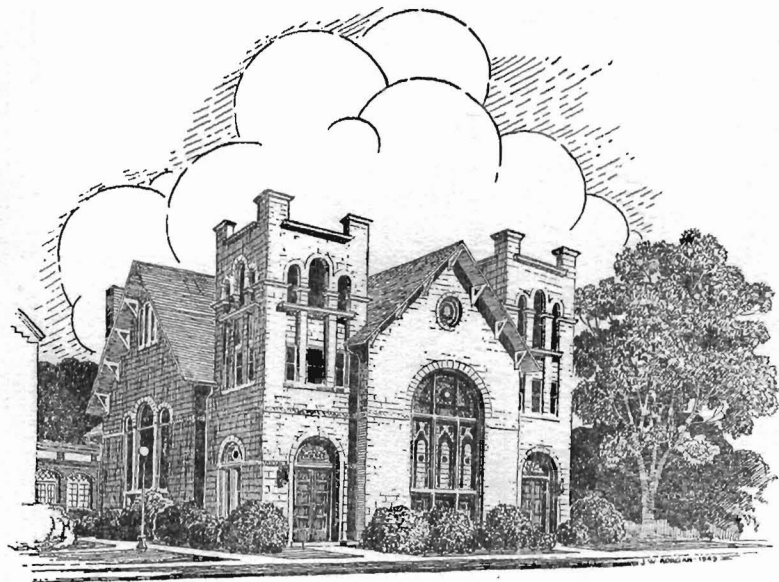


*First Methodist Church*



*West Point, Georgia*

A History Of The  
FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

Of

West Point, Georgia

By

Dorothy Neal Young

## P R E F A C E

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 Higginbotham, 1905.

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

"History Of Troup County", by Clifford L. Smith,  
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"The History Of Georgia Methodism 1786 - 1866",  
by George G. Smith, A. B. Caldwell, Pub.,  
Atlanta, Ga., 1913.

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American Book Co., New York, 1922.

"History Of West Point", a paper prepared by  
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"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  
 John C. Webb and wife, whose home was the first frame house erected in West Point.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Lodwic Alford  
 Mr. and Mrs. Charles Eaton Bass and children, Robert, John, Eaton, Rebecca and Janet  
 Dr. 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

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Todd  
Dr. and Mrs. Rebecca Maul  
Captain and Mrs. Thomas Winston  
Mr. and Mrs. William Bisco and family  
Mrs. Early Lyons  
Mr. Evans Richards  
Mrs. Reed  
Mr. Henry Hames  
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Chappell

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. Higginbotham 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:

1880	Mrs. Annie Little
1881 - 1905	Mrs. James Pattillo
1906 - 1908	Mrs. J. D. Johnson
1909 - 1911	Mrs. T. L. Norman
1912	Mrs. J. G. Logan
1913	Mrs. Mary Poer Oslin
1914	Mrs. C. E. Pattillo
1915 - 1926	Miss Florrie Johnson
1927	Mrs. John Poer
1928 - 1929	Mrs. John T. Johnson
1930	Miss Florrie Johnson
1931 - 1932	Mrs. O. G. Murphy
1933 - 1934	Mrs. Norman E. Becker
1935 - 1936	Mrs. Harold Parker
1937 - 1942	Mrs. Norman E. Becker
1943 - 1944	Mrs. Young Ayres
1945 - 1949	Miss Lura Frances Johnson
1949 - 1950	Mrs. Norman E. Becker

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

Jane Lowry Zachry  
 Jack Wilson Jr.  
 Patricia Lorraine Power  
 James Richard Lloyd  
 James Calvin Morgan  
 Nancy Liles Glover  
 James Thomas Duttera  
 Nathan Lane Atkinson  
 Mary Corbitt Adams  
 Julia King Allsobrook  
 Elizabeth Ann Johnson  
 Linda Jane Hodnett  
 Lenora Jackson  
 Nelson Bradfield Lamb  
 Nancy Miller Johnson  
 Irene Cherry Auston  
 William Millard Warner  
 Julia Ruth Lindsey  
 Virginia Elma Johnson  
 Hugh Leon Ayres  
 Penelope Jane Pattillo  
 William Wesley Wood

