

1972 Lalsrange Dist

HISTORY

Of

NEWNAN, FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

LaGrange Dist

124

HISTORY OF THE FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

NEWNAN, GEORGIA

1828

1951

BY

MISS LAURA PEDDY AND MISS MARY FREEMAN

125

## THE HISTORY OF THE FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

NEWMAN, GEORGIA

BY MISS LAURA PEDDY AND MISS MARY FREEMAN

THE METHODIST CHURCH IN NEWMAN HAS A HISTORY, A HISTORY FULL OF INTEREST TO THOSE WHO HAVE GROWN UP AROUND HER SACRED ALTARS.

SOME ONE HAS SAID, "THE SUN NEVER SETS UPON THE PEOPLE CALLED METHODISTS". IN A SENSE THIS IS TRUE, FOR BY THEIR ZEAL AND COURAGE THEY ENTER EVERY PLACE WHERE THERE ARE THOSE HUNGERING FOR THE "BREAD OF LIFE".

THE METHODISTS WERE THE FIRST TO ORGANIZE A CHURCH IN THE WILDS OF COWETA COUNTY. ✓

THE GRAND, TRUE MEN OF EARLY METHODISM SOUGHT NOT EASY PLACES, BUT "COUNTED IT ALL JOY" TO GO OVER MOUNTAINS AND PLAINS, IN HEAT AND COLD, TO DO THE MASTER'S WORK. IT WAS ONE OF THESE BRAVE, TRUE "SOLDIERS OF THE CROSS", THE SAINTED WILLIAM STEAGALL, WHO CAME OVER FROM THE FAYETTE CIRCUIT AND ORGANIZED A METHODIST CHURCH IN COWETA COUNTY, IN FEBRUARY 1828. THE REVEREND WILLIS MATTHEWS WAS CIRCUIT RIDER THAT YEAR. BUT THE FIRST SERMON BY A METHODIST MINISTER IN NEWMAN WAS BY REV. DABNEY P. JONES IN 1827.

IN 1829 THE REV. SIMEON L. STEVENS FED THE LITTLE FLOCK OF EIGHT SOULS IN A LITTLE LOG HOUSE, LOCATED NEAR THE CEMETERY, IN THE TOWN OF NEWMAN. WE GIVE A LIST OF THE FIRST MEMBERSHIP:

MR. AND MRS. EARNEST WITTICK, MR. AND MRS. HUGGINS, MRS. DAVIS AND HER SON, NATHAN, MRS. COOPER AND HER SISTER, MISS C. ECHOLS, SISTERS OF MRS. DOUGHERTY.

IN 1830 A NEW CHURCH WAS BUILT ON THE LOT IN THE REAR OF WHERE THE METHODIST PARSONAGE (WESLEY STREET) LATER STOOD. IT WAS ABOUT THIRTY FEET SQUARE, AND ALL REJOICED IN HAVING SUCH A CAPACIOUS HOUSE OF WORSHIP. THE PASTOR FOR THAT YEAR WAS RICHARD I. WINN. IN 1831 THE MUCH BELOVED WILLIAM STEAGALL SERVED THE CHURCH.

WITH THE COMING YEARS NEWMAN INCREASED IN SIZE AND THE MEMBERSHIP GREW, THE BUILDING WAS TOO SMALL, AND IN 1855, DURING THE PASTORATE OF WILLIAM E. EVANS, THE LITTLE CHURCH WAS MOVED TO THE PLACE OF THE LATER METHODIST PARSONAGE (WESLEY STREET) AND ADDED TO, MAKING WHAT IS KNOWN AS "THE OLD CHURCH".

WHAT HALLOWED MEMORIES CLING AROUND "THE OLD CHURCH", WHEN WE RECALL THE LIVES OF THE STEAGALLS, THE MITCHELLS, THE DOUGHERTYS, THE CLARKS, AND THE REESES AND MANY, MANY OTHERS WE HAVE NOT SPACE TO MENTION. IT WAS THE GENEROUS-HEARTED



MAJOR M. B. CLARK, WHO PRESENTED "THE OLD CHURCH" WITH THE FIRST SILVER COMMUNION SERVICE.

