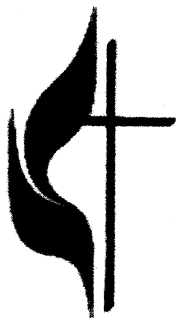


THE HISTORY



Cokes Chapel

United Methodist Church

Sharpsburg, GA

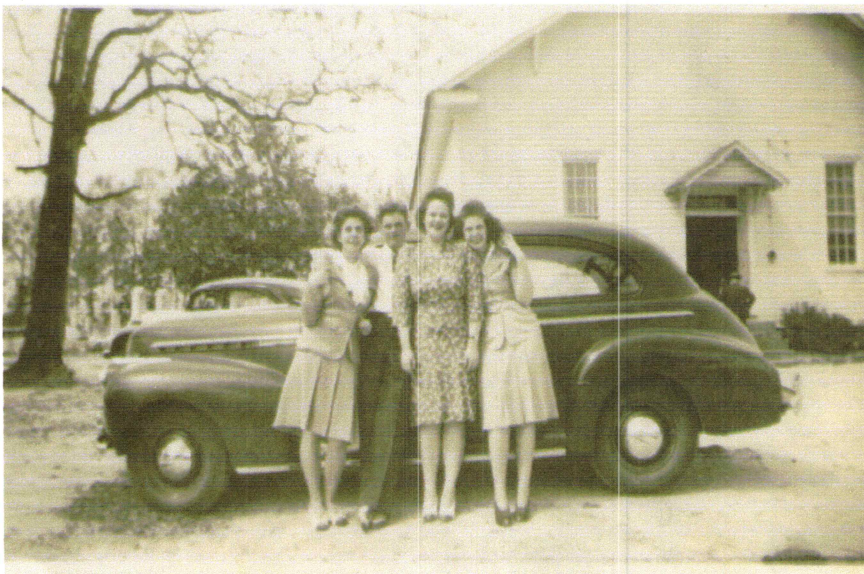
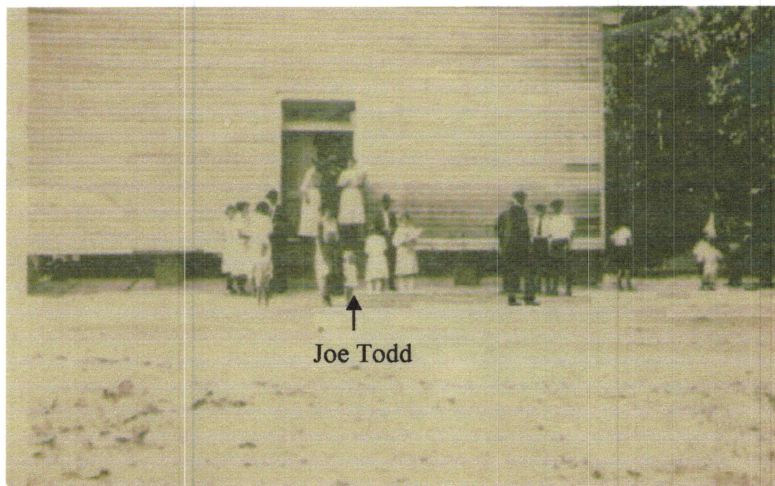


1833 → including 2009

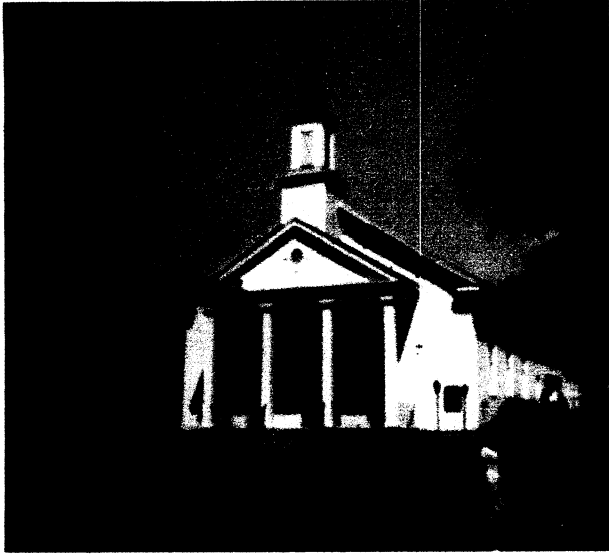
Established in 1833, Cokes Chapel (formally spelled Cokes Chapple) was named for Thomas Coke (1747-1841), the Foreign Minister of Methodism and Ambassador of Jesus Christ. Thomas Coke was John Wesley's right arm. He begged and worked for missions. He also worked for higher education and freedom. He was not always appreciated and frequently misunderstood. Thomas Coke was wholeheartedly consecrated to the Kingdom of Heaven. He was deeply and unreservedly committed to Jesus Christ and he was a true servant of his beloved religion, Methodism.



This picture, taken in the 1920s, are some members of Cokes Chapel. Joe Todd has been a member since the 40s and is still very active in the church.



