
Grady County Historical Society – Churches

First Methodist/Cairo First Church

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FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

The history of the constitution and beginnings of what is now the First United Methodist Church of Cairo (Ga.) coincides with the beginnings of the community of Cairo, the background for which dates back to 1818 when William Hawthorne blazed a trail through Southwest Georgia from North Carolina to what he termed a Garden Spot area about the Florida-Georgia line, whence he led a band of a number of very sturdy North Carolina families to establish the community of Calvary (first called "the North Carolina Settlement") in 1828. He then planted the seeds for the full flowering of the Cairo community to begin in 1867 when Cairo became a station on the old Atlantic & Gulf Railroad (now the Seaboard Coast Line), rails for which were laid from Thomasville to Bainbridge for trains to begin operating in November, 1867. Cairo, which subsequently became a post office, was incorporated as a town in 1870 and as a city in 1906.

Records of Cairo Church clearly emphasize that it grew out of the efforts of "three good women" and the Sunday School they first organized. The three were Mrs. D. H. Wilmot, her sister, Miss Lizzie Everette (later a Mrs. Dickey) and Mrs. Julia Hall. The church and Sunday School services were held at the home of the latter until the first edifice, described as "a beautiful little white wooden sanctuary with Grecian arched windows," was completed in 1873. Records show there were 20 charter members, but do not list all of them. However, they included, in addition to "the three good women," the following: Tom W. Brown, the first S. S. superintendent, Stephen A. Chester, Rev. P. C. Harris, listed as pastor both of Bold Springs and Cairo Church, James H. Hayes, William Powell, an accredited lay preacher who largely supervised the construction of the first edifice and helped to organize other Methodist churches in the area. Benjamin (Doc) Powell, who later taught the Fellowship Class in the S. S. for

33 years, and Capt. E. A. Vanlandingham.

Cairo Church grew rather steadily in membership and influence, and, in a few years, when the Wight families moved to the developing town of Cairo from Wightville (Sofkee), about six miles to the southwest, to swell its roster, the beloved Little White Church, in the southwestern corner of the present church site, was given an imposing addition, a steeple, "towering in four separate and matchless tiers above the tree tops, covered with slate roofs," which came to be known as "Henry's Steeple," because it was built and largely paid for by Henry Wight, who felt that a church was not a church without a steeple. By 1886, members increased to 206, then to 300 by 1897, whereupon a larger brick edifice was authorized. It was built on the northeast portion of the site, toward the intersection of South Broad Street and what is now 3rd Ave. S.W. Construction difficulties were encountered but Bishop C. B. Galloway in 1901 specially assigned to the church as pastor Rev. W. M. Blitch, a native of this section, known as an outstanding church builder. Under his leadership, in 1902, the church finished a well-built edifice of deep red brick, with stained-glass windows, and it served the church well during the second distinct phase of its history, until 1927—except that by 1908 the Sunday School, with attendance at upwards of 500, had outgrown its facilities, and a large Epworth League Hall and S. S. annex, a wood structure just west of the brick church, was built.

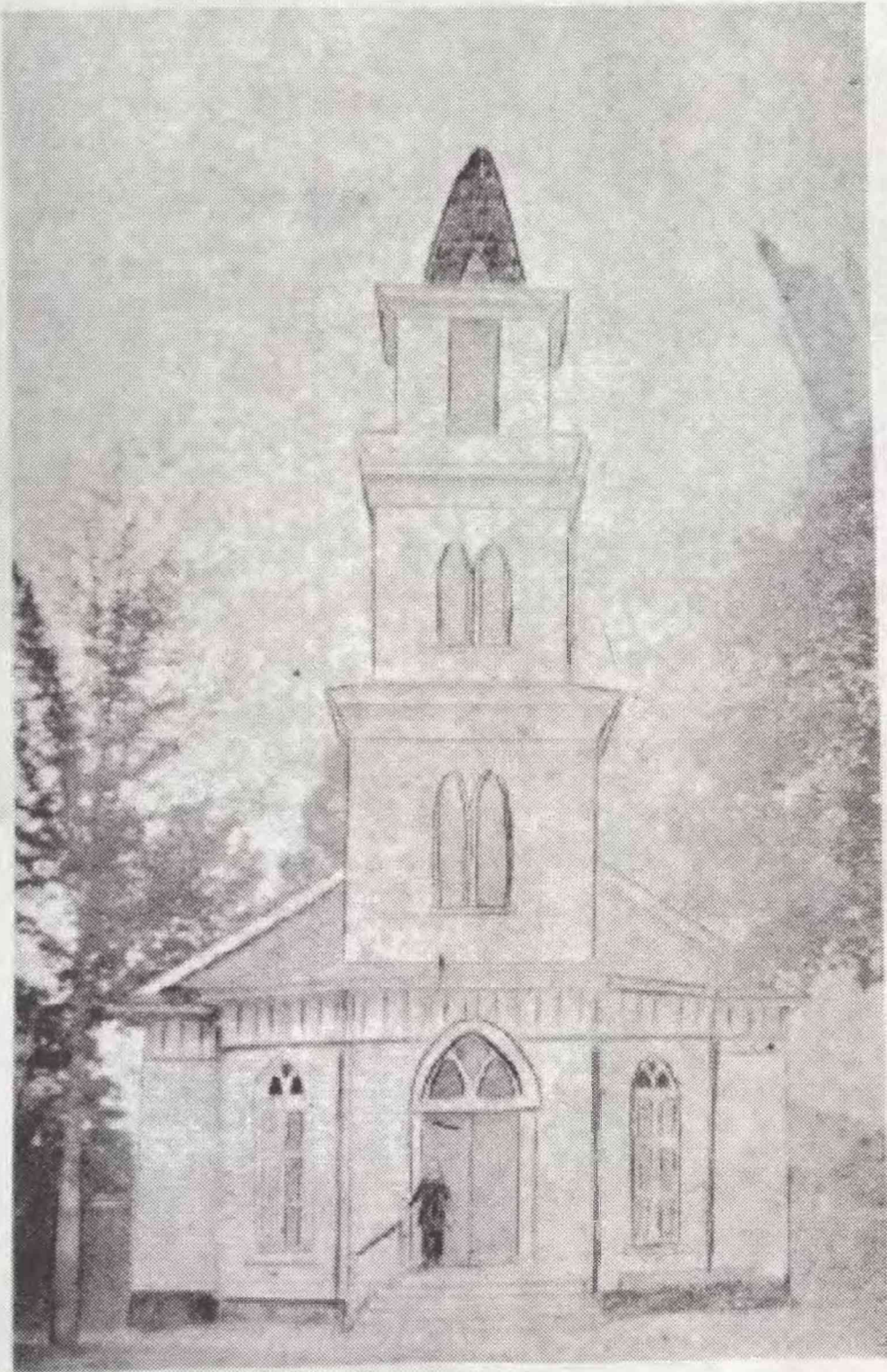
With this glance anew at the church's history, which makes its members aglow with their great heritage, this church is now well into its second 100 years of service as a great factor for good in this community and area, with a strong mission outreach that extends helpfully to many parts of the world. Under Rev. Henry K. Erwin, the present pastor, is leading it to still greater heights of service in the mission and the general fields.



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MEMBERS OF CAIRO FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH met in a called conference Monday night and voted to purchase the former home of Mr. and Mrs. J. Carl Minter, located at 1433 13th Street N.W., for a new parsonage. The home was sold at the discounted price of \$175,000 to the church by the Minter heirs. The church's current parsonage is located just across the street from the church and was constructed in 1952 by local contractor Ralph A. Brown as part of a church expansion program. Church members are hopeful that by providing its minister with a home in a neighborhood away from the church and the downtown commercial district will make the church more attractive to a younger minister with children. Plans for the future use of the existing parsonage building have not been finalized.

CM 3-6-2013

Some Historical Notes On

WILLIAM POWELL BIBLE CLASS

1915 ---

of the First Methodist Church, Cairo, Georgia

(compiled from the best available records on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary Dinner of the class, November 9, 1965)

The William Powell Bible Class has had quite an interesting history, to be sure, but records have not been found available for most of the time it has served to promote God's Kingdom in this community. This is, therefore, an effort simply to compile some of the more important historical data from the records that have been found, and not to prepare a complete history.

There appears to be little if any reason to challenge the accepted date, 1915, as the year when the class came to be known by its present name, although some records indicate that the present class stemmed from one organized about 1906. What is now the First Methodist Church here, of which the class is a part, was constituted in 1867, and is, as of this year, some 98 years old. The church, from its beginning until 1900, was, in a material sense, a "Little White Chapel," which stood in the southwestern portion of the original church land. It was succeeded by the first brick edifice in 1900. The main portion of the present facilities was built in 1927, but enlarged and modernized several times since that date. This is pointed out to explain that what came to be the William Powell Bible Class in 1915 may well have had its actual origin before 1906.

For many years, or from about 1906 until Feb. 1, 1931, it was a class of both men and women, a "mixed class," with up to 150 members on roll, but with an average attendance probably less than half that number. From about 1906 until he resigned due to failing health in November, 1928, the teacher and great spiritual leader of the class was Rev. Walter C. Jones, who had served in the South Georgia Methodist Conference, and the best information is that it was generally known all through those 25 years as the "Brother Walter C. Jones Class."

Available records are meager as to just when or why the class took the name of William Powell, although there can be no question whatsoever about the worthiness or distinguished career of the man for whom it was named. Dr. W. A. Walker, in a scholarly address in December, 1934, when the family presented to the class a portrait of William Powell, a portrait that is still in excellent condition, paid a glowing tribute to the life and career of our namesake, and copies of that address, containing much other church and community history of his era, are still in existence. He was a member of one of several families who migrated to this section from North Carolina, first settling in what probably may best be identified as the old Sofkee community, southwest of Cairo, a community also known as Wightville. After Cairo came into existence in the late 1860s, the Powells, Wights and others moved here. Cairo became a station on the old Atlantic & Gulf Railroad, now for many years the Atlantic Coast Line, when trains began operating, about December, 1867, and William Powell became the first agent for the railroad at Cairo, a position he held until his death on Dec. 22, 1894, at the age of only 60, March 5, 1834 having been his birth date. As Doctor Walker revealed, it was in his adulthood that he gave himself completely to God, and he became so active and influential in promoting the Kingdom that he was not only one of the prime movers in establishing what is our First Methodist Church, in 1867, but in establishing other churches and Sunday Schools in this area. He became a local preacher, licensed by the church here that he helped to establish. As Doctor Walker said of him in his address, he had "an irresistible urge" to spread the Gospel and dedicated his life most commendably to bringing countless others to dedicate their lives to the

service of God and humanity. So it is that his works follow after him and that his good name is perpetuated in the lives of countless others, as members of the class through the years, and as countless visitors to the class, and the kin of members, to continue the contributions he so ably began.

W. Albert Walker, Jr. (a grandson of our namesake), from Jan. 1, 1928, to Feb. 1, 1931, as secretary of the class, efficiently kept and still has in his possession, complete minutes of the business sessions of the class, held each first Sunday. These minutes include the class roll of 150 members as of Jan. 1, 1928, and at other times during the period, along with many detailed records of the class activities. It is interesting to note that the class first sponsored operation of automobile trucks and later two busses to transport people to Sunday School for a long period in those days. It will be well if the class can arrange for a permanent depository to preserve class records and what-have-you, so that class members in the years ahead might share them.

It was the concluding class business session of the period covered by these minutes, on Feb. 1, 1931, that the action was taken to make the class one for men only, "including all men 24 years of age, and above." The secretary was also thoughtful enough to add the class roll when it became a class of men only. That roll follows:

J. A. (Sandy) Aldredge, Forest G. (Folly) Brown, Ira Carlisle, Arthur C. Dickey, E. R. Duke, Robt. L. Forrester, Ed Farnell, John E. Hall, W. C. Ham, Henry Herring, Ira Higdon, Sr., Bill Hurst, Rev. W. C. Jones, Doctor Matthews, John Muggridge, Alex Maxwell, D. F. Oliver, John A. Powell, 1st, J. W. Pelham, J. M. Poulk, Lem Powell, L. M. (Shorty) Powell, Dr. J. V. Rogers, J. W. Southall, Judge J. Q. Smith, Judge John R. Singletary, J. M. Strange, T. C. Teate, Roscoe Van Landingham, Ronald Watson, W. Albert Walker, Jr., and Alvin B. Wight. Total: 33.

Robert P. Wight has endeavored to compile a list of members of the class during the time it was a "mixed" class, for both men and women, who are still living, and lists the following: Mrs. J. A. Aldredge, Chas. L. Browne, Sr., Mrs. W. Y. Bryan, Ira Carlisle (a past president), Mrs. Ed Farnell, J. E. Forsyth (a past president), Earley Gandy (a past president), Mrs. W. C. Ham, Mrs. Ira Higdon, Sr., John R. King, L. M. (Shorty) Powell, W. Albert Walker, Jr. (a several terms past president), Mrs. J. S. Weathers, Mrs. Thomas Wight, Mrs. J. R. White, and Ed L. Vanlandingham.

It is regrettable that records have not been found to permit compilation of a roster of the past presidents. However, while it may not be fully verified for the entire period, the following roster of the class teachers may be about correct:

As previously noted, Rev. Walter C. Jones was the regular teacher from 1906, about the time of its origin, until he resigned due to failing health in November, 1928. Brother Jones, a towering man of God, was born in Brooks county on Jan. 6, 1855, and passed to his Eternal Rest on Aug. 1, 1948, at the ripe age of 93. Judge J. Q. Smith was his first assistant and Dr. W. A. Walker was his second assistant.

When Brother Jones resigned as of November, 1928, Judge Smith assumed the duties as teacher and served "about two years," with Doctor Walker as assistant.

Available records show that he was succeeded in the early 1930s by Dr. Albert W. Rehberg, who served faithfully, despite his professional duties, almost alone, for several years, with Dr. J. V. Rogers as his assistant. Doctor Rehberg was then joined in 1937 by Louis A. Powell, and these two rotated on a monthly basis regularly for some 16 years, until 1953, when Doctor Rehberg resigned because of failing health. Doctor Rehberg, one of the outstanding Bible students in this section's history, was born Sept. 20, 1899 and died Sept. 16, 1955. After his resignation, Louis A. Powell continued alone for a few months but was later joined by Adron Rosser and others whose service available records do not reveal, but including Mrs. C. B. Urick, Rev. Fred Meyer. For some time, now, Kelly C. Freeman, Ernest H. Herring and Louis A. Powell have been serving in rotation every three months, with Adron Rosser as reserve teacher.

One Hundreth Anniversary



First Methodist Church
Cairo, Georgia

1867

1967



THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE

To serve as pastor of this good church is both a privilege and an honor. I am grateful that my name may be added to the illustrious roster of pastors, good and faithful men, who have served here during the one-hundred year history of this church.

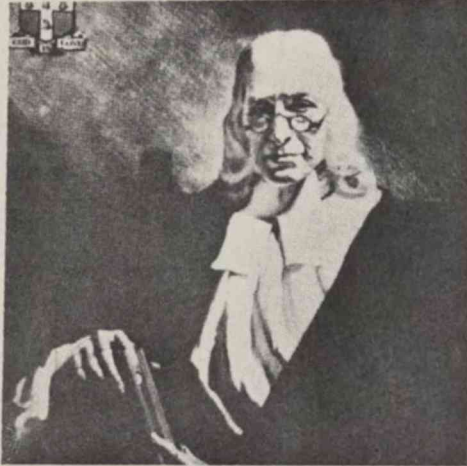
This church grew up with Cairo. It began its life of service when and as Cairo began. From its inception until now it has lived to serve this community and the world. Faithful men and women, who loved God and His church, through sacrificial giving and dedicated service have made possible so much for us all to enjoy and use. We today can not be true to God or our rich heritage unless we bring the best we have to the highest we know. This we are all expected to do.

Though all of the bills of the church are paid, thank God, let us remember that we are in debt! The only way we can possibly pay our debt to the past is to so live that we are making a better today and are contributing toward a better tomorrow. Our children, our community, our world, our church, our God are counting upon us. We dare not fail the future. We must dedicate ourselves anew to the task ahead.

Yours faithfully,

Henry S. Brooks

The Wesleys In Georgia



John Wesley



Charles Wesley

It was a strange company which embarked on the small ship, the "Simmonds," in October 1735. Under the leadership of General James E. Oglethorpe, this company set sail for Georgia. Here was to be established a colony which would offer new opportunities for freedom to those who came with him. Two of the passengers on board the ship were John and Charles Wesley, the former coming to serve as the religious leader and missionary to the colonists, and the latter in the capacity of secretary to Gen. Oglethorpe. In January 1736, they landed at what is now the City of Savannah, Georgia, which at that time was a small village of approximately forty residences.

After landing at Savannah, Charles Wesley proceeded with Gen. Oglethorpe to Fort Frederica, to serve as secretary to the colonists there. It was soon apparent to Gen. Oglethorpe that he had made an unwise choice in the selection of Charles Wesley and in 1736, Charles Wesley returned to London.

John Wesley began his ministry with great promise. His first sermon was delivered in the courthouse, which also served as the Church. The building was filled to capacity to hear Mr. Wesley preach. For a short period of time Mr. Wesley's ministry among the colonists gave promise of bearing much fruit. But, before long, it was apparent that he was failing in his work among both the Indians and the other settlers. He was being constantly involved in quarrels and disputes among the people. The climax of his work came when he fell in love with one of his parishoners, Miss Sophia Hopkey. When she would not return his affection, he refused to let her partake of the sacrament of the Holy Communion. This incident created such a situation that in 1737, John Wesley, with three of his companions, boarded the ship and set sail for England.

It was not until the experience in 1738 at Aldersgate Street Meeting House that John Wesley really found himself. In Georgia he had been a strict ritualist. After his heart-warming experience, he preached with a new fervor, and multitudes flocked to hear him. The Wesleyan revival soon swept England and saved it from a revolution. Out of this came the Methodist Church.

Some two hundred and twenty years after his laborers in Savannah, there are now to be found Methodist Churches and congregations. They bear proudly the name of Methodist, and thank God for their heritage and tradition and rise up to call John Wesley, the human founder of their Church, blessed.

(Reproduction from the 20th Anniversary Brochure Aldersgate Methodist Church, Savannah, Ga.)



First Edifice Of Cairo Methodist Church

1873 -- 1900

Described in historical records as a "beautiful little white wooden sanctuary with Grecian arched windows," which stood toward the southwestern portion of the present site. William Powell, a charter member and accredited lay preacher, largely superintended construction. Note the steeple, added later by Henry Wight. (old photo supplied by Mrs. Francis Brannon.)



