

showed 336 members, a \$12,000.00 church, a \$3,000.00 parsonage, and \$300.00 spent on church and parsonage. Rev. Edgar M. Pipkin was assigned to the Newport church.

### 1909

The year 1909 opened on a high note, as the Newport *Independent* reported: "A real conservative sermon was that of Sunday morning in the Methodist Church here. Rev. E.M. Pipkin, the newly sent pastor of the church, preached a most excellent sermon at the morning hour, his subject dealing principally with the Board of Stewards, the men of the church upon whom so much depends. . . . At the close of the sermon, their names were called, and as they, fifteen in number, knelt at the altar, fervent prayers ascended that God might direct and lead these men...."

"Our people are becoming more and more attached to Bro. Pipkin, whose strong and forceful sermons are greatly enjoyed and beneficial to his constantly growing congregations."

The Newport city directory for 1909 lists the following members of the board of stewards of the church: H.G. Drummond, chairman; C.E. Crook, vice-chairman; A.T. Hubly, secretary-treasurer; Claude M. Erwin, George R. Hays, Otto M. Bowen, Dorsey Wilmans, M.S. Littleton, Dr. O.E. Jones, Dr. Ira H. Erwin, Perry dark, F.R. Suits, Bert Snetser, and Ed McElwee.

The chancel was almost hidden from view in a wealth of lilies and evergreens as Easter services were observed in 1909. "The sentiment was beautifully carried out in a special program of music and a sermon on the Resurrection. Rev. Pipkin's text was, 'Why seek ye the dead, for He is Risen.'; it was a sermon of inspiration to his hearers."

The children's service at 10:00 a.m., under the direction of Mrs. R.D. Wilmans, was a beautiful service and most excellently carried out.

The offering at the church during the day was given to the Methodist Church in Brinkley to help them to rebuild their church, which had been destroyed in a storm.

The eleventh session of the White River Conference Woman's Home Mission Society met in the Newport church, April 29 to May 1. The delegates were entertained by Mr. and Mrs. C.E. Crook. Our church was represented at the annual meeting of the White River Conference Woman's Foreign Missionary Society in Corning. Mrs. C.E. Crook was elected third vice-president and Miss Dove Erwin secretary for the Searcy District. Miss Ruth Lynn Wallace, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John W. Wallace, of Newport, graduated from Galloway College in Searcy on June 2 with the bachelor of arts degree and a diploma in voice. In June, Miss Dove Erwin, of Newport, and Miss Eleanor Neill, of Batesville, attended the Missionary Training School at Nashville, Tennessee.

Tragedy struck our church on August 27, 1909, when the beautiful little church, so dear to the hearts of the people who worshipped there, was destroyed by fire. In an article headed "Church and Cottage Burned—Disastrous Fire Destroys Cottage and Methodist Church on Laurel Street," the Newport *Independent*