First Methodist Church

West Point, Georgia
A History Of The

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

Of

West Point, Georgia

By

Dorothy Neal Young
PREFACE

As historian for the First Methodist Church, West Point, Georgia, it has been my pleasure to prepare this history of my church. I make no claim to it as a complete and authentic work because the records of the church are incomplete. I have used those available and I am extremely grateful to many gracious members who have tried to remember facts of other years. In many instances they have supplied me with information obtainable in no other way.

For source material, I am indebted to:

"A Short History Of The West Point Methodist Church", by Mary Winston Higginbothem, 1905.

"An Early History Of The West Point Methodist Church", by R. A. S. Freeman, 1905.

"History Of Troup County", by Clifford L. Smith, Foote and Davies Co., Atlanta, Ga., 1933.


"History Of West Point", a paper prepared by Mrs. Osee Roberts, 1943.

"Wesleyan Christian Advocate", Macon, Georgia. (Official Organ Of Georgia Methodism).

The Files of the West Point newspapers.

I wish to acknowledge the kind assistance of Mrs. Ola Miller Johnson in my preparation of this history.

Dorothy Neal Young

West Point, Georgia
June 8, 1950
Georgia has been called, by some, the cradle of American Methodism. For, it was here that John Wesley preached to the Indians and English settlers in the early days of Georgia's colonial history.

The first churches were, of course, established along the coast but as the church began to grow it found its way to the small pioneer settlements dotted over what is today the state of Georgia.

West Point is one of the Georgia towns whose history begins in the pioneer days of the 1820's. It was in 1825, under the Governorship of George M. Troup, that the Creek Indians sold to the United States the land which is included in the present state of Georgia. The Indians were paid about $28,000 and they were given land of equal acreage beyond the Mississippi River.

In 1826 the Indians departed for their new home and the settlers began to arrive with plans for new homes in the wilderness. The area was divided by the state into counties and several small villages were established in Troup County.

A trading post named Franklin was started in 1827 or 1828 on the east bank of the Chattahoochee River where the town of West Point is now located. The Indians were still plentiful on the Alabama side and although the pioneers were glad to have them cross the river in canoes to trade, it is probable that they felt safer building their stores on the Georgia side of the river. The first settlers making their
homes in this locality were: Henry Gorham, John Phipps, John Williams, a Gresham family and two brothers, William and Tom Coker.

In 1830 and 1831 a number of stores were built on the banks of the river and in December 1831 the town of Franklin was incorporated with about one hundred citizens. The name was changed in 1832 to West Point, probably because there was already a Franklin in Heard County and the location of this settlement marked the western most point of the Chattahoochee.

1835 found a number of people moving across the river into Alabama and building homes on the west bank. Soon plans were made for a bridge and a covered wooden bridge, located about 700 feet south of the present bridge, was completed in 1839.

The history of the Methodist church goes back into these early years. About 1829 or 1830 a group of Methodists under the leadership of the Rev. Thomas Williamson established the first church. This building, used by other denominations and as a school house for a short period, was a log structure. It stood where the late Dr. J. P. Miller's home was later built (lot 1, block 34, East side of river), known as Miss Minnie Miller's home. The Rev. Williamson, very zealous and active in his efforts to establish Methodism in the new territory, is credited with the organization later of two churches, one in Harris county and the other in the Long Cane community, near West Point.

It should be remembered that at that time the whole western
section of Georgia was a vast wilderness. Each year however, saw the number of settlements increasing and the church reaching out in growing strength as consecrated young men gave themselves to the conferences to become circuit riders. As an example of the vast area which these traveling preachers covered on horseback, in 1827 the LaGrange circuit included, besides the entire county of Troup, a part of the present county of Harris, all of Meriwether, and a part of Heard county. The average salary of the circuit rider was $150.00 to $200.00 a year and his life was one of danger and hardship.

In 1830 the South Carolina Conference was divided and the Georgia Conference established. The first Georgia Conference met in Macon in 1831, in Augusta in 1832 and 1833 the sister city of LaGrange issued an invitation to the Conference to meet there. It was accepted and Bishop Andrew presided at this meeting.

