HISTORY OF THE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MONTICELLO, GEORGIA

1828 - 1974

COMPiled BY

MARY DANCE
FOREWORD

This is no attempt to write a complete and connected history of the United Methodist Church of Monticello. Lack of time, expense, lost and incomplete records make that impossible. It is my purpose to set down the historical data I have collected with the hope that future church historians will have a background on which to build.

SOURCES USED FOR INFORMATION

Lucian Lamar Knight's Landmarks and Legends
Jasper County Courthouse Records
Quarterly and Charge Conference Records of the Monticello Methodist Church
Minutes of the Building Committee Meetings 1962 - 66
List of Pastors and Presiding Elders (1836 - 1895) compiled by Reverend W. G. Mackey and given to me by Mrs. F. N. Smith
Verbal Information given by Mrs. Emma Bradley and Mrs. Irene Roberts
Material Contained in the Methodist Church Bulletin June 4, 1967 furnished by Mr. Harvey Powell
Information on the Grants furnished by Mrs. C. E. Brooks, Sr. from her authenticated records
E. Merton Coulter's, Short History of Georgia
The history of the Monticello United Methodist Church dates back to the early days of Methodism. It is natural to think that Methodism in Georgia began with John and Charles Wesley, two Episcopal ministers, who came to the colony to bring the gospel to the Indians. It was the Virginians and Carolinians, however, who brought it when they came pouring into the "Up Country" after the American Revolution.

Crying the message of the church were Thomas Humphrey and John Major, the "Weeping Prophets." In 1788 Bishop Francis Asbury, the Wandering Bishop, held the first Methodist Conference in Georgia. We have no record of where this conference was held. In 1789 and 1790, Bishop Asbury held the second and third conferences in Grant's Meeting House in Wilkes County. This was the first Methodist Church building in Georgia. It was built by Daniel Grant, a prosperous merchant, and a devout member of the Methodist Church. His son, Thomas Grant, came to Monticello in the early 1800's and was one of the founders of the Methodist Group in Monticello. The actual date of organization cannot be ascertained, but it was during the first years of the nineteenth century.

The Oconee District, South Carolina Conference, was organized in 1804. It consisted of all the land between the Oconee and Ocmulgee rivers. All Methodist Groups in the area became a part of the Oconee Circuit. Records show that the town of Monticello was laid out in 1807. It is certain that there was Methodist worship here before that time.

On the twenty-third of September, 1809, the lot upon which the first church stood was deeded by the commissioners of the City of Monticello to the following trustees of the Monticello Methodist Episcopal Church: Peter Gautier, Richard Holmes, Edward Brown, M. Andrews, Thomas Brodus, Garland Hardwick, E. B. Brooking and Michael Durr. The transaction was made for the considerable
sum of five dollars. Though there is no record of a building on the lot until 1828, a part of the area was used for a cemetery. There is a grave of a stern hero of the War of 1812. The slab, gray with age bears this inscription:

"Sacred to the memory of
General William Lee
Who departed this life on the
15th of March 1815, aged 38
Esteemed and honored by his
country and universally beloved.
His benevolence was unbounded
and his virtues exemplary.
He lived as he died, fearless
in death, and in joyful hope of
immortality."

Near by there was the grave of the forementioned Thomas Grant.

"A soldier of the Revolution and more
than forty years a soldier of the cross.
The annals of the Methodist Episcopal
Church of which he was a pious member
record his expansive benevolences and
his memorial in the hearts of the
brethren."

Thomas Grant was a man of great wealth and he contributed liberally to
the church. In his will he "lifted out" the sum of $300, and land, valued
at $2700, to the Monticello Methodist Church, as a perpetual fund to be
"laid out" annually for the support of preachers, and the poor, especially
those of Methodist conviction. He left to the South Carolina Conference
$3000. and land in Jasper, Wilkinson, Franklin and other counties to "send
out missionaries for the cause of God, and the good of His church, and
to ministers who travel and belong to said conference."

The signers of his will were: Thomas Brogus, Peter Grizelle, and
J. C. Gibson.

Other local laymen of this early Methodist Church, whose benevolences
were "unbounded", and who, so far as we know, labored without a church building
or a resident pastor were: George Dyer, Jeremiah Pearson, Ila Than Warner,
Oliver Usher, Reed, Thomas Reed and Thomas Brogus. Several of these
had the letters L. P. (Local Preacher) after their names.

There is no mention of a building until 1828, or of a resident preacher
until 1838. Little is known of the achievements of this early church. Evidently
they met in homes of members, out of doors, or under bush arbors. Their only
preachers were circuit riders who came into the frontier preaching the word
of God.

The great Lorenza Dow preached in Jasper County between 1801 - 1805.
The Daughters of the American Revolution marked the spot where his meetings
were held. His pulpit was a huge rock. The names of Jeremiah Freeman and
George F. Pierce appear in the records in 1831 and 1832.

There is no way to measure the influence of the Circuit Riders who
would go anywhere to preach the Word of God. They endured hardships and
dangers of Indians, wild animals and all kinds of weather. They worked for
almost nothing, though they usually received their food and lodging free.
Most people felt it an honor to have one of these men of God bless their
home with his presence.
Bishops during these early years were: Robert R. Roberts, Joshua Saule, Elijah Hedding, Thomas A. Morris and J. O. Andrews.

Though records of this early period of Monticello Church history are missing, or perhaps, never written, one thing is certain, these dedicated men Bishops, Circuit Riders, and Local Laymen, together, left a heritage from which the next generation could gather strength and move out to greater services and achievements.

Written records that have come down to us date back to the late 1830's. At this time the church was a part of a circuit of ten churches as follows: Rock Spring, New Hope, Elizabeth, Sardis, Liberty, Concord, Midway, Mt. Zion, Hillsboro and Monticello. The church continued in this form for over sixty years. Monticello, Hillsboro, Liberty and New Hope are still active. There are no records of Rock Creek, Elizabeth or Mt. Zion. They, like old soldiers, seem to have faded away. Sardis Church membership was moved to Monticello in 1910, and the building was sold to Mr. J. E. Oxford who used the hand-hewn timbers in his barn and in the foundation of his home. The ruins of Concord Church are still found on a little traveled road between Highways 11 and 69. On April the third, eighteen hundred and thirteen; one acre of ground (District 19, Lot 251) was deeded to appointed Trustees, Ethro Mobly, John Spear, Samuel Lane, John Banks and Simeon Easterwood by Samuel Lovejoy "for the purpose of a meeting house and graveyard." Now the tumbled down old building, eroded driveways, weeds and brambles and the well nigh deserted community make it hard to believe that people once gathered there for worship.

In 1819, one acre of ground near Gap Creek was deeded to the Trustees of Midway Church for a building. These Trustees were: Sam Shy, Henry Warr, James Hodges and Adam Newberry. There is no record of a building until 1844.
when a log house was built. Jeremiah Lumsden, an ordained minister, served 1804 - 1837. After this time it was a part of the Monticello Circuit.

In 1828, the first church was built in Monticello. From the October 18th, 1828 issue of the Statesman and Patriot, Milledgeville, Georgia, we find "There will be a four day meeting in Monticello, commencing on Thursday, the sixth of November 1828, at which time the new Methodist Church will be dedicated." Mrs. Irene Roberts, who joined this church in 1833, described this building as follows: Like most early churches in Georgia it consisted of a sanctuary only. It was a frame structure which would seat about one hundred fifty people. There was a small balcony for slaves. In keeping with other churches of the period, it had what was known as a "Mourner's Bench" and an "Amen Corner." Men and boys sat on the right, women and girls on the left.

This building served the Methodist people of Monticello as a place of worship for more than sixty years. There is no record of any other until 1895, when we find in the Quarterly Conference records that, "the old church was torn down and a new building erected."