Bishop John Owen Smith

Bishop John Owen Smith was consecrated a Bishop of The Methodist Church at the Jurisdictional Conference which met in Junaluska N. C., in 1960 and was then assigned to the Atlanta Area. He has been our Bishop since that time, and has become one of the truly great bishops of the Church. We are proud of him and regret that he and Mrs. Smith, due to a prior assignment to a world tour of "mission stations," could not be with us for this celebration.



Rev. Frank E. Jenkins

The Rev. Frank E. Jenkins was transferred from the North Georgia Conference to our Conference in June of 1965 and was assigned immediately to the superintendency of the Thomasville District. He is capable, systematic, efficient. He and his lovely wife, Polly, have endeared themselves to us, and we appreciate their splendid leadership.



Dr. Albert S. Trulock

Dr. Albert S. Trulock is a native of Whigham of this County, married a Cairo girl, Miss Sammie Stubbs, for four years served as a popular pastor of this Church and is one of the outstanding leaders of Methodism. At present he is serving as superintendent of the Valdosta District. How fortunate we are to have him as our guest preacher today!

DEDICATION

Thou, whose unmeasured temple stands,
Built over earth and sea,
Accept the walls that human hands
Have raised, O God, to Thee!
Lord, from Thine inmost glory send,
Within these courts to bide,
The peace that dwelleth without end
Serenely by Thy Side!
May erring minds that worship here
Be taught the better way;
And they who mourn, and they who fear,
Be strengthened as they pray.
May faith grow firm, and love grow warm,
And pure devotion rise
While round these hallowed walls the storm
Of earthborn passion dies.

—William Cullen Bryant



Cairo Methodist Church, 1901-1927

The Cairo Methodist Church edifice as it was from 1901 to 1927, on the same site as the present First Methodist Church. The church was established with 20 members in 1867 and first used an attractive wooden structure with Grecian arched windows, painted white, on about the same site. It was torn away in 1900 and a brick structure was begun but construction difficulties were encountered. The late Bishop C. B. Galloway then for 1901 sent the late Rev. W. M. Blicht, a native of this area who was buried here, to be pastor, to untangle the troubles. He had the first walls torn away and closely supervised the construction of the edifice shown, finished that year. When he left in 1903, the new church was paid for.



Present Parsonage

The present parsonage was the first phase of a well - planned \$100,000 Expansion Program activated in 1952 during the latter part of the four - year pastorate of Rev. G. N. Rainey. It replaced a wooden parsonage built in 1894.

The property where the parsonage is situated was long the site of the home of the late Kedar Powell Wight, for many years a leader in this church. The spacious lot has been extensively landscaped to accentuate the beauty of the parsonage, built of brick to harmonize with the church edifice. It has three bedrooms, a living room and den, along with two baths and other facilities usual to such modern structures. It was dedicated by Bishop Arthur J. Moore, September 13, 1953, during the pastorate of Rev. L. E. Williams.

Church Directory

John Owen Smith	Resident Bishop
Frank E. Jenkins	District Superintendent
Henry S. Brooks	Minister
Mrs. C. B. Urick	Director of Christian Education and Secretary
Jack L. Hutcheson	Director Of Music
Mrs. Dwight Brown	Organist
John D. Powell, Jr.	Youth Worker
Luther White	Custodian
John J. McClenny	Chairman Official Board
Dr. C. K. Singleton	Chairman Board of Trustees
E. H. Herring	Lay Leader
John A. Powell, 2nd	Treasurer and Chairman Commission on Stewardship and Finance
Ralph W. Brandon	Church School Superintendent and Chairman Commission on Education
W. L. Oliver, Jr.	Chairman Commission on Membership and Evangelism
W. A. Lundy	Chairman Commission on Missions
John W. King	Chairman Commission on Christian Social Concerns
Louis A. Powell	Chairman Commission on Worship
Mrs. J. Richard Porter, Sr.	President Woman's Society of Christian Service
Miss Elizabeth Dickey	President Wesleyan Service Guild
D. F. Oliver, II	President Methodist Men
Mrs. Louis A. Powell	Communion Steward
S. P. Cain	Recording Steward
Frank C. White	District Steward
Robert L. Sellers, Jr.	Secretary of Stewardship
Francis E. Allen	Associate District Lay Leader
M. M. Singletary	Hospital and Homes
J. Norwood Clark	Higher Education
Mrs. C. B. Urick	Christian Vocation
Frederick L. Perkins	Membership Cultivation Superintendent
Miss Ivy Bussey	Children's Division Superintendent
Francis E. Allen	Youth Division Superintendent
Edwin Maxwell	Adult Division Superintendent
Mary Evelyn Davis	Senior High MYF President
Kenny Brandon	Junior High MYF President

Trustees

Charles R. Beale
 S. P. Cain
 Noel Gainey
 John McClenny

C. K. Singleton
 J. T. Sumner, Jr.
 Mrs. J. Slater Wight, Sr.
 Frank C. White

Stewards

Francis E. Allen
Ralph W. Brandon
Ralph E. Carlisle
Edwin A. Carlisle
Edd L. Childers
Mack Chastain
J. Norwood Clark
J. Albert Collins
Randall O. Corbett
Jesse Crew
Henry Davis
Jim Duncan
Billy Elkins
Jack Ellington
W. Audrey Gandy
Early A. Gandy
Ernest H. Herring
Ira Higdon, Jr.
Walter James
Charles Manny

James L. Martin
Larry Massey
Edwin C. Maxwell
Dan Mitchell
Carter Morton, Jr.
Howell McKinnon, Jr.
D. F. Oliver, II
W. L. Oliver, Jr.
J. L. Oliver
J. Richard Porter, Sr.
Louis A. Powell
Reuben L. Robertson
Robert L. Sellers Jr.
W. Albert Walker, Jr.
Charles Whatley
John B. Wight, Jr.
T. J. Williams
Stacy Williams
Elmer Wilcox
Herbert W. Wind



J. Byron Wight Youth Chapel
Dedicated February 17, 1946, during the pastorate
of Rev. J. W. Hitch.

BISHOPS, PRESIDING ELDERS AND PASTORS

CAIRO METHODIST CHURCH

1867-1967

YEAR	BISHOP	PRESIDING ELDER	PASTOR
1867	George F. Pierce	George C. Clarke	T. J. Colquitt
1868	George F. Pierce	George C. Clarke	R. F. Evans
1869	H. H. Kavanaugh	George C. Clarke	P. C. Harris
1870	George F. Pierce	George C. Clarke	P. C. Harris
1871	W. M. Wightman	R. B. Lester	P. C. Harris
1874	Enoch M. Marvin	R. B. Lester	P. C. Harris
1872	Robert Paine	R. B. Lester	J. J. Giles
1873	George F. Pierce	R. B. Lester	J. W. Jackson
1875	David S. Doggett	E. A. H. McGahee	T. J. Ainsworth
1876	George F. Pierce	E. A. H. McGahee	T. J. Ainsworth
1877	George F. Pierce	E. A. H. McGahee	Wesley Lane
1878	H. N. McTyiere	E. A. H. McGahee	C. C. Hines
1879	H. N. McTyiere	R. W. Dixon	C. C. Hines
1880	George F. Pierce	R. W. Dixon	J. S. Jordan
1881	George F. Pierce	T. T. Christian	J. S. Jordan
1882	H. H. Kavanaugh	T. T. Christian	H. C. Fentress
1883	John C. Keener	T. T. Christian	H. C. Fentress
1884	John C. Granberry	J. O. Branch	N. B. Ousley
1885	A. W. Wilson	J. O. Branch	N. B. Ousley
1886	E. R. Hendrix	J. O. Branch	J. W. Arnold, Assoc.
1887	H. N. McTyiere	J. O. Branch	S. W. Stubbs
1888	W. W. Duncan	J. W. Hinton	S. W. Stubbs
1889	Robert K. Hargrove	J. W. Hinton	S. W. Stubbs
1890	Atticus G. Haygood	J. W. Hinton	J. T. Ainsworth
1891	John C. Keener	J. W. Hinton	J. T. Ainsworth
1892	O. P. Fitzgerald	J. O. Branch	N. H. Olmstead
1893	C. B. Galloway	J. O. Branch	D. D. Bateman
1894	A. W. Wilson	J. O. Branch	D. D. Bateman
1895	John C. Granberry	J. O. Branch	D. D. Bateman
1896	W. W. Duncan	J. O. A. Cook	J. M. Outler
1897	Joseph S. Key	J. O. A. Cook	J. M. Outler
1898	Robert K. Hargrove	J. O. A. Cook	T. D. Strong
1899	A. W. Wilson	J. O. Branch	Robert Kerr
1900	Eugene R. Hendrix	J. O. Branch	Robert Kerr
1901	C. B. Galloway	J. O. Branch	W. W. Seals
1902	W. A. Candler	Ed F. Cook	W. W. Seals
1903	Jos. S. Key	Ed F. Cook	W. M. Blitch
1904	W. W. Duncan	Ed F. Cook	W. M. Blitch
1905	W. W. Duncan	Ed F. Cook	Geo. P. Reviere
1906	Seth Ward	A. M. Williams	L. W. Colson
1907	James Atkins	A. M. Williams	J. C. Parker
1908	C. B. Galloway	A. M. Williams	I. E. McKellar
1909	A. W. Wilson	A. M. Williams	N. T. Pafford
1910	H. C. Morrison	J. M. Outler	W. E. Towson
1911	H. C. Morrison	J. M. Outler	W. E. Towson
1912	A. W. Wilson	J. M. Outler	W. E. Towson
1913	W. A. Candler	J. M. Outler	W. L. Wright
1914	W. A. Candler	E. F. Morgan	W. L. Wright
1915	John Kilgo	E. F. Morgan	W. L. Wright
1916	W. A. Candler	E. F. Morgan	J. T. Ryder
1917	W. A. Candler	E. F. Morgan	J. T. Ryder
1918	W. A. Candler	E. M. Overby	J. T. Christian
1919	W. A. Candler	E. M. Overby	J. T. Christian
1920	W. A. Candler	E. M. Overby	T. E. Davenport
1921	W. A. Candler	E. M. Overby	T. E. Davenport
1922	W. N. Ainsworth	C. R. Jenkins	T. E. Davenport
1923	W. N. Ainsworth	O. B. Chester	A. H. Robinson
1924	W. N. Ainsworth	O. B. Chester	A. H. Robinson
1925	W. N. Ainsworth	O. B. Chester	A. H. Robinson
1926	W. B. Beauchamp	Bascom Anthony	Leland Moore

1927	W. B. Beauchamp	Bascom Anthony	W. A. Tyson
1928	W. B. Beauchamp	Bascom Anthony	J. B. Johnstone (9 months)
1928	W. B. Beauchamp	Bascom Anthony	Roy Sampley (3 months)
1929	W. B. Beauchamp	Bascom Anthony	C. A. Jackson
1930	John M. Moore	Osgood F. Cook	J. E. Sampley
1931	John M. Moore	Osgood F. Cook	J. E. Sampley
1932	John M. Moore	Osgood F. Cook	J. E. Sampley
1933	John M. Moore	Osgood F. Cook	Albert S. Trulock
1934	W. N. Ainsworth	N. H. Williams	Albert S. Trulock
1935	W. N. Ainsworth	N. H. Williams	Albert S. Trulock
1936	W. N. Ainsworth	N. H. Williams	Albert S. Trulock
1937	W. N. Ainsworth	N. H. Williams	Leland Moore
1938	J. Lloyd Decell	W. M. Haygood	Leland Moore
1939	J. Lloyd Decell	W. M. Haygood	Leland Moore
1940	Arthur J. Moore	W. M. Haygood	W. E. McTier
1941	Arthur J. Moore	W. M. Haygood	W. E. McTier
1942	Arthur J. Moore	W. M. Haygood	W. E. McTier
1943	Arthur J. Moore	Anthony Hearn	M. P. Webb
1944	Arthur J. Moore	Anthony Hearn	M. P. Webb
1945	Arthur J. Moore	Anthony Hearn	J. W. Hitch
1946	Arthur J. Moore	Anthony Hearn	J. W. Hitch
1947	Arthur J. Moore	W. E. McTier	Frank Nalls
1948	Arthur J. Moore	W. E. McTier	Frank Nalls (to June)
1948	Arthur J. Moore	W. E. McTier	G. N. Rainey
1949	Arthur J. Moore	W. E. McTier	G. N. Rainey
1950	Arthur J. Moore	W. E. McTier	G. N. Rainey
1951	Arthur J. Moore	W. E. Scott	G. N. Rainey
1952	Arthur J. Moore	W. E. Scott	G. N. Rainey (to June)
1952	Arthur J. Moore	W. E. Scott	L. E. Williams
1953	Arthur J. Moore	W. E. Scott	L. E. Williams
1954	Arthur J. Moore	John S. Sharp	L. E. Williams
1954	Arthur J. Moore	J. B. Smith	L. E. Williams
1955	Arthur J. Moore	J. B. Smith	L. E. Williams
1956	Arthur J. Moore	J. B. Smith	L. E. Williams (to June)
1956	Arthur J. Moore	J. B. Smith	J. C. Varnell, Jr.
1957	Arthur J. Moore	J. B. Smith	J. C. Varnell, Jr.
1958	Arthur J. Moore	J. B. Smith	J. C. Varnell, Jr.
1959	Arthur J. Moore	L. C. Fullerton	J. C. Varnell, Jr. to June)
1960	John Owen Smith	L. C. Fullerton	P. E. Miller
1960	John Owen Smith	L. C. Fullerton	P. E. Miller
1961	John Owen Smith	L. C. Fullerton	P. E. Miller
1962	John Owen Smith	L. C. Fullerton	P. E. Miller
1963	John Owen Smith	L. C. Fullerton	P. E. Miller
1964	John Owen Smith	L. C. Fullerton	P. E. Miller (to June)
1964	John Owen Smith	L. C. Fullerton	H. S. Brooks
1965	John Owen Smith	Frank E. Jenkins	H. S. Brooks
1966	John Owen Smith	Frank E. Jenkins	H. S. Brooks
1967	John Owen Smith	Frank E. Jenkins	H. S. Brooks

Present And Proposed Buildings



Centennial Observance Program 1967

Sunday, November 5:

11:00 A. M. Worship Service, Home-Coming and Picnic Dinner. Dr. Albert S. Trulock, guest minister.

7:30 P. M. Worship Service, Rev. Frank Nalls, guest minister.

Monday, November 6:

7:00 P. M. Dr. John Lawson, guest speaker. Dr. Lawson is visiting professor at Candler School of Theology, Emory University, and is an authority on Wesleyana on loan to Emory from British Methodism.

Tuesday, November 7:

7:00 P. M. Dramatization of Highlights of the first 100 years of local Methodist History.

Wednesday, November 8:

7:00 P. M. Family Supper, Variety Program and Hymn-Fest, sponsored by the Woman's Society of Christian Service; concluded with devotional and re-dedication.



Ground-breaking for Children's Division Building. Second phase of 1952 Expansion Program. Completed in June, 1955, during the pastorate of Rev. L. E. Williams.

Membership Roll

Allen, Francis
Allen, Mrs. Francis
Allen, Annette
Allen, Everett Alex
Allen, Faye
Allen, Miss Virginia
Allen, Thomas
Allen, Mrs. Thomas
Alligood, Mrs. E. Otis
Anderson, Mrs. Carole Jean
Arline, T. Alton
Arline, Mrs. T. Alton
Arline, James Alton
Baker, Mrs. Clayton
Baker, Susan Clayton
Balcerack, Mrs. L. L.
Bannister, Mrs. Don
Barber, William
Barber, Mrs. William
Barber, Robert Knight
Barber, Roscoe
Barrett, Jewel T.
Barrett, Mrs. Jewel T.
Barineau, Mrs. D. B.
Barineau, David Laque
Bass, Mrs. Leo
Bass, Reuben
Beale, Charles R.
Beale, Mrs. Charles R.
Beale, Calvin Alexander
Beckett, Mrs. B. W.
Bell, Carson
Bell, Mrs. Carson
Bell, Mrs. Mary
Bell, R. Arthur
Bell, R. Arthur
Bell, Robert Lamar
Bell, R. A., Jr.
Bell, Mrs. R. A., Jr.
Bell, Earl
Bell, Mrs. Earl
Bell, Wynburn
Bell, Mrs. Wynburn
Bell, Bruce
Bell, Willard
Blackman, Dennis
Blackman, Daniel Arthur
Blackman, P. Hobson
Blackman, Mrs. P. Hobson
Blackman, Walter M.
Blanton, Mrs. Ethel
Bonner, Henry B.
Bonner, Theodore
Brandon, Ralph W.
Brandon, Mrs. Ralph W.
Brandon, Kenneth Ralph
Brandon, Donna Marie
Brannon, Francis
Brannon, Mrs. Francis
Brannon, Clara Margaret
Brannon, Wight
Brannon, Mrs. Wight
Brannon, George
Brannon, John
Brannon, Joy
Brawner, Mrs. Fred
Brinson, Earl U.
Brinson, Mrs. Earl U.
Brooks, Mrs. H. S.
Brock, Mrs. M. E.
Browne, Mrs. Charles
Brown, Russell
Brown, Mrs. Russell
Brown, Mrs. Aleyne
Brown, Mrs. Dwight F.
Brown, Billy P.
Brown, Mrs. Billy P.
Brown, Thomas B.
Brown, Mrs. Joseph Franklin
Bryant, W. W.
Bryan, Mrs. William Yancy
Bussey, Edward Clayton
Bussey, Miss Ivy
Bussey, Miss Ethel
Bussey, Miss Eileen
Bussey, Mrs. P. Weyman
Butt, Mrs. Thomas J.
Butler, Mrs. Elizabeth
Butler, Mrs. Janey C.
Camp, Mrs. Jim
Carlisle, Ira
Carlisle, Mrs. Ira
Carlisle Edwin A.
Carlisle, Mrs. Edwin A.
Carlisle, Emelyn
Carlisle, Ansley
Carlisle, Ralph
Carlisle, Mrs. Ralph
Carlisle, Robert
Cain, Sam P.
Cain, Mrs. Sam P.
Carr, Frank S.
Carr, Mrs. C. W.
Carr, Mark
Carr, Hull
Carter, Jimmy
Chapman, Mrs. W. S.
Chapman, Martha Carolyn
Chapman, Mrs. Woody
Chappell, Earnest
Chappell, Mrs. Earnest
Chappell, Carolyn
Chappell, Kathryn
Chason, Willard
Chason, Mrs. Willard
Chastain, Mack
Chastain, Mrs. Mack
Chastain, Howard
Chastain, Stewart
Chastain, Madge
Cheney, H. L.
Cheney, Mrs. H. L.
Chester, Mrs. Anne
Childers, Eddie Lee
Childers, Mrs. Eddie Lee
Childers, Chester Nolan
Childs, George Floyd, Jr.
Childs, Mrs. George Floyd Jr.
Childs, George Floyd, III
Childs, Stanley Carlton
Clark, J. Norwood
Clark, Mrs. J. Norwood
Clark, Charles Frederick
Clark, Ernest Culpepper
Clark, M. L.
Clark, Mrs. M. L.
Clark, Sylvia
Clements, Mrs. John, Jr.
Clifford, Mrs. Joe
Collins, Aubrey Herschel
Collins, J. Albert
Collins, Mrs. J. Albert
Collins, James Albert, Jr.
Collins, Edwin
Collins, Mrs. Edwin
Collins, Miss Mattie Lee
Connell, Buell
Connell, Mrs. Buell
Connell, Buell, Jr.
Connell, Charles
Connell, Sandra
Connell, Corbett M.
Connell, Miss Wessie
Corbett, R. O.
Corbett, Mrs. R. O.
Cox, Eugene
Cox, Mrs. Eugene
Cox, Jerry Lee
Cox, Ronnie
Cox, Mrs. Ronnie
Crapps, Mrs. John W., Sr.
Crapp, J. W. Jr.
Crapps, Mrs. J. W. Jr.
Crapps, J. W., III
Crapps, Florrie
Crew, Jesse
Crew, Mrs. Jesse
Crew, Miss Juanita Elizabeth
Crine, Mrs. William
Crosby, Dennis W.
Crosby, Mrs. Dennis W.
Crosby, Lamar
Curby, Mrs. Lona
David, Mrs. T. D.
Davis, Henry
Davis, Mrs. Henry
Davis, Kay
Davis, Mary Evelyn
Davis, Susan
Davis, Mrs. Walter
Davis, Leon
Davis, Mrs. Leon
Deaton, Cecil
Deaton, Mrs. Cecil
Deaton, Glenn Edwin
Deaton, Mary Cecelia
Dennard, Mrs. B. R.
Dickey, Miss Elizabeth
Dixon, Mrs. J. G.
Dixon, Mrs. Belle
Drew, Mrs. W. E.
Duncan, James K.
Duncan, Mrs. James K.
Duncan, Richard
Duncan, Gary L.

