

Att - Manetha

HISTORY
OF
CANTON METHODIST CHURCH

1977, Oct - minutes

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HISTORY OF FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
CANTON, GEORGIA

Church Directory

The Rev. R. B. Hawkins, Pastor, 220 Marietta Street, Phone 97
The Rev. Lester Rumble, D.D., District Superintendent, Atlanta, Georgia.
The Rev. Bishop Arthur J. Moore, D.D., Bishop in Charge, Atlanta, Georgia.
Mrs. D. T. Smith, Musical Director
Miss Louise Dick, Organist
Missionaries to Cuba: Rev. and Mrs. John Stroud, Miss Rochelle McClure.

Board of Stewards

Carl C. Edge, Chairman
Earnest Stone, Sr., Vice Chairman
Howard Yarbrough, Secretary
Mrs. W. S. Dick, Financial Secretary
N. E. Fackler, Treasurer

Buren Bagwell	R. O. Fincher	A. R. Morgan
J. A. Baskin	Glenn Forrester	George McDaniel
R. O. Bickley	J. D. Foster	E. O. McFather
Paul Boring	Charlie Fowler	T. P. Reinhardt
Glenn Brady	W. R. Green	W. E. Richardson
Howell Brooke	H. A. Holbrooke	R. F. Smith, Sr.
H. L. Buffington	Roy Holbrooke	Billy Smith
Sam Burtz	W. H. Hudson	Johnny Sparks
C. K. Cobb	Ellis Hughes	Frank Stewart
A. A. Fincher, Sr.	R. I. Lathem	D. Carl Tallant
W. W. Fincher	Virgil Mauldin	Lee Wynn

Board of Trustees

C. K. Cobb	R. O. Fincher	R. F. Poole
A. A. Fincher, Sr.	J. D. Foster	T. H. Shipp
		Hines Wood

Church School

D. Carl Tallant, Chairman Board of Education
 Billy Smith, General Superintendent
 T. H. Shipp, Secretary
 H. A. Holbrook, Treasurer
 Jack Hamby, Superintendent Adult Division
 Mrs. A. A. Fincher, Superintendent of Youth Division
 Mrs. Billy Smith, Superintendent Children's Division
 Mrs. L. F. Westbrook, Superintendent Intermediate Department
 Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Holbrook, Councilors for Young People
 Mrs. Ronald Cantrell, Councilor for Juniors, Evening Session
 Miss Madge Duncan, Superintendent Junior Department
 Mrs. C. K. Cobb, Superintendent Primary Department
 Mrs. Jack Hamby, Superintendent Kindergarten Department
 Mrs. Annis Morgan, Superintendent of Nursery Department

Womans Society of Christian Service

Mrs. W. W. Fincher, President
 Mrs. C. K. Cobb, Vice President
 Mrs. Luther Buffington, Sr., Treasurer
 Mrs. Ernest Stone, Sr., Secretary of Missionary Education
 Mrs. O. E. Morgan, Secretary Christian Social Relations of
 Local Church Activities
 Mrs. W. H. Duncan, Chairman of Spiritual Life
 Mrs. D. T. Smith, Secretary of Student Work
 Mrs. R. B. Hawkins, Secretary of Youth's Work
 Mrs. Ralph Ketchie, Secretary of Children's Work
 Mrs. R. O. Bickley, Secretary of Literature and Publications
 Mrs. Rube Jones, Secretary of Supplies
 Mrs. Billy Smith, Secretary of Status of Women

Circle Leaders

Mrs. C. K. Cobb, Chairman Christian Service Circle
 Mrs. Billy Smith, Chairman Young Matrons' Circle
 Miss Daisy Crisler, Chairman Daisy Crisler Circle
 Miss Ben Edwards, Chairman Wesleyan Service Guild

FOREWARD

In compliance to a request by Bishop Arthur Moore, The History of the Churches of North Georgia are being written for the 1951 Session of the Conference.

I have been very fortunate to find a pamphlet on the History of the Canton Methodist Church that was possibly written by Mr. A. W. McClure at the time Rev. J. O. Pettis was Pastor of the Canton Church. I shall quote freely from this pamphlet and I wish to acknowledge this source of information before I begin to write the History of the Church. I shall simply refer to the pamphlet as my source of information and enclose the statements from the pamphlet in quotation marks.