In the years between 1828 and the early 1890's the Monticello Methodist Circuit had built ten houses of worship and a parsonage in which circuit preachers lived. The parsonage was located in Monticello. Among the families whose names enriched the Monticello Methodist Church in the years between 1828 - 1895 were: Grant, Merriwether, Baldwin, Maxey, Flournoy, Brogdu, Kelly, Davis, Puerifoy, Clements, Maddux, Campbell, Pearson, Goolsby, Benton, Ezell, Wright, Bradley, Key, Roberts, Jordan, Glover and Reid. The pastors who served the Circuit of ten churches were:

Alexander Alphin 1836
Eli Bennet 1837 - 38
N. H. Harris 1839
John C. Carter 1840
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Years</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>J. I. Pearce</td>
<td>1841</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. E. Cook</td>
<td>1842</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hinton Crawford</td>
<td>1843 - 44</td>
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<tr>
<td>William Foster</td>
<td>1845</td>
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<tr>
<td>C. Trussel</td>
<td>1846</td>
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<tr>
<td>J. P. Turner</td>
<td>1847</td>
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<tr>
<td>E. W. Spear</td>
<td>1848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Blakely Smith</td>
<td>1849</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isaac Boring *</td>
<td>1850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Harris</td>
<td>1850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sidney M. Smith</td>
<td>1851 - 52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Lane</td>
<td>1853 - 54</td>
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<tr>
<td>W. A. Florence</td>
<td>1855 - 56</td>
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<tr>
<td>John J. McGhee</td>
<td>1857 - 58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert W. Lovett</td>
<td>1859</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marshal F. Malsby</td>
<td>1860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Kelsey</td>
<td>1861 - 62</td>
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<tr>
<td>John F. Sentell</td>
<td>1863 - 64</td>
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<tr>
<td>W. W. Oslin</td>
<td>1865 - 66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Kelsey</td>
<td>1867</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W. W. Oslin</td>
<td>1868</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. W. Arnold</td>
<td>1869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. B. Davies</td>
<td>1870 - 71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. J. Murrah</td>
<td>1872 - 73</td>
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* Isaac Boring died on May 11th 1850 and James Harris was appointed to fill the unexpired time
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Years</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>W. W. Wadsworth</td>
<td>1874</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albert Gray</td>
<td>1875-76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. A. Rosser</td>
<td>1878-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sam P. Jones</td>
<td>1880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. M. Bowden</td>
<td>1881-82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T. S. L. Harwell</td>
<td>1883</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. J. Morgan</td>
<td>1884</td>
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<tr>
<td>O. A. Thrower</td>
<td>1885-88</td>
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<tr>
<td>O. C. Simmons</td>
<td>1889-92</td>
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<tr>
<td>S. H. Dimon</td>
<td>1893-94</td>
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Presiding Elders on the Monticello:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Years</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>William Arnold</td>
<td>1836-40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. W. Talley</td>
<td>1840-44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isaac Boring</td>
<td>1848-51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. W. Glynn</td>
<td>1851-52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Josiah Lewis</td>
<td>1852-53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. Anthony</td>
<td>1853-55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. T. Mann</td>
<td>1855-59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. W. Glynn</td>
<td>1859-62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. E. Evans</td>
<td>1862-66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walter Brannan</td>
<td>1866-67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. C. Simmons</td>
<td>1867-68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walter Brannon</td>
<td>1868-70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. G. Haygood</td>
<td>1870-74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W. N. Poulton</td>
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The first Bishop of the Georgia Conference was J. O. Andrews, who was consecrated in 1832. In 1844, a schism developed in the Methodist Episcopal Church caused, in part, by Bishop Andrews's ownership of slaves. Resulting from the dispute was the establishment of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, Bishop Andrews continued as Bishop. Later Bishops who served the Georgia Conference during Monticello Circuit years were: George F. Pierce, H. W. McTyeire, David Taggart, William W. Wightman, Snach H. Marvin, John C. Keener, J. C. Granberry, Alphens G. Wilson, E. R. Hendrix, C. B. Galloey, Atticus C. Haygood, J. S. Key, and O. P. Fitzgerald.

In 1895, the Monticello Church appears in the records as station, and has so continued until the present time. The old church building was torn down, and a new one erected at the cost of $3500. Plans for the building were drawn by Mr. John Davidson. In a pastoral report to the Quarterly Conference in December 1895, J. B. Allen says, "With a new, comfortable, and commodious church in the cultural portion of town there is no reason why Methodism should not move rapidly forward."

From the July 21st, 1898 issue of the Jasper County News, Monticello, Georgia:

W. D. Anderson died in February 1894 and Warren A. Candler filled the unexpired term.
"Last Sunday the first service was held in the handsome new Methodist Church on which occasion a Missionary Sermon was delivered by J. L. Jenkins of Sparta. The building was packed to capacity and the order and decorum could not have been better under any circumstances. Mr. Jenkins is an eloquent speaker and held his audience spell bound for one hour and a quarter."

In a report to the fourth Quarterly Conference 1898, the pastor, T. C. Betterson stated: "We now owe $400. on our new church building and this has been provided for by a loan which we have secured from the Church Board of Education at four per cent per annum. The church was formally dedicated November 13, 1898. Dr. C. E. Dowman preached the sermon. He delighted and instructed the congregation."

Officials of the new church were:


In a little more than a quarter century, due to an increase in population and an expanded church program, the "comfortable and commodious church" was proving inadequate. Talk of a new church was begun. In 1910, the church bought a lot from J. S. and R. A. Malone on Green Street for the sum of $2000, to be used "as a place for divine worship." The Trustees making the purchase were: J. H. Kelly, D. B. Benton, J. S. Malone, J. L. Campbell, W. A. Reid, E. H. Powell and W. R. Powell.

In 1923, the pastor, Reverend Augustus Ernest, called a joint meeting of the stewards and Trustees of the church for the purpose of discussing a new church to be built on the Green Street lot. Prior to this meeting $18,000. on a proposed $30,000. for a new building had been collected. The Committee was
asked if those subscribing the $18,000 would be willing to go ahead with that amount. The idea was rejected. Two years later another pastor, Rev. W. J. Cooper in a report to a Quarterly Conference said, "A new church must be built."
The congregation, however, decided to add to the church they had instead of moving to a new site. In 1936 after the additions and improvements had been completed on the church the trustees (J. E. Walker, E. E. Powel, A. S. Thurman, E. C. Kelly, Sr. J. A. Downs, E. R. Powell, E. B. Smith, and W. R. Benton) sold the lot on Green Street.

In 1927, during the pastorate of Rev. J. L. Hall, Sunday rooms were constructed at the estimated cost $8500. While Rev. J. O. Brand was pastor "1928 - 32," the men's Bible class room was constructed in the basement and a piano installed." Later the Sanctuary was made more beautiful by the addition of Memorial Windows. "The front window is the only one that was placed when the church was built. It was done by the "labors and gifts" of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Campbell, who, being childless dedicated it to "Our Children" of the Church."

Other names memorialized in these windows were: Elizabeth Little Kelly (1910 - 1932); Mrs. Louetta Smith Hasty (1907 - 1935); Harold Benton Surrrey (1896 - 1925); and Katie T. Malone (1858 - 1933); John H. Kelly (1816 - 1912) and Cordelia Benton Kelly (1847 - 1856); Matilda Agnes Reid (1849 - 1931); and Agnes Cordelia Powell (1875 - 1935).

Three other gifts added to the worshipful atmosphere of the sanctuary. The beautiful chandelier was refinished by the women of the church. It is now in the Narthex of the new church on College Street.

A lovely pipe organ was installed at the cost of about $12,500. The Trustees: Mr. J. E. Walker, Mr. T. C. Kelly, Sr., Mr. W. R. Downs, and Mr. W. R. Powell, made the initial payment using 31070, left to the church in
the will of Mr. Eugene Benton. Mr. Benton's niece, Miss Rosalind Benton paid
the balance and the organ was dedicated to the 'Glory of God and in memory of Mr.
Eugene Benton.'

Chimes were given in memory of Judge and Mrs. A. S. Thurman, by their
children, Ber, Albert, Beth, Veda, and David. Each Sabbath morning their sweet
music could be heard throughout the town reminding the people of God's priority
in their lives. They were played each evening at twilight bidding us rejoice,
rejoice, "God's in his heaven. All's right with the world."

This church building with additions and improvements served the Methodist
of Monticello for sixty-five years. In 1959, the Trustees of the church rented
the building to Mr. Ray Persons for a funeral home. He removed part of the
front windows and placed double doors to make it more convenient for his use.
After his death the building reverted to the Trustees and was rented to the
Uncle Remus Regional Library. The Jasper County Branch of the library was
housed in it. The present owner of the building is Mr. S. J. Smith. It still
serves the people of Jasper county as library. (1974.)

The people loved this sacred house their fathers built, yet still they
knew, "His pleasure lies not in temples built with stone, but in the piety of
consecrated hearts and lives devout."

When the congregation became aware that a larger building was essential
to meet the needs of the growing membership, plans were soon launched.

In December 1947, during the pastorate of Rev. Frank Moorhead, a
resolution was passed creating a Building Committee with "certain duties and
obligations." Serving on the committee were: Mr. J. N. Walker, Mr. E. C. Kelly,
Jr., Mrs. Ben Warren, Mr. L. O. Benton, Jr., Mrs. Alice Benton, Mr. Fred Benton,
Sr., and Mr. Travis Lynch.
On October 2, 1955, a church conference was held after the morning worship service with Rev. Roy C. Owens, pastor, presiding. Mr. L. O. Benton, Jr. Chairman, made a report for the Building Committee who had found the present church building was inadequate to serve the church and it's membership; that an adequate church could not be built on the present lot because of the cemetery and the location of the street, and, that, sincere efforts to close the street and acquire additional space by purchase had failed.