AGAIN AS THE FACT PRESENTED ITSELF THAT THE BORDERS MUST BE ENLARGED, SINCE THE FLOCK HAD INCREASED, DURING THE PASTORATE OF THAT NOBLE, UNSELFISH, SUNNY-SPIRITED MAN, A. M. THIGPEN, THE CORNER-STONE OF A NEW CHURCH WAS LAID WITH GREAT ENTHUSIASM ON THE TWENTY-FIFTH OF AUGUST, 1874.

"LONG AND IMPOSING WAS THE PROCESSION IN WHICH MARCHED THE NEWMAN GUARDS, THE MEMBERS OF THE BAR, THE GOOD TEMPLARS, THE CORNER-STONE CLUB, THE MASONS, AND CIVILIANS."

THE PASTOR, A. M. THIGPEN, WHO HAD ENDEARED HIMSELF NOT ONLY TO HIS OWN FLOCK, BUT THE ENTIRE TOWN, MADE THE ADDRESS OF THE OCCASION. IT WAS BEAUTIFUL IN THOUGHT AND EXPRESSION, AND REACHED ALL HEARTS WHO WERE PRESENT.

THOSE WHO WITNESSED THE LAYING OF THE CORNER-STONE BY M. P. KELLOGG, PRESIDENT OF COLLEGE TEMPLE, ACTING AS GRAND MASTER, CANNOT FORGET THE SWEET, TOUCHING PRAYER OFFERED BY UNCLE BATTY MITCHELL, ONE OF THE PATRIARCHS OF THE CHURCH, SO BOWED WITH THE BURDEN OF YEARS, HE WAS ABLE NEITHER TO KNEEL NOR STAND, BUT SAT UPON THE STONE WHILE HE PRAYED FOR THE PROSPERITY OF ZION. ANOTHER PICTURE IS JUST AS VIVIDLY PAINTED UPON MEMORY: IT IS THE GRACEFUL FORM AND AT THAT TIME, THE STILL HANDSOME FACE OF VENERABLE MRS. OLIVE DOUGHERTY, WHO, WITH THE MASONIC GAVEL, TESTED THE WORK TO SEE THAT IT WAS FIRMLY PLACED.

WHILE WE SPEAK OF SISTER DOUGHERTY, WE REMEMBER THAT LONG LINE OF ASSOCIATE MEMBERS OF THE CORNER-STONE CLUB, WHO STOOD BY HER THAT DAY, BOTH SORROWFUL AND REJOICING IN HEART. REJOICING IN THE SUCCESS WHICH HAD CROWNED THEIR LABORS, SORROWFUL BECAUSE THEIR FOUNDER AND BELOVED PRESIDENT, MRS. CORNELIA F. REESE, HAD JUST BEEN TRANSLATED TO THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT.

THROUGH HER UNTIRING ZEAL AND WISE COUNSEL, AIDED BY THE HEARTY COOPERATION OF THE GODLY WOMEN WHO COMPOSED THE CORNER-STONE CLUB, WAS THE ELIGIBLE LOT, AND HOUSE OF GOD PURCHASED. WHAT A DEBT OF GRATITUDE WE ALSO OWE THE BUILDING COMMITTEE, J. E. DENT, DR. GABE JOHNSON, Y. H. THOMPSON AND JOHN REDWINE. UPON THE SHOULDERS OF THESE THE BURDEN RESTED, AND WE WHO REAPED THE BENEFIT OF THEIR UNTIRING LABORS WOULD DO HOMAGE TO THEIR NAMES.