Duncan, Mrs. Gary L.
Durham, Bobby Jean
Eason, R. A.
Edwards, Angus
Elkins, William
Elkins, Mrs. William
Elkins, Hubert
Elkins, Mrs. Hubert
Elkins, Gary Wayne
Ellington, Jack
Ellington, Mrs. Jack
Etheridge, Mrs. J. H.
Evans, C. P.
Ferrell, George Crestial
Ferrell, Mrs. George Crestial
Ferrell, Monty Crestial
Ferrell, Susan Jill
Fewell, Mrs. John
Fewell, J. R. Jr.
Fewell, Mrs. J. R. Jr.
Fincher, Willie B.
Forsyth, J. E.
Forsyth, Mrs. J. E.
Forsyth, Wallace
Fowler, Mrs. Harvey
Freeman, Carey
Funderburke, M. L.
Gainey, Mrs. Mack
Gainey, Noel
Gainey, Mrs. Noel
Galbreath, Gelon
Galbreath, Mrs. Gelon
Gainous, Russell
Gainous, Mrs. Russell
Gainous, R. B.
Gainous, Mrs. H. Dewayne
Gainous, Herbert
Gainous, Mrs. Sherwood W.
Gainous, William Shelby
Gandy, Irvin Anthony
Gandy, W. Audrey
Gandy, Mrs. W. Audrey
Gandy, Curtis I.
Gandy, Mrs. Curtis I.
Gandy, Early A.
Gandy, Mrs. Early A.
Gandy, Hugh
Gandy, Sharon Gayle
Gandy, David Earl
Gandy, J. R.
Gandy, Mrs. J. R.
Gaya, Mrs. Frank
Gee, W. D. Jr.
Geheber, Mrs. George
Gerald, Mrs. Lindsey
Giddens, John Franklin
Giddens, Mrs. John Franklin
Giddens, John Franklin, Jr.
Giddens, Charles
Giddens, Brenda Lois
Gilbert, Mrs. Fred
Goodman, Clarence H.
Goodman, Mrs. Clarence H.
Goodman, Kay
Gregory, Mrs. Jack
Griner, Hubert B.
Griner, Mrs. Hubert B.
Grover, Mrs. Ernie
Hall, Ronald
Hall, Mrs. Ronald

Hall, Roy, Jr.
Hall, Mrs. Roy, Jr.
Hall, William Wayne
Ham, Mrs. William C.
Ham, Miss Charlotte
Ham, Miss Lucy Cora
Haney, Mrs. Richard
Harper, Bert
Harper, Mrs. Bert
Harrell, Julian
Harrell, Mrs. Melvin
Harrell, Thomas Edward
Harrell, Mrs. Ralph
Harrington, Mrs. J. C.
Harrison, Calvin
Harrison, Mrs. W. O.
Heath, Mrs. R. E.
Heath, R. E. Jr.
Heath, Mrs. L. E.
Hester, William H.
Hester, Mrs. William H.
Herring, Ernest H.
Herring, Mrs. Ernest H.
Herring, Mary Belle
Herring, Martha Jo
Herring, John Patrick
Herring, Mrs. John Patrick
Herig, Mrs. Richard
Higdon, Mrs. Ira Sr.
Higdon, Jack
Higdon, Ira, Jr.
Higdon, Mrs. Ira Jr.
Higdon, Lawrence I.
Hinson, Mrs. John B.
Hogg, Timothy James
Holton, Mrs. G. F.
Howard, Mrs. Dazzie
Hudson, Julian
Hunter, Harry H.
Hunter, Mrs. Harry H.
Hughes, Mrs. Henry L.
Hughes, Louis Alonzo
Hughes, Mrs. Louis Alonzo
Hurst, Miss Lucille
Hurst, Mrs. E. H.
James, Walter
James, Mrs. Walter
Johnson, Judson
Johnson, Mrs. Judson
Johnson, Sara Jo
Johnson, Bill
Johnson, Mrs. Robert
Jones, Mrs. Thomas W.
Jones, Mrs. Thomas W. Jr.
Jones, James Thomas
Jones, Gary Lemuel
Jones, Powell
Jones, Mrs. Powell
Jones, Richard Powell
Jones, William Randolph
Jones, Roy
Jones, Mrs. Roy
Jones, Mrs. Dorothy S.
Jones, Mrs. Sara Jane
Joyner, Mrs. V. S.
Joyner, Mrs. C. I.
Joyner, Mrs. Jerry
Kelly, A. L., Jr.
Kelly, Mrs. A. L., Jr.
Keller, E. W.

Keller, Mrs. E. W.
Keller, Kay
Key, Ollie B.
Key, Mrs. Ollie B.
King, Miss Cynthia
King, J. Albert
King, Mrs. J. Albert
King, John R.
King, Mrs. John R.
King, John W.
King, Mrs. John W.
King, John Swanson
King, Mrs. William
Knight, Albert
Knight, Frank
Knight, Joe
Knight, Mrs. Joe
Knight, Joe, Jr.
Knight, Mrs. Paul
Kravig, Charles
Laing, Raymond
Laing, Mrs. James A.
Lambert, Linda
Lashley, Mrs. Ellen Walker
Lashley, Miss Bob
Layton, C. E.
Layton, Mrs. C. E.
Layfield, C. A.
Layfield, Mrs. C. A.
Layfield, Charles A., Jr.
LeGette, Mrs. H. T.
LeGette, James H.
LeGette, John
LeGette, Mrs. John
LeGette, Chloe Malone
LeGette, Thomas
LeGette, Mrs. Thomas
Lewis, Paul T.
Lewis, Mrs. Paul T.
Little, Julian
Logue, Harvey L.
Logue, Mrs. Harvey L.
Logue, Debra Lee
Lundy, W. A.
Lundy, Mrs. W. A.
Lyle, J. C.
Lyle, Mrs. J. C.
McClenny, Mrs. W. J.
McClenny, John
McClenny, Mrs. John
McClenny, John Jarrell
McGahee, Mrs. Wayne
McQuire, Mrs. Willie
McKinnon, Mrs. Howell E.
McKinnon, Howell E. Jr.
McKinnon, Mrs. Howell E. Jr.
MacQuiddy, Mrs. Adolyn
McManeus, Mrs. M. Cullie
McManeus, W. O.
McManeus, Mrs. W. O.
Maddox, Eugene T.
Maddox, Mrs. Eugene T.
Manny, O. C.
Manny, Mrs. O. C.
Manny, Charles P.
Manny, Mrs. Charles P.
Martin, James L.
Martin, Mrs. James L.
Martin, Phillip Edgar
Martin, Miss Mollie

Mason, E. L., Jr.
Mason, Mrs. E. L. Jr.
Mason, John
Mason, J. W.
Massey, Larry
Massey, Mrs. Larry
Mathews, Earl
Mauldin, Miss Clara
Mauldin, Hugh E.
Maxwell, Betty Janette
Maxwell, Miss Crummie
Maxwell, Norman
Maxwell, Mrs. Norman
Maxwell, Michael Wood
Maxwell, Anthony Bruce
Maxwell, Edwin
Maxwell, Mrs. Edwin
Mayfield, Mrs. Lee
Meyer, Mrs. Fred C.
Miller Ralph
Miller, Mrs. Ralph
Miller, Jane
Miller, Robert W.
Miller, Mrs. J. Sanford
Miller, Hansel
Miller, Mrs. Hansel
Mills, Miss Geraldine
Mills, Mrs. Doris Miller
Milner, John Jr.
Milner, Mrs. John Jr.
Mitchell, Dan
Mitchell, Mrs. Dan
Mize, Arthur
Mize, Mrs. Arthur
Mixon, Mrs. Aris
Mixon, William Aris Jr.
Mixon, Mrs. Ralph
Mixon, Mike
Mockbee, H. A.
Monahan, James Howard
Monohan, Charles Walker
Montgomery, Mrs. J. F. Sr.
Montgomery, Mrs. Alvan
Montgomery, Gail
Montgomery, Steve Alvan
Moore, George
Moore, Mrs. George
Moore, Frazier
Moran, Mrs. Johnny
Morrison, Eddie
Morton, Carter, Jr.
Morton, Mrs. Carter, Jr.
Morton, William
Morton, Mrs. William
Morton, Cindy Lillian
Moye, Mrs. Russell
Muggridge, Mrs. Cornelius N.
Muggridge, Mrs. Ola
Muggridge, Mrs. William L.
Muggridge, Edwin
Murphy, L. B.
Murphy, Mrs. L. B.
Nazareth, Jerry
Nelson, Mrs. Bernard
Newman, George
Newman, Mrs. George
Nowell, Billy
Nowell, Vinson
Oates, Mrs. James
Oliver, Mrs. Dess F.
Oliver, D. F. II
Oliver, Mrs. D. F. II.
Oliver, James L.
Oliver, Mrs. James L.
Oliver, Jimmy
Oliver, Lewis Blackwell
Oliver, William L.
Oliver, Mrs. William L.
Oliver, W. L. Jr.
Oliver, Mrs. W. L. Jr.
Palmer, Aultman
Palmer, Mrs. Aultman
Palmer, Billy
Palmer, Mrs. Billy
Palmer, Mrs. Robert L.
Paulk, Mrs. Joe
Paulk, E. Joseph Jr.
Pelham, Mrs. J. Wright
Pelham, Miss Mildred
Pelham, Glenn
Pelham, Mrs. Glenn
Perkins, Frederick L.
Perkins, Mrs. Frederick L.
Perkins, Mrs. Roy
Pierce, Mrs. Agnes Walker
Pippin, William H.
Poole, Mrs. Wilton
Pope, Mrs. Jeff A.
Porter, J. Richard
Porter, Mrs. J. Richard
Porter, J. Richard Jr.
Porter, Mrs. J. Richard, Jr.
Posey, Sammy Eugene
Powell, Mrs. Charles E.
Powell, Mrs. Leslie
Powell, Louis A.
Powell, Mrs. Louis A.
Powell, John A. II
Powell, Mrs. John A. II
Powell, Robert
Powell, Mrs. Robert
Powell, William Young
Pridgen, Mrs. John Randall
Prince, Mrs. Grover
Pyles, Miss Essie Mae
Rahn, Mrs. George P.
Randall, Jack
Randall, Jill Ann
Rawlins, Mrs. Charles
Rehberg, Mrs. Albert W.
Reynolds, A. B. Jr.
Reynolds, Mrs. A. B. Jr.
Reynolds, Eleanor
Reynolds, Mrs. R. A.
Richards, John R.
Richards, Mrs. John R.
Richenburg, Mrs. Ouida
Robertson, Reuben
Robertson, Mrs. Reuben
Robertson, John
Robertson, Mrs. Roy D.
Robertson, Roy D. Jr.
Roberts, Mrs. N. Frank Sr.
Robbins, Mrs. Ann
Rogers, Mrs. James V.
Rosser, Mrs. O. G.
Rosser, Adron
Rosser, Mrs. Adron
Rosser, Tommy
Rosser, Miss Lorene Olivia
Roundtree, Mrs. W. E.
Rudd, Mrs. Major E.
Ryan, Mrs. Florence
Samford, Mrs. G. M.
Samford, Harrell
Samford, Jean
Samford, Garrett Vaughn
Sapp, Marvin
Sauls, A. C.
Scholes, Mrs. Edison Earl
Schrock, Galen
Schrock, Mrs. Galen
Sellers, Robert L. Jr.
Sellers, Mrs. Robert L. Jr.
Sellers, Elizabeth Ann
Sellers, Becky
Sheehy, Mrs. John W.
Sims, Ross
Sims, Mrs. Ross
Singleton, C. K.
Singleton, Mrs. C. K.
Singleton, Mary
Singleton, Shirley
Singleton, Charles K. Jr.
Singletary, Milton M.
Slade, J. H.
Spears, Miss Mary R.
Spivey, Alonzo
Stephens, Mrs. Glenn
Stephens, Callie Glenn,
Stephens, Mrs. Ronny
Strang, Mrs. Greg
Strickland, Willie H.
Strickland, Mrs. Willie H.
Strickland, Herman
Strickland, David Ralph
Strickland, Jessie L. Jr.
Strickland, Mrs. Jessie L. Jr.
Sumner, J. T. Jr.
Sumner, Mrs. J. T. Jr.
Sumner, Katherine
Sutton, Mrs. J. P.
Sutton, Russell
Takles, Lowell
Takles, Mrs. Lowell
Takles, Lowell Jr.
Teate, Mrs. T. C.
Tillman, Mrs. Mervin
Thomas, Charlie
Thomas, Mrs. Vascoe
Thomson, Mrs. Richard
Thompson, Mrs. Lloyd
Tommerlin, Mrs. Joe
Tyus, Miss Bobbie Lee
Tyus, J. D.
Tyus, Miss Susan Edna
Tyson, Mrs. Wallace
Tyson Mrs. Max
Tyson Lola
Tyson, Margaret
Urick, C. B.
Urick, Mrs. C. B.
Valentine, Richard L.
Valentine, Mrs. Richard L.
Van Brunt, Wesley Walter
Van Duzee, Charles William
VanLandingham, Ed. L.
VanLandingham, Mrs. R. R.
VanLandingham, R. L.
VanLandingham, Mrs. R. L.

VanLandingham, Robert S.	Weathers, Mrs. Jesse S.	Wight, Robert P. Jr.
VanLandingham, Richard D.	Weathersby, Harry	Wilcox, Elmer
VanLandingham, Tommy	Weathersby, Mrs. Harry	Wilcox, Mrs. Elmer
VanLandingham, W. M.	Weathersby, Ellen	Wilcox, Sue
VanLandingham, Mrs. W. M.	West, J. A.	Williams, Mrs. Arthur
VanLandingham, Max	West, Mrs. J. A.	Williams, Bill
VanLandingham, Marcia E.	Whatley, Charles B.	Williams, Don Henderson
VanLandingham, Wendell	Whatley, Mrs. Charles B.	Williams, Miss Clara
VanLandingham, Gerald	Whatley, Charles B. Jr.	Williams, Mrs. Johnnie
VanLandingham, Mrs. Gerald	Whatley, Mellie Lucy	Williams, Mrs. Roland L.
Vann, Leon B.	Whatley, Mrs. Warren P.	Williams, Stacy
Vann, Mrs. Mabel Colley	Whittle, L. A.	Williams, Mrs. Stacy
Vickers, C. J.	Whittle, Mrs. L. A.	Williams, T. J.
Vickers, Mrs. C. J.	White, Franklin	Williams, Mrs. T. J.
Vickers, Alford	White, Mrs. Franklin	Williams, Mrs. Walter
Vickers, Elaine	White, Franklin Jr.	Willis, Jack K.
Vickers, Carey Anne	White, Mrs. Joseph R.	Willis, Mrs. Jack K.
Vickers, Miss Earnestine	White, Mrs. J. T.	Wind, Herbert W.
Walker, W. Albert Jr.	White, Mrs. T. W. Jr.	Wind, Mrs. Herbert W.
Walker, W. Albert Jr.	Wight, Alvin B.	Womble, Mrs. Frank
Walker, John Wythe	Wight, Mrs. Alvin B.	Womble, Marvin
Walker, Mrs. John Wythe	Wight, Alvin Butler Jr.	Womble, Mrs. Marvin
Walker, Becky	Wight, Harriet	Wood, Wilbur
Walker, Jerry	Wight John B. Sr.	Wood, Donald Morris
Walker, Mrs. Jerry	Wight, Mrs. John B. Sr.	Woody, Everett
Ward, Mrs. Graham	Wight, John B. Jr.	Woody, Mrs. Everett
Ward, Preston R.	Wight, Mrs. John B. Jr.	Woody, Kathy Marshela
Ward, Mrs. Preston R.	Wight, Mary Elizabeth	Woody, Millie
Ward, George Robert	Wight, Sally	Worthy, W. B.
Watkins, Edsel	Wight, Mrs. J. Slater	Worthy, Mrs. W. B.
Watkins, Mrs. Edsel	Wight, J. Slater Jr.	Worthy, Mary Beth
Watkins, Edsel Earl Jr.	Wight, Mrs. J. Slater Jr.	Worthy, Carol
Watkins, Brenda Joyce	Wight, Robert P.	Worthy, Susan
Watkins, Joe Grady	Wight, Mrs. Robert P.	Zant, Miss Beulah

I AM THE CHURCH

All the love of God, the Great Architect,
 All the sacrifice of Christ, the Great Builder,
 All the dreams of dauntless prophets,
 All the faith of hopeful pioneers,
 All the hope of countless millions,
 All the joy of conquering Christians, are enclosed
 within my walls,
 Without me, civilization must crumble!
 With me is eternity!