He then moved the adoption of a resolution that would authorize the Building Committee to purchase a four hundred by six hundred fifty foot plot of land on the west side of College Street, and to begin construction of a church when plans had been submitted to, and approved by, the church membership, and all Discipline provisions as to title, and approval of location and plans had been complied with. The motion was seconded but failed passage by a vote of 18 to 13.

On November 2, 1955, a Quarterly Conference was held in the Monticello Methodist Church. The District Superintendent, Dr. E. G. Mackey presided. By action of this conference, the original Building Committee was dissolved, and was instructed to refund the donors, or their representatives, their donations or their accruals, which had been made to them. This action was questioned, but was found legal and was unanimously approved by the Bishop and Cabinet of the North Georgia Conference and was ratified by a Church Conference of the Monticello Methodist Church. Almost two years passed before further effort was made to build a new church.

During the pastorate of Reverend Burch Fannin, the official Board of the Monticello Methodist Church appointed a committee composed of Rev. Burch Fannin, Mr. Marion Stone and Mr. Emmet Powell to make recommendations for a new Building Committee. They were requested to contact each member of the original Building Committee and ask them to serve.
On October 10, 1957, they made their report to the Official Board. Four members of the original committee felt they could not serve. They were: Mr. Fred Benton, Sr., Mrs. Alice Benton, Mrs. J. Ben Warren and Mr. E. C. Kelly, Jr., Mr. J. N. Walker, an original member, had passed away. Mr. Travis Lynch and Mr. L. O. Benton, Jr. agreed to serve.

The Nominating Committee recommended the following to make up the new Building Committee: Mr. L. O. Benton, Jr., Mr. Travis Lynch, Mrs. A. W. Fitzpatrick, Miss Laverne Johnson, Mr. Troy Ellis, Mr. Vic Lane and Mr. Grady Tingle. They were duly elected, and served with one exception, until the completion of the church. In February, 1962, Miss Laverne Johnson resigned to accept a job elsewhere, and Miss Mary Dance was chosen to fill the vacancy. Mr. A. W. Fitzpatrick was elected Treasurer.

Inspired by the zeal of their pastor, Rev. Burch Fannin, and encouraged by the church membership, the new Committee, Mr. L. O. Benton, Jr., chairman, and Miss Laverne Johnson, Secretary, began the urgent task of building a church worthy of God's Holy name.

In 1957, the lot on College Street which had been selected by the original Building Committee was purchased from Mr. D. M. Glover for $12,000. Prior to this two smaller lots had been bought extending the frontage of the Glover lot to the street. In September, 1955, the church purchased a lot from Mrs. Martha Warren for $1200, and on December, 1956 another lot was purchased from Mr. L. O. Benton, Jr. for ten dollars and 'other valuable considerations.' After the building was erected, the church bought the Monticello Circuit parsonage and lot adjoining the church property. This transaction was made on January 23, 1969 for $5050, and completed the church grounds as they are now. (1974)

After the lot was purchased a Fund-raising Program headed by Mrs. Fred Benton, Jr. and Mrs. D. W. Parrot, Sr. was begun.
Elliot Dunwoody, Architect, Macon, Georgia, drew the plans for a large structure, consisting of an Education Unit, Fellowship Hall and kitchen, and Sanctuary. These plans were submitted to and accepted by the Building Committee.

On March 24th, 1958, the Committee on Church Location and Building of the Decatur-Oxford District rendered its decision: "To whom it may concern: We, the Committee on Church Location and Building of the Decatur-Oxford District, North Georgia Conference, have examined the preliminary drawings and plans for the Monticello Methodist Church. We have found them to be attractive and adequate for the situation there. We thoroughly approve of the project and give to the Methodist of Monticello our blessings and Godspeed."

On March 30, 1958, the plans were presented to a Church Conference of Monticello Methodist Church and were approved unanimously.

On April 9, 1958, a call meeting of the Quarterly Conference was held at the Monticello Methodist Church and unanimously approved the Architect's plans.

On Sunday morning April 13, 1958, at the close of the morning worship service Reverend Burch Fannin led the congregation across town to the beautiful lot on College Street. The ground was broken for a new church building. It was fitting that Mrs. Irene Roberts, a member of the Monticello Methodist Church since 1883 was given the honor of lifting the first spade of dirt. Besides her stood the pastor and members of the Building Committee and, near by, a group of small boys and girls, recently received into the church watched with reverent interest. It is a fact worthy of note that Mrs. Roberts joined the church built in 1828, spent her years of active service in the church built in 1895, and lived to see the completion of new church built in the 1960's. Her funeral rites were held in the sanctuary on July 11, 1968.
On September 21, 1950, minutes of a Quarterly Conference reveal that the Building Committee was "granted the right to borrow such money as they deemed necessary, and in such manner as they deemed best, and such amounts as they decided on." It was also decided that the best way to construct the church was to build it in units, beginning with the Education Department and Fellowship Hall. Mr. Travis Lynch was the contractor for this Unit. Special thanks go to him for the time, talent, and hard work he put into this job.

On the second Sunday in May 1960, the Congregation held its first worship service in Fellowship Hall. Reverend Burch Fannin preached the sermon. On the same day Sunday School teachers, with their classes, entered the classrooms.

At this time the indebtedness on the completed unit was $15,063.50, and according to plans, construction on the sanctuary could not begin until this debt was liquidated. Loyal members and church organizations continued to pay into the church building fund, and in July 1963, during the pastorate of Reverend Randall Williamson, the debt was paid in full.

On July 26, 1963, Architect Elliott Dunwoody met with Reverend Williamson and the Building Committee to discuss plans for completing the Sanctuary, parking lot, and driveways. Before the plans were finalized the Annual Conference of 1964 assigned Reverend Williamson to the Morrow Methodist Church and Reverend Horace Couch was sent to Monticello.

On August 6, 1964, Reverend Couch and a Committee from the church went to Macon to confer with Architect Dunwoody. On August 26, 1964, Reverend Couch placed a set of the Architect's final plans for completion of the Sanctuary before the committee for their approval. These plans did not include plans with specifications for electrical wiring, heating and air conditioning, driveways, walks and parking areas which would be furnished later. After study and
discussion, a few minor changes were suggested. When these changes were made, the plans were unanimously approved.

On February 11, 1965, plans for heating and air conditioning were presented by Dennis Hayes of Bloomfield Engineering Company and approved by the Committee. And on March plans for electrical wiring of the sanctuary were presented by T. N. Cole Electrical Company and approved. This finalized plans for the completion of the Sanctuary.

On April 22, 1965, Reverend Couch reported that the plans had been submitted to the following Contractors for bids:

Marshall and Hudson, Contractors, Eatonton, Georgia.
Boyd and McMullen, Contractors, Atlanta, Georgia.
Raddick Contractors, Thomaston, Georgia.

June 18, 1965, was the date set for opening bids. On that day Boyd and McMullen and Raddick Contractors, asked that their names be dropped from the bidder's list. The only remaining bid was submitted by Marshall and Hudson for $109,400. This bid was presented to the Congregation of the Monticello Methodist Church and approved.

On July 15, 1965, the contract in amount of $6,186.48 for church furnishings was granted to Page Church Furniture Company, Abbemarle, N. C. and on July 15, 1965, in honor of Reverend Couch's birthday, the Contract for the building of the new sanctuary was granted to Marshall and Hudson, Contractors, Eatonton, Georgia.

The committee named to select the rug made their report on November 18, 1965. The Rich Incorporated bid of $3834.46 was accepted. According to contract the rug was 100% wool, heavy commercial grade, woven through, church red.

In April 1966, Mrs. A. W. Fitzpatrick was authorized to order the brass cross and candlesticks of the same material with bases matching the cross, and the chandelier for the center of the church. They were designed and made by
Meirjohan and Wengler, Metalcraftsmen, Cincinnati, Ohio.

On Sunday July 24, 1966, Reverend Horace Couch conducted the first service in the new Sanctuary. Other "firsts" of interest were: Lonnie and Nancy Brittain Burton were the first couple married in the sanctuary. This ceremony was performed August 6, 1966; Mrs. Robert Tuggle, Sr. (nee Iva Williams) was the first person and member of this church whose funeral rites were held in the Sanctuary August 9, 1966; Mr. E. B. Powell was the first layman to conduct the order of worship on August 21, 1966, in absence of the pastor. Kelli Hudson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hudson, was born October 18, 1966 and was the first infant baptized in the sanctuary. This rite was performed April 23, 1967.

