HISTORY

of

LAGRANGE, WHITESVILLE STREET METHODIST CHURCH
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LaGrange, Ga.

The Whitesville Street Methodist Church was born of a missionary zeal which has continued for forty-two years. That spirit continues to lighten the lives of its membership today just as it did back in the old days when Mr. Sam Smith gave the land for one dollar, and love for his Christ.

The Whitesville Street Methodist Church grew out of a Sunday School which was held in a house about a block from the present building site. The deed was recorded on September 9, 1902. The first board of Stewards were: G. W. Smith, G. S. Hanson, R. G. Walker, T. S. Deloach, J. B. Bennett, M. T. Moody, and Sam P. Smith. Rev. Dixon, who was pastor of St. John Methodist Church (LaGrange) helped to organize the church, and Rev. Seaborn was the first pastor. Mr. G. W. Smith was Sunday School Superintendent of the Church School until 1916. Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Smith were charter members. They were among the most active workers in the early history of the Church. The rugged history of the Whitesville Street Methodist Church endears it to many people living in LaGrange today who have stood with her in victory and defeat. There is something wholesome within the walls of the old building that warms the hearts of those who love the gospel of Christ.

The Whitesville Street Methodist Church meant much to Mr. M. S. Brown who was also Superintendent of the Church School a great number of years. Working with him were others such as Mr.
J. T. Rutland, who loved the Church with a lasting devotion. The Whitesville Street Methodist Church has had a very colorful and interesting history from the day it was established. The footsteps of many of the oldest and leading families of LaGrange have been heard in the isles of this grand old institution. The turn of events in the development of the city caused many of her staunch supporters to be removed from her pews.

The Whitesville Street Methodist Church is having a new birth of service to a community who is learning to love this historic institution of LaGrange for its value to them as individuals. New property has recently been purchased for Church School services, and to provide recreational programs for the young people in the community it serves. The Whitesville Street Methodist Church is budding forth as a flower in the springtime to add many glorious achievements in the future, to its record of accomplishments in the past.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gilbert Steadham, Pastor
WHITESVILLE STREET METHODIST CHURCH