In 1834 a frame building replaced the small log church and the West Point congregation began to increase as great numbers of settlers moved into this section. Among the early pioneer families of West Point, the following are known to have been members of the early church and actively interested in its establishment:

Mr. and Mrs. William B.S. Gilmer
Mr. and Mrs. Lodwic Alford
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Eaton Bass and children, Robert, John, Eaton, Rebecca and Janet
Mr. and Mrs. John Harrington
Mrs. John Durham
Mr. and Mrs. David Davenport and family
Mr. and Mrs. James Scott
Arthur Baker and wife, the former Elizabeth Lovelace
In 1837 there were 538 members of the Methodist church in Troup county alone and in that year a great revival, under the leadership of Rev. James B. Payne swept over the small towns of western Georgia. In 1839, LaGrange, in connection with West Point became one charge. Some years later (1857) West Point was made a full station and so was LaGrange.

The West Point Land Company was organized and incorporated in 1838. The promotion of the sale of land in this section and the encouragement of settlers to establish themselves on the banks of the Chattahoochee were the purposes of the company. In August of 1852, during the pastorate of John P. Duncan, the congregation decided to petition the Land Company for a building lot to be used as the location of a new church. This petition was granted and the land was given to the Methodists and has been used since then as the location of the church. The lot included the western half of block No. 72 and the east side of the river.

In November the building committee, composed of James M. Hill, James McClendon and George Winston let the contract for the building of the church. It was completed August 12, 1853 at a cost of approximately $3000.

Mr. George Winston records in his diary a meeting in progress
during the month of September in which "20 whites and 26 blacks joined the church". On Sunday, December 4, 1853 the new brick church was dedicated. The Rev. Alexander Means of Emory College preached the dedicatory sermon and Rev. John W. Talley was pastor at the time.

During the period from 1840 through 1860 the following people are listed among the members:

Anderson Eady and family
M. A. Dickson
Mr. J.W. McClendon and family (his second wife, the former Miss Annie Thompson, became a missionary to Mexico in 1889)
Mr. and Mrs. John Benham
Mrs. Alex Lyon
Mrs. B. I. Harris
Mr. and Mrs. Martin
Mr. and Mrs. John Scott
Mr. and Mrs. James Fleming
Dr. and Mrs. Cicero Lovelace
Mr. and Mrs. K. L. G. Little
Mr. and Mrs. P. O. Harper (wife was former Mary Croft)
T. W. Erwin and wife, Katherine Whitaker
Mrs. J. W. F. Little
Mrs. Christian
Dr. and Mrs. Leonidas Means (son of Dr. Means of Emory College)
Miss Eliza Whitaker
Mrs. Whit Alford
Miss Mary Bedell
Mr. John Samples
Mrs. Bettie Warner
Dr. and Mrs. J. P. Miller
Dr. J. W. Oslin and family
Mr. and Mrs. W. J. McKemie
Judge and Mrs. Pattillo
Dr. Pattillo
Mr. John W. Miller
Mr. William Baker
Mr. and Mrs. Morris
Mr. and Mrs. Drakefield
Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Erwin
Mr. and Mrs. T. Barker

1850 to 1861 was a time of great prosperity for the town and
and for the church. The building of a railroad from Montgomery to West Point was completed in July 1851 and West Point began to grow rapidly as a business center. The A and W.P. Railroad and the railroad bridge were completed in March 1854. These railroads helped to make an important cotton market of the town. In 1851 an estimated 28,000 bales of cotton were brought in from surrounding farms for shipment. The expanding little city was incorporated in February 1854 as a city to be governed by a mayor and four aldermen. The first mayor was P. O. Harper.

As the town and churches grew, so did the educational systems. When the village was incorporated as Franklin, a school called the Franklin Academy was established. The name was later changed to West Point Academy. In 1867 the West Point Female College was chartered, located where the present school is, and continued as a college until it became a public school in 1876.

