HISTORY OF STATHAM METHODIST CHURCH
Mrs. A. R. Arnold, Historian


Late in the summer of 1897 a small group of Methodist families met under a brush arbor, in a series of meetings, on the site which is now the Statham cemetery. The purpose of these meetings was to organize a Statham Methodist Church.

The church was organized with some 50 or more members with the Rev. Stypes of Jefferson Methodist church conducting the services. The Methodist have the honor of first place in the organization of a church in Statham.

The school building was used for church service, until a church building was completed. Mr. M. J. C. Statham had given the property for a church but this was thought to be better located for a cemetery, so the members purchased a building site at the corner of Broad and Jefferson streets. The building was completed in 1898.

Conference assigned the church to Bethlehem charge, with the
Rev. Alfred Pierce as first pastor with the parsonage in Bethlehem.

In 1902 the church building was destroyed by a storm. The church was soon rebuilt under the leadership of the Rev. J. R. Speck.

A group of faithful pastors have served Statham church, down through the years. Among the number are:


Very few changes had been made in the church until a few years ago the congregation began talking about a new building and ways to raise funds for that purpose. In 1949 a two-story church of red brick was completed and stands as a monument to the united efforts of the church membership. This building was put up at the cost of approximately $10,000. The members are now in the process of equipping the basement, for the church school rooms and a recreation hall.

The church is especially proud of The Women's Society of Christian Service. Their desire to help with the church work is an inspiration to all. They have sponsored many projects of which the proceeds were used for the new building. Mrs. G. W. Lyle is President.

The movement for the new building was begun during the ministry of the Rev. Clyde Smith and completed under the Rev. L. G. Marlin's supervision. Rev. Marlin has served the church well for the past three years. The church is indeed grateful to him and his family.

The church has 140 members and a church school enrollment of 75. Mr. C. E. Patat has been a very active church school superintendent for the past five years.

The church roll today contains a number of charter members. They are: Mesdames Mae Chambers Hardigree, Lyda Chambers Arnold, Para Lee Arnold Robertson, Leila Archer Cofer, Ida Collins Nicholson, Alma Collins Fulcher.

Miss Eudene Jones the very capable Pianist has served the church for a number of years.

The members of the board of Stewards are: Messrs. C. R. Herrin, Chairman; J. R. Fowler, C. E. Patat, G. W. Lyle, J. S. Hall, J. W. Sheats, L. M. Arnold.

The church Trustees are: Messrs. L. M. Arnold, J. H. Wall, J. W. Chambers, Earl Young.

The church is intensely aware of the opportunities it has for service in Statham and the members are striving to take their place in Christian service in the life of the community.