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Bronson Methodist Church 100 years old

Hampton Dunn
BRONSON --- They splashed on a new coat of paint and celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Bronson Methodist Church here in 1967. The quaint little church with its attractive belfry, from which a bell summonses the faithful to worship, sits on a side street just off Alternate U.S. 27. Bronson is the county seat of Levy County, which was named for one of Florida’s first U.S. Senators, David Levy Yulee (who had his name officially changed after his election).

The old church was organized in 1867 with five members and by the end of the year it had grown to 20 members. First services were conducted in an unfinished warehouse in Bronson with the Rev. Elias J. Knight as the first pastor.

The present white frame structure was erected in 1886 and has been the spiritual home of many generations.

The Centennial Sermon was preached in 1967 by the Rev. John Sikes, District Superintendent, assisted by the pastor, the Rev. Wesley Price. The Methodist Choir made the occasion special by presenting "All Hail Emmanuel." Oldest active member present was Mrs. Maggie Sistrunk, 88 years old and an honorary steward.

After the services, the members and guests gathered for an old-fashioned "dinner on the grounds" served underneath the spreading shade trees on the picnic area behind the church.