—Hughes

Some Former Pastors



W. E. Towson
1909-1912



J. B. Johnstone
1928



Frank Nalls
1947-1948



Leland Moore
1926
1937-1939



G. N. Rainey
1948-1952



L. E. Williams
1952-1956



P. E. Miller
1960-1964

A Brief History of FIRST METHODIST CHURCH, Cairo, Georgia 1867 — 1967

(Largely a Compilation of Highlights from "A Short History of the Cairo Methodist Church," Published in 1952 by Mrs. Ruth Harley (W. E.) Young, Use of Which Is Generously Acknowledged. Plus Additions To Centennial Year.)

"The history of the Cairo Methodist Church is written in the lives of those Christian men and women who have poured the full measure of their faith, their time, their talent, their ingenuity and their means into the founding and establishing of a Methodist Church in this community — a beacon light to all it has served and a glory to God, whom it honors"—Mrs. Ruth Harley (W. E.) Young.

The history of the constitution and beginnings of what is now the First Methodist Church of Cairo coincides with the beginnings of the community of Cairo, the background for which dates back to 1818 when William Hawthorne blazed a trail through Southwest Georgia which he termed a short route from North Carolina to Northwest Florida, and he planted the seeds for the full flowering of the Cairo community to begin when Cairo became a station on the old Atlantic & Gulf Railroad (now the Seaboard Coast Line Railroad), rails for which were laid from Thomasville to Bainbridge for trains to begin operating late in 1867. Cairo, which subsequently became a post office, was incorporated as a town in 1879 and as a city in 1906.

As of 1867, Methodism in this general area was the Bold Springs Circuit, with Bold Springs, some six miles northeast of Cairo, as the Mother Church. The fledgling Cairo Church first became a unit of the circuit at a time when it included, in addition to Bold Springs, Tired Creek, Pumphries (or Pumphrey) and Pine Hill. (At the time, Bold Springs is recorded as having had three well-attended prayer meetings weekly.) The circuit was in the Bainbridge district of the South Georgia Conference (also created in 1867) at the time but in 1873 was transferred to the Dawson district for two years. It was transferred to the Thomasville district when it was created in 1875 and has remained there since. The Journal of the conference shows that Rev. T. J. Colquitt was the first pastor with Bishop George F. Pierce presiding over the Conference. In the 1890s Cairo Church was a half station with Whigham for a time but it became an independent charge about 1900.

Most significantly, Cairo Church in the final analysis grew out of the efforts of THREE GOOD WOMEN and out of the Cairo Methodist SUNDAY SCHOOL which they first organized! The three were Mrs. D. H. Wilmot, her sister, Miss Lizzie Everette (later Mrs. Dickey) and Mrs. Julia Hall. Services were held at the home of the latter until the first edifice, a beautiful little white wooden sanctuary with Grecian arched windows, was completed early in 1873. Official records show that there were 20 charter members but do not list all of them, although they included, with the "three good women," the following: Tom W. Brown, who became the first male superintendent of the Sunday School, Stephen A. Chester, Rev. P. C. Harris, also listed as having been a pastor of Bold Springs Church, James H. Hayes, William Powell, an accredited lay preacher, who supervised the erection of the first sanctuary, Benjamin Franklin (Doc) Powell, who later taught the Fellowship class in the Sunday School for 33 years, and Capt. E. A. Vanlandingham.

Cairo Church grew rather steadily in membership and influence and in a few years, when the Wight families moved here from Wightville (Sofkee), about five miles to the southwest, to swell the roster, the beloved Little White Church was given a steeple, an imposing addition, "towering in four separate and matchless tiers above the treetops, and covered with a slate roof," which became known as "Henry's Steeple" because it was built and paid for largely by Henry Wight, who felt that a church was not a church without a steeple. By 1886, members increased to 206, then to 300 by 1897, whereupon the need for a larger brick edifice gained the spotlight.

The Little White Church was situated toward the southwest corner of the site, so, when the plans for the larger brick edifice took shape ample space for it was found more toward the northeast corner of the site and the intersection of what is now South Broad and 3rd Ave., S. W. The larger brick edifice from which the second distinct period of church history dates, was begun in 1900 but in 1901 Bishop C. B. Galloway sent to Cairo Church as pastor Rev. W. M. Blicht, a native of this section, known as an especially able church builder. He immediately had torn down the "poorly constructed" brick walls erected the year before and in 1902 he had finished a well built sanctuary, which was dedicated by Bishop Warren A. Candler.

By 1905, the edifice (with a large bell and tower) was valued at \$7,500, and the parsonage, first built in 1893 at a cost of \$1,000, just south of the sanctuary, was expanded and improved with value listed at \$2,000. By 1908, the need for a Sunday School annex developed, so a wooden Epworth League Hall and Sunday School annex was built to the west of the sanctuary. It was completed at a cost of \$2,000 and paid for when finished. The first parsonage was again enlarged and remodelled in 1917 at a cost of \$2,100.

The third distinct period of history of Cairo Church began in 1926, when, with Rev. Leland Moore as pastor and Rev. Bascom Anthony as Presiding Elder, the cornerstone of the present edifice was laid. At that time, the church had a building fund of \$21,000 in cash and subscriptions of \$27,000 on hand. Those were very busy times for the church and the great "venture in faith" progressed steadily. During the months of construction, Cairo Presbyterian Church graciously lent the use of its sanctuary for worship services and prayer meetings—and the Cairo High School building was used for Sunday School.

One of the greatest days for Methodism in Cairo was Easter Sunday, 1927, when Bishop William B. Beauchamp came and dedicated, debt-free, the magnificent new church (although there was an indebtedness on the parsonage of \$4,980.) Rev. W. A. Tyson was the pastor and reported to the Annual Conference in the fall that year that the church property and equipment had increased to a total value of \$90,000; that the budget for the year of \$54,234 had been met; and that the membership had increased to 610 with a Sunday School enrollment of 523. The final financial push was inspired by an added gift of Dr. W. A. Walker toward a handsome \$6,000 Pilcher pipe organ conditional upon a successful fund rally. The fourth and still current distinct period of history of Cairo Church began in the era of the mid-1950s when another very ambitious program of expansion and modernization was carried out on a three-phase plan: the construction and equipment of a handsome two-story Educational (Children's Division) Building just to the southwest of the sanctuary; the construction and equipment of a handsome brick parsonage on a spacious site across South Broad street from the sanctuary; and the extensive remodeling and modernization of the sanctuary itself with air-conditioning for year-'round comfort, the addition of modern, dimmer-controlled lighting for the sanctuary itself and various other improvements, including those to the Pilcher pipe organ and red carpeting for the sanctuary. Planning began during the pastorate of Rev. G. N. Rainey and Rev. L. Emmett Williams (1952-56) and most of the work was during that of Rev. James C. Varnell, Jr. (1956-60) when a unified budget of record proportions included provision for systematic payments to the Expansion Fund and excited another marvelous response by the membership.

The zeal for continued expansion and improvement led a few years later to the purchase of the Pelham property to the west of the sanctuary and as of the Centennial Year still another improvement program won hearty approval to provide for hard-surfacing and drainage for the vehicle parking areas, covered walkways to link the main building with the Educational Building and hard-surfaced drives for greater convenience of everyone in rainy weather, projected for completion during the 1967-68 church year, with funds on hand therefor.

As of Annual Conference in June of the Centennial Year, the Journal listed all church property to have a total value of \$456,000, with no indebtedness, including a \$2,700 D. F. Oliver Trust Fund. It showed a grand total paid for all causes of \$55,966. It also showed total membership of 759 with a Church School enrollment of 540.

Following the unification of various branches of the denomination in 1939 to create The Methodist Church, there was in the Centennial Year a move toward its union with the Evangelical United Brethren Church, to create The United Methodist Church, final action on which was scheduled for spring of 1968.

So, with this glance anew at our rich history, which makes us aglow at our rich heritage, and a great Centennial Year season of Christian fellowship together, we can, and shall, set our steps to still higher ground in rededication to the future, to spur our growth in good works and in new church unity and zeal, for the second 100 years.

Appreciation

As we come to the actual celebration of the Hundredth Anniversary of our church, we are reminded of all those who helped to make this possible. The Centennial Committee would like to express their appreciation to each of you for accepting responsibility in preparing for the Centennial celebration. It has been a pleasure working with such a cooperative group and we want to thank everyone who has given their time and talents to make this a great time in our church.

Centennial Observance Steering Committee

Mrs. J. Richard Porter, Sr., co-chairman

W. L. Oliver, Jr., co-chairman

Dr. H. S. Brooks

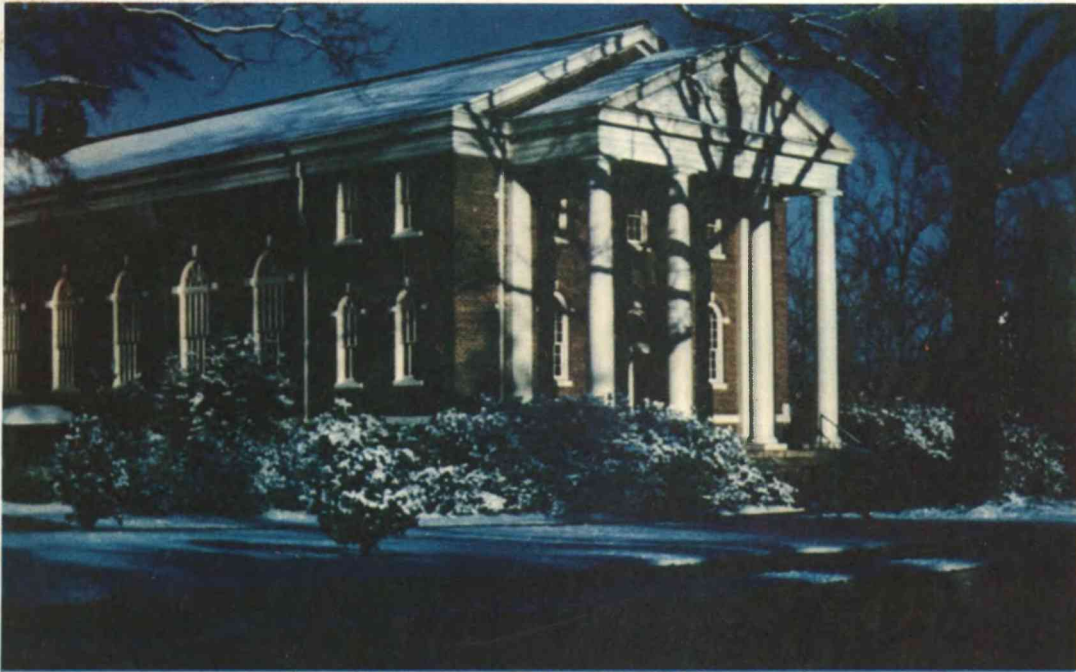
John J. McClenny

Louis A. Powell

Mrs. R. P. Wight

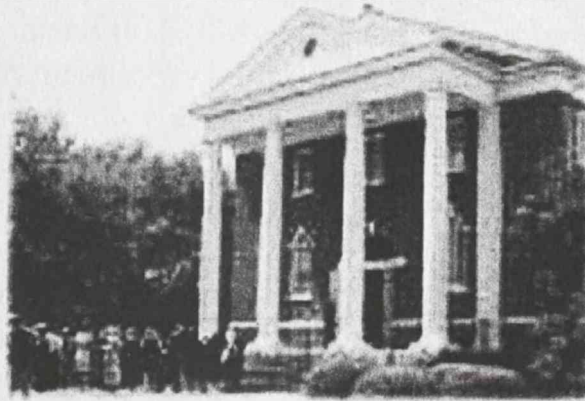
Mrs. C. B. Urick

(All members of church assigned to some committee)



February 12, 1958
(Photographed by W. L. Oliver, Jr.)

History of Cairo First United Methodist Church



The Methodist Church in Cairo began as a result of the interest of three women: Mrs. D.H. Wilmost, Miss Lizzie Everett, and Miss Julia Hall, who conducted a Sunday school in their homes. In 1867, the group became a unit of the Bold Springs Circuit. The journal of the conference shows that Rev. T.J. Colquitt was the first pastor. The first house of worship was completed in 1873. It was a white wooden structure built on the southwest corner of the present church lot. A small parsonage was also constructed. There were 20 members. Official records do not list them all, although they included the three above women and the following: Tom W. Brown, Stephen A. Chester, Rev. P.C. Harris, James H. Hayes, William Powell, Benjamin Franklin (Doc) Powell, and Capt. E.A. Vanlandingham.

The Cairo church grew steadily in membership. Mr. Henry Wight built and paid for a steeple addition to the Little White Church because he believed a church was not a church without a steeple. By 1886, members increased to 206, then to 300 by 1897. By 1900 the congregation had outgrown the small building, so plans were made for a larger brick building. The Little White Church was situated toward the southwest corner of the site, but the new brick building was housed in the northeast corner of the site at the intersection of South Broad and 3rd Ave SW. In 1901 the "poorly constructed" brick walls were torn down and rebuilt. The building was dedicated in 1902. The sound of the church bell could be heard all over the town, calling the people to worship. By 1908, the need for a Sunday School annex developed and a wooden Epworth League Hall and Sunday School annex was built to the west of the sanctuary.

These facilities were used for 25 years until expansion was again needed. During the months of construction, Cairo Presbyterian Church graciously lent the use of its sanctuary for worship services. The present sanctuary was completed in 1927 and was dedicated debt-free on Easter Sunday. Membership was 610, with a Sunday school enrollment of 523.

The next project was a new parsonage, which was built in 1953. It was constructed on the present site, across from the sanctuary. Expansion continued with construction of an educational building for the children's ministry. The 1950s also brought extensive remodeling and modernization of the sanctuary itself including air conditioning. By the time of our Centennial celebration in 1967, all church property was valued at \$456,000, free of debt. Membership was 759 and Sunday school enrollment was 540.

The final building on campus to be constructed was the fellowship hall and chapel building. It was dedicated on September 8, 1974. This very useful building provided a kitchen, dining hall, small conference room, classrooms, and a chapel. Continued renovations and refurbishments continued through the 1980s with membership being 791 in 1983. In September of 1997, the Clark family generously donated a building and portion of land commonly called the pool house. The youth were the main benefactors of this new space as they used it for Sunday School and youth fellowship. In May of 2004, the church, along with Clark's Funeral Home, purchased the lot next to the parsonage that was formerly owned by Autrey Petroleum. It was converted into a parking lot for use by the church and Clark's Funeral Home. The opening of First United Methodist Church Preschool, housed in the children's building, was another important event in 2004.

Today, on Heritage Sunday, we remember the hard work and perseverance of those who came before us. While this summary gives us a glimpse into the physical changes of our church, the spiritual growth and renewal cannot be measured. Our current church roll is 752 and we hope to continue to reach for our full potential in Christ. We are challenged to enlarge our faith and fulfill His vision every day. God bless Cairo First United Methodist Church!

May 2010

July 2, 1965

Methodist Church

MEMO TO: Mr. R. S. Roddenbery, Jr.

I have been back to the Library to check the few points you mentioned in your memo about the Cairo Methodist Church. I notice this History was written by Mrs. W. E. (Ruth) Young.

From this history I wish to add the following:

Earliest written record register 1886 listing 206 members, with the Rev. William Powell heading the list, and including: Dr. W. P. Clower, E. A. VanLandingham, Lucretia Powell, Mellie Powell, Emily McManeus, Dr. J. L. Oliver, Alice Oliver, Jessie B. Powell, Mary VanLandingham, Mattie Dickey, Kedar Powell, Susie E. Wight, and others.

My other memo mentioned that Bold Springs Methodist Church was the mother church. In the beginning of Mrs. Young's history she tells that the Bold Springs Methodist Church met first in a log building, then their present house of worship built at a cost of \$800 not including the painting. The builder was Tom Bullard. Partly finished upstairs, to be entered by outside stairway on northeast end of church, that room was used for Sunday School, and often for the Masonic Meetings and the Grange. The Bold Springs Church paid the minister half salary and had him two Sundays each month. At that time Mr. George Wight was recording steward. This paragraph concerns only the Bold Springs Church. See comments later from Dr. Walker's talk about Bold Springs.

Back to Cairo Methodist Church: 1895 report ~~showed~~ recorded the death during the year of "Brother G. A. Wight, our faithful and efficient recording steward, who was also a member of the Board of Trustees."

The same 1895 report recorded that another great loss was suffered by the Cairo Methodist Church in 1894 in the death of the Rev. William Powell on Nov. 22, "He was a Lay Preacher of great spirituality, power and influence."

So in regard to your comment that I listed in 1895 these names, and that both died in 1894, is explained in that the report was for 1895, and likely their reports were mid-year, meaning for the 1894-95 year.

You say "Undoubtedly, William Powell was a Steward for years before his death, etc." Since he is referred to as "Reverend William Powell" and is listed as a Lay Preacher, likely he was somewhat an honorary member of the Board of Stewards since he was a Lay Preacher. I found his name mentioned several times, followed by the initials "L.P." meaning Lay Preacher. G. A. Wight was listed in the Board of Stewards in the 1895 report, and William Powell and J. B. Wight were listed as Lay Preacher and Trustee.

I regret I could not find the name W. A. Chester listed as Sunday School superintendent, but this history did not list any Sunday School Superintendents in the early years except Mr. Tom Brown, as its first.

In the quarterly conference minutes of July 23, 1893, "the names of William Powell, C. A. Jackson, J. B. Wight, and W. F. Watts called, their characters passed and their licenses renewed."

1952
77

1875

Membership showed increase of 87 members in 1895, total 221, loss of 21 in 1896, leaving total 200, in 1898 membership 204, and 1899 showed a loss 11, making total then 193 members; 1900, 211.

Quarterly Conference minutes date back to 1892, with Rev. J.O. Branch, P.E., Rev. D. D. Bateman, Pastor in Charge. At that time Cairo still on a circuit.

