

## From The Pastor...

1996



John F. Freeland  
Pastor



Cokes Chapel United Methodist Church is a body of believers who have experienced redemption and seek through a ministry of reconciliation to redeem the world. Cokes Chapel provides for the maintenance of worship, the edification of believers, and the conversion of the world. The purpose of our church, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, is to help people personally experience Christ in their daily lives and to grow in their faith.

Cokes Chapel has found several ways of ministering the love of Christ to the Sharpsburg community. Our outreach program has been such ministry as Luthersville Food Pantry, sponsorship of a family at Thanksgiving and Christmas, ministry to individuals in need of temporary support, and we continue to seek new ways to minister to our community. We have reached out beyond our own community by making contributions to Randy and Jean Healan, missionaries to Mexico, and contributions to Rick Bonfim Ministries, evangelist to the United States and Brazil. Continuing ministry will require that we as Christian join together in prayer and fellowship for the good of others, serving as Christ commanded us to love God with all our heart and love our neighbors as ourselves. (Matthew 12:30-31).

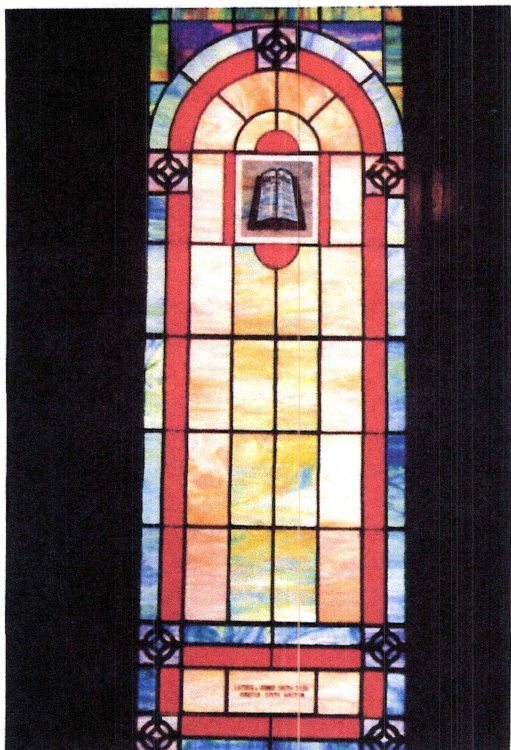
I have had the pleasure of being your pastor for the last years and it has been just that, a pleasure. Your love and kindness has been overwhelming at times. As I have said before, I know that I have the best appointment in the United Methodist Church with the best congregation I could have imagined. Even so, the Holy Spirit continues to challenge me to challenge you to find new opportunities for ministry. I pledge to you that I will honor the will of the Father and through the strength of the Holy Spirit continue to serve you joyfully.

Yours, In Christ Jesus,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John".

