HISTORY OF THE OCEE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Sept. 9, 1973

On January 22, 1977, W. F. Brewer of Atlanta deeded to N. F. Bagwell D.B. Adams, Weldon Barnett, J.H. Douglas and W.F. Brewer, Trustees of The Ocee Congregational Church a tract of land in the village of Ocee for a Church. A small frame building was erected on this site and used as a Congregational Church for about 15 years.

The Ocee Congregational Church voted to ask for admission into the Methodist Conference. The request was made at Quarterly Conference at Shilo Methodist Church in 1918. The Conference taking the plea under advisement for presentation to the Annual Conference in November 1918.

The Annual Conference voted admission of this Church into the Methodist Church and that it should become the Ocee Methodist Church replacing the Bethlehem Methodist Church. The Rev. C.F. Hughes was sent as the first pastor to serve this Church.

At the first regular service of the new Ocee Methodist Church the members of the Bethlehem Methodist Church stood as a body and were received into the Church as follows: A.W. Austin, Miss Samantha Austin, Miss Sara Austin, Mrs. R.H. Ally, Mr. and Mrs. H.C. Dorsey, Mr. and Mrs. J.A. Webb, Virgil Webb, Miss Cladys Webb. New members received at this service were Mr. and Mrs. Henry Brooks, Mrs. Hattie Brooks; Mr. and Mrs. J.H. Douglas; Mrs. R.E. Douglas, Miss Mamie Douglas and Mr. Joe Douglas.

The Church steadily grew and in 1943 a meeting was held to discuss plans for building a new Church. The Rev. J.W. Guest, pastor, presided at this meeting during the next few war years we were buying Bonds and making plans for the new Church. The building committee, J.D. Douglas Sr., Chairman, E.H. Hadley, William Brooks, Alward Anderson and Joe Douglas Jr. got Jay Fleck and R.E. Douglas Supervisor and actual work was ready to begin.

The old frame building was sold to U.H. Barnett and moved across the street for use as a warehouse. We began the grading, cutting the donated logs and saving the lumber needed to build the basement as we had enough money for the basement. However, through faith we continued until the church was finished completely outside and we moved into this present Church in 1953. It was still incomplete on the inside. Some time later we heard about the Methodist Extension Program through the Methodist Headquarters in Nashville, Tenn. They approved our loan for $3000.00 and gave us another $1000.00. This being the first loan made under the new program. We completed the upstairs and a cornerstone was erected presented by Mr. Jasper Stone. The Rev. and Mrs. Foster D. Smith the first pastor in the new Church, presented a pulpit Bible.

In December 1954 Oak pews and pulpit furniture was installed at a cost of $2,311.79.

On Sept. 20, 1959 the Church was dedicated by The District Supt. Dr. R. Session and The Rev. W.M. Winn pastor.

In 1960 we purchased an adjacent lot for $3000.00.

The Church was in the Alpharetta Circuit for a number of years (Included five Churches). Then transferred to Midway Charge (Three Churches) Then Midway Ocee Charge (Two Churches) In 1960 we decided to become a full time Student Charge and leased parsonage from Mrs. Hattie Brooks. The Rev. Richard Neal was the first time Student appointed to this Church.

In 1977 began negotiations for purchase of the parsonage and closing was made in Feb. 1978.

After the year 1960 discussions and plans were made for finishing the Church School Rooms on one side. THIS YEAR IT WAS DONE.