HISTORY OF
ENGLAND CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1981

ORIGINAL HISTORY - 1968 by MISS MARY FLETCHER
1961 UPDATE by GENEVA FLETCHER UMW
The church, known as England Chapel of the Griffin District, North Georgia Conference, was organized in 1885. About three-fourths of a mile from the present site of this church, a brush-harbor meeting was held. Several were converted and became interested in establishing a church in this community. In the meantime during the winter months, services were held in a near-by school house. Rev. B.H.S. Sasnett was the minister, and from this information, this church is the outgrowth of a brush-harbor revival.

As early as 1887 interested citizens of the community desired a permanent house of worship. So, D. N. Carmichael deeded one acre of land adjoining his home place on which to erect a building. This deed is found and recorded in Deed Book "N" page 214 in Clerk of Court Office of Butts County, Georgia, reading as follows:

"David N. Carmichael to David N. Carmichael, Thomas Hunt, William H. Fletcher, William B. Collins, and Wade Hammond as trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church, one acre. Date October 26, 1887."

Mr. J. B. Settle, one of the interested citizens, was operating a sawmill at the time. He proposed to prepare the timber for the church. So the people of this community cut trees from their lands and gave them for building the church. In addition to donating timber, these people helped to erect the present building.

This church was named in honor of its first pastor, Bro. J. E. England. He was followed by Rev. J. J. N. Kenney, who later went to Africa as a missionary.

From records, we find that Rev. Edgar Thurston was recommended for license to preach. Later on, M. W. Carmichael, one of the young converts of this church went to Oxford to prepare for the ministry. After graduation he spent his entire life as an active minister in the South Georgia Conference.
Also, in the records we see that this church has made great progress financially, because one year $76.94 was paid for the support of the ministry and one quarter $3.50 was all that was paid. In 1968, this church with its small membership paid $685.00 for the support of the ministry or close to $228.00 per quarter. Today in 1981, we pay $202.45 per month to the minister which is almost as much as was paid per quarter in 1968. The total budget for 1981 for England Chapel was $4815.40. It also contributes liberally to all other causes that arise. Not only has this church progressed financially, but every department has progressed just as rapidly in its field of service.

Until 1908 this church was on the Flovilla Circuit. During this year the church was transferred to the Jenkinsburg Circuit with Rev. B. F. Dodson as the first pastor on the new circuit.

During 1948 under the leadership of Rev. W. C. Bowen, the church was completely renovated on the inside. It was changed so as to add Church School rooms. These rooms and other needed repairs gave us one of the most beautiful churches in this section. However, the outside appearance is the same with the exception of added shrubbery.

A new piano was purchased by church in 1965, and during the year 1966 a stoop was added in front of the Church. New pews were donated by Mrs. Elizabeth Fletcher Harris in 1966. Project was sponsored by WSCS to get new windows and through various members and interested citizens they were donated and installed in 1968 costing $840. Carpeting was installed by Mrs. Julia Fletcher Hammond also in 1968.

In 1974, a Communion Table and Alter Set was given in Memory of Alton W. Miller by Mr. and Mrs. George A. Tharpe and Family. Also in 1974, a Hammond Electric Organ was given in Memory of William F. Miller by Mr. and Mrs. George A. Tharpe and Family.

In 1964, new offering plates were given in Memory of Donna Jo Fletcher by Mr. and Mrs. Bennie D. Fletcher.
In 1979, a mobile home was given the church to be used as a Fellowship Hall and Sunday School rooms. It was given in Memory of Mr. Charles D. Fletcher and in Honor of Mrs. Charles D. (Lucille) Fletcher by their family.

Sunday Schools have been organized from time to time. They have flourished and withered away. At present, the Church School is very active with average attendance of approximately 16 with highest attendance reaching 29 one Sunday this year. This department has been served by the following men and women as superintendents: Edgar Thurston, J. W. Fletcher, Frank Mangham, Tom Benton, T. B. Fletcher, H. C. Brooks, Mary Fletcher, Wade Hammond, Mrs. Robert Fletcher, Jack Patrick, Bennie Fletcher, and Mrs. George Tharpe.