The tragedy of Civil War was felt along the Chattahoochee. It touched the homes of the little town and inspired the organization of the West Point Light Guards. These young men offered their services to the Confederacy on May 2, 1861 and left for mobilization in Augusta three weeks later. During the years that followed they took part in most of the important engagements of the war. Throughout the war the Southern people felt that their cause was right and they were drawn closer to the church as they prayed for victory in the terrible struggle. The church work went on though with much reduced membership and lower funds, the latter due to the devaluation of Confederate money.
On Easter morning, April 16, 1865, one week after the surrender at Appomattox, the Battle of West Point was fought. This was due to the fact that in those days news traveled slowly and the message to cease hostilities did not reach the armies in time to prevent the battle. This battle is believed to be the last battle of the Civil War.

With peace came a renewed interest in the church and the first parsonage was probably built soon after the war.

The years following the war and the first years of the new century saw the organization of various groups within the church. The Ladies Aid Society was the first women's organization. It was organized January 12, 1880 with Mrs. Annie Little as President, Mrs. W. E. Jones as Vice-President, Mrs. W. B. Higginbothem as Recording Secretary and Mrs. Kate McElhaney as Treasurer. On August 23, 1881 the Women's Foreign Missionary Society was organized by Rev. A. M. Thigpen with Mrs. James Pattillo as President, Mrs. J. P. Miller, Vice-President. This organization paid $17.75 dues for the year 1881-1882. The charter members are listed as follows:

Mrs. T. B. Stubbs, Corresponding Secretary
Mrs. W. E. Jones, Treasurer
Mrs. C. E. Bass
Mrs. M. J. Betterton
Mrs. F. Dixon
Mrs. A. M. Eady
Mrs. T. J. Eady
Miss Josie Hughes
Mrs. R. S. Harris
Mrs. L. M. Harris
Mrs. W. P. Johnson
Miss Mittie Jones
Miss Mary Pattillo (Norman)
Mrs. Angy Wilkinson
Mrs. A. M. Thigpen
Mrs. Dr. Baity
Mrs. Dr. Pattillo
Mrs. Meador
Mrs. L. T. C. Lovelace
Mrs. Dr. McElhaney
Miss Emma Dixon

Mrs. J. C. Davidson was for many years the President of the Parsonage and Home Missionary Society, an organization started by the mother of Miss Daisy Davies. The children's work was organized June 2, 1884 when twenty children joined a society named the "Riverside Reapers", with Miss Lizzie Baker in charge. Later Mrs. Fannie Dixon took over the work. In 1890 Mrs. J. R. Parker and Miss Flora Baker organized the Young People's Society.

West Point was proud of two of her members, Mrs. A. E. McClendon and Miss Flora Baker who were sent by the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society as missionaries to Mexico in 1889.

In the year 1911 the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society and The Woman's Home Missionary Society united and the pastor's wife, Mrs. J. G. Logan became President of the combined societies. The group was known as The Woman's Missionary Society until 1940, when, under the Unification Program the name was changed to the Woman's Society of Christian Service. At that time the Business Women's Circle of the W. M. S. was organized as the Wesleyan Service Guild.

Throughout the years the women's societies have grown with the church. Participation in their programs is a satisfying part of the life of every church-woman. For the Conference year
1949 - 1950, the report of the W. S. C. S. shows a total expenditure of $2532.33 and an enrollment of 191 members, including Wesleyan Service Guild members.

Following is a list of the women who have served the Society as president:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>President</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1880</td>
<td>Mrs. Annie Little</td>
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<tr>
<td>1881-1905</td>
<td>Mrs. James Pattillo</td>
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<tr>
<td>1906-1908</td>
<td>Mrs. J. D. Johnson</td>
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<tr>
<td>1909-1911</td>
<td>Mrs. T. L. Norman</td>
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<tr>
<td>1912</td>
<td>Mrs. J. G. Logan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1913</td>
<td>Mrs. Mary Poer Oslin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1914</td>
<td>Mrs. C. E. Pattillo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1915-1926</td>
<td>Miss Florrie Johnson</td>
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<tr>
<td>1927</td>
<td>Mrs. John Poer</td>
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<tr>
<td>1928-1929</td>
<td>Mrs. John T. Johnson</td>
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<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>Miss Florrie Johnson</td>
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<tr>
<td>1931-1932</td>
<td>Mrs. O. G. Murphy</td>
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<tr>
<td>1933-1934</td>
<td>Mrs. Norman E. Becker</td>
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<tr>
<td>1935-1936</td>
<td>Mrs. Harold Parker</td>
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<td>1937-1942</td>
<td>Mrs. Norman E. Becker</td>
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<tr>
<td>1943-1944</td>
<td>Mrs. Young Ayres</td>
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<tr>
<td>1945-1949</td>
<td>Miss Lura Frances Johnson</td>
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<tr>
<td>1949-1950</td>
<td>Mrs. Norman E. Becker</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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The following Adult Life Memberships have been conferred by West Point Society Of Christian Service:

- Mrs. Mary Pattillo Norman
- Mrs. J.T. Zachry
- Mrs. Laura Poer (Mrs. George Poer)
- Mrs. Iola Kirby (Mrs. W. J. Kirby Sr.)
- Miss Florrie Johnson
- Mrs. Norman Becker
- Mrs. John T. Johnson
- Mrs. Ellison R. Cook, Sr.
- Mrs. Mary A. Shaefer
- Mrs. Fred Ward
- Miss Gladys Ozley
- Mrs. Lillie Warner Erwin
- Mrs. A. H. Barton, Sr.
- Mrs. Mary Poer Oslin
- Mrs. Gordon W. Neal Sr.
- Miss Minnie Miller
- Mrs. J. W. Bates
- Mrs. R. C. Davidson
Mrs. J. A. Avary
Mrs. C. O. Williams
Mrs. Lula Hogg
Mrs. John E. Cobb
Mrs. A. G. Harris Jr.
Mrs. Griggs Zachry Sr.
Mrs. Thomas DeLamar
Miss Mary Ward
Miss Ella Williams
Mrs. Lawton L. Blanton
Mrs. John Poer
Miss Lura Frances Johnson
Mrs. Addie Williams
Mrs. Minnie Stripling
Mrs. T. A. Shannon
Mrs. J. G. Lancaster
Mrs. A. R. Wisdom
Mrs. Ben Wright
Mrs. Turner Jones
Mrs. Edmund F. Cook
Mrs. W. H. Scott Sr.
Mrs. R. L. Boland
Mrs. Lee Roy Tillery Sr.
Mrs. Young Ayres
Mrs. Harold Parker
Mrs. John I. Warner
Mrs. Charles B. Butler
Mrs. Jack Davis
Mrs. Lewis G. Norman Sr.

Baby Life Memberships honor the babies of the West Point church and include a contribution of $5.00 each which is used to aid needy children in the mission field. The following children have been given Life Memberships:

William Avary
Bonnie Frances Cofield
Martha Louise Ayres
Carolyn Becker
Sally Harwell
Dorothy Ellen Young
Thomas Scott Avary Jr.
Edmund Cook Glover
Harold Parker Jr.
James Griggs Zachry
Aldine Stephen Johnson
Sara Owen Cobb
Charles Williams Parker

Sara Vivian Lancaster
Joel Albert Johnson
George Erwin Rawls
Sylvia Ann Hodnett
Jack Reid Armistead
Benjamin Harvey Hill
James Albert Avary
Robert Gordon Young
David Miller Johnson
Rosemary Schuler Ayres
Virginia Johnston Glover
Richard Taylor Hill
Irene Fuller Williams
John Wesley realized that the children of the church needed special attention and he suggested that his helpers speak often to them, pray for them and whenever possible gather them together in prayer meetings. The first Sunday School of which we have record in Georgia was organized at Milledgeville in 1811. In 1831 the Conference established Sunday Schools in all the stations so we assume that the West Point Church had a Sunday School department from the beginning of the church. The Study of the Bible, and lessons in the Catechism, together with instruction in spelling and reading made up the program of these early schools. The spelling and reading were taught because in many of the stations, schooling was inadequate and this instruction was all that some children ever received.

