

**HISTORY**  
**OF**  
**SNAPPING SHOALS**  
**METHODIST CHURCH**  
  
**HENRY COUNTY**  
**SALEM CHARGE**  
  
**ATLANTA-DECATUR-OXFORD**  
**DISTRICT**  
  
**NORTH GEORGIA CONFERENCE**

**1835- 1953**

It is believed by some that this church was founded  
in 1820 but we have no documented proof of this.

### Snapping Shoals Methodist Church

A Methodist Protestant Church was organized at Island Shoals Georgia, September 7, 1835. The land was bought from James Wesson and deeded to four trustees;

Gaston Hendricks, Butts County

Isam Weaver, Newton County

Beverly Bohanan, Henry County

John Petterton, Henry County

We have no record of how long this church was at Island Shoals, was moved to Snapping Shoals, across the road from present church, we don't know how long it was there. However we know it was moved to present place in 1873, the deeds recorded on June 23, 1873 state the land was given by John Garlinton and Robert Fowler, Sr. to the North Georgia Methodist Conference. We have no record of who the pastors were until 1882-1883. Rev. C. V. Weathers was pastor. Our church was on Jackson, Georgia circuit.

The Church was remodeled in 1944 and had a homecoming day. Rev. C. V. Weathers, the earliest pastor of record still preaching, preached the sermon.

We have no record of pastors from 1883 until 1891.

C. V. Weathers	1882-1883
D. C. Brown	1891 - 1892
M. H. Eakes	1893
Robert Eakes	1894
H. S. Bradley	1895
H. S. Embry	1896
A. M. Pierce	1897
J. A. Reynolds	1898
A. M. Pierce	1899
G. M. Eakes	1900-1901
F. R. Smith	1902-1903
J. T. Eakes	1904-1906
S. H. Diamon	1907-1908
W. O. Butler	1909
M. B. Sams	1910-1913
J. S. Askew	1914-1915

J. Strickland	1916-1918
J.T. Pendley	1919-1921
T.H. Marston	1922-1924
G.D. Wright	1925
T.J. Christian	1925
N.P. Manning	1926-1928
C. W. Fruit	1929-1931
L.P. Huckaby	1932
J.O. Burnette	1933-1934
M.B. Landrum	1935-1936
Carl McGrady	1937-1938
G.C. Knowles	1939-1940
M.S. Robertson	1941
R.B. Chapman	1941-1942
N.H. Olford	1943-1945
W.E. Rowell	1946-1947
W.H. Ruff	1948-1949
Webb Garrison	1950
Eugene Drinkard	1951
Eugene Atkins	1951
Jesse Warrick	1952
Trever Turner	1953

Rev. W.G. Crawley entered the ministry from Snapping Shoals Methodist Church.

The church has been on several circuits and grouped with different churches, sometimes five then four and now three, Prospect, Ebenezer and Snapping Shoals, now on Oakhill circuit, Decatur-Oxford District. We have a small membership. Eldest members are;

Mr. J.C. Moore  
Miss Dora Stroud  
Mrs. Nan Dickerson Adair  
Mrs. Lora Stroud Chesnut

## PRESIDING ELDERS

T. H. Pierce  
Warren A. Candler  
Rev. Anderson  
Walker Lewis  
J. S. Bryan  
W. R. Foote  
J. W. Heidt  
C. E. Dowman  
J. W. Quillian  
B. G. Frasier  
H. B. Mayes  
W. G. Crawley  
E. F. Dempsey  
Nath Thompson  
R. J. Tyler  
Wallace Rogers  
T. M. Sullivan  
Henry Jones  
C. M. Middlebrooks

**HISTORY**  
**OF**  
**SNAPPING SHOALS**  
**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**HENRY COUNTY**  
**OAK HILL CIRCUIT/ CHARGE**  
**ATLANTA-DECATUR-OXFORD DISTRICT**  
**1953-1991**