ELEVEN YEARS PASSED BY OF SUNSHINE AND SHADOWS FOR OUR CHURCH, TRUE AND TRIED MEN PREACHED THE SIMPLE, PURE GOSPEL AND GOD BLESSED THE PEOPLE SPIRITUALLY AND MATERIALLY. THEY DID NOT ATTEMPT TO FULLY COMPLETE THE CHURCH UNTIL DURING THE PASTORATE OF W. W. WADSWORTH. HE IS DUE PRAISE AND GRATITUDE FOR HIS EFFORTS IN THE BEAUTIFUL ADORNMENT AND APPROPRIATE INSCRIPTION ON THE INTERIOR, AS WELL AS FOR THE SYMMETRICAL STEEPLE, WHICH WAS THE CHIEF BEAUTY OF THE CHURCH. THE WORK WAS COMPLETED, AND ON SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 1885, THE CHURCH WAS DEDICATED TO THE WORSHIP OF GOD.

BISHOP HARGROVE WAS TO HAVE PREACHED THE DEDICATORY SERMON, BUT WAS PREVENTED BY SICKNESS. DR. JESSE BORING, THE PRESIDING ELDER OF THE DISTRICT, AND THE MOST VENERABLE AND GIFTED METHODIST IN THE STATE, PREACHED THE DEDICATION SERMON.

THE DAY OPENED BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL, AND PROVIDENCE SMILED UPON THE OCCASION. THE ALTAR AND PULPIT HAD BEEN TASTEFULLY DECORATED WITH FLOWERS. THE HOUSE WAS FILLED TO ITS UTMOST CAPACITY. WHEN THE CHOIR BEGAN THAT GRAND ANTHEM, THE TWENTY-FOURTH PSALM, A WAVE OF HOLY FERVOR SEEMED TO FLOW OUT OVER THE ASSEMBLY. REV. A. M. THIGPEN, OF DESOTO, WHO WAS PASTOR WHEN THE ENTERPRISE WAS BEGUN, READ THE FIRST HYMN, "BEFORE JEHOVAH'S AWFUL THRONE", AND AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE SINGING HE LEAD IN AN EARNEST AND APPROPRIATE PRAYER. AFTER THE READING OF THE LESSON, THE PASTOR, REV. W. W. WADSWORTH, ANNOUNCED THE SECOND HYMN, "I LOVE THY CHURCH, O GOD", WHICH WAS SUNG WITH GREAT POWER BY THE VAST AUDIENCE. DR. BORING THEN AROSE TO PREACH THE DEDICATION SERMON. HIS TEXT WAS 2 CHRONICLES 7:12-17. IT WAS A GRAND SERMON, AND WHEN THE SPEAKER CLOSED, THE ENTIRE CONGREGATION FELT THE INFLUENCE OF THE DIVINE PRESENCE, AND SEEMED TO REALIZE THAT THEY WERE INDEED WITHIN A HOLY, CONSECRATED PLACE.

THE LESSON FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT WAS THEN READ BY REV. THIGPEN, AND THE LESSON FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT BY THE PASTOR. THE TRUSTEES CAME FORWARD AROUND THE ALTAR, AND WHILE THE CONGREGATION STOOD, MR. J. E. DENT, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD PRESENTED THE BUILDING ACCORDING TO THE RITUAL OF THE CHURCH, AS FOLLOWS:

"WE PRESENT YOU THIS HOUSE TO BE SET APART FROM ALL SECULAR AND UNHOLY USE, AND DEDICATED TO THE WORSHIP OF ALMIGHTY GOD."

THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION FOLLOWED, BEING READ BY THE PASTOR. THE HYMN COMPOSED BY DR. C. D. SMITH FOR THE OCCASION, WAS THEN SUNG. ITS APPROPRIATE SENTIMENT AND DEEP SPIRITUALITY, TOGETHER WITH AN OUTBURST OF MELODY FROM HUNDREDS OF VOICES UNITING WITH FERVOR IN THE WORSHIP, MADE A PROFOUND IMPRESSION. IT WAS A FITTING CLOSE TO THE SERVICE, AND UNDER ITS INFLUENCE THE BENE-DICTION WAS PRONOUNCED.

TWENTY YEARS CAME AND WENT. GOD BLESSED OUR PEOPLE WONDERFULLY FROM A FLOCK OF THREE-HUNDRED AND FIFTY IN 1885 TO EIGHT-HUNDRED SOULS IN 1905.