On October 14, 1966, the contract for the parking lot, driveways, walks and for outside electrical work was granted to Marshall and Hudson for the sum of $23,000. Money given to the Monticello Methodist Church in the will of Mr. E. B. Malone was used to pay for this. A bronze plaque mounted on a marble slab was placed in the center island of the parking area. It bears this inscription:

This Parking Area is Dedicated
To the Glory of God
And in Memory of
Evan Baxter Malone
1888 - 1963

This finished the work on the whole church and grounds at the cost of some $265,000. Reverend Horace Couch was requested to tell the congregation that $72,000. was due on the building and to urge them to give liberally and systematically to pay this indebtedness.

December 22, 1966 a joint meeting of the Building Committee and the Trustees of the Monticello Methodist Church was held at the church. The purpose of the meeting was to transfer the church property from the Building Committee to the Trustees.
The trustees were requested and agreed to meet all contracts not fulfilled; to make necessary loans for the completion of the work; and to assume loans already made. The committee agreed that on December 23, 1966 necessary changes would be made in the deeds and they would be executed within five days. The transfer having been made the Building Committee elected October 10, 1957 was dissolved on December 22, 1966.

Building a church requires a lot of planning, paying, patience and prayer for God's guidance. It affords an opportunity for togetherness, faith in one another, knowing the joy of working with our Father and presenting our gifts to him. When it is completed, whether it is a small frame structure or a lofty cathedral it stands a silent witness to man's faith in God.

The goal, set by Monticello Methodist Church in 1958 was reached in 1966. Great credit must go to Mr. I. O. Benton, Jr., Chairman of the Building Committee, for his perseverance, leadership and gifts; to A. W. Fitzpatrick for efficient handling of funds, to each member of the Committee, Miss Iaverne Johnson, Mr. Travis Lynch, Mr. Grady Tingle, Mrs. A. W. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Vic Lane, Mr. Troy Ellis and Miss Mary Dance for their contributions of time and services. The Official Board deserves thanks for the services they rendered; appreciation is due the ever faithful women for their constant support; and to the loyal membership who shared so freely in the tremendous task. Very special thanks go to Reverend Burch Fannin, Reverend Hardell Williamson and Reverend Horace Couch for guidance and inspiration during the years of church construction.

On June 1, 1967, at 8 P. M. the Consecration Service for the new Monticello Methodist Church was held. The presentation for Consecration was made by Mr. William Berry, Chairman of the Official Board. The Superintendent of the Griffin District, Reverend James H. Moore, preached the sermon. The pastor, Reverend Horace Couch, participated in the ceremony.

On the same evening special gifts and memorials to friends and loved ones were dedicated. They were as follows:
Two hundred Hymnals given by almost as many people in honor and memory of friends and loved ones.*

Two brass Altar Vases given to the church by Reverend and Mrs. Horace Couch.

Pulpit Bible given in memory of Mrs. Troy Ellis by Circle One of the Woman's Society of Christian Service.

Two Brass Vases in Memory of Mrs. Helen McMichael given by the Mary Dance-Faith Sunday School Class.

Twenty-five Penant Collars for Choir Robes in memory of Mrs. Lucie W. Benton, given by Lucie and Jim Adams.

Two offering basons given in memory of Mrs. Robert Tuggle, Sr. by Mr. J. H. Williams.

The Brass Cross for Altar in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Downs given by their daughters, Mrs. Mattie Downs Daily and Miss Mary Downs.

Two brass Candlesticks for the Altar given in memory of Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Kelly, Sr. by their daughter, Mrs. Ola Kelly Ausley.

Communion Table, Narthex desk and Repository in memory of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Burney given by Katherine K. Burney and Mrs. E. S. Goolsby.

Baptismal Font in memory of Lucile Tate Benton, given by friends.

Four Flower Stands given by the Methodist Youth Fellowship.

A Tree given by Mr. J. T. Williams in memory of Mrs. Robert Tuggle, Sr.

Bulletin Board in memory of Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Flournoy given by Mr. and Mrs. Harry Doster.

Parament Sets in Liturgical colors given by the Intermediate Sunday School Class, 1966. Miss Martha Thornton, president and Mr. Fred Smith, teacher.

* A complete list of these are filed elsewhere in church records.
A Bronze Plaque memorializing those who were honored with stained glass windows in the former church has been erected in the Northex to the left of the main entrance as one enters the church.

An Arcade connecting the Education Unit and Fellowship Hall, enclosing a beautiful garden was given by Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Fitzpatrick. It was dedicated to the "Glory of God and in memory of Lucile Tate Benton."

Two Acolyte Benches have been placed in the Northex by Mrs. Arnie K. Jordan and Mrs. Eugene Allen in memory of their mother, Mrs. Ruby E. Kelly.

The beautiful dorsal cloth, hand-woven in off-white and gold was made and given to the church by Mrs. Lucile Campbell Landis, a former citizen of Jasper County, now residing in Connecticut.

The shrubbery that beautifies the church grounds was given by Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Fitzpatrick.

A Silver Urn was given in honor of Mrs. Amanda Gilmore by her children and grandchildren.

As a station church, Methodists of Monticello have worshiped in two beautiful buildings. But it is the hundreds of people dedicated to the service of God, and who put the Spirit of Christ in their daily conduct that are the real church.

During the seventy-five years of its existence, this church has seen many changes. It began as a part of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. In 1939 it became the Methodist Church and in 1968, the United Methodist Church. In 1895 Monticello was in the Oxford District, then changed to Decatur-Oxford District. In 196 it was put in the Griffin District, all of the North Georgia Conference.

The church has faced many social and economic changes. "The old cotton fields down South" have given way to large pasture lands, pulpwood forests and growing industries. Many citizens have moved away and many new-families
have come here. Polling stores had their day, and now, chain stores challenge small businesses. Integration of races has made many adjustments necessary in all areas of society. All these changes have made an impact on the church. There has been discouragement, and even open hostility, at times. But in each generation there have been those who loved the church and were ready to serve wherever needed, to give at a sacrifice and to do the will of God. Those people, with God's help, have made the United Methodist Church of Monticello.

In early days of the station church, the program was expanded to include a Sunday School, Woman's Missionary Society and Epworth League for Youth.

There is no record of a Sunday School in the Monticello Circuit church but the first station preacher, Rev. J. B. Allen, reported, "Our Sunday School is well organized. We have faithful and efficient teachers, and children seem anxious to hear the "story of the cross." No report was made of enrollment or finances.

The first Sunday School Superintendent mentioned was Mr. J. H. Kelly, Sr. and others serving in that official capacity were: Mr. R. A. Malone, Mr. J. S. Malone, Mr. J. Fred Benton, Sr., Mr. C. T. Edwards, Col. J. Ben Warren, Mr. G. G. Ezell, Mr. V. E. Thornton, Mr. Allen Brittain, Mr. Ellis Pope, Mr. R. H. Holland, Mr. Bill Cargile, Mr. Kenneth Pope, Mr. C. E. Pope, and Mr. Fred Smith. Special mention is given to Mr. J. S. Malone who gave valuable time during the building of the Sunday School Annex to the former church and he served over a longer period of time than the others as Superintendent. He was active for many years on the Official Board of the church and was known for generous contributions.

All these men and their staffs of officers and teachers worked well together to provide a fruitful education program for the church. The expansion of the program through the years has been the result of their labors.
Some outstanding teaching records were: Mrs. R. A. Malone taught more than a quarter century in both the Men's and Ladies' Bible classes. Col. J. Ben Warren taught the largest Men's Bible class in the history of the church. Mrs. Troy Ellis taught in both the Children's Division and Ladies' Bible class. She gave about twenty-five years of service. Mr. Emmet Powell, the present teacher of the Men's Bible Class, has taught about twenty years. Miss Josie Dance taught in the Primary Department for twenty-two years. She also served as Superintendent of Children's Division. Mrs. Lorena Burrell has worked in the Primary Department for more than thirty years. Mr. Fred Smith, the present Sunday School Superintendent, taught an Intermediate class for fifteen years. Miss Mary Dance taught the Men's Bible Class from 1942 - 1956. Mrs. Paul Hafer has taught in the Junior Department for more than twenty years.

Other faithful teachers whose records in years we do not have: Mr. V. F. Thornton, Mr. William Brazey, Mrs. Virginia (R. B.) Hayes, Miss Virginia Walker, Mr. C. T. Edwards, Mrs. A. W. Fitzpatrick, Mrs. E. Y. Pittard, Mrs. R. B. Knapp, Mr. Rhodes, Mr. Burney Goolsby and Mrs. Marie Brittain.

Many Workshops and Training Courses at local and District levels have made the opportunity to have trained officers and teachers to work in the more adequate space provided in the new church.