**ATLANTA-DECATUR-OXFORD DISTRICTS  
BISHOPS**

<b>ARTHUR J. MOORE</b>	<b>1953-1960</b>
<b>JOHN OWEN SMITH</b>	<b>1960-1972</b>
<b>WILIAM R. CANNON</b>	<b>1972-1980</b>
<b>JOHN D. McDAVID</b>	<b>1980-1984</b>
<b>ERNEST FITZGERALD</b>	<b>1984</b>

**ATLANTA-DECATUR-OXFORD DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS**

<b>EDWARD G. MACKAY</b>	<b>1953-1956</b>
<b>J. WALKER CHIDSEY</b>	<b>1956-1959</b>
<b>DELMA HAYGOOD</b>	<b>1959-1964</b>
<b>NAT LONG SR.</b>	<b>1964-1970</b>
<b>FRANK PRINCE</b>	<b>1970-1976</b>
<b>GARNETT N. WILDER</b>	<b>1976-1980</b>
<b>D. RANDALL WILLIAMSON</b>	<b>1980-1984</b>
<b>LARRY A. BAUMAN</b>	<b>1984-1988</b>
<b>JOHN MINTER</b>	<b>1988-1994</b>
<b>WIMBLEY HALE JR.</b>	<b>1994-</b>

## **SNAPPING SHOALS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**HISTORY, MARCH 1989**

**Nestled within the sound of the old South River lies an exciting and unique Methodist Church, Snapping Shoals United Methodist. Snapping Shoals has been a shining light to it's community and those living within it's range of influence. In recent years the church has come alive afresh with love and enthusiasm. She now boast a membership of over 70 and average over 50 in attendance. The excitement of the weekly services are an encouragement to all that come. This exciteing array of ministry includes the following:**

**A dynamic Bible Study each Sunday night at 6:30, A vivacious Bible Bowl for children ages 5 to 12 that is held in sessions and is announced prior to each sessson, a youth program for ages 13 to 18 dicussing various topics relevant to today. A Wednesday night Bible Study led by the Pastor at 6:30.**

**A refreshing senior citizens rally held each month that is exciteing and full pf life. Sunday school begins at 9:00 a.m. and contines to grow steadily. There are classes for all ages and for people in all walks of life. A dedicated staff meets with the Pastor on wednesday mornings to plan strategy to carry out the ministry of the church.**

**The church is constantly on the move, making improvements and extending it's outreach to the community. It has accomplished many exciting things since it's humble beginning.**

In 1961 four Sunday School rooms were added to the church behind the sanctuary, new front doors were added to the sanctuary in 1979, a station wagon was purchased to be used to bus children from the surrounding area in July of 1980. This station wagon later caught on fire and was destroyed after much use for the Lord. A well was bored in August of 1980 and restrooms were added in August 1981 in memory of Mr. and Mrs. O.C. Piper by the Piper family, also in 1981 in the month of November the church was rewired and fans installed. Needless to say the sanctuary was extremely hot during the summer prior to this. A new "Metropolitan" piano and bench were added in 1981 also.

Due to the increase in growth 50 folding chairs were purchased in February 1982. In June of that same year vinyl siding was put on the churches exterior. The United Methodist Women were organized in March of 1982 with 14 charter members present. A beautiful Brass Alter set was given in 1983 in memory of Mr. and Mrs. R. F. Stone by the Stone family.

1985 marked a tremendous milestone in the church at Snapping Shoals, work began on a two story educational building and was completed and dedicated in 1988. It houses the Pastors office, and other offices used for work areas, a conference room, Sunday school rooms, kitchen, Fellowship hall and one of the rooms is in the process of becoming a Library of Christian Literature. Many aspects of the churches ministry are carried out in this building. A system of caring and shepherding each member called "Vine Life Ministry" was begun February 1985 and continues today.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Gaines donated the organ to the church in memory of Mrs. Ina Randall in February of 1986, The latest project of the church has been it's recent renovation of the sanctuary. In February 1989 old and cracking sheetrock was stripped from



the ceiling and walls,new sheetrock was hung and repainted,new carpet was laid after repairing a section of the floor that had begun to sag. A chior loft was built to accomodate what the people Snapping Shoals call the Hallelujah Corner, their chior. Homecoming is held each September on the second Sunday of that month with great Preaching, singing and of course the traditional "dinner on the grounds."

