

DHS
Archives

Churches - Methodist -
Prospect (Chamblee) Methodist
Church.

A note in file folder states: "Scott Candler says Prospect Methodist Church at Chamblee is oldest Church Building built in DeKalb County," dated 8/30/49.

Brief
History
of Church

Among the oldest Methodist Churches in DeKalb County is Prospect near Chamblee, organized in 1826. The first Church was an unbeated log structure. In 1847 a rougher board building replaced it. The third Church was built in 1885. Church school rooms were added in 1937 & in 1947. By a vote of

DHS
Archives

Prospect Methodist
Church

the Congregation the name was changed from Prospect to First Methodist in 1961. In 1963 the Congregation voted to relocate. 38% acres were purchased at 4147 Chamblee-Danwoody Road.

Some of the families involved in beginnings of church included The Stephen Tilly family, David Ballenger family, Dr. John Ballenger family, John M. Ridling family, & Thomas Alsin family.

HISTORY OF PROSPECT METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH SOUTH,
SITUATED AT CHAMBLEE, DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA.

The first building was a split log house, as most all churches, schoolhouses and dwellings were at that period, with a few small windows cut through the logs. It stood about 100 ft. in the rear of the present building. The next building was erected in 1847, and was just in the rear of the present one. It was a frame house weather-boarded with rough boards, windows without sash, no ceiling inside, floor laid with undressed boards which left large cracks, no stove or heating device. It was very comfortable in warm or pleasant weather, but colder in Winter than being out in the sunshine. Yet the saints praised God in singing the old church hymns, and in prayer and exhortations to the uplifting of their spiritual fervor, often to such a degree as to make December as pleasant as May. The present nice comfortable building was erected in 1885 just in front of the former one, and dedicated by Bro. Bigham, the first Sunday in July of that year.

I have been unable to find any records whatever of the first twelve or fifteen years of this church. So can't give names in full of charter members, but will give as far as my information goes.

Stephen Tilly and family, consisting of three sons and four daughters, all were devout members. The sons were Ebenezer, Robert, and Fletcher. The former and latter spending all their lives in this section were men of marked piety. Robert went to Floyd County, Georgia, when a young man, and was an honor to the church and community where he lived. The daughters, Margaret, Adeline, Caroline and Jane were all women of the highest Christian type, their children rise up and call them blessed.

David Ballenger and family were members. He and his son William were local preachers; he also had two or three daughters. This family was a part of the salt of the earth.

Dr. John Ballenger and family, of whom I know but little, were all Methodists. They moved to Cobb County early in the history of this church.

Other members were John M. Ridling and family, Thomas Akin and family. There were still a few others who helped to plant this vine, but I am unable to name them. This little band, while few in number, were inspired to make all the sacrifices necessary that our beloved Methodism might be instrumental in salvation of souls, and glory for the great Head of the church. Others came into the church from time to time. They were also men of God, and so recognized by all who came in contact with them. Their names also deserve to be remembered and perpetuated for their good influence and works for the church. Some of these are as follows: Samuel House, class leader, who was full of zeal and fervor, and often so filled with the Holy Ghost that his cup would run over. Jake Loyd, also a class leader and a good man; devoted to duty whatever it might be. Joseph Elliott one of the best and finest men that I ever know and exerted a great influence over all that he came in contact with. Asa Braswell, George Gaddy, Alfred Peel and Frances Metcalf were all true to the church and no evil reports were ever made against them. Later came George Braswell, he was one of the best young men of the country, was licenced to preach and was very gifted, but was called in defence of our South Land and in that service passed to his home in Glory. His brother, our beloved S. H. Braswell, a preacher of fine ability and very efficient did much for the church at large, filling many charges as a supply and was especially very helpful to Prospect. John T. McElroy came to us from the Presbyterian church and was licenced to preach. He had a very bright mind and a live christian experience. He

DEKALB HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P. O. BOX 501
DECATUR, GA. 30030

P. O. BOX 501
DECATUR, GA. 30030

was a rather frail man and the good Lord took him. Then there was Philip, Jake, George, John, Jeff and Crocket House all good men. Nowt Miller was a man of prayer, loved the church and all good people. Dr. George N. Flowers, one among the last to cross over, of the old band, was a staunch friend to the church and beloved by all who knew him.

All these from charter members down to the last one named, besides many others including good women, have crossed over and are resting under the shade of the trees in the New Jerusalem.

Oh! What a multitude of our loved ones and friends are up yonder waiting and watching for us. God help us to be faithful so that some sweet day we will meet them again.

Prospect was in the Decatur Circuit until some years ago, when it was made Norcross and Prospect Charge. In the early history of Decatur Circuit, as well as all other circuits at that time, each Charge had quite a number of churches. This caused the pastor, who was then called the circuit rider, to preach from four to six days in the week in order to get around once a month. Therefore, Prospect had week-day preaching once a month by the pastor, Wednesday, I think, being the day. This lasted until about 1885 to 1860. Nevertheless, we had services three Sundays in the month, preaching one Sunday by a local preacher, prayer meeting one Sunday, and class meeting one Sunday. The remaining Sunday we went where we chose, generally to Nancy's Creek. Our prayer and class meeting days were good and often the Holy Spirit was very manifest. In those days we had a goodly number of local preachers in the Decatur Circuit, which was a great blessing to the church and to the people. They were men of very marked piety, and their preaching was often accompanied by the presence of the Holy Spirit. These devout men would ride from ten to twenty miles to an appointment. I now call the names of all that come to my mind: Noah Smith, David Ballenger, Henry Clark, Jimmie Williams, Elijah Byrd, Dr. Fowler, Joe Huie, William Holbrook, S. H. Braswell, Mr. Chandler. I may have omitted some. These also have passed away and rest from their labors, and their works do follow them.

There has been a Sunday School at Prospect for more than seventy-five years.

