Gainesville Mill Methodist Church History

The Methodist Church is said to have started sometime in the early 1900's.

There were approximately 15 members at that time.

They gave it the name of Garey's Chapel after a well-known man of the church or who was a leader in organizing the church.

The first church was established on what is now Hancock Avenue near Tyners store.

The church has had 3 locations. The second location was on Stallworth circle, which now is Gainesville Mill School.

And the present site is located on the corner of Georgia Avenue and Dunlap Street and is now known as Gainesville Mill Methodist Church, which is a union church occupied by both Methodist and Baptist each using the church two Sunday's per month.

To bring in the pastors of the church it is said to be that a Rev. Edmonson was the first pastor and that time Frank Jenkins & Tom Chandler also pastored. Other pastors of the church were Venable Garrette, Nobles, Brackman, and W. L. Brackman, brother to the other Brackman. Stokes, Milsap, Lupo Machand, Killpatrick, and at the present the Rev. James R. Styles.
Brief History of the 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.

The people 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 first 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 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 $3000 was built near the first church place. The church was dedicated by Bishop W. B. Beauchamp with Nath Thompson Presiding Elder and J. W. Segars as pastor. This church was struck by lightning and burned August 13, 1949.

Even as the fourth church burned, the members planned to build a fifth, and four months later a beautiful brick and cement block building stood on the same old ground. The value of this church is $15000.

The Sunday School was organized about 1870. The first superintendent was Eli Mooney, who served twenty years. Following him were M. Morgan, Allison,
Purcell, Westbrook and Barron, who served several years each. W. C. Tumlin served twenty years in this capacity. The present superintendent is Ray Bennett.

The ministers sent out by the church were: 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 Natt Hughes, who served regular appointments for about twenty years.

The Women's Society of Christian Service was organized in 1924 by Miss Bert Winter with eight charter members. Mrs. Sam Rosser was the first president.

The church had always been one of five other churches constituting the Cumming Charge. In the spring of 1951 the members along with the Board of Stewards felt they should have more than one service per month. From this first thought the church decided to ask the Annual Conference to make them a half station. At the Conference of 1951 this was granted and today New Hope and Gainesville Mill Church forms a two point charge.