

Clarkston WSCS

Plans Bazaar

At Church

Clarkston United Methodist has planned a bazaar, Saturday, Nov. 18, sponsored by the Women's Society of Christian Service from 9:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the church.

Mrs. Charles Cummins is chairman and said the women of all the circles of the W.S.C.S. have been working hard on this event.

Featured will be various Christmas items, a children's corner, baked and canned goods, a country store, a white elephant, hand made items and many other attractions.

A spaghetti supper will be served from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Tickets may be purchased at the door.

The public is invited.

DeLato - Dora Miller

11/18/60

Clarkston United Methodist Church

By

Ruth Moody

Preface

When first asked by the church Board to write a history of the Clarkston United Methodist Church, I accepted the challenge with joyous enthusiasm. As an amateur researcher in our general church history, I had found several facts pertaining to the Clarkston church. With no deadline and no urgency indicated, procrastination followed, but the idea stayed very much alive.

As can be noted this is not written by a professional but by an ordinary person with fifty happy years in this church. As with all history, to some this will be too long or perhaps boring because of a "who cares about the Past?" philosophy. To others it will be too short or incomplete because many accomplishments or persons are not included. Errors are inevitable, omissions are unintentional, plaudits are few and popular acclaim is not expected.

However, the kaleidoscope of almost one hundred years of the Clarkston United Methodist Church shows a picture of undreamed physical growth, of greater spiritual heights still being sought and of God's guidance through dedicated leadership brought forth in each succeeding generation.

Acknowledgements are difficult because of possible omissions. In the United Methodist Church libraries at Lake Junaluska and Emory University were found the few documented and related facts. Fortunately, there are many records stored in our church building, well written but unorganized. These could only be scanned and therefore complete accuracy cannot be assured. The most fascinating and illuminating of all information was obtained from people who have been in the church long enough to remember when! Among those who contributed were Hazel Sutton, Joe Low, Florence Milam, Kitty Kate Riley and Sarah Quinn. All of these, except Joe Low, grew up in the fellowship of this church.

Others interviewed were Mrs. Sadie Partridge, Mrs. Hester, Charlie Hampton and former members -- Mrs. Olive Mauck Reynolds of Atlanta, Mrs. Constance Armstrong -Beauchamp Lindsey of Macon and Candler Weaver of De-

catur. Their recollections of interesting events would make a sparkling story which space here does not permit.

Personal acknowledgements must be made to the formerly named Wesley Fellowship Sunday School Class of which I was the teacher for more than twenty years. In the beginning the members of this class were newlyweds just starting their homes and families. It has been my happy privilege to watch them grow in grace and into almost every responsible position of leadership in the church. The teachers who have served (and are serving) since my retirement were all members of this class previously. This class has become "my family," undergirding me in my weaknesses and sorrows and supporting me in every undertaking. One of them, Mel Ecke, has assisted greatly in the writing of this history and is largely responsible for its printing and publication.

Mrs. Martinson, the church Secretary, and Robin Lindsey, the youth Pastor, provided the many church records for research and Mrs. Martinson also provided an electric heater during the cold days of December, 1975, when this work was being done.

Finally, it was my son John Baker Moody, who produced me out of my lethargy into the consummation of this assignment and typed the original copy.

My major regret is that my residential absence over long periods of time caused me not to know and have close association with those who have joined the church since 1963. No one rejoices more in the stature of our church and in the contributions these persons have made for our enrichment. Our church will be one hundred years old in 1979 and you of today have not only the lighted torch to pass on but also the trumpets to sound and bring forth the "year of Jubilee!" May this unfinished history be the nucleus for a later one to include all of the first one hundred years.

December 1976

Ruth Moody

HISTORY OF CLARKSTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Part I

IN THE BEGINNING

"A remarkable meeting of two weeks duration has just closed at Clarkston. This is a new station on the Georgia Railroad between Decatur and Stone Mountain. When we commenced, we had the "word of promise" of the names of thirteen Methodists. When we closed, we had the "word of promise" fulfilled, a membership of sixty and more to come -- over three hundred dollars toward a church building soon to take the place of the arbor." 1879

These statements are from a local church news item in the Wesleyan Christian Advocate Of October 18, 1879. The headline of the article was "Decatur and Clarkston Circuit, North Georgia Conference, Allen C. Thomas, Pastor." Fortunately this preserved article gives the authentic record of the beginning of the Clarkston Methodist Church. Historically this was not an early date for a Methodist church to be established in this area. DeKalb county was formed in December, 1822 and Methodists were early found moving into the county. They soon established Methodist societies in their homes and built their churches a short time later. Methodism, therefore, was no innovation in DeKalb county in 1879, for Decatur First Methodist Church was founded on or before 1825 and Rock Chapel, near Lithonia, about 1831. The coming of the Georgia Railroad through the county caused some communities to be crystallized into townships. This happened to Clarkston around 1879 and churches were established soon thereafter.

In a very comprehensive, well written history of Clarkston Methodist Church (no date or author shown) are these paragraphs:

"The church grew out of a brush arbor meeting conducted by the Rev. W. F. Smith, Decatur.

(There possibly were two preachers shown in the appointment for Decatur.) The earliest records of these meetings date from 1879 (where are these records today?). The nearby school building was then used as a place of worship. The actual organization of the church took place about 1880. A building committee was appointed. This committee was composed of the following: W. F. Pattillo, I. N. Wilson, Thomas H. Fincher, and J. J. Norman. They secured a grant (lease?) of land from the Georgia Railroad and Banking Company. The labor and materials for a building were contributed by the members of the congregation and a small one-room building became the first church building (Methodist) in Clarkston and this was used by the congregation until the present building was built in 1932."

The families of each member of this Building Committee are listed in the 1880 Census. Since the church was begun in 1879, it is logical to assume they were charter members. However, none of them except Eliza Norman (wife of J. J.) are on the 1890-1900 roll which indicates they had moved or deceased. (See Appendix C for census records.)

PEOPLE MAKE HISTORY

Unfortunately we have no membership roll of our charter members. Our imagination is pricked to know the names of the thirteen people who have their "word of promise" to Rev. Thomas before he preached that two week revival under the brush arbor. Our first pre-served membership roll begins in 1894, fifteen years after the "beginning." By comparing this first roll with the 1880 census for Browning's District (which included Clarkston), we can only make a conjecture that the following families were charter members.

Jonas W. Brand, his wife Eliza, and later his sons George W. Brand and Lyman Brand, were assuredly charter members according to

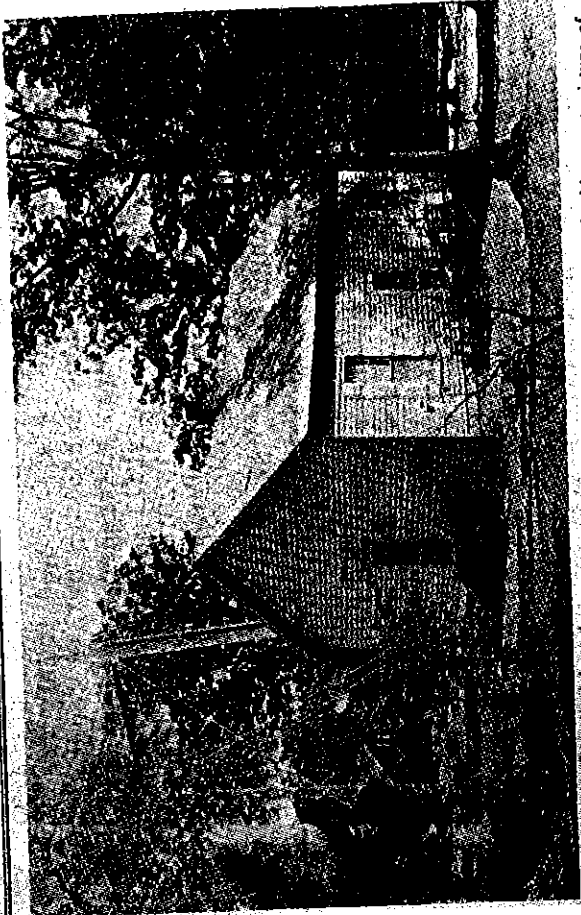
CLARKSTON CLARION

Devoted to Our Boys and Girls at Home and Abroad

Vol. I No. 3

CLARKSTON, GA., NOVEMBER, 1943

\$1.00 Per Year



CLARKSTON'S CITY HALL—Many requests have been made that we publish this recent picture of the City Hall that once was Clarkston's school building. Built about 1880 the only change made since then has been a partition on the inside and the basement that now shelters the Civilian Defense's new five engines. It was in this building that such well-known citizens as Tom and Clem Jolly, Mrs. Frank McLendon, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Johnson, Tom Norton, Mrs. Laura Kimbrell, Mrs. J. C. Estes and W. C. White, of Clarkston; Will Maddox and John Sheppard, of Stone Mountain; Dr. Tom Fincher, of Decatur; our staff photographers, and many, many more grandparents first learned their three R's and the blue-back speller. It is said that as many as 75 pupils were crowded into its one room.—Staff Photo