I had hoped that I would be able to give the name and statistical report of all the pastors that served this church at least until 1870. Since that time we have perfect records. I failed to find any records, even annual conference minutes prior to the Civil War except for a few years which I found through the courtesy of Prof. Stone at Oxford College. We found a few old copies of the Georgia Conference which were very meager in the statistical reports. I give them as follows: 1838 Decatur Circuit, Cherokee District, A. Pennington pastor, J. H. McArver junior preacher. White members 566, colored members 74. Eight local preachers. 1846, J. B. Jackson, Pastor. 1847, A. Ray pastor, E. Spoor, Junior preacher. 1848 and 49, J. W. Yarborough pastor, Winn Junior preacher. 1850, Noah Smith pastor, Neese junior preacher. 1851 J. L. Smith pastor, J. E. Sentell Junior Preacher. 1852, R. Lane Pastor, J. R. Owens junior preacher. 1853, J. L. Davies pastor, W. M. Watts junior preacher. 1854 J. H. Ewing pastor. 1855, Dahlonoga District, Albert Gray Pastor. White members 1150, colored 329. Paid Missions \$55.00. Conference Collections \$18.00. 1856, Alford Dorman pastor; H. H. Parks presiding elder. 1857, J. M. Armstrong pastor, white members 457, colored members 152. Paid Mission \$91.00, conference collection \$16.00. Sunday School \$4.00. 1858, Atlanta District A. Maulsby pastor. White members 417, colored members 176. Paid Missions \$87.00, Conference \$21.00. 1859, N. E. Ousley Pastor, White members 393, colored members 175. Conference Collections \$14.75. Ousley-Chappell in Dekalb County was organized by this preacher and named for him. 1860, T. T. Arnold pastor, J. W. Yarborough presiding Elder. White members 534, colored members 200. Conference Collections \$15.05. 1861, J. H. Mashburn pastor. J. W. Yarborough presiding elder.

1862, J. M. Lowry pastor, 1863 -- Williams, pastor, 1864, H. Crawford pastor, Walter Branham, presiding elder. 1865-66, J. J. Morgan pastor. 1867, W. A. Dodge pastor, Habersham Adams, Presiding Eldor. White members 563. Paid pastor \$198. Paid Presiding Elder \$12.00. Conference collection \$10.00, missions \$130.00. 1868, W. A. Dodge pastor. This is the first record I have found where the amount paid the preacher was stated; how our preachers lived in those days on the little pittance paid them is something for us to think about. There was no work too poor or too hard for these consecrated men to serve. You observe in these ante-bellum days the Negroes were members of our churches. They had no organization of their own until they were freed. A few seats in the rear of the church was reserved for them. Some of them were very zealous and loved the church, and were religious in their homes. They also had among them preachers full of the Holy Ghost.

I would not forget to speak of the Exhorter we had in those days. They were a class of men who did a lot of good, and were often used by the preacher in closing the services by exhortation, song, and prayer. I mention one that in the long ago belonged to this church, Elijah Boggs. He was unlearned, not knowing a letter in the book, but knew many hymns and much scripture by memory. His exhortation and prayers were full of the Holy Ghost and Power and would reach the hearts of the people.

In the last fifty years we have had quite a number of preachers whose talents, lives, and all that they had were consecrated to the church and Kingdom of our Heavenly Father; endeavoring to help the Christian to a better life and the sinners to repent and be saved. Such men are worthy of our appreciation and gratitude. They are Rev's. Jesse Boring, James Ivans, F. B. Davies, G. E. Gardner, C. C. Casey, W. T. Lane, W. A. Farris, W. W. Lampkin, Walter Yarborough, W. M. D. Bond, W. A. Simmons, W. P. Smith, J. R. Mason, J. T. Christian, H. M. Newton, W. M. Winn, M. W. Arnold, W. F. Robinson, J. W. Quillan, W. B. Dillard, C. V. Weathers, J. S. Sappington, A. D. Echols, R. M. Dixon, A. C. Cantrell, V. E. Landford, and C. P. Garey, our present beloved pastor. Most of these have gone to their Mansion above.

When we look up to Heaven with an eye of faith and behold the large volume of prayers uttered by these Saints, from the beginning down to this good day, for us and our beloved church, we ought to take fresh courage and strive to be better men and women than ever before. We should appreciate more and more what our ancestors have done for us, and thank God most sincerely for the church and all these good men and women, and especially for His Son our Savior who gave himself for us that we might have everlasting life.

May Heavens richest blessing be with you and the future members of Prospect. And some sweet day may we form an unbroken church in the paradise of our Father.

This history is dedicated to the memory of my precious mother, who was a charter member and the last surviving one, she passed over in her one-hundred and second year.

Respectfully Submitted,
(signed)

Written:
September 28, 1919.

S. T. McElroy

Post Script: (Requested to be added to the above by one of the granddaughters of S. T. McElroy)

The Mother of the writer, S. T. McElroy was formerly Margaret Tilly, wife of William McElroy. She is still remembered by many of the older members of Prospect. She was familiarly known as Aunt Margaret but more affectionately known as "Grannie McElroy".

(second part of history continued on next page)

In 1920, and for the next three years, Uncle Nath Thompson preached and worked and saw six class rooms added, by taking from the auditorium to make four and adding two with entrance on front.

In 1926, under the leadership of J. W. O. McKibben, Pastor, the 100th Anniversary of the Church was planned. October 31, 1926 was a great day, one ever to be remembered by those present.

Sunday School at 10:00 o'clock. Preaching by A. Candler. Text - John 21:3 - "I Go A-Fishing", an able sermon. At noon dinner for all in the grove. In the afternoon an Anniversary Program. As complete a history of the church as could possibly be made, after weeks of study by S. T. McElrey, was read by him and if it is available, will be placed in safe-keeping for the church in later years. At the close of the program a big Birthday Cake with 100 candles was sliced and divided among the older members and visitors.

Also, during the pastorate of Rev. McKibben, the property lines were established and marked. The old silver communion service, consisting of two goblets, pitcher and two plates were replaced with a new individual service costing \$65.00.

Following the pastorate of Rev. McKibben, Rev. A. J. Sears served faithfully for one year. Beginning in 1927, three years of faithful service were given by Dr. T. M. Elliott, S. P. Wiggins, Presiding Elder.

Then came a change from North Atlanta District into Decatur-Oxford District; R. Z. Tyler, Presiding Elder and J. J. Copeland pastor for two years. Rev. E. P. Eybanks served well for the next three years followed by Rev. H. C. Stratton - Dr. Wallace Rogers, Presiding Elder.

