



## FOCUS

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### A LITTLE COUNTRY CHURCH

Just off the Waycross highway, down a winding country road, nestled in among the pine thicket, stands a lovely, simple, and old structure known as the Emanuel United Methodist Church. Across the road from the church lies a small, peaceful church cemetery.

The little church was established by Bishop Asbury sometime in 1800 and was located at Laurel Grove Plantation, the Colonial home of the Pyles family. At this time the church was known as the, "New Hope Church".

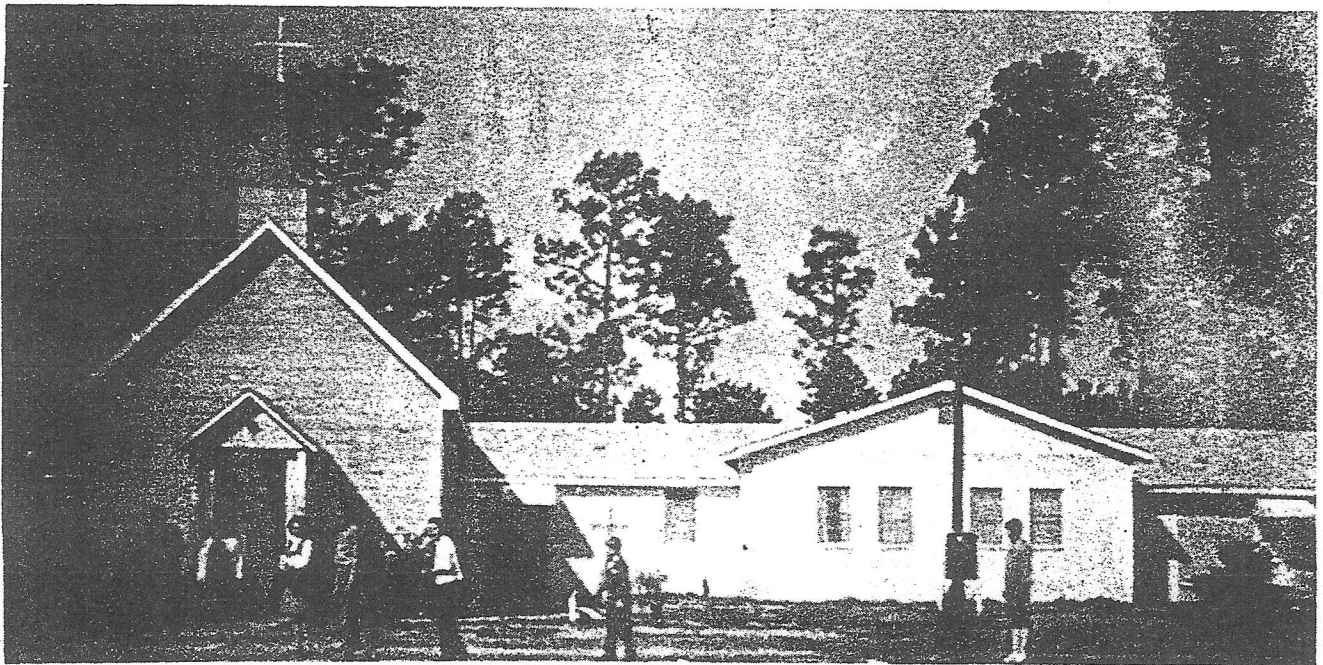
Later in 1833 it was moved to the present site which was more centrally located for a place of worship and education in the community and the name changed to "Immanuel". For some reason, through the years the officials of the church began to spell the name as it now appears today. "Emanuel".

As I recall the past, I realize just how much this little church has meant to me. For you see. . . it was here in this hallowed spot that many of life's most precious moments happened to me. As a little five-year old girl, I was baptized here and later joined the church; it was here that I grew up to learn of Christ and the meaning of faith; it was here, in the peak of my youth, that I chose to be married. . . and it was here in this little, country church that my three children were baptized as infants.

Not all the memories are joyous ones. . . for not too many years ago it was here that my mother's funeral was held and her remains laid to rest in the little cemetery across the road. Yes, I have many strong ties that bind me to this little, country church. Is it any wonder that I love it so?

When some speak of their church, they envision a high, Gothic architectural structure with beautiful stained glass windows and a pipe organ. This is well and good.

When I speak of my church, I'm reminded of the old hymn, "Come to the Church in the Wildwood". My little church has a steeple, it has an organ and even stained glass windows. To me. . . it's as beautiful a church as is found anywhere. . . for the Emanuel United Methodist Church is a living testimony to the glory of God. And when my life has come to an end, this is where the last farewells will be said. . . in the little, country church.



OLDEST METHODIST CHURCH IN GLYNN COUNTY.