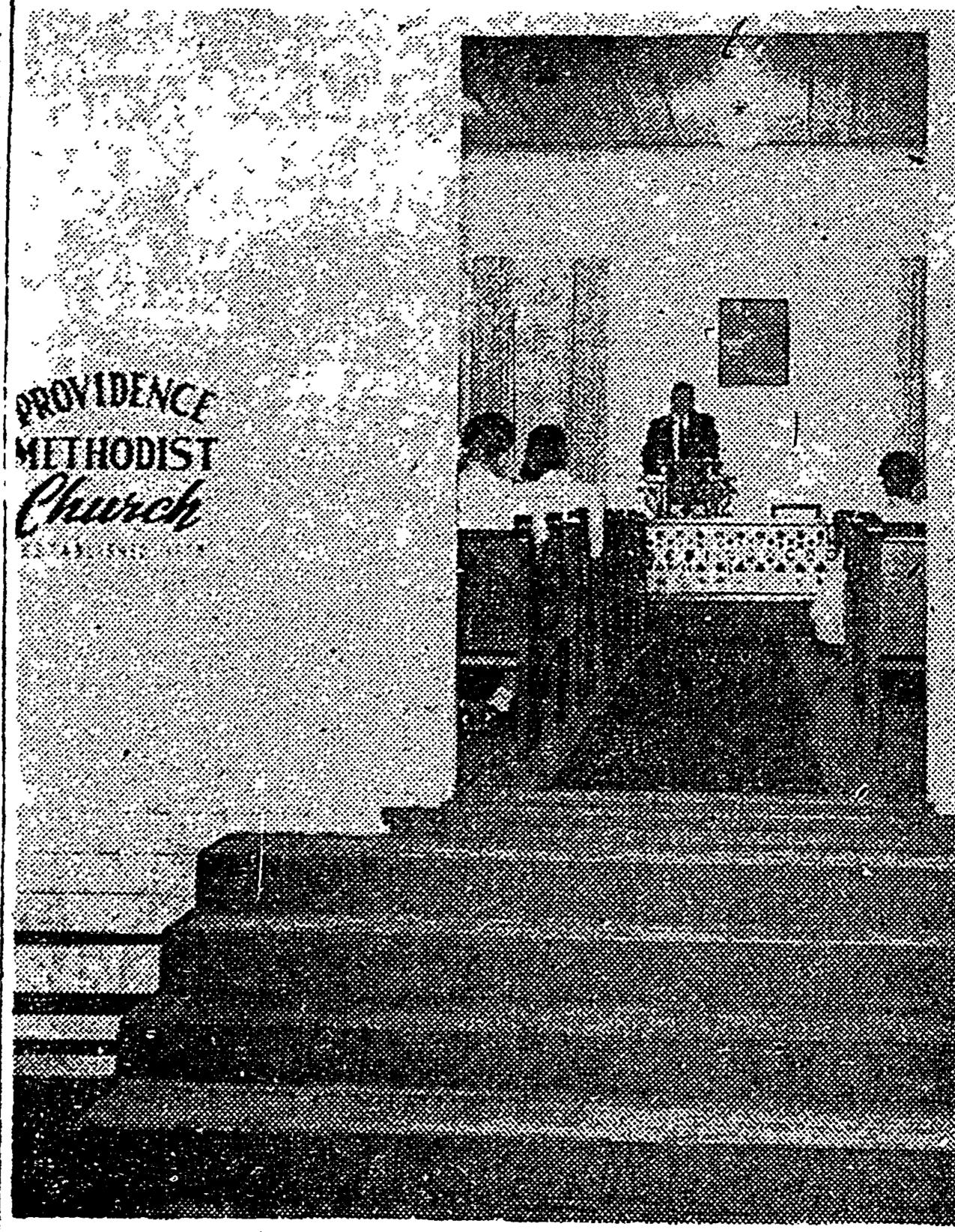
CITATION (AGLC STYLE)

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cemetery occupies three quarters Glory of God!" Today in the WINDSOR — A Methodist of the church grounds.

ago is still striving to "fight the the throes of Civil War, Windsor the same Glory.

cious clearing in piney woods. The pioneers erected a church "to the same clearing, their descendents coll



TODAY, AS 100 YEARS AGO.—The church body of Providence Methodist Church, established in 1855, worships in the "new" church sanctuary, built in 1884. The interior reflects some of the striking simplicity, offset by an altar rail with a "gingerbread" effect, popular at that time. The pews are those set in at the time of building. Rev. J. R. Wyrick, evangelist, is conducting revival services above. (Sun Photo by Eddie Davis).



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