The earliest records concerning Methodism in Jewell relate to the organizing of the Rock Mills Church in 1840. However, Mrs. Hattie Jewell Cody, the only surviving member of the family for whom the village was named, remembers that Methodists and Baptists worshipped together in the Baptist Church located several miles east of Jewell.

Among the Methodists was a man by the name of William Shivers, Sr. who owned some land between Jewell and Mayfield, and was interested enough in having a church that he gave three acres of land to be used as church property. There on a knoll, the first Methodist Church was erected.

Mr. Shivers stipulated that the plot of ground locally referred to as "Just off the Jewell-Mayfield road," about one and one-fourth miles from Jewell (in Hancock County), would remain the property of the Methodist Church as long as it was used for church purposes. Mr. Shivers gave the church access to water from a nearby spring, which after one hundred years, still provides good drinking water.

The original deeds, which the church holds, gives a more detailed account of the donation of this tract of land: "witnesseth that the said William Shivers, Sr., in consideration, as well as of the payment to him by said party of the second part, of the sum of one dollar, the receipt whereof is acknowledged as of his love and regard for the Church of Christ, and his desire to promote the success of the Gospel has given, granted, bargained and sold, and hereby does give, grant, bargain, sell and convey to the said part and their successors in said Trust, all that certain piece or parcel of land in said county (Hancock), near the Ogeechee River, containing three acres, more or less, being part of the plantation of said Shivers on the road from Sparta to his residence and mills, and on which a church or house of Divine Worship has recently been erected; beginning at a runner oak on the rear and southeast of said lot, thence west one hundred twenty yards to a rock corner, thence north one hundred twenty yards to a rock corner near the public road, thence along the road one hundred twenty yards to a rock corner, thence south one hundred twenty yards to the beginning point or runner oak--with all and singular the rights, members, tenements and appurtenances to the said tract of land belonging, and also the free use and privilege of the Rock Mills Academy Spring on the land of said Shivers, near to the portion of land hereby conveyed, and free and unrestricted access to said spring at all times for all persons resorting to said church and land for the purpose of worship and interment of the dead."

Thus, the Jewell Methodist Church, or Rock Mills Methodist Church, as it was formerly called because of its location, began with the Rev. Josiah Lewis, as the pastor in charge.

The names of the twelve charter members read as follows: James H. Middlebrooks, William L. Wilson, William Shivers, Sr., William B. Calhoun, Mrs. Cassandra Middlebrooks, Mrs. Millerson P. Wilson, Mrs. Sara A. Shivers, Mrs. Milla A. Calhoun, Mrs. Mary A. Florence, Mrs. Lucy Wilson, Mrs. Harriett Birdsong, and George W. Florence.
During the one hundred eleven years of service, descendants of the charter members have played a large part in making up the church roll. Leading members included first the Medlocks, Edwin Birdsong, Eli Carr, the Culvers, Clarks, Colemans, Masons and Sam Brinkley; later, the Brantleys, Twilleys, Jackson, Birdsongs, Cones, Casons, Carrs, Ivey's, Smiths, and Rhodes.

When the church was first built, the pulpit was in the front of the building as was the only entrance. White folk occupied the front slat-back benches, while slaves sat in the rear seats. So accustomed people became to turning around before seating themselves, that years later many protested the idea of moving the pulpit to the rear of the building. "We cannot get as happy there," they sighed. Nevertheless, in 1888, when the benches were replaced with nicer seats or pews, and the pulpit removed to the rear, the saints found they were none the less happy!

At the time of its organization, Rock Mills Church belonged to the Hancock Circuit. In 1879, the Circuit was divided--Rock Mills Church with Culverton, the Shoals and Powelton became the Culverton Circuit. Later, in 1906, Mayfield Circuit was formed which included Mayfield, Rock Mills, Smyra and Powelton. In 1951, Mt. Hope Church was added to the circuit. The Church has belonged to the Methodist Episcopal Church, to the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and, to the Methodist Church.

