HISTORY

of

MILSTEAD METHODIST CHURCH
Mrs. W. A. Doyle and Miss Sarah Weaver; historians for Milstead Methodist Church.

FOUNDED 1903.

Milstead Methodist Church is located in Milstead, Georgia, Rockdale County. It had its beginning in, or out of, a Union Service held in a small house in town. All denominations met in a 16 x 24 building for Worship only. This building was located on River Street.

Among those ministers who preached here from time to time was a Rev. W. E. Venable of the M.E. Church South. In 1901 or 1902 he began finding those who were methodist or methodist inclined, and began talking for and planning a Methodist organization.

Among those names in the original group were the McNortons, the Heltons, the McLeesekeys, the Crawfords, the Camps, the Perrys, the Scotts, the Pipers, the Warrens, the Walkers, the Yarbroughs, the Teasleys and the Nortons. The entire group consisted of about 50 or 60 names. Rev. Venable was for the years 1902 and 1903 the first Pastor and completed the organization and built a Church, located on Main Street. This was only a one-room house of Worship 40 x 60 ft. The work was done largely by men of the community, giving the time and labor to the cause. 1903 marks the year of completion and organization.

Rev. Firley Baum was appointed Pastor in 1904 and 1905. He was the first Minister to occupy the new Church and the first Pastor after the Church became a part of the Conyers circuit. His outstanding
work was the organization of a Sunday School - small but active.
Mr. P. M. Grimes was the first Sunday School Superintendent.

Pastors of the Conyers circuit were; following W. E. Venable of
1902-03 - Rev. Firley Baum, 1904-05
   Rev. L. A. McLaughlin, 1906
   Rev. J. M. Crowe, 1907-08
   Rev. J. M. Sewell, 1909-
   Rev. J. H. Pharr, 1910
   Rev. W. R. Branham, 1911-13
   Rev. Guy White, 1914
   Rev. Lucian Roper, 1915.

These preachers had lived in Conyers or Milstead in whatever houses
they might be able to find or secure. In 1916 the Callaway Mills
Company built a large five-room house on Hill Street and gave it
rent-free for the Methodist Preacher on the Charge. The name of
the Charge is here changed to Milstead Circuit - with a resident
Pastor.

1916 Rev. B. P. Read the first to occupy the house which is still
the parsonage.

1916-1918 Rev. B. P. Read
1919       Rev. D. A. McBrayer
1920-1922 Rev. (B. C. Mattison
         Rev. (F. A. Ragsdale, (Sup)

These years mark the activity of the Woman's Missionary Society
under the guidance of Mrs. J. K. Kelley.

1927-1929 Rev. Foster Young. During these years a part
of the front of the Church Building was made into Sunday School
rooms - giving a 5-room space for classes.

1930 Rev. L. P. Huckabee

1931-1934 Rev. B. N. McHann

1938-1940 Rev. Carl McGrady

1941-1942 Rev. H. F. Barfield

1943 Rev. B. N. McHann

1944-1945 Rev. Max Phillipi (S.)

1946 Rev. E. W. McDougal. In this year the Church bought the parsonage from Callaway Mills Company.

1947-1950 Rev. W. D. Spence. During these years the Church was re-decorated and painted inside and out. A Sunday School annex at the back of the Sanctuary was built. This included 20 x 60 ft. structure with four large Sunday School rooms and a hall. A gas heating system for the entire building was installed. Including a new piano, the total cost amounted to about $10,000.00. The parsonage was also improved by repairs, painting and a gas heating system. The Church property now is beautiful and comfortable; owned and free of debt.

While the Church has included in a Circuit, Churches in Rockdale and adjoining counties from time to time, Milstead has had two Sunday services a month almost from its beginning. In 1950, however, Milstead became a full time or station work and is well established and faces a bright future. The plan in all building has been "Pay-As-You-Go" so there is no indebtedness for any cause.

These facts have been gathered from old copies and newer copies of the Conference Minutes and from information given by older members and citizens of the Church and community.