Jonas Brand's granddaughter, Mrs. H. G. Hester, the present Justice of the Peace at Clarkston. Mr. and Mrs. Jonas W. Brank had several other children who were devout members of the Baptist church and whose descendants are still living in and around Clarkston.

Edward M. Kittredge is the very first name on this earliest roll. He and his wife Eliza and his daughter Emma, who married Mr. William Miller (a later member), are also listed. This is a renowned family for whom Kittredge School in DeKalb County was named. Mrs. Kittredge and Mrs. Miller's names were still on the roll when it was revised in 1920. (See Appendix J for this family's history.)

Edward Arthur Warwick, Sr. and his first wife, who was Martha Shipley. (There are other Shipleys on the first page of the roll -- and they may have been charter members.) Mr. and Mrs. Warwick's son, E. A., Jr., and daughter, Islah Warwick Fitzpatrick, are early names listed.

William C. Moore, his wife Aurelia, their son Robert D. and daughter Gertrude (Miss "Gertie" who became the second wife of Mr. E. A. Warwick).

Nathan M. Lankford and his wife, Lizzie. Their daughters who soon afterward joined the church were Ellie who married Mr. Colingsworth; Nora who married Walter T. White; and Allie, who married T. O. Estes. The last named family remained active in our church until the 1930's. Their children, Nena Estes Black and Ronald Estes are currently active in Atlanta area churches (1975). The 1880 census shows a Mrs. McElreath as mother-in-law of Mr.

Lankford. She could also have been a charter member.

There is one member still on the roll of the church today who joined before 1900. He is Nathan White, whose father, mother and daughter also belonged to the church at that time. Mr. White lives alone in wooded acreage across from North DeKalb Mall.

There are other families on the roll before 1900 whose descendants or near relatives now live in Clarkston. Among these are:

James S. McLendon, father of J. Frank McLendon, grandfather of Mrs. C. H. Riley (Kitty Kate), great grandfather of Anne McLendon Morrow and great, grand-father of Nancy Morrow. Here are five generations of this family who have been staunch members of Clarkston Methodist church. A wonderful record!! Frank McLendon was for many years an official in the church and taught the Men's Bible class in the Sunday School until his death. (The writer wrote her reminiscences of Clarkston church people in 1960 and Mr. McLendon is included there.)

Albert Sydney Johnson, Sr., his wife Ada Louise Bryan, his sisters Mrs. Nettie Johnson Talton, Mrs. Mary Johnson Lewis, Mrs. Mittie Johnson Smith-Henderson, and Mrs. Alice Johnson Weeks; all are on the earliest church roll.

Mrs. Mary Edwards Bryan, grandmother of Ada Bryan Johnson, Jefferson Bryan, Fred Bryan and Essie Singleton Bryan. Mrs. Ada Louise Bryan Johnson was the wife of Albert Sydney Johnson, Sr. Mrs. Mary Edwards Bryan was the distinguished writer, editor, and author of southern literature fame, in

Dixie's Pioneer Woman Novelist Wrote All Her Books at Night; Funeral of Mrs. Bryan Today

The simple funeral services of Mrs. Mary E. Bryan, the novelist, will be conducted at the Methodist church in Clarkston today at 11 o'clock. Dr. Caldwell, the pastor, will be assisted in performing the last rites by Dr. Virgil Norcross, of Atlanta. The interment will take place at Indian Creek.

The life-story of Mrs. Bryan is more interesting than any of the forty-seven novels which came from her pen. Born in the little southern town of Fonda, Jefferson county, Georgia, in 1841, the daughter of a man who was destined to be a major in the Confederate army—John L. Edwards—her early imagination was fired with the romance of ante-bellum days.

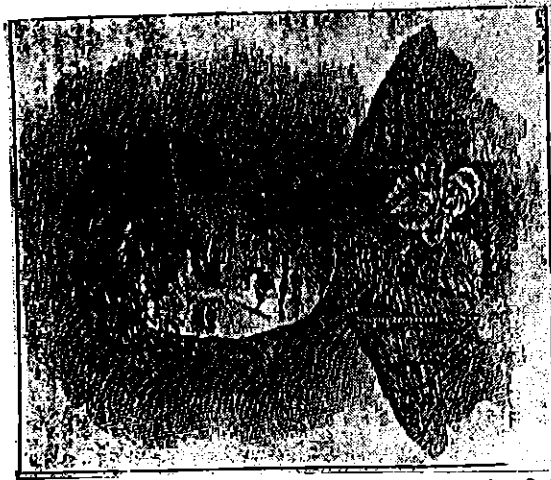
Married at Fifteen.

When only 15 years of age she married Mr. Bryan. At 18, after marriage, she received a degree from College Temple, at Newnan, Ga., an old southern institution.

Then her husband took her to Shreveport, La., where she stayed until 1860, at one time being editor of *The Natchitoches, La., Tri-Weekly*.

Then she came to Atlanta to become editor of *The Crusade*, with which paper she remained until 1874, when she took one of the editorships of *The Sunny South*.

When only 18 years of age her first novel, "Manch," appeared, and was an instant success. This novel was the forerunner of 46 others from her pen. Such a great success was made of this novel by the 18-year-old writer that it was dramatized, and played for years on the popular-priced circuits of America.



whose honor a roadside marker was placed in Clarkston. Mrs. Louise H. Johnson, wife of Albert Sydney Johnson, Jr., is a resident of Clarkston (1975).

Chandler M. Hampton, wife Leona and some of their children joined the church during the 1890's. Charlie and Henrietta, younger children, were baptized in infancy after 1900, and are still living in Clarkston (1975). Mrs. Frances Hampton Hoffmann and Gene Hampton, grandchildren of Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Hampton are active members of our church today.

Mrs. C. M. Hampton's mother, Mrs. Mary Wood, her sisters Mrs. Nancy Wood Hall (wife of Jake Hall, longtime sheriff of DeKalb county) and Mrs. Estelle Wood Whitten make another family in the first registry.

Candler Weaver, who joined our church in the early 1900's is now living in Decatur, Georgia and gave very interesting accounts of his activities as an organizer of the first Boy Scout Troop in Clarkston, with Emerson Bush, another one of our church members of that date, as his assistant. Mrs. Harriet Camp Weaver, his wife, also expressed much interest in the church history.

Time and space do not permit mentioning all other families equally as important, but some are included for a special point of interest.

The Hudgens family -- viz., William T., F. Leroy, John H., Arthur L., Wade, Ellison C., and a number of women, probably wives, sisters or relatives. Mrs. Gay, of Decatur, Georgia, write in her book, Life in Dixie During the Civil War, that F. L.

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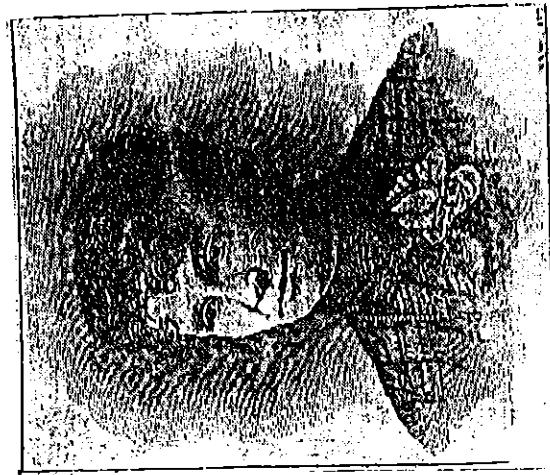
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Hudgins of Clarkston was the commander of Company K, Georgia Regiment, in that war.