Until 1903 the local Sunday School, although a very active
and growing organization, did not have a department for children under the age of eight years. Mrs. Mary Poer Oslin recognized this need and was the founder of the Cradle Roll and Primary Divisions. The Sunday School has kept pace with the church and has grown steadily through the years. For the Conference year 1949 - 1950, the total enrollment of the Church School is 565 and the total expenditure of the Church School for same year is $2371.00.

The year 1905 found the Methodist congregation greatly increased in number and needing a larger church. A building committee composed of J. S. Baker, Chairman, H. W. Miller, Treasurer, B. H. Hill, Secretary, J. E. Purks, W. J. Kirby, and L. S. Turner, Supervisor, was formed and plans were made for a new building. The old church was torn down and the present church Sanctuary completed in 1907, while Rev. S. P. Wiggins was pastor. The cost was about $15,000.00 and it was made of concrete blocks.

The next decade saw a steady growth of the West Point church with increased interest in Sunday School. After the First World War the need for a separate building became apparent but it was not until 1927 that a beautiful modern Sunday School plant was erected. The parsonage was moved to its present location in order to make room for the new building. An additional lot, 120 feet by 241 feet, and 3 inches, and 125 feet by 210 feet had been purchased in November 1926 from Mr. Roy Tillery for $2,250.00, to be used for a church-sponsored recreation area. This extra space allowed the
new addition to be conveniently connected to the church. The
Rev. Jesse W. Veatch was pastor of the church in 1927 and
Edmund F. Cook was Superintendent of the Sunday School. Available records show that the following men have served as
Superintendents of the Sunday School, beginning in 1877:

J. R. Scott
J. H. Crawford
F. W. Little
J. W. T. Little
W. P. Hampton
W. J. McKensie
W. E. Palmer
Jim Dixon
R. A. Ridgeway
G. W. Poer
H. W. Hodge
I. M. Scott
W. C. Batson
J. E. Purks
E. C. Barker
W. P. Thomas
Ben Hill
Mark McCulloh
Dr. C. O. Williams
Edmund F. Cook
H. J. Hodnett Jr.
John E. Cobb Sr.

Early in November 1934 former members of the West Point Methodist Church were pleased to receive the following invitation:

"West Point Methodist Episcopal Church South will be at home to all former members on the occasion of her One Hundredth Birthday and of American Methodism's One Hundred Fiftieth Anniversary Sunday, November 11, 1934 West Point, Georgia."

A Century of Methodism was the theme of the Centennial
Celebration attended by many interested members and friends.

It was with a feeling of great pride that the pastor, Rev. George L. King introduced Rev. Claude Fullerton as the speaker at the morning services. He is a product of the West Point church and is a very able and gifted young minister. At the afternoon program Rev. King accepted the good wishes of the other churches of West Point and he read several congratulatory messages and letters, among them being a personal letter written by Bishop Warren A. Candler, the grand old man of Georgia Methodism. His letter follows:

Warren A. Candler
1653 North Decatur Road
Atlanta, Ga.

November 3, 1934

To the Members and the Preacher
in charge of the West Point Methodist Church

My dear Brethren:

Most heartily I join you in the celebration of the One Hundredth Birthday of your beloved Church.

Since its birth, one hundred years ago many changes have taken place in the history of our country. Business enterprises have passed away and wars with political agitations have prevailed, but your church abides and will remain through all the years to come. Let us cling with unflinching devotion to The Holy Institution which lives throughout all the mutations revolutions of time.

Yours fraternally,

(signed) Warren A. Candler

The speaker for the afternoon was Dr. C. C. Jarrell who delivered an interesting and forceful discussion of John Wesley
and early Methodism in Georgia. The historical pageant was postponed due to illness of some of those taking part but was presented some days later to the enjoyment of all.

In September 1938 the Board of Stewards decided to make plans for the building of a new parsonage. The original parsonage had been remodeled three times and also moved from its original foundations, consequently its condition was such that a new one would be a better investment than extensive repairs.

Edmund F. Cook was the chairman of the building committee, and H. C. Sapp was treasurer; the pastor, Rev. Charles M. Lipham designed the parsonage and it was completed in 1939 at a cost of approximately $7000.00. It is a very attractive and comfortable brick home.

