About 1876 Mr. E. F. Burt, Sr. erected a little 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. U. Goolsby, a local carpenter and a member of Burts Church, was the one that designed, put together and placed every pew in the church.

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 later 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., 3 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 H. 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. Nun came from (White Oak) now Bethesda while Burts was on West Wildes 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 Wednesdy 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 quitted the congregation by assuring them that the shaking 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 finest young men in each of the World Wars: Jamie T. Ryan in World War I, and Trudy Morris Smith in World War II.


In the beginning of 1954 under the leadership of Rev. Ben. F. Spivey the members of the Burts Ch. 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. Pish, 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 5 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 got 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 vencer 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 concrete was donated by tow 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 Women'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 staple. They may win.

Our sincere thanks of appreciation for a big job well done. The members along with the citizens and member 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.

While you are visiting us, we want you to look over and inspect every part of the building. We have no lock or key. At any time you're passing by stop in and look it over. You will always be welcome for it was you who made this possible.

We are aware of the fact that some donations of different kinds have been overlooked, so please remember every thing large or small is appreciated.