John Freeland, Pastor





# Jesus Calls Us... Together



Cokes Chapel's Children



Youth Sunday School Classes



Young Adult Sunday School Class



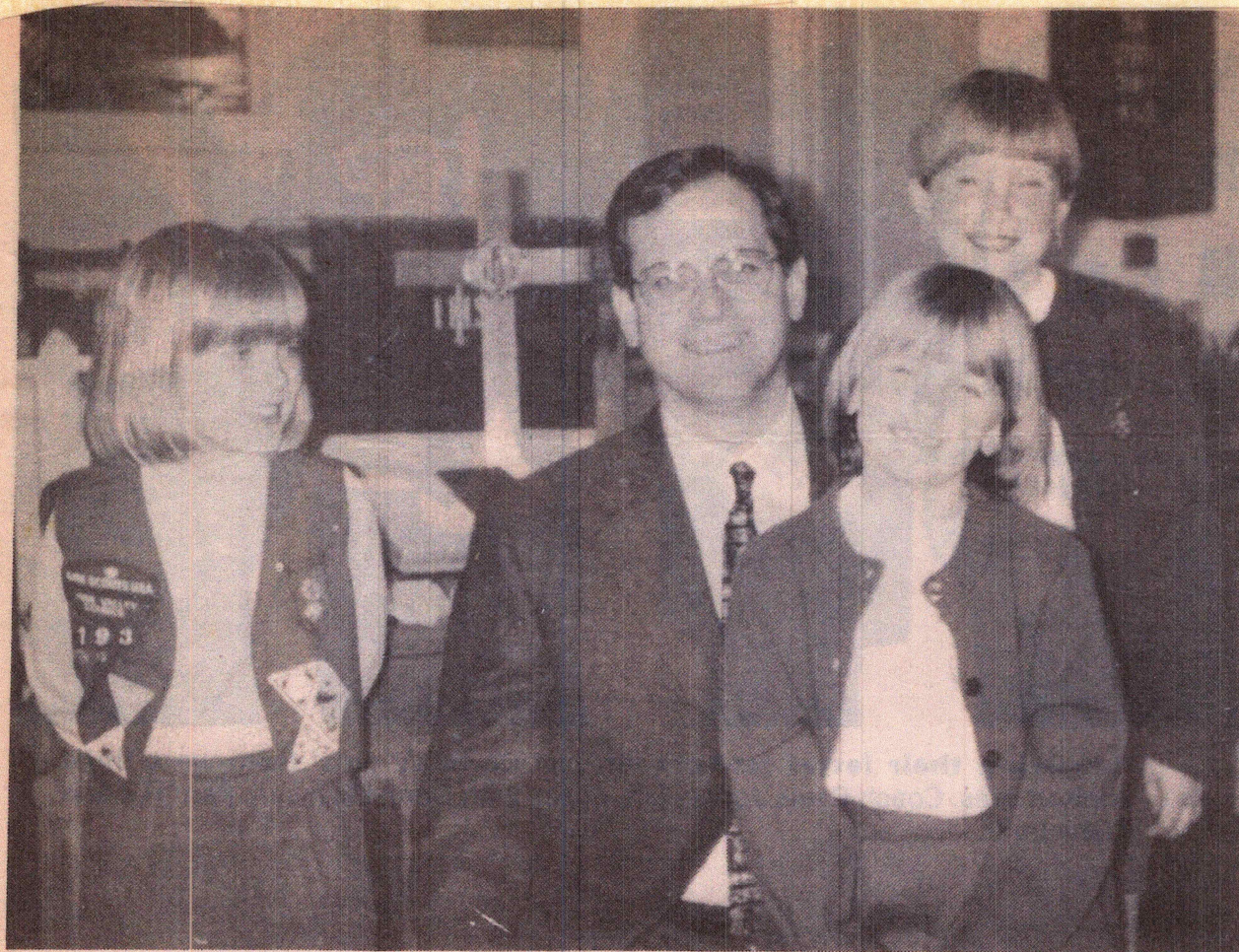
Eubanks Sunday School Class



United Methodist Women



April 1996



## Cokes Chapel honors Girl Scouts

The Rev. John Freeland, pastor of Cokes Chapel United Methodist Church, visits with Girl Scouts at Girl Scout Sunday on March 10. Members of Brownie Troop 193 attended the service and presented a check for \$150. The church sponsors the troop, which has 23 members. With Freeland are, from left, Rachel Kennedy, Stacey Fullington and Brooke Fullington. To become a Girl Scout volunteer, leader or sponros, call Pine Valley Girl Scout Council at 227-2524.

Waiting  
for the Olympic  
torch  
John Freeland  
Michelle  
Stephane  
Rog. P.V. Brown