This picture, taken in 1944, shows how cars used to park directly in front of the church doors before landscaping and parking lots. On the far right is Lib Todd who is still an active member of the church.



This picture was taken in October of 1961 and it shows the entire building with the portico and steeple which were added that year and dedicated to God in honor of G. Wynn Smith. Up until this time, there was only one "Preachin" Sunday per month. In 1977, stained glass windows were installed.

On October 21, 1979, the Administrative Board, chaired by Joe Todd, voted to separate for the Turin Circuit and go "full time." This was carried out on January 1, 1980. Groundbreaking for the Parsonage took place on January 26, 1980. The Lord and the congregation worked together and on June 29, 1980, Rev. and Mrs. Max Caylor and Max Edward moved into a debt free parsonage.



Historical Record of Cokes Chapel UMC

On June 15, 1895, spelled Cokes Chapple. Named for Thomas Coke. Cokes Chapel was founded in 1833. For the first years, the congregation met on the Lower Fayetteville Road across from the farm once called Mangel Peach Farm about 4 1/2 miles east of Newnan. This land later belonged to Robert Nash (1962). The present main body of the church was built in 1850 by R. D. Cole Manufacturers. The congregation used a log cabin after they moved down the highway and then the present building was built behind the cabin. The church is a frame building, on rock pillars, with 4 doors. One of the East Side, 2 in the back and 1 in front of the church. The pulpit was around the wooden post in center of the church. The church was divided in 4 sections around pulpit with partitions high enough not to see over. One was for white women, another for white men, another for African American men and another for African American women. A separate door was used by each gender and race. The building was heated by a pot bellied stove and had kerosene lamps. The pulpit was built by Robert L. Smith and Edward M. Smith.

The land the church sits on, deeded by Mark Smith for \$25 to the Trustees, George Glass, Caleb Cook, J. E. Hunnicutt, Joshua P. Shropshire & L. M. Hunnicutt. Dr. J. E. P. Hunnicutt was superintendent of Sunday School for fifty-three years. It was the home church of Dr. George Edward Smith a beloved local preacher who believed wives should call their husbands Mr. or My Lord.

Dr. Luther Smith, first graduate of Emory College from Coweta County and later the president of the College, as a boy and young man belonged to Cokes Chapel to which many of Georgia Methodism's greatest men preached.

Quarter meetings held at Cokes Chapel every February on the 3rd Sunday. Discontinued as of the late 1960s.

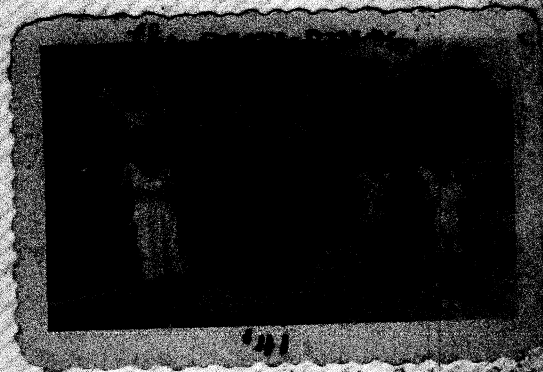
Stepping block still in front of church where ladies mounted their horses. Built in 1857 by Mike Costello. Later wagons, buggies and still later, cars parked all over the front yard. Original silver Communion Goblets donated by Mrs. Carrie Smith Melson. As of 1962, in possession of Mrs. B. M. Ware. Communion Table cloth made in 1870 by Carrie Smith Melson. Still in use in 1966.



Mrs. Berta Smith
Mr. Patterson - Sept. 7 53.

Joe Todd
Dorothy Todd Ashen
Mrs. Jennie Smith Todd

April 1923



Willie
Johnnie
William

1941
Lillian
Lillian
Lillian
Lillian
Lillian



1944

1957

L-R
Hillene Johnson Williams - Marion Smith
Louise Buggert - Elizabeth Johnson Todd

1957

1895 The pulpit was moved to the back of the church and an altar rail, built by Robert L. Smith and Edward M. Smith (sons of George Edward Smith) was placed around the ~~altar~~ ALTAR. The partition across the building was now removed.

1900 The center partition running lengthwise was removed and a partition built in the rear of the building forming a wide vestibule with a door placed on each side entering sanctuary. The vestibule had only one outside door.

1935 The wide vestibule was closed in on each side forming a class room on each side of a small vestibule with double doors in the center of the rear wall of the sanctuary as an entrance with a smaller door on each side, entering the classrooms. A concrete stoop was added to front of church and a window installed on each side of front doors. Work done by B. M. Ware.

1940 Electric Lights installed.

1947 The old straight benches were remodeled, using same wood and new ones made - work done by Paul Robinson. Ebenezer held Sunday school classes with Cokes Chapel until 1949.