Many great revivals have blessed the Church; however, the one held in 1868, when the Rev. Josiah Lewis and the Rev. Caldwell were pastors, stands out as the greatest. Forty persons united with the Church on profession of faith.

From this Church have gone our several ministers, among whom were the Rev. J. L. Ivey, the Rev. Gibbs Farr, the Rev. Bob Cook, and the Rev. C. T. Ivey.

Outstanding Methodist who have preached in this Church include Bishop George F. Pierce, Bishop Key and Bishop Hosely (colored).

Before the Sunday School was organized in 1877, there had not been an organ in the Church. By this time, however, many were seeing the need of one. The older members were satisfied with having hymns "lined out" and objected to the young peoples' proposal of purchasing any such instrument. At their insistence, however, an organ was added to the Church.

The Woman’s Missionary Society was organized July 24, 1881, with an enrollment of twenty-five members. Mrs. T. T. Brantley was the first president. In the earliest records may be found an interesting, legibly-written account of the first meeting which reads: "First Minutes of Missionary Meeting"--"After organizing, it was agreed that we adopt constitutions and by-laws. The president requested each member to pay their monthly fee which was ten cents. The amount collected was ninety cents. That was given to the corresponding secretary to hand over to the treasurer. It was then moved that the Society purchase two books, one for the secretary, and one for the treasurer. The president appointed the secretary to buy these books. The cost was seventy-five cents. It was then agreed that we have our meeting the first Friday afternoon in every month at three o'clock. It was then moved that we adjourn until our next meeting."
As nearly as can be calculated the amount of twenty-eight dollars and sixty cents was paid for all causes the first year.

In 1894, the Church was moved to a small plot of ground on the southwestern edge of Jewell in Hancock County, given by Dr. J. W. Rhodes. Here the Church stands today.

The Church holds also the original deeds to the land given by Dr. Rhodes. They read in part: "the following described property to wit: one tract or parcel of land situated or being in the town of Jewell, Hancock County, State of Georgia, north side of the public road, running westward from Jewell to Sparta, in the Southeast corner of the orchard about five hundred feet southeast of Dr. J. W. Rhodes' residence. Beginning from stake five feet westward from elm tree in southeast corner of said orchard running westward along side of public road from Jewell to Sparta forty feet and six inches to stake, thence southward fifty feet to stake the beginning corner."

Through the creditable work of the pastor, the Rev. C. A. Hall, Mr. Lucius Carr, and Mr. Clarence Reynolds, the Circuit has, since 1918, owned at Mayfield, a comfortable, six-room parsonage, whose value in 1940 was five thousand dollars. On this lot had stood formerly an old house, which was purchased and used as the parsonage. All deeds to Church property have contained the Trust Clause.

The names of pastors and presiding elders (district superintendents) and their dates of service are given below:

1840-1841--Rev. Josiah Lewis, pastor in charge
1841--Rev. John W. Tally, presiding elder
1842--Rev. Willie H. White, pastor in charge
1843--Rev. Capel Rayford, pastor in charge
1844-1845-- Rev. Alfred T. Mann, pastor in charge
1845-- Rev. George F. Pierce, presiding elder
1846-- Rev. Richard Lane, pastor in charge
1847-- Rev. Caleb Key, pastor in charge
1848-- Rev. Josiah Lewis, pastor in charge
1849-1850—Rev. Wesley Arnold, pastor in charge
1850—Rev. Richard Line, pastor in charge
1851-1852—Rev. Daniel Wesley, pastor in charge
1852—Rev. John W. Glenn, presiding elder
1853-1854—Rev. Josiah Lewis, pastor in charge
1855-1856—Rev. John M. Knight, pastor in charge
1856—Rev. James B. Payne, presiding elder
1857-1858—Rev. Freeman F. Reynolds, pastor in charge
1859—Rev. James E. Evans, presiding elder
1859—Rev. John B. McGeehee, pastor in charge
1860—Rev. E. J. Rentz, pastor in charge
1861-1862—Rev. Thomas T. Christian, pastor in charge
1862—Rev. J. O. Clark, presiding elder
1863—Rev. Josiah Lewis, presiding elder
1864-65—Rev. John W. Tally, pastor in charge
1866—Rev. Breedlove and Rev. Simmons, pastors in charge
1867—Rev. Weyman H. Potter, presiding elder
1867—Rev. Josiah Lewis, pastor in charge
1868—Revs. Josiah Lewis and Caldwell, pastors in charge
1869—Revs. Lewis and Babcock, pastors in charge
1870—Rev. Josiah Lewis, pastor in charge
1871—Rev. Caleb Key, presiding elder
1871—Rev. E. G. Murrah, pastor in charge
1872—Rev. Felix Brown, pastor in charge
1872—Rev. T. R. Pierce, pastor in charge
1873—Rev. Felix Brown and J. Pierce, pastors in charge
1874--Rev. Felix Brown and J. Newell, pastors in charge
1875--Rev. R. W. Bigham, presiding elder
1875--Revs. J. L. Pierce and J. Newell, pastors in charge
1876--Rev. R. W. Bigham, presiding elder
1876--Rev. J. L. Pierce, J. Newell, Jr., pastors in charge
1877--Rev. W. Bigham, presiding elder
1877--Rev. J. L. Pierce and Rev. G. H. Patillo, Jr., pastors in charge
1878--Rev. T. J. Pierce, presiding elder
1878--Rev. G. H. Patillo, pastor in charge
1879--Rev. G. M. Kendrick, Jr., preacher
1879--Rev. T. F. Pierce, presiding elder
1879--Rev. G. H. Patillo and G. M. Kendrick, Jr., pastors in charge
1880--Rev. T. F. Pierce, presiding elder
1880--Rev. G. H. Patillo, pastor in charge
1880--Revs. G. M. Kendrick and J. R. King, Jr., preachers
1881-1882--Rev. H. H. Parks, presiding elder
1881-1882--Rev. C. C. Carey, pastor in charge
1883-1884--Rev. J. E. England, pastor in charge
1884-1885--Rev. J. E. Evans, presiding elder
1885--Rev. J. A. Reynolds, pastor in charge
1886-1887--Rev. W. T. Smith, pastor in charge
1887-1890--Rev. W. P. Lovejoy, presiding elder
1889-1890--Rev. W. T. Caldwell, pastor in charge
1890--Rev. John R. Lewis, preacher
1891-1893—Rev. G. W. Thomas, pastor in charge
1891-1894—Rev. G. W. Yarbrough, presiding elder
1894-05-06—Rev. H. H. Eakes, pastor in charge
1895-1898—Rev. W. F. Mixon, presiding elder
1897-1898—Rev. Crawford Jackson, pastor in charge
1899-1902—Rev. J. R. King, presiding elder
1900-1901—Rev. J. R. Lewis, pastor in charge
1902-1903—Rev. A. C. Cantrell, pastor in charge
1903-1906—Dr. J. B. Robins, presiding elder
1904-1906—Rev. W. P. King, pastor in charge
1906—George King, Jr., preacher
1907-1909—Rev. L. M. Twiggs, pastor in charge
1907-1909—Dr. John W. Heidt, presiding elder
1910-1911—Rev. B. F. Frazier, presiding elder
1910—Rev. Firley Baum, pastor in charge
1911-1912—Rev. W. H. Clark, pastor in charge
1912—Rev. J. R. Eakes, presiding elder
1913-1916—Rev. W. T. Hamby, presiding elder
1913—Rev. J. D. Milton, pastor in charge
1914—Rev. M. K. Patillo, pastor in charge
1915—Rev. W. A. Wells, pastor in charge
1916-1919—Rev. C. A. Hall, pastor in charge
1917-1920—Rev. W. T. Irvine, presiding elder
1920-1922—Rev. W. J. Culpepper, pastor in charge
1921-1924—Rev. J. W. Quillian, presiding elder
1923—Rev. J. E. Snipe, pastor in charge
1924—Rev. C. A. Reese, pastor in charge
1925--Rev. J. S. Hill, pastor in charge
1926-1927--Rev. J. E. Ellis, presiding elder
1926--Rev. C. A. Daugherty, pastor in charge
1927-1928--Rev. H. M. Strozier, pastor in charge
1928-1931--Rev. W. H. Clark, presiding elder
1929--Rev. J. A. Langford, pastor in charge
1930-1932--Rev. T. E. Sherwood, pastor in charge
1932-1935--Rev. W. H. LaPrade, presiding elder
1936-1938--Rev. L. G. Hendricks, pastor in charge
1937--Rev. L. G. Coe, pastor in charge
1938-1940--Rev. L. S. Baugh, pastor in charge
1939-1942--Rev. L. M. Twiggs, presiding elder
1941-1942--Rev. A. S. Sibley, pastor in charge
1942-1951--Rev. G. F. Wright, pastor in charge
1943-1946--Dr. J. W. O. McKibben, district superintendent
1947-1950--Rev. George L. King, district superintendent
Dr. W. T. Irvine, while presiding elder of the Augusta District,
was married in this Church in 1919, to Miss Maude Twilley, whose mem­
bership was here.