For five years Rev. Stratton labored with love and helped push forward the building of the West wing of the church for classrooms and also rest rooms, Mrs. Stratton guided the organization of the Young Women's Service Guild. The Guild is now growing and active and a great blessing to the cause of the church at present.

1940 - Dr. E. G. Mackay District Supt. - Rev. E. P. Etheridge Pastor - Change into East Atlanta District. By the untiring help of the pastor, the church was brought up into a place of station having for years been a one-half station with Norcross.

B. L. Barton was the first pastor for full time. During his pastorate a nice brick parsonage was built and furnished. He served two years and was followed by C. E. Brantley. During Rev. Brantley's two years the church auditorium was re-worked throughout - new overhead, new floors, new windows and new furnishings. A Pulpit Bible was given by Mrs. A. J. Sears and Misses Dorothy and Mary (Now Mrs. H. H. Allen) Walker in memory of Rev. A. J. Sears. The Hymnals were given in memory of Mrs. Green, sister of Mrs. Minors. The cross for the communion table given by Mr. and Mrs. S. D. Johnson, Sr. in memory of their parents. Mr. J. W. Purcell donated the Baptismal Pedestal. Each were dedicated at different times, as given, by the pastor.

Rev. J. C. Moore served the next three years and shared in the plans for building the East wing and basement with kitchen, also furnishing most of the class rooms.

Rev. J. Howell Hearn, now closing his second year as pastor, has shared in the work of furnishing the kitchen and had the pleasure of dedicating a new electric organ.

These are a few outstanding developments up to the present. But most important of all regular worship services have been held. It has in the years past and continues to be a place for spiritual uplift and fellowship and a blessing for all who attend.

June 20, 1951

BY: Mrs. C. D. Jones

PROSPECT METHODIST CHURCH

Among the oldest Methodist Churches in DeKalb County is Prospect near Chamblee, organized in 1826.

Formerly the Presbyterians and Methodists worshipped together where the Presbyterian cemetery is today, in a little log building, having the service of a preacher when either Presbyterian or Methodist was available.

Bible classes were held in the different homes on Sabbath afternoons.

When they became strong enough, and could have more regular preaching services they divided, the Presbyterians building a Church in Doraville on the present church site, and the Methodist moving down the road a little distance, toward what is now Chamblee but no town was there at that time.

The present building is the third one and nearer the Peachtree road.

The first one back some distance, a log building built in 1826.

Among the charter members of Prospect church were the Stephen Tilly family, Riddling family, Ballenger family and William McElroy family.

Aunt Margaret McElroy lived into this present generation. Many still remember her. She was the wife of William McElroy. She continued her membership at Prospect Church and died at the age of 101½ years. She was beloved by all who knew her.

Her son, S. T. McElroy, wrote a history of the church.

After a few years a larger log church was built a little nearer the road.

As the community grew in population, so the church grew, and again they planned to build.

In the late 1870's the present building, except the class rooms, was built, being the third since they began in 1826.

In 1905-1910, several of the leading families, including the Metcalfe, Tillys, Edisons, Christians, and others, sold out their farms and moved to Turner County in South Georgia.

They organized a church and named it "Prospect".

It was such a blow to the church that despondency and failure seemed to gain right of way.

DE KALB COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

But for the encouragement, and scriptural challenge given from the pulpit by the Pastor, Rev. J. S. T. Sappington, it might have been harder.

In 1919 Rev. Nath Thompson served and six classrooms were added to the auditorium.

In 1926 under the leadership of Pastor J. W. O. McKibben, the 100th Anniversary was carefully planned. It was on Oct. 31, a great day, one ever to be remembered by those present.

A sermon was preached in the morning by A. Candler, text, "I go a fishing". John 21:3. An able sermon.

Dinner was served in the grove for all.

In the afternoon there was an anniversary program.

A history of the church, as complete as could possibly be found, was read by S. T. McElroy. He had spent weeks in the preparation of it.

No one knows where it is at present, but he hopes to find it and place it in safe keeping for the church in later years.

Following the reading of the history, a large beautiful birthday cake was out and passed to the older members and visitors.

During the 4 years pastorate of Rev. McKibben the lines of church property were established and marked; the old silver communion service consisting of 2 goblets, pictures and plates were replaced with a new individual service costing \$65.00.

The next pastor, Rev. T. M. Elliott served 3 years. S. P. Wiggins was the Presiding Elder.

J. J. Copland was pastor for the next two years, with a change into the Decatur-Oxford District. R. Z. Tyler was the Presiding Elder.

E. P. Eubanks was pastor for the next 3 years. He was followed by Rev. H. O. Stratton for five years. Dr. Wallace Rogers was Presiding Elder.

Mrs. Stratton guided the organization of young women's Service Guild which is today growing and active and a great blessing to the Church.

In 1940 the West wing was added to give more space for classes. Dr. E. G. Mackay was District Superintendent and Rev. E. P. Ethridge, pastor. Their untiring efforts brought the church into the place of a station.

S. L. Barton was the first full time pastor. He served 2 years.

A parsonage was built alongside the church yard.

Rev. G. E. Brantley served for the next 2 years, and during this time the church auditorium was reworked throughout. New overhead, new floors, new windows.

A pulpit Bible was given by Mrs. Sears, Miss Dorothy Walker and Mrs. H. B. Allen in memory of Rev. A. J. Sears.

The hymnals were given in memory of Mrs. Green, sister of Mrs. Minors.

Mr. & Mrs. S. D. Johnson, Sr., gave the cross for the communion table in memory of their parents.

Mr. Furell donated the Baptismal pedestal. Each of these were dedicated at the time they were given.

Rev. J. O. Moore served for 3 years, and the East Wing of the church and basement with kitchen were added.

Rev. J. Howell Hearn, present pastor is finishing his second year as pastor. A new electric *organ* was bought and dedicated by him.

These are a few outstanding developments up to date. But most important of all, regular worship services have been held. It has, and continues to be a place for spiritual uplift and fellowship and blessings for all who attend.

Copied from record owned by Mrs. Carlos Jones of Doraville, Ga.