Susan Lee Crawford  
 Ellen Jane Waddle  
 Barbara Lee Vining  
 Robert Daniel Borders  
 Daniel Charles Humphries  
 Jeanette Carol Sargent  
 Martha Tillery Atkinson  
 Roy Lewis Tillery  
 William Henry Scott Jr.  
 Laura Ellen Wyche  
 James Franklin Reddick  
 Charles Raymond Warner  
 Ellen Page Lamb  
 Marianna Pattillo  
 Frances Marion Wilson  
 Nancy Lee Warner  
 Mary Amelia Scott  
 Alwyn Taylor Wyche  
 Jesse Gaines Lancaster  
 John Banks Zachry  
 Janice Louise Barton

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  
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 Hundreth Birthday  
and of  
American Methodism's  
One Hundreth 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 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 Brethen:

Most heartily I join you in the celebration of the One Hundreth 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 unfaltering 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 of approximately \$7000.00. It is a very attractive and comfortable brick home.

During World 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.



Thraillkill 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 contribu-  
tions 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.	1903	Shaw, Simeon
1832	Williams, W. S. and Morgan, Jeremiah	1904-06	Wiggins, S.P.
1833	Whitley, - - and Starr, J. W.	1907	Tumlin, J.M.
1834	Hunter, J. D. and Mathews, J. D.	1908-09	Cleckler, R. C.
1835	Boring, Jesse	1910-11	Logan, J.G.
1836-37	Samford, Thomas F.	1912	Cooper, W. H.
1838-39	Payne, James B.	1913-15	Pattillo, C. E.
1840	Samford, Thomas F.	1916	Erwin, J. P.
1841	Tatum, Thomas	1917-20	Crawley, W. G.
1842	Key, Caleb W.	1922-24	Edmondson, R.A.
1843-45	Wiggins, James A.	1925-28	Veatch, J.W.
1846	Samford, Thomas F.	1929-30	Jones H. H.
1847-48	Tulley, John W.	1931-32	Yarbrough, J.F.
1849-50	White, Miller F.	1933-37	King, George L.
1851	Frost, Johnson	1938-39	Lipham, C. M.
1852	Duncan, John P.	1940-43	Twiggs, Walter M.
1853	Talley, John	1944-46	King, George L.
1854-55	Foote, W. R.	1947-49	Acree, Geo. M.
1856	Myrick, Fletcher	1950	Smith, Harry Lee
1857	Wiggins, L.G.R.		
1858	McGehee, 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. P.		
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.		



T R U S T E E S

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  
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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. Thrailkill - - - - - 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

Stewards -- Cliff C. Glover, Chm., A.G. Harris, Vice-Chm.,  
 J.E. Cobb, Sec., W.F. Cook, Treas., Scott Avary, W.T. Harrison,  
 H.J. Hodnett, Frank Pate, N.A. Johnson, Frazier Allbright,  
 L.L. Blanton, J.E. Glenn, J.M. Rutland, W.L. Warren, H.M. Waddle,  
 Thomas Morgan, Ed Lifsey, Young Ayres, R.H. Kirkpatrick, Frank  
 Humphries, W.H. Scott, Sr., Morgan Cantey, Russell Smith, J.I.  
 Warner, Maurice Duttera, Griggs Zachry, J.P. Howell, J.L. Young,  
 M.A. Darde, Sr., L.G. Norman, Sr., Millard Warner, William  
 Davidson, Gordon Neal, R.H. Hodnett, J.A. Sargent, C.L. Adams.

Trustees -- E.F. Cook, T.J. Beall, Mrs. J.T. Johnson, J.A. Avary,  
 W.H. Scott, Sr., L.G. Norman, Sr., H.J. Hodnett, A.O. Benton,  
 C.O. Williams.

CHURCH SCHOOL -- John E. Cobb, Supt., Russell Smith, Asst. Supt.

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-Ord. 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.