June 10, 1940, marked the date of the Church's one hundredth
birthday. The program for the day was as follows:

MORNING WORSHIP
Welcome--Mrs. Milton Jackson
Response--Mrs. Clifford Reeves
Hymn: "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name--Congregation
Prayer--Rev. T. E. Sherwood
Hymn: "I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord"--Congregation
On September 16, 1940, because the Woman's Missionary Society was changing its name to Woman's Society of Christian Service, eleven members met at the Church with their pastor, the Rev. L. S. Baugh, for the purpose of installing officers. The officers remaining the same, Mrs. W. P. Carr, Sr., was the first president of the new organization. The total amount paid for all causes in 1949 was sixty-nine dollars and sixty-five cents.

On July 31, 1950, the Woman's Society of Christian Service celebrated its tenth birthday with a very impressive service. All members participated. Following the plan for a chain visitation, the Sparta Society was
present, and Mrs. Josiah Lewis, president of the Sparta Society, presented the cake. The Jewell Society was assigned to Mayfield in the chain visitation and asked to present a cake.

A more elaborate celebration was onserved on the twenty-fifth birthday of the Woman's Society of Christian Service.

Miss Clear Coxwell was the first president of the Methodist Fellowship.

The physical changes wrought through the years enable the Church to stand today truly as a building conducive to worship. The first steeple was built in 1908 as was also the vestibule, which in later years was divided into a small entrance with a classroom on either side. At the same time, the blinds were painted green to harmonize with the newly-painted white building. Electric lights were installed in 1935 by members of the Epworth League. The addition of a small porch and brick steps completed the improvements outside. The walls of the interior were re-papered and the wainscoting painted. Varnish was applied to all the furniture and a wine-colored carpet run along the aisles and the pulpit.

Money received in 1950 from timber cut and sold from the old Rock Mills grounds, amounting to one hundred fifty-one dollars, was used for other improvements: ceilings in classrooms lowered and celotex applied. A newer piano was purchased in 1950.

The Church contributed twelve hundred four dollars and three cents for all causes in 1949. With the present enrollment of forty-two in Sunday School, an amount of thirteen dollars and eleven cents was paid for all causes the same year.

