HISTORY OF PROSPECT METHODIST CHURCH

There was no Methodist Church in this section of the country. Somewhere near 1835, a church house was built near where the New Prospect Methodist Episcopal Church now stands. There were great meetings held in this church.

Perhaps Rev. William Florence was first pastor. In 1846, Amos Johnson sold for $20, six acres of land for church property with the Deed made to a Board of Trustees; namely, David Felts, John Felts, William R. Lowe, Henry Heath, James G. Swain, and Henry Baker.

In 1846, a minister named Leake or Leake, conducted a three weeks' revival. After this meeting, the church grew and prospered. In 1850, Rev. F. F. Reynolds held a great revival meeting in the New Prospect Church. Dr. W. H. Pilcher was converted and became a great pillar in the church. In 1866, the first Sunday School was organized. Dr. Pilcher was elected superintendent, a place he served for more than 25 years. With one of the best superintendents, faithful, loyal, the Sunday School proved a great help to the church, and to the young and old people of the community. W. W. Swain was secretary. Some of the first pastors were Rev. James Dickey, Rev. William Evans, and Rev. Seals. While in charge of the Circuit, he held a wonderful revival and was greatly loved by all the people. Several preachers went out from the church. Among them was Rev. James M. Armstrong of the South Georgia Conference.

In 1879 or 1880, the church building was sold to the Negroes for the sum of $160. On January 24, 1880, W. J. Norton contracted to build a new church, and gave to W. H. Pilcher, chairman of the Building Committee, a receipt in full for building and furnishings of all kinds for the church, New Prospect Church. Rev. Wiley T. Hamilton was pastor in charge.
About the same time a two-room school building was erected on the church grounds, and a one-room music building. Prof. Sterling Brinkley and Sister Alice were the teachers. Miss Lilly Jordan was music teacher. In 1884, Rev. George Duval was pastor and had a great revival. In 1892, at the South Georgia Conference Session, New Prospect Church was separated from the Norwood Circuit, and united with Powelton, Crawfordville and Barnett, forming a Circuit, known as the Crawfordville Circuit, with the Rev. John R. Lewis, pastor.

Prospect was first with the Warrenton Circuit until changed to the Norwood Circuit.

On December 23, 1900, Prospect Church was changed from the Crawfordville Circuit back to the Norwood Circuit. Rev. J. A. Timmerman was pastor in charge.

There were several local preachers that preached at Prospect. Dr. R. W. Hubert, Rev. Uriah Langford, Rev. B. A. Johnson, and Rev. Fitzgerald.

1950—Still have preaching at Prospect Church, but haven't had Sunday School in some time. Ed Johnson, S. P. Harper, and Mrs. Inez Tucker have all been faithful and loyal superintendents; but the white people have all moved from the community and there are no children left to go to Sunday School.

After so many generations and changes it is wonderful that Prospect Church still lives on with an influence for good.

Submitted by Mrs. Laura Johnson

Informations from friends, news clippings and old records.

June 1, 1950

P. S. Prospect Church was on the Camak Circuit in 1926. This Circuit was composed of Prospect, Camak, Macedonia and Wesena. Pastor was Rev. J. M. Guess.
JUST A FEW REMEMBRANCES:

Things were so different then and now. The elder members sat in the Amen Corners. Around the stove were chairs for the old members...Old Aunt Becky Felts, Cousin Frances Smith, Mrs. Martha Johnson, Mrs. Amanda Broom, Mrs. Mary Ray, Mrs. North Hill, old Grandmother Low and many more. Rev. Wylie Hamilton was the first pastor. He lived in Warrenton and walked to Prospect, six miles. He came Saturday morning and stayed until Sunday evening. He was tall and walked in long strides. In face and figure he resembled Abraham Lincoln. Next was Rev. John R. Parker. He had an adopted son and a lovely wife. Then Rev. George Duval, a holiness preacher, had great revivals. Old Mr. Miller Willis helped in the meetings. Mrs. Jim Swain, Mrs. Valley Howell came from Warrenton, the old church rang with songs and shouts of praise. I remember when the pastor would line the hymns...and when we got the first organ, Maggie Swain was organist, and served until her death. Mr. and Mrs. Ed Johnson were faithful workers and I think by their and others efforts, the organ was exchanged for the piano. They also got the carpet for the church.

Mr. Jim Johnson and many others too numerous to name were faithful members. We see it today in their children and grandchildren.

Prospect has seen many changes in her 118 years, many happy occasions as well as sad. Long may she live, and as always, be a blessing to this community.

Laura B. Johnson