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Quoting from pamphlet, "From all the sources concerning the history of the Canton Methodist Episcopal Church, South, it can be traced back to 1842. The church now stands on the same plot of ground that it occupied when it was first founded. ✓ 11/6/32

According to information received from Mrs. Jane Hudson, one of the oldest citizens of Canton, who is now ninety-three years old, we learn that there have been three church buildings since 1840. Mrs. Hudson says that her father moved to Canton when she was three years old, and the family attended the Methodist Church quite often, although they were Baptists. She says that the first church building was just behind the site of the present one. The first building was a small wood frame structure which was never ceiled. It was used for several years as a school and a church.

The Methodists were the first to organize a Sunday School in Canton, and Mrs. Hudson says that she attended Sunday School there for several years, studying the catechism. Later the Baptists organized a Sunday School which met once a month in the afternoon, and the Methodists held their meetings once a month in the mornings. ✓

The Reverend Mr. Cowart was joint pastor of the Canton Methodist Church and several other churches near the town, for several years. It seems that the pastor of this charge always lived at Canton before it was made a station. Mr. Cowart left Canton about 1848 and went to Florida.

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The second church building was started about 1850, and was several years in completion. It must have been a very nice church in that day, since it was built of brick. The old church was moved and used for several years as a schoolhouse.

In 1889 The Canton Methodist Church was made a station. Rev. C. P. Marchman was the first pastor to serve after it became a station, and Rev. W. F. Gleen was the Presiding Elder.

The present church building was erected in 1925. Bishop Warren Candler dedicated it, and during his sermon made the statement that in all Georgia Methodism, the church at Canton was the first of its pretensions to be paid for before it was dedicated. The cost of the structure was about \$40.00. Its erection was due to the vision and untiring efforts of Rev. E. C. Wilson, the pastor at that time, and of many faithful members of the congregation." The value of all church property including parsonage, is at the present time \$74000.00. ✓

According to the best information the first pastor of the church was The Rev. Smith Crandall who died at the age of 51 years.

Rev. Crandall was buried in the cemetery of the Canton Methodist Church and his grave is one of the oldest graves in the cemetery. His epitaph which is classic expression of his life and labor, although badly weather worn it reads as follows:

"To the memory of Rev. Smith Crandall who was for eighteen years a local and seven years a traveling Minister in the Methodist Church, and in each of these stations he was Zion's Faithful Warden,

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and God's Obedient Servant.

Worn down by labor and disease his work and life ended together and he gloriously triumphed in death on February 18th, A. D. 1840, in the 51st year of his age."

"Rest man of God securely rest,
In this thy last retreat,
Cradled in thy silent dust
The streams of time shall heat
And when the trump shall sound
And call his people from afar
With wreaths of Glory crowned
Thy soul and body shall be there."

Pastors of the Canton Methodist Church Since 1850

This list was prepared by Rev. George W. Barrett, Rockmart, Georgia, March 7, 1935, at the request of Alfred W. McClure, Superintendent of Canton Methodist Church School, and was made with considerable research and time on part of Rev. Barrett. (Rev. Barrett was for a number of years the Secretary of The North Georgia Conference). A few years are blank for lack of records anywhere.

We do not have written records of the pastors of the church from the beginning in 1840 through 1849. As has been noted Rev. Smith Crandall, according to tradition was the first pastor of the church.

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The List of Pastors from 1850 Follows:

W. J. Cotter-1850	J. H. Little-1891-1892
J. H. Mashburn-1854	P. A. Heard-1892-1893
John M. Bright-1856	E. C. Marks-1893-1895
W. G. Allen-1857	W. H. Cooper-1895-1897
William Brewer-1859	J. N. Snow-1897-1899
R. A. Seal and S. Leake-1860	A. S. Harris-1899-1900
M. F. Malsby-1861	W. A. Harris-1900-1902
John R. Gaines-1862	A. M. Pierce-1902-1904
M. G. Hamby-1863-1864	W. H. LaPrade, Jr.-1904-1905
J. R. Parker-1866-1867	J. W. Stipe-1905-1906
J. R. Gaines-1868-1869	P. A. Kellett-1906-1907
C. M. McClure-1869-1870	T. J. Branson-1907-1910
B. Sanders-1870-1871	George L. King, Jr.-1910-1911
B. E. Ledbetter-1871-1873	Frank E. Jenkins-1911-1913
W. G. Hanson-1873-1875	J. A. Timmerman-1913-1914
R. R. Johnson-1875-1876	J. H. Davis-1914-1915
J. M. Lowery-1876-1878	J. A. Quillian-1915-1917
E. K. Aiken-1878-1880	M. B. Sams-1917-1919
H. M. Quillian-1880-1881	F. S. Hudson-1920-1924
W. M. D. Bond-1881-1882	E. C. Wilson-1924-1926
R. R. Johnson-1882-1884	J. O. Pettis-1926-1933
W. H. Speer-1884-1886	P. A. Turner-1934-1937
O. C. Simmons-1886-1887	N. P. Manning-1937-1938
M. D. Smith-1887-1888	R. P. Etheridge-1939-1940
C. P. Marchman-1888-1889	F. H. Glisson-1941-1945
C. E. Patilio-1889-1890	D. S. Patterson-1946-1948
Ford McRae-1890-1891	R. B. Hawkins-1948-

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I quote again from pamphlet. "It is very interesting to review the history of the Canton Methodist Sunday School. Although there is no record as to the year this Sunday School was organized, by all available information the history has been traced back to about 1848. Much helpful material has been furnished by Mrs. Jane Hudson, who is now 93 years old. Mrs. Hudson says that she attended the Canton Methodist Sunday School when she was about 9 or 10 years old. She does not remember the superintendent at that time, but recalls her teacher well. Miss Jane Grambling, who later married a Mr. Wiley, taught her the catechism.

The next bit of information comes from Capt. McAfee, who moved to Canton in 1867 and attended a Bible Class at the Methodist Church taught by a Mr. J. O. Dowda, who was superintendent of the Sunday School at that time.

Then Mr. Crisler came to Canton in 1870 and attended the Sunday School with Judge J. N. Garrison as superintendent. Judge Garrison served in this capacity for several years.

Mr. Ben Payne came next as superintendent, according to the best information. He was superintendent for only a short time, and has the distinction of being the only man ever licensed to preach from the Church. While Mr. Payne was superintendent he was married at a Christmas tree at the Church, with Rev. C. M. McClure performing the ceremony. After Mr. Payne left Canton, Mr. E. B. (Bud) Hollen was elected Sunday School Superintendent.

After Mr. Hollen, the superintendents came in the following order; Mr. B. F. Perry; E. W. Coleman, elected in 1900 and alternating for two or three years with Mr. Perry; Mr. B. F. Perry; Mr. T. M. White, for three or four years; Mr. L. A. McClure for five years; and Mr. W. S. Elliott for two years."

Mr. A. W. McClure was for more than twenty years Superintendent of the Sunday School, and made every effort to organize the Sunday school according to the highest church school standards. Mr. A. R. Morgan followed Mr. A. W. McClure and was superintendent for eight years; C. K. Cobb succeeded Mr. A. R. Morgan and was superintendent for five years; Mr. Carl Edge followed Mr. C. K. Cobb and was superintendent for three years; Mr. Edge was followed by Mr. Billy Smith who is the present superintendent, having served in this position for one year.

The Church School at present has an enrollment of 386. The school is fully organized under the Board of Education of the Church, and is doing outstanding work.

The Sunday Evening Groups of the Church School are fully organized and the presidents are as follows: Wilma Fowler, President, Senior Fellowship; Kenneth Wynn, Intermediate Fellowship and Mary Anne Morgan, Junior Fellowship.

The Womans' Society of Christian Service has been organized for over 40 years and is doing a great work in the Church. The officers of the Society appear in the Directory of the Church.

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The Canton Methodist Church is a great missionary Church. In 1950 this church was among the leaders of the conference in giving to the Advance Fund for Christ and His Church. This church gave a \$1500.00 Special Offering to Cuba. At this time the Rev. and Mrs. John Stroud and Miss Rochelle McClure being missionaries to Cuba from the Canton Methodist Church. We have also given \$500.00 this year to our Cuba Special Advance Fund.

This History of the Canton Methodist Church was written by Rev. R. B. Hawkins in June, 1951.