Anderson R. Lovejoy, father of Rev. William P. Lovejoy, well-known Methodist Preacher and grandfather of ex-Postmaster in Decatur. He was probably father of Gaston Lovejoy as both names were in the 1890-1900 roll. An "L. D." by Anderson R. Lovejoy's name indicates that he was a local Methodist Preacher. Lovejoy Stop near his home on the Old Stone Mountain car line carries the family name.

Another name shown later is that of Rev. Ulla G. Hardeman, his wife Mrs. Kate Hardeman and sister or daughter Miss Leila Hardeman. Rev. Hardeman has an "L. D." after his name which indicates another useful local preacher.

The Freemans are listed here because so many of one name (surely related) joined the church on the same date. They are: Thomas H., Hugh H., Charles H., W. Frank, and Susan O.

God's providence has always provided new people to carry on His work after their forebears have passed on. Thus the leadership and supporters of the Clarkston Methodist church continued strong after 1900. (See "Reminiscences" re some of these people.)

Some of those on the post-1900 roll who have descendants in our church today are:

One of the best remembered and most influential families in our church was the Mauck family who were members from 1896 until 1909. Mrs. Mauck was the church organist and also the promoter of the first library in Clarkston. For this there was a membership dues of 5¢ per month. Mrs. Mauck

served not only in every phase of the local Missionary Society but was the Secretary of the Decatur-Oxford district for many years. At her death, her daughter, Mrs. Willie Bell Mauck Rogers (wife of the well known Dr. Wallace Rogers) was elected and served in the same office.

The Askews who joined in 1906, parents of Mrs. Lane and grandparents of Carlton Lane (deceased), Manelle Lane Hensler, and Helen Lane Walton.

The Ed L. Suttons followed in 1908 and are well represented today by Miss Hazel Sutton, Church Financial Secretary for several years.

Mrs. L. E. Barnes and children came in 1909, one of her daughters, Ellen Barnes, is a present-day member.

Also in 1909 Mr. and Mrs. Freeman P. Johnston appear. He was Sunday School superintendent and served in other offices. She was an active woman in the Woman's Missionary Society.

The McDonald family, also new members in 1909. A daughter, Annie Grace McDonald, played the piano for all services for many years. She is now in a nursing home in Decatur.

The M. M. McGee family moved from Cordele, Georgia to Clarkston in 1912. Mr. McGee was a very devout Christian. (See "Reminiscences.") His daughter, Mrs. Florence McGee Milam, and granddaughter, Mrs. Sallie Wakefield Rice, are continuing his service in our church.

In 1920 Mr. and Mrs. F. I. Livsey and others in their family became members. A son-

in-law, Mr. Still, was the building contractor for the church in 1932. Some of Mr. and Mrs. Livsey's sons also worked on this building. William (Bill) Livsey is a member of the church in 1975.

Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Watkins joined in 1920. He was noted for his success in collecting "hide and tallow" money for the church. Mrs. Watkins was active in the Woman's Missionary Society. Mrs. Daisy Watkins, a daughter-in-law, has been for many years and is a faithful member today.

Also in 1920 our church received one of its greatest blessings in the coming of Mr. and Mrs. W. C. McCord. They both served in almost every area of the church work and he was one of the best of lay evangelists. (See "Reminiscences.")

Just a year later, in 1921, another double blessing came to us in the family of Mr. and Mrs. George Ross, and the addition of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Norton to our roll. These people are included in "Reminiscences." Mr. and Mrs. Norton left no descendants but the church was the beneficiary in the disposition of their estate after their deaths. Mrs. Sarah Ross Quinn (wife of Mercer Quinn, who for so long served as church treasurer) was the church pianist in the 1930's and 1940's. Robert Ross was the Sunday School Secretary during those years and is a faithful steward and usher today.

Who can adequately appraise the wonderful life and service of that noble widowed mother with her five children who joined our church in 1923? She was known as Mrs. Jennie Rice. How lucky we are to have all five of her children and their fam-

ilies now active in our church. They are Walter Rice, Margaret Rice Barineau (whose son Eugene is serving so well as church finance chairman and on the official board in recent years), Hallie Rice Locke, Virginia Rice Dial, and Sue Rice Miller.

In 1923, the same year, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Cook became members. He was the church treasurer from 1930 until 1946 and she was president of the Woman's Missionary Society for 13 years. Also Mr. and Mrs. Charles Roper. Mrs. Roper taught a young adult Sunday School class for some time and her mother, Mrs. V. J. Ward, was the president of the Woman's Missionary Society in the early 1920's.

Another couple of passing mention is Mr. and Mrs. Reid Hunter who joined in 1925 and who are written up in "Reminiscences." Their only son grew up mostly in Atlanta, and was not a member of our church.

In 1926 we received into our fellowship the Lows -- Joe and Olivette (deceased). They were a Sunday School teacher par. The same year came Mrs. J. H. Morris and her daughters, Eleanor and Mattie. Mrs. Morris was for many years active in the Woman's Society. Her greatest claim to fame was her longevity of 102 years living continuously loyal and faithful to her church. Eleanor was one of the first Sunday School teachers in the children's division (when that division was organized). She was also secretary of the new church club and a member of the Wesleyan Service Guild.

It would be impossible to give personal recognition to the hundreds of people who have joined the church since 1926. But the "early" church roll ends

there. The many wonderful people who came later have contributed greatly, maybe even more than the first members as they (later joiners) had a good foundation on which to build and the advantages of the modern day.

How we have grown!! The previous pages have shown very clearly that the Clarkston Methodist church has been a growing one with the most phenomenal stage being that of 1950 to date. In retrospect, a few items found in old preserved records are indicative of the changes: the original membership of 60. The membership in 1944 approximately 200; in 1954 approximately 375; and in 1975, 867. The offering in the earliest record of 1928 was: morning \$1.08, evening \$1.10. (Remember the main church expenses were provided by the "quarterage" -- so called "hide and tallow" collection paid by members at the end of every three months.) No record of a budget per se could be found for the 1920's, but a church treasurer's report (included in the Sunday School report) for 1928 had: "paid to Rev. A. J. Sears (on one Sunday) \$21.00" and two weeks later "paid to Rev. Sears \$45.00." Apparently Brother Sears received \$66.00 as his month's salary. It should be remembered that Clarkston paid only a proportionate share of this expense. (It is also recalled that at times Clarkston paid over half the preacher's salary.) In a "Crusade for Budget and Building" brochure in June 1966 are these comments:

"From a temporary place of worship in a nearby school building to an inspiring house of workshp and functional educational facilities valued at approximately \$300,000.00.

From a five dollar bill to a financial outlay in 1965-66 of approximately \$45,000.00.

From a handful of people in a brush arbor meeting to a membership of 750.

We have come a long way! and we are



BIRTHDAY CAKE FOR GRAND OLD LADY—Friends and neighbors flocked in to join Mrs. Hattie Morris and members of her immediate family in celebrating her 97th birthday at her Clarkston home. (Left to right): Miss Eleanor B. Morris, daughter; Mrs. Thurman M. Morris (Blanche), daughter-in-law, and husband, Thurman, son; Mrs. Mattie M. Heughan, daughter; and Miss Mary V. Morris, daughter.

still growing!"