From 1895 to 1974 our area of the Monticello Methodist Church activity has been reported by every pastor as doing fine work. At a Quarterly Conference on July 14, 1894, presiding over by Dr. Warren A. Cardler, the Monticello
Auxiliary of the Woman's Missionary Society was commended for its efforts, work and accomplishments. Rev. S. R. Dixon was pastor. During the year $27,15 was sent to the Conference.

In 1898, the ladies organization was given a new name, "The Women's Foreign Missionary Society." Mrs. T. C. Betterton was the first president and Mrs. Harvie Jordan was Secretary. The amount sent to the Conference that year was $16,40.

In 1912, the name was changed to Woman's Missionary Society. The minutes of this group from 1914 to 1949 have been lost. Pastor's reports to the Quarterly Conferences are the only sources of information. In each instance these reports are similar in praise for the work done. One says, Women's Missionary Society is doing fine work; another, "Women's Missionary Society is doing exceptional work;" and another, "Women's Missionary Society had been an active force in the church this year." Similar reports from year to year assure us that there was an active organization of Women during these years. Presidents were: Mrs. T. C. Betterton, Mrs. G. M. Clements, Mrs. B. W. Purifoy, Mrs. W. R. Powell, Mrs. C. D. Jordan, Mrs. H. B. Kelly, Mrs. E. Y. Pittard, Mrs. G. S. Ballard, Mrs. J. V. Davis, Mrs. Troy Ellis, Mrs. J. F. Turner, and Mrs. J. O. Brand.

In 1940, the women's organization changed names again. It became the Women's Society of Christian Service. At this time the Monticello society was made up of three circles: Mattie Malone, Agnes Reid, and Lucy Walker.* The Woman's Society of Christian Service set its annual pledge to Missions to be $250., and in 1958 it was raised to $350. Besides the pledge, they have sent to the Conference Treasurer World Bank contributions, Lenten offerings, Life and Baby memberships. They kept informed by Mission Studies, Bible Studies, 

* Later the Mattie Malone and Agnes Reid Circles combined to form Circle One.
Program Books, Prayer Calendar, "Methodist Woman," "World Outlook," and other materials made available through the years. At the local level women have always been very active in the upkeep of the parsonage and furnishings. This was the special work of the Lucy Walker Circle and the Trustees. Other projects were: sending food and clothing to the needy, keeping in touch with college students and service men and women, remembering shut-ins and the Golden Arc group with cards, trays, gifts and calls. They initiated many projects to help the building funds. Some exceptional years in giving at local level have been: in 1917, $172.25; in 1950 - 51, $1081.76; in 1960 - 61, $2239.97; 1961 - 62, $1950.33; 1964 - 65, $1200. Membership from 1898 to 1974 ranged from 26 to 107. Presidents serving the Women's Society of Christian Service: Mrs. W. T. Irvine, Mrs. C. F. Holland, Mrs. R. A. Malone, Mrs. E. S. Goolsby, Mrs. Joyle Bearden, Mrs. Vic Lane, Mrs. Alice Benton, Mrs. Don Parrot, Sr., Mrs. Herman Tyler, Mrs. David Ellis, Mrs. P. T. Patton, Mrs. E. C. Kelly, Jr., and Mrs. Mike Folk.

No record has been found of when the Wesleyan Service was organized in the Monticello church. However, in the early 1940's there was a strong, active Guild which was organized by Mrs. C. F. Holland. Members kept themselves informed on the purposes of the Guild by attending District and Conference meetings, workshops, Bible and Mission Studies and use of Guild Literature in Programs. In 1958, several members attended a Guild Conference at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina.

The Guild's annual pledge to Missions was $390. Many years they exceeded this amount. They were very active at the local level. Their projects were very successful because of the hard work and cooperative spirit of the small group. The money made, together with their free will offerings enabled them to render Christian service to the church and community. Among the services rendered were: Baskets sent to shut-ins and needy persons at Thanksgiving and Christmas; money donations made to needy families; donations to the church
building Fund, and helping to meet community needs as they arose. They furnished a bedroom at the parsonage and kept it in repair. They originated the idea of "The Cross of Lilies" used in the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday. This became an annual tradition. They cleaned and repaired the chandelier which hung in the former church before it was placed in the Northex of the new church. New glass chimneys for the brass lamps were purchased and the necessary prisms to replace those broken or lost, were bought. They were found in Europe by a friend of Miss Luverne Johnson, President of the Guild.

In 1965, Mrs. Leree M. Benton, returned from a Guild weekend at Rock Eagle. In her report she said, "Changes were made in committees and in some by-laws. This was the beginning of changes to unify the Women's societies in the Methodist Church." In 1968, the Women's Society of Christian Service and the Wesleyan Service Guild were combined to form the United Methodist Women. The work of women continues with the same purpose and zeal. As we conclude this history 1974 -75, we record the following about the present status of Women's organization in the Monticello Church. The United Methodist Women in the Monticello have forty-six members. There are two groups: Lucy Walker and Christian Fellowship. Circle One is no longer organized, the former members, now few in number, faithfully attend the General meetings and contribute to missions. Three areas show improvement: More programs are taken from United Women's Literature; more District meetings have been attended by two or more members than ever before; and the coming of young women into United Methodist Women's organization.

Representatives attended the Retreat of the North and South Georgia Conferences of United Methodist Women at Epworth by the Sea; North Georgia Annual Conference meeting at Dalton; the District Annual Meeting in Barnesville; and the Mission Study Coaching Conference in Jackson. Credit for this
forward step is due, in large part, to Miss Reba Perry, District Coordinator of Christian Global Concern and Treasurer of the local U.M.W.; and to Mrs. P. T. Patton, District Chair Person of the Committee on Membership, and President of United Methodist Women in Monticello Church.

The coming of young women into the organization has been a great asset. This group places emphasis on service and spiritual uplift. They have made teaching materials for the Retarded Children's Program; gave a Birthday Party at the Retreat (home for the aged) with gifts for the honories; at Easter they sponsored a twenty-four hour prayer vigil, sunrise service and breakfast in Fellowship Hall. They have charge of the nursery during church services, and contribute generously to the mission pledge. This year United Methodist Women sent five hundred and ninety-five dollars to the District Treasurer.

The first organization for young people in the Methodist Church was the Epworth League. In 1897, Reverend Embry organized the first League in the Monticello Methodist Church with fifty members. In a Quarterly Conference record he says, "It has worked." In 1908, Reverend Betterton made this report, "The League is not fully organized. Attention is given to social affairs only." In a later report he said, "The League has made some improvement. Best work since its organization is being done, yet we cannot say conditions are satisfactory." From 1910 until 1940 most reports on the work for youth were not very encouraging. Minister after minister, reported, "No League."

Statements such as these found their way into the record: "As usual, no League and no prospects of one." "No young people's organization, a weak point in our church." Reverend Augustus Ernest reported, "No League" during the entire five years of his pastorate. In Reverend Irvine's four year pastorate, which were the last years of the League's existence there is no mention of a Youth Organization.
There are some bright spots worthy of note. Reverend Eakes said, "A faithful group keep the young people's work going." Reverend Crutcher reported, "We have reorganized the League and continue to do good work." The high Point in the years between 1894 and 1940 was in the pastorates of Reverend J. L. Hall and Reverend J. O. Brand, when records showed: "The League is doing good work." Mrs. O. F. Holland was adult counselor, Troy Ellis, Jr. President and Mrs. R. A. Malone was Bible Teacher. Later Miss Ruby Gilmore was elected President. "Good attendance " " interesting and inspiring programs" and some "welfare work" were reported.

In 1940, the Epworth League was changed to the Methodist Youth Fellowship. Mrs. R. B. Hayes, wife of Rev. R. B. Hayes, pastor, was the first adult counselor for the Monticello M.Y.F. There was no written record of their activities or projects, but they left a strong, active organization for the next group to continue.

From 1946 to 1952, during the pastorates of Reverend Frank Mosehead, Reverend Harry Mitchum and Reverend J. M. Moore, Miss Mary Dance was counselor. The M.Y.F. membership ranged from 15 to 35. The Monticello group participated in Sub-District and District meetings. It furnished several Sub-District officers and Miss Emily Holland served as a District officer. At the local level members participated in worthwhile programs of work-witness, fellowship, citizenship and outreach. An annual Bible study was taught by the counselor or pastor. The Woman's Society of Christian Service cooperated in teaching one mission study per year. Mrs. Emmie Holland, Mrs. E. S. Goolsby, and Mrs. Don Parrott, Sr. were very helpful. Special days, Easter, Christmas, and United Nations Day were observed by the M.Y.F. giving a program at the evening worship hour. The Stewards gave the Youth the collections taken at these services. This, with what they gave at their weekly meetings, they were able
to carry out their plans and contribute to the Youth Fund. Mr. William Brazy, Mrs. E. C. Kelly, Jr., Mrs. E. B. Powell and Mrs. W. G. Tingle were indispensable help with these programs.

