

REV. WILLIAM DAVID STEPHENSON

William David Stephenson was born May 18, 1869, in Bedford County, Tennessee. He received his preparatory training in the schools of Tullahoma and Athens, of the same State, and graduated in 1891 from the Chattanooga University. A short time after his graduation he took school work at Mt. Zion, in Carroll County, Georgia. Excepting some brief periods of rest from the school room, and three years of school work in Alabama, he continued until death teaching in Georgia.

He was admitted to the Georgia Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1895, and was appointed to the Glenmore and Dupont charge, in South Georgia, where he also taught in the school of his denomination located there. After three years of labor in this charge he was appointed to teach again in the Mt. Zion school, in Carroll County. Holding this position but one year, he was appointed to the Union Hill school, in Cherokee County, where he taught eight years. During four years of this period he was also pastor of the local church. The notable features of this pastorate were a new church building erected and a revival meeting held in which there were 104 conversions. For one year he was district superintendent.

In 1914, he was admitted to the North Georgia Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, to which he gave six years of service---four years on the Hart Circuit and two years on the Turin Circuit, from which he passed to his reward Dec. 20, 1929. While pastor of the Hart Circuit, he taught the Bowersville school and had thirty-two pupils to finish the high school course. He was fond of the school room and was a successful teacher, yet he felt unmistakably called to the ministry of the Gospel and always went to the pulpit well prepared and gave thoughtful messages.

He had a passion for good books and was greatly grieved in the loss of his valuable library, when the parsonage at Turin was destroyed by fire in 1919. But his increasing gratitude was manifested and frequently expressed as he succeeded through his own efforts and the help of friends in securing other choice volumes. To his fondness for knowledge and extensive culture he added tireless industry. He was always active, always useful; and, heightening and ennobling all, he was consecrated to the best.

In 1893, he was married to Miss Hester C. Creasy, daughter of a Methodist itinerant minister of his native state, but now pastor of our church at Ketchum, Okla., Rev. E. H. Creasy of the East Oklahoma Conference. He is survived by his wife and three sons.

Although the body of this industrious, active, consecrated, cultured man has returned to the earth whence it came, and his spirit to God who gave it, and he no longer appears to us, we are assured that he continues active in such things as God has for him to do.

R. C. CLECKLER.

ZEDEKIAH SPEER
1866-1955

The Reverend Zezekiah Speer was born in Newton County, Georgia, April 2, 1866. He attended Emory College at Oxford. He was married to Miss Eva Bearden on December 28, 1898.

Brother Speer was admitted to the North Georgia Conference in 1897, into full connection in 1899, was ordained deacon in 1896 and elder 1901. His appointments were: Dahlonega, Blairsville, S. Baldwin Mission, Messena and Mission, Alpharetta, Atlanta Heights, Danielsville, Rabun Gap, Lincolnton, Flowery Branch, Cumming, Center, Milner, Tilton, Midway, Ellijay, Eton, Armuchee, Turin, Inman Brooks, Carrollton Circuit, Whitesburg, Ruckhead, and Bishop. He retired in 1929 after thirty-two years' service. He and his wife moved to Eatonton after retiring.

During those years of retirement, Brother Speer preached in the churches of Eatonton and Putnam County and assisted the pastors in many ways. A source of joy to him in later years was to stand on the streets of Eatonton and give copies of *The Upper Room* to all who would read them. He read his Bible faithfully and knew much of it from memory. When his health and sight had failed he still found satisfaction in quoting passages he had learned. His generosity astounded all. He always wanted to share what he had when he saw a worthy cause.

He died November 29, 1955. The funeral service was conducted at Eatonton Methodist Church by O. P. Fitzgerald, Marvin Poe, H. F. Lawhorn, and J. Douglas Gibson. Burial was in Pine Grove Cemetery of Eatonton. He is survived by his wife.

J. DOUGLAS GIBSON

REV. FRANK IRBY GREEN

Rev. Frank Irby Green, the subject of this paper, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Green, was born at Cassville, Ga., November 12, 1895, and passed to his eternal reward from the Wesley Memorial Hospital, Atlanta, Ga., April 23, 1932, after an illness of intense suffering lasting more than two months.

He came of a family of devout people, inheriting strong religious convictions, high ideals of honesty and integrity. He was converted when quite young and united with the Methodist Church and grew to manhood no doubt all the while fighting the call to enter definite Christian work. When, after some years of resisting the call to preach, he gave up all and considered it a call to prepare for his life's work, entering school at Waleska, Young Harris College, where he better equipped himself for the ministry. He was licensed to preach July 13, 1921; ordained a deacon November 22, 1925; an elder, November 27, 1927; admitted on trial in the North Georgia Conference in 1923, and in full connection in 1925. He served the following appointments: Turin Circuit, 1924-25; Warm Springs, 1926; Fairmount, 1927; Forsyth, 1928; Rome Circuit, 1929; Homer Circuit, 1930-31; Lexington, 1932. Not a long itinerate life but one well filled with faithful service and real sacrificial living. He went to hard places knowing that the salary would be small, but his clear call to the ministry made it a joy to go about like his Master doing good. He loved the people he served and won their love and confidence by devotion and faithfulness to every call to duty. This was so beautifully expressed by the many tender ministries showered upon him and his family during his illness and death.

He had just entered upon his work at Lexington with energy and enthusiasm, and to the delight of his people, whose love and esteem he had so quickly won, when he was stricken down with a fatal illness. From labors in the Church militant he was called to labors in the Church Triumphant. His preaching was of an earnest type backed by a life out of the pulpit that made every word effective. Souls were saved under his preaching and every interest of the church was dear to his heart. He wanted to live, for he loved his work. For him to live was Christ but to die was gain.

On October 11, 1914, he was united in marriage to Miss Nattie May Edwards, who, together with four children, three daughters and a son, survives him, one child having passed away in infancy. In his wife he had a helpmeet indeed, who with sympathetic understanding entered heartily into all the work committed to his hands. In the home he was a Christian gentleman, kind and patient, a devoted husband, and a loving father. He had only the kindest words for everyone. In his mouth there was no guile. He could not be idle. He worked when his strength was gone; but driven on by a strong will and a stout heart, he never lost interest in the work he loved.

Brother Green was buried from the Cassville Methodist Church, April 25. The beautiful floral offerings spoke eloquently of the tender love many had for him.

The writer, his presiding elder, assisted by several of his Conference brethren, conducted the funeral service. Brother Green leaves a stainless record as a Methodist preacher and an example of faithfulness in every call to duty which his loved ones and fellow-ministers may well seek to emulate.

"Servant of God, well done!
Thy glorious warfare's past;
The battle's fought, the race is won,
And thou are crowned at last."

JESSE W. VEATCH.

LOVICK AUGUSTUS MC LAUGHLIN

The Reverend L. A. McLaughlin was accepted "On Trial" in the North Georgia Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in 1901. In 1903, he was ordained a Deacon and became a member in "Full Connection." In 1906, he was ordained an Elder.