Present at the Cairo meeting, Jan. 16, 1892 were:

D. D. Bateman, P. C.; J. B. Wight, L. E.; W. F. Watts, L. D.; Wm. Powell, L. P.; B. F. Powell, T. W. Brown, Joseph Herring, G. A. Wight, W. P. Clower, C. W. Johnson, G. W. Gainous, Henry Gainous, Joseph Sasser, David J. Williams, J. W. Dixon, John J. Paulk, J. B. Wight, Secretary, K. P. Wight, Henry Wight, E. A. VanLandingham, J. L. Oliver.

Then the names of J. B. Wight, L. E., Wm. Powell, L. P., Casper Walker, Exhorter, were called and their characters passed and licenses renewed.

At this 1892 conference, resolutions submitted by Dr. W. P. Clower and unanimously adopted, included:

"RESOLVED First, that it is the sense of this Quarterly Conference that all Christians stand in the protest against the opening of the Columbian Exposition on the Sabbath Day, and also in the earnest protest against the sale of any intoxicating drinks on the Exposition grounds."

Back to 1887, heading the list is the name of Henry Wight, followed by A. C. Dickey, K. P. Wight, J. C. Evans, Dr. W. A. Davis, Maud Roddenbery, and others.

W

The above, with my other memo, gives practically all the pertinent information prior to 1900, from Mrs. Young's history.

I also found two other clippings that gave interesting information, and there may be a conflict in some dates. This is from an article in the Cairo Messenger of May 23, 1952, captioned "Bold Springs Church Built 77 years ago; Met in Log Cabin Prior to that." (Dr. W. A. Walker recalls early history of Cairo and Grady County." This was a write up about a talk Dr. Walker made on that date, or just prior to the issue of the Messenger on that date, at a Cairo Kiwanis Club meeting, which was held in the Bold Springs community.

As of 1952: Dr. Walker joined the Bold Springs Methodist Church 77 years ago. The church was built in fall of 1873 and spring of 1874.

He recalls eating dinner at Bold Springs when his family moved from near the river when he was a small boy, in 1869. He remembered the community of two stores and a barroom.

He mentioned the church circuit known as Bold Springs Circuit, but when the Cairo Methodist Church was built in 1872 the name of the circuit was changed to Cairo Circuit .

Three churches built on the Cairo Methodist Church location: the first building

*Dr. W.A. Walker,
1952 speech to Kiwanis Club.*

in 1872, and in 1904 the ~~were~~ brick building, and ~~in~~ 1928 the present building.

Dr. Walker remembers the Baptist Church was erected in the fall of 1873 and spring of 1874, at the same time the Methodist Church was built, or practically so.

*Re =
Post
office*

The first postoffice was put in Cairo in 1867 and named Jule Drufus as first postmaster. Drufus (I think this should be Dreyfus) resigned in less than three months, J. E. Hall appointed. Hall resigned after about six months. The "first" real postmaster, according to Dr. Walker, was Dr. S. A. Roddenbery who took over the reigns after Hall and served until his death in 1891, from then J. B. Crawford took the appointment.

* * * * *

Also I found a brief history in the Wesleyan Christian Advocate, July 28, 1944:

"After the coming of the railroad through this section in 1867, Cairo became a thriving village and about 1870, we hear of a group of women meeting in the home of one of the members to organize a Sunday School. Very soon thereafter, this group with a half dozen men became the charter members of the Cairo Methodist Church. It was made a part of the Bold Springs Circuit, of which Rev. P. C. Harris was pastor, and a building was erected where the present church stands.

"There was a great forward movement in the church in 1882 when the pastor, Rev. H. C. Fentress, conducted a revival and preached the doctrine of holiness. In 1895 another revival, far reaching in spiritual value, was led by Rev. J. M. Outler, who was pastor four years."

"In 1903 the brick church was built under supervision of Rev. W. M. Blich. This was replaced in 1927."

NOTE BY MCA: The first two paragraphs are quotations from the article. The last paragraph is not an entire quotation, but note made by me of the dates.

An article in Cairo Messenger dated April 4, 1958 mentioned that the church was constituted in 1867.

Myrtle C. Allen

*1958
1867
9*

Handwritten: 2nd Copy

June 23, 1965

MEMO TO RSR, JR.

Miss Myrtle has gotten some good information on the Cairo Methodist Church, and I will send you her copy.

Uncle Bob likely remembers the Fentress, Ousley, Arnold, etc. In fact, I have heard Mamma speak of Ousley and they have been in our home many times.

I have an idea Uncle Bob will enjoy reading this.

I believe this will answer every question you ask in your June 21st memo, or all that's available from this good source, and of course if they couldn't get it when they wrote the history of the church, I don't expect it's available.

JBR

Dictated not read

Handwritten: 20 J.B.R. Sr. and Mrs. Myrtle Allen - JUN 26 1965

The accompanying information is splendid.

Papa remembers practically all of Preachers, starting with the elder Ainsworth, and thinks Ousley and the younger Ainsworth were later Presiding Elders (in a Methodist circuit).

He says the first church was a white painted wooden structure, very plain, but he doesn't remember it with arched windows and arched doors. He says that the Presbyterian Church was the only one with any special architectural design or beautification. But that is immaterial as I do not intend to particularly describe it.

B. F. Powell and Benjamin Franklin Powell was one and the same person, a half-brother of William Powell and called "Dock" Powell. He, too, was a S.S. teacher of R.S.R.Sr.

Of course Mrs. D.W. Wilmot was wife of Dr. Wilmot, himself a Baptist. "Uncle Tom Brown" (overseer of Dr. Roddenbery farms) lived "on the hill" (northeast Cairo) and, rain or shine, hot or freezing, the whole family walked to church every time there was meeting.

Except for the fact I would like to know for certain that W. A. Chester (son of Stephen A.) was an early S.S. Supt., we now have all information we need on Cairo Methodist Church (the first in the village of Cairo). W. A. Chester (later moved to Whigham) was one of early Aldermen and was Town Clerk of Cairo. W.B.R.Sr., named him as one of the outstanding leaders in earliest days of Cairo.

J. H. Hayes who helped start the church was Justice of the Peace and built the first two-story building in Cairo, immediately south of railroad on east side of S. Broad St.

Papa does not remember initials of Watts but says there were two of them, called "Bull" Watts and "Stud" Watts. "Bull" Watts had a fine bull, and "Stud" Watts had a stud horse, for which they charged for services.

Thanks, *Handwritten signature*

First Methodist Church

Valdosta Georgia

ALBERT S. TRULOCK
MINISTER

Tuesday, Sept. 11th, 1951.

Mr. Julian B. Roddenbery,
Box 29
Cairo, Georgia.

Dear Julian:

Thanks for your gracious note. I will always be grateful for the privilege of paying a genuine and heart-felt tribute to Cousin Mellie, for, she meant a great deal to me in my life.

I was speaking entirely without notes and had no written record of my tribute. Nevertheless, I think I have accurately put down exactly what I did say.

I did not dictate the three pages which I enclose and the typing will be far from perfect.

Sincerely,

Albert

C
L
Y
D
E

Sherling Printers

116 NORTH MAIN -- PHONE 985-3908
MOULTRIE, GEORGIA

Revised & Final draft
on Order
Methodist Church

JUL 13 1965

JUL 13 1965

[Handwritten signature]

W. R. In. final

Cairo Methodist Church

The first church established in what is now Cairo, and the first to have a meeting house of its own, was the Cairo Methodist Church which was organized in 1867, the same year the railroad was built from Thomasville to Bainbridge. That was three years before the Town of Cairo was incorporated as a municipality. In 1873 they erected the first church building in the town, a plain wooden building painted white, located at the corner of South Broad and old Ochlochnee St. (now named S.W. 3rd Ave.), which has ever since been the site of this Church.

Mrs. D. W. Wilmot (wife of Dr. Wilmot), her sister, Miss Lizzie Everett (later Mrs. W. J. Dickey), and a widow, Mrs. Julia Hall (mother of Jim Hall), are credited with starting the organizational movement and the first services were held in the home of Mrs. Hall until the first church building was erected in 1873. The first Cairo school-house was immediately south of this church property and the home of Mrs. Julia Hall, an unpainted house, was immediately south of the school building. Working with these good women in organizing the church were: William Powell (2nd Mayor of Cairo), Stephen A. Chester and his son W. A. Chester, Benj. F. (Dock) Powell, Capt. E. A. Vanlandingham, J. H. Hayes, Tom W. Brown, and others. Before erection of any church building, Sunday School for all denominations was held in the school-house.

An incomplete history of Cairo Methodist Church, compiled in recent years by Mrs. W. E. (Ruth) Young, is on file in Roddenbery Memorial Library. Mrs. Young had lived in Cairo but a short time when this work was done and she relied on information furnished her by older persons and whatever church records were available to her. While there may be some inaccuracies in dates and otherwise, this compilation contains much valuable information. She did not record the names of the first Board of Stewards, nor all superintendents of the Sunday School, and it is understandable that names of some early members were unknown to her and omitted. It is recorded that Tom W. Brown, affectionately known as "Uncle Tom" [who was overseer of farms of Dr. S. A. Roddenbery], was the first male superintendent of the Sunday School. For a number of years thereafter William Powell was the superintendent, and his half-brother Benj. F. Powell was for many years a Sunday School teacher.

The recorded church history states that in the early days this area or territory was known as Bold Springs Circuit and that Bold Springs Church was the mother church, and Tired Creek Methodist, Pumphreys and Pine Hill were also in this circuit. Bold Springs Methodist (also called Wesleyan) and Bold Springs Baptist Church are both in the southeastern part of the 17th land district of present Grady County and near Barnett's Creek.

Up to 1890, the pastors of Cairo Methodist Church, in order and with dates of pastorates in parentheses, were as follows: T. J. Colquitt (1867), R. F. Evans (1868), P. C. Harris (1869-1872), J. J. Giles (1873), J. W. Jackson (1874), J. T. Ainsworth (1875-1876), Wesley Lane (1877), R. C. Hines (1878), J. S. Jordan (1880-1881), H. C. Fentress (1882-1883), W. B. Ousley (1884), J. W. Arnold, Jr. (1885), Samuel W. Stubbs (1886-1888), and J. T. Ainsworth (1889-1890). Perhaps the last was son of Ainsworth who was pastor in 1875-76.

In addition to above named pastors, there were a number of Lay Preachers and Exhorters, among them being William Powell, J. Byron Wight, W. F. Watts and Casper Walker [uncle of Dr. Wm. A. Walker]: There was frequent reference to "Reverend William Powell" but his principal vocation was that of railroad agent and he was not a regularly ordained Minister.

At a conference in 1887, heading the list of those present was Henry Wight (son of G. A. Wight), followed by A. C. Dickey, K. P. Wight, J. C. Evans, Dr. W. A. Davis, Mrs. Maude (Bostwick) Roddenbery, and others.

At the quarterly conference, Jan. 16, 1892, the following were present: Rev. J. O. Branch, Presiding Elder, Rev. D. D. Bateman, Pastor in Charge, W. F. Watts, William Powell, B. F. Powell, T. W. Brown, Joseph Herring, G. A. Wight, Dr. W. P. Clower, C. W. Johnson, G. W. Gainous, Henry Gainous, Joseph Sasser, David J. Williams, J. W. Dixon, John J. Paulk, J. B. Wight, K. P. Wight, Henry Wight, E. A. VanLandingham, and J. L. Oliver.

At a quarterly conference in 1894 the following were named to serve for the year 1894-95: William Powell, J. Byron Wight and W. F. Watts, Lay Preachers and Trustees, and the following were named as Stewards of the Church: Dr. W. P. Clower, B. F. Powell, Kedar Powell Wight, T. W. Brown, J. W. Dixon, T. A. Williams, Kedar Powell (born 1859), W. R. Singletary, J. B. Bryant, J. J. Paulk (called "Little John" Paulk to distinguish from John L. Poulk), Joseph Sasser, Wm. Wiley Pearce, Miles VanLandingham, Geo. A. Wight (senior), Joseph Herring, Richard Merritt, C. W. Johnson, and G. W. Gainous.

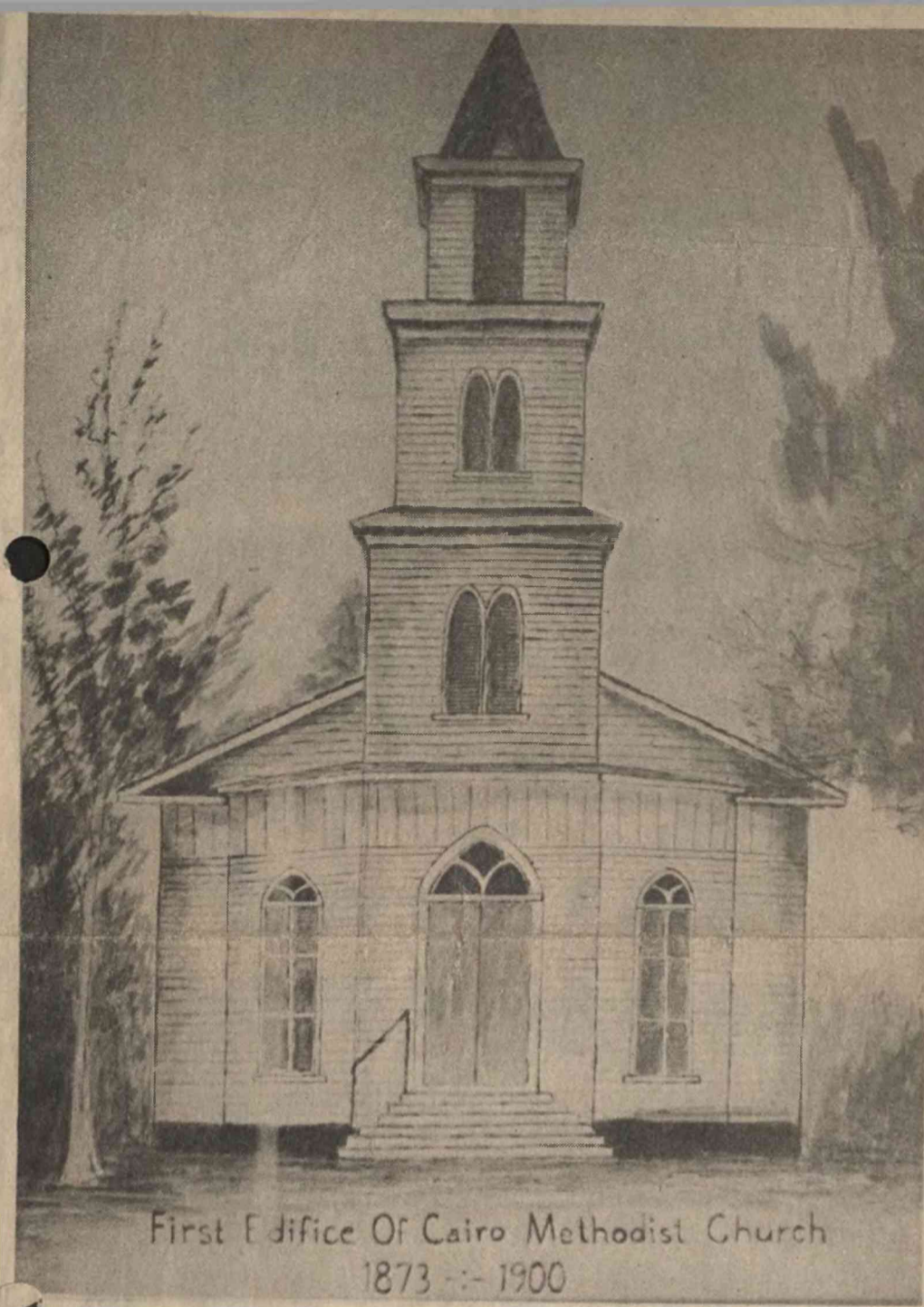
[William Powell and G. A. Wight, Sr., both died in 1894].

Starting with 20 members in 1867, the church records listed 206 members in 1886, and in 1895 the total membership was 221. From the beginning to the present it is believed that the Cairo Methodist Church has had more members than any other individual church in Cairo. The following is quoted from "Wesleyan Christian Advocate" of July 28, 1944: "There was a great forward movement in the church [Cairo Methodist] in 1882 when the pastor, Rev. H. C. Fentress, conducted a revival and preached the doctrine of holiness. In 1895 another revival, far reaching in spiritual value, was led by Rev. J. M. Outler, who was the pastor four years."

About 1900 the original wooden building of 1873 was replaced by a then commodious brick building and church school, and in 1927 the present handsome buildings were erected, all at the same location.

Through all its history the churches of Cairo of all denominations have worked in harmony and close cooperation, though individual members were steadfast and loyal to their respective churches. As examples of diversity in beliefs but cooperation in practice, in the beginning Mrs. D. W. Wilmot was a moving spirit in the Methodist Church, while Dr. D. W. Wilmot was a devout Baptist and a leading member of his church. B. F. (Dock) Powell was a Steward and Sunday School teacher in the Methodist Church, while his wife, Mrs. Emma Martin Powell, daughter of a Baptist Minister, was a mainstay in the Baptist Church throughout her long life. And while Walter B. Roddenbery was a pillar in the Baptist Church and superintendent of the Sunday School, his wife, Mrs. Maude Bostwick Roddenbery, who was a Methodist from childhood, remained loyal to and supported the Methodist Church until death at the age of 96.

=====



THIS IS A DRAWING of the first Methodist Church building in Cairo. It stood at the present church site but south of the present building and was replaced by a small brick church building in 1902. (Photo by Hugh Gandy).

History Of Cairo First United Methodist Church

"The history of the Cairo Methodist Church is written in the lives of those Christian men and women who have poured the full measure of their faith, their time, their talent, their ingenuity and their means into the founding and establishing of a Methodist Church in this community - a beacon light to all it has served and a glory to God, from whom it honors" -Mrs. Sarah Harley (W. E.) Young.

The history of the constitution and beginnings of what is now the First Methodist Church of Cairo coincides with the beginnings of the community of Cairo, the background for which dates back to 1818 when William Hawthorne blazed a trail through Southwest Georgia which he termed a short route from North Carolina to Northwest Florida, and he planted the seeds for the full flowering of the Cairo community to begin when Cairo became a station on the old Atlantic & Gulf Railroad (now the Seaboard Coast Line Railroad), rails for which were laid from Thomasville to Bainbridge for trains to begin operating late in 1867. Cairo, which subsequently became a post office, was incorporated as a town in 1879 and as a city in 1906.

