

HISTORY OF COKESBURY METHODIST CHURCH

It was about 1830 that the first Church was built, and given the name of Jones Meeting House, in honor of Mr. James Jones, familiarly called Grandpa Jones, respecting his age. This was of logs near a spring, some three or four hundred yards from the present site. The Congregation continued to worship there, until 1857 when the present framed church was built. The old church was sold to Mr. Harrison Strange, a member for \$300.00.

A number of the members owned slaves and a section was set apart for them to enjoy worship. Some of the foundation members were: James, Strange, Stowers, Shiflet, Teasley, Gaines, Chapman, Smith, Stephenson, Patterson, McCurley, Turner and others.

The new building was of hewn sills fifty feet long and 12"x 12". The plates were 10"x10" and 18 feet long. The flooring and ceiling was 12 and 14 inches wide, was sawed by Gaines Stowers and dressed by hand, with white people and slaves working together. This building was named in honor of two highly distinguished men, Bishops Coke and Asbury, hence our present Cokesbury. The church was repaired and turned half way around in 1890. Then the slave section was abolished.

It must have been in 1915 when the congregation was called to order to discuss repairing again or what was thought best to do. It was unanimously decided to build a new church. The old house was advertized for sale, and Mr. Clarence Linder bought it for \$300. Besides donated labor this church was built with pews for \$3500.00. The church was dedicated in 1915, with Rev. G.F. Venable preaching the sermon.

On the evening of September 5, 1922 the church burned with no insurance. In November we began making plans to rebuild. Brother J.E. Turner gave the trees. Members cut and logged them to the mill, and Brother W.L. Seawright furnished the mill free of charge to saw the rough lumber. To repair and replace the cost was \$3800.00, and in April 1923 we began worship again.

Cokesbury today is a part of the Elbert Circuit, as it has been for all this century. The deeds are recorded in the Clerk's Office Book C, Page 621 Hartwell, Ga. and papers kept in the vault of the Bank of Hartwell. The Church has furnished ministers Ryan Seawright, and Ray Richardson. Recently a Fellowship Hall was erected at a cost of \$18000.00.

Some of the pastors and presiding elders (District Superintendents now):

Presiding Elder	Ebenezer Murray	R. Fastord
Rev. Nixon	Billy Smith	C.N. Hayes
A.G. Worley	W.A. Farris	A.P. Foster
M.L. Underwood,	W.N. Winn	C.M. Rogers
M.J. Cofer, J.H. Baxter,	T.J. Warlick	J.A. Sprayberry
J.H. Mashburn	Crawford Jackson	Grover Knowles
J.W. Quillian	C.A. Jameson	H.O. Green
Fletcher Walton	W.R. Dunder	J.E. Holbrook
T.J. Christian	C.E. Patillo	W.F. Luncford
G.E. Venable	J.D. Turner	R.W. Green
H.S. Smith	W.A. Maxwell	H.C. Bryant
R.C. Cleckler	George King	L.C. Cowart
J.H. Barton	H.L. Embry	E.W. Dunegan
H.S. Smith	W.M.D. Bond	R.H. Peterson
J.C. Callaway	R.B.O. England	Adrian Warwick
Harvey Holland	J.W. Stephens	F.C. Hicks
P.A. Turner		

William A. Ruff

N.A. White
C. W. Thelton

A.W. Williams