



Roseville Ebenezer United Methodist Church

After the beginning of Methodism in England in 1729, with John Wesley as the founder, the faith spread rapidly to Ireland and then to America. In 1769, Wesley sent two lay preachers to America. One, Frances Asbury became the leader of American Methodism.

The early days are important as the history of the Ebenezer Church reveals many of the happenings in Methodism.

In 1788, four years after the Baltimore Christmas Conference, a member of the conference was sent by Bishop Asbury across the Ohio River to Marietta. Here the first Methodist sermon was preached in southwestern Ohio.

Here also was the beginning of the circuit riders, preachers traveling the frontiers on horseback, holding meetings in log cabins, school houses, barns, and taverns. This pioneer movement resulted in the forming of many churches including the Ebenezer Church.

In 1830, the Ebenezer Society was formed in the home of W.B. Underwood near the presnet church on the farm where the Foglesongs now live.

As the society grew, it was soon too large for the small home and a church was built. Labor and timber was donated and when finished, was known as the "Underwood Church". Two preachers, a senior and junior preacher, were on the circuit.

Through the years, various churches were added to the circuit and the name of Roseville was given in 1849. In the same year, the second church was built on the present location.

It was dedicated by Ebenezer Chase, the preacher at that time, and was given the name Ebenezer in his honor. Ebenezer means "The Stone of Help." The present church was built in 1892.

Many changes, including improvements to the building, have been recorded. Ebenezer is known as "the friendly church on the hill."

In March 1979, the new church addition was dedicated, and is serving the congregation in a very special way, even today.

With the heritage bequeathed to Ebenezer Church by its early founders, the children of Ebenezer may well look forward to the next 100+ years by the dedication of its present members and its great wealth in the youth and years with anticipation and promise.

A small church in a rural setting, its people are dedicated to carrying out Christ's ministry.