His appointments were

- 1902 & 1903 – Monticello Circuit
- 1904 – South Baldwin & Mission
- 1905 – Rutledge
- 1906 – Conyers Circuit
- 1907 & 1908 – Cleveland
- 1909 – Watkinsville & Whitehall
- 1910 – Cumming
- 1911 – Located by his own choice

BUREN WESLEY HANCOCK

Death came April 8, 1988, to one of our outstanding ministers, a truly dedicated man of God, Buren Wesley Hancock. His active ministry covered the years 1927-1971.

Brother Hancock is fondly remembered by all who knew him, because he surely touched every person for good who came in contact with him. His demeanor was always cheery, genial, outgoing, with a perfect tempering of seriousness and dignity as God's servant.

B.W. was born January 2, 1902, the seventh of eight children to Jackson C. and Emma Elrod Hancock. Theirs was a devoted Christian family. Both the mother and father taught Sunday School at Holly Springs Methodist Church, where he joined in 1911. He was called to preach as a child and never lost sight of his calling.

He was educated at Young Harris College, Reinhardt College and Candler School of Theology. While at Emory he met Lucile Lawhon and they were married April 30, 1925. She, as well as their two daughters, Ann, Mrs. Norman Felker, and Joyce, Mrs. William R. Floyd, survives him.

He joined the North Georgia Conference in 1927 and served the following appointments: Turin, Lincolnton, Danielsville, North Rome, Cartersville (Sam Jones), Martha Brown, Atlanta, Carrollton, Hapeville and Executive Secretary of the Board of Pensions. He retired in 1971 and returned to Martha Brown as an associate, where, like his Master, he continued "going about doing good."

He was North Rome Pastor in 1936-1940. Those who were privileged to be there then, remember him as pastor while the present sanctuary was being built. He insisted in donning overalls and working alongside the others in the construction when his other pastoral duties permitted. At first, this almost produced consternation by some members, who could not picture a preacher doing manual labor. But this was Brother Hancock's methodology. No useful, honest task was beneath his dignity.

I can remember clearly one of the first impressions made on me. He would come out to Model School at recess time and play basketball with us kids on the dirt courts in front of the school. I was surprised at first, but this was his wonderful way of relating to young people (he was a good athlete, too).

To describe Buren Hancock as "well-rounded" is a great understatement. He was a persuasive pulpit preacher with the assurance and sincerity of his convictions coming through so clearly. He was a skilled counselor in dealing with disturbing situations. When he left North Rome he left behind a fine new building and a much stronger congregation.

When Alice and I were making 1947 wedding plans, she told me that she had an agreement with Brother Hancock that he would be the officiating minister, said agreement made when she was 11 or 12 years old. She was very close to the Hancock family, especially Ann and Joyce, who were near her age. Needless to say, I was very happy to concur with the agreement made long before I was in the picture, and in its fulfillment.

I share another very touching moment. It was June 1982, eleven years after Brother Hancock's retirement. It was my first Sunday in the pulpit of a new appointment, Jefferson First. As I entered the church before the service I was pleasantly surprised to look back, and coming in the door a few steps behind were Rev. & Mrs. Hancock (Buren and Lucile). They were visiting Lucile Griffith, his sister, who was one of the most devoted members of that congregation. What an inspiration they were to this new pastor who felt all kinds of nervousness and apprehension on that particular occasion.

Buren's middle name "Wesley" was most appropriate for his life and ministry. Indeed, Charles Wesley's hymn says it best of all:

"Servant of God, Well done!
The Battle's fought, the race is won.
And thou art crowned at last
with saints enthroned on high."

JOHN EARL CLINE

Born near Waleska, Georgia, September 1887, John Earl Cline was one of twelve children, the son of John Wesley and Lou Sharp Cline. He worked his way through college by teaching a year and attending classes a year. He graduated from Reinhardt College, Emory College, and Candler School of Theology, joining the North Georgia Methodist conference in 1917.

Earl Cline married his college sweetheart, Eunice Lovett. Together they served in Aragon, Lindale, East Thomaston, Murrayville, Flovilla, White Plains, Little River Circuit, Washington, Turin, Jonesboro, Barnesville Circuit, and Monroe Circuit. He retired from the ministry in 1939. His particular interest was Christian education. He organized fifteen Sunday Schools and many "Missionary societies."

He had four children, Edgar Earl, John Timothy, Mary Lucy, and Pierce Lovett. His adventurous spirit led him to travel to Denver in a Model T, take his whole family to the Chicago World's Fair on \$100, and to climb the second highest mountain in Colorado after he was fifty, the oldest man to make such a climb at the time.

After his early retirement he settled in Oxford, Georgia, so his children could attend college there. He bought a farm and raised beef cattle, working the land in good weather, studying in bad weather. He read widely on every subject as he continued to grow in mind and spirit. He continued to travel. After he was seventy-five he made trips to Europe, Alaska, and Palestine.

His real estate ventures were very successful. He was able to give new tennis courts to Oxford College, the school he loved so much, jointly with his son Pierce.

His last years showed that old age can be happy and blessed rather than a fearful time. He had many friends among the Emory college students. He was able to continue to work on his farm until the day he died—January 16, 1973. He was buried in the Oxford cemetery.

LUCY CLINE HUIE

THOMAS LUTHER RUTLAND

On Wednesday, January 27, 1965, Reverend Thomas Luther Rutland was called from the church militant on earth to the church triumphant in Heaven. Thus one of the strongest and finest characters in the North Georgia Annual Conference passed from his earthly labors to receive his heavenly reward.

Brother Rutland was born in Bartow County on May 13, 1881, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Noah Blake Rutland. He went from the Best Chapel Methodist Church into the membership of the North Georgia Annual Conference in 1907. To better prepare himself for the ministry he enrolled at the Piedmont Institute in Rockmart, and transferred from that institution later to Emory College at Oxford, Georgia where his formal education was completed. He was ordained deacon in 1909 by Bishop Eugene Hendrix and admitted into full connection. Bishop A. W. Wilson ordained him an elder in 1911.

1909, he and Miss Mary Frances Gaines of Bartow County were married and that happy union continued for more than 55 years. Four children were born to them, all of whom survive him. They are: Mrs. Jackson P. Speer, Decatur, Georgia; Mrs. Charles M. Brown, Marietta, Georgia; Major William Luther Rutland, San Antonio, Texas; Robert Eugene Rutland, Dalton, Georgia. Also, there are six grandchildren and two brothers who survive him.

There were many characteristics of nobility of spirit possessed by Brother Rutland but two were outstanding. They were consecration and loyalty. No man among us was more consecrated to the will of God nor more loyal to the direction of the Bishop and his Cabinet and the program of the church than Thomas Luther Rutland. Faithfully he went to his appointments, some of which were difficult indeed, and carried forth the work of the kingdom unflinchingly. His devotion to Christ and the church were unquestioned.

