HISTORY OF CONCORD METHODIST CHURCH
CONCORD, GEORGIA

The original church, known as Salem, was organized in 1850 during the early days of Methodism in Pike County. The Hon. F. E. Fossett gave a plot of land, and there about 1 mile west of Concord the church was erected. The building stood near what still remains today the Old Fossett Cemetery. Graves of Peter Early Fossett, born February 23, 1817; died June 20, 1868, and Martha Ann Brunt Fossett, born June 12, 1827; died March 9, 1901 may be seen in the old cemetery. These graves and those of other faithful members of Salem Church shall ever serve as a permanent marker of the original site of the old church. Mr. and Mrs. Fossett were the Grand-parents of Mrs. Joseph F. Ross and Mrs. John Henderson who are now members of the church. It was understood that if the church was moved the land would revert to the Fossett estate. When the new building was erected the old building was sold. Mrs. Martha Ann Brunt Fossett bought it and some of the wide boards may now be seen in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph F. Ross.

Other charter members of Salem were- Mr. and Mrs. James Brunt, Mr. Jemae Reel, Dr. and Mrs. Curtis, Mr. and Mrs. James Beckham, Mr. and Mrs. James Spurlin, Mrs. Knight, Mrs. Hayes, Mrs. Cole, and Mr. and Mrs. Blankenship.

The Reverend Warren Baggerly was the first pastor.
Some very unique stories of Old Salem are told today by Mr. William A. Strickland of Concord, a member of the Concord Baptist Church, but a strong supporter of Methodism. He likes to relate the story of Sherman's march through this county during the War Between the States. This line of march—which was 20 miles wide—passed right through the church yard. This army was going to Andersonville—no battle was fought. Dr. Curtis, the physician of the community, was shot by some of the soldiers and never fully recovered from the injury.

One of the soldiers, a Mr. Holman, became very ill and was left on the road to die. The Blankenship Family took him into their home and nursed him back to health. He was a very fine character from Kentucky and later married one of the Blankenship girls. It was this Mr. Holman who organized the first Sunday School in this section. All of the young people were going to Salem—there they were singing, "Look Over Yonder—See What I See!" and other songs filled with spirit and enthusiasm. Mr. Strickland relates that the Baptist did not believe in this type song, but they were worried—those Methodist were getting all of the young people. So they organized a Sunday School at Habron Baptist Church.

There are interesting stories of the lessons in thrift taught to those in the community by Mr. James Neel who believed that one of keys to success in life could be found by saving. He was anxious that the Rev. Warren Baggery preach his funeral when he passed away, so he left $500.00 in his will for this purpose.

Dr. R. W. Rogers states in his History of Pike County that in the early days Georgia and Florida were in the South Carolina Conference. "In those days the preachers were nearly all unmarried men. At first, a preacher's salary was about $60.00 per annum. After a few years it was increased to $80.00 and later to $100.00. They needed little money as they rode horseback, and carried their books and clothes with them. The average circuit had two preachers with about 25 or 26 appointments at which they preached twice each month, having appointments every day in the week except Monday. Some of these Circuit Riders, though their education was limited, were wonderful preachers of the gospel."

With the advent of the Georgia Midland Railway in 1887, the town of Concord began to grow, and Salem was moved to Concord in 1888. Since this date it has been known as the Concord Methodist Church. The deed to the land on which the new church was erected is recorded in the Pike County Court House, Zebulon, Georgia. A copy of the deed is attached.

When Methodism was young, the churches were widely scattered and the conferences were large. Concord was for many years in what was known as the Georgia Conference. In 1866 the Conference was divided and this territory became and still is, in the North Georgia Conference.
1867 - George Pierce, Bishop  
G. E. Clark, Presiding Elder  
Frances R. Davies, Pastor in Charge

1868 - Osgood Andrew, Senior Bishop  
Jno. P. Duncan, P.E.  
W. P. Rivers, P.C.

1869 - Osgood Andrew, Bishop  
Walter R. Branham, P.E.  
David Stripling, P.C.

1870 - George Pierce, Bishop  
Walter R. Branham, P.E.  
Jno. W. Reynolds, P.C. (Died on charge.)  
Jno. P. Duncan placed on charge

1871 - George Pierce, Bishop  
Walter R. Branham, P.E.  
W. T. Smith, P.C.

1872 - George Pierce, Bishop  
Josiah Lewis, P.E.  
Joseph Carr, P.C.

1873 - George Pierce, Bishop  
Josiah Lewis, P.E.  
W. P. Hanson, P.C.

1874 - George Pierce, Bishop  
Josiah Lewis, P.E.  
J. M. White, P.C.