Part II

HOUSES OF WORSHIP

The one room frame house built by the charter members was the house of worship for almost 50 years. In 1892 the church was transferred from the Decatur Circuit to the Stone Mountain Charge. In this status it remained until 1947, and Clarkston shared ownership and upkeep of the parsonage, located in Stone Mountain during those years. The church history mentioned formerly states: "there is always the beginning of a need for a new church building before the planning is ever begun (referring to the fermenting of a desire and need for a larger and more adequate church). This idea was sparked on January 7, 1924, when Mrs. J. V. Ward donated \$5.00 to the new building fund. Other donations followed instantaneously. Not only did individual members contribute but the donations came from the church organizations (Woman's Missionary Society; Epworth League [apparently thriving as its donations were \$100.00 more than once]; Sunday School classes). Even business friends (J. M. High, R. N. Parris, Doctors B. H. Mobley and Hopkins), and political office holders (Judge Humphries and W. D. Upshaw) were among the first donors. Eventually there was formed a "new church club" spearheaded by Mrs. Florence Milam. The donations and projects continued throughout the decade 1920-1930. In 1930, Rev. J. Foster Young was appointed pastor. In spite of the rock-bottom economy (the Great Depression) of that year, the new church Building Fund exceeded \$5,000.00. (Actually Georgia had an earlier depression in 1926 when all the Georgia banks closed and this factor was reflected in the diminishing contributions to the Building Fund.) Rev. Young had the courage to lead the church into a "New Building" program. One thing was economically in our favor; there was no inflation and labor and materials were at their lowest costs. Believe it or not, the contract was let to Mr. J. L. Still for \$5,613.50. Later, on February 24, 1933, after the building was completed, the church voted to

borrow \$1,081.77 to add to the \$5,197.67 cash on hand making the total cost of the new church \$6,279.38. (See Appendix F.) This building included the old church joined to the new church sanctuary, and all was finished with brick veneer. The old church had four classrooms and an assembly room for the children's division, while the basement had a kitchen and recreation room. The indebtedness was cleared in 1935. Members of the building committee were: Mrs. A. P. Milam, Mr. Reid Hunter, Mr. George Ross and Mr. J. W. Cook.

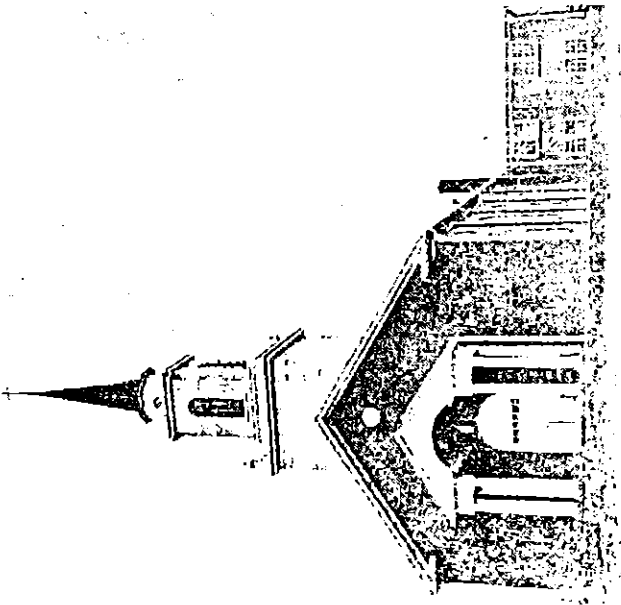
On October 19, 1935, a joyous celebration was held with Bishop Warren A. Candler preaching and dedicating the church.

Beginning in the 1940's, continued growth, especially in the Sunday School and organizational meetings made the need for more room imperative, but there still was no money for more building. The Young Adults who had outgrown the intermediate class in Sunday School wanted a class and place of their own to meet. Some of these were the "boys" returning from service in World War II. In desperation there was a suggestion to construct a class room over the children's department (balcony style) in the old church. To most people with building knowledge this was an impossible idea. But Mr. George Ryan, a retired army officer and church attendant, dared and offered to do the job. "Mission accomplished" -- and the young people moved into their new room, carrying with them a piano they had raised the money to buy. This class was so enthusiastic and lively it began having social gatherings in the homes after League and church service and became known as "the Gang." Romances flourished and some were consummated in matrimony. Mr. Tom Norton, a very loyal and devout man, but unassuming to the point of seeming shy, agreed to teach the class and he was a great spiritual influence for them. They held him in reverence and esteem!

During these post-war years, another adult class of senior young people was formed with no place to meet. The problem was first resolved by using the City

Hall, still a one room frame structure with a "pot-bellied" stove. This class grew into one of the most active in the church. Joe Adkinson, a "live wire" man of action, while president of this class suggested buying a discarded trolley for the permanent meeting place. This idea was rejected by the official board and trustees. Mr. Norton, board chairman, in an ap-peasement speech to the class said the church wanted to become a station (separate from Stone Mountain) before undertaking a new project. This would necessitate our church building a parsonage in Clarkston. As fate would have it, our new preacher at that time was Rev. John Maxwell, not only a good preacher and pastor, but a trader par-excellence. He knew the "Joes" of the business world, could get things (for instance had Walter Parris make an instantaneous unrecorded loan of \$1000.00 to pay for a parsonage lot, and afterwards announce to the church that this was to be paid immediately). Materials were scarce and almost unavailable just after 1945 but he knew where and how to get them. With no money reserved or raised for the purpose and no specified building committee named, but with much free labor and many donations, the parsonage was built, finished and dedicated by May, 1952.

During these same post-war years, Mr. and Mrs. J. Morgan Collins and children established themselves in our church family. Mr. Collins was a professional building contractor associated with H. W. Beers and Co., and Mrs. Collins was the epitome of energy, enthusiasm and instant action! She immediately accepted the chairmanship of the Children's division. Her first accomplishment was the covering of both floors in the old church with deluxe tile, (the labor and materials were donated by Mr. and Mrs. Collins). Not satisfied with the crowded and inadequate space for the Sunday School classes which were increasing rapidly in enrollment and need, it was "no time" until Mrs. Collins had persuaded Rev. Charles Gray (Pastor), Jessie Johnson (Sunday School Superintendent) and her husband to erect a new building -- an Educational building on the back side of the church. This arrangement was made so that if and when a new sanctuary was built two more floors could be



A beautiful new Methodist Church edifice now brightens the City of Clarkston.

Just completed, it consists of a sanctuary, a Fellowship hall, and a two-story addition to the Educational building at the rear, built at a cost of \$150,000.

The church has been on the same site, across from the business district, since 1880 when the first "Brush Arbor" meetings were held. A frame church was built in 1882, and in 1932 members bricked around the old building and added a sanctuary. This was torn down to make way for the new structure.

Membership of the church has grown from 200 to 500 since 1932. The Rev. William R. Ridgeway is pastor of the church.

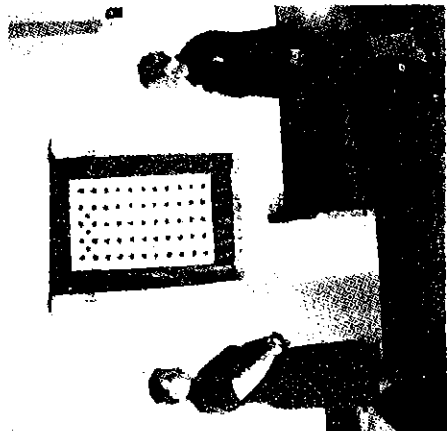
The church is one of many recently built or being built in the East DeKalb County area.

added to this one floor Educational building. Mr. Collins furnished so much of the labor and materials as well as being designer and architect and supervisor (the amount is not recorded), and Mr. A. H. Dixon, another loyal, unassuming and generous member furnished labor and material for the entire paint job, so that the actual money cost was minimal in proportion to the building's value. The lack of cash needed for the parsonage and the new Educational building was merged into a loan of one indebtedness. It is thought that this was the time that Mr. Elliot, a member of the church made a personal loan, but no documentary validation of this could be found.

the 1960 "NEW" CHURCH

Clarkston became a radically changed community during the late 1950's and early 1960's, from a rural suburban community of relatively few families to a bustling city suburb. Part of this is attributed to the rapidly expanding growth and change in Atlanta and Decatur which are so near and contiguous to Clarkston. Also the creation of a modern recreation park on and around Stone Mountain, locating of an industrial park just on the outskirts of the town, and establishment of a huge labyrinth college-school complex in the area.

