Mt. Tabor first called Pine Log Meeting House, was located on the Conyers Farm now owned by W. Jeff Hyatt in Newton Co. It was served intermittently by Circuit-riding Methodist Preachers.

The people were pioneers, and took their guns to Church with them as protection against wolves and other wild beasts. To rid the country of these a wolf trap was made near the Church that helped clear the settlement of the depredations of these animals.

Later another Church was put up in a more convenient location near the present building. It was designated as Split-Log Meeting House, as the building and served as a meeting place for those of any denomination who had a preacher or visit them in passing.

Some years before the Civil War, Silas Staar a Methodist who owned the adjoining plantation and whose house stood where the Dial's Mill -Shiloh road crossed the Oxford-Gleens Mill Road offered a location for the use of the Church, and the Congregation built the frame building and named it Mt. Tabor.

All went well till the War of the 60's came on. Then the absence of the men in the service and the interruption of normal life caused the neglect and lessening of Church Activities.

With the Cessation of hostilities and the return of the men, who survived, an effort was made to restore normal conditions.

We find the record of the re-organization of the Church in the minutes of the first session of the Church Conference on Aug. 16, 1866.

Minutes:

1. Mt. Tabor Aug. 16, 1866-
   At a regular meeting of the members of Mt. Tabor Church S.W. Bryon was appointed Secretary. The following of committees were also appointed.
   1. Committee on State of the Church:
      S. Duke Chairman
      James B. Penn
      P.W. Hyatt
      Archibald Rice
      Henry Carroll
      Thomas Tingall
      Joseph Socwell
   2. Board of Stewards:
      A.F. Nunnally Chairman
      S.W. Buyan
      N.Z. Johnson
      J.J.W. Glenn
   3. Committee on Reliefs:
Minutes No. 2:

Mt. Tabor Sept. 14, 1866:

At the 2nd. monthly Church meeting, business was begun by prayer by Bro. Evans Pastor in Charge. The roll of membership was then called over and corrected. Call was then made for reports from Committees.

The Pastor in Charge reported the Churches to be in good condition and generally well interested on the subject of religion.

Minutes No. 3:

Committee on state of Church reported on cases of several probations, who wished to be continued.

Third Committee on Sunday School:

Report a Sunday School organized with good prospect of success.

A.F. Nunnally

Supt. and Henry Carroll Librarian

The stewards were not prepared to report, but promised to do so at the next meeting.

Committee on Relief:

Report no cases of suffering.

Committee on the Literature of the Church:

Report effort made for subscribers to books and periodicals, but without success.

There being no further business on hand the meeting was closed by prayer by Bro. Dukes

S.W. Bryan, Sec.
FEMALE MEMBERS:

Sara Nunnally
Nancy Penn
Francis Starr
Nancy Sockwell
Sidney Hyatt
S.M.A. Glenn
Martha Peck
Elizabeth Brown
Alias Edwards
Sara E. Bryan
Eliza Johnson
Demarius Peck
Ann Carroll
Susannah J. Johnson
Francis Rice
Ellen Switzer
Sara E. Glenn
Elizabeth Rice
Elizabeth Hyatt
Avemisia Hyatt  (Rawlins)
Sara Boyd
Nancy Boyd  (Overton)
Mary E. Sockwell
Anna Rice
Mary Palson
Julia Switzer
Tabitha Polson
Elizabeth Wooley
Lucy St. John
Emily Johnson  (Gray)
Mary E. Brooks  Removed by letter
Sara Freeman  Transferred
Carrie Seitzer.

From then on the location and name of the Church has remained the same, and the Congregation was maintained as a Methodist Church.

From time to time as the membership increased, some change on repairs were made on the augurised building, but little noticeable alteration prior to the Fall of 1951 when the Church was revived and the building modernized under the pastorate of the Reverend Carlton Knight.

Being a small Congregation Mt. Tabor was always included in a circuit and shared with several other small Churches, the services of a pastor.

