History
of
Lovejoy Memorial
United Methodist Church
Newnan, Georgia

1904 - 1970
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"Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel unto all people."

As in answer to this challenge from the Master, churches have been established, yet when we realize the great responsibility that this challenge brings to us, we see the need of many more churches and religious organizations to carry on the work of the Lord. There are many who have, in answer to the challenge, endeavored to spread the gospel of Christ.

In 1904 Mr. John F. Lovejoy and Mr. Walker G. Camp had a vision of the need of a church to serve the Methodist people of the east side of Newnan. These two zealous men obtained money by individual subscriptions to build a church on the corner of what is now E. Washington and Murray Streets which was purchased from Newnan Cotton Mill for the sum of $400.00. The building of the church cost a great deal. Mr. Lovejoy died before the completion of the building but the work was carried on by Mr. Camp. In the spring of 1905 the same building which stands today was completed and given the name of Lovejoy Memorial Church.

With the one foundation, Jesus Christ her Lord, and with prayers for Pentecostal power, the little church, supported by about seventy members began pressing upward to soul-saving and developing the spiritual life of those who came into contact with it. From the time of the completion of the church, Rev. Hodnett served as its pastor until conference met in November of that same year. Rev. W. S. Gaines was appointed as pastor in 1905 by Bishop
W. W. Duncan. At that time Rev. B. P. Allen was presiding elder of the LaGrange District. Rev. Gaines was removed by the Bishop in 1907 after two years of strenuous service. Most probably he had labored under a great many difficulties and disadvantages during the two years that the church had grown. The first board of stewards was composed of the following members: Mr. W. M. Reynolds, Mr. M. E. Spraggins, Mr. W. M. Poage, Mr. E. B. Lovern, and Mr. T. R. Lovern, Sr.

Following Rev. W. S. Gaines was Rev. A. E. Sansburn whose pastorate extended from 1907 to 1911. It was during his pastorate that the parsonage now located at 129 E. Broad Street was purchased from Mr. Lewis Hill.

Almost with the beginning of the church, a Sunday School was organized which has been continuing its work faithfully and conscientiously through the years. It is interesting to note that since the Sunday School was first organized there have been, up to the present time, 1940, three Superintendents, namely: Mr. E. B. Lovern Mr. W. M. Reynolds and Mr. M. E Spraggins.

Rev. J. A. Sewell succeeded Rev. Sansburn and served from 1911 to 1913; he, in turn being followed by Rev. S. D. Creme an, whose pastorate was from 1913 to 1915. From a pastor's report to the quarterly conference we find the church in all its departments, progressing. At this time there were two Missionary Societies, the Women's Home Missions and the Young Folks Missions. Mrs. R. A. Field was the first president of the W. M. S. Although it was not recorded at the time, Lovejoy Church had the first young peoples society in the North Georgia Conference. Along with the other services rendered by this pastor, the weekly prayer meetings were organized.

Rev. T. M. Elliott was pastor of the church during the year 1916, and was followed by Rev. J. G. Davis, who served from 1916 to 1920. It was during his pastorate that the first Senior Epworth League was organized at Lovejoy, in 1920. Mr. Elbert F. Payne was elected president of this League. Since that time the League has seemed to be at a standstill several times, but at the present time it is continuing its work in training the young life of our church for service. For several consecutive quarters the Lovejoy Epworth League held the District banner. In 1924 when this League was represented at the Conference Assembly at Oxford, Ga., it was shown to rank fifth among all the Leagues in the North Georgia Conference. Not only was a Senior Epworth League organized but also a very live Junior League began its work in 1921.

Following Rev. Davis was Rev. Ware who served the church about one month, being followed by Rev. V. A. Roark. This minister served from 1920 to 1922. At the conference in 1922, Rev. T. H. Shackleford was appointed to the Lovejoy Charge. For four years this pastor served the charge earnestly and faithfully, laboring whole heartedly and unselfishly for the people and for the kingdom of God. In November of 1926, Rev. G. W. Hamilton came to Lovejoy and faithfully served the two years 1927 and 1928, being removed in November of 1928. Following Rev. Hamilton came Rev. Guy T. Pittman.
and in interest, a very enthusiastic Epworth League and a live Missionary Society, are brought together for worship and training in the Boys' and Girls' World Club.