This is truly a dynamic United Methodist Church with a unique history and continues to make history for future generations under the leadership of it's current Pastor, Rev.Lawrence Lockett.

**In 1953 Snapping Shoals along with Prospect and Ebenezer formed the Oak Hill Circuit. A new parsonage was built on the grounds of Prospect church. Our first Paster Charles (Chuck) Herron resided on the campus of Emory University, as he was a student there. They would come down on the weekends. The Herrons were with us for one year.**

**Rev. Herbert Lester Bowden- 1954-1955**

**Born: November 6, 1928 - Enterprise Alabama**

**Married: Doris Polly Thompson**

**The Bowdens had no children while at Oak Hill. They now have three: Two daughters and one son.**

**Rev. Carl A. Standard- 1955-1962**

**In 1955 our new Paster was one of our own. Carl was born and grew up in Newton County. Graduated from Livingston High School and later from Emory University. Carl served in the Army during World War II. Carl married Gladys King. They have six children Jerry, Ronny, Denny, and Gail, Mark and Cheryl were born in the seven years they were with us. They were the first children to live in the Parsonage. Under the leadership of Brother Carl our church grew and four Sunday school rooms were added on the back of our church.**

**Rev. James A. Hoard**

**Rev. Hoard, his wife Barbara, and their two children Jimmy and Amy were the Parsonage family for two years.**

**Rev. Clarence Thomas Allen- 1964-1966**

**Rev. Allen his wife Barbara and their two small sons were with us for two years. Rev. Allen and his family moved to South Georgia upon his graduation from the seminary.**

**Rev. James H. Olivet- 1966-1969**

Rev. Olivet his wife and two sons Chadwick and Christopher were with us for three years.

**Rev. Jack Blackstone-1969-1970**

Rev. Blackstone his wife Jeri and two children Chris and Kathy was our next Parsonage family. Under the leadership of Rev. Blackstone a new Parsonage was built on Oak Hill Road by Prospect church.

Rev. Blackstone resigned as Pastor to go into a different field of work. We were without a Pastor in the middle of the year.

**Rev. Geron Crawford- 1970-1972**

Rev. Crawford his wife Brenda and son came to us in December 1970. Rev. Crawford was a student Pastor in the seminary and needed one more year. The Crawford family was with us for a year and a half, then moved back to the Rome District.

**Rev. Coleman Howlett- 1972-1975**

Rev. Howlett and Linda, Kenny and Chris moved into our circuit from Kentucky. Jason was born during their stay on the Oak Hill circuit. Colman was a beginner in the seminary and they were here for three years. He came from the University of Kentucky and was a star pitcher, it is believed that he gave up a major league career to answer the call to the ministry. The Howletts have been to Snapping Shoals several times for homecoming. They now have a daughter named Wendy. Rev. Howlett is Pastor of the Methodist Church of Cadiz, Kentucky at

at the time of this writing.