- 1996 Steve Cash left in April. Jennie Suit was choir director during the fall. Parsonage was re-roofed and painting and wall papering done. Ray Landers landscaped church and fellowship hall yards. Jace Williamson donated Air Condition Unit for church. Jennie Suit left in December. Had Healens missionaries to Bolivia visited church in February. Rick Bonfim was Revival Evangelist. Church Directory - Air Condition unit for Sunday School Rooms donated.
- 1997 Carpet purchased for parsonage. Natural gas installed. Bible Study for 5 weeks in Spring. Air Conditions put in secretary's office and Pastor's study in fellowship hall. Darris and Dottie Baker hired as Choir Director and pianist. Rick Stanley was Revival Evangelist. Wooded area of cemetery cleaned off "Suddenly Singles" support group began in July with Mike - Laraine Ayers. Successful Bible School in July.
- 1998 Darris left in January to go to Seminary. Tim Whitlock came as music director in April. Keyboard purchased in August. John and Brenda Hagen came in June as pastor. Vinyl siding and painting done at Parsonage. Landscaping at Fellowship Hall done in July. Total air and heat installed in church. 2 Bible studies this year. Had 2 Hymnfests - great success. Judy Kilgore in charge. Padded chairs installed in choir loft in memory of Opal Smith and Bert Stewart.
- 1999 Vinyl Siding and shutters were purchased for the Fellowship Hall. All the tall windows and the kitchen windows were upgraded to vinyl. A new roof, new office door, porch covers, gutters, new side walk and new ice machine all purchased for the Fellowship Hall. A new sound system was purchased for the church. New water lines were ran from the meter to the church and we connected to county water.
- 2000 A sprinkler system was installed for the church, parsonage and fellowship hall. Gas logs for the parsonage were donated and a natural gas line to the parsonage was added.
- 2001 The Children's department hosted a Dinner show on Valentine's Day. The children were the waitress and the entertainment were Tim Whitlock at the keyboard and Darris Baker with the violin.

On Ash Wednesday, February 28, Cokes Chapel and St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Mission had a combined service. On March 11,



the UMW were in charge of the service. Billy and Rebecca Earle were the youth leaders for the newly formed Youth Group.

The UMW entertained the Ladies with a Mother-Daughter Tea in May with Claire Branch providing entertainment.

After working on a Pictorial Directory for over a year, it was finally printed in May at the price of \$816.00

The choir space was enlarged and new chairs purchased. Padded chairs were put in rear of Sanctuary providing 23 more seats. Hymnals were purchased for \$339.90

A Pentecost Banner was made by Susan Freeman

A successful Bible School was held in June with 60 children enrolled. The directors were Penny Surret, Michelle Todd and Beth Kimbrow.

In June, at a church conference, the congregation voted to go ahead with the first steps in building an education building. A committee was elected and a Building Fund started.

As of June, the average church attendance is 100 and Sunday School attendance has greatly increased under the leadership of Brenda Hagen.

Church membership has increased by 18, but we lost 2 in death, Steve Sutch and Raymond Cole.

July 22 is a memorable day. An early service, at 8:30 am began. The first time ever, we have had two morning services every Sunday.

In September, boy and Girl Scout troops became a ministry of the church with Gregg and Nancy Garritson as leaders.

In November, the first ever paid church secretary was added to the payroll part time.

Near the end of 2001, the choir loft was remodeled - now three tiers \$451.50.



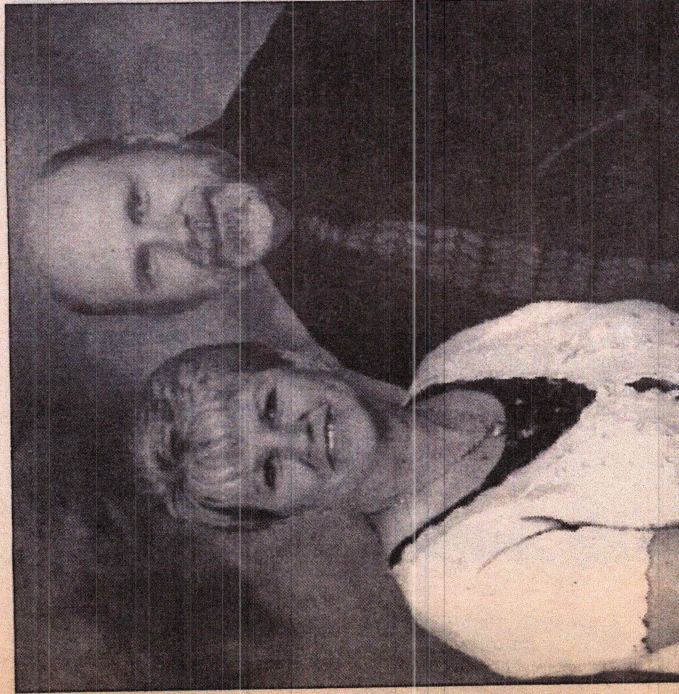
Homecoming 1998





RELIGION

# Hagen is named 90th pastor at Cokes Chapel



Brenda and John Hagen are getting acquainted with the Cokes Chapel community, following John's recent appointment as the historic church's 90th pastor.