In an unbroken line the church has moved forward through these twenty-eight years. May it likewise go forward through the ages to come, as many faithful spirits move at the call Divine, and Christian soldiers march as to war, with Christ the Royal Master.

Following the five years pastorship of Rev. Pittman, Rev. J. J. Mize came to serve us. He was our pastor from November 1933 to November, 1935.

Rev. G. C. Burtz succeeded Rev. Mize and served us from November 1935 to November, 1939. Under his leadership the work of the church progressed, his family taking an active part in every phase of the work. Also during his pastorate one of our members, Raymond Melear, answered the call of the ministry. Raymond was granted license to preach by the District Conference in 1938 and was accepted as a supply by the North Georgia Conference in November, 1943.

Rev. G. H. Bailey followed Rev. Burtz and labored faithfully to improve the Church property and was untiring in his efforts to meet the spiritual needs of his people. Under his able supervision, Lovejoy Memorial Church was entirely renovated and other improvements were effected.

In 1940 when all the Methodist Churches united, many changes took place. The Missionary Society became the Woman's Society of Christian Service or W. S. C. S. The Epworth League became the Methodist Youth Fellowship and Sunday School was known as the Church School.

In February 1941 due to the efforts of Rev. Bailey, the official board of Christian Education of the church school was established.

In May, 1941, Mrs. Bailey, the pastor's wife, organized a Woman's Society of Christian Service for the young women of the church who could not attend the afternoon meetings of the W. S. C. S. The church then had two active groups of the W. S. C. S. Due to the lack of interest and ever changing war-time conditions in the fall of 1944 the two circles united, the meetings after this being held in the evening.

In the spring of 1944 with many preachers serving as chaplains in the Armed Forces and loss by death of several outstanding ministers, a general shakeup of pastoral charges was brought about.

As a result of these conditions, Rev. Bailey who came to us in November, 1939, was removed in March, 1944. Rev. J. S. Hill replaced Rev. Bailey and served us until November, 1944.

In November, 1944, Rev. E. P. Eubanks, Sr., came to us as pastor and served us until November, 1946, giving us two years of faithful service and the church progressed under his leadership and pastorate.

Rev. Arthur Maness was sent by the November, 1946 Conference as pastor, Lovejoy Memorial Church becoming a full time station. Rev. Maness will have the best report at the 1947 annual Con-
ference which meets July 9, 1947 that Lovejoy Church ever had in a conference year.

Rev. Maness served our church as pastor in 1948 and until conference in 1949 and was replaced by Rev. Jesse D. Booth, at the 1949 Conference. Rev. Booth has served our church through 1950 and up to the present time in 1951. He has given us unifying service and he and all the former pastors have been indeed a great blessing to our church.

Many times during these years the progress of the church would have faltered but for the faithful who kept the spark alive. May our eyes ever be set on the hills from whence cometh our help so that the spark shall never die and the little church known as Lovejoy on the corner will continue to grow and be a blessing to all mankind and glory to God.

Reverend C. W. Buice followed Reverend Jesse D. Booth and served as pastor for two years (1951-1953). During his pastorate, he organized a young adult class in Church School and it was named for him, the Buice Bible Class.

Rev. J. W. Stephens followed Reverend Buice and served from 1953 to 1955. A new piano was donated to the church by Miss Mary Freeman of Newnan during his pastorate.

Reverend Jack T. Moore followed Reverend Stephens, serving from 1955 to 1957. During his pastorate, a new annex was added to the church, with six new classrooms added, which were really needed. When he moved from this church, he joined the Armed Forces as Chaplain.

Reverend W. O. Lindsey followed Reverend Moore, serving from 1957 to 1959. During his pastorate, his wife, Mrs. Mary Lindsey, organized another young adult class and it has been growing strong since. During the pastorage of Reverend Lindsey, an illuminated cross was contributed to the church in honor of Mrs. T. R. Lovern by her children and sister, Miss Ruby Daniel.

Reverend J. F. Gladney followed Reverend Lindsey, serving from 1959 to 1961. During his pastorate, the basement to the annex was completed into a recreation hall, with the help of the ladies from the W. S. C. S. to raise funds to finance it.