These changes, along with the post-war population explosion resulted in a housing and apartment building boom. The church recognized the need for more adequate accommodations and readily accepted the challenge. As stated before, the idea had been circulating for some few years but was dormant until 1957 and 1958. At that time Rev. George Stone appointed a large (numerically) but very representative building committee to develop plans for a new church, naming Mel Ecker as chairman. The Ecker's had moved into the former residence of the Collins family and were a valuable asset to the church. There was a period of research and understanding required for the land on which the church was located, and this had to be cleared with the Georgia Railroad. Then came the usual controversy over the site selected for this "new church." Some wanted it built on the

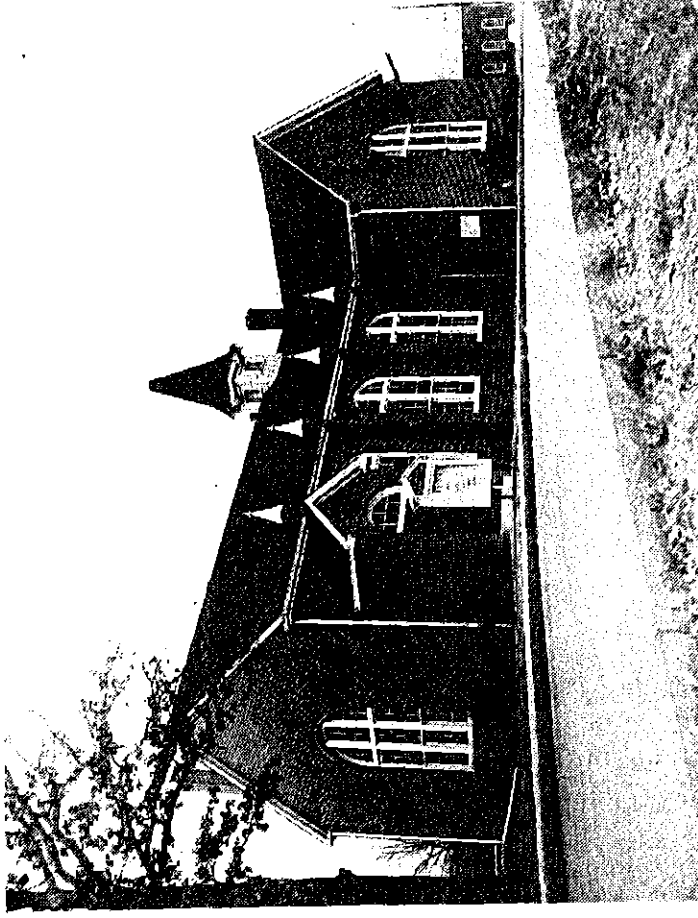


PICTURED above is the service flag of the Clarkston Methodist Church. Mrs. J. H. McGarity (left) and Mrs. E. P. Moody, active church workers, are in charge of keeping up with their 63 boys and girls in the service. This beautiful flag hangs on the wall of the church auditorium.

same spot as the one standing; others preferred the purchase of a new and larger location as they rightly anticipated grave parking problems. As a final solution, it was decided to build on the present location. Providence took care of the parking problem as will be shown later. Before actual construction was authorized the conference had appointed a new pastor, Rev. William Ridgeway. (See Appendix G and H for the church resolution and subsequent contract.) It is hard to realize how much time and patience the churchman and leaders of this project had to give. There were the sentimentalists with suggestions and complaints over giving up the "old church" -- the decisions re the things to be salvaged from that church, the demolition of the building, the delineating (and trying to please) of space to the classes and organizations plus the necessary legal procedures with the architect, building contractor and banks. Finally, presto! O Happy Day -- the dream had become reality! On a cold windy day, March 26, 1961, the first service was held in this imposing, impressive, shining, new church. Wedding bells had already rung March 18, for Sadie Burrow's marriage to Paul Howard and shortly afterward for Peggy Reese's marriage to Mike Cowan.

One of the large rooms at the rear of the sanctuary on the main floor was designated for a chapel in memory of Stanley A. Moody, who was killed in 1956 in peace-time service with the U.S. Air Force in Germany. Stanley had been licensed to preach from the Clarkston Methodist church, was a pre-ministerial student and graduated from Emory University. The chapel was furnished with refinished pews from the old church and the original pulpit from the original one-room frame church. Bill Livsey built and finished the altar and altar rail. The chapel is used weekly as the meeting place for baptismal services, weddings and other private occasions. It was dedicated in May, 1961.

Parenthetically, a historic note of interest is inserted here regarding the church pews used before 1960. Rev. Paul Conally, whose childhood home was in West End, Atlanta and who became a local Methodist



preacher (served as Supply in some Conference appointments) joined the Clarkston church in 1916 as he was then living here. As a visitor to the church dedication in 1935, he related this episode to the writer whose parents were close friends of the Connally family. He said the pews, so comfortable, with their red cushions, were originally the pews used in the first Methodist church of Atlanta. It came about this way. Park Street church in West End (Rev. Connally's "home church") was a mission church offspring of Atlanta's First Methodist church (then called Wesley Chapel). This Atlanta Wesley Chapel church let the Park Street church have the pews when it (Park Street) was organized. In turn, Park Street church (as it grew and bought new furnishings) let the Clarkston church have the pews during the time of Rev. Connally's residence here. An article in the Wesleyan Christian Advocate of December, 1880 relates the formation of the Park Street church by Wesley Chapel members. It is not known whether there was any money exchanged in the acquisition of the pews nor is there any document to substantiate the above transactions.

Always seeking the "highest best" the church took advantage of the opportunity to build a new parsonage in 1970. The Fortenberry Realty Company offered to buy the old parsonage (the area was becoming commercial). A building committee was appointed with Douglas Hudson as chairman. A beautiful lot in Parkwood Hills was bought and in due time we had a most modern, spacious, and well equipped home for our minister. The basement has the pastor's study, a bedroom and bath and storage room. The main floor includes three bedrooms, living and dining room, and combination kitchen and family room.

In conclusion on the subject of the buildings, it must be recorded that there has been a constant stream of projects of great value carried out by the people of this church, and most of them have been for the improvement of our buildings. The women of the church have always been the home makers and keepers of the parsonage, even when we shared the parsonage with Stone

Mountain. In later years, Sunday School classes and the Men's Club have contributed many improvements. It is hard to remember the earliest ones, which did include the piano bought by the Young Adult class, but some of the more recent ones are readily brought to mind. The kitchen equipment first bought and later replaced by the latest equipment; the classroom curtains, etc.; helpful items for the church school and daily vocation Bible School; the stained glass window bought by the Wesley Fellowship class for the Moody chapel; the landscaping from time to time; the mounting of the church bell as an exhibit as well as preservation; the replacement of the pane glass windows in the sanctuary with stained glass ones; and plaques honoring friends or loved ones have been placed on many pews by members of the church. Equally as important are the donations by individuals -- certainly all of these cannot be recounted but pulpit furniture was made and donated by Mr. Starr whose family were active members in the 1940's; pulpit chairs (now in the chapel) donated by Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Lindsey; Joe Adkinson's initial donation of the \$750.00 on our first church organ; the communion set, the baptismal font, a piano donated by Joe and Catherine Alexander, and flower stands for the altar were all donations of individuals. There are countless others that cannot be recalled. In addition to specified articles, it has been mentioned and cannot be overestimated that there has been much time and labor donated by individuals to the church improvements, especially during the building program times. Many will remember the young people doing hard work and menial chores in the building of the parsonage; in fact that work was done by individuals -- the generous Mr. Dixon again was responsible for the painting. This was repeated in the First Floor Education building when almost every Saturday was called a "work day" for the church.

The latest in property acquisitions are the purchase of three homesites on Rowland Street. These were the former residences of Mr. and Mrs. McCord, Mr. and Mrs. John Forrester and the Skillern family. The McCord property has been made into a spacious parking

area; the Skillern house is used as a home for the student pastor and his wife. The Forrester home is the activity house for the young people.

ORGANIZATIONS

In the early years, all Policies and Procedures of the Church were directed by the "Board of Stewards," usually the ablest and most faithful men of the Church.

