

230 Athens Street

February 9, 1965

Hartwell, Georgia

Dear Mr. Elizer,

My brother and I appreciated the history of our church you sent us, it surely helped in our God and Country award. I have enclosed the history you requested as complete as possible from the information I received.

Sincerely yours,
Charley Newborn and
Jeff Newborn

History of Cokesbury Church

The first Church building was of logs, split and hewn and was called Jones Meeting House. This was about 1830 and named in honor of Mr. James Jones, familiarly called Grandpa Jones, respecting his age.

This building was near a spring. The Congregation continued to worship there until 1857. The Old Church was sold to one of the members Mr. Harrison Strange for the sum of \$300.00. Some of the foundation members were: James Jones, James Shiflet, John Smith, Hamilton Stevenson, Joe Jones, Harrison Strange, and others.

Burges Smith taught school in the building.

Many of the slaves were members of the church. There was no cemetery as the people

buried there dead in a likeable plot near home. Horseback, or cart and on foot was the mode of travel at this time.

The second building was of forest pine, of heavy sills 50 ft. long and 12 in. by 10 in. and 18 feet long.

The flooring and ceiling was 12 and 14 in. wide, was sawed by James 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 Ashbury, hence our present Cokesbury. The Church was repaired and turned half way around in 1890. Then the slave section abolished. The Church ground and cemetery lot was donated by Mrs. Melissa Stowers. This Old Church had a warm place in the hearts of members and friends

who hated to see it torn down, but it was best to erect a more modern one, that would accomodate more people, so in 1919 a building committee was elected. Mr. D. O. Chapman, chairman of the board, Mr. J. M. McCurley + L. S. Haley, with Mr. L. M. Cunningham, secretary. The old Church was advertised for sale and Mr. Clarence Linder bought it for \$300.00. A brick church was decided upon and Mr. J. C. Crawford was hired to move his brick machine near the ground and make the brick. One hundred thousand for the church and a like number for sale at \$5 dollars per thousand for soft brick and \$6 dollars for hard ones.

The committee was to furnish all material for the building layed down on the ground + Mr. John Brown

of Iowa South Carolina took the job for \$900.00. The building completed and seated for \$3500.00, of course a lot of labor was donated.

The church was dedicated in 1915 by Rev. H. J. Venable. The first sermon in the new church was by Rev. H. W. Jumlis. Brother Jumlis received the greatest number for membership, before or since 1867, I believe.

On September 5, 1922 the building committee was elected to rebuild. Rev. J. D. Turner, Brother D. O. Chapman, D. L. Fryer, F. O. Mauldin, Sr. & J. S. Haley. Plans were discussed and agreed. We needed to build as cheap as we could. Rev. Turner donated the trees. Bro. W. S. Scauright did the sawing, free of charge, members and friends logged the mill. The house was finished, except

seating, for \$3800.00. Later seats were secured for approximately \$1500.00 + in April 1923 we began worship again.

Many improvements have been made on the present Church in the past few years. A new entrance has been added, roof painted. Also, sanctuary. A new heating system installed, folding doors for all Sunday School rooms, and blinds for all windows, were placed in the church, floors sanded, carpet placed on aisle and pulpit.

A fellowship hall, kitchen and two baths was added in 1961-62.

Cokesbury today is a part of the Elbert Circuit, as it has been for all this century. The deeds are recorded in the Clerks Office Book C, Page 621 Hartwell Ga. + papers kept in the vault of the Bank of Hartwell. The Church

has furnished ministers Ryan
Seawright and Ray Richard-
son.

Some of the pastors and
District Superintenders.

District Supt.

Rev. Nixon
A. J. Worley
M. L. Underwood
M. J. Cofer
J. H. Baxter
J. W. Sullivan
Fletcher Walton
J. J. Christian
J. H. Venable
W. J. Pierce
H. J. Smith
R. C. Cleckler
J. H. Barton
H. S. Smith
J. C. Callaway
Farvey Holland
P. A. Turner
William A. Ruff

Pastor

Ebenezer Murray
Billy Smith
W. A. Jarvis
W. N. Winn
J. J. Warlike
Crawford Jackson
C. A. Jameson
W. R. Dunder
C. E. Patillo
J. D. Turner
W. A. Maxwell
George King
H. S. Embury
W. M. D. Bond
R. B. O. England
J. W. Stephens
H. A. White
J. W. Jamlin

Pastors Continued

R. F. Elrod

C. N. Haynes

A. P. Foster

C. M. Rogers

J. A. Sprayberry

Groves Knowles

H. O. Green

J. E. Holbrook

W. F. Linceford

R. W. Green

H. J. O. Bryant

J. L. Cowart

E. W. Dynegan

R. H. Peterson

Adrian Warwick

F. C. Hicks

A. W. Williams

Bill Edwards

Ellis Holden (PRESENT MINISTER)

The Sunday School is well
organized and good attendance
Both M. Y. F and W. S. C. S. are very
active participating in district work

as well as local.

By Jeffery Lee Newborn
Age 11, six grade
Hartwell Elementary School