HISTORY OF THE WOODSTATION METHODIST CHURCH

Many years ago a one room log building was erected on the Graham property, now owned by Raydean Watts between the Alabama and Nichajack roads. This was used as a Baptist church and school building. When a Baptist church was built at Cetlett the membership was moved to this church and called Wood Station Baptist Church.

This old log building was moved to land formerly owned by Ben Keys and used for a barn, many people have looked up this building because it was once the church of their forefathers.

A short distance south of this log church an acre of land was donated by Mr. Ramsey for a methodist church and cemetery. The year is not known when the building was erected, but it was long before the war between the states. This building had a puncheon floor and slab benches. This church was named Bethel Methodist Church. Little is known about the pastors of the church but was served for years by Rev. Leck.

About the year 1870 the men of the Valley hewed by hand material for a small frame building, this was erected about 50 ft south of the log house. They also ripped by hand material for benches. These pans are in use to day in the basement of this church.

In the year 1909 during the pastorate of Alonza Sprayberry a frame building about 36 ft by 50 ft was erected. It was built by free will offerings, material, and labor. Bethel Church is in North Georgia Conference and for years was on Ringgold, Boyton, and Newnan Springs. In 1932 Newnan Springs was made a half time church to be served by Ringgold Circuit, Bethel was taken off the Ringgold Circuit, land added to Tunnel Hill.

Soon after this the Rev. McDermott died. Louie Huchaby a young preacher full of interest in the church especially the young people followed. During his pastorate an Epworth League and W.S. C. S.
was organized. These are still active. Other pastors serving Bethel from Tunnel Hill were J. K. Brown and A.S. Ulm. In 1942 Ringgold asked for full time church. This was done and left Bethel and Boynton unserved. Graysville then was turned with Bethel each being half time churches. Rev. Paul Stone served these churches.

In the year 1933 Ethel Jones thought it would be a fine thing to set a date for Home Coming of members and friends of Bethel Church. This date was Sunday after annual cleaning of cemetery which was the first Saturday in August. This date has been held each year since.

In 1946 due to crowded conditions, no class rooms, or parking space, some members met in the home of Rev. Paul Stone. After much discussion by members present, the votes were unanimous that a new location about one mile north of old church on labama Road. The land was given by Mr. Jim watts. The beautiful stained windows were given as memorials to older members and to the boys who gave their lives in World War II.

The pews were donated by members and friends of Woodstation Valley. A beautiful new piano was placed in the church by free will offerings.

The first wedding was that of Barbara frundle and Harry watts. Both now are active members.

The first service held in this new church was the funeral of Clyde McGaha.

During the moving of the church in 1946 services were held in the block house belonging to Grady Trundle. Rev. Paul Stone was pastor and many members were united with the church at these services.
In 1961 the name of the church was changed from Bethel to Woodstation Methodist Church. The change was almost unavoidable as there were other Bethel Churches in the district, and many statistics were misplaced.

The church has had some added improvements in recent years. A new rostrum has been built, using the same pulpit which is approximately one hundred years old. New paneling has covered the walls.

In 1961 the Board of Education deed the school house to the church. This three room school building was erected in 1919. The two acres of land were given by Grover Obney and Jim Watts. Through free will offerings by the people of Woodstation and the fine spirit of co-operation, the rooms were fitted with seats and black boards. Ed Williams was the first teacher.

The pastors serving this new church to date are Rev. Paul Stone, Rev. Roy Dodson, Rev. Charles Burdette, Rev. H.B. Landrum, Rev. Richard Harris, Rev. Kenneth Lash, and Rev. Bill Hkin at this date.

In 1953 the church purchased for a sum of $7,000 three acres of the old Hunsucker farm and a new 5 room frame house for a parsonage. For the first time this brought fellowship of the pastor into the community. Rev. and Mrs. Charles C. Burdett were the first pastors family to live in the parsonage at Woodstation, the following pastors have lived in the parsonage; Rev. H.B. Landrum, Rev. Richard Harris, Rev. K. Lash Rev. Raymond W. Skins.

We are now in the process of selling the present parsonage and have made plans to build a new modern brick parsonage just north of the present one.

The above was written by one of our beloved members, Mrs. O.G. Dunn.