HISTORY

of

LAGRANGE, DUNSON METHODIST CHURCH
The Dunson Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church South was organized May 15, 1915 by S. A. Bales in the Dunson Mill Village of Lagrange, Georgia, Troup County. The Church was so named as a Memorial to Sanford Dunson, President of The Dunson Mills.

The first meeting place was in the Dunson public school. Later a Community Church was built for our Methodists and the Baptists. This worship place burned in 1925 and the Dunson Foundation, which holds the Church property in trust for the people, built two new Churches. The one for the Methodists built on the old site of Barnard Avenue, and the Baptist Church just to the south. It was constructed of red brick, with seven Sunday school rooms surrounding the auditorium, at an approximate cost of $25,000.

Dunson Church did not build their own parsonage until 1941 when it became a station Church, during the pastorate of E. F. Kendall. It was erected on a lot purchased by the Church from the Dunson Mill, located at 49 North Barnard Avenue. The Board of Stewards, with brother T. J. Gibson, a charter member as Chairman, acting as a building Committee. On this lot at the honorium prize of only $75.00, an lovely white asbestos shingle home for their Preacher was constructed, containing six rooms and the bath, at a cost of $2800.00.

This work was first served by a preacher of the South Lagrange Circuit. A few years later the Dixie and Dunson Charge was formed with the former furnishing the parsonage. The two were in adjoining Mill villages both being about equal in strength. Both finally went to station churches in 1941. Until that time the following pastors served the Church in this order: S. A. Bales to November 15, 1915; T. E. Fuller November 20, 1917; T. Z. B. Everton, December 1, 1918; A. E. Sansborn, to 1921; Henry Pace, 1923; D. B. Cantrell to 1924; A. D. Echols to 1926;
Edward Creager to 1927; Jesse Warwick, 1929; J. A. Davis to November 1933; L. E. Lynn to November 1936; P. C. Kerr to 1940; E. P. Kendall to (January) 1943; J. M. Perryman to July 1948; H. F. Barfield to July 1950; E. D. Carlock to... It is reported that the most outstanding meeting was a tent Revival during the pastorate of J. A. Davis, conducted by Marvin Williams. And two others, one in the return of former Pastor Davis with Lynn and Robert Kerr, Evangelist helping B. C. Kerr. There were also good meetings during brother Perryman's ministry.

A good Epworth League was organized February 5, 1927 with James White elected president, when Edward Creager was pastor. We do not have the record when the Sunday school was organized. However the average attendance in 1941 was 116, in 1947 it was 80 and 1950 an average of 66. The World Service or Missions record is in 1941 $200.00, 1948 $320.00, 1950-51 $325.00. The Pastoral support has gradually increased also.

The Woman's Missionary Society was organized in 1929 by Leila Chambers as President. By 1941 there were 16 members, today there are 23, active members.

For further contrasts with the year Dunson became a station Church, in 1941 we have the following records. There were 21 Subscribers to the Wesleyan Christian Advocate, today 54. No Vacation Bible School reported, in 1951 there was a school of 50. Cash gifts to the Children's Home, Decatur, increased from 15 to $125.00. The membership of both Dixie and Dunson in 1937 was 397, in 1941 the latter was 297 and today it stands at 411 Church members.

Thus we have the history of the consecrated labors of Pastors and people, for the building of God's kingdom on earth through the Dunson Methodist Church, briefly sketched. We honor the humble beginnings of such family members as Abney, Bowles, Chastain, Corsley, Davis, McI Gibson, Howard, McDaniel and Breed. Many of their family generations are still carrying on along with many other fine people who have joined them.