1875-1876 - George Pierce, Bishop  
George Yarborough, P.E.  
David Nolan, P.C.

1877 - George Pierce, Bishop  
George Yarborough, P.E.  
T. S. L. Harwell, P.C.

1878 - George Pierce, Bishop  
Jesse Boring, P.E.  
T. S. L. Harwell, P.C.

1879-1880 - George Pierce, Bishop  
Jesse Boring, P.E.  
Cadesman Pope, P.C.
1880-
W. F. Cook, P.E.
Cadesman Pope, P.C.

The record shows that Concord was asked to pay for 1880 for support of the work—$60.00.

The Trustees of the church in 1880 were—
J. T. Beckham
E. W. Wilson
Wm. Lifsey
S. D. Beckham

In 1880 Concord was again placed on the Zebulon Charge. Other Churches on this charge this year were—
Fiat Rock
Red Oak
Mount Zion
Zebulon
Anthony Chapel

1881-
W. F. Cook, P.E.
J. T. Lowe, P.C.

1882-
R. W. Bigham, P.E.
Cadesman Pope, P.C.

1883-1884
G. H. Pattillo, P.E.
J. T. Lowe, P.C.

1885-
G. H. Pattillo, P.E.
L.P. Nease, P.C.

1886-
G. H. Pattillo, P.E.
E. P. Brown, P.C.
In May of 1886 W. H. Graham was made Assistant Pastor. In November, 1886 W. H. Stilwell was made Pastor in Charge with W. H. Graham, Assistant Pastor.

In May, 1886 New Hope was added to the Zebulon Charge.

1887-
H. E. Parks, P.E.
J. J. Singleton, P.C.

In 1887 2 circuits were formed. Concord was taken off the Zebulon Charge until 1900.

1887-1888
Ellison R. Cook, Pastor in Charge

1889-1900
W. C. Fox
J. T. Taylor
J. H. House

February 15, 1889 records show the Trustees of Church were:

Dr. R. A. Mallory
James F. Beckham
J. J. Dorsett
J. A. Williams
J. H. Hooten

1900-
J. S. Bryan, P.E.
J. P. Burges, P.C. (The rev. Burges died.)
A. P. Pope was named supply

Churches on Zebulon Charge in 1900 were-
Zebulon, Red Oak, Mount Zion, Concord
1901-1902
John B. Robins, P.E.
C. V. Weathers, P.C.

Church officials listed in 1901 are as follows—
W. G. Brown, S.S. Supt.; Clerk
Dr. R. A. Mallory, Trustee, Steward
J. C. Beckham, Steward
J. T. Fossett, Steward

In 1902 Molena, Hollowville, and Jolly were added to the Zebulon Charge.

1903- T. S. Edwards, Pastor in Charge
1906- Fred W. McGlesky, P.C.
1907-1910- W. H. Spear, P.C.
1911- C. F. Marchman, P.C.
1912- John R. Jones, P.C.
1913- W. S. Bramham, P.C.
1914-1916- J. W. King, P.C.
1917- E. F. Eubanks, P.C.
1918-1919- Arthur Haness, P.C.
1920- J. D. Milton, P.C.
1921- D. S. Patterson, P.C.
1922- Adrian Warwick, P.C.

In 1915 the Zebulon Charge was made up of only 3 churches—
Zebulon, Pinchers, Concord.

In the History of Pike County we find—
"The oldest member of the Concord Church in 1922 was Mrs. Mary Mallory, a sister of ex-Governor Atkinson, and Mother of Dr. R. A. Mallory."

The members of the Board of Stewards in 1922 were—
Dr. R. A. Mallory, Jesse C. Beckham, John Fossett, and R. W. Hale.
Number of members on roll—60.
1923-1926 - R. M. Rutland, P.C.
1926-1929 - Jos. H. Thrailkill, P.C.
1929-1932 - G. H. Bailey, P.C.
1932-1936 - G. C. Burtz, P.C.
1936-1938 - J. J. M. Nize, P.C.
1938-1940 - Chas. B. Drake, P.C.
1940-1942 - Wilson J. Culpepper, P.C.
1942-1944 - Dan W. Maze, P.C.
November, 1944 - T. H. Maxwell - (Retired because of health.)
1945-1946 - A. W. Williams, P.C.

In 1946 Concord was placed on the Williamson Charge.
Churches on this charge were:
Hollenvillle, Williamson, Orchard Hill, Concord.

1946-1948 - Chas B. Drake, P.C.
1948-1950 - W. B. Hughes, P.C.
June - October, 1950 - Earl Lunsford, P.C.
October, 1950 - C. H. Gregg, P.C.