He was very effective in revival meetings and held a large number of them. One of the fruits of his ministry was a large number of young men who became preachers under his leadership, some of whom are in our Annual Conference now. Nine preachers and one missionary are results of his consecrated ministry.

He and his wife were greatly beloved everywhere they served the church. The following communities were blessed by their ministry: Lincolnton, Jasper, Chatsworth, Powder Springs, Carnesville, Duluth, Kensington, Tignall, Crawford, Cleveland, Palmetto, Gracewood, Milledgeville Circuit, Turrin, Calhoun Circuit, Tunnel Hill and Ousley. He served churches in those places and sometimes also those nearby.

Seventeen years ago he retired from the active ranks of the ministers and fortunately for Sam Jones Methodist Church came to Cartersville to live with his wife on Cherokee Avenue in the apartment owned by the Board of Pensions of the Annual Conference. The members of the church soon came to admire and respect Brother and Mrs. Rutland greatly and they became favorites with the Sunday School classes and with the congregation. Two of the years of his retirement he served appointments in Bartow County which had no pastor at that time.

His association with the members of Sam Jones Church was both beneficial and pleasant to the members; especially was this true of the Men's Bible Class which he frequently taught. Some said after his passing that as he stood before the class with his white hair and the spirit of the Master so evident in his presence that he reminded them of an Old Testament Prophet.

His last six months on earth were months of slow decline in health, but his family saw to it that he was surrounded by every medical need and physical comfort. After treatment in Emory Hospital and Emory Clinic, he entered the Shoreham Nursing Home in Marietta, Georgia, where he died January 27, 1965. His funeral was conducted from the Owens Chapel in Cartersville, January 29, 1965, by Reverends Henry Jones, A. B. Elizer, B. W. Hancock, and Zach C. Hayes.

The people at Cartersville and the members of the Annual Conference have felt a deep sense of their loss since the passing of this Godly and noble man but they have every assurance that he has gone to "A house not made with hands eternal in the heavens."

ZACH C. HAYES

GEORGE PIERCE GARY

The Rev. George Pierce Gary was born on August 9, 1870, in Hart County, Georgia. His parents were John W. Gary and Effie Cook Gary. He was licensed to preach on July 24, 1896. He was ordained Deacon by Bishop Duncan on November 27, 1898, and Elder by Bishop Hendrix on November 25, 1900. He was admitted on Trial by the North Georgia Conference in 1896 and into full connection in November, 1898. He was an active pastor in his Conference for 45 years.

His appointments were: Murray Circuit, 1897; Rabun Mission, 1898; Birmingham, 1899; Homer, 1900-01; Bethlehem, 1902-03; Ellijay, 1904; Blue Ridge, 1905; Roswell, 1906; Palmetto, 1907-08-09-10; Barnesville Circuit, 1911-12; Lexington, 1913-14-15; Winterville and Cherokee Corner, 1916; Norcross and Prospect, 1917-18-19; Fayetteville, 1920-21-22-23; Summerville, 1924-25-26-27; Sandy Springs and Sardis, 1928; Griffin Circuit, 1929-30; Woodstock, 1931-32; Temple and Concord, 1933; Cumming, 1934-35; Maysville, 1936; Turin, 1937-38-39-40-41. Brother Gary retired at Conference time in 1941 and resided at Villa Rica, Georgia, until his death on November 14, 1951.

Brother Gary was married to Miss Willie Mae Turner, with whom he lived for 54 years. Besides his devoted wife he is survived by one daughter, Mrs. C. E. Kilby of Quincy, Florida; and six sons. Paul, George, and Beverley Gary of Atlanta; Lee Gary of Oveida, Florida; Max Gary, of Washington, D. C.; and Albert Gary of Memphis, Tenn.

Funeral services were held at the Villa Rica Methodist Church on November 15, 1951 with the pastor in charge. The Rev. T. H. Maxwell, a life-long friend, brought a message of comfort to the bereaved family and friends. His brother ministers were the honorary pallbearers. Interment was in West View Cemetery in Atlanta.

It was my privilege to be Brother Gary's pastor during the last five years of his life. He was faithful to his Church in every respect and was to be found in his place at the services of the Church until his strength left him. He was a very conscientious tither and gave a very strict account to God. Many times he called me in and gave me a check to send to one of our smaller schools, our Orphan's home, or to Overseas Relief. It seemed to be a joy for him to use God's money to help those about him.

He was known over the Conference for his quick wit and his warm heartedness. His mind was clear and his vocabulary was choice. His humor he retained until the very last.

He had a great interest in and a love for all people. Everywhere he went he sought out individuals and helped them to find God and a place of usefulness in His Church. He did a lot of personal work along with his good preaching. God blessed him by giving him a fine, Christian companion who was a benediction to his life and ministry.

This soldier of the cross has gone to his heavenly reward. Yet in the hearts of those of us who knew him and loved him, his influence lives on. May his mantle fall upon our shoulders.

WALLACE Z. WIGGINS

LLOYD G. MARLIN

The Rev. L. G. Marlin was born on December 27, 1879, in Indiana, and died on December 16, 1969. During these nearly ninety years a real Christian, dedicated minister, and a lover of people, lived and moved and had his being. He lived life to the fullest and best, and gave himself to Christ and his Church.

The Rev. Marlin was licensed to preach in 1901, joined the conference in 1908; ordained deacon in 1910; and elder in 1912. He was known as an outstanding preacher in the rural areas of Barrow county. From 1947 to 1953 he served Bethlehem, Statham, Nazareth, Campton, Providence, Old Pentecost, and Corinth. His ministry among the elder members and shut-ins proved a benediction to many of his people.

The Rev. Marlin was instrumental in building new brick churches at Bethlehem, Statham and Campton. After his retirement in 1953, he moved to Toccoa for a time, where he organized and built another church.

The Rev. Marlin was a community-minded minister and was involved in many worthwhile projects. Next to his church and family, he loved the Lion's Club, and through it much was accomplished in and around Winder. He was chairman of the Barrow County Red Cross Chapter for nine years; was a member of the President's Commission for the Ageing; helped to establish a telephone system in Barrow County, and wrote a history of Fort Yargo.

Winder Methodism wished to honor this man of God, and through the First United Methodist Church and his friends, May 26, 1968, was declared the Rev. L. G. Marlin Day. This deserved gesture was sponsored by the Winder United Methodist Men's Club and the Lion's Club, and the response of the community and surrounding territory was tremendous.

In his latter years he and his wife came back to Barrow County and still later they both were residents of the Monroe Nursing Home in Monroe, Georgia.

It was most fitting that the funeral services for the Rev. Marlin should have been at Bethlehem, a church he dearly loved. Its pastor, the Rev. Richard Lumpkin, and Winder's pastor, Dr. C. Hoke Sewell, conducted the services on December 18, 1969. Honorary pallbearers included members of the Barrow County Ministerial Association, that he had organized years before, and the Lion's Club, where he had been member and its president. He was buried in the cemetery at Bethlehem.