1949 Choir organized with Mrs. Opal Smith as organist and Mrs. Joe Todd as director. Charter members were: Sopranos - Martha Todd, Bert Stewart, Judy Lassetter, Inez Lassetter, Mattie Kate Lee, Mrs. Guy Wright. Altos - Elizabeth Todd, Carrie Lassetter, Wynette Smith. Baritones - Joe Todd, E. M. Smith, Bennie Lassetter, George Lassetter, Jr., Lamar Lassetter, Lee Lassetter, Phil Todd, George Lassetter, Sr.

A concrete block house built across the road from the church to be used as a meeting house for the community.

1950 A Wurlitzer organ was purchased by the congregation. Dr. L.C. Fischer was a great help to this project. Gas heating system installed.

1952 A kitchen and 2 restrooms, fully equipped, were added to the Community House, donated by Dr. L.C. Fischer. Communion silver trays and glasses donated to church by Mrs. Nelle Robinson.

MOTHERS

THE highest tribute we can pay to mothers is not some beautiful sentiment, however gracefully or elegantly expressed. Rather, it will be a frank facing of the terrible odds against which they must contend as they go about the task of mothering the men and women of tomorrow.

Never have so many enemies lain in wait for their children. Never have so many insidious forces conspired against their homes. Never have so many terrors threatened to destroy their loved ones. Never have so many swords pierced their hearts on account of their little ones.

In the midst of the confusion which we call civilization the Church of Jesus Christ stands as mother's most persistent ally. It declares the sanctity of the home over which she presides; it pleads for justice for her sons and daughters whoever they may be; it stands ready to train them in godliness and righteousness; it holds aloft the cross, the sign of her eventual victory.

AND he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them; but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.—Luke 2:51.



Susannah, the Mother
of the Wesleys

TURIN METHODIST CIRCUIT

Bethel Coke's Chapel Mt. Gilead Turin
 Ralph Jacks, Pastor Phone Atlanta-Dearborn 9563
 May, 1949

National Family Week--Rural
 Life Day

PRELUDE

Mankind shall unfold like an exquisite lily,
 Encouraged and warmed by the sunlight of God;
 It will open its heart, and show forth its beauty,
 As it looks up to Him, and responds to His love.

HYMN Love Divine, All Loves Excelling No. 22

RESPONSIVE READING The Christian Home No. 326

GLOPIA PATRI No. 3

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH No. 1

ANTHEM

SCRIPTURE READING Ex. 2:1-10; Prov. 31:10-31

PASTORAL PRAYER

DEDICATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

HYMN Happy the Home No. 97

SERMON The Christian Family in the New World Order

HYMN Blest Be the Tie No. 87

TIME AND NATURE of evening worship will be announced at
 each respective church.

WE ARE HAPPY to welcome the following into the membership
 or preparatory membership of Turin Church: Mary Jane
 Askev, on profession of faith and baptism; Mrs. Lee Neely,
 by transfer from Riverdale Baptist Church; and infant
 Frank Lee Neely, Jr. into preparatory membership by baptism.

HATS OFF to Coke's Chapel this month! In addition to
 other progressive steps in recent years, a community house
 project has been undertaken. Mr. and Mrs. Wynn Smith
 have been moving spirits in initiating, working for, and
 giving to this newest enterprise. Others are joining in
 generously and enthusiastically. Here is a rural church
 at work, establishing a fellowship more meaningful than
 mere words describe. Here is a cooperative act which will
 help restore and maintain the best values of the country-
 side sometimes eclipsed by the lengthening shadows of the
 cities.

CONGRATULATIONS to Mr. and Mrs. Hershel McCoy, who
 were recently married at Coke's Chapel Church. May
 every happiness attend their new life!

BETHEL FOLK have started a building fund to reroof
 the church and make other needed repairs.

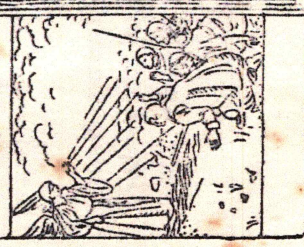
TURIN WSCS is working to provide a new aisle runner
 for the church.

FAITH IS A FAMILY AFFAIR. The importance of our fam-
 ilies is beyond calculation. We can enhance these
 values by:

1. Attending church as a family, and sitting together in a "family pew".
2. Reading helpful literature on the family, provided by the church and its organizations.
3. Listening to good regular family radio programs and to special broadcasts like The Upper Room Family Week Series, or The Methodist, Baptist, Episcopal, and Presbyterian Hours.
4. Developing some family recreation or hobby.
5. Establishing daily family devotions. The Bible is the basic guide. The Upper Room, The Book of Worship, The Way or Abundant Living are excellent aids.

THE FOURTH Quarterly Conference will meet Sat., June
 11, at Bethel. Annual Conf. convenes June 20.

The Upper Room



Building Christian Homes

In two million homes The Upper Room encourages daily Bible reading, meditation, and prayer. These devotions are sources of strength, inspiration and comfort. You can make sure that your home enjoys these spiritual blessings. You can share these joys by giving copies of The Upper Room to students, and your friends and neighbors, especially the aged, the sick and the shutin. The Upper Room is a ministry of the church in which you can share.