During World War II the West Point church took its place with the other churches of the land offering comfort and consolation to anxious members and contributing liberally to war relief abroad, local recreations, programs for children and investing in United States War Bonds. These bonds were purchased as a provision for the day when it will be desirable to remodel or rebuild our church.

With the coming of peace in 1945 the church wished to contribute to the rehabilitation of post-war Europe. Records show that from October 13, 1947 until June 1950, the amount of $3142.49 has been contributed through the agency of CARE (non-profit organization - "Cooperative for American Remittances to Europe"). In 1948 the church also undertook half the support
of a missionary couple in Chile, S.A. The church pays $1800 a year to further the work of Rev. and Mrs. Russell Sargent of Nueva Imperial, Chile, who report regularly on the progress being made among the natives there.

The office of Church Secretary was first held by Miss Frances Allgood. Mrs. Jack Davis serves in that capacity at the present time (1950). The Conference year 1949 - 1950 was the first year to include the very valuable work of a Director of Christian Education. Miss Wanda Kemp has held that position this year.

The West Point Church has always appreciated and enjoyed the efforts of an unusually large and talented choir. Their faithful attendance and beautiful renditions have added much to the worship periods of the church. Mrs. A. D. Ferguson was our first designated Choir Director and Miss Mabel White is the present director (1950).

Mrs. Aldine Johnson, Grand-daughter of pioneer H. W. and Lura Williams Miller is the present gifted organist. Others who have served as organists since the large pipe organ was installed in 1929, at a cost of approximately $3500.00, are as follows:

Miss Stella Burns
Mrs. Eunice Winston
Miss Mary Bradford (Mrs. J. C. McKemie)
Miss Sallie Sue Longshore
Miss Mary Scott
Mrs. Edgar Mitchell
Mrs. Elizabeth DeLaet
Mrs. W. T. Harrison

1950, with Rev. Harry Lee Smith as pastor and Rev. J. S.
Thrailkill as District Superintendent, finds the West Point Methodist Church one hundred and twenty years old. She looks back upon a history as colorful and varied as the state whose development parallels hers. She is a vital, growing church, an ever-increasing source of inspiration and comfort to her children.

In this year of 1950, she is proud of a family of 741 members as contrasted with a membership of 262 in 1883. She pays her pastor $4800.00, she who was able to pay only $750.00 in 1883. During Conference year 1949 - 1950 $2000.00 was paid toward World Service and Conference Benevolences; the total contributions of the church for this period (1949-1950) amounted to $30,646.00. She values her Church and Sunday School buildings at $80,000.00, her parsonage at $15,000.00 and other property (Bonds) at $17,100.00, making a total of $112,100.00.

During the years many great and famous people have visited the West Point Church. Some have come to preach great sermons, some to tell of great need in foreign lands and some have come to renew friendships and visit for awhile, but all have given a little bit of themselves to the beautiful personality which is our church. Among these gracious visitors we would name the following:

Dr. Young J. Allen
Miss Daisy Davies
Mrs. T. R. Kendall
Dr. Morgan Callaway
Bishop Warren A. Candler
Bishop John Moore
Dr. James E. Dickey
Miss Virginia Atkinson
Miss Margaret Cook
Miss Ruth Field  
Rev. and Mrs. W. J. Callahan  
Rev. Will Turner  
Rev. C. C. Jarrell  
Mr. Yuni  
Dr. W. A. Shelton  
Dr. W. A. Smart  
Dr. W. P. King

All growing churches owe much to the great revivals which histories record. Often just when the pastor and the congregation alike need help and inspiration some great man comes who is able to create a genuine revival in the hearts of the people. Among the great revival leaders who have brought inspiration to the church are:

Dr. S. R. Belk  
Dr. B. F. Frazier  
Rev. W. G. Crawley  
Dr. Lincoln McConnell  
Rev. J. S. Thrailkill  
Bishop Arthur J. Moore  
Rev. Pierce Harris  
Dr. Joseph Owen  
Dr. Clovis Chappell

Nothing so inspires the members of a church as the knowledge that the young people, who have grown up under the guidance of the church's teachings, are going out into the world as ambassadors for Christ. West Point church is proud of her young people as a group and particularly proud of three young men who are active members of Methodist Conferences. Rev. Claude Fullerton, Rev. Woodrow Jackson, and Rev. Eugene Rutland are consecrated ministers who grew up in this church. Rev. Thomas Morgan is a Local Preacher who also has been a member since childhood.