Survivors include: His widow; daughters, Mrs. M. C. Esterling, Toledo, Ohio; Mrs. J. B. Fisher, Lake Charles, La.; Miss Gertrude Marlin, Winder; sons, J. W. Marlin, Chicago, Ill.; John P. Marlin, Danville, Ill.; and David Marlin, Biloxi, Miss.; eleven grand children and four great grandchildren.

J. WALKER CHIDSEY

RALPH JACKSON

The Rev. Ralph Jackson served our Lord in the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, as a Local Preacher. He served the Turin Circuit, LaGrange District, for ~~nine~~ ^{one} years.

THOMAS EDWARD SHERWOOD

The Rev. Thomas Edward Sherwood ended his earthly career as a Methodist minister during his second year as pastor at Turin on July 31, 1950.

On September 17, 1893 he was born to Samuel Charles and Sara Elizabeth Harper Sherwood in Newton County. The family moved to Henry County where young Thomas joined the church at Turner's Chapel near McDonough. At age twenty-five he dedicated his life to the ministry. He attended school at Young Harris College, the University of Georgia, and Emory-at-Oxford. He was licensed to preach in July 1919. On November 18, 1925 he was admitted on trial into the North Georgia Conference, ordained deacon November 28, 1927, and ordained elder on November 17, 1929.

Thomas Sherwood was married to Miss Carrie Mae Lyon of Cedartown, Georgia, on May 4, 1927. To them were born two daughters, Mrs. Jack Cooper of Newnan, and Mary Louise, a student at LaGrange College.

His appointments were as follows: Cedartown Circuit, 1926; Logansville, 1927; Brookton, 1928; Lexington, 1929; Mayfield, 1930-33; Blairsville, 1934-35; Varnell, 1936-37; Holbrook, 1938; Walton, 1939-40; Toccoa Circuit, 1941-42; Dacula, 1943-44; Hoschton, 1945; Shady Dale, 1946-48; Kensington, 1948-49; Turin, 1949-50.

Brother Sherwood rendered a faithful service to the rural charges among people he knew and understood, and by whom he was loved. He was a man of unsullied character. Honesty and integrity were the foundations of his relationships. He loved God and served Him to the limits of his ability.

At Turin Methodist Church his funeral service was conducted on August 1, 1950, by the Reverends Joe S. Thrailkill and Waight G. Henry, Jr. Interment was at Cokes' Chapel Cemetery in Coweta County.

WAIGHTS G. HENRY, JR.

• ERA P. EUBANKS •

As one ponders the events of the past, he is made increasingly aware of the great contributions which certain people have made through the institutions of our land. Faith in God, love for man, and human initiative are components which build a better world. Many a noble leader with these characteristics has written in bold letters on the sands of time. Such was true in the case of Era P. Eubanks.

Born in Cave Springs, Georgia, October 29, 1884, Mr. Eubanks was soon destined to hear the call of God. The answer was given to this summons when in November, 1907, in the state of Oklahoma, Mr. Eubanks was licensed to preach. The final step in ministerial orders came when his home Conference—North Georgia—in session at Carrollton, Georgia, November 12, 1912, ordained him Elder.

It was while in Oklahoma that Mr. Eubanks met the young lady who was to become Fannie Belle Eubanks, faithful wife and untiring helpmeet in the service of the King. From this union were born four children, each of whom is a sterling example of the Christian environment in which they grew up. They are: Mrs. Seaton G. Bailey, Mrs. C. O. Templeton, Mrs. Fred L. Carlsen and Era P. Eubanks, Jr.

For more than fifty years Mr. Eubanks served churches across North Georgia. They are listed as follows: Rockmart, Mountville, Forsyth Circuit, Cornelia, Buchanan-Bremen, St. John's (LaGrange), Culloden, Hephzibah, Fairburn, Social Circle, Porterdales, Norcross, Summerville, Mount Vernon (Atlanta), Gracewood, Lovejoy (Newnan), Boynton and in retirement the Turin Charge.

On August 31, 1961, Mr. Eubanks received another call. Surely it was "the clear call" that came to him, and he "crossed the bar" to meet his Pilot face-to-face, the rendezvous with the Risen Redeemer. Those of us who stood on the shore and watched him put out to sea will be sadder at his going, but so much richer for his having been among us.

ROBERT TAYLOR

CRAWFORD, JAMES DANIEL - P O BOX 276 MANCHESTER GA 31816- DIST- LAGR (H) (706) 846-9745 (O) 7068821698 FE B. 2/13/35 PM 1960 FC 1962 (S)-JANE ANNIV 6/21/58 CHRON# 188; 7/1/57 MANCHESTER CIRCUIT; 7/1/58 TURIN CIRCUIT; 6/30/61 OUSLEY UMC; 6/22/62 FINCHER UMC; 7/3/64 SPECIAL APPOINTMENT; 5/15/67 HIGHTOWER MEMORIAL UMC; 6/25/71 FLIPPEN UMC; 6/16/73 NORTH FULTON UMC; 6/18/76 MT CARMEL UMC NORCROSS; 6/19/81 GRACEWOOD UMC; 6/1/83 JONES MEMORIAL UMC; 7/1/86 SECOND AVENUE UMC ROME; 7/1/92 YOUNG HARRIS UMC ATHENS; 7/1/98 DUNSON UMC LAGRANGE

CHARLES WESLEY DAVIS

Rev. Charles Wesley Davis was born August 11, 1913, in Brevard County, Florida. He was a son of the late John Wesley and Florence Mae Pool Davis and was preceded in death by his two brothers: Garnett Harry Davis and James Edward Davis.

Rev. Davis was married May 20, 1940, to Carolyn Elora Gillespie, a Hall County native. Mrs. Davis was active with her husband in the gospel ministry until her death on May 19, 1984, at 74 years of age. No children were born to this marriage.

Charles Wesley Davis was a US Army veteran. He served in the European-African-Middle Eastern theaters during World War II and was honorably discharged with the rank of Sergeant.

Rev. Davis graduated from Bible Institute in 1948, completed the Conference course of study at Emory University in 1968, and A.M. University of Georgia in 1969. He was ordained a deacon in 1959 and an elder in 1961. He became an associate member of the North Georgia Conference in 1969 upon completion of his education. His appointments included:

1949 Gracewood Circuit	1951 White Plains, Siloam
1953 Tallulah Falls Circuit	1955 Dillard-Mountain City Circuit
1958 Gainesville Circuit	1959 Lula Circuit
1962 Blairsville Circuit	1964 Maysville Circuit
1969 Toccoa Circuit	1972 Antioch-New Hope
1973 Turin Circuit	1975 Bowman Circuit
1979 S. Lincoln Circuit	1980 Hopewell

Rev. Davis retired in 1980 but served as Associate, Lula Circuit in 1981.

Rev. Charles Wesley Davis died January 6, 1990, at Northeast Georgia Medical Center in Gainesville, GA at age 76. Graveside services were held January 7, 1990, at Yonah Congregational Holiness Church Cemetery, near Lula, GA.

