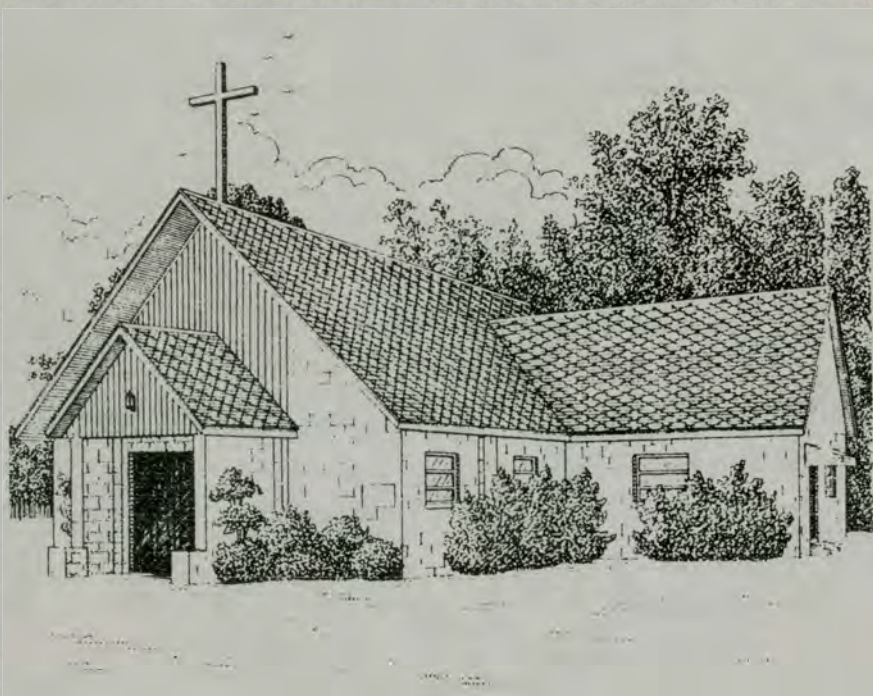


*Welcome to  
Homecoming*



*Pope's Chapel  
United Methodist Church  
(Tignall Charge)*

ESTABLISHED AUGUST 1786

*Pope's Chapel*  
*United Methodist Church*  
*Forty-third Annual Homecoming*  
October 3, 1999  
Kathy Morris, Pastor  
Dr. Sophia Bamford, Pianist

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Prelude

Welcome

Announcements

Invocation

\*Opening Hymn            "Faith of Our Fathers"            p.86

Memorials for the Deceased

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

\*Hymn                        "Love Divine"                        p. 22

Apostle's Creed                        p. 2

Offering

\*The Doxology

Introduction of Speaker                        David Boyd

Scripture Reading

Sermon                                        Dr. Jim Cantrell

Closing Hymn            "The Church's One Foundation"            p.81

\*Blessing and Benediction



*We welcome you to our Forty-third Annual Homecoming at Pope's Chapel. We pray God's rich blessing upon you. Everyone is invited to Dinner immediately following the service.*

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Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God in loving memory :

of William and Horace Norman by their children,  
of Hazel and Farmer Combs by Elizabeth Mantooth,  
Mary Helen Thorton, and Frances West.

The Piano Arrangement is given in loving memory of Mary Nan and John Spence by their Children.

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### **Afternoon Session**

Hymn	"The Church in the Wildwood"	p. 121
Secretary's Report		
Treasurer's Report		
Report on the Committee on Nominations		
Election of Officers		
Other Business		
Hymn	"God Be With You"	p. 277
Closing Prayer		

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### **Officers and Committees for 1999**

President: David Boyd      Secretary: Emory Boyd  
Treasurer: Malcolm Chaffin  
Ushers David Sales & David Chaffin  
Nominations: Tom Wiggins, Elizabeth Chaffin, John Keen  
Table Committee: Malcolm Chaffin, Greg Bunch, Jimmy Norman, George Smith  
Guest Registry: Linda Bunch and Elaine Wheatly



### POPE'S CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Methodist Society, which was later organized into Pope's Chapel Church, was first organized in August 1786 by Thomas Humphries at the home of James Marks located in what is now Elbert County about 1½ miles Northeast of Old Baker's Ferry on Broad River. When Elbert County was formed in 1790 from Wilkes County, it left most of the church members in Wilkes County, so the church was relocated into Wilkes County, south about 2 miles from Broad River, on property owned by John Landrum adjoining his homeplace on the east side of Baker's Ferry Road. It was in this location that it received its name, in honor of Rev. Henry Pope, who provided most of the timber used in the building. Bishop Francis Asbury delivered the Dedication Sermon there in 1805. In 1852 the church was again relocated about 2 miles south to its present location. In 1871 Trustees of the church were Benjamin W. Fortson, M. T. Cash, Augustus A. Neal, and James W. Boyd. A second structure was erected in 1897 in which two stained glass windows were installed as a memorial to Benjamin Winn Fortson and his wife Hannah Rebecca Ogilvie by their children. The Dedication Sermon was delivered by Lundye Harris in 1898. This building was severely damaged by a windstorm and a third building, presently in use, was erected in 1957.