This record was copied by Louise Haygood Trotti from the old Bible formerly owned by Samuel McElroy, published in Philadelphia in 1855. It is now in the possession of his direct descendant Mrs. Carlos Delos Jones of Doraville, Georgia (Sept. 1931)

MARRIAGES

Samuel McElroy Jun. of Anderson District, S.C. and Nancy Martin McElroy of Meelenburg District, N.C., were married March 1st in the year of our Lord 1830 by Rev'd William Blackstock.

DEATHS

Nancy M. McElroy departed this life March 1st, 1871, lacking 4 days of living 63 years of age.

John T. P. McElroy departed this life Nov. 12th, 1875.

Samuel B. McElroy departed this life Aug. 13th, 1862, in the Hospital at Wyander, Va.

Samuel McElroy departed this life March the 11th, 1880.

Martha N. Akin departed this life July 20th, 1894, aged 54 years, 4 days, died minutes after 7 o'clock in the evening. Funeral preached by J. W. Quillian.

Page inserted.

Martha D. McElroy was born August the 12th 1795.

John McElroy was born March the 23rd, 1797.

Wannah McElroy was born April the 15th 1799.

Rachel A. McElroy was born June the 1st, 1802.

James S. McElroy was born November the 8th, 1804.

Nancy M. McElroy was born March the 11th 1806.

Elizabeth H. McElroy was born March the 25th, 1808.

Wm. McElroy was born October the 8th, 1810.

Sally S. McElroy was born June the 30th, 1812.

BIRTHS

Samuel Bryson McElroy was born October 11th in the Year of Our Lord 1831. Baptised by Rev'd Eleazer Harris.

Mary Elizabeth McElroy was born September 16th in the Year of our Lord 1834. Baptized by Rev. Henry Bryson.

John T. Presley McElroy was born January 6th in the Year of Our Lord 1837. Baptized Rev. Thomas Turner.

Nancy Martha McElroy was born July 16th in the Year of our Lord 1840. Baptized Rev. Thomas Turner.

DE KALB COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mrs. Jones of Doraville, owner of the old Bible from which this record was copied, said that the people listed on the inserted page were her maternal grandmother's family. She married her cousin.

The Bible was published in Philadelphia by Jesper Harding in 1858.

Her mother was Nancy Martha McElroy, who married James Franklin Aiken.

Nancy Martha McElroy was the daughter of Samuel McElroy, owner of the Bible originally.

"I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord."—Psalm 122:1.

CHURCH OFFICERS

HOWELL HEARN Pastor
HERMAN LOYD Superintendent of Sunday School
S. D. JOHNSON Chairman of Board of Stewards
MRS. C. B. WALLACE President of W. S. C. S.
MARTHA LOUISE SMITH President W. S. G.
MARVIN LOYD Church Treasurer
BILL WILLIAMS Organist
M. C. HYDE District Steward
MRS. RUTH MENDENHALL Recording Steward

STEWARDS

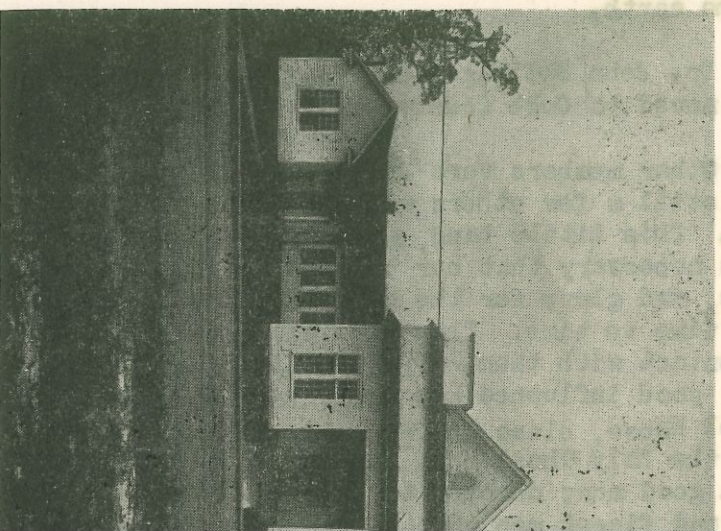
S. D. JOHNSON Chairman
H. H. Allen, Robert F. Brown, William H. Craig, Tom Galloway,
Glynn Hinshaw, Lamar Hyde, M. C. Hyde, C. A. Johnston,
Quinn Long, Marvin Loyd, Thurmon McCoy, J. T. Patter-
son, Roy Payne, George Pierce, Sr., Wesley Pressley,
Grady Smith, G. E. Smith, J. C. Strader, Bill Tapp,
Burnett Walker, C. B. Wallace

TRUSTEES

GEORGE PIERCE, SR. Chairman
Gus Hudgins, Jesse Lawson, J. C. Loyd, Dr. W. A. Mendenhall,
R. E. Pounds, J. M. Tapp, W. D. Wallace

HONORARY STEWARDS

Dr. J. E. Flowers, Paul Tapp.



Prospect **Methodist**
Chamblee, Ga

J. HOWELL HEARN
Phone 290

"Whosoever thou art that
remember it is the House of God
it not without one prayer to God
who minister, and for those who
Worship Service Each Sunday

OUR CHURCH

First Methodist was organized in 1826. It was then named Prospect. Two and one-half acres of land were acquired. Records of the transaction were lost in the 1844 Courthouse fire. Executors of the estate of J. W. Reeves issued a warranty deed in 1855. Six acres were purchased in 1895, and three more in 1901.

The first Church was an unheated log structure. In 1847 a rough board building replaced it. The third Church was built in 1885. Church School rooms were added in 1937 and in 1947. A three story Education Building was completed in 1955. These were located at 5588 Peachtree Road.

By a vote of the Congregation the name was changed from Prospect to First Methodist in 1961.

In 1963 the Congregation voted to relocate. Old Chamblee was giving way to Industrial Development. Thirty-eight and one-tenth acres were purchased at 4147 Chamblee-Dunwoody Road.

The present Georgian Structure was begun in 1965.