IN THOSE TWENTY YEARS THERE WERE SOME MEMBERS WHOSE LIVES WERE BEACON LIGHTS ALONG THE WAY. THEIR EXAMPLES WERE WELL WORTH EMULATION. ONE OF THESE WAS Y. H. THOMPSON, WHO, FOR MORE THAN FIFTEEN YEARS, WAS THE SUPERINTENDENT OF OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL. NOBLY DID HE FILL THAT PLACE, AS WELL AS OTHERS OF EQUAL IMPORTANCE. NO MAN IN THE TOWN WAS SO BELOVED, AND HIS INFLUENCE,



LIKE THE ODOR OF SWEET FLOWERS, STILL LINGERS AROUND OUR PEOPLE. OTHERS WHO WERE PROMINENT MEMBERS WERE MR. JAMES THOMPSON, MR. SAMUEL OLMSTEAD, MR. A. B. HILL, AND MR. W. F. LOVEJOY. HE TOO WAS OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT FOR MANY YEARS. HIS LIFE IS PERPETUATED IN THE HOUSE OF WORSHIP, LOVEJOY MEMORIAL, BUILT BY OUR CHURCH AT A COST OF THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS.

THERE HAVE BEEN MANY LARGE GATHERING OF SOULS UNDER THE MINISTRY OF DIFFERENT PASTORS, BUT THE GREATEST WAS UNDER THE PASTORATE OF BROTHER J. R. KING. FIVE-HUNDRED WERE ENROLLED ON OUR CHURCH RECORD.

---

NOTE: THE FOREGOING HISTORY WAS WRITTEN IN 1905, AND THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNTS WERE WRITTEN IN 1926 AND 1951 TO BRING THE HISTORY OF THE CHURCH COMPLETELY UP TO DATE.

---

IN 1905 THE NORTH GEORGIA CONFERENCE OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH, WAS ENTERTAINED BY THE FIRST CHURCH, NEWNAN. BISHOP W. W. DUNCAN PRESIDED OVER THE CONFERENCE. REV. B. P. ALLEN, PRESIDING ELDER, OF THE LAGRANGE DISTRICT AND REV. J. R. KING, OUR PASTOR, AT THAT TIME, WERE THE HOSTS.

THE BUSINESS SESSIONS OF THE CONFERENCE WERE HELD IN THE NEW COURTHOUSE. THE CONFERENCE WAS ROYALLY ENTERTAINED BY THE GENEROUS-HEARTED PEOPLE OF EVERY DENOMINATION AND PROVED A GREAT BLESSING TO OUR LITTLE CITY.

AT THIS CONFERENCE, DR. J. W. QUILLIAN WAS ASSIGNED TO FIRST CHURCH, NEWNAN, AND FOR TWO YEARS UNDER HIS WATCHFUL PASTORATE, AND EARNEST GOSPEL SERMONS THE CHURCH GREW SPIRITUALLY AND NUMERICALLY.

IN 1909, DURING THE PASTORATE OF DR. R. J. BINGHAM, IT WAS DEEMED BEST TO "LENGTHEN OUR CORDS AND STRENGTHEN OUR STAKES." SO A GREAT CHANGE WAS WROUGHT IN OUR CHURCH BUILDING. A COMPLETE REMODELING OF THE INTERIOR PLAN WITH ATTRACTIVE ADDITIONS AND NEW FURNISHINGS, SPLENDID MEMORIAL WINDOWS, THE EXTERIOR FRESHLY PAINTED, RESULTED IN A BEAUTIFUL EDIFICE.

THE MOST IMPORTANT AND THE MOST INTERESTING THING ABOUT ANY CHURCH ARE THE MEN, WOMEN AND YOUNG PEOPLE GIVING THEMSELVES TO LABOR AND SERVE FOR HIM AND HIS KINGDOM. OUR CHURCH HAS HAD MANY WHOSE SERVICE STANDS OUT IN BOLD RELIEF FOR THEIR UNSELFISH GIFTS OF THEIR VERY BEST FOR THE GROWTH OF OUR CHURCH. WE WOULD PAY HIGHEST TRIBUTE TO OUR SUPERANNUATE PREACHERS, THE LATE REV. J. T. G. HUGHES, W. J. COTTER AND DR. W. F. COOK, WHO AFTER THEIR YEARS OF TOIL AND UNCOMPLAINING SERVICE AS PASTORS OF THE NORTH GEORGIA CONFERENCE, CAME AT THE SUNSET OF LIFE TO SPEND THEIR