J. Larry Whitfield

* **WEATHERFORD, CHESTER L.** - 4705 PERRY ROAD GAINESVILLE GA 30506- DIST- GNSV (H) 7708876112 (O) AM B. 8/11/1926 PM FC (S)-EVELYN ANNIV 4/5/45 CHRON# 2009; 6/24/66 WHITE PLAINS UMC; 6/19/70 LEBANON UMC; 6/20/75 TURIN UMC; 6/17/77 FAIRMOUNT UMC; 6/15/79 NEW HOPE UMC GAINESVILLE; 7/1/86 JONES CHAPEL UMC; 7/1/89 MIDDLETON UMC; 7/1/92 RETIRED; 7/1/98 MT ZION UMC

* **KING, RAYMOND VINSON** - 3726 EAST MAIN STREET COLLEGE PARK GA 30337- DIST- ACPK (H) 4047612228 (O) 4047666794 FE B. 3/2/35 PM 1962 FC 1963 (S)-EVELYN ANNIV 12/11/57 CHRON# 211; 7/1/60 STUDENT; 6/1/66 BARTON CHAPEL UMC; 6/21/68 HONORABLE LOCATION; 6/17/77 TURIN CIRCUIT; 6/20/80 GLEN HAVEN UMC; 7/1/85 KELLEY'S CHAPEL UMC; 7/1/89 BETHANY UMC FAYETTEVILLE; 7/1/90 ST PHILIP UMC; 7/1/92 DAWNVILLE UMC; 7/1/97 COLLEGE PARK FIRST UMC

* **CAYLOR, MAX CARTER** - 245 POWERS FERRY ROAD MARIETTA GA 30067- DIST- AMAR (H) 7709717871 (O) 7708735271 FE B. 6/24/47 PM FC (S)-NELLIE LOU ANNIV CHRON#; 6/16/73 CENTRALHATCHEE CIRCUIT; 6/18/75 CENTER POINT UMC; 6/16/78 BEECH CREEK UMC ROME; 6/20/80 COKES CHAPEL UMC; 7/1/82 ST LUKE UMC ROME; 7/1/84 JASPER UMC; 7/1/91 HARMONY GROVE UMC; 7/1/95 ACWORTH UMC; 7/1/97 POWERS FERRY UMC

MURPHREE, HAROLD T. - 267 RAWSON ROAD SHARPSBURG GA 30277- DIST- LAGR (H) 7702515814 (O) 7702515814 FL B. 6/22/1917 PM FC (S)-SARA ANNIV 12/1/40 CHRON#; 6/26/64 MILSTEAD CIR.; 6/24/67 REDAN CIR.; 7/1/70 ELLENWOOD CIR.; 7/1/74 NORTH COVINGTON CIRCUIT; 6/17/77 FORSYTH CIRCUIT; 7/1/82 COKES CHAPEL UMC; 7/1/84 CAMPBELLTON UMC; 6/13/86 RETIRED

STONE, JEFFREY ALEXANDER - 2400 ROCK CREEK DR SW MARIETTA GA 30064- DIST- AMAR (H) 7704285181 (O) FE B. 1/21/58 PM 1984 FC 1987 (S)-KARLA ANNIV 12/15/79 CHRON# 619; 7/1/82 BOGART UMC; 7/1/86 HARMONY GROVE UMC; 7/1/88 COKES CHAPEL UMC; 10/16/89 HOLLYDALE UMC; 7/1/98 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

DANIEL FERGERSON BREWSTER, Jr.

Dan Brewster devoted his life to serving God, his family, and his community. He also had avid interests in good food, good laughs, and Georgia Tech football. He approached all of his endeavors with a strong faith and sense of humor.

On December 23, 1916, Dan came into this world in the front bedroom of his uncle Penn Brewster's home in Newnan, Georgia. Soon after that his parents, Daniel Fergerson, Sr., and Sarah Josephine Stevens, moved with Dan to Charleston, South Carolina, and later to Rock Hill, South Carolina. Here began his life-long interest in the Boy Scouts. With the encouragement and supervision of his pastor, he became a Lone Scout — the only Boy Scout in the Rock Hill area. Dan was 13 years old when his father died in 1929, and he and his mother moved to Carrollton, Georgia., where Dan finished high school and started a newspaper route to help support the two of them.

Dan felt God's call to the ministry very early in life. He was raised in the Methodist tradition, dating from the time his parents asked the well-known Georgia Methodist historian William Jasper Cotter to baptize him.

In 1937 he became licensed to preach in the Rome District. He attended West Georgia College in Carrollton and earned his bachelor of arts degree at Emory University in 1945. While serving the Lithia Springs Circuit, he completed his master's degree in theology at Emory and was received in full connection to the North Georgia Conference in 1948. During this period of academic and ministerial endeavors, Dan met our aunt Helen Howe Glawson at West Georgia College. He showed his usual good sense by later marrying her at the Mt. Zion Methodist Church in Carroll County on June 7, 1943. Dan was serving the Mt. Zion Charge at that time.

Following the Lithia Springs Circuit, Dan and Helen served First Church Dallas, First Church Barnesville, First Church Thomson, and First Church Newnan. In 1964 God altered the course of Dan's ministry and steered him to head the Georgia Commission on Higher Education and Campus Ministry. Dan devoted the next 20 years to raising funds for the nine Methodist colleges and the Wesley Foundations on the state college campuses of both conferences in Georgia.

Charles Williams remembered Dan's years as executive director of this commission in his eulogy. Charles served with him as executive secretary of the Conference Board of Education:

"I was always amazed at how many things he did so effectively. He had a creative mind and a persevering spirit. For twenty years, he produced many useful promotional materials . . . and attended board of trustees meetings of all our Methodist colleges and board of directors meetings for the Wesley Foundations statewide. He gave detailed reports of his work to each of these groups. Always, they reflected an increase in giving to Higher Education. He preached and showed his slides of colleges and Wesley Foundations to literally hundreds of churches statewide. . . .

"During his tenure as executive director of the commission, more than \$12,000,000 was received from the local churches in the two conferences. Five Wesley Foundation buildings and parsonages were built or obtained. Numerous buildings and improvements were made at the colleges. The Higher Education funds helped make this possible. On his retirement (in 1984), the commission set up an endowed fund in honor of Dan and Helen Brewster which provides an annual lectureship on Higher Education. He continued in his retirement years to serve as a trustee of LaGrange College (where he received the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity in 1966).

"One of his most effective ministries took place when he was dean of the Georgia United Methodist Pastors School, which at that time was held at Wesleyan College. He brought some of the most stimulating preachers, teachers, and theologians to the Pastors School. Dan also served effectively on the Board of Ministerial Training, the Simpsonwood Board of Trustees, the Conference Committee on Promotion and Cultivation, the Alumni Council at Emory, and a host of other Conference responsibilities."