As of 1867, Methodism in the general area was the Bold Springs Circuit, with Bold Springs, some six miles northeast of Cairo, as the

Mother Church. The fledgling Cairo church first became a unit of the circuit at a time when it included, in addition to Bold Springs, Tired Creek, Pumphries (or Pumphrey) and Pine Hill. (At the time, Bold Springs is recorded as having had three well attended prayer meetings weekly.) The circuit was in the Bainbridge district of the South Georgia Conference (also created in 1867) at the time but in 1873 was transferred to the Dawson district for two years. It was transferred to the Thomasville district when it was created in 1875 and has remained there since. The Journal of the conference shows that Rev. T. J. Colquitt was the first pastor with Bishop George F. Pierce presiding over the Conference. In the 1890s Cairo Church was a half station with Whigham for a time but it became an independent charge about 1900.

Most significantly, Cairo Church in the final analysis grew out of the efforts of three good women and out of the Cairo Methodist Sunday School which they first organized! The three were Mrs. D. H. Wilmot, her sister, Miss Lizzie Everette (later Mrs. Dickey) and Mrs. Julia Hall. Services were held at the home of the latter until the first edifice, a beautiful little white wooden sanctuary with Grecian arched windows,

was completed early in 1873. Official records show that there were 20 charter members but do not list all of them, although they included, with the "three good women," the following: Tom W. Brown, who became the first male superintendent of the Sunday School, Stephen A. Chester, Rev. P. C. Harris, also listed as having been a pastor of Bold Springs Church, James H. Hayes, William Powell, an accredited lay preacher, who supervised the erection of the first sanctuary, Benjamin Franklin (Doc) Powell, who later taught the Fellowship class in the Sunday School for 33 years, and Capt. E. A. Vanlandingham.

Cairo Church grew rather steadily in membership and influence and in a few years, when the Wight families moved here from Wightville (Sofkee), about five miles to the southwest, to swell the roster, the beloved Little White Church was given a steeple, an imposing addition, "towering in four separate and matchless tiers above the treetops, and covered with a slate roof," which became known as "Henry's Steeple" because it was built and paid for largely by Henry Wight, who felt that a church was not a church without a steeple. By 1886, members increased to 206, then to 300 by 1897, whereupon the need for a larger brick edifice gained the spotlight.

The Little White Church was situated toward the southwest corner of the site, so, when the plans for the larger brick edifice took shape ample space for it was found more toward the northeast corner of the site and the intersection of what is now South Broad and 3rd Ave., S. W. The larger brick edifice from which the second distinct period of church history dates, was begun in 1900 but in 1901 Bishop C. B. Galloway sent to Cairo Church as pastor Rev. W. M. Blich, a native of this section, known as an especially able church builder. He immediately had torn down the "poorly constructed" brick walls erected the year before and in 1902 he had finished a well built sanctuary, which was dedicated by Bishop Warren A. Candler.

By 1905, the edifice (with a large bell and tower) was valued at \$7,500, and the parsonage, first built in 1893 at a cost of \$1,000, just south of the sanctuary, was expanded and improved with value listed at \$2,000. By 1908, the need for a Sunday School annex developed, so a wooden Epworth League Hall and Sunday School annex was built to the west of the sanctuary. It was completed at a cost of \$2,000 and paid for when finished. The first parsonage was again enlarged and remodeled in 1917 at a cost of \$2,100.

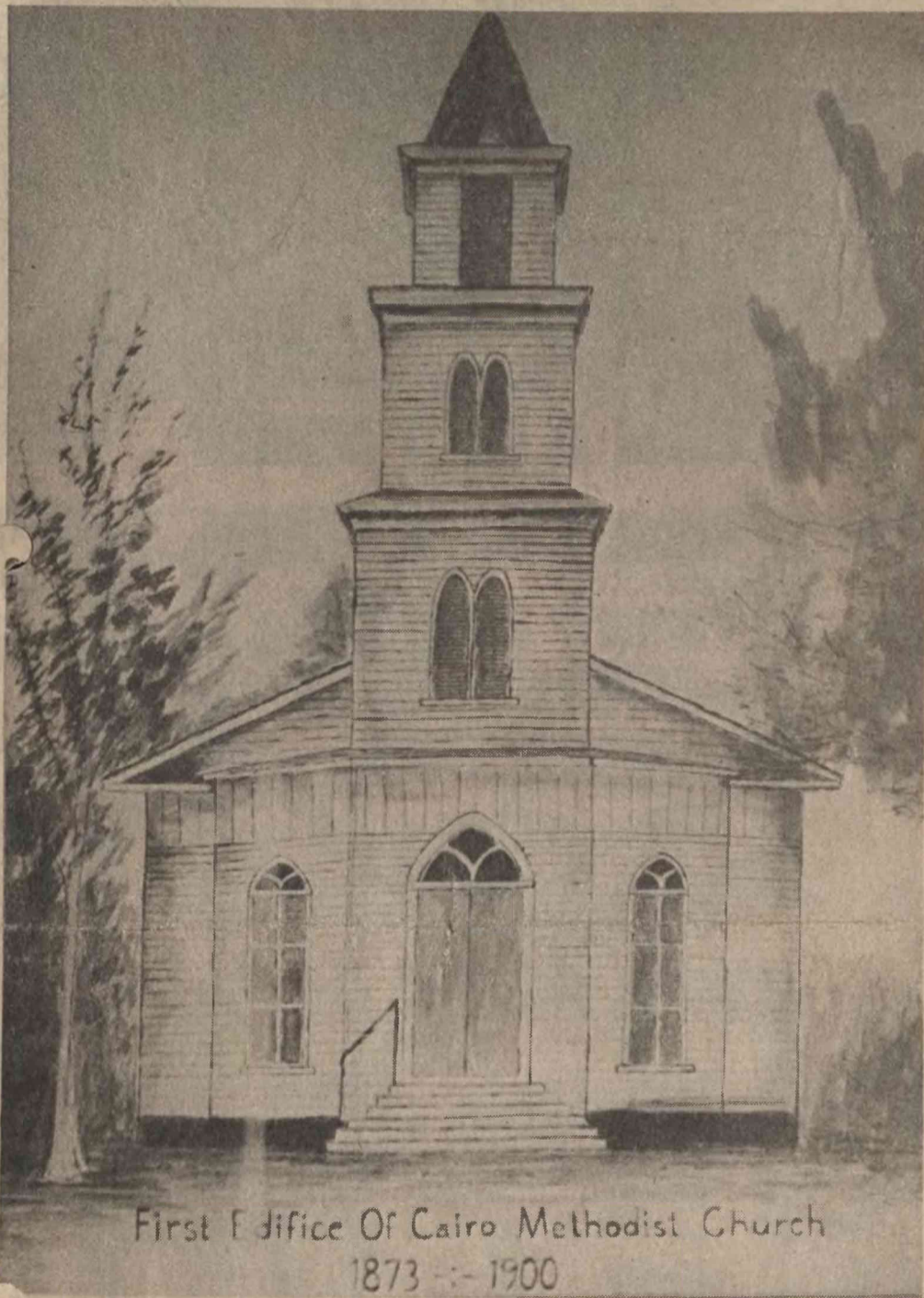
The third distinct period of history of Cairo Church began in 1926, when, with Rev. Leland Moore as pastor and Rev. Bascom Anthony as Presiding Elder, the cornerstone of the present edifice as laid. At that time, the church had a building fund of \$21,000 in cash and subscriptions of \$27,000 on hand. Those were very busy times for the church and the great "venture in faith" progressed steadily. During the months of construction, Cairo Presbyterian Church graciously lent the use of its sanctuary for worship services and prayer meetings—and the Cairo High School building was used for Sunday School.

One of the greatest days for Methodism in Cairo was Easter Sunday, 1927, when Bishop William B. Beauchamp came and dedicated, debt-free, the magnificent new church (although there was an indebtedness on the parsonage of \$4,980.) Rev. W. A. Tyson was the pastor and reported to the Annual Conference in the fall that year that the church property and equipment had increased to a total value of \$90,000; that the budget for the year of \$54,234 had been met; and that the membership had increased to 610 with a Sunday School enrollment of 523. The final financial push was inspired by an added gift of Dr. W. A. Walker toward a handsome \$6,000 Pilcher pipe organ conditional upon a successful fund rally. The fourth and still current distinct period of history of Cairo Church began in the era of the mid-1950s, when another very ambitious program of expansion and modernization was carried out on a three-phase plan: the construction and equipment of a handsome two-story Educational (Children's Division) Building just to the southwest of the sanctuary; the construction and equip-

(Continued on page 6C)



THE PRESENT CAIRO FIRST UNITED CHURCH was built in 1927 and since that time a Sunday School building and a fellowship hall have been added. (Photo by Hugh Gandy).



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THIS IS A DRAWING of the first Methodist Church building in Cairo. It stood at the present church site but south of the present building and was replaced by a small brick church building in 1902. (Photo by Hugh Gandy).

History Of Cairo First United Methodist Church

"The history of the Cairo Mother Church. The fledgling was completed early in 1873. Methodist Church is written Cairo church first became a Official records show that

HISTORY OF CAIRO FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

(Continued from page 3C)

ment of a handsome brick parsonage on a spacious site across South Broad street from the sanctuary; and the extensive remodeling and modernization of the sanctuary itself with air-conditioning for year-round comfort, the addition of modern, dimmer-controlled lighting for the sanctuary itself and various other improvements, including those to the Pilcher pipe organ and red carpeting for the sanctuary. Planning began during the pastorate of Rev. G. N. Rainey and Rev. L. Emmett Williams (1952-56) and most of the work was during that of Rev. James C. Varnell, Jr. (1956-60) when a unified budget of record proportions included provision for systematic payments to the Expansion Fund and excited another marvelous response by the membership.

The zeal for continued expansion and improvement led a few years later to the purchase of the Pelham property to the west of the sanctuary and as of the Centennial Year still another improvement program won hearty approval to provide for

hard-surfacing and drainage for the vehicle parking areas, covered walkways to link the main building with the Educational Building and hard-surfaced drives for greater convenience of everyone in rainy weather, projected for completion during the 1967-68 church year, with funds on hand therefor.

As of Annual Conference in June of the Centennial Year, 1967, the Journal listed all church property to have a total value of \$456,000, with no indebtedness, including a \$2,700 D. F. Oliver Trust Fund. It showed a grand total paid for all causes of \$55,966. It also showed total membership of 759 with a Church School enrollment of 540.

In more recent years the Fellowship Hall and Chapel have been added and Sunday School rooms have been renovated.

Today the Cairo First United Methodist Church, as it has throughout its history, plays a vital part in the life of the community.

At the present time it is served by Rev. W. G. (Bill) Brown who is completing his first year as the church's pastor.

"ME Investments, Inc. incorporated on May 9, 1984 a Certificate of Incorporation Secretary of State in accordance with applicable provisions Business Corporations Act registered office of the N. Broad Street, Cairo, initial registered agent is Jarrell McClenny."

GEORGIA, GRADY COUNTY.

All creditors of the Estate of DeLeon Shiver, deceased, Grady County, are hereby notified their demands to the undersigned to law, and all persons claiming said Estate are required to file their claims for immediate payment to us.

This 17th day of May,

SUSAN E. ...
ecutrix and

RAY W. DOLL ...
Estate of Sper ...
Shiver ...
316 First Street ...
Cairo, Georgia

GEORGIA, GRADY COUNTY.

All creditors of the Estate of Brown Blanton, deceased, Grady County, are hereby notified their demands to the undersigned to law, and all persons claiming said estate are required to file their claims for immediate payment to us.

This 22nd day of May,

Carolyn B. ...
Blanton Job ...
of the Last ...
of Ethel Br ...

TIMESAVERS

Place timesaving appliances and frequently used utensils within easy reach of the kitchen counter and you'll use them more often, say experts in the Georgia Extension Service.



SHOP CAIRO FIRST!

ALL-NEW

**CITIZEN ...
PROBATE COURT ...
GRADY COUNTY:**

**IN RE: APPLICATION ...
RUTLAND to ...
Form the Last ...
of FAYE GA ...**

Cairo Methodist Church

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Mrs. D. W. Wilmot (wife of Dr. Wilmot), her sister, Miss Lizzie Everett (later Mrs. W. J. Dickey), and a widow, Mrs. Julia Hall (mother of Jim Hall), are credited with starting the organizational movement and the first services were held in the home of Mrs. Hall until the first church building was erected in 1873. The first Cairo school-house was immediately south of this church property and the home of Mrs. Julia Hall, an unpainted house, was immediately south of the school building. Working with these good women in organizing the church were: William Powell (2nd Mayor of Cairo), Stephen A. Chester and his son W. A. Chester, Benj. F. (Dock) Powell, Capt. E. A. Vanlandingham, J. E. Hayes, Tom W. Brown, and others. Before erection of any church building, Sunday School for all denominations was held in the school-house.

An incomplete history of Cairo Methodist Church, compiled in recent years by Mrs. W. E. (Ruth) Young, is on file in Roddenbery Memorial Library. Mrs. Young had lived in Cairo but a short time when this work was done and she relied on information furnished her by older persons and whatever church records were available to her. While there may be some inaccuracies in dates and otherwise, this compilation contains much valuable information. She did not record the names of the first Board of Stewards, nor all superintendents of the Sunday School, and it is understandable that names of some early members were unknown to her and omitted. It is recorded that Tom W. Brown, affectionately known as "Uncle Tom" [who was overseer of farms of Dr. S. A. Roddenbery], was the first male superintendent of the Sunday School. For a number of years thereafter William Powell was the superintendent, and his half-brother Benj. F. Powell was for many years a Sunday School teacher.

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In addition to above named pastors, there were a number of Lay Preachers and Exhorters, among them being William Powell, J. Byron Wight, W. F. Watts and Casper Walker [uncle of Dr. Wm. A. Walker]. There was frequent reference to "Reverend William Powell" but his principal vocation was that of railroad agent and he was not a regularly ordained Minister.

At a conference in 1887, heading the list of those present was Henry Wight (son of G. A. Wight), followed by A. C. Dickey, K. P. Wight, J. C. Evans, Dr. W. A. Davis, Mrs. Maude (Bostwick) Roddenbery, and others.

At the quarterly conference, Jan. 16, 1892, the following were present: Rev. J. C. Branch, Presiding Elder, Rev. D. D. Bateman, Pastor in Charge, W. F. Watts, William Powell, B. F. Powell, T. W. Brown, Joseph Herring, G. A. Wight, Dr. W. P. Clower, C. W. Johnson, G. W. Gainous, Henry Gainous, Joseph Sasser, David J. Williams, J. W. Dixon, John J. Paulk, J. B. Wight, K. P. Wight, Henry Wight, E. A. VanLandingham, and J. L. Oliver.

At a quarterly conference in 1894 the following were named to serve for the year 1894-95: William Powell, J. Byron Wight and W. F. Watts, Lay Preachers and Trustees, and the following were named as Stewards of the Church: Dr. W. P. Clower, B. F. Powell, Kedar Powell Wight, T. W. Brown, J. W. Dixon, T. A. Williams, Kedar Powell (born 1859), W. R. Singletary, J. B. Bryant, J. J. Paulk (called "Little John" Paulk to distinguish from John L. Poulk), Joseph Sasser, Wm. Wiley Pearce, Miles Vanlandingham, Geo. A. Wight (senior), Joseph Herring, Richard Merritt, C. W. Johnson, and G. W. Gainous.

[William Powell and G. A. Wight, Sr., both died in 1894].

Starting with 20 members in 1867, the church records listed 206 members in 1886, and in 1895 the total membership was 221. From the beginning to the present it is believed that the Cairo Methodist Church has had more members than any other individual church in Cairo. The following is quoted from "Wesleyan Christian Advocate" of July 28, 1944: "There was a great forward movement in the church [Cairo Methodist] in 1882 when the pastor, Rev. H. C. Fentress, conducted a revival and preached the doctrine of holiness. In 1895 another revival, far reaching in spiritual value, was led by Rev. J. M. Outler, who was the pastor four years."

About 1900 the original wooden building of 1873 was replaced by a then commodious brick building and church school, and in 1927 the present handsome buildings were erected, all at the same location.

Through all its history the churches of Cairo of all denominations have worked in harmony and close cooperation, though individual members were steadfast and loyal to their respective churches. As examples of diversity in beliefs but cooperation in practice, in the beginning Mrs. D. W. Wilmot was a moving spirit in the Methodist Church, while Dr. D. W. Wilmot was a devout Baptist and a leading member of his church. B. F. (Dock) Powell was a Steward and Sunday School teacher in the Methodist Church, while his wife, Mrs. Emma Martin Powell, daughter of a Baptist Minister, was a mainstay in the Baptist Church throughout her long life. And while Walter B. Roddenbery was a pillar in the Baptist Church and superintendent of the Sunday School, his wife, Mrs. Maude Bostwick Roddenbery, who was a Methodist from childhood, remained loyal to and supported the Methodist Church until death at the age of 96.

=====

JBR for

*Read this carefully. I hope this
will be final draft for this church.*

JUN 28 1965

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6-30-65
write RDR this
memo

The foregoing will take $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 ~~inches~~
~~of printed~~ pages of printed matter
4 inches wide.

Notes from the Methodist Church History in Roddenbery Memorial Library.

History of Cairo Methodist Church falls into three periods:

- The years in the white wooden building - 1867 - 1900
- The years in the first brick building - 1900 - 1927
- The years in the present building - 1927 -

In early days this section was known as Bold Springs Circuit, as Bold Springs was the mother church. Completing the circuit were: Tired Creek, Pumphries and Pine Hill.

First record of Cairo Church in Journal of the South Georgia Conference occurred in 1869.

Early ministers listed were:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|---|--|
| The Rev. T. J. Colquitt | - | 1867 |
| The Rev. R. F. Evans | - | 1868 |
| The Rev. P. C. Harris | - | 1869 - 1872 |
| The Rev. J. J. Giles | - | 1873 |
| The Rev. J. W. Jackson | - | 1874 |
| The Rev. J. T. Ainsworth | - | 1875-1876 (first within memory of R.S.R.Sr.) |
| The Rev. Wesley Lane | - | 1877 |
| The Rev. C. C. Hines | - | 1878 |
| The Rev. J. S. Jordan | - | 1880-1881 |
| The Rev. H. C. Fentress | - | 1882-1883 |
| The Rev. W. B. Ousley | - | 1884 |
| The Rev. J. W. Arnold, Jr. | - | 1885 |
| The Rev. Samuel W. Stubbs | - | 1886-1888 |
| The Rev. J. T. Ainsworth | - | 1889-1890 (perhaps <u>son</u> of first J.T.A.) |

There is a Baptist Bold Springs and Bold Springs Methodist the latter known as Wesleyan Church both in 1st district of Gadsden County.