In 1939, the three major bodies of American Methodism, viz., The Methodist Episcopal Church (Northern Methodist); the Southern Methodist Church (of which we were a part) and the Protestant Methodist Church, merged into The Methodist Church. This was a momentous event. Because of the expanded size and increasing needs, the Church structure was completely changed in 1952. One of the foremost changes was that the work of the Church was divided into four Commissions. George Hall was the Chairman of the Official Board at that time and much credit must be given to him for his steadfast dedication of time, effort and ability in setting up these Commissions. There are still the operating units of the Church today.

The Official Board -- now The Administrative Board

To list all the board chairmen is impossible. The board minutes from 1954 to date are well written and preserved. Rather than summarizing them, we are quoting a few excerpts with some of the items of business considered.

September 1954. "Jessie Johnson and Billy Hattaway donated their services until a permanent janitor could be found."

November 1954. Quarterly conference held by Rev. Mackay (presiding elder). "Rev. Forrest King, pastor, George Hall, chairman of the board; Mr. Collins, chairman of the property committee reported on the new Educational building deficit."

April 1956. "V-Day, October 1, 1956, set to pay off debt on Educational Building. It was also suggested that a planning and steering committee be appointed to study the possibilities of expanding the sanctuary."

Appreciation to Mrs. C. O. Petty for donation of communion plates given in honor of her father.

August 1957. "Mrs. Charles Petty asked if church would sponsor Cub Scout Pack 458. The motion carried."

June 1958. "Appreciation expressed to Jessie Johnson for his years of service as Sunday School Superintendent."

July 1958. "Use of Woman's Club for extra Sunday School room to be requested. Appreciation expressed to Mercer Quinn, treasurer for 12 years. (Note: Mercer served another long term as treasurer at a later date.) Scott Kee elected new treasurer."

June 1959. "Fran McCall elected chairman of the board."

October 1959. "Janie McCord Woodcock's property offered for sale to the church. . . Sarah Bergmann to organize Girl Scouts and requested the use of McCord Hall."

THE COMMISSIONS

Evangelism

The Methodist Church has always had as its major Purpose to make known the Gospel to all people. Evangelism has priority in the work of Clarkston Methodist Church. "Protracted Meetings" were annual occurrences usually in August for many years. While worship was still conducted in the one-room church in 1926, Rev.

Sam Haynes (a member) held a tent meeting on the lot next to the Church in which much fervor and spiritual influence was manifested. The completion of and move to the 1932 Church was highlighted by a series of Protracted services preached by Rev. H. C. Morrison, then President of Asbury College and sponsor of the Indian Springs Camp meeting. In later years, lay people have been more active in all phases of church work and have sponsored Lay Witness Meetings which produce spiritual renewal. The lay workers' participation has also been apparent in the organization and outstanding work of the Methodist Men's Club who have regular Prayer breakfasts on Sunday mornings. There are five Prayer groups attended primarily by the ladies who meet weekly for prayer and spiritual guidance. Dewey Cown has been such a dynamic lay leader and chairman of Evangelism for the church that his name must be recorded here. He and his wife have also worked hard on the membership committee and who can evaluate their services in their attention to the sick and needy and bereaved?

Education

Secular history has always given credit to the church for pioneering in education. Presumably -- as all churches did -- Clarkston Methodist Church had a Sunday School from the beginning. The first preserved records are from 1931-1954. These are systematic and repetitive, giving mainly the attendance and collection, and the weather report for the day. Sometimes it was "O.K." other times "Cloudy" and many times "Cold" or "Hot." The voters' Registration List for 1926 was found in this record book.

The secretaries were Ronald Estes, Ruth Bradford (now Mrs. Sam Callaway), R. E. Montgomery, W. J. Harlee, Frank Ross, Robert Ross, and Lamar Ray. Mr. McCord was general superintendent long before 1931 and was intermittently superintendent until 1948. There were only two divisions, viz., the children's and the adult's. In October 1926, Mrs. Milam, the substitute teacher for the day, asked Mrs. Moody (her first time to attend) to tell a Bible story to the children. As a

result of this, Mrs. Moody became involved for several years in the children's division. The need for graded classes was obvious, and the one room church was inadequate. So the children's classes soon moved into the Woman's Club. The adult division included intermediates, young and older adults. The teachers on roll for 1931 were: Children's division - Mrs. W. W. Matthews, Mrs. Neely, Miss Eleanor Morris, Mrs. Wiggins, Mrs. Joe C. Low, Mrs. Milam, Mrs. Moody. For the adult division were Miss Ellen Barnes, Mrs. Reid Hunter, Mrs. W. C. McCord, Mrs. Horace Goza, Mrs. George Ross, and Mr. Frank McLendon.

Teachers later added to the children's division were: Catherine Moore (now Mrs. Mason Ford), Mrs. Marie Ross McDaniel, Mrs. Still, Mrs. Tolbert, Mrs. Vann, Mrs. R. J. Haynie, Mrs. Janie Ralph McCord Rainey, Mrs. Virginia Rice and Mrs. C. H. Riley. To the adult division were added: Mrs. Sadie Burrow, Mrs. Lena Gibson, Mrs. J. H. McGarity, Mrs. Murray, Mrs. L. W. Hattaway, Mrs. Danforth, Mrs. Kent, Mrs. Goza and Mr. Dent. (These did not all serve simultaneously.) Mrs. T. M. Morris succeeded Mrs. Moody as superintendent of the children's division, who in turn was followed by Mrs. J. H. McGarity, Miss Mary Kilgore, Mrs. Ruth Collins and Mrs. Gerry Mize -- perhaps the last so-called "superintendent" of the Children's Division.

Superintendents of the Sunday School have been -- 1900 to 1920: Mr. Freeman Johnston, Mr. W. W. Oslin, Mrs. James McLendon, Rev. Bloodworth. 1920-1954: Mr. McCord, Mr. R. J. Haynie, Mr. W. O. Lindsey, Joe Alexander, Jesse Johnson. Sarah Bergmann was the last Sunday School Superintendent to serve before that work was taken over by the Commission on Education.

The account of the organization of the Wesley Fellowship Class has previously been given in the program of buildings. Also it was stated earlier that Mrs. George Ross for the ladies and Mr. Frank McLendon for the men had the only adult classes in the Sunday School. Later Mr. R. W. Dent, Superintendent of Clarkston schools, taught a third adult class. Mr. O.

W. Hammond (whose family became pillars in our church) succeeded Mr. Dent. Later Mr. Hammond asked for an associate and Mrs. E. P. Moody was named. It was soon after this that the Wesley Fellowship class was formed with Mrs. Moody as the teacher, a position she held until 1963. Upon Mr. Hammond's retirement and moving to Florida, the Friendship class was organized with Mr. C. O. Petty, Joe Low, Miss Hazel Sutton, and Mrs. Em Morrow as teachers.

The youth work has also been a part of the Commission on Education. Organized first as the Epworth League, it must have been thriving in the 1920's as its financial contributions to the new church club indicate. In the 1930's there were groups attending Camp Glisson and Emory-at-Oxford. When the depression curtailed many church opportunities, the young people as a group attended Salem Camp Meeting for at least 10 days, days of inspiration. The young people now have well programmed retreats in different places which are very effective. Later, the Epworth League became the Methodist Youth Fellowship which exists today. It was and is directed by the student ministers -- Cecil Williamson, Garland Smith, Richard Looney, Robert Clyburn, Bill Youngblood, Robert Hopper, Bob Johnston, Richard Hogue, Prentiss Gordon, Tom Sorrells, and Robin Lindsey. These young ministers have been of incalculable importance in the church, some of them serving as choir directors. The Sunday night youth services include suppers, programs, and educational features. Some of the group have answered the call to full time service in the ministry, viz., Lamar Ray, Louise Bassett (wife of Rev. Hunter Bassett), Stanley Moody (whose death occurred when he was 26), Beth Ecke (wife of Richard Hogue), and Boyd Whaley. We are very proud of all our young people and their directors.