Following his retirement in 1984, Dan continued his ministry by serving as pastor to small churches in the LaGrange District. These appointments included churches in Franklin, Woodbury, the Glenn Circuit, and the J. C. Adams Circuit, as well as Cokes Chapel. Dan thoroughly enjoyed this time of preaching the Gospel and making new friends.

In addition to his work for the church, Dan excelled in his promotion of the Boy Scouts of America. From his days as a Lone Scout in Rock Hill, South Carolina, until his death, Dan steadfastly

supported the principles and activities of scouting by leading various troupes, districts, and committees over a 54-year period. One of his greatest honors came in 1987 when the Scouts presented him with the prized Silver Beaver Award.

All of these responsibilities caused Dan to drive extensively around Georgia. Consequently his friends and family learned to rely on his recommendations on where to eat when they traveled. Dan savored a good meal, especially one of Helen's, and also became a fan of Hardee's sausage biscuits.

In 1993 Dan and Helen celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. To honor the occasion, we and our wives organized a celebration at their home in Newnan. Nearly two hundred friends and family members streamed through that historic house to reminisce and congratulate the couple. They had enjoyed the Brewsters' warmth and hospitality on many occasions, just as we had. Unable to have children of their own, Dan and Helen devoted an abundance of love and attention toward us growing up and, later, toward our own families. When we were boys, they took us on memorable summer trips to Chautauqua in New York and out west. Dan documented each trip and family gathering on slides and always managed to catch us in some unflattering pose that embarrassed us and delighted him. He showed those slides and others of our growing-up years when we celebrated Christmas at their home each year. Thanks to Dan, we now have images of our childhood to share with our children.

Dan loved the Lord and served Him faithfully. God gave him the abilities to preach, minister and administer, organize, and study. God graced him with a sense of humor that caused him to fabricate zany props for his highly effective fundraising presentations and to send so many of us unflattering birthday cards remarking on our advancing years or unsightly looks. Dan loved to study theology and many other subjects, and the room next to where he was born became his study lined with the books he cherished.

Dan felt God's blessings in his life in countless ways, and we were blessed to have him as an uncle. At the time of his death, Dan lived in the house where he was born. He died February 3, 1998, in Newnan Hospital, of complications from pneumonia. He was buried February 5, 1998, at Forest Lawn Memorial Park; and memorial services were held at First United Methodist Church of Newnan. Ministers officiating were the Reverends Gary Parrish, Fred Shelnutt, Max Wall, and Dr. Charles Williams.

Randy and Jim Durham

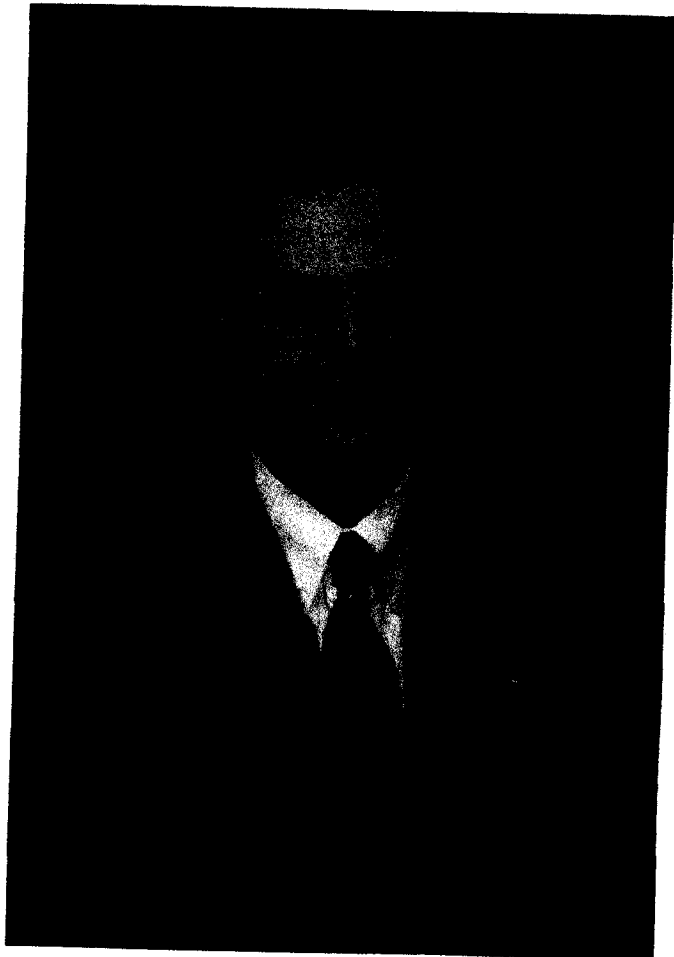
* VEST, ROGER ALAN - 24 ALMON CHURCH ROAD COVINGTON GA 30014- DIST- ADOX (H) 7707866753 (O) 7707871087 FE B. 3/12/66 PM 1990 FC 1994 (S)-BONNIE ANNIV 5/19/90 CHRON# 760; 7/1/90 COKES CHAPEL UMC; 7/1/93 ROME FIRST UMC; 7/1/98 SHILOH UMC ALMON

* ALLEN, JOE LYLE - 4113 LOWER FAYETTEVILLE RD. SHARPSBURG GA 30277 DIST-LAGR (H)-(404)253-6941 (O)-(404)253-6941, SLP, B. 06/06/62 - PM', FC' (S) CHRON#-0 - '93 COKES CHAPEL UMC;

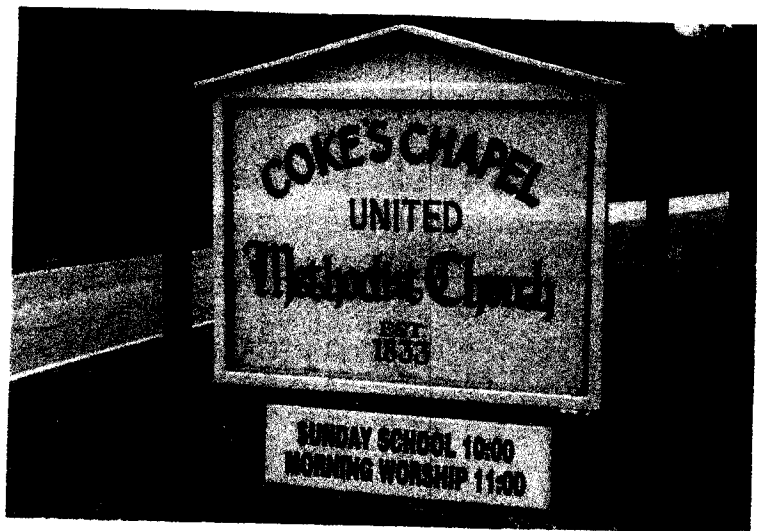
- **FREELAND, JOHN W.** – 23 Sunny Brook Drive, Newnan GA 30263, Dist. LaGrange (H) 770-253-0391 B. 12/15/1956 PM 1998 7/1/1995 Cokes Chapel UMC; 7/1/1998 Jones Chapel UMC
- **HAGEN, JOHN W. Jr** – 4113 Lowerfayetteville Rd. Sharpsburg, GA 30277 (Parsonage) Dist. LaGrange (H) 770-253-6941 SP B. 4/14/1950 PM FC 7/1/1998 Cokes Chapel UMC, 2010 Co-Pastor until 2013 to LaFayette UMC, GA
- **JORDAN, MARK Dr.**– Lighthouse UMC's Dr. Mark Jordan joined with Cokes Chapel in 2010 as Co Pastors. In 2013 John Hagen moved to LaFayette UMC. Mark Jordan became SP. 2017 To Trinity at the Well UMC Cartersville; 4/2020 to Hope UMC, Dallas GA
- **DEMPSEY, LISA** – 216 Hammock Ridge Dr. Newnan, GA, 7/1999 to 6/2004 Assoc. Pastor Harmony Grove UMC Lilburn GA; 6/2004 to 6/2014 Epworth UMC Candler Park, 6/2014 to 6/2014 Shepherd of the Hills UMC Douglasville, 6/2016 Cokes Chapel UMC Sharpsburg

