

Cokes Chapel UMC Historical Timeline

Cokes Chapel

Timeline Created by, Thom McCague

1833

1842

1843

1850

1857

1861

Founding of Cokesberry Chapple (sic). An arbor at Burt Hill farm. The first pastor was William W. Steagall.

Moved to 600 square foot property at the current site with a log cabin and a spring purchased by the Trustees from Mark Smith for \$25

The Methodist Episcopal Church became divided over states rights and the issue of slavery. The Church split between North and South.

R.D. Cole mfg. of Newnan built the existing wooden sanctuary on the present site. Cost \$1,100.

Michael F. Costello hewed granite stone steps for carriages and ladies to dismount their horses.

Civil War begins. Disrupted Church Annual Conferences. Preachers and Laymen joined the armies.

UMC Historical Timeline

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1864

1865

1866

1868

1869

Public worship was neglected and moral deterioration begins. Rev. Geo. E. Smith uses his plantation home as a hospital and takes in all wounded soldiers. Union and Confederate troops bury their dead in Cokes Chapel cemetery.

Civil War ends.

Georgia Annual Conference split into North and South due to size.

Cokes Chapel gave the land to the freed slaves to build Ebenezer Baptist Church. They left Cokes Chapel marching and singing.

Carrie Smith Melson made a Communion table cloth. It was used until 1966. On display in the Narthex cabinet.

Timeline

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1877	1895	1900	1914	1918	1921
Bishops appointed all officers and began appointing their wives as vice presidents.	The partition across the church was removed. The pulpit moved to the front. The alter rail was built by Edward and Robert Smith. Sons of Rev. Geo. E. Smith.	The partition down the center of the church was removed. Wall erected at the back forming a large vestibule with two doors on each side.	WWI begins	WWI ends. General Conference votes to grant "Laity Rights" to women.	The "Roaring Twenties" was a concern for the Church. Low moral degradation.

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1929

1935

1937

1938

1939

1941

The Great Depression began. The Church now attended to the material needs of the people as well as spiritual.

Classrooms were added to each side of the vestibule. Center door to sanctuary added. Concrete stoop added to front of the church as well as two windows.

North Georgia Annual Conference established "For the relief of the Chinese" fund due to the Japanese invasion and their atrocities.

Uniting Conference held. Merged four different denominations into the Methodist Church

Electric lights installed in Cokes Chapel.

WWII begins.

UMC Historical Timeline

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1945

1947

1949

1950

1952

1953

WWII ends.

The 100 year old bench pews were remade into the pews we use today.

Church Choir formed. Opal Smith, organist. Lib Todd, choir director. The community center (Fellowship Hall) was built.

The Korean war begins. Wurlitzer organ purchased. Potbelly stove removed and gas heat system installed in the sanctuary.

Fully equipped kitchen and two restrooms added to Fellowship Hall.

Korean war ends.

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1954

1958

1961

1964

1965

1967

Sunday school annex added to the sanctuary. Choir loft added.

The dirt Lower Fayetteville Road paved.

Worship changed from 3rd Sunday to 1st and 3rd Sundays. Portico and steeple built.

Vietnam War begins

Large room added to Fellowship Hall which became the Church office.

The Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren Churches merged to form The United Methodist Church.

UMC Historical Timeline

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1968

1969

1970

1971

1972

1974

Baldwin organ
purchased.

Display cabinet
placed in
Narthex.
Original
Communion
cloths and
silver service
on display.

1905 grand
piano donated
to the church
by E. C.
Pemberton

Called session
of the North
Georgia
Annual
Conference
held and voted
to merge the
North Georgia
Annual
Conference
(white) with
the Georgia
Annual
Conference
(black)

Central heat
and air added
to church.

Worship
services
discontinued
on 1st
Sundays then
resumed again
in August.

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Cokes Cl

1975

1977

1978

1979

1980

1982

Vietnam War ends. Cokes Chapel sign placed in front yard of church.

