History Lewis Memorial Methodist Church  
(formerly Sardis Church)

Lewis Memorial Methodist Church (formerly Sardis) was founded by Mrs. William Ellis Lewis and was organized in the early 1900s. The first pastor was Rev. A. B. Sanders.

Mr. William Ellis Lewis donated the land on which the church was built and also a large part of the materials for the building. He and his colored laborers, together with others donating time and effort, built the church where it now stands on the Columbia-Appling Road. It is impossible to give a list of charter members because of the loss of all church records in a fire in 1923. The oldest living charter member is Mrs. Annie Lewis, and the oldest active member is Mrs. Gordon C. Hair.

During most of this period Lewis Memorial has been on the Grovetown Charge and a list of pastors who have served the church can be found in the history of the Grovetown Church recently prepared.

A tornado wrecked the church in 1912, but it was repaired and braced and used for church and Sunday school services until 1919 when the present church was built on the same site. Again Mr. Lewis furnished the greater part of materials and labor and he and his sons and many other faithful members donated their time and effort in rebuilding the church.

In 1947 by unanimous vote of the quarterly conference the name of the church was changed from Sardis to Lewis Memorial in memory of the late Mr. and Mrs. William Ellis Lewis, charter members and benefactors of the church through many years.
There have been many improvements in the church building in recent years. It has been completely renovated inside and out. Also new furnishings have been added. Recent improvements include the building of four greatly needed church school rooms, installation of a modern gas heating system, rebuilt choir and pulpit, hardwood floors, carpets and venetian blinds. At present a vestibule is being built and a tower or steeple added to the church. Soon it is expected to add a kitchen with modern equipment.

Lewis Memorial is steadily moving forward under the leadership of the present pastor Rev. C. C. Stuart, whose enthusiasm for doing God's work and promoting the church is great.