Projects were planned for social, intellectual and spiritual enrichment. A few examples are: sixty dollars was sent to Librada Temporal to help build a new church in her home island of the Phillipines after World War II. A Bible was sent to Librada, who had written that not one had been left after the bombing of their small church; the birthdays of the Golden Age group in the church were remembered with baskets of fruit or flowers; youth collected and mended toys, redressed old dolls, and gave used clothing and blankets. All these were given to Miss Sadie Anderson to be used in social work at Christmas. Perhaps the high lights for the youth were two trips made by Reverend and Mrs. Moorhead, Miss Dance and all members of the Methodist Youth Fellowship to visit Methodist institutions located in the North Georgia Conference area. The first trip was only one day, and the first stop was Emory College at Oxford, a stronghold in Methodism. Here the centers of interest were: The Old Church, the Chapel, Seney Hall, the cemetery back of the campus, the old Colonial homes of College Presidents, faculty, and other outstanding Methodist leaders, and, to the ever-hungry youth the cokes and crackers served to them.

The next stop was the Methodist Children's Home at Decatur. Walking over the grounds, we saw and talked with some of the children. We were shown their living quarters, the kitchen where their food was prepared, and the Dining Hall. It was a great experience for the young people, and there was a feeling of joy and pride that their church really cares.

Emory University was the next destination. We toured the grounds by bus, stopping at Glen Memorial Church, Emory University Hospital, the Library and the Museum. The day ended with a picnic spread at Grant Park, a view of the Cyclorama, and a visit to the zoo.
The second trip was two days. Leaving Monticello early one morning on a school bus with Mr. Jones driving, the same group started out. The first stop was Amicolola Falls. After a picnic lunch, everyone made the hard climb to the top of the hill and the beautiful lake. Leaving the Falls a winding drive down the mountain brought them to Camp Glisson in time to tour the grounds, take a swim in the lake at the foot of Cain Creek Falls, and get settled in cottages friends had offered for the night. After supper everyone gathered around a campfire where Reverend Waights Henry led the evening program.

After a nights rest and breakfast, Reverend Moorhead held the morning devotion in the Chapel. Setting out again for a delightful drive through the mountains, Mr. Jones stopped time and again for everyone to enjoy the beautiful scenery. About noon we were in the little town of Blairsville, where everyone ate a lunch of cokes, crackers and mountain apples. The next stop was Young Harris College. After visiting on the campus, a walk down to the "Old Mill" site and Cupid Falls, then up to the "Outlar House" from where the view of Brasstown Valley is magnificent, the bus started rolling again. The last leg of the journey included the small town of Hiawassee, a drive through Unica Gap, five o'clock dinner in Gainesville and home.

Mrs. R. C. Owen was M.Y.F. counselor 1962-1956. Reports of good work were continued through this quadrennian. In 1956 - 1966, during the pastorates of Reverends Burch Fannin, Randall Williamson and Horace Couch, the building program was in progress and youth projects in M.Y.F. and Sunday School were designed to raise money for the building fund. They made generous cash contributions to this program. They bought a water cooler for the Education unit of the church; four flower stands for the sanctuary; parament sets and liturgical colors for the chancel - good attendance and well-planned programs were reported. During these years Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Reynolds, Dr. and Mrs. Bennet,
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Hafer and Mr. and Mrs. Lucian Ballard served as counselors.

From 1966 - 1974, the M.Y.F. has continued with a very fine group of young people, but it has not been easy to find adult leadership. Mrs. Randolph McMichael, Mrs. Donna Mitchell and Mrs. Jack Yearwood each served for a while. The last report to the Charge Conference 1975 was "The young people of the church have held several services. They are to be commended for their efforts."

During the years 1942 - 1974 many of our people have attended Camp Glisson for summer training.

There is no written record of choir in the Monticello Methodist Church, but one thing is sure - there was singing whenever a group got together for worship. "In every age and clime music and singing have been an important vehicle of worship to all nations, races, and religions that can listen to the mandates of nature." The Psalmist says, "The heavens declare the Glory of God."

The Book of Job declares, "The morning stars sang together." The Jews sang Psalms in the synagogue. By the waters of Babylon the captive Jews sang when they remembered Zion. On the plains of Bethlehem the angels announced the birth of Christ in song. At the last supper, after they had finished, Christ and his disciples sang a hymn and went out.

The American Indian made a joyful noise unto the Great Spirit as he wafted feathers heavenward. The beat of the drum calls the natives of dark Africa to worship. In secular and church history "Gospel singings" are listed as great events in pioneer days in America.

It does not have to be written down for us to know that there was singing when Lorenza Dow preached on the Great Rock in Jasper County, Georgia; George F. Pierce held a worship service in a frontier home, Sam P. Jones conducted a great revival under a bush harbor or when the first Methodist church was dedicated in Monticello. These were occasions of great joy and joyful Christians sang.
Mrs. Emma Bradley who was a member of this first Methodist church built in Monticello remembered when there were only one or two song books and the minister would "line out" the hymns for the congregation to sing. Occasionally some one would hold a "singing school" and teach notes to all who would attend. The singing was good and added to the worship service. Mrs. Irene Roberts remembered when a "foot-pedaled" organ was placed in the center of the church. The best singers sat close around, the "song leader" kept time, and the whole congregation was the choir. To this point in the church history, the only musician or singer mentioned by name was Mrs. S. H. Dimon, wife of the pastor, and sister of Bishop Haygood. In a Quarterly Conference report, 1894, it was written, "Mrs. Dimon is an accomplished musician and adds greatly to the music of the church."

In 1895, when the new church was built on Maple Street, a choir area was constructed to the right of pulpit. Since no records were kept and no mention of choir or music is made in Quarterly Conference records, little is known about who contributed to this area of service in the early days of the station church. When asked, older members of the community all remember Mr. Jim Downs, Mrs. Lola Cunard, Mr. Howard Downs, and Mrs. Joe Malone. They were brothers and sisters, who besides singing in the choir, shared their talents by helping in community affairs. Mrs. Malone played the piano, Mr. Jim Downs the violin and Mr. Howard Downs the harmonica. From those early days until now there has been a member of this family in the Monticello Methodist Church choir. At present Mrs. Shirley Cunard Davis, granddaughter of Mrs. Lola Malone Cunard is a loyal member. Other names mentioned in the early years of the twentieth century are: Mr. Will Reid, and Mrs. W.R. Powell. Mrs. Powell played the little pump organ. By the 1920's there was an organized choir. From then until now (1974), it is easier to give a greater number, though
not all, of those who have made a contribution to the church in this area of worship. Mr. William Brazey served as choir director until the middle 1950's. Mr. Brazey was an Englishman who began his singing experience as a member of Westminster Boy's Choir in London, England. In his young manhood he moved to Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. He was Director of the Chancel Choir at St. George's Episcopal Church in that city. The Rector of that church, J. J. Ray, spoke of his ability to teach others to sing. He said, "Never have songs been sung in this church as they are being sung now." In 1909, Mr. Brazey came to Alto, Georgia. During his sojourn there he was married to Miss Winfred McPeck. A few years later they moved to Monticello. There was no Episcopal Church here so the Brazey's made the Monticello Methodist Church their church home. They loyally supported it with their presence, talents, and gifts.

Many people of Monticello and Jasper County happily remember Mr. Brazey for his beautiful voice, generous spirit and dedicated service.

Miss Ethel Jones, an accomplished organist and pianist, served the church in that capacity until her death in the late 1930's.

Mrs. Lucy Benton Walker (Mrs. J. N.) who studied voice at Wesleyan College and in Europe, gave years of dedicated service. She is remembered for her beautiful voice, rare spiritual values and her joy and enthusiasm in serving the Lord. Mr. J. Ben Warren, a former member of the Emory University Glee Club added greatly to the choir for several years. Others remembered for years of loyal service are: Mrs. Alice W. Benton (Mrs. J. L., Sr.) Mrs. Lucie W. Benton, (Mrs. Taney) Miss Hazel Benton, Miss Loretta Smith, Mr. F. W. Smith, Mr. Guy Middlebrooks, Mrs. E. C. Kelly, Jr., Miss Dorothy Irvine, Mrs. Rosalind B. Fitzpatrick (Mrs. A. W.) Mrs. K. C. Pope, Jr., Mrs. W. T. Irvine and Mrs. Ann Powell Clay. Miss Nona Quinn, a member of the Georgia State College for Women's Acapella Choir, Miss Dorothy Thompson, a voice major from
LaGrange College, and Mrs. Beth Collins Porn, a music major, Wesleyan College, brought their talents to the choir for the time they taught in Monticello High School.