Our church has contributed many outstanding personalities to the world. We would not, if we could, name them all, because no
person can measure the worth of another's personality. However, those who knew "Miss Molly" will believe it fitting that she be named in this history. Those who did not have the pleasure of knowing her missed much, for hers was a truly Christian spirit and an unusually beautiful personality.

Mary Winston, daughter of Ann Whitaker and George Hendree Winston, was born in West Point in 1853. She lived here her entire life, always a devoted member of the Methodist Church. She married W.B. Higginbotham, who died in 1895. "Miss Molly", as she was affectionately known, died December 15, 1929.

The Wesleyan Christian Advocate had this to say of her: "She inherited a large part of the 'Old South' in her thinking, her mode of living and her gentleness of manner, which did not change. She gave herself entirely to a life of service, having taught the same Sunday School class for thirty years, serving as president of the Fort Tyler Chapter of the U.D.C. from its organization until the time of her death. She was president of the North Georgia Conference Woman's Society from its organization by the union of the old Foreign and Home Societies until 1926. Prior to this she was president of the old Home Missionary Society for a long term of years. She was honorary life member of the Woman's Missionary Council and was held in high esteem by her co-workers."

In 1905 Miss Molly wrote a Short History of the West Point Methodist Church. She closed her paper with these words which I think are a fitting close for this history:

"Never before in the history of our church have there been such needs, such golden opportunities, such unlimited possibilities! As individual members, joined in one body in Christian Love, with one purpose of heart and mind, may we move forward to meet the needs and grasp the opportunities, showing our appreciation of the work of our forefathers and our love to God and our fellowman by making our church what it was designed to be in its redemptive saving power! Trusting the God of our fathers, relying upon His help in every time of trial and need, may we attempt great things for Him in this our day of opportunity! "
The following men have served as pastors:

1831  Boring, Issac and Mitchell, Archibald H.
1832  Williams, W. S. and Morgan, Jeremiah
1833  Whitley, -- and Starr, J. W.
1834  Hunter, J. D. and Mathews, J. D.
1835  Boring, Jesse
1836-37  Samford, Thomas F.
1838-39  Payne, James B.
1840  Samford, Thomas F.
1841  Tatum, Thomas
1842  Key, Caleb W.
1843-45  Wiggins, James A.
1846  Samford, Thomas F.
1847-48  Tulley, John W.
1849-50  White, Miller F.
1851  Frost, Johnson
1852  Duncan, John P.
1853  Talley, John
1854-55  Foote, W. R.
1856  Myrick, Fletcher
1857  Wiggins, L.G.R.
1858  McGeehe, John W.
1859-60  Dixon, R. M.
1861  Simmons, W. A.
1862  Cook, W. F.
1863-68  Ryburn, P. M.
1869  Thigpin, A. M.
1870-71  Birch, E. P.
1872  Thigpin, A.M.
1873  Cox, D.D.
1874-76  Ryburn, P. M.
1877-78  Lewis, W. F.
1879  Seals, T. A.
1880  Rivers, W. F.
1881  Thigpin, A. M.
1882-83  Farris, B. F.
1884-85  Ellis, H. J.
1886-88  Williams, A. W.
1889  Sasnett, B. H.
1890-91  Parker, J. R.
1892-93  Foote, W. R.
1894  Robinson, W. F.
1895-96  Allen, B. P.
1897-00  Quillian, H. M.
1901-02  Betterton, T. C.
1903  Shaw, Simeon
1904-06  Wiggins, S.P.
1907  Tumlin, J.M.
1908-09  Cleckler, R. C.
1910-11  Logan, J.G.
1912  Cooper, W. H.
1913-15  Pattillo, C. E.
1916  Erwin, J. P.
1917-20  Crawley, W. G.
1922-24  Edmonsson, R.A.
1925-28  Veatch, J.W.
1929-30  Jones H. H.
1931-32  Yarborough, J.F.
1933-37  King, George L.
1938-39  Liphim, C. M.
1940-43  Twiggs, Walter M.
1944-46  King, George L.
1947-49  Acree, Geo. M.
1950  Smith, Harry Lee
The following men have served the West Point Methodist Church as trustees:

