HISTORY OF NEW HOPE CHURCH

It was a hundred and one years ago New Hope Church had its beginning. In 1850 the need for a church was felt. Without the influence of a church the people nor the community could achieve the ideal purpose. So in that year a Protestant Methodist Church was organized. There was at that time no church building, but they met in the homes of the members.

The next year, October 18, 1951, Hardy Baker deeded to J.W. Baker, Jefferson Baker, J.W. Davis, John Summerour, Trustees of the newly organized church a tract of land containing one acre more or less for the consideration of two dollars. The land to remain property of the trustees and their successors as long as the church stands and is used for public worship.

This tract of land was back of Emory Queen's present home. Here the Church stood for twenty-eight years serving God and the community. By the year of 1879 the center of the community had shifted to school-house sitting on what is now the present church property, became the center of community life.

On June 7, 1879 John W. Black and F.L. Black deeded the church trustees J.W. Black, E.F. Fimer, R.L. Carter, J.E. Summerour, C.J. Baker. A tract of land containing two acres, for the consideration of one dollar. Said tract of land to remain property of the church as long as it is used for Public Worship. That tract of land being the one on which the present church is situated. In the latter part of 1879 a new church was completed. It was used for public worship until 1901. By this time the church membership had out-grown the building. Plans were made for the destruction of the old building and the construction of a new one. Meanwhile church services were held in the school house near by. This continued
until the completing of the present building on 1904. Among the charter members were the Blacks, Carters, Palmers, Summerours, Bakers, and Briscoes.

Rev. J.A. McGarity was one of the first pastors to serve our present and second church also; he served from 1893 until 1908. He was assisted from 1900 until 1908 by Rev. J.O.A. Radford. They were followed by J.C. Patrick. In 1911 J.M.D. Radford, son of J.O.A. Radford was elected pastor which he held until 1914. In this year, the church joined the North Ga. Conference, and became an M.E. Church, and from then on our pastors have been appointed by the North Ga. Conference. We were then known as the Monroe Circuit which consisted of four churches: Union Chapel, Pleasant Valley, Mt. Carmel, New Hope. We had many good preachers during the years such as: Rev. E.A. Caldwell, Rev. J.E. Russell, Rev. Wills Jones, H. G. Garrett, J.E. Sprayberry. One outstanding pastor was W.O.L. Powell who felt the need of expansion during the year of 1930. The circuit was divided and some new churches added. We became the Walton Circuit. In 1931 Rev. Arthur Kinsey of Gainesville was sent to us as a pastor. He saw the need for a parsonage. With God’s guidance and the help of the faithful members of the Walton Circuit a modern five room bungalow house was built and completed in the year of 1932. The parsonage was built in between, the land being donated by Mr. and Mrs. John Briscoe, Sr. Rev. Kinsey held the pastorate of Walton Circuit for seven years. He was followed by Rev. T.E. Sherwood and Rev. J.R. Phillips. In 1941 a young preacher, Rev. Gordon Thompson of Athens was sent to us as pastor. During his ministry much good was done by his efforts and outstanding work. New Hope Church was put on half-time charge having two Sundays a month instead of one. He served the church four years, during the
time he finished his theology work at Emory. He and his lovely family are still held in highest esteem by all Walton Circuit members. He was followed by Rev. P.V. Hall, Rev. J.P. Mix, and Rev. R. F. Nay.