Philadelphia Methodist Church
Grovetown Charge

Philadelphia Methodist Church is situated on the Louisville Road, half way between Harlem and Grovetown, Ga. We have no record of the first church being built, but we do find that 3 1/2 acres of land were given to the trustees of the church in 1840 by Mr. G. M. Magruder who owned a large tract of land extending from the Louisville Rd. to Grovetown. The old church had a large gallery which was used to seat the colored people. The old original building stood until 1888 when a new one was built.

The church was named 'Philadelphia' which means 'brotherly love.' And the members have always carried out the spirit of the name. Never has there be dissention in the church. We have had wonderful revivals when the spirit of God was manifest and evident among preacher and people. In those days shouting was not unusual and religious joy and happiness were accompanied by shouting.

For many years Philadelphia Church was on the Harlem Charge. During this period Philadelphia grew to be one of the largest and strongest churches in Columbia County, at one time having 336 members. At one particular time every county office was filed by a member of Philadelphia Church: Mr. George Olive who was clerk of the Court, Mr. John Bynum, ordinary, Mr. W. S. Lazenby, tax collector, Mr. Fate Magruder, sheriff, and Mr. CC C. Weeks. These men and their families brought real strength of leadership to Philadelphia Church. Descendents of some of these men are present leaders of the church.
For a list of pastors refer the histories of Harlem Methodist Church and for more recent pastors to the history of the Grovetown Methodist Church.

We are thankful to state that we still have a fine and active church. It is not as large as it once was but the members are loyal and the work moves along well. Our present pastor, Rev. C. C. Stuart, came to us two years ago, and he is giving fine leadership to the churches of the Grovetown Charge. We have a good Church School that is growing in interest and numbers and we hope that the children of the members will carry on the work at old Philadelphia after their father and mothers have passed on.

We know that at the resurrection day Philadelphia will be represented by many saints converted at her altars.
Grovetown Methodist Church
Grovetown, Ga.

The Grovetown Methodist Church was founded in 1880, when its first church, a wooden structure, was built on the present location. The following men were charter members and were prominent in the building of this first church: Frank Timberlake, George King, W. N. Bugg, J. Shaw, Dr. Joseph Hatton, Jule and Will Fish and others. They are pictured as patriotic, consecrated and shouting Methodists.

Rev. E. P. Bonner, a God-touched man, was the church's first pastor. He was appointed as pastor on Dec. 1, 1881 by the annual conference and served for two years, 1882-83. He was succeeded by Rev. F. P. Brown in 1884 and he in turn was followed by these pastors in succession:

- M. A. Phillips, 1885
- W. W. Olson, 1886-87
- W. E. Shackleford, 1888
- Arthur Harris, 1889
- W. S. Stevens, 1890
- R. T. Dubose, 1891
- H. L. Emery 1892
- W. R. Keathley, 1893
- H. W. Morris, 1894
- J. V. M. Morris, 1895-96-97

During the years 1898 to 1908 the following men served the church though incomplete records fail to give definite dates of each pastorate: W. I. Velph, Henry Pace, B. F. Mize, B. L. Simpson.

Geo. L. King, 1909-10
In 1923 the membership of the old church decided to build a new church which was done during the year. As a result is the present attractive stucco church amply large even after these 30 years. While the new church was being built and the old church was torn down, the church services were held in an abandoned Episcopal church. This building was used for exactly a year.

Following the pastorate of Rev. J. A. Griffies, Rev. O. B. Tally was appointed pastor for the year 1924. During the year dissention arose the the presiding elder, Rev. John E. Ellis, transfered him to Thomson Ct. and brought Rev. J. O. Burnett to the Grovetown Charge. He served also during the year 1925. The following served as pastor in succession:

D. B. Cantrell, 1927
A. C. Prickett, 1928
A. P. Watkins, 1929-30
R. E. Lyle, 1931-32
J. J. Sneed, 1933-34
G. C. Knowles, 1935-36
A. W. Williams, 1937-41
A. E. Silvey, 1942-43-44
W. H. Norris, 1945-49
C. H. Wheelis, 1950
Roy Bowling, part of 1951
C. C. Stuart, 1952-54

Brother Stuart, the present pastor, is very popular and is giving fine leadership to the churches of the charge. The church school is growing and in every way the church is making progress.

The church which was built in 1923 cost about $5000.00 but it could not be replaced today for triple that amount. At this writing the building committee has been appointed to secure plans for building a church annex and fellowship building. This committee is as follows: R. T. Hardy,

J. B. Dill,

C. D. Armistead,

W. E. Gibson,

Stiner Branch.

The present building will also be renovated and redecorated inside and out during this period. We hope this next conference year will see the entire program begun and completed.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year(s)</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1909</td>
<td>Sprayberry, A. M.</td>
<td>1937-41</td>
<td>Williams, A. W.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1910</td>
<td>To Be Supplied</td>
<td>1942-44</td>
<td>Silvey, A. E.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1911-12</td>
<td>Whitaker, G. R.</td>
<td>1945-50</td>
<td>Norris, W. H.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1913-16</td>
<td>Maness, Arthur</td>
<td>1951</td>
<td>Bowling, Roy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1917</td>
<td>Ware, E. A.</td>
<td>1952-56</td>
<td>Stuart, C. C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1918-21</td>
<td>Norton, W. S.</td>
<td>1957</td>
<td>Poole, H. J.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1922-23</td>
<td>Griffies, J. A.</td>
<td>1958-59</td>
<td>Wheeless, Grady S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1924</td>
<td>Talley, O. B.</td>
<td>1960-64</td>
<td>Edwards, C. W., Jr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1925</td>
<td>Burnett, J. O.</td>
<td>1965</td>
<td>Nelson, Edward B.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1926</td>
<td>Greenway, William</td>
<td>1966</td>
<td>Buffington, W. L.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Burch, W. A. (Supply)</td>
<td>1967-70</td>
<td>Davis, Paul B.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1929-30</td>
<td>Watkins, A. P.</td>
<td>1975-78</td>
<td>Cooper, Donald D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1931-32</td>
<td>Lyle, R. E.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Stone, Roger W., Sr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1933-34</td>
<td>Sneed, J. J.</td>
<td>1979-80</td>
<td>Sargent, W. Mark</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>