At the time the congregation moved to the new church on College Street (1958), Mrs. E. C. Kelly, Jr. was Director of the Choir and she has served since that time. Mrs. Kelly's training at Wesleyan College and her love for music combined to make her a diligent and dedicated servant of the church. Besides directing the chancel choir, she spent many hours training youth and children's choirs in the firm faith that a service rendered today may bear its fruit tomorrow. Members of the choir 1958 - 1974 have been: Mrs. Shirley Cunard Davis, Mr. Karvin (Red) McMichael, Mr. Randolph McMichael, Mrs. Grace D. Millebrooks, Tommy Henderson, Wade Ramsey, Mrs. Randolph (Hoppie) McMichael, Mr. Bobby (R.R.) Holland, Mr. Mack Tillman, Mrs. Marion Stone, Mr. Tony McMichael, Mrs. Sue Tuzgle (Tony) McMichael, Mrs. Betty Mc. Tuggle, Mr. Dudley Freeman, Mrs. Brenda Starr Freeman, Mrs. Annie Bob C. Edwards, Mrs. Patricia Pope (Mrs. C. R.), Mr. David Birdsong, Mr. Jackie Gilbert, Mr. Don B. Kelly, Mrs. Louise Kelly (Mrs. Don), Miss Harriet Ellis, Miss Carol Ellis, Miss Claire Ellis, Mrs. Larry Greer, Miss Fay Stone, Mr. R. E. (Gene) Bailey, Mr. Bill Cargile, Mrs. Martha Brock, Mrs. Margie M. Kelly (Mrs. Cole), Mr. Joe McMichael III, Mrs. Bonnie Starr Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Kiger, Miss Beth Yearwood, and Miss Tamsea Greer.

Mrs. Emmie Louise H. Powell (Mrs. E. B.) has served as organist for the Chancel choir since 1930's. She received her training at Wesleyan College and has been a willing, dependable and cheerful worker. Other musicians who have shared their time and talents generously are: Mrs. Maude B. Ballard (Mrs. G.S.) Miss Dorothy Irvine, Mrs. E. C. Kelly, Mrs. Bonnie Robinson, Mrs. Margaret Evans Smith (Mrs. Ned) and Mr. Bob Kiger.

The interest and untiring efforts of these people have made the worship service in the Monticello Methodist Church richer and more complete.
The Monticello Methodist Church has sent out no preacher, no missionary or deacons. However, no record of it's contribution of full-time workers would be complete without the mention of Mr. J. T. Benton, known to all of us who loved him as "Uncle Jimmy." By his sacrificial living and generous gifts Uncle Jimmie made it possible for many youth to get training for lives of service.

He did this, first by making contributions to schools where these youths were educated. Emory University, Reinhardt, Asbury, and Young Harris Colleges were recipients of his gifts. Many individual boys and girls were helped - perhaps more than anyone knows. Some became ministers in their homeland and others served in foreign fields. Thus a man who spent more than one hundred years of his life within the bounds of Jasper County yielded an influence felt around the world. Uncle Jimmie's One Hundredth Birthday was celebrated by the church on the first Sunday in July, 1950.

One other member of the Monticello Methodist Church lived to be over a hundred years old. Mrs. Amanda Gilmore was active even after her 100th birthday. She attended special services at the church and often went by bus or plane to visit her daughters in other states. She died September 25, 1971, at the age of one hundred and five years.

Although this church cannot claim to have sent Miss Virginia Hayes into missionary and religious educational service, it has been her church home since she retired and we are proud of her great work as a missionary in South America and in the Phillipines and as a teacher, at Asbury College, Wilmore, Kentucky.

There are hundreds of others who have gone out to take their places in the field of business, industry, education and various professions. They have also taken their places in the churches where they live and are an active part of that great multitude who seek Him together.
The financial report made at the Quarterly Conference in October, 1895, was the first recorded for the station church was as follows:

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<th>Paid</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presiding Elder</td>
<td>77.00</td>
<td>72.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preacher in charge</td>
<td>633.00</td>
<td>532.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bishop</td>
<td>15.00</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Claims</td>
<td>89.00</td>
<td>50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Missions</td>
<td>96.00</td>
<td>60.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Missions</td>
<td>48.00</td>
<td>40.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church extension</td>
<td>29.00</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Bible Society</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woman's Foreign Missionary Society</td>
<td></td>
<td>50.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>22.00</td>
<td>15.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total raised from all sources: 1051.95

Subsequent reports through the years usually read, "Paid in full."

The total amount raised during 1874 was reported by the Treasurer, Mrs. L. W. Benton, Sr. is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pastors Salary and Utilities</td>
<td>10,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministerial support</td>
<td>9.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Claims</td>
<td>1129.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Claims</td>
<td>351.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Service</td>
<td>1178.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher Education</td>
<td>300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District Work</td>
<td>500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organist's Salary</td>
<td>100.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choir Director's Fund</td>
<td>400.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janitor's Salary</td>
<td>1320.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organ and Choir Expense</td>
<td>150.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Yard Maintenance 325.00  
Orkin Exterminated 105.00  
Church School 746.72  
Utilities 423.53  
Insurance 1518.00  
Annual Conference Delegate Expense 100.00  
Building Maintenance (Trustees) 500.00  
Special Contribution (Purchase Electrolex) 276.79  
Commission on Evangelism 460.00  
All other local Expense 1081.00  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>22,771.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance forwarded at beginning of the year</td>
<td>1145.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total received during the year</td>
<td>23,995.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>26,141.21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expenditures for 1974 reported by Mr. L. W. Benton, Treasurer were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Budget</td>
<td>22,771.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission Specials</td>
<td>500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children's Home</td>
<td>219.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Wide Communion</td>
<td>94.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pastor's School at Wesleyan</td>
<td>40.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wesley Chapel Restoration</td>
<td>45.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>23,660.72</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Balance Dec. 31, 1974 2490.48

Each financial report through the years 1895 - 1974 shows an increase in the budget of the church. But the Monticello Methodist Church has never accepted the full "askings" of the Conference and the per Capita giving has
been below that of the Conference, Problems of the world today demand all that the church can give in Christian Witness and Christian tithing and gifts. The United Methodist Church is a connectional church and each local unit should strive to meet its apportionment, and thus strengthen the whole church that it will be able to meet the challenge God has placed before it.

Pastoral reports show another area in which the Monticello Church needs to grow. Greater participation in meetings, workshops, studies and conferences at Local, District and Conference levels is needed to increase the understanding of the organization and work of the whole United Methodist Church. An informed laity is essential to the success of the church in carrying out its commission. The United Methodist Church provides every local church and every member the opportunity to know that they are doing in spreading the good news, relieving suffering and helping people to live an abundant life, and to share in the great work.

Years between 1895 - 1958 when the church on Maple Street closed, and the congregation moved to the new church on College Street, surnames of families who appear in the records as supporting the church in times of prosperity and adversity are:


At the end of this history a copy of the present Official Board and the church membership will be given. These lists will include many who made the transition from the old church, all who serve in the new church, and many who continue to serve in the future.
Pastors who served the Monticello Methodist Church 1895 - 1958 and Monticello United Methodist Church 1958 - 1975 are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pastor</th>
<th>Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>J. B. Allen</td>
<td>1895</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. M. Snow</td>
<td>1896</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. L. Embry</td>
<td>1897</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T. C. Betterton</td>
<td>1898</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W. B. Dillard</td>
<td>1899 - 1900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. S. Harris</td>
<td>1901 - 1902</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. W. Stipe</td>
<td>1903 - 1905</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John P. Erwin</td>
<td>1906 - 1908</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R. M. Dixon</td>
<td>1909 - 1910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. C. Atkinson</td>
<td>1911 - 1912</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R. B. O. England</td>
<td>1913 - 1914</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William R. Mackey</td>
<td>1915 - 1917</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Felton Williams</td>
<td>1918 - 1919</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Augustus Ernest</td>
<td>1919 - 1924</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W. R. Cooper</td>
<td>1924 - 1926</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. L. Hall</td>
<td>1926 - 1928</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. O. Brand</td>
<td>1928 - 1932</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. T. Eakes</td>
<td>1932 - 1935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. E. Crutcher</td>
<td>1935 - 1938</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W. T. Ervine</td>
<td>1938 - 1942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R. B. Hayes</td>
<td>1942 - 1946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank Moorhead</td>
<td>1946 - 1949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harry Mitcham</td>
<td>1949 - 1950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James M. Moore</td>
<td>1950 - 1951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wills M. Jones</td>
<td>1951 - 1952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burch Fannin</td>
<td>1952 - 1956</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Roy Owen 1956 - 1960
Randall Williamson 1960 - 1964
G. & Horace Couch 1964 - 1967
Harvey Boyd 1967 - 1971
W. Henry Norris 1971 - 1975

