

HISTORY OF LINCOLNTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
LINCOLNTON, GEORGIA.

It is regrettable that the complete history of the Lincolnton Presbyterian Church, of Lincolnton, Georgia, cannot be given. With the passing of the years, the old minutes of the church were lost or destroyed. At a session of the church held July 15, 1900, it was provided, as shown by the minutes, that the first ten pages of the minute book be set apart for a historical sketch of this church, and that Rev. A. L. Whitfield communicate with Rev. F. T. Simpson, a former missionary pastor, and the Rev. Dr. Hoyt, of Athens, Ga., the stated clerk of what was once Bethel Presbytery, for information regarding its past history. If the sketch was ever prepared, or any further action taken, there is no record of it.

On March 3, 1823, Col. Peter Lamar, of Lincolnton, a member of the Presbyterian Church, donated a tract of land, in Lincolnton, estimated to be three acres, for the use of public or private schools, of public worhsip, or any other public use that did not interfere with the free use of house or houses of worship and academy which may be built thereon. See Deed Book "K", pages 170-1, in office of Clerk of the Superior Court of Lincoln County. It will be seen that the land given was for the use of no particular denomination. Very soon after this gift was made the present house of worship was built, being later enlarged. This building was for years used by the Methodist, Baptist and Presbyterian, and was called Union Church. The

Baptists ceased to use it fifty or sixty years ago, and the Methodists about twenty years ago, and it is now used exclusively by the Presbyterians.

Beginning in 1877, as far back as the local church has any authentic record, the following ministers served this church in the order named: Rev. Wm. H. Davis, Rev. F. T. Simpson, Rev. Thomas Cartledge, Rev. F. T. Simpson, Rev. A. L. Whitfield, Rev. J. B. Hillhouse, Rev. G. M. Howerton, Rev. T. P. Burgess, Rev. F. G. Hartman, Rev. M. W. Doggett, Rev. C. S. Evans, Rev. W. B. Clemmons, Rev. W. H. Porter, Jr. Rev. J. C. Plexico and Rev. I. T. Hawks pastor since 1931. In late years, when the church was without a pastor, it was served by ministerial students from Columbia Seminary.

Omitting the names of those who have united with other churches and beginning in 1909, the first roster on the minutes, the following is a list of the members:-

Mr. & Mrs. Z. B. Angel (Mr. Angel gone to Holiness Church, Mrs. Angel, Deceased.)

Mrs. W. N. Albea

Mrs. J. J. Bentley

Mrs. Birdie Birchmore

Miss Nellie Burdett (Dismissed by letter 1936)

Miss Lucy Burdette (Dismissed by letter, 1937.)

Charles Burdett (Dismissed by letter 1937.)

Jefferson Burdett (Dismissed by letter 1937.)

Johnny Burdett.

Mamie Burdett.

Miss Natalie Crawford (Deceased).

W. B. Crawford (Elder, Deceased.)

C. L. Groves (Elder) (Deceased)

W. Roy Groves (Elder.)

Miss Kathleene Groves.

Hammond Groves.

Lucius Groves.

Frances Groves.

Jerry Groves.

Mrs. W. R. Groves (Received from Baptist Church 1936.)