(Since 1883)

A. M. Eady
R. A. S. Freeman
M. A. Dickson
George H. Winston
W. L. Benham
W. H. White
D. C. Shutze
W. E. Palmer
C. T. Pattillo
J. M. Reid
H. W. Miller
W. J. McKemie
J. W. F. Little
J. R. Scott
Judge James Pattillo
P. A. Tatum
L. S. Turner
W. P. Stott
H. C. Jones
J. T. Johnson
Charles Hill
R. A. Ridgeway
C. E. Bass
A. J. Hogg
T. J. Mobley
Mark McCulloh
J. E. Warlick
N. L. Barker
T. L. Norman

H. B. Davidson
B. H. Hill
R. B. Dixon
G. W. Poer
Edmund F. Cook
Gordon W. Neal Sr.
Griggs Zachry Sr.
Dr. C. O. Williams
Dr. Rance O'Neal
W. J. Kirby
T. Julian Beall
Mrs. John T. Johnson
J. A. Avary
W. H. Scott Sr.
Lewis G. Norman Sr.
H. J. Hodnett
A. O. Benton
GENERAL CHURCH OFFICERS

1949 - 1950

Arthur J. Moore - - - - - - - - - - - - - - Bishop
J. S. Thraillkill - - - - -District Superintendent
Harry Lee Smith - - - - - - - - - - - - - - Minister
Mrs. Jack Davis - - - - - - - - - - - - - Church Secretary
Miss Wanda Kemp - - - - - Director of Religious Education
Miss Mabel White - - - - - - - - - - - - - Director of Music
Mrs. Aldine Johnson - - - - - - - - - - - - Organist

CHURCH ORGANIZATION


WOMAN'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Mrs. N.E. Becker -----President Mrs. Bob Ogletree -----Sec.,CS
Mrs. Frank Greene-----Vice-Pres Mrs. Griggs Zachry - L.C.Act
Mrs. A.M. French -----Rec. Sec. Mrs. Jack Davis - Sec. Status W
Miss Florrie Johnson--Cor. Sec. Mrs. Griggs Zachry Jr. Children
Mrs. J.L. Young ------Publicity Mrs. Wm. Scott -- Youth Work
Mrs. A.G. Harris -----Treasurer Mrs. Eaton Hill------ Supplies
Mrs. C.O. Williams --Sec. Pro. Mrs. Grady Fuller ----- Music
Miss Lura F. Johnson, Sec. M,ES Mrs. Young Ayres - Student Work
Mrs. J.A. Williams -Sec. Lit-Pub Miss Gladys Ozley - Pres. W.S.G.

Miss Lurs Frances Johnson, Co-Ordi. W.S.G.

Circles Leaders -- Mrs. B.H. Rawls, Mrs. Morgan Cantey, Mrs. A.R. Wisdom, Mrs. Joe Phillips, Mrs. Lewis Norman Jr., Mrs. Hugh Darden.

Choir -- Miss Mabel White, Mrs. Griggs Zachry, Mrs. Henry Scott, Mrs. Grady Fuller, Mrs. Charles Johnson, Mrs. William Thomas, Miss Marie Tigner, Mrs. Young Ayres, Mrs. Geo. Reddick, Miss Murrell Johnson, Miss Kathryn Keith, Mrs. R.A. Rodgers, Miss Nita Burdette, Mrs. N.C. Flickinger, Mrs. Ernest Nix, Miss Elizabeth Ayres, Ed Timmons, J.C. MacGregor, N.A. Johnson, Maurice Duttera, Allison Wood, Joseph Power, Edwin Williams, Bobby Timmons, Fred Cook.