Presiding Elders (District Superintendents) serving during this period were:

J. S. Eryan 1898 - 1900
W. R. Poote 1900 - 1905
J. W. Heidt 1906 - 1908
C. F. Rowan 1908 - 1910
J. W. Quillian 1910 - 1914
B. F. Frazer 1914 - 1918
H. B. Mays 1918 - 1923
W. T. Crawley 1923 - 1926
E. F. Dempsey 1926 - 1929
M. Thomas 1929 - 1932
R. E. Tyler 1932 - 1933
Wallace Rogers 1933 - 1937
J. M. Sullivan 1937 - 1941
H. M. Jones 1941 - 1945
C. L. Middlebrooks 1945 - 1950
E. G. Mackey 1950 - 1954
Walker Chidaey 1954 - 1953
Delma Havgood 1959 - 1962
J. C. Callaway 1962 - 1964
J. M. Moore 1964 - 1969
Frank Crawley 1969 - 1971
Neal Windom 1971

Besides the gospel messenger brought to the congregation by the pastor and presiding elders listed here, Monticello Methodist have had the opportunity of hearing outstanding men of the church, who, from time to time, have been invited to fill the pulpit. Among these have been Bishop Warren A. Candler, Bishop W. N. Ainsworth, Gypsie Smith, Jr., Dr. Horace Sprague, Bishop Arthur Moore, Mrs. Arthur Moore, and Bishop Owen Smith.

This brief record of the Monticello United Methodist Church closes with the year (1971 - 75). Under the leadership of Rev. Neal Wisdom, D. S. and Rev. Henry Norris, Pastor, men of quiet strength and deep faith, the membership has been inspired to make it a good year. Greater numbers attending the morning worship service; a marked increase in giving; a greater number taking communion, and more young married couples taking part in services give hope for a great future.

Hundreds through the years have had a more abundant life through the channels of this church. Many have given time, talent and money to the kingdom's cause. The church today is thankful for all the people, who through the years have been loyal; who loved the church and gave themselves for it. Let us again join that endless procession and go forth singing in our hearts:

"We love Thy Church, O God,
The house of Thine abode,
The Church our Blessed Redeemer saved,
With His own precious blood."
The Monticello Methodist Church Parsonage

In Methodism, next in importance to the church is the home for the pastor, and his family. When, in 1895, the Monticello Methodist Church became a station, the people lost no time in providing a parsonage.

In July 1895, Arbitrators, "to whom was referred the division of the parsonage of the late Monticello Circuit" made the following report:

We direct that the division be in proportion of 4 3/10 tenths to Hillsboro Circuit and 5 3/10 tenths to Monticello Station, as just, fair and equitable division of same." This report was signed by E. D. Ezell, R. T. Ross, and J. B. Webb.

On August 18, 1896, in the Quarterly Conference the report of the Arbitrators of parsonage property was rejected." J. H. Kelly, J. B. Webb were appointed to confer with two arbitrators from Hillsboro Circuit and they selected an "Umpire" for final adjustment.

In October 1896, the Arbitrators reported a settlement of the parsonage property. It was decided that "the Monticello Station pay for the Hillsboro Circuit one hundred fifty dollars with interest from the first Tuesday in September, 1895, at 7% until paid for their share in the parsonage."

The division of the property having been settled, a Committee was appointed to take charge of the old parsonage and to build a new one. On February 11th, 1897 this Committee had completed it's task and reported to the Quarterly Conference: "There has come into our hands from all sources the following Amounts:

For sale of land to the county  $125.00
For sale of old parsonage kitchen  10.00
For sale of old parsonage and one acre  450.00
From the Ladies  75.00
From subscription  680.00

Total  3130.00
Which amount has been expended as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cost of new parsonage</td>
<td>$1000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to the Circuit for their settlement in</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>parsonage awarded by Arbitrators</td>
<td>$125.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moving the old parsonage</td>
<td>$85.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fencing and other work</td>
<td>$90.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The report was signed by J. H. Kelly, Sr., J. L. Campbell, Lucian Benton, W. R. Powell, and W. B. Purifoy.

The old parsonage which had been the home of the circuit and two station preachers was sold to Mr. J. T. Benton. He bought a one-acre plot on the lower part of the church property to which he moved the old house. In 1952, he sold the house and lot to the Seals Laysons. For the many years it has been their home, they have been loyal and good neighbors to the Methodist preachers families.

The new parsonage was built where the old one stood. The H. L. Embry family was the first to live in it. He said of their new home, "The people of Monticello gave us a royal reception - hot supper, warm fires, and one of the very best, as prettiest, parsonages in Georgia. Mr. Embry found on his pantry shelves "lard, sugar, coffee, long sausages, short sausages, backbones, and side bones."

The same house with repairs and some additions to make it comfortable and more modern was used until 1971.

The Trustees and the Lucy Walker Circle of the Woman's Society of Christian Service were custodians to keep it in repair and adequately furnished. Other organizations and individuals also made contributions for this purpose.

Twenty-eight ministers with their families have lived in this house, and there's been heap of joys and some sorrows. Some came with small children, some with teenagers and some in the evening of life after their children had
married and established homes of their own. All were men of God, and each
making a lasting contribution to the spiritual life of the church and
community.

Some items of interest about people who have lived in the parsonage are:

Rev. Sam P. Jones, a noted American evangelist, served his last pastorate
in Monticello. He returned to Jasper County several years later to preach in
a County-wide meeting which, as told by the oldest citizens, resulted in the
greatest revival of religion ever to come to this county.

Rev. O. A. Thrower was the first pastor to have a buggy. Preachers, prior
to this time, were horse-back riders. Some became excellent horse traders, and
many stories, some fictitious no doubt, were told about them. Mr. Thrower was
also the first preacher to serve four years in Monticello.

Mrs. Dimon was a sister of Bishop Hagood. She was a very talented
musician and added greatly to the music of the church.

The wife of J. W. Stipe died during his pastorate in Monticello (1903 -
1905).

Rev. T. G. Betterton was the son of a saloon keeper in Chatanooga,
Tenn. He was converted at Emory College, Oxford, Georgia. He entered the
ministry and spent the rest of his life in the North Georgia Conference.

The Walter Millards lost two children while living in Monticello. Both
are buried in the Methodist Cemetery. One of them died from smallpox. He was
isolated in a tent in the back of the church lot and cared for by his father
and a negro man, who after his death, dug the grave and laid the small boy
to rest.

Mr. Augustus Ernest was the only minister to serve the Monticello Church
five years, and the only one to make Monticello his home after retirement.

Mr. W. P. Irvine, whose physical appearance alone demanded respect,
retired here, and went to Monroe to live. Mrs. Irvine was very active in the
Women's Work. Their daughter, Dorothy, was a talented musician and gave freely
of her services to the choir.

Reverend Brand made the parsonage grounds lovely with flowers. Gladioli
were his specialty. During his ministry his daughter, Lois, was married to Mr.
Burnside, a lawyer from Thompson, Georgia.

Reverend Wills M. Jones served his last pastorate in Monticello. Mrs. Jones
is remembered for her rare African violets.

During the four year pastorate of Rev. R. E. Hayes one hundred thirty-seven
members were added to the Monticello Methodist Church. Rev. and Mrs. Hay's
youngest son, Hayden, was born here.

The Sunday School Annex was added to the church on Maple Street during
the pastorate of Rev. J. L. Hall.

Reverend James M. Moore was the only person to serve this church as pastor
and as District Superintendent. He was pastor in 1950 - 1951, and left to
continue study at Princeton University, Princeton, N. J. He was assigned to the
Griffin District in 1965 and served during the time the sanctuary of the
Monticello Methodist Church was being built.

Reverend Randall Williamson compiled the first Yearbook. This practice of
summarizing the year's work has continued. He was very successful in organizing
the different Commissions into working units.

During the pastorate of Reverend Harvey Boyd an Allyn Electric organ was
installed in the church, and a piano was placed in the sanctuary. These in-
struments, used to glorify God, add greatly to the worship services.

The Boyd family was the last to live in the parsonage on Maple Street.
Rev. and Mrs. Boyd, Harvey, Jr., Gerald, and Nancy left Monticello to make
their home in Augusta, Ga. where Mr. Boyd had been assigned as pastor of Mann
Memorial Church.
In 1971, the parsonage and old church were sold to S. J. Smith, Jr. The church then purchased the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Cook on College Street as a home for future ministers who serve the United Methodist Church of Monticello. In June 1971, the W. Henry Norris family became the first occupants of the new parsonage.

During his pastorate of the United Methodist Church in Monticello, Mr. Norris was honored by being appointed Grand Chaplin of more than 97,000 Masons in Georgia. The honor was bestowed by Mr. Henry Troy Hooper, Grand Master of the Masons of Georgia.