REMAINING DAYS AMONG US, AND HOW NOBLY DID THEY SPEND THOSE DAYS, GOING IN AND OUT AMONG OUR PEOPLE, VISITING THE SICK AND COMFORTING THE SORROWING. WHAT A BLESSING AND BENEDICTION THEY WERE TO OUR PEOPLE, ETERNITY ALONE CAN TELL.

NOT ALONE HAS FIRST CHURCH BEEN BLESSED IN HAVING TRUE, CONSECRATED MEN SENT TO PREACH AND MINISTER TO THEM--ITS PEOPLE, BUT IT HAS BEEN SINGULARLY BLESSED IN HAVING A BAND OF NOBLE, UNSELFISH LAYMEN, NOT ALONE TO HOLD UP THE HANDS OF THEIR PASTORS, BUT TO HELP BY THEIR GIFTS OF TALENTS AND MONEY. WE RECALL WITH WHAT UNTIRING, EARNEST, FAITHFUL SERVICE MR. WALKER CAMP RENDERED TO OUR CHURCH AS SUPERINTENDENT OF OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL AND AS STEWARD OF THE CHURCH. HOW EXCEEDINGLY KIND TO HIS PASTORS WAS HE, AND ALSO TO MINISTER TO THE POOR AND NEEDY OF THE FLOCK.

WE REVERENTLY SPEAK OF MR. CHARLIE CRANE, WHO SPENT HIS LIFE FROM BOYHOOD TO WANING MANHOOD AS A MEMBER OF THIS CHURCH. HOW FAITHFUL TO EVERY DUTY AND WHAT A TRUE, STAINLESS LIFE WAS HIS. WE FEEL THE LIVES OF THESE GODLY MEN LINGER WITH US STILL.

ON JUNE 28, 1894, WHEN MR. Y. H. THOMPSON, OUR CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF STEWARDS, LEFT US FOR HIS ETERNAL HOME, HIS MANTLE, (AS ELIJAH'S OF OLD FELL ON THE SHOULDERS OF ELISHA) FELL ON THE SHOULDERS OF HIS NEPHEW, MR. BERRYMAN T. THOMPSON, WHERE IT REMAINED UNTIL DECEMBER 20, 1923. FOR TWENTY-NINE YEARS HOW NOBLY DID MR. BERRYMAN THOMPSON WEAR THAT MANTLE, EVER PRESENT AND PAINSTAKING IN EVERY DUTY OF THIS WORTHY OFFICE. ONE OF HIS PASTORS SAID OF HIM THAT HE WOULD EARN HIS REWARD FOR FAITHFULNESS TO HIS DUTIES AS AN OFFICER AND ATTENDANT AT ALL OF THE CHURCH SERVICES AND AS TEACHER OF A LARGE CLASS IN SUNDAY SCHOOL.

WHILE WE MISS HIM SINCE HE WENT HOME WE FEEL A DEEP APPRECIATION THAT HIS IMPORTANT AND RESPONSIBLE OFFICE HAS BEEN FILLED BY SO TRUE AND CONSECRATED A MAN AS JUDGE R. W. FREEMAN, ONE SO THOROUGHLY CAPABLE IN EVERY WAY, TO CARRY FORWARD THE INTERESTS ENTRUSTED TO HIM, AIDED BY A BODY OF SPLENDID MEN WHO HAVE A DEEP AND ABIDING INTEREST IN THE CHURCH.