First Methodist Church

4147 CHAMBLEE-DUNWOODY ROAD

CHAMBLEE, GEORGIA

DEKALB HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P. O. BOX 501
DECATUR, GA. 30030

MORNING WORSHIP
 (Fourth Sunday after Epiphany Day (color: green)
 11:00 a.m.

And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord,
 and not unto men. Colossians 3: 23

The Prelude "Sonata" -Mendelssohn
 The Lighting of the Candles Acolytes
 The Call to Worship
 *The Processional 35 "For the Beauty of the Earth" "DIX"
 *The Invocation **
 The Prayer of General Confession 727
 The Prayer for Pardon
 The Lord's Prayer
 Minister: O Lord, open our lips.
 People: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.
 Minister: Praise the Lord.
 People: The Lord's name be praised.
 *The Psalter "Thou Art My God" 574
 *The Gloria Patri **
 The Anthem "Father, Lord of All Creation" -Scoggin
 The Scripture Lesson 1 Cor. 1: 18-31
 * John 12: 20-36a
 *The Affirmation of Faith **
 Leader: The Lord be with you.
 People: And with your spirit.
 Leader: Let us pray.
 The Pastoral Prayer
 Recognition of Acolytes and Junior Altar Guild Members
 The Offertory "But The Lord Is Mindful--" Ann Dulin
 The Presentation of Tithes and Offerings
 The Hymn 143 "My Faith Looks Up To Thee"
 "OLIVET"
 The Sermon The Rev. Charles H. Duffey
 9:00 and 11:00 "The Growing Edge of Life"
 7:00 p.m. "A Soul Upon My Heart"
 The Invitation to Christian Discipleship
 The Hymn 166 "Lord Jesus I Love Thee" "GORDON"
 The Extinguishing of the Candles Acolytes
 *The Benediction *Congregation will please stand.
 **Ushers will seat worshippers.

CHURCH CALENDAR

January 30, 1972
 9:00 Morning Worship
 9:45 Church School
 10:00 Confirmation Class
 11:00 Morning Worship
 2:30 Lay Speaker-Embry Hill
 5:30 Youth Ministry
 7:00 Evening Worship
 MONDAY
 3:00 Girl Scouts
 9:00 Day Kindergarten
 Registration
 7:30 Lay Speaker District
 Training
 TUESDAY
 7:30 Finance Committee
 8:00 Worship Committee
 8:00 Womens Chorus
 WEDNESDAY
 9:00 Sharing Group
 9:00 Mothers Day Out
 10:00 WSCS Executives
 5:45 Childrens Choirs
 6:45 Mid-Week Fellowship
 Forum Class
 7:30 Institute Evangelism
 8:00 Chancel Choir
 THURSDAY
 9:45 YWCA
 3:00 Girl Scouts
 7:30 Institute Evangelism
 7:00 Girl Scouts
 7:00 Boy Scouts
 7:30 Tops Club
 FRIDAY
 7:30 Institute Evangelism
 SATURDAY
 9:30 a.m. Boy Choir
 8:00 Chamblee AA

USHERS

James Graham, Richard Hick-
 man, Donn Hoffer, H. O.
 Cravey, William Perry, Rob-
 ert Biggers, Selwyn Taylor,
 Howell Gower

LOVELY FLOWERS

At our altar today are plac-
 ed there to the Glory of God
 and in honor of Wesleyan Ser-
 vice Guild Week. They are the
 offering of the Women's Society
 of Christian Service.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome Mr. and Mrs. Carl
 N. Smith of 2389 Riverglenn Ct.
 Chamblee, into our Fellowship.
 They come to us from Parkway
 Presbyterian Church, Metairie,
 Louisiana.

We welcome Mr. & Mrs. Edward
 B. Mitchell(Rose Ann) into our
 fellowship. Along with their
 children, Edward and Ellen,
 they live at 1359 Brawley Cir.
 Atlanta. They come from Briar-
 cliff United Methodist, Atlanta.

INSTITUTE ON EVANGELISM

On Wed., Thurs., and Friday,
 February 2, 3, and 4 at 7:30
 p.m. Dr. Reynolds W. Greene,
 Jr., Program Director of Evan-
 gelism in this conference and
 newly elected Vice-Pres. of
 the United Methodist National
 Council on Evangelism, will
 lead our Institute.

CHURCHWIDE MISSION STUDY

Feb. 13, 20, and 27 on Sun-
 day nights from 6:00 to 8:00
 p.m. Are you reading all you
 can about Africa in prepara-
 tion for our study? Are you
 following "The Search for the
 Nile" on WSB-TV - Tuesday
 nights at 7:30?

W.S.C.S. Executives at 10:00
 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 2nd.

CITY OF DECATUR SESQUICENTENNIAL

Other Events: You are invited to visit the Decatur Sesquicentennial Art Exhibition at the old DeKalb courthouse, the DeKalb Historical Society archives also at the old courthouse, and the historic Swanton House on Trinity Place all of which will be open during the Sesquicentennial celebration through next week.

Decatur History: Caroline Clarke was asked by the Sesquicentennial Committee to prepare a new history of our City. Copies are available in the Narthex of the Church at a cost of \$6.00, to those who are interested.

Participating Churches: We are grateful to the ministers and members of the following Churches for making this significant event possible.

Antioch AME Church
Church of the Nazarene
Columbia Presbyterian Church
Decatur Heights Baptist Church
Decatur Presbyterian Church
Evergreen Baptist Church
First Baptist Church of Decatur
First Christian Church of Decatur
First United Methodist Church of Decatur
Holy Trinity Parish, Inc.
Lily Hill Baptist Church
Little Friendship Baptist Church
Lutheran Church of the Messiah
Mt. Zion Baptist Church
Oakhurst Baptist Church
Oakhurst Presbyterian Church
St. Thomas More Catholic Church
Thankful Baptist Church
Trinity Presbyterian Church

Music: We are grateful to Mr. Wayne Grinstead First Baptist Church of Decatur, for coordinating the music for this service and leading the joint choir. Others participating with him are Mr. Henry McDowell, Decatur First United Methodist Church, Mr. Eugene Slaughter, Thankful Baptist Church, and Margaret Walker, Organist, Decatur First Baptist.