When Emory College was established at Oxford, Ga. with the department of Theology for the training of young aspirants for the ministry. Mt. Tabor was used as a training ground for the young theologians, and most of the Georgia giants of Methodism. Among them not a few Bishops cut their eye teeth on its faithful long suffering Congregation. Were they alive today the very mention of Mt. Tabor would send nostalgic memories in the minds of Aticus G. Haygood, Calloway, Warren Candler, James E. Dickey, Henry La Prode, Lovejoy, B.E. L. Timons, Wardlow, Branham, Young J. Allen, T.H. Yun, and many others, who have served the church at Home and on the foreign fields. These names are treasured in the hearts and minds of the descendants of those who sat in patience and prayer and listened to their youthful effort to devide the word of life.

As the years passed many of the old families passed with them. The Starrs, Glenns, Bryans, Nunnallys, Wingates and others, either died or moved away.
With the removal of the theological department of Emory from Oxford, the usefulness of "Old Mt. Tabor" as a practice ground for the students ceased. The simultaneous drift from the rural areas to the cities and the drafting of young men into services in World War further drained the resources of the community and a period of inactivity set in which in the ensuing years led to the quasi abandonment of the Old Church.

About this time Layonna Glenn, a returned missionary from Brazil and granddaughter of the Rev. J.N. Glenn who served Mt. Tabor many years as pastor, discovered among her grandfather effects the Original of the minutes. (Already recorded) of the reorganization conference of the church in 1866 and brought them to the notice of the Mt. Tabor Congregation. With the cooperation of Mrs. Lou Rise and the church members—A Home Coming Day was arranged and celebrated on the anniversary of the date given in the old minutes. In response to a special invitation made through the Atlanta Constitution a large number of the descendents of those mentioned in the Old Minutes they assembled for the Home Coming Celebration, with dinner on the grounds and all enjoyed the occasion. A free will offering on that day made a possible much needed repairs on the Old building.

This however did not solve the problem of the pastoral appointments which had shifted to the afternoon service per month with corresponding decrease in attendance. In fact only the faithfulness and devotions of the Hyatts, Owens, Sockwells, Cooks, and Williams and a few others kept up the semblance of a congregation.

The situation became so discouraging that one pastor decided that the one afternoon meeting a month was not worth the trouble and discontinued even this service.

With this the few faithful members became desperate and took action to re-establish a regular morning meeting.

They succeeded in initiating the cooperation of Mr. Carlton Knight, a devoted Christian and enthusiastic worker who consented to serve as leader, if they could obtain the approval of the District Superintendent. It happened that just at this time the District Superintendent was absent in Europe so the time honored Uncle Nath Thompson agreed to take the responsibility of giving them the Green light and Mr. Knight began directing the services.

When the matter of remuneration was approached he said that to him the Gospel was not a commodity to be sold, but that it was a privilege to witness for His Lord, so they would worship together and whatever funds they were able to raise could be used in the improvement and beautifying of their Sanctuary. It would require more time and space than we have at our disposal to detail the steps taken in this direction, the results have to be seen, to be believed. Most of the actual work was done by members of the Congregation and their Pastor working side by side, even until for in the night. This faithful helper was none other than the Mr. Knight or whom we have already spoken—-But such things as gas heaters, electrical furnishings etc. cost money and a mortgage was assumed to meet these expenses. It was a pretty heavy burden for the faithful little band, but was being slowly paid off and the members, worked individually to earn small sums. At last as out of a clear sky came a check for $300 from a descendent of the Wingate family, (Mrs. John Milton Moats of Deverenix, Ga. who sent the check in memory of her love and devotion to Mt. Tabor during the happy childhood spent in the old Home Community.

Great was the rejoicing and a special ceremony was held at the burning of
Now restored Mt. Tabor stands one of the most beautiful and attractive
rural Sanctuaries in Georgia honoring God and a monument to the faith and
devotion of a small band of Worshippers and the leadership of a devoted pastor.

Written by Miss Faymona Glen
of Conyers, Ga.

Sent in by Josephine Hyatt
Secretary Mt. Tabor Chure