WE WISH TO RECORD THE NAMES OF THESE STEWARDS THAT THE GENERATION NEXT MAY KNOW THAT THE CHURCH TRUSTED ITS INTERESTS INTO THEIR KEEPING. THE NAMES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

JUDGE R. W. FREEMAN, CHAIRMAN

T. E. ATKINSON	T. M. GOODRUM	A. W. POWERS
R. O. JONES	H. H. NORTH	SIDNEY CAMP
EUGENE ASKEW	D. T. MANGET	H. H. MURRAY
LEWIS H. HILL	W. G. POST	R. L. OSBORN
H. S. BANTA	J. A. BLAKELY	F. M. BRYANT
R. J. BARNETT	JOHN R. CAMP	J. T. WILLIAMS
GARLAND M. JONES	R. A. FIELD	BINEY, MOONEY, AND
		R. H. LOVEJOY



ALSO WE WISH TO NAME THE TRUSTEES OF THE CHURCH, TO WIT:  
JUDGE R. W. FREEMAN            CAPTAIN J. J. GOODRUM  
MR. A. POPE                    MR. A. W. POWERS  
MR. G. R. BLACK

ANOTHER VERY IMPORTANT COMMITTEE WAS THE BUILDING COMMITTEE OF OUR NEW CHURCH, UPON WHOSE SHOULDERS RESTED A VERY HEAVY BURDEN OF RESPONSIBILITY. IT TOOK FAITH, PATIENCE AND ABOVE ALL LOVE FOR GOD AND HUMANITY TO ASSUME THIS ARDUOUS TASK. THE COMPENSATION IS "THEY LABOR NOT IN VAIN WHO LABOR FOR GOD". THIS COMMITTEE WAS:

GARLAND M. JONES, CHAIRMAN

REV. C. M. LIPHAM  
R. A. FIELD  
D. T. MANGET

R. O. JONES  
LEWIS H. HILL  
H. S. BANTA

WITH A GREAT WEEK OF CELEBRATION OUR CONGREGATION OPENED OUR NEW "200,000 CHURCH ON SEPTEMBER 30, 1928, WHICH WAS ALSO THE CENTENNIAL OF THE CHURCH. EACH EVENING THROUGH THE WEEK MANY OF THE DENOMINATION'S GREATEST MINISTERS WERE IN THE PULPIT AND ON SUNDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 7, 1928, BISHOP WARREN A. CANDLER PREACHED THE CENTENNIAL SERMON. THIS SUNDAY WAS ALSO HOMECOMING DAY AND DINNER WAS SERVED IN THE CHURCH YARD TO ALL OLD NEWMANITES WHO CAME BACK TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS JOYOUS OCCASION.

IN ADDITION TO BUILDING THE NEW CHURCH, A NEW \$20,000 PARSONAGE WHICH STANDS ON THE LOT ADJACENT TO THE CHURCH WAS SECURED AND COMPLETELY FURNISHED.

TO THE REVERENT C. M. LIPHAM, WHO WAS SENT TO US AS OUR LAST PASTOR IN THE OLD CHURCH AND WHO INITIATED THE IDEA OF A NEW CHURCH, THE CONGREGATION OWES PRAISE AND DEEP GRATITUDE FOR HIS WORK IN PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTING THE NEW CHURCH. IT WAS DESIGNED, BUILT, AND FINANCED BY THE GENIUS OF THE PASTOR. DURING HIS MINISTRY THE CHURCH ORGANIZATION GREW PHENOMINALLY IN NUMBERS AND IN ENTHUSIASM, SO THAT WHEN HIS FIVE YEAR'S TOUR WITH US WAS ENDED HIS MISSION HAD BEEN SUCCESSFULLY ACCOMPLISHED. THE CHURCH BUILDING WILL EVER BE A LASTING MONUMENT TO HIS WONDERFUL TALENT AS AN ARCHITECT AND AS A LEADER OF HIS PEOPLE.

THE NEWMAN METHODIST CHURCH HAS HAD MANY NOTABLE REVIVALS IN ITS HISTORY, THE CHIEFEST BEING THOSE KNOWN AS THE "GREAT WAREHOUSE MEETING" IN 1895 DURING THE PASTORATE OF REV. J. R. TIMMERMAN, WHEN BROTHER E. M. STANTON DID THE PREACHING WITH THE FULNESS OF SPIRIT, AND BROTHER JOHN HENDRICKS LED THE SINGING.