10-3-1999



POPE'S CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
Broad Community  
Tignall, Georgia

Dear Friends,

Sunday, October 3rd marks the 43rd Annual Homecoming Celebration at Pope's Chapel United Methodist Church. Please make plans now to join your friends and family as we renew acquaintances, reminisce and enjoy some delicious home cooking!

Sunday School will begin at 10:30 a.m. followed by the Worship Service at 11:30. A covered dish supper will be served immediately after the Worship Service. The Business Session will begin promptly at 2:00 p.m.

We are especially pleased to have Jim Cantrell as our Homecoming speaker. As most of you know, Jim was formerly the pastor of the Tignall charge and is a good friend to many of us. He is currently the senior pastor of St. James UMC in Atlanta. Jim is a gifted speaker and we look forward to an enlightening message.

We look forward to seeing you on October 3rd.

Sincerely,

Emory Boyd

P.S. Please forward any name and address corrections to:

Emory Boyd  
750 Starlight Drive  
Atlanta, GA 30342



# Pope's Chapel to celebrate homecoming this Sunday

By Sophia Boyd Bamford

Pope's Chapel United Methodist Church will observe its 213th year in the annual homecoming celebration Sunday, October 3.

This is a time when descendants of families who made an enduring witness over the years return to remember, and to receive renewal and enrichment of spirit, in this place.

The following remarks are an attempt to condense the most salient historical events that surround this church and provide its "gravitational pull," a force felt by all who have family ties, or bonds of friendship, over the years with Pope's Chapel.

In 1784, many families moved into the Broad River Valley of Georgia. They came primarily from Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. The Revolutionary War was over and new lands beckoned.

From Wake County, N.C., in 1785, Thomas Wooten and his wife, Tabitha Bradford Crowell Pope Wooten, with their five children and with Tabitha's five Pope sons (Burwell, Willis, John, Henry and Wiley), and their families settled first in the area between Chickasaw and Pistol creeks, on the southside of Broad River.

Burwell Pope and his wife, Priscilla Wooten, owned the land where the first chapel was built. Prior to the first building, undoubtedly Burwell organized a Methodist society similar to the Pope's Chapel they had left in North Carolina.

Records indicate that this society started in 1786 at a time when 400 of the early settlers in the Broad River Valley had embraced Methodism. By 1787, 400 members had increased to 1200.

In 1793, Burwell and Priscilla

Pope moved to Oglethorpe County where a second Pope's Chapel was started, while Burwell's younger brother, Henry Augustine, is credited with the erection of the first Pope's Chapel church building in Wilkes County.

In 1796, Bishop Asbury preached Pope's Chapel's dedication sermon.

In 1798, Thomas Landrum of Virginia purchased Burwell Pope's land while his son John purchased an adjacent tract which included the cemetery.

In 1811, Thomas and John Landrum each gave one acre to the trustees of Pope's Chapel thus assuring the society of a permanent and legal right to the house of worship and the cemetery.

Trustees at the time (1811) included Benjamin Taliaferro Sr., Benjamin Taliaferro Jr., Thompson Watkins, Isham Watkins, Marshall Martin, John Pope (third brother of the original group), and Ludwell Fullilove. They were connected through marriage to the Taliaferro, Oliver, Pope, and Smith families.

In 1832, Benjamin Winn (Wynn) Fortson of Elbert County married Mary Landrum, daughter of John Landrum, and joined Pope's Chapel. Mary and three of their five children are buried in the cemetery located on the part of her father's land that was deeded to Pope's Chapel.

It was through the discovery of these marked graves that the site of the original meeting house was identified. There were no descendants from this union.

Through a second marriage of B.W. Fortson to Hannah Rebecca Ogilvie, nine children were born. All lived in Wilkes and Columbia counties. Several lived in the Pope's Chapel community. They were James W. W. Boyd and wife, Annie Elizabeth Fortson; Augustus Anthony Neal and wife Frances Scott Fortson; and Charles John Fortson and wives (1) Ola Sturgis and (2) Agnes Walton.

Their descendants continue to attend homecoming. Additional descendants by name of Irvin, Boyd, Darby, Anderson, and Neal, are in frequent attendance.

In 1850, 2½ acres on the waters of Pistol Creek were purchased from Nimrod Waller. Trustees at this time were B.W. Fortson, M.T. Cash, Joseph Sheppard, Ennis Willis, Elkanah Bosewell, and Nicholas Meriwether Taliaferro (youngest son of Benjamin Taliaferro Sr.) Nicholas left in 1859-1860 for Arkansas.