Stained glass windows and storm windows installed. Church yard landscaped. Two charge-wide revivals held. Services were in the morning and the evening.

Original altar chairs and communion table refinished and placed in vestibule. Worship services held every Sunday.

Iranian forces seized the American Embassy in Iran. Cushions added to the pews. Pastor Raymond King asked not to return to Cokes Chapel. Voted for a full time pastor. Purchased a bus.

Cokes Chapel becomes a Station Church. Parsonage built. Rev. Max Caylor became first full time pastor. Caylor family moved into parsonage.

Parsonage debt free.

Chapel UMC Historical Timeline

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1983	1986	1988	1990	1991	1992
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Stained glass window placed in choir loft.

Handicap ramp built onto front porch of sanctuary.

Scout Pack and Troop #93 adopted by Cokes Chapel.

Vinyl siding and gutters installed on church.

First Gulf war (Desert Storm) begins and ends. Parking lot graveled.

Scout Matt Veal built the pavilion beside the Fellowship Hall. Extensive work on Fellowship Hall including central heat and air.

al Timeline

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1995	1997	1998	1999	2001	2002
<p>Parking lots on both sides of the road were paved. Children's playground was fenced.</p>	<p>Air conditioning units added to Pastor and Secretary's offices.</p> <p>Parsonage carpeted and natural gas installed.</p> <p>Wooded area of cemetery cleared.</p>	<p>Held two successful Hymn fests.</p> <p>Two Bible studies done.</p>	<p>Vinyl siding and shutters added to the Fellowship Hall. Water lines run to connect to county water. No more well water.</p>	<p>First time for two services. The early service was at 8:30a. Girl Scout Troops adopted by the Church.</p> <p>First paid church secretary.</p> <p>Ash Wednesday combined service with St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church. Fund created for education building.</p>	<p>Old Fashioned Sunday. Some folks dressed up and ice cream churned by a horse was served. Vision committee organized.</p> <p>The first VBS was held and led by Dee Croft. First Angel Tree at Christmas. Children's Choir started. Another organ was installed.</p>

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2003	2004	2006	2007	2009
<p>Prayer ministry started by Debbie Carter. John Hagen ordained.</p>	<p>Unanimous vote to buy an adjacent 4 acres of land. Jennie Todd named Choir Director. Capital Fund Campaign turned in \$318,000 in pledges and \$40,743 in cash. Children and Youth presented a Christmas Eve program and the church was packed.</p>	<p>Ground breaking ceremony for the educational building. Churches defeat County Commission on impact fees.</p>	<p>The old concrete cross was found. It is to be placed in front of the church once again. Flag pole erected and dedicated in front of the CWC. Cokes Chapel Childcare Center opens.</p>	<p>Jubilee Singers celebrate 20 years. Slave cemetery restoration Eagle Scout project by Sean McCully</p>

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2010	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Cokes Chapel UMC and Lighthouse Ministries consolidate.	Began two distinct Sunday services; Traditional at 9a and Contemporary at 11a. Cokes Chapel packs 22,000 meals for "Stop Hunger Now."	The Rev. Mark Jordan becomes sole pastor. Kim Reindl hired as Children's Director.	Renovation of sanctuary. The posts were removed, foundations raised and a new audio/video system was installed.	The Rev. Lisa Dempsey becomes the 94th pastor and first woman pastor of Cokes Chapel. Major work done to improve the cemetery. The final stained glass window installed in the sanctuary where the door believed to be the slave entrance was.	Hot water heater failed and flooded the CWC and Childcare Center. Cokes Chapel Childcare Center made a significant net income for the first time since the opening of the center. Kim Reindl becomes Director of Intergenerational, Youth, & Children's Discipleship.

2018

Childcare
Center at full
capacity for
the first time.
Many eagle
scout projects
started.
Crosses
placed in
slave
cemetery
marking
graves. Lower
parking lot
flooded due to
heavy rain and
collapsed
culvert. One
car drowned.
