

Molena Methodist Church
Woodbury Charge
La Grange District no date

History of Melena Methodist Church
Melena, Georgia

The Melena Methodist Church was organized on October 31, 1892, with Rev. R. B. Hamlin as the first pastor. At this time Rev. Joseph Key was Bishop, and Rev. James Bryan was Presiding Elder.

The deed to the lot on which the church stands was made by Mrs. Julia Brooks to Jas. S. Pope, J. H. Heeten, and Theo Rumble. Among the early members were W. F. Cochran, J. H. Heeten, Theo Rumble, and Mrs. S. L. Hardy. The latter being the only living charter member.

For a number of years Melena was in the Griffin District on the Zebulon Charge. Then in the Conference year 1911-12 it was changed to the LaGrange District on the Woodbury Charge.

A list of pastors who have served our church follows: R. B. Hamlin, J. E. Russell, R. W. Rogers, J. W. Taylor, J. Harwell House, C. V. Weathers, T. S. Edwards, F. W. McClesky, W. H. Speer, C. P. Meacham, Paul Kendall, H. L. Embry, Oscar Bulloch, E. D. Hale, T. H. Maxwell, H. T. Smith, Jessie Warwick, H. C. Holland, A. C. Cantrell, W. A. Woodruff, J. V. Jones, J. L. Jelley, W. E. Purcell, J. H. Couch, and Forrest L. King.

The Woman's Missionary Society, now the Woman's Society of Christian Service, was organized August 31, 1922, with Mrs. W. D. Bennett as president.

For a period of a few years we did not have a Church School, but during the pastorate of Rev. Jesse Warwick, he, with Rev. J. C.

Adams reorganized our Church School with Mrs. E. P. Jordan as Superintendent. A. L. Watts is the present Superintendent.

The membership has never been large, but we feel that our church has filled an important place in the religious life of the community.

Various repairs and improvements have been made on the original building since its establishment. While Rev. H. C. Holland was pastor new pews were put in. Then, during the pastorate of Rev. J. H. Couch wonderful improvement was made. A new roof was put on, the exterior and interior of the church were painted, and venetian blinds were placed in the auditorium. This was at a cost of \$758.84 and \$250.00 of this was given by the Mission Board. Also under the leadership of the present pastor, Rev. Ferrest L. King, gas heat has been installed, and a carpet, kneeling rail, pulpit stand and pulpit chairs have been placed in the auditorium. Concrete steps have replaced the old wooden ones, and azaleas have been planted in front of the church. All this has been done at a total cost of \$1,106.52.

At present, an important and helpful improvement is being made, Sunday School rooms are under construction and are nearing completion.