R. W. Humphreys (Deacon) (Killed in World War)
 Mrs. C. M. May.
 Mrs. E. R. May.
 Miss Mattie Jo May.
 Joe May.
 Camille May
 Charlotte May
 Mrs. W. J. P. Morrison.
 J. T. Morrison.
 A. L. McMahan, Elder (Deceased)
 Mrs. A. L. McMahan (Deceased)
 Joseph L. McMahan (Moved by letter to High Point, N. C.)
 Eunice McMahan, " " " " " " "
 Elmore McMahan, " " " " " " "
 LeRoy McMahan, " " " " " " "
 Mrs. G. R. McCrimmons.
 M. B. Prince, Sr., Elder.
 M. B. Prince, Jr., (Minister)
 Heynie Prince (Dismissed by letter 1935)
 Cleo Prince.
 Larry Prince.
 Miss Palistine Prince, (Now Mrs. Coleman, dismissed by letter 1936)
 Miss Lorena Prince, now Mrs. Homer Turner.
 Mrs. Lucinda Partridge. (Deceased).
 Mr. Otis Partridge (Deceased.)
 J. J. Price, Elder (Deceased.)
 C. J. Perryman, Deacon (Moved to Thomson, Ga. July 1937)
 Mrs. C. J. Perryman
 Miss Maree Perryman (Now Mrs. F. N. Gibson of Thomson, Ga.)
 Miss Betty Perryman.
 Mrs. J. W. Spratlin.
 Roslyn Spratlin.
 Mrs. Sidney Strother.
 Miss Margaret Strother.
 Mrs. Mary Sheppard (Received by letter 1938)
 M. I. Ward, Deacon (Deceased).
 Ingram Ward, Deacon.
 Mrs. M. I. Ward (Deceased)
 George Ward.
 Miss Carrie Ward.
 Miss Mary Bertha Ward .
 Miss Minnie Ward.
 Mrs. George Ward (Deceased.)
 Miss Emma Jule Ward (Deceased.)
 Miss Mildred Ward.
 Pelham Ward.

As shown by incomplete rosters and from personal knowledge,
 the following persons were members of this church: Jeremiah
 Ashmore, deceased, Mrs. M. J. Wilkes, deceased, Mrs. _____ Ivey,
 deceased, Dr. T. S. Humphreys, deceased, Dr. W. H. Groves, deceased,
 and Mrs. M. J. Groves, deceased, wife of Dr. W. H. Groves.

In 1918, a Presbyterian Sunday School was organized, with Mr. A. L. McMahan, as Superintendent, which has functioned, without break, since that date. It has played an important part in keeping the church organized when it was without a pastor. In 1930, Mr. A. L. McMahan, due to failing health, resigned and was succeeded by Judge C. J. Perryman as Superintendent. Upon Judge Perryman's removal to Thompson, Georgia, Miss Mary Bertha Ward was, on August 6, 1937, elected as Superintendent but resigned and Elder M. B. Prince, Sr. was elected and is serving at present.

In 1927, the church received a legacy of \$750.00 under the will of James L. Fleming, late of Augusta, Georgia, the income of which was to be used to care for the graves of his parents in Lincoln-ton cemetery and for the use of the Sunday School. Dr. W. B. Crawford was the first custodian of this fund, and upon his death Mr. C. L. Groves was made custodian, and at present Mrs. J. W. Spratlin is custodian.

A Christian Endeavor Society was organized in 1930 with Mrs. Ida Morrison as President, and, for a while, the older members of the Church as well as the younger members were interested in its activities. It is not in existence at present.

The Woman's Auxiliary of this church was organized, April 18th, 1921, by Mrs. C. P. Crawford, President of the Woman's Missionary Work of the Augusta Presbytery. Since its organization it has responded to nearly all of the church causes in some way. It has been especially interested in Thornwell Orphanage and the school at Nacoochee. Its first work in sending \$25.00 towards the building of a baby cottage at Thornwell, and each year it has remembered those

institutions by contributions, boxes of canned goods and clothing at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

With a membership of seven only, it attained a 60% on the Standard of Excellence. When report was sent in, Mrs. Alexander, Presbyterian President, in order to commend its work, made a beautiful poster with silver star on blue background, which hung on its walls for many months as an inspiration.

Among other things it has accomplished are, having quite a good deal of repair work done on the church building, such as flooring, painting, both inside and out, placing a nice large window in the rear of the building, which adds greatly to its beauty and comfort, and purchasing a communion set and collection plates for the church.

It has carried out the church program in regard to the studying of the Home and Foreign mission books and Bible studies, and each member is a subscriber to the Survey. Of one feature of the work the Auxiliary feels justly proud, and that is the every member will lead in prayer.