SUBJECT FILES - Box 15
FIRST METHODIST OF DECATUR



SESQUICENTENNIAL SERVICE
NOVEMBER 18, 1973

SERVICE OF WORSHIP AND THANKSGIVING

commemorating

The Sesquicentennial of Decatur, Georgia

November 18, 1973

5:00 P.M.

William W. Lancaster, Presiding

PRELUDE:

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

arr. Edmundson

"O God Our Help In Ages Past"

arr. Matthews

"Now Thank Thee All Our God"

Bach-Means

CHORAL INTROIT - FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CHOIR

PREPARATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Ralph L. Smith

Minister: Let us worship God. Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

CONGREGATION: AT THE NAME OF JESUS, EVERY KNEE SHOULD BOW AND EVERY TONGUE CONFESS THAT JESUS IS LORD, TO THE GLORY OF GOD THE FATHER.

Minister: Praise the Lord.

CONGREGATION: THE LORD'S NAME BE PRAISED.

* HYMN OF PRAISE -- No. 465 "God of Grace"

Hughes

* INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER

Lawrence W. Bottoms

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON --- Psalm 103

Cecil W. Carpenter

ANTHEM --- "O God Our Help in Ages Past"

arr. Whitney

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHANCEL CHOIR

Henry McDowell, Director

Trumpets: John Galloway, Jim Stroupe, Quillian Thornton

INTERCESSION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION L. Bevel Jones

DEDICATION

OFFERTORY ANTHEM --- "How Great Thou Art" Hine

THANKFUL BAPTIST CHURCH CHOIR

Eugene Slaughter, Director

OFFERTORY PRAYER

John E. Talford

PROCLAMATION

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON -- Ephesians 5:15-20 W. Leon Tucker

ANTHEM-- "Amazing Grace"

Joint Choirs

SERMON -- "A CITY'S THANKSGIVING"

Wallace McPherson Alston

RESPONSE

PRAYER

J. Davison Philips

*HYMN NO. 366 "Blest Be The Tie"

Nageli

BENEDICTION

Thomas J. Flanagan

POSTLUDE: "Hymn in Improvisation on 'God of Grace and God of Glory'"

* Congregation standing

Sesquicentennial Service: Under the chairmanship of Mrs. Caroline M. Clarke and Julius A. McCurdy, the Committee on Decatur's 150th Anniversary has projected this Service of Thanksgiving as one of the major events of the year. The Sesquicentennial Service committee was chaired by Dr. J. Davison Philips.

In this Thanksgiving Season, we can say of our City, "Other men have labored and we have entered into their labors." In gratitude, we dedicate ourselves also, to serve this present age.

1968 cont. WSCS became UMW and Men's Club became United Methodist Men.

1969
Drama Ministry and Family Camping programs began.

1971
North Georgia Conference & the former all black Georgia Conference merged to form the current North Georgia Conference of the Methodist Church.

1972
Easter Sunrise services were begun for the community.

July, we dedicated the Dora & Carlos Jones Memorial Activities Building.

Doorstep Mission was organized

A new adult co-ed class was formed called Outreach.

The first Drama Camp was held.

1975
The first Single's Sunday School Class was formed.

The Balloon note was retired.

The average Sunday School attendance was 510, first place in the Atlanta/Emory district.

1976
A year long celebration of the church's sesquicentennial was observed. (150yrs.)

The entire mortgage of the new facility was paid. Our membership was 1703.

1980
The present Sanctuary was completed & the first service was held Easter Sunday, April 6, 1980. It was dedicated September 14th.

Scout Hut construction was completed.

1982
Installation of our beautiful Moller organ was completed. On February 13, 1983 a service of dedication was held with a recital by Sue Goddard.

1985
First youth service project to Appalachian Service Project. Through donations and money raised by our youth, building supplies were purchased and our youth & adult volunteers went on a mission trip to repair homes in Appalachia.

1986
Pathfinders, a new singles class is formed.

1987
The Delta Singles Class is formed

1989
Work on the new kitchen was completed.

The Chamblee Single Christians, a ministry to single adults was formed.

First youth service project to Rural Mission/ Johns Island South Carolina.

1991
Debt was retired on the Kitchen, and through a generous gift from the Hickman family the debt was also retired on the Sanctuary.

The Agape Class for young couples was formed.

1992
25th anniversary of our move to the Chamblee Dunwoody location, and 166 years of commitment to Jesus Christ. We are planning a big celebration on May 17th.

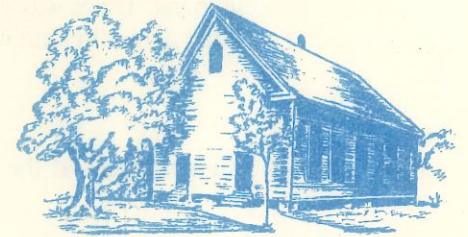
The church membership is 1532

We are grateful for those who have contributed to our rich history, while at the same time we press on to the future, and say with the Apostle Paul, "I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 3:14

CHAMBLEE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

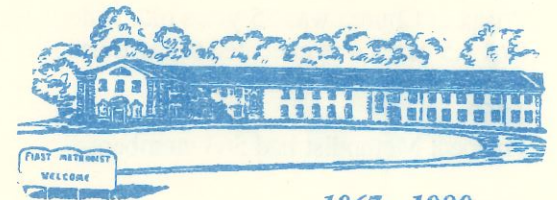
Established 1826



1847 - 1885



1885 - 1966



1967 - 1980



1980 - 1992

OUR ROOTS

1822

Georgia legislature formed DeKalb County

1826

Prospect Methodist Church was founded. Since the Methodists had no building, they worshiped for a time with the Presbyterians. There was preaching when a preacher of either denomination was available.

1844

First reference to Sunday School at the Prospect Church.

1846

First conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church South.

1847

We do not have a date for the first building, but the second church building on the Peachtree Road site was erected at this time. It was a frame structure with no ceiling, undressed floor boards and no heat.

1851

Prospect Church was 25 years old. A deed for the first 2.5 acres was executed to the trustees.

1867

Prospect Methodist had 563 members.

1873

A railroad was completed through the area, then known as Roswell Junction.