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,

John Freeland, Pastor

STAFF

Our Visions

The United Methodist Church

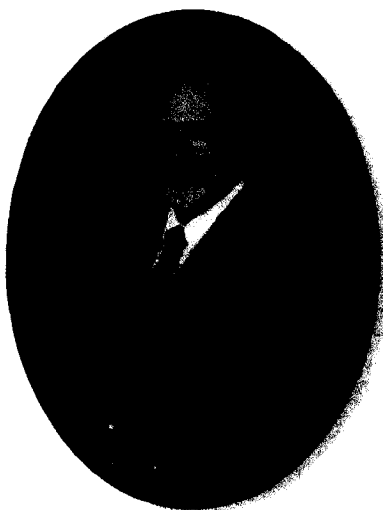
"The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ." Book of Discipline, Para. 120

Cokes Chapel United Methodist Church

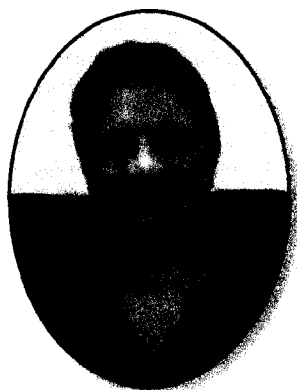
"The vision of Cokes Chapel United Methodist Church is to be a friendly, loving, praying, and serving church. We seek the living presence of God that will form us into a community of disciples. We submit to the leading of our Lord Jesus Christ to open the way for the Kingdom of God to come to our community through our missions. Our goal is for the Kingdom of God to come 'on earth as it is in heaven'."

Our Motto

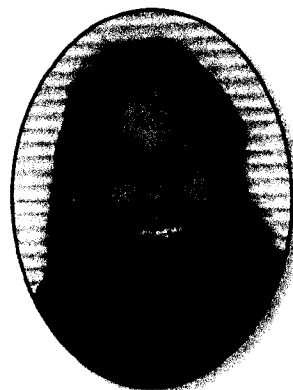
"Offer Them Christ"



Pastor John Hagen, Jr.



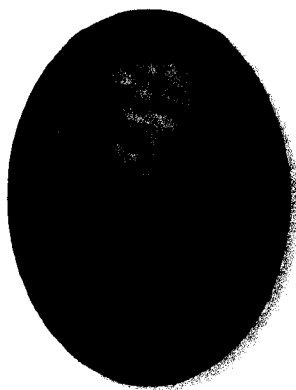
Nancy Norton
Choir Director



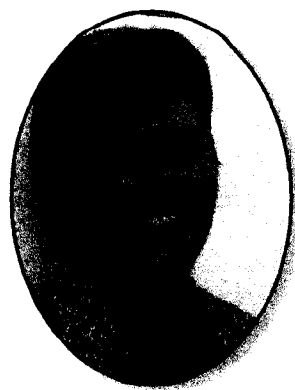
Velda Graydon
Secretary



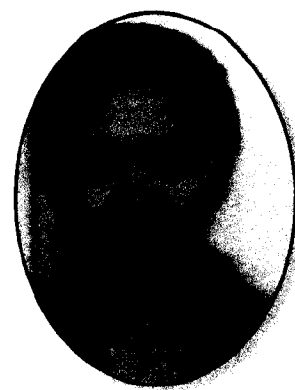
Brenda Hanes
Organist



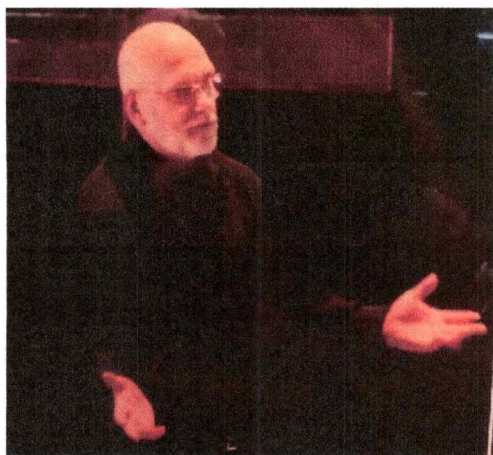
Martha Clarke
Pianist



Mary Farmer
Nursery



Catherine Beam
Nursery



Rev. John W. Hagen Jr., was born April 14, 1950, in Nampa, Idaho.

He spent his childhood on the family dairy farm working alongside his father. It was on the farm that he developed his love of gardening and landscaping. John also loved learning and music; he attended elementary and high school in Idaho where he studied piano. He attended Walla Walla College in Washington where he studied theology, history, and voice. He continued his lifelong love of learning at the Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta. John was a Methodist minister, beginning as a student pastor in 1998 at Cokes Chapel, Sharpsburg, GA where he

preached for 13 years. He is well loved for beginning the Coke Chapel Childcare Center which opened under his guiding light in 2007. He preached for 25 years, retiring in 2016, however even as he suffered great illness, his love of was so strong asking even at his last moments how could he continue to serve. Even in retirement he could be found leading Bible studies and preaching sermons. He had a heart of service and was actively involved in ministries that serve the homeless, the poor and the oppressed.

John went to be with God Saturday, Sept. 7, 2019. He was surrounded by his wife and children at his home in Kingston. He was preceded in death by his father, John W. Hagen Sr.; mother, Betty Heffel; and son, Rohn Willis. He is survived by his wife, Brenda Hagen; sons, John Willis (Jenn) of Ooltewah and Chris Hagen (Starr) of Alexandria, Ky.; daughters, Tammy Shultz (Tony) of Maryville and Kristie Lowe (Kenneth) of Clinton; 10 grandchildren, Noah Hagan, Kassi, MaKayla, Kristopher and Annaka Willis, Allie, Tim, Joe and Torie Shultz, and McKinley Lowe; with two honorable mentions, Brady Atkinson and Lance Marshall; sisters, Vickie and Cindy of Washington and Cathie of Idaho; aunt, Mary Walters of Idaho; as well as a host of family and dear friends from Washington to Georgia.

