About 1876 Mr. E. F. Burt, Sr. erected a school house near where Burts Church now stands. When this school building was completed, the few Methodist in the community began holding services in the school building since there was no church building of this denomination in the community.

The first services held in the school building were under the leadership of a local preacher, The Rev. Joseph E. Echols, from Lexington, Georgia who came every fourth Sunday afternoon for the preaching service.

In 1879 the preachers of the Lexington and Winterville charges were invited to hold a revival meeting under a Brush Arbor which had been erected on the school ground. As a result of this revival Burts Church was born, and plans were made for the erection of a church building near the school building.

On the date set to begin work on the church building Mr. John H. Tiller seems to have been the first one of the volunteer workers to arrive. It is said that he cut and hewed the first sill that was used. Mr. W. T. Burt was next to arrive with his ax, however, in a few hours most all the men in the community were at work on the project.

It is said that Mr. F. J. Goolsby, a local carpenter and a member of Burts Church, was the one that designed, put together and placed every pew in the church.
Oak) now Bethesda while Burts was on West Wilkes Charge and filled an afternoon appointment. Burts was soon put back on the Lexington Charge where it has remained ever since.

The story is told that during a Wednesday night prayer meeting many years ago Mr. Joe Sorrow, who was not a member of the Methodist faith but a faithful supporter of the prayer meeting, was called on to lead the prayer. He prayed fervently that God would send something to shake the souls of the people to a realization of their sins. During the service, the building began to rock, the earth began to shake causing great excitement. Some of the older members soon quitied the congregation by assuring them that the shake was not the one prayed for by Mr. Sorrow, but an earth quake. This quake was on Wed. night August 31, 1886, known as the Charleston Earth Quake.

This church lost two of its fine young men in each of the World Wars: Jamie T. Rayle in World War I, and Grady Morris Smith in World War II.

The old pulpit Bible that is now stored in a closet of the Church was donated by the Rev. Wesley Smith not later than 1889 and was replaced by a new one in 1957, donated by the Junior Class.

Mr. John H. Tiller was the first Superintendent of the Sunday School.

The first service held in the first building was some time late in the year of 1881. The church building was not dedicated until several years later about 1890. Bishop Chandler was invited to conduct the dedication service.

The church is located in Oglethorpe County, Georgia, 10 miles east from Lexington, Ga., 1 mile from highway 77 leading from Lexington to Elberton, Georgia.

Since the church was located in a pine thicket and most all the men chewed tobacco, it was their practice to gather some time an hour before service to get themselves a wad of rosin to chew during the preaching hour. The church was given a nick name of "Chaw Rosin".

The first trustees were W. T. Burt, F. U. Goolsby and John H. Tiller. The list of the charter members is incomplete, but it is known that the following were members: E. F. Burt, Sr., John R. Burt, W. T. Burt, John W. Bridges, F. U. Goolsby, A. H. Smith, John H. Tiller and Dr. A. L. Royle.

Among the first pastors of the church were: Wesley L. Smith, J. S. Embry and Dr. Reese. During the early years of this century, Burts Church was placed on the West Wilkes Circuit which caused a great deal of discussion in the church since most of its members preferred to remain on the Lexington Charge. The Rev. A. F. Run came from (White Oak) now Bethel.
Rev. A. O. Pricket 1929-1930, Rev. F. I. Green 1931-6 months, 
Elrod 1934, Rev. Clyde Lee 1935-1938, Rev. Jessie Warwick 1939, 
Rev. George T. Shell 1940, Rev. C. E. Drake 1941-1944, Rev. W. J. Atha 
Naish 1955, and Rev. William E. Parker 1956—.

The presiding elders or District Superintendents as nearly correct 
as possible who served the District: Rev. G. W. Yarbrough 1881-1882, 
1885-1888, Rev. John D. Hammond 1889, Rev. H. H. Parks 1890-1893, 
Rev. L. G. Johnson 1894, Rev. W. F. Lovejoy 1895-1896, Rev. J. B. 
Robinson 1897-1900, (Don't know who served from 1901-1904, Rev. J. S. 
Bryan 1904-1907, Rev. Wilda Fierce 1908-1910, Rev. E. F. Allen 1911- 
1914, Rev. S. F. Wiggins 1915-1918, Rev. G. F. Venerable 1919-1922, 
Veatch 1931-1933, Rev. C. E. Jarrel 1934-1935, Rev. J. L. Byrd 1936-1938, 
Rev. W. M. Maxwell 1939-3 months, Rev. G. L. Middlebrook 1939-1941, 
1957—.

In the beginning of 1954 under the leadership of Rev. Ben F. Spivey, 
the members of Burts put on the Lord's Acre Program with the intention 
of repairing the old church or building a new one. Some 20 or 25 members 
participated. Some members gave Sunday eggs, some corn patch, some 
potatoes, and others did different things. As a result around $700.00 
was raised. In 1955 the program was still on but fewer members took
part, but around $300.00 was raised that year.

On the second Sunday evening in Jan. 1956 under the leadership of Rev. Charles W. Naish, the Official Board was called together for the purpose of deciding whether to repair the old building or build a new and complete sanctuary. After considerable discussion, it was decided to build a new church, and use the pay as you go policy. A committee of 3 of the officials was selected with full instructions as to the plans of the board, and a better committee could not have been chosen.

On Saturday morning February 11, 1956 the men of the Methodist, Baptist and the non church all met on the church grounds with their working tools to begin the project. Soon the willing workers had laid the foundation. By this time the committee had collected enough to pour a concrete floor and buy the framing. During the summer the building committee hired a carpenter to assist in framing the building. By late summer enough money had been raised to cover and get the windows in. By early fall of 1956 the board decided it would be wise to rock veneer the building to save it from being blown down, since the framing was on very light footing. A local rock mason was hired to do the work and to be paid when the money was raised. The granite was donated by two of the local quarries. The money to pay for this work had been raised by the time the job was completed.

The doors and carpet were donated by a member of the church; the tile on the floor was donated by a member; the inside paint was also donated by a member; the pine paneling was donated by a friend of some of the members; the wiring and fixtures were donated by the Woman's
Society; labor for the installation of wiring and hanging fixtures was donated. 16 family pews were donated by several members of the families.

On February 11, 1958, exactly 2 years from the day of first work, the pews were delivered. They were paid in full upon completion of installation. The men call this quits, but the ladies say they are going to have a steeple. They may win.

Our sincere thanks of appreciation for a big job well done. The members along with the citizens and members of other denominations are proud of the splendid co-operation in every way. The small donations were appreciated as much as the larger, because it took it all to complete the job.