An educational innovation of the 1920's was the Vacation Bible School. This was started about 1928 under the direction of Ruth Moody and Mrs. Wallace Matthews, teachers in the Children's Division. It was attended by children of the Baptist and Methodist Churches, and grew so that it became a cooperative ven-



The following are pictured above: Mrs. C.O. Petty, Mrs. Jennie Rice, Mrs. A.H. Dixon, Rev. Forrest King, Mrs. T.J. Nor-ton, Mrs. Thurman Morris, Mrs. J. Petty, Mrs. J.T. Travis, Mrs. George Hall, Mrs. Forrest King, Mrs. J. Morgan Collins, Mrs. C.M. Baldwin, Sr., Mrs. T.C. Danforth, Mrs. Jeff Minton, Mrs. Hattie Morris, Mrs. M.H. Burrow, Mrs. Robert Ross and Mrs. C.H. Riley.

Photo courtesy of Mrs. Tom Danforth.

ture by both churches. Miss Ethel Jones was the guiding leader from the Baptist Church. Marie Simpson, now Mrs. Guy Rutland, Jr. of Decatur and a Miss Rusk, a Presbyterian resident of Clarkston, helped wonderfully with our Vacation Bible School in different years.

Since the erection and occupancy of the new educational building, Sunday School became the Church School and has been operated under the Commission on Education. Classes have been highly organized and studies and programs greatly expanded. The chairmen and teachers are very competent and dedicated. The chairmen of the Commission on Education include Mr. Jesse Petty, Mr. Jessie Johnson, Mr. Ebb Evans, Dr. Mel Ecke, and Mr. Lee Howard, currently.

Missions

When Clarkston Methodist Church was formed in 1879, it became a part of the Southern Methodist Church but all Methodist bodies adhered to John Wesley's doctrine. His proclamation that "the world is my parish" was the cornerstone of missions adopted by all Methodist congregations. Though no budget records of our church in the founding years are extant, appropriation for missions was reflected in conference minutes under "Benevolences." Regardless of how meagre the total, a proportion of the budget was set aside for "others." Today this is called Church World Service. At the official board meeting July 7, 1954, Mr. Weems made a motion seconded by Mr. Low that the amount for missions in the budget be raised from \$60.00 to \$100.00 (a 40% increase). This was passed by a vote of 10 to 3. Joyously, we have had a steady and generous increase in the ensuing years; missions is one of four primary commitments in the church. Our Church has had able chairmen. Not only has the budget included a specified amount for missions, but "extras" have been raised yearly with special offerings at Easter and other times. In recent years we have contributed to the support of Rev. Marvin Wolford and his family, missionaries to Africa. Also groups have taken on the "Advance Specials," a church-wide program for special projects.

Thus -- to give is to live!

Women's Organizations

Reorganized by all Methodist churches as one of its strongest pillars is the Women's Organization. Generally speaking, at first it was known just as the Woman's Missionary Society, but actually there was a "Woman's Foreign Missionary Society" and later a "Home Missionary Society." The missionary conference minutes show "a society organized January 1888 at Clarkston with 23 members" (a sizeable membership for such a young church). Three available records of Clarkston's Women's work are in our church's possession. The earliest of these are xeroxed pages from the minutes of the Women's Foreign Missionary Society, one in 1896 with Mrs. Birdie Wimpee, secretary, and others, 1898 and 1899 when Mrs. Ed L. Sutton was secretary. The 1898 minutes had this touching remark: "While there were only three members present, the meeting was an enjoyable one and the Divine Presence was felt." The other preserved record is a book with minutes of the Ladies Aid Society 1915-1923. The presidents named were Mrs. Freeman Johnston, Mrs. Henry Barnes, Mrs. Paul Connally, Mrs. W. W. Bourne and Mrs. Frank Armstrong. Miss Florence McGee was treasurer for a few years. Their projects were altogether local, such as paying for a piano, wiring and buying a new stove for the parsonage at Stone Mountain, discussion in May 1915 of "plans to move and remodel the church" (no action reported). There were orphanage sewing days and contributions to the Decatur Orphans Home. In another section of the book are the minutes of the Pauline Hunter circle with Mrs. Frank McLendon as chairman. No specific information is recorded, just routine procedures of the meetings.

It is legend that Mrs. J. V. Ward was president of the Woman's Missionary Society in the 1920's, followed by Mrs. Reid Hunter. Mrs. Hunter was the dynamic leader, organizer, and promoter of all departments of work from 1926 until 1933. The list of presidents from that time on are: Mrs. Moody, Mrs. J. W. Cook (from 1935 to

1948, the longest term of service), Mrs. M. H. Burrow, Mrs. Bert Hammond, Mrs. Raymond Gibson, Mrs. C. O. Petty, Mrs. Morgan Collins, Mrs. C. M. Baldwin, Mrs. Robert Carlton, Mrs. Annette Findley, Mrs. Sandy Smith, Mrs. Dini Oortman, Mrs. Cindy Cummins, Mrs. Anita Brown, and Mrs. Betty Fort. President in 1976 is Mrs. Bettye Kicklighter. The Society's name has changed during the years from Women's Missionary Society to the Women's Society of Christian Service and now the United Methodist Women. The work is divided into conferences (North Georgia and General) askings paid for by pledges, and local needs, the money being raised by projects. The conference pledge supports the church-wide program of missions which includes support of missionaries at home and overseas, staffing of hospitals, school, and churches, assistance to peace movements and promotion of better race relations. Local work is helping in any local need. From the first, the parsonage has been one of the women's major responsibilities -- its upkeep, furnishing and repair; liberal contributions have been made to each building fund and to the children's and young people's divisions and to the choir. In recent years, the annual bazaar has provided money for the latest and best of kitchen equipment. A most outstanding part of the local work has been a committee formerly called "Christian Social Relations." Mrs. McCord was a most innovative leader in this; her achievements almost too many to enumerate. As organizer and president of the W.C.T.U. she saw that the Society was involved in every area of temperance and citizenship. When the one-room Negro school, (the lot and labor for which was donated by the Negro citizens) was built, our Society furnished the water buckets, dippers and other incidentals for which no money was appropriated. We also provided for the Easter egg hunts and Christmas celebrations in the Negro community. This one-room school, which housed seven grades, all taught by one teacher, was replaced in 1955 by the busing of pupils to the new Hamilton High School in Avondale. A crowning accomplishment of Mrs. McCord was her and the Society's participation in the building of the Negro Methodist church of which Mr. Guy Rutland of the Baptist church in Decatur and Mr. Carrithers of St. Mark's



The following are shown above: Gene Barineau, Don Bond, Larry Lindsay, Lurline Patterson, Bobby Blalock, and Mrs. Tom Danforth.

Photo courtesy of Mrs. Tom Danforth.

Methodist church were associate founders. The annual World Day of Prayer, usually held in February was shared by all Clarkston churches, Baptists, Methodists, both black and white. The singing and prayers of Lizzie Dawson and Sally Tory were as inspirational as any heard in the church. The county home and juvenile court were also concerns of Mrs. McCord, transmitted to the Women's Society. Mrs. Ruth Collins succeeded Mrs. McCord. In addition to continuing the activities projected by Mrs. McCord, she added the sewing project for Emory University hospital, and many charity drives, especially the Christmas and Easter Seal campaigns.

The flowers in the church are sometimes taken for granted. Yet they are placed there by good women of the congregation. Mrs. Lula Barnes, a quiet, unassuming person, brought a home-grown garden bouquet to the sanctuary every Sunday as long as she was able. (See "Reminiscences.") Later Mrs. Lois Rives, with the help of Mrs. Ware, furnished the flower arrangements for several years. Because of failing health, Mrs. Rives had to discontinue the service. Now an Altar Guild is organized for the purpose and the beauty of flowers on the altar continues to bless us. Mrs. Parker is now chairperson of this Guild.

