1975 Atlanta - Decatur - Oxford Dist.

Newton Co.

HISTORY

of

NEWTON CHARGE

Lovejoy Church 1951
Sixty-four years ago - in August, 1899, a small band of Christian people established a Methodist Church in Newton County, Georgia on land given by Morris and Cook. That was the beginning of Lovejoy Church.

Through the leadership of its first Pastor, Rev. Walter Branham, the little group of about twenty-five members finished the building and it was dedicated in the summer of 1899.

The first trustees of the church were: J. B. Meadors, Johnnie Coggin, H. B. Meadors, J. P. Thompson and Whitka Hacket, many of whose children and grandchildren are members here today.

The church was called "Lovejoy" in honor of Rev. W. P. Lovejoy who was at one time Pastor of Austin's Chapel, and who lived for a century, we are told and was in his later years a Presiding Elder in the Methodist Church.

Two men who were the first to serve as stewards of the new church were: G. W. Coggin and H. B. Meadors.

The names Eakes, Simmons, Henderson, McKibben, Pace, Manning, Sneed, Stone, Godfrey, Barfield, Sams, Eberhardt, Joiner and Collier are dear to the hearts of people at Lovejoy as we recall the great work they did in serving as Pastors here through the years. During their ministry many people learned of God and have gone from this house to good in all parts of the world.

In 1950 three charter members of Lovejoy Church were still living. They were Mrs. Georgia Thompson Edwards, Mr. T. D. Meadors, & Mr. J. R. Meadors. Today there is still one charter member living and still attending church services. That is Mrs. Georgia Thompson Edwards.

In 1947 the old church building was torn to the ground and a new one started. During the time the building was being constructed our Sunday School and Church services were held at Austin's Chapel. The same year the new church was completed and dedicated. Since that date many improvements have been added to the new church year by year.

We are richer today, spiritually, and greater in number, and with God's help we will dedicate our lives to the work begun here so many years ago. We are grateful for the opportunity to see this church live and grow and to be a part of its life and growth for the Kingdom of God. We are now making plans to build additional Sunday School rooms for our church in order to take care of the members that are attending church and Sunday school. We hope to get this project underway soon.