History of Hickory Flat Church

In the year of 1870, a group of young people living in the mountains of North Georgia were thrilled when the thought of the great world in which God had placed them. Yet, it was sad when they thought of the needs of many persons living near them that were unable to feel God in their lives, as a result, they felt that here was an opportunity for them and others in the community to show God to their fellowmen.

Growing out of this feeling of a need was born a church, a beautiful site in a flat hickory grove was selected, a wooden structure was built and given the name Hickory Flat. The first structure, which was erected for immediate worship, was used for the first school in the community.

In 1885 a new church was built on the same plot of ground where the first church was located.

The church was built by Gab Morris, Dick Morris, L. B. Jones Sr., T. B. M. Hawkins, Moses Smalley, Hamilton Boling, L. H. Suddeth, Jefferson Turner, and Allen Sumner. The families of these men composed the charter members of the church.

The Rev. T. B. M. Hawkins and Rev. Louis Parish were the first pastors of the church.

The services were held in the old school building until the church was completed.
Four acres of land was purchased from Mr. Mose Brooks upon which the church was erected. The church building cost $180.00.

The following ministers of the gospel have gone out from this community: Reverends J. M. Hawkins, son of the Rev. T. B. M. Hawkins, L. B. Jones Jr., son of L. B. Jones Sr., Joseph W. Jones, son of J. W. Jones and grandson of L. B. Jones.

Those who are now preparing to enter the ministry are: Marvin and Roy Brewer, sons of R. C. Brewer and great-grandsons of the Rev. T. B. M. Hawkins, Jin Turner, son of Pope Turner and great-grandson of Jefferson Turner.

In 1931 the church was re-modeled and the annex was added. The building contains the original hewn lumber.

On May 25, 1885 eight acres of land was sold by the Mr. Perry Lewallen to the trustees of the Hawkins Camp Ground for the sum of $30.00. The trustees who accepted the site were as follows: Messers Moses Smalley, Hamilton Boling, R. W. Morris, T. B. M. Hawkins, L. H. Suddeth, Louis B. Jones and J. C. Quillian. This ground was dedicated for the exclusive use of Divine Worship, Ministry and membership of the Methodist Church, South.

The members of this church built anaharbor as the place of worship. Camps were built to accommodate the members of the church during their revival services. Due to the improvement in transportation facilities, the camps were abandoned.
The original harbor was used for worship during the summer until 1932.

In 1928, a portion of the old camp ground was dedicated to the Banks County Board of Education as a site to locate the new consolidated school building.

The Rev. T. B. M. Hawkins is the only minister buried in the Hickory Flat cemetery.

The church deed is recorded in the office of the clerk of Banks County, Homer Georgia.