



Les Jackson
1978-1979



Glenn
Mitchell
1982-1983



Ray Honaker
1983-1984



David McKelder
1984-1985



Russell Bean
1979-1982



Joseph R.
Stiles
1985-1992



Barbara Stiles
1992-1994



Jesse Baker
1975-1978

1834  **2022**



John Wolfe
1968-1970



Richard Fife
1972-1975



Alex
Knight
1994-1998



Magrey
Devega
1998-2000



Lucene
Williams
1963-1965



Laura Beth Fisher
2000-2002



Steven T. Riddle
2002-2006



Calvin
Williams
1958-1963



W.F. Dunkle
1944-1948



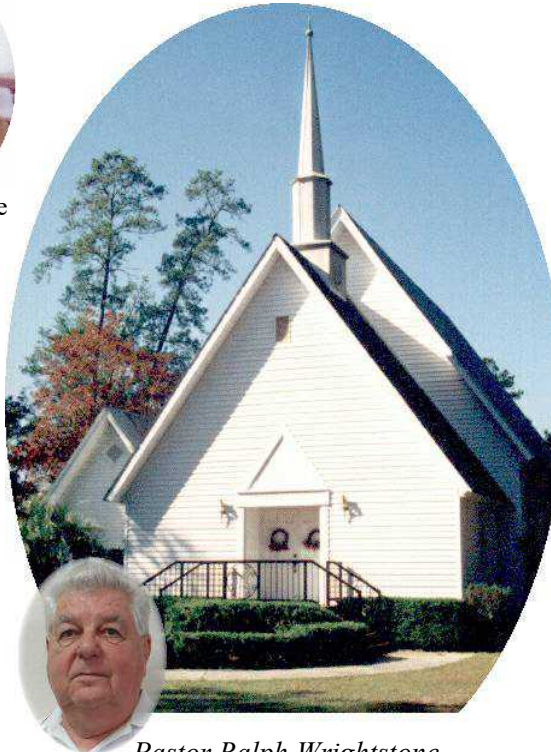
George Potter
2006-2014



Karen Alford
2014-2016



C.C. Smith
1921-31, 1933-34



*Pastor Ralph Wrightstone
and the congregation of Bethel
Welcome you to Homecoming*

Bethel U.M.C.
Celebrating 188 Years of Ministry



1940's



1960's



Today

The History of Bethel UMC

The earliest historical record of Bethel Methodist Church is that in August of 1834, a campmeeting was held on the banks of Bethel Pond. Church meetings were held in neighborhood homes following this. In good weather brush arbors provided meeting places for these early worshippers. Later, services were held in a small log schoolhouse about a mile north of the present church.

On March 17, 1847, Joseph and Thirza Hale deeded two acres of land to the Methodist Episcopal Church with the provision that Bethel Meeting House be built in the center of the two acres. A small frame church with wooden shutters was built where our Sunday School rooms are today.

In 1909 the congregation started building the present sanctuary. The church building was originally roofed with wooden shingles. The windows contain the original panes with the imperfections of early glass. The interior of the church was not completed until 1947. The narthex was added in 1970 and the steeple in 1972.

The furniture in the Church constitutes one of the most interesting parts of its history. The Pulpit was used by Bishop Joshua Soule on February 6, 1845 when he convened the first Florida Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in Trinity Methodist Church, Tallahassee, Florida. Trinity gave the pulpit to Bethel Church circa 1895. The chancel rail, communion table and two of the pulpit chairs were part of Trinity Church during the 1800's and were given to Bethel in 1946. The larger pulpit chair was a gift of John Sullivan, friend of our Church.

(history prepared for bulletin cover by Thelma Royce, church historian)



"Surely the Lord is in this place! This is none other than the house of God" Genesis