



The Jennings Chapel United Methodist Church of Tuscaloosa County was recently designated as a historical site by the Alabama Historical Association. The church recently celebrated the occasion with a service of dedication of the historical marker. Major General George F. Hamner (Ret.) U.S. Army, a descendant of one of the first trustees, was guest speaker on the occasion. Organized in 1847 and meeting first in a tent and then in a log cabin, Jennings Chapel was the first Methodist Protestant Church in Tuscaloosa County. Its first minister was John Henry Harper, who came from Madison County to help organize the church and served as its pastor for 30 years. Others participating in the dedication were the Rev. M. E. Blackburn, then pastor; Dr. Neil Snider, Marvin L. Harper, Ivy Inglis, and Burney Fowler. The Rev. W. Earl Peoples was appointed to Jennings Chapel as pastor in June. Pictured in front of the historical marker are [LtoR]: the Rev. M.E. Blackburn, Mrs. J. Lewis Harper, and Major General Hamner. Mr. J. Lewis Harper, recently deceased, provided the funds for the cost of the marker and was one of the group initiating the project.