The Church suffered keenly the disaster which occurred August 7, 1927, when the cotton mills burned. Until this time, the cotton mill, owned by Mr. D. A. Jewell, Sr., and later by the Gant Brothers, had provided employment to more than two-thirds of the families, who belonged either to the Methodist Church or the Baptist Church. As the years passed, families moved away, causing church membership to dwindle. Except for the "faithful few", the Church doors would have closed, for out of the sixty-five whose names appear on the Church roll today (including eight who have recently come from the Shoals Church), only one-third of these members is near enough to really "belong" to the Church. As adverse as some of the circumstances have been, the Church has been, and is today, a great Spiritual Force, ministering to the sick and needy and helping to spread the Gospel at home and to the "uttermost parts of the earth."

NOTE: This history has been written in 1950 from old Church records; from a history written by Mrs. A. T. Jackson, for the Church's Centennial Celebration, and from facts remembered by the historian, Mrs. A. C. Ivey. A copy of this history is to be sent to the North Georgia Historical Society, Wesley Memorial Church, in Atlanta.

In his letter of February 25, 1951, Dr. A. M. Pierce, Secretary of the Society, acknowledged receipt of the history, added in part: "You referred to the marriage of Brother Irvine and Miss Maude Twilley in that Church. During the time their courtship appeared to be moving prosperously, I was helping Brother Hall in a meeting there; and Brother Irvine attended one night service. Miss Maude Twilley was pianist..."
The history of the Church continues with Mrs. Guy Beckum, historian. After the death of her husband, Mrs. Ivey was married in 1958 to Welborn Guy Beckum.

Since 1950, Church membership continued declining; even so, the remaining members have worked with an undaunting faith, believing that where two or three are gathered together in His Name, God is in their midst.

As a result of the youth growing up and leaving home, the Methodist Youth Fellowship was discontinued.

Since its organization, the Woman's Missionary Society, whose name was changed to Women's Society of Christian Service, and lastly to United Methodist Women, has been an integral part of the Church. So active have been the members that a Methodist Church in Have de Grace, Maryland, after hearing the accomplishments of this small society, formed circles of her members and named them "the Jewell Circle."

In 1956, the Society began honoring members, pastors, and others with a Life Membership Pin and Certificate, each requiring the amount of twenty-five dollars to be sent to the Conference Treasurer for missions. By the year 1980, twenty-three persons, including seven pastors, had been honored. Four names have been placed on the memorial roll, which requires gifts of fifty dollars each.

In 1965, when the Methodist Church united with the Evangelical United Brethren, the Church became known as Jewell Methodist Church.

Prior to his retirement in 1961, the Rev. George Wright, who served the Church longest of any pastor, was honored in the Jewell Church with members of the Mayfield Charge present and participating in the service.

Many memorable occasions have been a part of the Church's history, one of which was Easter morning in 1971, when Dr. Olin Shivers, with his wife Julia, and their three children, Olin Jr., Julia, and Mary, then owning and residing at the historic Rock Mill Plantation, attended services in the Jewell Church for the first time. Dr. Shivers is a descendant of the same William Shivers, Sr., who first gave the tract of land on which Rock Mills Church was built; and, because of the heritage of the Church, the Shivers family became keenly interested in making improvements. With only minor repairs being made through the years, at last the time had come when members, with the assistance of the Shivers and skilled workmen, determined to repair and beautify the Church—inside and out! For "the people had a mind to work."

The entire pulpit furniture, chancel rail, pews and choir chairs were refinished, the floors sanded, and carpet installed in the pulpit and along the aisles. A new choir curtain of velvet was made by Mrs. Rene Truan, wife of the pastor. Dr. Shivers made and presented the cross which hangs on the wall back of the pulpit, also the chandeliers, enhancing the beauty of the sanctuary. The exterior of the Church was repainted white, to be accentuated by the blinds retaining their dark green color.
On November 26, 1972, a large assemblage of descendants, members of the Mayfield Charge, and friends from far and near, participated in a service of dedication, led by Bishop William R. Cannon, the fourth bishop to conduct a service in this Church. Following the service, a covered-dish dinner was served at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Shivers. Also, on Saturday evening preceding the dedicatory service, Dr. and Mrs. Shivers honored Bishop Cannon at a reception at "Rock Mill" where friends, pastors, and their wives across the Augusta District were guests.

