1997

Hubert United Methodist Church - 120th Anniversary & Dedication of New Addition, 1877-1997

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120th Anniversary & Dedication of New Addition

1877 1997

HUBERT
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Sunday, November 23, 1997
History of the Church

We have record books dating back to 1882 which state that a certificate was issued to Mrs. Emma Wright in 1877. For many years a set of numbers with the years 1877-1927 was attached to the wall of the present structure, indicating that the church was fifty years old in 1927. No record of a fiftieth anniversary celebration could be found. In 1998 the interior of the church was renovated and these numbers were removed and subsequently lost. Based on information from members who have since passed on and from available records the church was established in the year 1877, approximately two miles northwest of the present location, on the Old River Road.

The records list the name of the first church as MacDonnell Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1884 a Bible was presented to the MacDonnell Methodist Episcopal Church by the Rev. G. G. N. MacDonnell. We have a list of pastors dating from 1882 to the present, but Rev. MacDonnell's name does not appear on the list. However, he could have been associated with the church prior to 1882. The original 1884 Bible is still in the possession of the Hubert United Methodist Church.

An interesting reference taken from the October, 1898 Minutes of MacDonnell Women's Foreign Missionary Society, relates of a letter read from "our own beloved Mrs. Robb MacDonnell". Our secretary read our beloved Mrs. MacDonnell's letter in the Wesleyan Advocate telling of her delightful visit to Mexico and of the spread of the blessed gospel in that land of flowers, but of sin and sorrow. This leads us to believe that the church was named for Mrs. MacDonnell, a missionary from this area, or perhaps Rev. G. G. N. MacDonnell.

According to the membership records, among the first members of the church were the Wright family, the Browns, Richardsons, Grahams, Hines, Laniers, Robertsons, Hagans, Simmons, Woods, Barnhills, Terrells, and many others.

On January 14, 1893, a deed for 1.5 acres was granted by Mr. J. G. Cone to "The Methodist Episcopal Church South and the said trustees and their successors in office shall at all times permit such ministers and preachers belonging to the Methodist Episcopal Church South as shall from time to time be duly authorized by the General Conference to preach and expound God's Holy Word and to execute the disciplines of the church and administer the sacraments therein." The deed was executed by Mr. U. M. Davis, Justice of the Peace, who was the grandfather of James E. Davis.

The present church now stands on the site described in the deed given by Mr. J. G. Cone. Based on information from older members, the present church was built on this site in 1895. Mr. James W. Wright, father of Miss Margaret Wright, donated much of the lumber that was used in the construction of the present church. Mr. Fred Williams, Miss Margaret Wright's aunt, gave the Communion table which is now used in the Vestibule. The record books list the name of the church as MacDonnell until 1921. Since that time the official name is listed in the record books as Hubert Methodist Church, probably due to the name of the community in which it is located.

The record books show the following four persons and the dates when they joined the church. All four are still members of the church with the exception of Mr. W. W. Robertson, who has moved his membership to Brooklet United Methodist Church.

- R. H. Terrell — July 28, 1893
- W. W. Robertson — January, 1901
- Miss Margaret Wright — August, 1901
- Mrs. Louise Graham Green — 1910

In 1924 Hubert was listed on the Guyton Charge along with Pineora. Hubert remained on the Guyton Charge until 1962 when Marlow was added to the Guyton Charge and Hubert was placed on the Meldrim-Ellabell Charge. On October 1, 1974 Hubert was added to Brooklet as a satellite church.

During the past twenty-five years many improvements have been made to the church, to improve the building as well as the worship service. Prior to 1952, worship services were held once each month at three o'clock in the afternoon. In 1952, when J. D. Corbitt, Jr. was pastor the worship service was changed to each Sunday morning and has remained ever since.
In 1956 new windows were installed.

In 1958 the church was completely remodeled. Asbestos siding was placed on the exterior and sheetrock and ceiling tile was installed in the interior of the sanctuary.

The social hall and education building was purchased from the Board of Education in 1959 for $550 and completely remodeled.

Easter sunrise services began in 1961 when Harold Brooks was pastor. An outdoor grill was constructed and breakfast is prepared by the men following the sunrise service. This has become an institution at Hubert.

In 1965 the church was renovated inside. A new hardwood floor, carpet, and pews were installed. The walls and ceiling received a new coat of paint. Mrs. M. L. Miller, Sr. donated the present Communion table in honor of her husband, M. L. Miller, Sr.

Central heating and air conditioning were installed in December 1969.

In October 1970, a well was drilled and pump installed. In November 1970, bathrooms were added to the education building. Dr. W. M. Cone served as chief plumber and was assisted by several members of the congregation.

On February 13, 1972 the Hubert Church contributed $337 toward Rev. Carlton Reid's trip to the Holy Land.

In March 1974, the pulpit furniture was donated by M. L. Miller, Jr., Dr. and Mrs. W. M. Cone, and Rev. Carlton Reid.

In 1975 new floor covering, windows, screens and chairs were installed in the education building. Rev. Joel Dent helped paint the walls.

In October 1976, a new Yamaha piano was purchased for the Sanctuary.

The MacDonnell church had thirty members in 1882. On July 24, 1977 Hubert United Methodist Church records show fifty members.

The Centennial Anniversary of the Hubert United Methodist Church was held on July 24, 1977 with the Rev. Vernard Robertson, whose ancestors helped found the original church, delivering the dedicatory address.

### Historical Highlights 1977 - 1997

The years since our Centennial Homecoming (for which the proceeding was written) have been years of progress for Hubert Church.