In 1852, a new building was erected on this site, located about two miles east of the original site.

During the Civil War, and immediately afterwards, records show additional family names of Bradley, Butler, Hill, Jones, Scott, Taylor, Walton and Pullen. Many descendants who attend homecoming trace their roots to these families.

In 1871, another deed was recorded for Pope's Chapel when ¾ acre of land was purchased from Elizabeth Eades. This acreage adjoined the H.J. Norman land. Trustees at that time were B.W. Fortson, Marion T. Cash, Joseph Sheppard, Augustus A. Neal, and James W.W. Boyd.

Five years later (1876) an additional 2½ acres were deeded to Pope's Chapel by Samuel W. Wynn. This was adjacent to the H.J. Norman land. Trustees for this purchase were B.W. Fortson, M.T. Cash, A.A. Neal, J.W.W. Boyd, H.J. Hill, and Samuel A. Fortson. The two new names refer to Henry Jordan Hill,

one of the 12 sons of Lodowick Meriwether Hill and wife Nancy Hill Johnson. Both descended from original settlers, Abraham Hill and wife Christian Walton, who had settled on Long Creek in Wilkes County in 1788.

On the roll repeatedly at the latter part of the 19th century were Wansleys, Jordans, and Normans. Descendants can be found today in the Broad and Tignall communities.

In 1898, a new sanctuary was built on this site with two stained glass windows that were installed by the children of B.W. and R.O. Fortson in their memory. These windows are still in evidence in the final chapel that was erected in 1957.

In 1899, one year after the third church was built, James Frank Rucker joined the Pope's Chapel community. He met and married Mae Clair Walton, granddaughter of the original Thomas McDonald Walton and Elizabeth Pullen Walton. The Rucker couple was destined to establish another extended family that return annually at homecoming. Names, among others, are Boehler, Bufford, Bunch, Butler, Grimes, Oglesby, Paige, Sale, Satterfield, Stephens, Suttles, and Wheatley.

Another dedicated longtime member was Mrs. Emmie Bell Pullen, wife of J.M. Pullen and daughter of Alexander Bell and Laura Louisa Walton. Other members of the Bell family and related families of Moone and Truitt, Wheelless and Rousey were present in goodly numbers during the first half of the 20th century.

In 1935, the first written history of Pope's Chapel was prepared by Frank Rucker. This was of great value in the research and preparation of the book on "Early Methodist Societies and Meeting Houses of the Broad River Valley" by John Wright Boyd Sr. and Harold W. Lawrence.

In the 1950s the third church building was badly damaged by a tornado. The present chapel was erected in 1957 using all available materials from the damaged building. Financial aid from many of the descendants of Pope's Chapel fami-

lies helped to make their event possible.

Tribute must be paid to the staunch group of survivors who held out to the end. They included Pearl Rucker Bufford, Annie Laurie Rucker Satterfield, Hazel Wheelless Pullen Combs, Farmer Combs, Malcolm and Elizabeth Pullen Chaffin, Horace and Wilma Bailey Norman, Tom Cobb and Lois Blackmon, George and Doris Smith, Greg and Linda Bunch, and lastly, Troy and Bernice Heater.

In 1989, it was evident that Pope's Chapel could not continue as a viable church. Its doors closed and the few remaining members transferred to other churches, primarily to Independence, thus staying in the Tignall Charge.

Today the memories we hold dear of this church continue to draw numerous descendants to the annual homecoming. Every year our sense of fulfillment is strengthened, our renewed friendships are bountiful, and our family ties are strengthened.

We remember with reverence the heritage that is ours and we are encouraged to keep the faith of our forefathers ever present in our hearts.



Pope's Chapel  
 United Methodist Church  
 Forty-third Annual Homecoming  
 October 3, 1999  
 Kathy Morris, Pastor  
 Dr. Sophia Bamford, Pianist

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*Warren Fortson Thanks for tables and sand*

**Afternoon Session**

Hymn "The Church in the Wildwood"	P Marion Statin
Secretary's Report	V Sofia Boyd p. 121
Treasurer's Report <i>366.00</i>	T Malcolm Chaffin
Report on the Committee on Nominations	S Nancy Norman
Election of Officers	
Other Business <i>Leigh 24.00</i>	
Hymn "God Be With You" <i>Ins 163.00</i>	p. 277
Closing Prayer <i>Sign 633.00</i>	

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*Cemetery Fund 391.84*  
*Reg. Fund - 825.00*  
*862.99 Homecoming*  
*1412.50 cont yr.*  
*10,000.00*  
*1,877.00 Collection*  
*21,000.00 - CD*  
*3579.02*  
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