THEN THE BASS MEETING OF 1912 DURING THE PASTORATE OF REV. A. W. QUILLIAN. BROTHER J. M. BASS, PREACHED SUCH HEART-SEARCHING SERMONS AND BROTHER STAPLETON SINGING THE GOSPEL IN ALL ITS TENDERNESS MELTED THE HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE AND SCORES WERE CONVERTED AND RECLAIMED. ONE GREAT RESULT OF THIS BASS MEETING WAS THE ORGANIZATION OF THE POST BIBLE CLASS, OF OVER



ONE-HUNDRED MEN, COL. W. G. POST, ITS EARNEST AND EFFICIENT TEACHER. THIS CLASS HAS BEEN A POTENT FACTOR FOR GOOD, MANY SOULS HAVE BEEN CONVERTED AND HEARTS OF BELIEVERS STRENGTHENED BY THE INFLUENCE OF THIS BAND OF CHRISTIAN MEN. THEIR MINISTRATIONS TO THE SICK AND GIFTS TO THE UNFORTUNATE ARE BEYOND THE ESTIMATE OF MAN.

THE LASTING INFLUENCE OF THESE REVIVALS, LIKE A MIGHTY RIVER, FLOWS DOWN THE YEARS IN DEEDS OF SERVICE AND GIFTS FOR HUMANITY.

THE TWO MOST NOTABLE GIFTS FROM THIS CHURCH WERE \$30,800.60 GIVEN TO THE CENTENARY, THAT WONDERFUL PLAN BORN IN THE BRAIN OF OUR EFFICIENT AND WIDE-AWAKE MISSIONARY SECRETARY, DR. W. W. PINSON, THE CENTENARY CELEBRATION OF AMERICAN MISSIONS IN METHODISM, IN 1919. WE CAN NEVER ESTIMATE THE GREAT AND LASTING GOOD THIS GIFT MEANT TO THE CHURCH. THE OTHER GIFT, THE RESULT OF A MOVEMENT FOLLOWING CLOSE UPON THE CENTENARY, WAS THE CALL TO OUR PEOPLE TO PROMOTE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION. THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD PLACED IN THE HANDS OF THOSE WHO HAD IT IN CHARGE, THE SUM OF \$11,683.69. THE TOTAL GIFT OF OUR CHURCH FOR MISSIONS AND EDUCATION WAS \$42,401.43.

IN 1944 MR. HARRY S. BANTA, DEVOTED MEMBER AND STEWARD, GAVE TO THE CHURCH A MODERN BRICK HOME WHICH WAS TO BE USED FOR A SUPERANNUATE MINISTER. IN NOVEMBER 1944 OUR BELOVED AND FAITHFUL BROTHER AND MRS. J. T. ROBINS CAME TO LIVE IN THIS HOME, TO BE A BLESSING TO THE CHURCH AND TO THE COMMUNITY.

WHILE OUR PEOPLE WERE BUILDING AND WORKING TO ENLARGE OUR EFFORTS TO INSPIRE AND UPLIFT OUR OWN PEOPLE, WE HEEDED THE MASTER'S LAST COMMAND, "GO YE INTO ALL THE WORLD AND PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE WHOLE CREATION." OBEYING THIS COMMAND WE HAVE SENT ACROSS THE SEAS FIVE OF OUR SPLENDID, CULTURED WOMEN: MISS IDA ANDERSON AND MRS. HATTIE M. THOROUGHMAN TO CHINA; MRS. JOHN B. COBB, MISS MARGARET COOK AND MISS RUTH FIELD TO JAPAN; AND DR. JAMES THOROUGHMAN TO CHINA. IN ADDITION TO OUR SIX MISSIONARIES, FOUR YOUNG MEN HAVE ENTERED THE MINISTRY FROM THIS CHURCH: HOWARD MCNEIL, ALLEN NEWBY, JOHN B. COBB JR., AND JOE FRANK STEVENS, JR.

