



HON. SAM TATE

The Sam Tate Bible Class
of
Tate United Methodist Church
Celebrates

its
100th Anniversary

February 13 2005

The Sam Tate Bible Class was begun in early February 1905 with Col. Sam Tate as its teacher. He taught the class until mid 1934. Church records indicate that Sam Tate was Sunday School Superintendent as early as 1902. He was also the delegate to Charge and District Conferences consistently beginning in 1902. Church records other than membership rolls prior to 1902 do not exist.

Sam Tate's father and mother and several of his sisters were charter members of Tate Methodist Church, joining in 1887 when the church was constructed. M. S. Williams, his future brother-in-law was the first preacher, marrying his sister Sarah in 1898. Sam's father, Stephen Clayton Tate, gave the property for the church building and donated most of the funds and extensive supplies for the building. Sam Tate joined the Tate Methodist Church in 1891 and very likely was already vitally involved prior to the first known church records in 1902.

Throughout the first 38 years of the 20th century, Sam Tate was a leading Methodist laymen. He donated extensively to Methodist colleges: Emory University, Wesleyan, LaGrange, Reinhardt, Young Harris, and Paine College. Marble on their campuses was donated by Sam, who assumed the Presidency of The Georgia Marble Company in 1905. Just prior to the depression, he made a \$20,000 donation to Wesleyan College to help the college remain open. He paid for local students who showed academic promise to attend these colleges, as well as other Georgia universities and colleges. A Methodist Bishop preached his funeral in 1938.

At the time the Sam Tate Bible Class was founded, Sunday School was considered for the children only. His knowledge of the Bible and his total involvement in the community and with his marble company and school system employees made his Bible Class very popular for local citizens. At one revival in 1908, Tate Methodist Church added 60 converts to its membership. Several older members of the Tate community remember that over 100 attended his Bible Class throughout the 1920s. Declining health prompted him to turn the class over to R. W. Ransom, Supt. of Tate High School by mid-1934. He served as Sunday School Supt. through 1934.

The members of the 2005 Sam Tate Bible Class and membership of the Tate United Methodist Church are grateful for the leadership and generosity of Sam Tate and his father, Stephen Clayton Tate. In a codicil to his 1902 will, the latter provided the property for continued use of Tate Methodist Church. Today we also express appreciation to the Stephen Clayton Tate heirs who are honoring his will by providing the property for the future expansion of our church facilities.

Tate Methodist Church Minutes 1902 - 1909 were utilized for this program as well as the 1902 - 1938 *Pickens County Progress*. Microfilm copies of *Church Minutes* through 1940 are on order from the Georgia State Archives.

Today we honor the members of the Tate Methodist Church who have served as teachers and substitute teachers of the Sam Tate Bible Class.

Teachers of the Class	Substitute Teachers
Col. Sam Tate	J. B. Hill
Professor R. W. Ransom	Bob Hall
H. L. Litchfield	Bob Johnson
Rowland Bryce	Elaine O'Bryant
Luke Stancil	Bill Young
Bill Tate	Bob Edmondson
John William Pool	
Don Enis - in his 13 th year	