1972 Lakeronga Disc

Woodbury Methodist Church
Woodbury Charge
La Grande District
History of Woodbury Methodist Church

Woodbury, Georgia

This information has been obtained from various sources, records, etc. that are not complete in part but are authentic facts. I hope the data compiled will interest everyone and help us to realize that a rich heritage has been left to our generation.

The first Methodist Church in our community was known as Concord, located about one and one-half miles from the present church. This is not very much known about this church. Two members of our church today are former members of the Concord Church, Mrs. Sallie Dixon Baker, and Mrs. Lizzie Watson Clements. They recall the church as being neat and well kept, located in an oak grove, some distance from the public road. Two factors stand out in their memory. Rev. Willis and Mattax John Dixon, grandfather of Mrs. Baker was a faithful member of Concord Church, and it was said he was capable of filling the pulpit. Mr. Henry Glanton of LaGrange who is a grandson of Mr. Dixon endowed the present church with a gift of money in honor of this good man.

The Dixon name has a prominent place in the history of the Methodist Church. Mrs. Nellie Dixon Powell has been the faithful pianist for a long number of years. Mr. Ben Baker, husband of Mrs. Sallie Dixon Baker was secretary and treasurer for forty-two years.

In 1888 the Concord Church was torn down and moved to the present site, and was called the Woodbury Methodist Church. The main building stands today as it was first built. The old bell that calls us for church hours is not used any longer but instead chimes ring out to
call us to worship.

The late Rev. S. D. Clements was the first pastor of the new church. All through the history of the church, the name Clements has played an outstanding part, even down to the present day. The late Dr. H. W. Clements, a son of Bro. Clements, was Sunday School Superintendent for forty years. The handsome Bible was placed in the pulpit in his memory. Mr. Lonnie Clements, another son, has taught the Adult Bible Class for long number of years, and is the present teacher of the Men's Bible Class. S. D. Clements, a grandson, is the present Sunday School Superintendent. Judge Billy Wheeless, Mr. Scott White, J.C. Holmes, and Mr. Walter Williams were others that served as Church School Superintendents. Mr. White is the father of Miss Mary Culler White, a beloved Missionary.

John Tempkins, a fine young man, was converted and went out from this church as a minister several years ago.

The following ministers have served the Woodbury Methodist Church faithfully and well and were loved by their congregations. S. D. Clements, E. H. Wood, J. L. Warlick, L. H. Green, Tarpley, Arthur Harris, Wm. Fox, Graham, E. A. Ware, W. R. Mackey, J. H. Little, Paul Kendall, J. L. Ware, G. L. Chastain, W. L. Pattilo, H. C. Embey, T. H. Maxwell, E. D. Hale, B. B. Cantrell, H. T. Smith, Jesse Warwick, H. C. Holland, W. A. Woodruff, J. V. Jones, W. L. Jelley, W. E. Purell, J. H. Couch, and Forrest L. King.

Memorial windows were placed in the church while the Rev. Couch was pastor, the grounds were landscaped and the floors of the church refinished which added much to the appearance.

We have gone forward under the leadership of the Rev. Forrest L.
King. I might add that this has been the most prosperous era of our church. An adequate educational building has been added, with adequate class room, well equipped kitchen, assembly room, and rest rooms. Bishop Arthur J. Moore dedicated this building in July of 1950. A completely new heating system has been installed, the interior of the church redecorated.

Under Bro. King, we seem to have caught the vision and pressed toward the mark of the calling of God.

There are other names such as, Watson, Williams, Jones, Lovett, Gill, Chunn, Wyche, Betts, Wheeless, Turner, Duncan, Owen, and many others that have places in the church history.

I might add in closing that the women of the church have ever been mindful of the needs of the church and have taken their places beside the men in the advancement of Christ's Kingdom.
"HOMECOMING", what a glorious word it is to us all. It has a significant meaning- brings to mind the song, "The Great Homecoming in the Sky. What a great day this will be.

What a day this is for our church, and what a church! With a welcome smile for everyone who enters her doors. Look around and see the beautiful stained glass windows with names imprinted on them. These people helped make this church what it is today. They hold it in trust for us and we will do the same for the ones to follow.

This church was once known as Concord Methodist Church. It was situated about one mile from Woodbury on Greenville Road. Five acres of land were obtained from Mr. Jonathon Chunn in 1867, and Concord Church became a reality the same year. The cemetery belonging to the church is still there, but was known then as the community cemetery.

This land was deeded to the church trustees, who were at that time Amos Chunn, Wilson Williams, J.L. Dixon, and to their successors.

A warehouse once stood where this church now stands. This land was bought from Mr. Charles B. Tallman of New York.

Rev. S.D. Clements was the first pastor, also the first occupant of the old wooden parsonage. The lot for this was bought in 1885. Mr. W.P. Whellus was the first Sunday School Superintendent.

The first trustees of the Woodbury Church were as follows- J.T. Dixon, J.R. Underwood, Walter J. Williams, J.L. Dixon and Lewis M. Chunn.

God has richly blessed this church in the past, and we pray that He will grant to it another hundred years of service in His name.

Prepared by Mrs. Lettie Baker Sims, Granddaughter of Dr. J.T. Dixon, Great Granddaughter of J.L. Dixon