Emory Chapel Methodist Church

According to all the available data, Emory Chapel dates back to the year 1848 when James Meriwether called some of his neighbors and friends together for the purpose of building an arbor meeting house in which they might worship the Almighty God. James Meriwether was one of the two men to sign the treaty with the Creek Indians whereby this part of the state, the western half, was turned over to the white man.

For about ten years, this small congregation continued to worship in their arbor church some one-half mile off the road between Newnan and Franklin. Then in 1858, they purchased three acres of land on the Franklin Road for the sum of five dollars. This they secured from Mr. William Herring. The land was deeded from Mr. Herring to the following who were the first trustees of Emory Chapel Church, Alfred Lazenby, James Meriwether, L.P. Fleming, Barton Scogins, and John W. Pearce. The first church building was built on this location around 1858. The first grave in the cemetery behind the church carries the date of 1857.

The name Emory Chapel was given in honor of one of the Bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, Bishop John Emory. It is this same man for whom Emory College was named. For many years the church was on the Coweta Circuit which at that time included all the churches of the Methodist faith in Coweta County. Later it was put on the North Coweta Mission. When Lovejoy Memorial Church was built in Newnan, Emory Chapel was put on the Lovejoy Memorial Charge, for a long time being only an afternoon appointment. In
1945, the Church was again put on the Coweta Circuit as one of four churches on a four point circuit which included Jones Chapel, Mount Carmel, and Andrews Chapel.

The original church building lasted until 1949, when the church was completely remodeled at a cost of about $500. The present white frame church as well as the original church is situated on a high bluff overlooking the Newnan-Franklin highway, some eight miles due west of Newnan.

Some of the early families in the church were Scoggins, Herrings, Lazenby, Askew, Dickson, Hastings, Meriwether, Ham, Fambrough, Jackson, Leigh, and Ledbetter. The church did fine and held its own until after the first World War, many of the families began to move to Newnan and other places where they could find work in the rapidly growing industrial South. It finally reached a point where it looked as though the only thing to do was to close Emory Chapel.

But a young minister was appointed to the Coweta Circuit and he set out to rebuild Emory Chapel, numerically, physically, and spiritually. By 1949, the membership was almost back to the size of the original congregation. With the efforts of some vital young men, the church was remodeled. The men did all the work themselves. Now not only have they a lovely church in which to worship but they have on some land given them built a lovely community house and a three and a half acre lake which can be used as a center for the fellowship of the members of Emory Chapel.

At present there are 49 members of the church. Among these members are the great-grandson and great-granddaughter of the founder of Emory Chapel, James Meriwether.

The church now has a very active Sunday School with an average attendance of 55. The church has recently started a Prayer Meeting once a week which the members themselves conduct. The budget in the last five years has risen from $200 to $500.