A Vacation Bible School has been held for four years; attendance and support were excellent! A Children's Choir has been organized and sings at many special occasions. A well-rounded Church Program has been developed throughout the calendar year. Many improvements have been made in our Sanctuary and facilities through memorial gifts. We are grateful for the gifts and for the lives of faith they symbolize.

At the Charge Conference held at Hubert, December 7, 1980 the decision was made to name the Charge, Brooklet-Hubert United Methodist Charge. This decision is an example of the harmony and mutual respect which exists between these two congregations.

As of May 31, 1982 Hubert reported a church membership of 54. Six baptized children are on our Preparatory Roll. The oldest living member is Miss Margaret Wright, who will celebrate her 97th birthday in July of this year.

In 1982 two new Sunday School rooms were added to the social hall. Vinyl siding was added to the entire church structure in 1987.

A church choir was formed in October of 1989 and presented its first Christmas Cantata in December of 1992.

A new shingle roof was installed on the main church building in 1994. The James E. Davis family presented a new steeple to Hubert United Methodist Church in October of 1994 in memory and honor of the Davis and Akins families.

In June of 1994, Hubert was blessed with the appointment of Reverend Janet Hayes as associate pastor. Reverend Hayes served until November of 1995 when she was appointed associate pastor of Mulberry Street United Methodist Church in Macon, Georgia.

A Methodist Men's Club was established in the fall of 1994 with 18 members. Also a new United Methodist Women's Circle was formed and named for Lois Cone.

In June of 1996 Hubert was designed as a station church. Reverend William G. "Bill" Brown, a retired United Methodist Minister agreed to serve as Hubert's pastor.
October 27, 1996 ground was broken for the construction of a Social Hall / Sunday School building. More than $76,000.00 has been received from pledges, gifts, bake sales, dinners, and other fund raisers. Of this amount $15,000.00 was received from the Kingdom Builders.

Donations of time and labor by the members of the church resulted in considerable savings in the cost of the building.

A new Yamaha piano was donated to the church this year for the sanctuary.

On November 23, 1997 the 120th Anniversary of the church is being celebrated. South Ga. Conference Bishop Richard C. Looney will preach during the morning worship service at 11:00 and will dedicate the new building at 12:30.

At the present time 79 members are on roll. The oldest living member is Mrs. Lois Cone who was 101 years old on November 9, 1997.

Pastors of the Hubert United Methodist Church

- W.T. Rea 1882-1884
- O.R. Laeter 1885-1887
- W.T. Rea 1888
- T.W. Ellis 1889
- A.H. Basemore 1890
- W.T. McMichael 1891
- J.P. Baysmore 1892
- J.M. Aldridge 1893
- Joseph Carr 1894
- W.A. Hodges 1896
- F.P. St. Clair 1897
- C.D. Phillips 1898-1899
- L.P. Cary 1900
- H.L. Pearson 1901-1902
- J.R. Adams 1903
- J.T. Mims 1904
- A.S. Adams 1905-1906
- W.A. Brooks 1907-1910
- Robert Rause 1911-1912
- W.M. Mitcham 1913-1914
- T.L. Nease 1915
- C.M. Ledbandler 1916-1949
- T.D. Strong 1920-1922
- J.W. Lilly 1923-1925
- A.A. Waite, Sr. 1926-1929
- E.J. Griner 1930-1932
- C.B. Ray 1933-1936
- W.M. Hobbs 1937-1940
- C.G. Ernest 1941
- George R. Partin 1942-1943
- Allen V. Johnson 1944-1947
- A.B. Wall 1948
- Ray Adams 1949-1950
- J.D. Corbitt Jr. 1951-1952
- Guy Parrish 1953-1956
- J. LeRoy Hendrix 1957-1958
- Zephoe Belcher, Jr. 1959-1960
- Harold Brooks 1961
- Bill Akins, Jr. 1962-1963
- Fred Foster 1964-1966
- Wayne Steadham 1967
- Joe B. Lanier 1968
- James E. Elder 1969
- Carlton Reid 1970-1973
- Ralph Spivey June 1974
- C. Nathan Burgess 1982-1983
- H. Dwight Bishop 1989-1993
- Warren Williams 1993-1996
- Janet Hayes 1994-Nov. 1995
- William G. Brown 1996-present

Church Historian
M. L. Miller, Jr.

The Prelude
The Lighting of the Altar Candles
Welcome, Announcements & Historical Comments
Welcome & Comments about the completion of the new building
Introduction of Bishop Richard C. Looney
Ritual of Friendship
Call to Worship: “Spirit Song” (#347)
Invocation
*"God Of Grace And God of Glory”
*Affirmation of Faith
*Gloria Patri
Pastoral Prayer and The Lord’s Prayer
Children’s Sermon
*"Alleluias”
Presentation of Tithes & Offerings
*Doxology, No. 95
Anthem: “I’m Standing on the Solid Rock”, No. 593
The Scripture Lesson & Message
Prayer (All): “O God, we realize you do not call us to be successful in the marketplace; you call us to be faithful as disciples of Jesus. You do not call us to achievement in work, but to responsible living. You do not call us to make a great fortune, but to labor for your reign. Guide us into greater understanding of your priorities. Amen.”
Bulloch County Historical Society
P. O. Box 42
Statesboro, GA 30459

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NEXT MEETING
JUNE 15, 1998
DINNER 7:30 P.M.
BROOKLET METHODIST CHURCH

MARVIN GOSS
1943 LAKEVIEW RD
STATESBORO GA 30458