Sunday, March 25, 1979, marked another special day—he this time to dedicate a beautiful communion table, given by the daughters and son of Mr. and Mrs. Claude Tucker, in memory of their grandparents, the late Mr. and Mrs. George Twilley. The Rev. Paul Berkeypile, pastor, was in charge of the service.

Later the Church donated a lovely altar set and a kneeling pad. The Rev. Berkeypile made and donated flower stands. Other gifts have been a baptismal font, by Mrs. W. T. Irvine; a communion set by sons and daughters of the late Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Carr, Sr., in memory of their parents and William Carr III. A lectern has been given by Mrs. Guy Beckum and Mrs. Harris Smalley.

One other day to be remembered is Sunday, April 27, 1980, when approximately two hundred friends, relatives, and former pastors met to honor Vera Birdsong Williams (Mrs. Wayman Williams) in a service called "Vera Williams' Day". Mrs. Williams has served her Church faithfully, having filled many offices, including that of treasurer, to which she still gives tirelessly of her time.

After more than forty years since the name of the Church was changed from "Rock Mills" to "Jewell Methodist Church", the name having been changed because of its location, members began in 1979 expressing their desire to give back its original name. This desire became a reality when on Sunday morning, November 23, 1980, a rededication service was held with the pastor, the Rev. Michael Martin, leading and delivering the sermon, "Marks of the Christian Life."

The Church is encouraged with the fact that two new Methodist couples are lending their support to the Church. These are Mr. and Mrs. Epp Wilson, now residing at Rock Mill Plantation, and Mr. and Mrs. Stan Murphy of Jacksonville, Florida and Jewell, the new owners of the Roger and Ellen Cason house, "Oakland", in Jewell.

During the latest years with a small membership, the Church has never failed to meet her apportionments in full to be reported at a given time. This Church is one of the one hundred fifteen churches in the North Georgia Conference paying her amount in full to the Pension Crusade, before the three-year goal ends May 31, 1981.

NOTE: The Spring mentioned earlier has, in some way, been destroyed.

Continued is a list of pastors and presiding elders (district superintendents) serving the Mayfield Charge:
1951-1954--Dr. E. D. Rudisill, district superintendent
1955-1959--Dr. J. J. Sneed, district superintendent
1960-1963--Dr. C. B. Cochran, district superintendent
1961-1962--Rev. Lee Downing, pastor in charge
1963-1968--Dr. Harry L. Smith, district superintendent
1962-1963--Rev. Raiford Wallace, pastor in charge
1963-1964--Dr. Miller Mikell, pastor in charge
1964-1965--Rev. Herbert A. Summer, pastor in charge
1965-1967--Rev. John T. Preston, pastor in charge
1969-1972--Dr. Delma L. Hagood, district superintendent
1971-1972--Rev. Réne Truan, pastor in charge
1972-1974--Rev. Robert L. Manville, pastor in charge
1973-1978--Dr. Robert L. Taylor, district superintendent
1974-1975--Rev. R. Randall Walworth, pastor in charge
1975-1979--Rev. Paul K. Berkeypile, pastor in charge
1979-1981--Dr. Charles Hoover, district superintendent
1979-1981--Rev. Michael Martin, pastor in charge

The first persons to unite with the Church after the changing of its name back to "Rock Mills" were Betsy and Epp Wilson (Mr. and Mrs. Edgar S. Wilson).

On Sunday, February 1, 1981, Mrs. Michael Martin, wife of the pastor, was awarded a pin and certificate (Special Mission Recognition) by the seven members of United Methodist Women.

The Church is in receipt of a monetary gift from Mr. Albert Sidney Bowen of Chickamauga who wishes a memorial to be made to his parents, Albert Sidney and Nora West Bowen. Mr. Bowen stated the first church he ever attended was the "Rock Mills Church". His mother was the daughter of a Methodist Circuit Rider and took a great interest in the church at Jewell."