

From a booklet printed in 1931 - Rev. J. O. Pettis was Pastor, and Marvin Williams was Presiding Elder.

HISTORY OF THE CHURCH

From all the sources available 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.

According to information received from Mrs. 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 afternoons, 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.

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 \$40,000. 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.

Pastors of Canton Methodist Church Since 1866

J. R. Parker, 1860-68
J. R. Gaines, 1868-69
C. M. McClure, 1869-70
B. Sanders, 1870-71
B. E. Ledbetter, 1871-73
W. G. Hanson, 1873-75
R. R. Johnson, 1875-76
J. M. Lowery, 1876-78
E. K. Aiken, 1878-80
H. M. Quillian, 1880-81
W. M. D. Bond, 1881-82
R. R. Johnson, 1882-84
W. H. Speer, 1884-86
O. C. Simmons, 1886-87
M. D. Smith, 1887-88
C. P. Marchman, 1888-89
G. E. Patillo, 1889-90
Ford McRae, 1890-91
J. H. Little, 1891-92
P. A. Heard, 1892-93
E. C. Marks, 1893-95
W. H. Cooper, 1895-97
J. N. Snow, 1897-99
A. S. Harris, 1899-1900
W. A. Harris, 1900-02
A. M. Pierce, 1902-04
W. H. LaPrade, Jr., 1904-05
J. W. Stipe, 1905-06
P. A. Kellett, 1906-07
T. J. Branson, 1907-10
Geo. L. King, Jr., 1910-11
Frank E. Jenkins, 1911-13
J. A. Timmerman, 1913-14
J. H. Davis, 1914-15
J. A. Tuillan, 1915-17
M. B. Sams, 1917-19
Frank S. Hudson, 1919-23
E. C. Wilson, 1923-25
J. O. Pettis, 1925-

Canton Methodist Sunday School

Superintendent *Alfred W. McClure*
 Secretary & Treasurer *H. L. Chaffin*

ADULT DEPARTMENT TEACHERS

Mrs. P. P. DuPre *Prof. R. C. Sharp*
Prof. H. A. Mavey *Miss Rochelle McClure*
Prof. W. G. Nunn *Mrs. C. M. Crisler*

JUNIOR DEPARTMENT

Superintendent *Miss Dale McClure*
 TEACHERS
Mrs. W. S. Dick *Mrs. Mack Sandow*
 Miss Marine Crisler

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT

Superintendent *Mrs. O. G. Glover*
 TEACHERS
Mrs. J. O. Pettis *Miss Mildred Martyn*

BEGINNERS DEPARTMENT

Superintendent *Mrs. W. G. Nunn*
 Asst. Superintendent *Mrs. O. E. Morgan*

CRADLE ROLL

Superintendent *Mrs. E. W. Coleman*
 Asst. Superintendent *Mrs. B. W. Chandler*

HOME DEPARTMENT

Superintendent *Mrs. F. L. DeLay*

History of Canton Methodist Sunday School

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. 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 this 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.

For the past five years, Mr. A. W. McClure has very ably served the Sunday School as superintendent, and during this time the school has been doing splendid work. Since 1848 the school has grown from a small group of people meeting in a little one-room building, to a well developed and fully organized school sharing with the Church the great work of training its members in the principles of Christian living and service.

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Mrs. Guy Bagwell

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We have 67 members in this department and are doing splendid work.

While carrying on this work we remember, "The world moves forward on the feet of little children."

Take as our motto—"Love and service to our Master."