1885

Roswell Junction became Chamblee.

The third church building was erected directly in front of the 1847 structure.

1895

Six additional acres of land purchased for \$245.

1897

Chamblee & Norcross churches became a Station with the pastor residing in the Norcrossparsonage

1901

75th Anniversary. Three additional acres were purchased.

1905

Women's Missionary Society was organized.

1918

Men's Bible Class and Ladies' Bible Class formed.

1926

100th anniversary of Prospect Methodist Church.

1933

Women's Missionary Society became Women's Society of Christian Service and Young Women's Service Guild was formed.

1938

Forum Class was formed for young couples and Pilot Class was formed for young men.

1940

Prospect became a full station; Rev. B.L. Barton was the first full time pastor.

1942

Brick parsonage on Peachtree Road was built.

1946

Fidelis Class was formed for young matrons.

1948

A Scouting program was started.

1951

125th anniversary of Prospect Methodist Church celebrated on November 29th.

1953

A second co-ed class was formed-The Glow Class

1956

The Wesley Class (a third co-ed class) was formed

1957

The Kindergarten program was started.

1959

Faith Class, a new class for young couples began. The first sound system was installed.

1961

Name changed from Prospect Methodist to First Methodist Church, Chamblee. Membership was 972.

1963

The congregation voted to relocate to the present site on Chamblee Dunwoody Road.

1965

The first library was established, and revived again after a few years at our present site.

1966

Church membership is now 1243, with a Sunday School membership of 880.

1967

January 1, the first service was held at the new site on Chamblee Dunwoody Road in what is now the Fellowship Hall. Approximately 1000 attended.

December 3, a consecration service was held for the new parsonage on Wyndale Court.

1968

In April the General Conference of the Methodist Church & the Evangelical United Brethren consummated a union and our name was changed to First United Methodist Church, Chamblee.

That summer the Official Bd. became the Administrative Board and the Policy Committee became the Council on Ministries.

Church Briefs

Churches Join Bedford-Pines Project

Methodist churches throughout the North and East DeKalb area are involved this month in a project to help out people living in the inner city Bedford-Pines section where food and clothes are desperately needed after the recent bad weather. Two churches in North DeKalb are participating—Dunwoody United Methodist and Chamblee First United Methodist.

Dunwoody United Methodist asks church members to bring non-perishable foods and clothes to Sunday School classes on Sunday morning, Feb. 11. Those to bring contributions to the worship service are asked to leave them in the large room off the narthex.

Money is also acceptable as a gift. There will be a special presentation at 3 p.m. on that day to the Fort Street United Methodist Church on Boulevard, just north of Georgia Baptist Hospital. Everyone is invited to come. The project is part of the Key 73 program.

Chamblee First United Methodists are requesting members to bring donations of food and clothing to the 12th grade classroom no later than Feb. 7. All commodities will be taken to Fort Street Methodist on Feb. 11.

In other news at the churches, Dunwoody United Methodist is urging high schools students in grades 10 through 12 to attend special meetings with representatives from a number of area colleges. Representatives from the following 10 private colleges will be present: Andrew, Berry, Clark, Oglethorpe, Oxford, Reinhardt, LaGrange, Young Harris, Wesleyan and Crawford Long School of Nursing. The meetings will all be held between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Dates are: Feb. 13, Holiday Inn off Interstate 20 west at Fulton Industrial Boulevard; Feb. 15, Nantucket Restaurant (Roadway Inn) at 3393 Lenox Rd. across from Lenox Square. The representatives will answer any questions concerning admissions, studies, financial aid and campus life. Parents and counselors are welcome.

Chamblee First United Methodist announces that its Drama Club is planning a spring production of the play "Funny Girl." Tryouts will be on Feb. 26 and 27 at the Georgia Retardation Center from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Those who wish to schedule an appointment to try out should contact Mrs. Cauthen. She will be available for 15 minute appointments at the

*Ark. News Sun
3/14/90*

101



Chamblee Methodist Presents 'Oklahoma!'

The Drama Ministry of Chamblee United Methodist Church and the Georgia Retardation Center are proud to announce the cast of their upcoming production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Oklahoma!" The newly refurbished theatre will once again ring with music, dancing, and laughter as audiences thrill to this musical comedy classic. Under the direction of Yatesy Harvey and the musical direction of Allen Baston, the show will run March 16, 17, 23 and 24 at the theatre on the campus of the Georgia Retardation Center at 4770 North Peachtree Road in Dunwoody. Playing the role of Curly will be Antonio Cimino with Brenda Scott as Laurey. Janet Cauthen will appear as Aunt Eller, Beth Harvey as Ado Annie, Kevin Whitley as Will Parker, John Jamgochian as Jud Fry, Tom Frederick as Ali Hakim, Terri Baston as Gertie, Derk Simonson as Ike, Nat Tieman as Mr. Carnes and Clyde Cauthen as Cord Elam. Dana Montroy and Keith McGriff will appear as featured dancers. Other members of the ensemble include Barbara Banta, Vic Beton, Michael Bolin, Ruth Elllyn, Lucy and Leah Brooks, Peggy Bryant, Sal Cimino, Brenda Cone, Jay Conn, Wynn Everett, Carol Frey, Nancy Goodroe, Brenda, Jennifer and Wilson George, Lenore Guireri, Debbie Hall, Laura Hammond, Ed Harris, Julia Hastings, Barbara Hickman, Jennifer Jones, Dottie Kassem, Carlye Ketchem, Becky McCants, Kendall McEntyre, Jenne Miller, Shari Olm, Lynn Parker, Shirley Pendleton, Elizabeth Richert, Cliff Riviere, Al Sanders, Polly Short, Betty Jean Spann, Leslie Wade, Marilyn White, Theresa Williams, and Michelle Wood. For ticket information, call Ann Harris at 449-9123 or 449-9490 or Chamblee Methodist at 457-2525. Pictured, left to right, are Brenda Scott, Antonio Liminio, Kevin Whitley and Beth Harvey.



Johnny Crawford/Staff

Margie McAfee leaves the First United Methodist Church on Chamblee-Dunwoody Road with a box of toys Friday night. She and other parents selected gifts for children who otherwise would have none for Christmas.