John W. Hagen, Jr., formerly of Gwinnett County, has assumed duties as pastor of Cokes Chapel United Methodist Church in Sharpsburg.

He becomes the 90th pastor of the 165-year-old church on Lower Fayetteville Road. Born in Nampa, Idaho, and raised on a cattle ranch, Hagen received a bachelor of arts degree in theology from Walla Walla College in Washington State and is currently a student at Candler School of Theology at Emory University.

He moved to the Atlanta area in 1978 and was pastor of the Austell Seventh-day Adventist Church in Austell. He also served at Smyrna Seventh-day Adventist Church and Faith Community Church, both in Smyrna.

Before entering the ministry, Hagen owned and operated his

own commercial real estate development and brokerage company. He was a nationally recognized specialist in 1033 tax-deferred exchanges.

In 1974, he was honored as the Exchanger of the Year for the state of Idaho and in 1988, he received the same honor for the state of Georgia. He was also involved in the development of residential and recreational subdivisions.

For the past nine years, Hagen and his wife, Brenda, have owned and operated White Chapel Memorial Gardens, a cemetery in Gwinnett County. They served the families in their community dur-

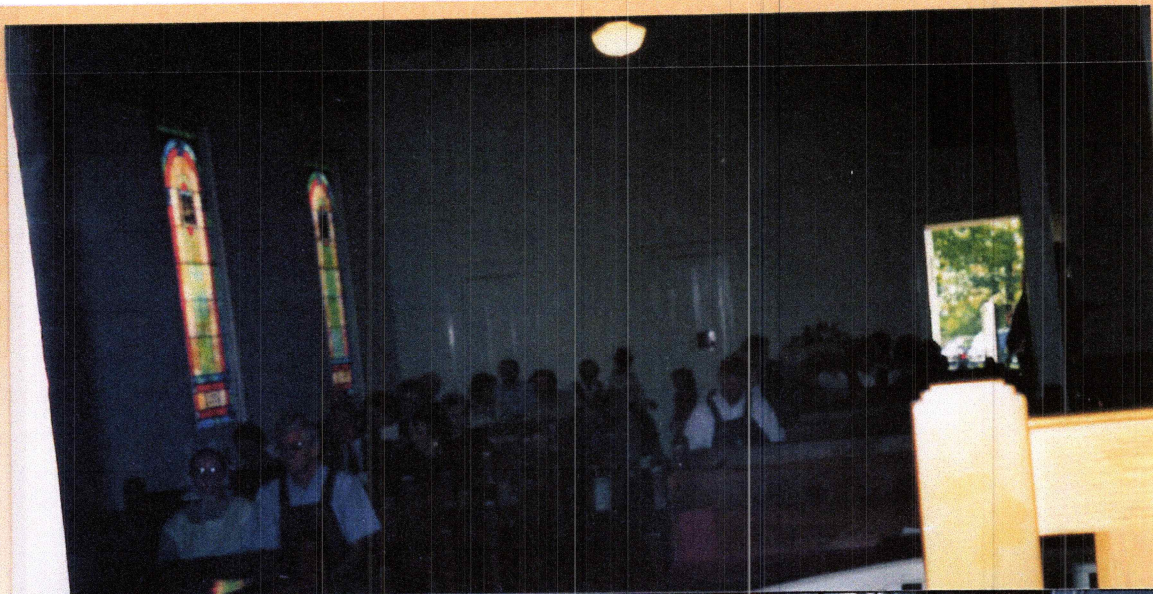
ing times of crises and grief by developing special Christmas programs, Easter sunrise services and grief recovery programs, as well as other support activities to help families in grief.

The Hagens have four grown children — John, Christopher, Tammy and Kristie.

Hagen said he is excited to be back in church ministry again. "I love Coweta County," he said. "It's one of the friendliest places I've ever been. The people are just great, and I'm glad to be a part of this community."

Hagen's assignment will be for a minimum of two years.