It will be noted that Charles B. Drake has served this church
at two different times.
As mentioned in the pioneer days of the church the Sunday School came into being—classes being held in the different pews. This first Sunday School was the school organized at Salem in 1882 by Mr. Holman. J. F. Beckham was the first Superintendent. There were about 25 on roll. After the church was moved to Concord, Dr. R. A. Mallory was the Superintendent. He was followed by Mr. Stanford, H. H. Brandenburg, A. C. Hobley, Roger A. Mallory, Jr., and the present Superintendent is H. Preston Yeager. During these years the Sunday School has been small, but has remained active.

Mrs. A. B. Pope organized the first Missionary Society about 1902 with 5 members. This organization functioned for many years.

In 1910 when the 3 branches of Methodism were united our name for the Women's work was changed to Woman's Society of Christian Service. Mrs. Wilson J. Culpepper organized the W.S.C.S. in the Concord Church with 12 charter members. The first president was Mrs. Roger A. Mallory, Jr. This organization has continued to function and at this time Mrs. Chas. Oxford is president.

During the years 1943–1944 several thousand dollars were spent on improving the church building. The building was covered, painted on the outside, completely re-decorated on the inside, and Sunday School rooms built.

This church is happy to claim as ministers who have gone out—the Reverend J. H. Stanford who is today a Baptist minister, and the Rev. Roy Ben Ridley who is now a member of the Florida Conference.

The present membership of the Concord Methodist Church is 68.

The church Trustees in 1951 are—R. C. Blanks, O. J. Chappell, and Roger A. Mallory.

The Stewards of the church in 1951 are—Jos. F. Ross, H. F. Yeager, J. D. Wesley, Mrs. Myrtle C. Stone, and Roger A. Mallory.
We, the committee wish to express appreciation for the valuable information contributed by Mrs. Nattie Scott, Mrs. Marilu Wing, and Mr. T. C. Beckham, who through the years have remained devoted to the Concomi Methodist Church although they have moved to other communities.

Mrs. Jos. F. Ross
R. C. Blanks
Mrs. Roger A. Mallory

Committee on History.
Certified copy of Warranted Deed from John H. Hooten
To
R. A. Mallory, James P. Beckham, J. J. Dorsett, J. A. Williams,
and J. H. Hooten,
Trustees of Concord Methodist Church.

Georgia, Pike County Clerk's Office, Superior Court-
Recorded in Book "M" "Folio" 24-25
May 3rd, 1889

D. C. Hightower,
clerk
STATE OF GEORGIA
PIKE COUNTY

This Indenture made the 15th day of February, in the year of our Lord, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty-nine, between John H. Hooten, of the State of Georgia, and the County of Pike—of the one part and R. A. Mallory, James P. Beckham, J. J. Dorsett, J. A. Williams, and J. H. Hooten, Trustees of the Methodist Church South, of the state and county above written, of the other part,

Witnesseth—

The said John H. Hooten for and in consideration of the sum of forty ($40.00) dollars to said Hooten in land, paid at and before the sealing and delivery of these present, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, hath granted, bargained, sold and conveyed, and doth by these present grant, bargain, sell and convey unto the said R. A. Mallory, James P. Beckham, J. J. Dorsett, J. A. Williams, and J. H. Hooten, Trustees, and their successors in office, the following described property to wit:

All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in said state and in the County of Pike and town of Concord, and known in the plan and survey of said town as Lot Number (ONE) 1, Block 1, adjoining the lot of Mrs. Twice, measuring 112 1/2 feet on the South, 207 1/2 feet on the East, 44 feet on the North, and 219 feet on the West—To have and to hold "In Trust that said premises shall be used, kept, and maintained, and disposed of as a place of divine worship, for the use of the ministry and membership of the Methodist Episcopal Church South; subject to the discipline, usage, and ministerial appointment of said church, as from time to time authorized and declared by the General Conference of said Church, and the Annual Conference within whose bounds the said premises are situated, to the said Trustees and their successors, in office together with all and singular the rights, members, and there of to the same and in any manner belonging; to the said Trustees, R. A. Mallory, James P. Beckham, J. J. Dorsett, J. A. Williams, and J. H. Hooten, and their successors in fee simple.
And the said John H. Hooten, for himself, his heirs, assigns the said bargain and premises unto the said Trustees and their successors in office does and will warrant, and will forever defend the right and title thereof against himself, and against the claims of his heirs and assigns and against the claims of all other persons whatever.

In testimony whereof the John H. Hooten has hereunto set his hand and affixed his seal the day and year above written.

Signed, sealed and delivered—Attest in the presence of—

Duncan M. Edwards
H. H. Parks
J. B. Lee, N.P.

John H. Hooten (LS)