It is interesting that the Cairo Church grew out of the efforts of three good women, Mrs. D. W. Wilmot, her sister, Miss Lizzie Everette (later Mrs. W. J. Dickey), and a widow, Mrs. Julia Hall. The first services were held in the home of Mrs. Hall until the first church building erected in 1873. Working with these consecrated women were: William Powell, Stephen A. Chester, B. F. Powell, Benjamin Franklin Powell, Rev. P. C. Harris, Captain E. A. VanLandingham, J. H. Hayes, Tom Brown, and others. Tom Brown, affectionately known as "Uncle Tom" was first male superintendent of Sunday School.

This Tom Brown was overseer of farms of Dr. S.A. Roddenbery.

First small woden church building erected under leadership of William Powell and some 20 members about 1873. That first church building in Cairo was a beautiful little wooden sanctuary with Grecian arched windows and a wide and friendly arched door inviting all who would ~~come~~ to come and worship within. Services continued in that building until 1900, when it was torn down to be replaced on that same corner of Broad Street and Third Avenue, S.W., by a larger brick building.

Earliest written record register 1886 listing 206 members.

Parsonage built 1894, valued at \$1,000.

Mrs. Julia Hall, widow, lived south of Methodist Church, the school house being between her house and the church. Her son Jim Hall was one of closest boyhood friends of R. S. Roddenbery, Sr.

Stephen A. Chester (deaf & used ear trumpet) was father of W. A. Chester.

In 1892 Cairo was still on a circuit, and later became a half station with Whigham, then about the turn of the century became an independent charge

I noticed the name D. D. Bateman, P.C. following several quotations. He must have been one of the earlier clerks, whatever they might be called in the Methodist Church. (Think P.C. meant Pastor in Charge or Preacher in Charge.)

Stewards in 1895: (I did not find the Board of Stewards listed earlier than this, though there were several names mentioned of leaders in the church)

Dr. W.P. Clower, father of Dr. Eugene Clower

W. P. Clower, B. F. Powell, K. P. Wight, T. W. Brown, J. W. Dixon, T. A. Williams, K. Powell, W. R. Singletary, J. B. Bryant, J. J. Paulk, Joseph Sasser, W. W. Pearce, Miles VanLandingham, G. A. Wight, Joseph Herring, Richard Merritt, C. W. Johnson, G. W. Gainous, G.A. Wight, Sr. died in 1894

and also listed at that time (1895) were:

William Powell, Lay Preacher & Trustee
J. B. Wight, Lay Preacher & Trustee
W. L. Watts, L. D.

I spent only a few minutes getting the above, and scanned the entire history but only read the first few pages in detail. I did not find mention of:

First Board of Stewards *— not necessary for our purpose.*

Complete list of first members, although names in various capacities were mentioned at different times early

Names of/Sunday School Superintendents after mention of Tom Brown as first,

H.S.R., Sr. remembers William Powell as Superintendent.

Name of builder of either first or second church *not material.*

Mention was made of Mr. Henry Wight giving a steeple after the church was built, but I do not remember now whether it was the white wooden church or the brick building. *(would check this if interested)* *immaterial.*

I enjoyed scanning the history, and would be glad to read it in more detail if other information is desired.

An amusing incident was that Mr. Watts, L. D., was "called on the carpet" so to speak, for doing work on Sunday. The next conference at Bold Springs cleared him of the charge but reprimanded him and warned him not to let it happen again.

Myrtle C. Allen

W.B.R., Sr. named W. A. Chester as S.S. Superintendent and Miss Lizzie Everett and Mrs. Dr. Moore as his first Sunday School teachers.

called "Little John" Paulk, distant kin of John L. Paulk.

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Some Historical Notes On

WILLIAM POWELL BIBLE CLASS

1915 ---

of the First Methodist Church, Cairo, Georgia

(compiled from the best available records on the occasion of the
50th Anniversary Dinner of the class, November 9, 1965)

The William Powell Bible Class has had quite an interesting history, to be sure, but records have not been found available for most of the time it has served to promote God's Kingdom in this community. This is, therefore, an effort simply to compile some of the more important historical data from the records that have been found, and not to prepare a complete history.

There appears to be little if any reason to challenge the accepted date, 1915, as the year when the class came to be known by its present name, although some records indicate that the present class stemmed from one organized about 1906. What is now the First Methodist Church here, of which the class is a part, was constituted in 1867, and is, as of this year, some 98 years old. The church, from its beginning until 1900, was, in a material sense, a "Little White Chapel," which stood in the southwestern portion of the original church land. It was succeeded by the first brick edifice in 1900. The main portion of the present facilities was built in 1927, but enlarged and modernized several times since that date. This is pointed out to explain that what came to be the William Powell Bible Class in 1915 may well have had its actual origin before 1906.

For many years, or from about 1906 until Feb. 1, 1931, it was a class of both men and women, a "mixed class," with up to 150 members on roll, but with an average attendance probably less than half that number. From about 1906 until he resigned due to failing health in November, 1928, the teacher and great spiritual leader of the class was Rev. Walter C. Jones, who had served in the South Georgia Methodist Conference, and the best information is that it was generally known all through those 25 years as the "Brother Walter C. Jones Class."

Available records are meager as to just when or why the class took the name of William Powell, although there can be no question whatsoever about the worthiness or distinguished career of the man for whom it was named. Dr. W. A. Walker, in a scholarly address in December, 1934, when the family presented to the class a portrait of William Powell, a portrait that is still in excellent condition, paid a glowing tribute to the life and career of our namesake, and copies of that address, containing much other church and community history of his era, are still in existence. He was a member of one of several families who migrated to this section from North Carolina, first settling in what probably may best be identified as the old Sofkee community, southwest of Cairo, a community also known as Wightville. After Cairo came into existence in the late 1860s, the Powells, Wights and others moved here. Cairo became a station on the old Atlantic & Gulf Railroad, now for many years the Atlantic Coast Line, when trains began operating, about December, 1867, and William Powell became the first agent for the railroad at Cairo, a position he held until his death on Dec. 22, 1894, at the age of only 60, March 5, 1834 having been his birth date. As Doctor Walker revealed, it was in his adulthood that he gave himself completely to God, and he became so active and influential in promoting the Kingdom that he was not only one of the prime movers in establishing what is our First Methodist Church, in 1867, but in establishing other churches and Sunday Schools in this area. He became a local preacher, licensed by the church here that he helped to establish. As Doctor Walker said of him in his address, he had "an irresistible urge" to spread the Gospel and dedicated his life most commendably to bringing countless others to dedicate their lives to the

service of God and humanity. So it is that his works follow after him and that his good name is perpetuated in the lives of countless others, as members of the class through the years, and as countless visitors to the class, and the kin of members, to continue the contributions he so ably began.

W. Albert Walker, Jr. (a grandson of our namesake), from Jan. 1, 1928, to Feb. 1, 1931, as secretary of the class, efficiently kept and still has in his possession, complete minutes of the business sessions of the class, held each first Sunday. These minutes include the class roll of 150 members as of Jan. 1, 1928, and at other times during the period, along with many detailed records of the class activities. It is interesting to note that the class first sponsored operation of automobile trucks and later two busses to transport people to Sunday School for a long period in those days. It will be well if the class can arrange for a permanent depository to preserve class records and what-have-you, so that class members in the years ahead might share them.

It was the concluding class business session of the period covered by these minutes, on Feb. 1, 1931, that the action was taken to make the class one for men only, "including all men 24 years of age, and above." The secretary was also thoughtful enough to add the class roll when it became a class of men only. That roll follows:

J. A. (Sandy) Aldredge, Forest G. (Folly) Brown, Ira Carlisle, Arthur C. Dickey, E. R. Duke, Robt. L. Forrester, Ed Farnell, John E. Hall, W. C. Ham, Henry Herring, Ira Higdon, Sr., Bill Hurst, Rev. W. C. Jones, Doctor Matthews, John Muggridge, Alex Maxwell, D. F. Oliver, John A. Powell, 1st, J. W. Pelham, J. M. Poulk, Lem Powell, L. M. (Shorty) Powell, Dr. J. V. Rogers, J. W. Southall, Judge J. Q. Smith, Judge John R. Singletary, J. M. Strange, T. C. Teate, Roscoe Van Landingham, Ronald Watson, W. Albert Walker, Jr., and Alvin B. Wight. Total: 33.

Robert P. Wight has endeavored to compile a list of members of the class during the time it was a "mixed" class, for both men and women, who are still living, and lists the following: Mrs. J. A. Aldredge, Chas. L. Browne, Sr., Mrs. W. Y. Bryan, Ira Carlisle (a past president), Mrs. Ed Farnell, J. E. Forsyth (a past president), Earley Gandy (a past president), Mrs. W. C. Ham, Mrs. Ira Higdon, Sr., John R. King, L. M. (Shorty) Powell, W. Albert Walker, Jr. (a several terms past president), Mrs. J. S. Weathers, Mrs. Thomas Wight, Mrs. J. R. White, and Ed L. Vanlandingham.

It is regrettable that records have not been found to permit compilation of a roster of the past presidents. However, while it may not be fully verified for the entire period, the following roster of the class teachers may be about correct:

As previously noted, Rev. Walter C. Jones was the regular teacher from 1906, about the time of its origin, until he resigned due to failing health in November, 1928. Brother Jones, a towering man of God, was born in Brooks county on Jan. 6, 1855, and passed to his Eternal Rest on Aug. 1, 1948, at the ripe age of 93. Judge J. Q. Smith was his first assistant and Dr. W. A. Walker was his second assistant.

When Brother Jones resigned as of November, 1928, Judge Smith assumed the duties as teacher and served "about two years," with Doctor Walker as assistant.

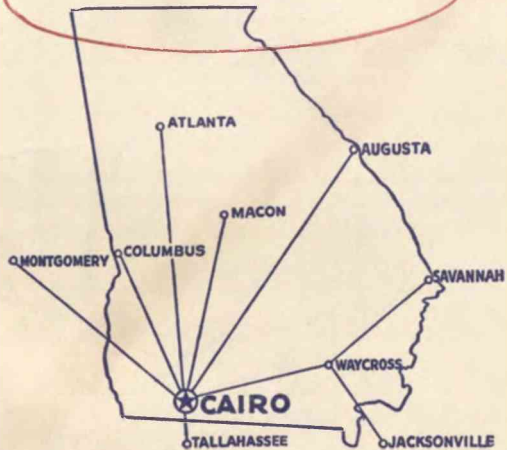
Available records show that he was succeeded in the early 1930s by Dr. Albert W. Rehberg, who served faithfully, despite his professional duties, almost alone, for several years, with Dr. J. V. Rogers as his assistant. Doctor Rehberg was then joined in 1937 by Louis A. Powell, and these two rotated on a monthly basis regularly for some 16 years, until 1953, when Doctor Rehberg resigned because of failing health. Doctor Rehberg, one of the outstanding Bible students in this section's history, was born Sept. 20, 1899 and died Sept. 16, 1955. After his resignation, Louis A. Powell continued alone for a few months but was later joined by Adron Rosser and others whose service available records do not reveal, but including Mrs. C. B. Urlick, Rev. Fred Meyer. For some time, now, Kelly C. Freeman, Ernest H. Herring and Louis A. Powell have been serving in rotation every three months, with Adron Rosser as reserve teacher.

CAIRO-GRADY COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, Inc.

P. O. DRAWER 387

CAIRO, GEORGIA 31728

Louis A. Powell



HONORABLE R. S. RODDENBERY, SR.,

605 South Main St.,

MOULTRIE, GA.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

First Methodist Church, Cairo, Georgia, Sept. 8, 1951

Mrs. Walter C. (Mellie Powell) Jones

Pastor: Bro. G. N. Rainey, assisted by Rev. Albert Trulock, Valdosta, Ga.

SCRIPTURES, by Bro. Rainey:

John 11:25-26:

I am the resurrection, and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live;

And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.--

John 14:1-3:

Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you: I go to prepare a place for you.

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

Psalm 23:

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; thou annointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

John 14: 15,16,18,19,27:

If ye love me, keep my commandments.

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you. Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.--

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid -

PRAYER: Bro. Rainey -

SONG: Charles Beale: "HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION":

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He hath said,
You who unto Jesus for refuge have fled?

In every condition, in sickness, in health,
In poverty's vale, or abounding in wealth;
At home and abroad, on the land, on the sea,
As your days may demand, shall you strength ever be.

For R.S. Roddenbery, Jr -
m.c.o.

Notes from the Methodist Church History in Roddenbery Memorial Library.

History of Cairo Methodist Church falls into three periods:

- The years in the white wooden building - 1867 - 1900
- The years in the first brick building - 1900 - 1927
- The years in the present building - 1927 -

In early days this section was known as Bold Springs Circuit, as Bold Springs was the mother church. Completing the circuit were: Tired Creek, Pumphries and Pine Hill.

First record of Cairo Church in Journal of the South Georgia Conference occurred in 1869.

Early ministers listed were:

- The Rev. T. J. Colquitt - 1867
- The Rev. R. F. Evans - 1868
- The Rev. P. C. Harris - 1869 - 1872
- The Rev. J. J. Giles - 1873
- The Rev. J. W. Jackson - 1874
- The Rev. J. T. Ainsworth - 1875-1876 (first within memory of R.S.R.Sr.)
- The Rev. Wesley Lane - 1877
- The Rev. C. C. Hines - 1878
- The Rev. J. S. Jordan - 1880-1881
- The Rev. H. C. Fentress - 1882-1883
- The Rev. W. B. Ousley - 1884
- The Rev. J. W. Arnold, Jr. - 1885
- The Rev. Samuel W. Stubbs - 1886-1888
- The Rev. J. T. Ainsworth - 1889-1890 (perhaps son of first J.T.A.)

There is a Baptist Bold Springs and Bold Springs Methodist the latter known as Wesleyan Church both in 1st district of quincy county.

It is interesting that the Cairo Church grew out of the efforts of three good women, Mrs. D. W. Wilmot, her sister, Miss Lizzie Everette (later Mrs. W. J. Dickey), and a widow, Mrs. Julia Hall. The first services were held in the home of Mrs. Hall until the first church building erected in 1873. Working with these consecrated women were: William Powell, Stephen A. Chester, B. F. Powell, Benjamin Franklin Powell, Rev. P. C. Harris, Captain E. A. VanLandingham, J. H. Hayes, Tom Brown, and others. Tom Brown, affectionately known as "Uncle Tom" was first male superintendent of Sunday School.

This Tom Brown was overseer of farms of Dr. S.A. Roddenbery.

First small wooden church building erected under leadership of William Powell and some 20 members about 1873. That first church building in Cairo was a beautiful little wooden sanctuary with Grecian arched windows and a wide and friendly arched door inviting all who would ~~come~~ to come and worship within. Services continued in that building until 1900, when it was torn down to be replaced on that same corner of Broad Street and Third Avenue, S.W., by a larger brick building.

Earliest written record register 1886 listing 206 members.

Parsonage built 1894, valued at \$1,000.

Mrs. Julia Hall, widow, lived south of Methodist Church, the school house being between her house and the church. Her son Jim Hall was one of closest boyhood friends of R. S. Roddenbery, Sr.

Stephen A. Chester (deaf & used ear trumpet) was father of W. A. Chester.

In 1892 Cairo was still on a circuit, and later became a half station with Whigham, then about the turn of the century became an independent charge.

I noticed the name D. D. Bateman, P.C. following several quotations. He must have been one of the earlier clerks, whatever they might be called in the Methodist Church. (Think P.C. meant Pastor in Charge or Preacher in Charge.)

Stewards in 1895: (I did not find the Board of Stewards listed earlier than this, though there were several names mentioned of leaders in the church)

Dr. W.P. Clower, father of Dr. Eugene Clower

W. P. Clower, B. F. Powell, K. P. Wight, T. W. Brown, J. W. Dixon, T. A. Williams, K. Powell, W. R. Singletary, J. B. Bryant, J. J. Paulk, Joseph Sasser, W. W. Pearce, Miles VanLandingham, G. A. Wight, Joseph Herring, Richard Merritt, C. W. Johnson, G. W. Gainous, G.A. Wight, Sr. died in 1894

and also listed at that time (1895) were:

William Powell, Lay Preacher & Trustee
J. B. Wight, Lay Preacher & Trustee
W. L. Watts, L. D.

I spent only a few minutes getting the above, and scanned the entire history but only read the first few pages in detail. I did not find mention of:

First Board of Stewards *— not necessary for our purpose.*

Complete list of first members, although names in various capacities were mentioned at different times early

Names of/Sunday School Superintendents after mention of Tom Brown as first, R.S.R., Sr. remembers William Powell as Superintendent.

Name of builder of either first or second church *not material.*

Mention was made of Mr. Henry Wight giving a steeple after the church was built, but I do not remember now whether it was the white wooden church or the brick building. *(would check this if interested)* *Immaterial.*

I enjoyed scanning the history, and would be glad to read it in more detail if other information is desired.

An amusing incident was that Mr. Watts, L. D., was "called on the carpet" so to speak, for doing work on Sunday. The next conference at Bold Springs cleared him of the charge but reprimanded him and warned him not to let it happen again.

Myrtle C. Allen

W.B.R., Sr. named W. A. Chester as S.S. Superintendent and Miss Lizzie Everett and Mrs. Dr. Moore as his first Sunday School teachers.

called "Little John" Paulk, distant kin of John L. Poulk.

(1884), J. W. Arnold, Jr. (1885), Samuel W. Stubbs (1886-1888), and J. T. Ainsworth (1889-1890). Perhaps the last was son of Ainsworth who was pastor in 1875-76.

and in 1895 the total membership was 221.

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Starting with 20 members in 1867, the church records listed 206 members in 1886. From the beginning to the present it is believed that the Cairo Methodist Church has had more members than any other individual church in Cairo.*

About 1900 the original wooden building of 1873 was replaced by a then commodious brick building and church school, and in 1927 the present handsome buildings were erected, all at the same location.

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P. 12

Through all its history the churches of Cairo of all denominations have worked in harmony and close cooperation, though individual members were steadfast and loyal to their respective churches. As examples of diversity in beliefs but cooperation in practice, in the beginning Mrs. D. W. Wilmot was a moving spirit in the Methodist Church, while Dr. D. W. Wilmot was a devout Baptist and a leading member of his church. B. F. (Dock) Powell was a Steward and Sunday School teacher in the Methodist Church, while his wife, Mrs. Emma Martin Powell, daughter of a Baptist Minister, was a mainstay in the Baptist Church throughout her long life. And while Walter B. Roddenbery was a pillar in the Baptist Church and superintendent of the Sunday School, his wife, Mrs. Maude Bostwick Roddenbery, daughter of a Methodist Minister, remained loyal to and supported the Methodist Church until death at the age of 96.

who was a Methodist from childhood

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* the following is quoted from "Wesleyan Christian Advocate" of July 28, 1944: ~~There~~ "There was a great forward movement in the church [Cairo Methodist] in 1882 when the pastor, Rev. H. C. Feutress, conducted a revival and preached the doctrine of holiness. In 1895 another revival, far reaching in spiritual value, was led by Rev. J. M. Outler, who was the pastor four years".

