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Tishomingo Methodist Church

17 County Road 151, Tishomingo, Mississippi 38873

In 1907, there was no house of worship in the town of Tishomingo. The town was in its infant stages. Rev. W. L. Broom organized a group of Methodists, and they worshipped at Neblett's Chapel, which was about 1 ½ miles north of Tishomingo. In 1909, the Neblett's Chapel building was torn down and the material was used to build a parsonage in Tishomingo. The Methodist charge became known as the Tishomingo Charge. There was still no church building. In the absence of a church building, the Methodists held their services in the school building.

It is appropriate to note that Neblett's Chapel belonged to the Iuka Circuit, Corinth District, North Mississippi Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church-South, and it was a very active charge as early as 1885. Records indicate that from 1885 to 1900, there were 11 pastors with a membership of about 30 males and 30 females. It is significant that some of these members later became active citizens of the Village of Tishomingo.

In 1915, a group of Methodists decided to build a church. The building committee was composed of W. H. Fairless, H. G. Finch, W. E. Rikard, and Miss Annie Wren. The drive to build the church was launched. The church board gave \$250.00, and another \$250.00 was borrowed from the Corinth Bank & Trust Company. The balance was donated by members of the congregation. Ray Campbell was secured as the general contractor, and Charles Barnett and Mr. Ginn performed the carpenter work. The lumber, old growth pine, was acquired from Corinth and shipped by rail to Tishomingo. John R. Trimm and Alicia Trimm moved the lumber from the train depot to the building site. The present building was completed in 1916.

The first Board of Stewards and Trustees of the church was W. H. Fairless, H. G. Finch, and W. E. Rickard. W. H. Fairless was Church School Superintendent for 44 years. H. G. Finch was Superintendent in 1913. Mr. Fairless retired in 1957 and was succeeded by Hubert Day who is now the Superintendent of the Church School. W. R. Nettles was elected Adult Church School teacher in 1916 and taught until 1960. Mrs. Velma Blissit Mercer, who had taught the Young People's Class for many years, was elected Adult teacher and served until her death in 1964. Bill Southward was elected Adult teacher in 1964 and still is currently the teacher of the class. In

1953, when Rev. Bill Appleby was the pastor, the educational annex was added to the church. In 1979 and 1980, the church building and the parsonage received a brick exterior. T. E. Finch received recognition for his efforts on the brick project.

Some of the memorial gifts to the church through the years are as follows:

- The redecoration of the sanctuary in memory of Mrs. Valene Fairless by her husband W. H. Fairless.
- The finishing of the Primary Church School room in memory of Janette Burns by Mr. and Mrs. Faye Burns and Jimmy.
- The altar chancel was given in memory of Mrs. Velma Blissit Mercer by the W.S.C.S.
- The communion table was also given in memory of Mrs. Mercer by her husband, Mr. B. L. Mercer.
- The bell that did hang in the steeple of the church has been mounted at the front of the church in memory of Rev. W. L. Whitener by Mrs. Whitener and daughters. The baptismal bowl and vases were also given by them in memory of Rev. Whitener.
- The pulpit chairs were given in memory of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Fairless by Ruth Fairless and Mrs. Myrl Tennyson.
- The beautiful offering plates were given in memory of Mr. W. R. Nettles by his sisters and brothers and a niece.
- The pulpit was given in memory of Mrs. Mary Smith by her son, Myrl Tennyson and family.
- The large Bible was given in memory of Mr. S. A. McDougal by his wife, Mrs. Paulene McDougal.
- The pulpit light was given in memory of Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Whitener by his daughters.
- The members of the W. S. C. S. gave the carpet now in use in the sanctuary.
- The church secured a beautiful piano as the result of Mrs. Grover Hardy's constant work.
- The Cross given by Rev. W. F. Appleby is a source of inspiration to all worshippers, particularly during the Lenten season.
- The new stained glass windows were given by Ruth Fairless, Mrs. Myrl Tennyson, Mrs. J. T. Blisset and family, Mr. and Mrs. B. L. Mercer, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Whitener, Mr. H. G. Finch and Mr. Jordan Browning.
- The gold candle holders were given in memory of Mr. and Mrs. W. N. Nash by Mrs. Lucille Vickers and Mrs. Kathleen King.
- The central heating and air conditioning system has been added in memory of those who have worked so faithfully in the church.

A partial list of pastors who have served the Methodist church are:

W. L. Broom	E. M. Allen
Will Dodds	J. L. Nabors, Jr.
W. F. Howell	E. E. Murff
W. R. Evans	W. F. Appleby
A. C. Anderson	R. D. McAlilly
H. E. Edmonson	J. E. Bell
A. J. Henry	Wilson Flynn
T. G. Adair	W. H. Lay
L. S. Lawson	G. J. Shumaker
W. C. Beasley	Joe Young
Seaman Rhea	Clay Baker
W. T. Bazzell	Grady Hudson
W. T. Phillips	Gerald Chaffin
J. D. Boggs	Charles Simmons
W. R. Liming	Del Blackmon
W. A. White	Paul York
W. D. Smith	Robert Brant
W. L. Whitener	Earl McAnally
T. H. Maxey	Steve Kennedy

In 2001, the church remained active with a total enrollment of 89.