**Rev. Lawrence Lockett- 1975-1991**

**Born, January 8,1942 in Thomson Georgia**

**Parents, Mr. and Mrs. J.L.Lockett Sr.**

**Married ; Cheryl Pace - December 1972**

**Four Children: Daniel, Gabrielle, Samuel, Rachel**

**Rev. Lockett received the God and Country Scouting award in 1956 and the Eagle Scout award in 1957. Rev. Lockett was licensed to preach at ceremonies in his home town church,January 9,1962. Elected to the North Georgia M.Y.F. Council for two years 1960 and 1962. Represented Conference M.Y.F. council at Southwestern Jurisdictional M.Y.F. workshop in Brevard N.C. and at the National School of Moral Concerns in Kansas City in 1961. Served as chairman of the church -related vocation conference at Camp Glisson in 1961 and chairman of the Christian Moral Concerns Worship at Camp Glisson in 1962.Served as youth director at Clifton Methodist Church, Decatur, 1962-1963. Served as summer educational assistant at Thomson First Methodist Church,1962. Served as assistant Pastor and youth director of Centenary Methodist Church in Macon,1963-1964.Served on staff at Epworth -By - The -Sea July 1-6 1963 and February 21-23,1964. Attended the Southeastern Jurisdictional Recreational Workshop in Leesburg,1964.Was selected on scholarship and participated in the Experiment in International Living, living two months with a Polish family,and traveling to Russia and over Europe. Served as youth director of Hillsgrave Methodist Church in Warwick Rhode Island,January-June 1965.Served as summer youth director of Trinity Methodist Church in Augusta Georgia in 1965.Served as minister of youth of Center Methodist Church in Malden,Mass.1965-1966.**

Served as associate Pastor of Milledgeville First Methodist 1966-1968. Served as Pastor of Vinninga Methodist Church in Vinnings Georgia. 1968-1971. Was selected by Smyrna Jaycees as the outstanding young man of the year for 1969, and was awarded the Distinguished Service Award in February 1970. Served as Pastor of Bascom Methodist Church in Woodstock, Georgia 1971-1975, Became a member of Acworth Masonic Lodge 176 in January 1972.

Graduated from Emory University with a B.A. in Psychology in 1964, attended Boston University School of Theology for two years, graduated from Candler School of Theology with a B.B. in Pastoral Counseling in 1967, took an extra year of New Testament in Greek at Candler School of Theology.

Rev. Lockett is now serving as Pastor of the Oak Hill circuit (1975-1989). In the twelve years Brother Lockett has been with us our church membership has steadily increased. We have built a new Educational Building and started many new ministries.

## **SNAPPING SHOALS U.M.C. GETS IT'S OWN PASTOR**

Sunday, June 23, 1991 was no ordinary Sunday for our church. For the first time in it's 150-plus-year history the church has it's own pastor.

The church has always been a part of a Methodist circiut, and in the past decade a part of the Oak Hill circuit. Reverend Lawrence Lockett has been pastor of Prospect UMC in Covington and Snapping Shoals UMC for the past 16 years. Due to growth in both churches on the circuit it became necessary that each have it's own pastor.

### **Reverend Ronald (Ron) H. Compton 1991-1994**

Reverend Ron Compton was appointed by the Bishop as Pastor of Snapping Shoals UMC. Rev. Compton is a graduate of Toccoa Falls College, Toccoa, Georgia. He graduated from Newton County High School, Covington, Georgia in 1981.

Rev. Compton is married to the former JoAnn Bunn of Conyers, Georgia. They have two children, Annie and Ben. IN the three years Rev. Compton was with our church membership steadily increased and we saw many changes made that helped our church. Rev. Compton is now serving the Lord in the Family Life Assembly of God in Lithonia, Georgia.

### **Reverend Avery Daniel 1994-1996**

Reverend Avery Daniel was appointed to our church from Love Joy UMC in Covington, Georgia where his family had been active members for many years. Rev. Daniels, his wife Tina, and children Amelia and Will were at Snapping Shoals UMC for two years.

### **Reverend Vernon L. Radford Sr. 1996-**

Reverend Vernon Radford Sr. was appointed Pastor of our church by the Bishop in June 1996. Rev. Radford is from our own church family. Rev Radford graduated from high school in Florida where he attended four years of trade schooling in Tampa Florida. He will be continuing his education at Seminary. He and his wife, the former Michele Forcucci have two children, Cyndi Pilcher and Vernon Jr.

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