KINGDOM. IN RETIREMENT, HE LOCATED IN CAIRO, WHERE EARLIER IN HIS MINISTRY HE HAD MARRIED THE LOVELY MELVINA POWELL WHO MADE THE PERFECT COMPANION HELPER, AND HOMEMAKER. THOUGH BROTHER JONES WAS RETIRED, HE BLESSED THIS COMMUNITY BY LABORING IN THE HOME AND RURAL CHURCHES, WHERE HE PREACHED MANY SERMONS, CONDUCTED HUNDREDS OF FUNERALS AND MARRIAGES, AND TAUGHT THE WILLIAM POWELL BIBLE CLASS.

BROTHER JONES AND MISS MELLIE DEDICATED THEIR BEAUTIFUL HOME TO GOD, AND AS SUCH, IT BECAME THE CENTER FOR FRIENDS, KINSFOLK AND YOUNG PEOPLE TO GATHER: FOR WALTER JONES WAS A NEIGHBOR LOVED BY ALL CLASSES, RACES, AND CREEDS. HE CARRIED SUNSHINE WHEREVER HE WENT. IN THE HOME, ON THE STREETS, IN THE FIELD, ALWAYS HIS SWEET SMILE AND KIND WORDS WERE A BOON AND A BLESSING TO EVERY HEART THAT TOUCHED HIS LIFE DURING THOSE 46 YEARS OF HIS SUPERANNUATE YEARS IN OUR MIDST.

IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT THE FINEST INVESTMENT A PERSON CAN MAKE IS IN INFLUENCE. BROTHER JONES MADE THAT INVESTMENT THROUGH HIS INFLUENCE THROUGH HIS CHURCH: HE ALSO MADE THAT INVESTMENT THROUGH HIS FINE FAMILY BY HIS NOBLE PRECEPT AND EXAMPLE. TODAY MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE OF THEIR GOODLY HERITAGE AND CARRY ON THE TRADITION AS WORTHY CHILDREN OF MATCHLESS PARENTS. MAY I MENTION THEM: DR. WALTER JONES, SURGEON OF MIAMI, FLORIDA. DR. POWELL JONES, DEAN OF A COLLEGE OF NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY, JOSEPH ^{Wabbett} JAMES JONES, CORPORATION ATTORNEY OF WASHINGTON, D. C., MRS. HERBERT HOOVER OF LINCOLN, MASS., WHO IS THE LOVELY LUCRETIAN AND MRS. JULIEN RODDENBERY OF CAIRO, GA., WHO IS OUR OWN MARGARET, ALREADY FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF HER CHRISTLIKE MOTHER. THERE ARE FOURTEEN GRANDCHILDREN AND TWO GREAT GRANDCHILDREN TO ARISE UP AND CALL THEM BLESSED. AS BROTHER ALBERT TRULOCK SAID IN THE WORDS OF JESUS, TRULY BROTHER JONES HEARD THE WORDS OF COMMENDATION:

"WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT,
ENTER THOU INTO THE JOYS OF THEY LORD."



As a Minister in the Retired Relation, this button is presented to you as a token of the honor, gratitude and love with which The Methodist Church regards you. The symbolism is explained as follows:

¶ In the center there is a symbol of the Holy Bible from which you preached the Word of God. The Godhead is represented by the Triangle containing the first Hebrew letter of the Sacred Name, Jehovah. On the left hand, is represented the Cross of the risen and glorified Christ, and on the right hand a Shepherd's Staff symbolizing pastoral care. The Crown signifies the honor to which you are entitled as a worthy Retired Minister. Underneath the book are the words LUX, PAX, representing the Light of the Gospel and the Peace of God which it brings to devoted Christians.

¶ On behalf of the Conference and of The Board of Pensions of The Methodist Church, this button is presented to you by the Board of Conference Claimants, with the prayer that God's protection and blessing may be yours continually.

Cairo Methodist Church

The first church established in what is now Cairo, and the first to have a meeting house of its own, was the Cairo Methodist Church which was organized in 1867, the same year the railroad was built from Thomasville to Bainbridge. That was three years before the Town of Cairo was incorporated as a municipality. In 1873 they erected the first church building in the town, a plain wooden building painted white, located at the corner of South Broad and old Ochlochnee St. (now named S.W. 3rd Ave.), which has ever since been the site of this Church.

Mrs. D. W. Wilmot (wife of Dr. Wilmot), her sister, Miss Lizzie Everett (later Mrs. W. J. Dickey), and a widow, Mrs. Julia Hall (mother of Jim Hall), are credited with starting the organizational movement and the first services were held in the home of Mrs. Hall until the first church building was erected in 1873. The first Cairo school-house was immediately south of this church property and the home of Mrs. Julia Hall, an unpainted house, was immediately south of the school building. Working with these good women in organizing the church were: William Powell (2nd Mayor of Cairo), Stephen A. Chester and his son W. A. Chester, Benj. F. (Dock) Powell, Capt. E. A. Vanlandingham, J. H. Hayes, Tom W. Brown, and others. Before erection of any church building, Sunday School for all denominations was held in the school-house.

An incomplete history of Cairo Methodist Church, compiled in recent years by Mrs. W. E. (Ruth) Young, is on file in Roddenbery Memorial Library. Mrs. Young had lived in Cairo but a short time when this work was done and she relied on information furnished her by older persons and whatever church records were available to her. While there may be some inaccuracies in dates and otherwise, this compilation contains much valuable information. She did not record the names of the first Board of Stewards, nor all superintendents of the Sunday School, and it is understandable that names of some early members were unknown to her and omitted. It is recorded that Tom W. Brown, affectionately known as "Uncle Tom" [who was overseer of farms of Dr. S. A. Roddenbery], was the first male superintendent of the Sunday School. For a number of years thereafter William Powell was the superintendent, and his half-brother Benj. F. Powell was for many years a Sunday School teacher.

The recorded church history states that in the early days this area or territory was known as Bold Springs Circuit and that Bold Springs Church was the mother church, and Tired Creek Methodist, Pumphreys and Pine Hill were also in this circuit. Bold Springs Methodist (also called Wesleyan) and Bold Springs Baptist Church are both in the southeastern part of the 17th land district of present Grady County and near Barnett's Creek.

Up to 1890, the pastors of Cairo Methodist Church, in order and with dates of pastorates in parentheses, were as follows: T. J. Colquitt (1867), R. F. Evans (1868), P. C. Harris (1869-1872), J. J. Giles (1873), J. W. Jackson (1874), J. T. Ainsworth (1875-1876), Wesley Lane (1877), R. C. Hines (1878), J. S. Jordan (1880-1881), H. C. Fentress (1882-1883), W. B. Ousley (1884), J. W. Arnold, Jr. (1885), Samuel W. Stubbs (1886-1888), and J. T. Ainsworth (1889-1890). Perhaps the last was son of Ainsworth who was pastor in 1875-76.

In addition to above named pastors, there were a number of Lay Preachers and Exhorters, among them being William Powell, J. Byron Wight, W. F. Watts and Casper Walker [uncle of Dr. Wm. A. Walker]. There was frequent reference to "Reverend William Powell" but his principal vocation was that of railroad agent and he was not a regularly ordained Minister.

At a conference in 1887, heading the list of those present was Henry Wight (son of G. A. Wight), followed by A. C. Dickey, K. P. Wight, J. C. Evans, Dr. W. A. Davis, Mrs. Maude (Bostwick) Roddenbery, and others.

At the quarterly conference, Jan. 16, 1892, the following were present: Rev. J. O. Branch, Presiding Elder, Rev. D. D. Bateman, Pastor in Charge, W. F. Watts, William Powell, B. F. Powell, T. W. Brown, Joseph Herring, G. A. Wight, Dr. W. P. Clower, C. W. Johnson, G. W. Gainous, Henry Gainous, Joseph Sasser, David J. Williams, J. W. Dixon, John J. Paulk, J. B. Wight, K. P. Wight, Henry Wight, E. A. VanLandingham, and J. L. Oliver.

At a quarterly conference in 1894 the following were named to serve for the year 1894-95: William Powell, J. Byron Wight and W. F. Watts, Lay Preachers and Trustees, and the following were named as Stewards of the Church: Dr. W. P. Clower, B. F. Powell, Kedar Powell Wight, T. W. Brown, J. W. Dixon, T. A. Williams, Kedar Powell (born 1859), W. R. Singletary, J. B. Bryant, J. J. Paulk (called "Little John" Paulk to distinguish from John L. Poulk), Joseph Sasser, Wm. Wiley Pearce, Miles Vanlandingham, Geo. A. Wight (senior), Joseph Herring, Richard Merritt, C. W. Johnson, and G. W. Gainous.

[William Powell and G. A. Wight, Sr., both died in 1894].

Starting with 20 members in 1867, the church records listed 206 members in 1886, and in 1895 the total membership was 221. From the beginning to the present it is believed that the Cairo Methodist Church has had more members than any other individual church in Cairo. The following is quoted from "Wesleyan Christian Advocate" of July 28, 1944: "There was a great forward movement in the church [Cairo Methodist] in 1882 when the pastor, Rev. H. C. Fentress, conducted a revival and preached the doctrine of holiness. In 1895 another revival, far reaching in spiritual value, was led by Rev. J. M. Outler, who was the pastor four years."

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The bearer hereof, Walter Colquitt Jones,
having been duly recommended, and having
been examined, as the Discipline directs, by the
Quarterly Conference of Quitman Station, of
Thomasville District, of South Georgia Annual
Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church,
South, is hereby authorized to preach the gospel
according to the rules and regulations of said
Church.

Signed, in behalf of said Quarterly Conference.

George W. Avrett

Secretary

Quitman Ga.

May 10th 1887

James O. Branch
Presiding Elder

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

The history of the constitution and beginnings of what is now the First United Methodist Church of Cairo (Ga.) coincides with the beginnings of the community of Cairo, the background for which dates back to 1818 when William Hawthorne blazed a trail through Southwest Georgia from North Carolina to what he termed a Garden Spot area about the Florida-Georgia line, whence he led a band of a number of very sturdy North Carolina families to establish the community of Calvary (first called "the North Carolina Settlement") in 1828. He then planted the seeds for the full flowering of the Cairo community to begin in 1867 when Cairo became a station on the old Atlantic & Gulf Railroad (now the Seaboard Coast Line), rails for which were laid from Thomasville to Bainbridge for trains to begin operating in November, 1867. Cairo, which subsequently became a post office, was incorporated as a town in 1870 and as a city in 1906.

Records of Cairo Church clearly emphasize that it grew out of the efforts of "three good women" and the Sunday School they first organized. The three were Mrs. D. H. Wilmot, her sister, Miss Lizzie Everette (later a Mrs. Dickey) and Mrs. Julia Hall. The church and Sunday School services were held at the home of the latter until the first edifice, described as "a beautiful little white wooden sanctuary with Grecian arched windows," was completed in 1873. Records show there were 20 charter members, but do not list all of them. However, they included, in addition to "the three good women," the following: Tom W. Brown, the first S. S. superintendent, Stephen A. Chester, Rev. P. C. Harris, listed as pastor both of Bold Springs and Cairo Church, James H. Hayes, William Powell, an accredited lay preacher who largely supervised the construction of the first edifice and helped to organize other Methodist churches in the area, Benjamin (Doc) Powell, who later taught the Fellowship Class in the S. S. for

33 years, and Capt. E. A. Vanlandingham.

Cairo Church grew rather steadily in membership and influence, and, in a few years, when the Wight families moved to the developing town of Cairo from Wightville (Sofkee), about six miles to the southwest, to swell its roster, the beloved Little White Church, in the southwestern corner of the present church site, was given an imposing addition, a steeple, "towering in four separate and matchless tiers above the tree tops, covered with slate roofs," which came to be known as "Henry's Steeple," because it was built and largely paid for by Henry Wight, who felt that a church was not a church without a steeple. By 1886, members increased to 206, then to 300 by 1897, whereupon a larger brick edifice was authorized. It was built on the northeast portion of the site, toward the intersection of South Broad Street and what is now 3rd Ave. S.W. Construction difficulties were encountered but Bishop C. B. Galloway in 1901 specially assigned to the church as pastor Rev. W. M. Blich, a native of this section, known as an outstanding church builder. Under his leadership, in 1902, the church finished a well-built edifice of deep red brick, with stained-glass windows, and it served the church well during the second distinct phase of its history, until 1927—except that by 1908 the Sunday School, with attendance at upwards of 500, had outgrown its facilities, and a large Epworth League Hall and S. S. annex, a wood structure just west of the brick church, was built.

With this glance anew at the church's history, which makes its members aglow with their great heritage, this church is now well into its second 100 years of service as a great factor for good in this community and area, with a strong mission outreach that extends helpfully to many parts of the world. Under Rev. Henry K. Erwin, the present pastor, is leading it to still greater heights of service in the mission and the general fields.



CAIRO - GRADY COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM



The following history of Grady County's school system was compiled by Lloyd Connell, county school superintendent in collaboration with Miss Wessie Connell.

The southwest part of Georgia was just opening up in the 1840's and 50's. It was during this period that the first settlers came to what is now Grady County. Georgia had at this time few, if any, free public schools. The interest in public education was just beginning in Georgia. The Grady County pioneers made no immediate attempts to establish public schools.

The settlers may have been pioneers, but they were Americans first, and Americans usually built their homes, churches, schools and taverns in approximately that order, and pretty soon after arriving in a new area. There were no large plantations in Grady County; the people were simple, stalwart farmers. But there was usually a wife in the community with enough education to teach her own children and a few others. We may surmise that a few of the more prosperous settlers in this area sent their sons and daughters to the boarding schools in Thomasville and Bainbridge that are recorded as having operated during that time.

Soon afterwards came the schoolmaster, who, perhaps, "talked up" his own school—soliciting parents to allow him to set up a school—and stating his price—room and board and \$5 a month. Records disclose that there were about two of this type of school in what is now Grady County. One at Calvary and another near Whigham. By the time of the Civil War, however, there was a schoolmaster in Cairo—for records show that he left to fight.

These early schools were crude affairs—log cabins or, at most, painted clapboards—hand hewn. School was brief—four or five winter months. Grades were not well defined, perhaps one through eight. Of course in the eighth grade the pupils were 16 and read Milton and Caesar, "did" Algebra and speed Constantinople by syllables.

In Georgia the first record of any state funds being given to education was in 1958 when the Legislature began to set aside \$100,000 annually from the income of the state-owned railway.

The Civil War marks a turning point in the history of the Grady County area and Grady County schools. After the war, the state embodied in its Constitution of 1868 a clause providing for free schools for all children, both white and colored. For funds, the poll tax was to be the chief



source along with other various taxes.

As Cairo and Whigham were chartered towns, each set up tax-supported schools. There were already a few rural districts that paid self-imposed taxes to provide for schools, but these were the first to call themselves "high schools."

The period of the eighties and nineties was characterized by growth in the one-room schools. Each rural community or electoral district established its own school.

The first high school with ten grades in what is now Grady County was the Cairo High School. Sometimes around the turn of the century Cairo boasted of a three-year high school—grades eight through ten. By this time subjects included French, Longfellow and Algebra, still among the old favorites.

Though the population of Grady County as a whole has risen and fallen since its formation in 1905, the population at that time was 18,979. The children went to school in 62 schoolhouses—32 for white children and 30 for Negro children. The salaries of the teachers averaged \$30 a month. School was in session about seven months.

The first World War brought consolidation to the school system. In 1918 the average teachers salary had increased to \$38. There were only 15 painted schoolhouses in Grady County—the total value of school property being \$49,000.

During the 1920's brick schools were built, electric lights installed and teachers salaries continued to increase. There were only 59 schools in the county in 1928.

It was during the late thirties that new courses in the schools began to appear—health, music and art in the elementary grades—vocational agriculture, home economics and industrial arts in the high schools at Cairo and Whigham. Consolidation of the schools continued on through the thirties and during the second World War. The eleventh grade high school was shown to be inadequate. Grady County put the twelve grade high school on its post-war list.

In September of 1970, the Grady County School System was entirely integrated racially. Seven schools are currently operating with a combined total enrollment of 4,345 students. These schools are:

- (1) Cairo High School
- (2) Whigham High and Elementary School
- (3) Washington Junior High School
- (4) Shiver Elementary School
- (5) Northside Elementary School
- (6) Southside Elementary School
- (7) Washington Elementary School

United no more

Cairo First votes to split away from United Methodist

Grady County's largest United Methodist Church has followed other churches in the county and across the South Georgia Conference in taking action to exit the denomination.

After a steady drumbeat over the past nine months of extensive lobbying by some church members along with the Rev. Sam Vernon, the current pastor of Cairo First United Methodist Church, the congregation met in a church conference last Wednesday evening led by District Superintendent Doreen Smalls.

The purpose of the conference was to vote on disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church. While no changes have been made to the denomination's Book of Discipline that local church leaders and the Cairo congregation apparently disagree with, the Rev. Vernon told parishioners that he is convinced, and he apparently convinced a majority of the membership, that it was necessary to vote to exit the denomination prior to the the UMC General Conference scheduled for April 23-May 3 in Charlotte, N.C.

Changes to the Book of Discipline regarding human sexuality, same sex marriage and gay clergy are likely to be debated at the General Conference, however Bishop



THE FAMILIAR CROSS AND FLAME as well as the name of the church will soon come down after the vote of the congregation last week to disaffiliate from the denomination.

David Graves of the South Georgia Conference and other conference leaders have said they believe it is unlikely changes will be approved that would alter the church's current stance on human sexuality.

The vote in Cairo last Wednesday night was 159-56, which was more than the two-thirds majority required to pass the measure.

Yet to be determined is what denomination the church will affiliate with or whether it will remain independent. The congregation

must also decide on a new name for the church.

Here in Grady County, Springhill United Methodist Church has scheduled a church conference for next Tuesday, March 14, in order to vote. Should that congregation vote to disaffiliate, that will leave Bethel United Methodist Church as the only UMC church left in the county. The Bethel congregation voted previously to remain UMC.

The heritage of the Cairo First United Methodist Church dates back to 1867.

Last week's vote stirred passions between families, friends and fellow church members and has resulted in some members leaving the church while others say they are trying to decide their future.