The History of New Hope Methodist Church

New Hope Church was organized in the home of Wiley Westbrook Sr. about 1839 in Forsyth county near Gainesville, Georgia.

There were fourteen charter members from the Cogburn, Tatem, Patterson, Daniel and Westbrook families.

They started cutting logs at once and soon a small log church was erected near a large spring on the Gainesville public road. The land was donated by Wiley Westbrook Sr. The benches were made of logs split open, with peg legs. The church was called "Head of the Creek" because of the large spring near by. The value of the Church and the salary of the pastor are not known.

The second building was built soon after the Civil war. This was a board building larger than the first and built on the same plot of ground. The cost of this building was small. There is no record of the Pastors' salary.

The third church building was erected about 1879 across the road from the old church place on a new plot of ground donated by John R. Westbrook. The cost of this building was about $500. Rev. L. P. Winters was one of the first pastors. The people were so proud and happy about the new church they wanted to give it a new name. Because of the bright hope it put in their hearts, they named it NEW HOPE.
In 1924 the people decided to build a larger church. A new plot of ground was bought from M. H. Westbrook and the fourth church, valued at $5000 was built near the first church place. This church was dedicated by Bishop W. B. Beauchamp with Nath Thompson being district superintendent and J. W. Segars being Pastor. This church was stricken by lightning and burned July 13, 1949.

Even as the fourth church burned, the members planned to build a fifth and in four months a beautiful brick and cement building stood on the same old ground. The value of this church is $8000.

The value of the charge parsonage is $3000. This is the second all church property. It contains the trust clause.

The property owned by the church consists of one acre for cemetery, one acre for parking lot, and one acre for church yard. The value of this ground is $500.

The Sunday School was organized about 1870. The first superintendent was Eli Mooney, who served twenty years. Following him were M. Morgan, Alison, Purcill, Westbrook and Barron. W. C. Tumlin served twenty-five years. The present superintendent is Ray Bennett.

The Missionary Society was organized in 1924 by Miss Bert Winter with eight charter members. Mrs. Sam Rosser was the first president. At present, 1951, we have sixteen members with Mrs. Elizabeth Smith as president.
The two ministers sent out by the church are D. S. Patterson and James Singleton.

The most outstanding pastor of the church was the Reverend Bob Eaks. The most outstanding local preacher was the Reverend Matt Hughes who had regular appointments for about twenty years.

Many great revivals have been held under the leadership of our pastors, especially Reverend L. P. Winter, Bob Eaks and Glenn Davis.

The present membership of the church is about one hundred. The Reverend James Stlyes is the present pastor.

This history has been taken from the church register and from some of the older members.
Some of the ministers who have served our church are:

L. P. Winter
R. A. Eaks
Venable
E. D. Wright
W. J. Hanson
G. W. Farr
Glenn Davis
Walter E. Arnold
J. M. Fowler
W. G Crawley
J. T. Balis
J. W. Austin
A. Lester
H. W. Morris
Lucien Roper
C. T. Ivey
M. B. Whittaker
L. A. McLaughlin

B. S. Speer
A. T. Hind
Orange
G. W. Hamilton
W. B. Mills
F. C. OWEN
H. O. Green
George P. Gary
J. W. Coffman
T. M. LUKE
J. W. Segars
M. O. Spence
Z. W. Hawks
L. G. Cowart
G. C. Knowles
W. O. Spence
Claude Patterson
V. O. Gentry
James Styles