Joe &  
Liz Todd  
Brent  
Wray



My  
Christina  
Huckaby



L.R.  
 Dianna +  
 Kelly  
 Blake  
 Brandon - John  
 Hagan - Chris  
 Judy L. Lamm  
 Katie Blake - V. Snyder  
 Anna Collins - Megan - Libby Mary  
 Anne



Children's  
 Garden  
 L.R. Katie Blake  
 Kelly  
 Kristi  
 Becky Williamson  
 Christine Huchalek  
 Allen Davis



Allen  
 Christine  
 Becky  
 Kristi  
 Kelly





L-L  
 Dianna Jay  
 Lassetter  
 Billy Earle  
 John - Brenda Hagen  
 Victor Snyder  
 Floyd - Donna Collins  
 Jimmy Parham  
 Arlene  
 Mary  
 James  
 Jay Lib Todd



L-R.  
 Mr. Lassetter  
 John Hagen  
 Billy Earle  
 Floyd Collins  
 Jimmy Parham  
 Art Chase  
 Joe Todd  
 Kyle Blake Colab. Earle  
 Logan  
 Everett



John  
 +  
 Brenda  
 Hagen



18 10 '98



Wm  
 Bayan  
 Nov. 1998  
 Brent Wray



Brent &  
 Lib



Virian

Lib  
 Todd







Vivian  
Snyder  
Suzanne  
Selling &  
Brenda  
Hagen



Wanda  
Moore





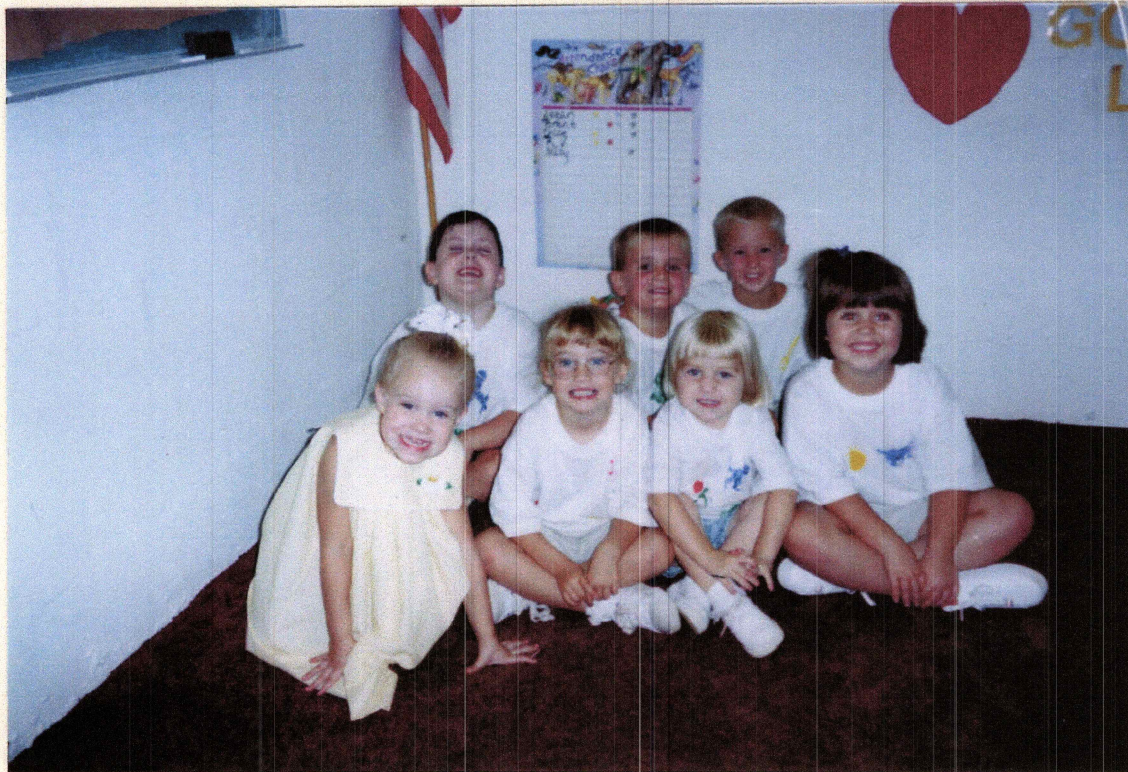




Rev.  
John  
Hagen



# VBS 1999



Back - Brent Wray, Logan Surrentt, Parker Griner  
Front - Alexis Rose, Chloe Branch, Macy McKnight, Kayla Kimbro

## VBS Choir