Reverend Leroy Smith followed Reverend Gladney, serving from 1961 to 1965. During his pastorate, the whole church was renovated and three more classrooms were added, along with a pastor's study. A new organ was purchased by the church during his service with the church, and he taught several of our young people to play it.

Reverend Leon Burger followed Reverend Smith and served from 1965 to 1967.

Reverend G. S. Wheelus followed Reverend Burger and served from 1967 to 1969. He was a great worker for the Kingdom of the Lord and gained the friendship of many people in Newnan during his pastorate.

Reverend Charles E. Watt followed Reverend Wheelus and is the present pastor. Since his ministry began here, he has done a marvelous job in winning souls to Christ. He came to us from Arkansas and is a student at Emory University in Atlanta, Ga.
Young Adult Class has been given the name of Faith Bible Class, recommended by the pastor. His wife, Martha, has organized a children's choir and Mrs. Edwina Hinesley is the director. This choir is in charge of the opening services for the Church School.

The Communion participants increased so much that another communion tray became necessary and Mrs. Mary Lane made this contribution. Mrs. Effie Walls serves as Communion Stewardess.

Mrs. Ethel Byars Dean is the oldest member, as a member in years in the church, joining in the year of 1909, during the ministry of Reverend A. E. Sanburn. Her son, Reverend Willard Dean left this church in 1958 and was ordained into the ministry to the Baptist Church and is pastor of the Grantville, Ga., Baptist Church at the present time. We are proud of the ones from our church that have taken the step to further the work of the Master. May God bless each and every one of them.

At the present time, 1970, the Women's Society of Christian Service is growing and is doing a splendid job in meeting their obligations and helping to keep up the parsonage, with Mrs. Betty Walls serving as President. Officers for this organization are as follows:

- Mrs. Betty Walls, President
- Mrs. Mary Lane, Vice President
- Mrs. Effie Walls, Secretary
- Mrs. Imogene Banks, Treasurer

A new library is being added to the church, with Mr. Tom Hardegree donating his time and labor as carpenter and is doing an excellent job. There will be placed in it the following items:

- A Bible, given to the church by the ladies of the church, dated October 7, 1905.
- A roster, made and placed in the church by Mr. J. W. Pitman, April 5, 1906.
- A painting by Mr. Herbert Ozmore, donated by him to the Library on July 12, 1970.

Mr. E. G. Hutchens, Jr., served us as choir director from November 2, 1969 to June 1, 1970 and did a wonderful job in leading the song services. He saved all the church bulletins during his service with us and along with some history books of famous men, he gave them to us to put in our new Library.

This record was compiled from the year 1904 to 1970 and was submitted by Mrs. Tharra Gordon, Historian.

May God Bless Everyone Who Took a Part in Making this a Wonderful and Successful Church.

MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

- Mr. Robert Hannah, Chairman
- Mrs. Lorene Hudson, Lay Leader
- Mrs. Tharra Gordon, Lay Member, Annual Conference
- Mr. James Thrower, Chairman, Council on Ministries
- Mr. Ray Walls, Education
- Mr. Joe Banks, Evangelism
- Mrs. Sadie Whatley, Social Concerns
Mrs. Effie Walls ________________ Worship
Mrs. Mary Dearman ________________ Children
Mrs. Betty Walls ________________ Youth
Mrs. Mary Lane ________________ Adult
Mrs. Helen Haynie ________________ Family
Mrs. Linda Dukes __________ Recording Secretary
Mrs. Verma Garner __________ Health Welfare Representative

Mr. Alton Haynie ___________ Pastor Parish
Mrs. Jean Storey _____ Chrm. Finance Committee
Mrs. Betty Stapler _______ Membership Secretary
Mr. Raymond Garner ___________ Treasurer
Mrs. Martha Watt ___________ Pianist
Mrs. Robert Hannah ___________ Organist

Honorary Members of the Administrative Board
Mr. J. W. Estep Mr. Jim Garner
Mr. Jesse Winkles Mr. Thomas Stephens

Trustees
Mrs. Merle Kelley — 1971
Mr. James Thrower — 1972
Mr. Billy Haines — 1972
Mr. Rufus Whatley — 1973
Mr. Luke Barclay — 1973