12 shows

5x + free

12/21/89

Mission letting families 'shop,' preserve dignity

By Lillian Guevara-Castro

Staff writer

Parents in needy households often miss the joy of being the gift bearers during this holiday season.

But volunteers at a doorstep mission in Chamblee say they've found a way to preserve the dignity of the families they help by letting them "shop" for their own Christmas gifts.

"We try to keep the dignity in [helping], that's the way it should be," said Elsie Massey, who has chaired the Doorstep Mission at the First United Methodist Church on Chamblee-Dunwoody Road for the last 17 years.

The First United Methodist Church in Chamblee and about 15 other area churches of varied denominations help needy families with clothes, food and even job training and placement throughout the year. According to Ms. Massey, it's the winter months that bear down on families already in difficult situations.

"Our worst times are from August to February. People can get out and do things during spring and summer, but things get harder during the cold months. That's when we have to double up at church to help," she said. "Most of the people we get are in desperate situations and cannot do things for their children at Christmas."

The pre-Christmas "shopping" program allows families that otherwise would have no Christmas gifts select from new and almost-new toys, clothes and books at no charge, to surprise their children with on Dec. 25.

This year children who accompany their parents can do

*The pre-Christmas
"shopping" allows
families that otherwise
would have no
Christmas gifts to
select some at no
charge.*

some shopping of their own for adult items, and another addition to the program this year is a special section for pre-teens, said Ms. Massey.

"Most of the things we got this year are new. But we start in August to check everything to make sure that it is clean and working," she said.

She said about 270 children will receive at least one gift this Christmas, thanks to donations made by individuals and corporations in the metro Atlanta area.

Although the holiday season proves to be the busiest for the doorstep mission, Ms. Massey said the ill and needy require more than just seasonal help to get back on their feet.

She said educational programs such as preparation for the GED, reading and writing classes, and classes to teach families how to budget their finances are offered throughout the year.

"The idea is to get that person back into the work force. Christmas is not the only time people get hungry," she said.

For information on First Methodist Doorstep Mission projects, call Elsie Massey at 457-3241 or 458-1934.

"I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord."—Psalm 122:1.

CHURCH OFFICERS

- HOWELL HEARN *Pastor*
 HERMAN LOYD *Superintendent of Sunday School*
 S. D. JOHNSON *Chairman of Board of Stewards*
 MRS. C. B. WALLACE *President of W. S. C. S.*
 MARTHA LOUISE SMITH *President W. S. G.*
 MARVIN LOYD *Church Treasurer*
 BILL WILLIAMS *Organist*
 M. C. HYDE *District Steward*
 MRS. RUTH MENDENHALL *Recording Steward*

STEWARDS

- S. D. JOHNSON *Chairman*
 H. H. Allen, Robert F. Brown, William H. Craig, Tom Galloway,
 Glynn Hinshaw, Lamar Hyde, M. C. Hyde, C. A. Johnston,
 Quinn Long, Marvin Loyd, Thurmon McCoy, J. T. Patter-
 son, Roy Payne, George Pierce, Sr., Wesley Pressley,
 Grady Smith, G. E. Smith, J. C. Strader, Bill Tapp,
 Burnett Walker, C. B. Wallace

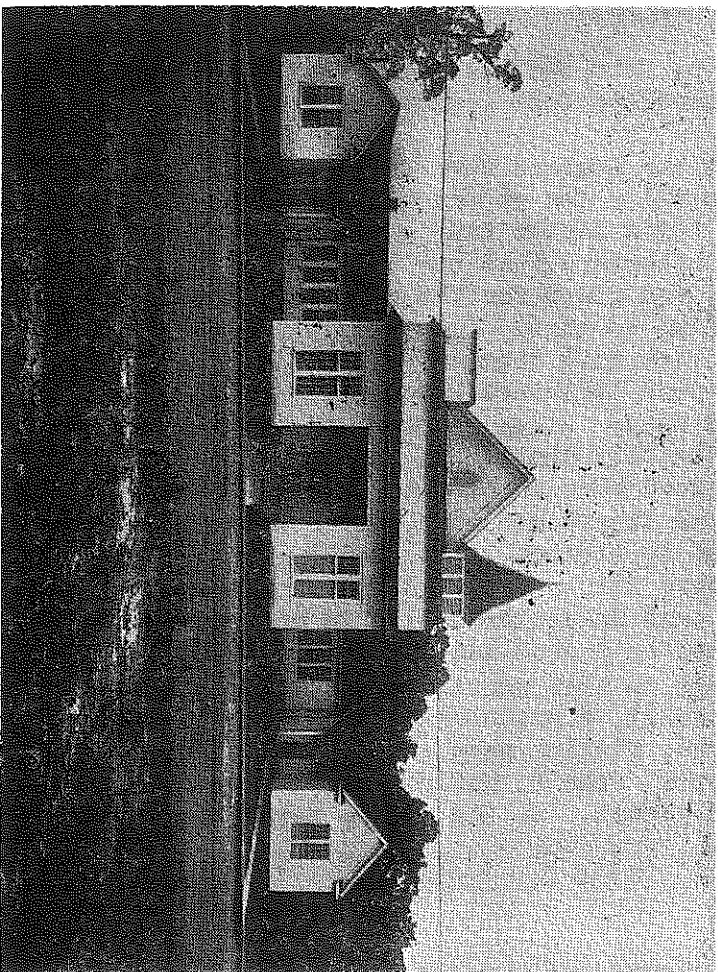
TRUSTEES

- GEORGE PERCE, SR. *Chairman*
 Gus Hudgins, Jesse Lawson, J. C. Loyd, Dr. W. A. Mendenhall,
 R. E. Pounds, J. M. Tapp, W. D. Wallace

HONORARY STEWARDS

- Dr. J. E. Flowers, Paul Tapp.

Prospect Methodist Church
 Chamblee, Georgia



J. HOWELL HEARN, *Pastor*
 Phone 2041

"Whosoever thou art that enterest this church, please remember it is the House of God; be thoughtful, and leave it not without one prayer to God for thyself, one for those who minister, and for those who worship here."

Worship Service Each Sunday, Morning and Evening