WHEN WE TAKE A BACKWARD LOOK OVER THE YEARS GONE BY AND SEE HOW SINGULARLY GOD HAS BLESSED THE PEOPLE OF THE FIRST METHODIST CHURCH, NEWNAN, WE CAN BUT SAY LIKE THE PSALMIST OF OLD, "O, GIVE THANKS UNTO THE LORD: FOR HE IS GOOD: FOR HIS MERCY ENDURETH FOREVER."

PREACHERS WHO HAVE SERVED THE FIRST METHODIST CHURCH IN  
NEWNAN, GEORGIA SINCE ITS ORGANIZATION.

1829	W.W. STEAGALL	1870	D. D. COX
1830	W.W. STEAGALL	1871	R. W. BINGHAM
1831	SIMEON L. STEPHENS	1872	R. W. BINGHAM
1832	RICHARD I WINN	1873-74-75	A. M. THIGPEN
1833	WILLIAM STEAGALL	1876	J. H. BAXTER
1834	WILLIAM STEAGALL	1877	J. H. BAXTER
1835	MORGAN BELLAH	1878-79-80	W.F. GLENN
1836	JOHN HUNTER	1881	GEORGE W. YARBROUGH
1837	JOHN C. SIMMONS	1882-83-84-85	W.W. WADSWORTH
1838	JOHN C. SIMMONS AND ALIAS STORY	1886	D. J. MYRICK
1839	JOHN M. MILNER	1887	W. R. FOOTE
1840	ANDREW NEICE	1888	W. R. FOOTE
1841	Y. F. TIGNER	1889	C. C. CARY
1842		1890	C. C. CARY
1843	HARRIS STEARN	1891-92-93	F. G. HUGHES
1844	JOHN W. YARBROUGH	1894	R. W. BINGHAM
1845-46	A. PENNINGTON AND R. W. JOHNSON	1895	J. A. TIMMERMAN
1847	CLAIBORNE TRUSSELL	1896	J. A. TIMMERMAN
1848	NOAH SMITH	1897	J. H. EAKES
1849	NOAH SMITH AND DANIEL J. MYRICK	1898	W. F. COOK
1850	WILLIS D. MATTHEWS AND WILLIAM E. LUCY	1899	W. F. COOK
1851	JOHN W. TALLY AND F. S. BRANTLEY	1900-01-02	J.M. WHITE
1852	GEORGE C. CLARKE AND JOHN SIMMONS	1903-04-05	J.R. KING
1853	WILLIAM A. SMITH	1906	DR. WYLIE QUILLIAN
1854	DANIEL KELSEY	1907	DR. WYLIE QUILLIAN
1855	WILLIAM H. EVANS	1908-09-10	R.J. BINGHAM
1856	WILLIAM H. EVANS	1911	A. W. QUILLIAN
1857	JAMES HARRIS	1912	A. W. QUILLIAN
1858	EDMUND P. BIRCH	1913-14-15	H. L. EDMONSON
1859	EDMUND P. BIRCH	1916-17	T. J. CHRISTIAN
1860	J. H. CALDWELL	1918	DR. L. G. JOHNSON
1861	J. H. CALDWELL	1919	DR. L. G. JOHNSON
1862	CHARLES A. FULWOOD	1920	DR. REMBERT G. SMITH
1863	T. G. LANE	1921	DR. REMBERT G. SMITH
1864	ROBERT HOLLAND	1922	J. G. LOGAN
1865	JOHN CALDWELL AND F. A. KIMBALL	1923	J. G. LOGAN
1866	PETER A. HEARD	1924	J. P. ERWIN
1867	PETER A. HEARD	1925	W. T. IRVINE
1868		1926-27-28-29-30	C. M. LIPHAM
1869	E. P. BIRCH	1931-32-33	DR. A. M. PIERCE
		1934	T.Z.B. EVERTON
		1935-36-37-38	DR. WILKIE COLLINS
		1939	DR. J. W. JOHNSON
		1940-41-42-43-44	DR. J. W. VEATCH
		1945-46	E.D. RUDISILL
		(1947 CONFERENCE MET IN JULY)	
		1947-48-49-50	CLAUDE HENDRICK
		1950-	R. J. KERR