The Women's Society of Christian Service was organized in 1948 under the leadership of Mrs. W. C. Bowen and was active in its field of work until around 1961. At this time it became inactive for lack of attendance. On February 28, 1966, it was reorganized under the leadership of Mrs. B. D. Fletcher and is still carrying on actively its part of the Church work. In 1970, this group was named in honor of one of its most faithful members - Mrs. Geneva Carmichael Fletcher - now being called "Geneva Fletcher United Methodist Women of England Chapel". Presidents of the UMW have been: Mrs. Elizabeth Harris, Mrs. David Fletcher, Miss Mary Fletcher, Mrs. Bennie Fletcher, Mrs. Lanier Knight, and Mrs. Elizabeth Fletcher.

Chairman of the Board positions have been held by Mr. R. B. Fletcher and Mr. Bennie D. Fletcher. Lay leader position has been held by Mr. G. A. Tharpe, Jr. Pianists at the Chapel have been Miss Mary Fletcher and Mrs. Elizabeth Fletcher. Since the organ was donated in 1974, Mrs. Lucille Fletcher has been the organist.

At the present time, we have 38 members at England Chapel.
England Chapel has been served by the following pastors:
B. H. S. Sasnett, J. E. England, J. J. N. Kenney, T. M. Tomlin,
John Spier, W. T. Hamilton, J. A. Sewell, T. S. Edwards, Henry Pace,
J. L. Ware, F. D. Cantrell, T. W. McClesky, B. F. Dodson, W. R. Kennedy,
Frank G. Spearman, J. R. Jones, ___Conway, E. C. Wilson, A. O. Baggarly,
___Britt, J. E. Ward, L. L. Burch, V. O. Gentry, R. C. Owen,
J. A. Griffies, A. D. Whittemore, G. H. Stone, C. B. McKenzie,
E. W. McDougal, C. L. Middlebrooks, Jr., B. N. McHan, W. C. Bowen,
Gene Askew, J. R. Thompson, W. H. Lewis, Don Welch, W. H. High,
Dennis Doane, Don Harp, Horace Madison, Ed Galloway, Francis Ford,
Gordon Fincher, John Huggins, Jim Jackson, Dan Brown, Alton Burrell,
David Northcutt, Ann Nell White - 1st woman preacher ever assigned
to our charge and she came in June 1981.

Throughout the years England Chapel Church with its membership
has been an influence of good in developing a community of
outstanding families.
Georgia, Butts County -

This indenture, made this twenty-fifth day of October Eighteen Hundred and Eighty seven between David N. Carmichael of the County of Butts and State of Georgia of the one part and David N. Carmichael, Thomas J. Hunt, William H. Fletcher, William B. Collins and Wade H. Hammond as trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the County of Butts, State of Georgia of the other part witnessth that the said party of the first part in consideration of the Sum of Ten dollars to him in hand paid at and before the Sealing and delivery of these presents, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged has granted, bargained and sold, and does by these presents grant, bargains, sell and convey unto the said parties of the second part and their successors, as Trustees as aforesaid the following described property, to wit; one acre of land commencing where the line of Charles W. Sims land crosses the Griffin Road and adjoining lands of Charles W. Sims, dec'd., on the West and by Lands of David N. Carmichael on the North and East and the public road to Griffin on the South.

To have and to hold the said tract or parcel of land with all and singular the rights members and appurtenances thereof to the same being, belonging or in any wise appertaining to the only proper use, benefit and behoof of all parties of the second part, and their successors in fee simple, but in trust.

Never the less the said premises shall be used, kept, 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 appointments 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 of the said premises are situate with full warranty of title. In witness whereof the said David N. Carmichael of the first part has hereunto set his hand and affixed his seal, the day and year first aforesaid.

Signed, Sealed & Delivered in presence of

James L. Maddox
J. F. Carmichael, Ordinary

D. N. Carmichael

Recorded Oct. 26, 1887
L. D. Watson, Clerk