History of Emerson M.E. Church
from 1848 to 1958.

Bizzle Steggall came to Texas County from Barbour, in 1840 where he had drawn a 40 acre lot. In 1850 he erected a log house on the Alabama road near his dwelling, which was used for religious meetings of all denominations, school house and general public gatherings.

A few years later he built a frame structure on lot 905 which was larger and used for the same purposes, and it was called Stegall's Chapel, and Dr. Williams H. Felton, Robert H. Jones, and Sam H. Smith held their meetings in this building.

The Barbour Baptist church at Emerson was organized in this building in 1893.

In 1893 after a stirring revival
by Telfair Jones, and Smith and other local preachers, they organized
a Methodist church (M.E. Church)
so Emoley Stigall headed this building
and lot as a Methodist church to the
following, as trustees, W. H. Telfair,
B. H. Childress, Henry Holland, J. H. Hayes,
and Emoley Stigall, and it was known as
Stigall Methodist Church.

The charter membership is quite
incomplete and the following names
were charter members, Henry Holland,
Sara Holland, B. H. Childress, Martha
Childress, Emoley Stigall, Sara Stigall,
Mary Bucett, Kitty P. Larry, Benjamin,
Gildstrap, Mary Gildstrap, J. H. Hayes,
Robert Stigall, Carrie Stigall, there
were about 40 members.

Mr. Telfair Jones and Smith
continued to serve the church as
pastors.

In 1897 the present site was
secured from E. M. Jones, and a
The present building. Trustees at this time were R.B. Hance, T.R. Ferguson, J.H. Hubleard, H.E. Paris.

Sad to say the first funeral held...
in the new church was one of three ladies, J. U. Hubbard.

This church dedicated in May 1933 after the final indebtedness was paid by the following trustees, loyally giving alarm in their own pocketbook and paying it: U. S. Paris, T. R. Ferguson, R. B. Bledges, W. B. House and J. E. L. Martin.

Many stirring revivals have been held here especially by Charles Allady and "Uncle Jimmy" Sullivan about 1900.

In 1914 a great revival was held by Rev. Charles Hayes, a Presbyterian minister, and John N. Parsons. Many souls were saved and backsliders reclaimed.

In 1924 and 1925 there were great revivals under the leadership of Alvin Rankin, first pastor of the new church, and just a very young man, his first charge. Rev. Fred Ay and B. H. McHan helped him in these revivals. In 1945 under the leadership of Morris Brackman, Rev. Hayes came back, and held a great meeting

many progressed, some were reclaimed.
In 1949 a special revival was held by John Bagwell and Jimmie Holmes. There were many additions to the church. These young, zealous preachings did gain the best preachers. May we encourage and pray for them.

Since 1903 those who have served the church as pastors are: Sanford Lake, J.M. Rants, E. F. Thompson, Charles Allsby, W.H. Gay, Hughes, Russell, Hardly, Reed, W. W. Parson, M.J. Smith, Adrian Harris, Frank Hayes, Broadwell Beam, J.M. Terry, A.S. Lawrence, A.D. Williams, John Terry, R.L. Johnson, R.K. Mitchell, Leighton Freeman, Sam Millsaps, Jolly, W.M. Leake, Mavis Blackman, Bixbe, Rome, L.M. Rogers, and James Holmes.

Richard Hubbard, Van Underwood, at present. No preachers have gone out from this church. But some very good men and women whose lives have meant much to God’s cause.

Presidents of Missionary Societies as follows, Mrs. L. B. Pledger, Mrs. W. H. Monroe, Mrs. Russell, Mrs. C. N. Williams, Mrs. C. R. Parris, Mrs. J. F. Davis, Mrs. J. M. Haysart, Mrs. Colbert, Mrs. J. T. Head, Mrs. Newman, Mrs. H. Hubbard, Mrs. A. P. Williams.

There has been flourishing young peoples organizations but unable to get names of leaders. There are 80 church members that present.


Emerson, Ga.