At Cokes Chapel, he will be remembered for sermons that thundered from the rafters, that brought tears of love and joy, a ceiling of red streamers at Pentecost, foot washing services on Maundy Thursday, and his resounding gong on Good Friday. The church campus is still recovering from his landscaping endeavors, rock walls, and drip irrigation. Our children remember his loving baptisms and confirmation classes. Our youth and scouts remember him for his playfulness on trips and fishing derbies and new generations will be loved and educated in the Childcare Center.

A memorial stone from the congregation to John will be placed in the Cokes Chapel Cemetery in appreciation for his love and long service to them.

John Hagen leaves Cokes Chapel UMC after 15 years

By **The Citizen** - June 18, 2013

It has been said parting is such sweet sorrow. This was certainly the case when John Hagen announced his departure as one of the pastors of Cokes Chapel United Methodist Church after 15 years.

"I have known since last year God was leading me to something else," Hagen said. "At the time I didn't know what it was, but I knew the time had come for me to leave."

Once the announcement was made, Bishop Michael Watson appointed Hagen to lead the LaFayette First United Methodist Church in Lafayette. While he says it saddens him to leave Cokes Chapel, he is confident that the current co-pastor, Dr. Mark Jordan, will continue to lead the church in a "direction set by God."

Cokes Chapel has steadily added to the number of worshipers who regularly attend under Hagen's shepherding, from 35 in 1998 to an average attendance of 175 per week in 2013, but numbers only tell part of the story. Hagen worked tirelessly to extend the church's reach from the physical building into the surrounding community through the establishment of a top notch childcare center, championed efforts to build a contemporary worship center, and encouraged support for local, regional, national and international mission teams.

Fueled by his passion for teaching, he led numerous Bible studies and theology classes, which in turn shaped his call to ministry. He was recognized by the United Methodist Church for excellence in evangelism.

"Being a Christian is serious business," he said, "This isn't only about eternity, it's the lives of people right now."

In his final sermon at Cokes Chapel, he proclaimed, "I came here to share Jesus with people, and with your blessing, I will do this in Lafayette."

In 2010 Hagen again expanded the church's reach when Lighthouse United Methodist Church and Cokes Chapel merged, reshaping the identity of the former Lighthouse United Methodist Church to The Lighthouse Ministries of Cokes Chapel. For the first time in the church's history two services ran concurrently; Hagen led the traditional and blended services and Jordan led the contemporary service.

"The last three years serving with Mark have been among the best I've had since coming to Cokes Chapel," Hagen said.

Jordan countered, "John is a peer and mentor, but more importantly; he is my friend. I will miss him terribly, but I know he is being obedient to God's will."

Hagen says he is confident the future holds great promise for Cokes Chapel and for the congregation of Lafayette First United Methodist. When asked why he is so hopeful, his response was simple, "I trust God based on what He has done in the past, and that's good enough for me!"

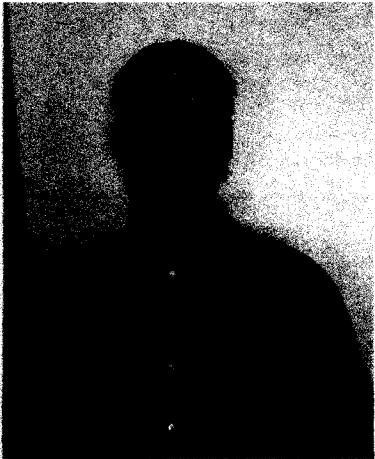
Staff



Dr. Mark Jordan
Pastor

Cokes Chapel United Methodist Church is on a mission to make new and better disciples of Jesus Christ for the purpose of transforming the world! We derive this mission statement from Jesus' Great Commission, which is recorded in Matthew 28:18-20. As we embark upon this mission, we embrace our purpose to equip and empower people to *serve* God by serving others; to *share* God's love wherever we go; and to *shine* God's light in a dark and lonely world. Our *serve, share, and shine* purpose statement provides the framework for every aspect of our ministry!

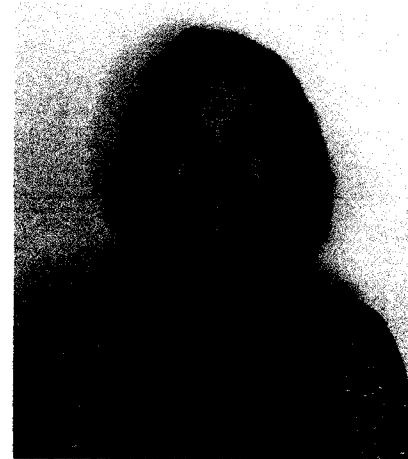
As you peruse the pages of this directory, may it be a blessing and reminder to you of God's faithfulness and love for us all. As we seek, each and everyone, to *serve, share, and shine* for the Lord, we will invariably think of others in our lives – and of course those of whom we have yet to meet – that need to be included in these pages in the future. May we take seriously our call to engage the world with the light and love of Jesus Christ and point people to the amazing and saving grace of almighty God!



Bobby Totten
Youth Director



Megan Stephens
Praise Team Leader



Barbara Henderson
Office Manager



Brenda Hanes
Organist

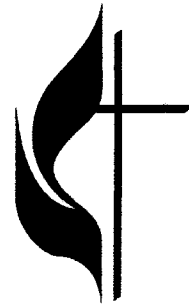


Jennie Underwood
Music Director

2017



Rev. Lisa Dempsey



Welcome to Cokes Chapel! This directory will be an important part of our ability to connect with one another as we worship, pray, serve, witness and give of ourselves to further the work of Jesus Christ in the world.

Cokes Chapel has loved people into a relationship with Jesus Christ since 1833. In over one hundred and eighty four years, many changes have impacted this sweet community. The dirt road was paved, horses changed to motor cars, worship is now live-streamed, the ministry to our community includes multiple areas throughout Newnan and other cities, and a day care was established to serve families through Cokes Chapel Child Care Center.

I hope that you will wear these pages out looking at folks you are praying for, searching for a contact number or email so you can check in on someone, or looking at a team you said you wanted to serve with. Spill coffee on it, get the pages ragged, and wish that the new folks could get their picture in it who will join after this is printed. Then we will do this again!

In our ever changing world, Cokes Chapel continues to offer the redeeming message of our unchanging, faithful God. Healing the broken, encouraging the fearful, strengthening the hurting, comforting the grieving and proclaiming Christ's light into the dark places of life is our great privilege. I welcome you, your family, our community into this safe haven of Christ's love as we make disciples for Jesus Christ. There is something for every season of life found in this place!

*Peace,
Pastor Lisa*

And he said to them, 'Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation.' Matthew 16: 15