The Wesleyan Service Guild

Sometime after World War II, the Wesleyan Service Guild, primarily but not exclusively for employed women, was organized with Mrs. Jobernia Hunter as president. She was succeeded two years later by Mrs. Dot Timmons. Here again our written records begin later in 1953 with Mrs. Em Morrow as president. Others who followed were Dot Butler, Mable Johnson, Betty Cardell, Dot Royston, Ruth Moody, Elizabeth Rawlins, Alma Stowe, Jean Jones, and Emma Mason. The program and work of the Guild has always been identical with that of the W.S.C.S. In 1972 the Guild, which has been a separate entity, was merged into the unified United Methodist Women's organization. The varied and worthwhile concerns and activities of the Guild are portrayed in the financial report of June 1962:

Cash Payments

Treasurer North Georgia Conference	\$155.00
Supply Work.....	20.00
Magazine Fund.....	1.00
Cultivation Fund.....	1.80
Week of Prayer.....	7.65
Anchorage, Alaska (Study Course)...	5.00
District Meeting (Refreshments)...	9.19
Betty Snead (gift).....	5.00
Family Night (three times).....	8.78
Mrs. Gonzalez (Christmas offerings)	30.00
Tape for mending song books.....	12.47
Program book.....	1.03
Mrs. Joe Baldwin (gift).....	1.00
Lottie Worthy (Atlantic City exp.)	5.00
Wesley Memorial Church (Bibles)...	10.00
Mrs. Ridgeway (Refr. Christ. Mts.)	5.00
District Banquet.....	14.00
Cokesbury Book Store.....	4.64
Flowers (Mr. Watkins).....	4.12
	<u>\$318.24</u>

The Men's Club

As has been noted, the men were the first and foremost leaders of all the concerns of the church. They exclusively composed and directed the official Board and Trustees for years. The women's work could never have been promulgated without the support of devoted and dedicated husbands and all the men of the church. In more recent years, there came the decision by the men to have an organization known as the Men's Club, the purpose and activities of which are to supplement the work already being done. The Men's Sunday Morning Breakfast is indicative of their spiritual foundation. Their projects are similar to others carried on in the church and their contributions and leadership cannot be over estimated, but because of lack of specific information cannot be delineated here.

Non-Sectarian Causes

It has been noted that our church has sponsored many local causes such as the scouts, Negro church movements, etc. In interviewing for information on members in the early 1900's, it was learned that Calvin Weaver (reportedly still living in 1976), was Scout Master at Clarkston around 1911-12. The church has also let its buildings be used for many community purposes. When fire destroyed the elementary school in the 1930's, school classes were held in the church. During World War II the government set up a day care (nursery) center with Mrs. Ware in charge. In those same years there were held in our building government classes in first aid, home nursing, demonstration courses, etc. The Clarkston Teen-age Club was instigated and directed for several years by Sarah Ray Bergmann and sponsored by both the Baptist and the Methodist churches (Wesleyan Service Guild). These young people also used our Fellowship Hall for their meeting place. Although the teen-age young people no longer have meetings, the Teen-age Club sponsors meet each year to make a contribution to some local youth project such as scouts, church choirs, and scholarships. Their (Teen-age Club) donation for 1976 went to the Baptist and Methodist Youth choirs. The church's recreation room is still being used by scouts and other groups.

Finance

Following the pattern set by the General Conference, Clarkston's support for the Church was obtained by Collecting money from the members. And Collecting was the word as the members of the Board of Stewards went individually to the Church members and many times had to strive for their collections. This was done once every three months. Since most of the Methodist churches were in rural communities and the South's economy was dependent on the harvesting of crops and selling of cotton in the fall, the Church financial year was from Jan. 1 to Jan. 1. Thus the people had more to give in the last quarter of the year and this was called the "hide and tallow" collection (last vestige of an offering). Quarterly meetings were held regularly with the Presiding Elder preaching in the

morning and superintending the financial report and status of the church in the afternoon with dinner on the grounds at the intermission. The Clarkston and Stone Mountain churches rotated as hosts for these Quarterly Meetings which were eventful occasions. Great memories!! The Sunday School had a separate collection (mainly "pocket change") which was used for literature and other incidental needs of the Sunday School. During the years of the Building Fund Program of the 1932 church, the financial system was changed into a unified budget and the concept of Christian Stewardship took root with many people tithing and giving systematically. The Collection from People to the Contribution by People gradually became the means of support of the Church. It was then that a business-like budget came into being by which the financing of the Church has become a spiritual enrichment and Privilege. The Building Fund Programs have usually been a separate item in the budget and in the members' contributions. Since our Church records have not been filed in chronological order, it has been impossible to pick out the names of all of the church treasurers and finance chairmen, all of whom have been very important and faithful officers. Mention has been made of some of these but those of more recent years have had a more complex job and can be recalled here. Skip Bergmann was a most articulate and dedicated chairman during the Building Fund years of the 1950's and 1960's. Later Eugene Barineau held the position when the church membership mushroomed so -- and the budget spiralled toward the \$100,000 mark. He still carries on faithfully, leading us to even greater achievements.

The Singing Methodists

All life is enriched by music. The pioneer congregations of our church were called "singing" Methodists! As noted elsewhere, the first singing leader remembered by present-day members was Mr. W. C. McCord. His zeal, his saintliness, and yea, his "gusto" were brought out in his singing, and all who participated shared these blessings. His leadership was not an appointed but a voluntary one. When space was provided

for a choir in the 1932 church, he called forth singers from the congregation and they became the choir for years. Sometime in the late 1930's and early 1940's, an Emory student, Mr. Diffenworth, came as choir director and presumably received compensation for this. After he left there was no official director but Mrs. Jobernia Hunter, a choir member, served as choir chairman and saw that the music program was continued. Mr. Elliot, who joined our church during this time, volunteered his services as director and served approximately two years. In 1946, Mrs. Dorothy Wolfe (now Mrs. Clarke) was employed as full-time pianist and later organist. She continues in this capacity today, now in her thirtieth year -- quite a record! In 1947, Mr. George Clarke, also a volunteer, became director and served thru 1950. About that time the first organ for the church was bought and paid for by donations. The second and present organ was also bought with donations. For several years afterwards music leadership was provided by the student pastors, from Emory Theology School -- also directors of the youth program. Cecil Williamson, Garland Smith, Richard Looney, and Robert Clyburn. Since that time, Wen Kreider, Jack Sar-tain, Roger Schmidt and Dick Brock have served as music directors. Junior and intermediate choirs have been excellently developed and directed by Mrs. Roberta Jackson. The continuous dedication of the choir directors and choir members has provided us with great inspiration and a challenge to greater service.

This is our heritage of dedication to God and service to our fellowman. History, however, is "always beginning!" We are a part of a great movement to bring about the Kingdom of God in our lifetime. Our roots are deep -- some young, some old but all growing and giving Life. Our challenge in the words of this year's Centennial is

"Take Pride in your Past -- Take Part in your Future."

God bless us - every one!

Ministers - Clarkston United Methodist Church

1879-1891

W. R. Timmons
Felix P. Brown
J. B. Allen
I. G. Parks
M. L. Underwood

G. H. Quillian
W. A. Farris
J. W. Stipe
J. A. Reynolds

1892-1935

W. G. Crawley
L. W. Rivers
John Spier
B. Sanders
F. H. Gibson
F. W. McLeskey
W. H. Speer
Nath Thompson
W. T. Ball
Firley Baum

R. F. Hodnett
D. B. Cantrell
J. D. Milton
E. G. Thomason
J. A. Partridge
O. M. Blackwell
J. A. Hall
A. S. Hutchinson
A. J. Sears
J. Foster Young

1935-1975

G. W. Hamilton
T. H. Shackelford
H. H. Dillard
E. C. Sweatman
John D. Maxwell
Charles T. Gray

Forrest L. King
George W. Stone
William R. Ridgeway
M. Eugene Dunn
Boyd C. Winn
James L. Welden

1870 and 1880 census records of the families whose names were listed as first trustees of Clarkston Methodist Church.

1870 Census

Wilson, Isaac N., age 51
 Wilson, Mary E., age 46
 Wilson, Alice L., age 12
 Wilson, Julia, age 11
 Wilson, Kate, age 5
 Wilson, Charles W., age 3
 Ragan, Cath, age 40

1880 Census

Norman, J. J., age 46
 Norman, Eliza, age 41
 Pattillo, W. F., age 34
 Pattillo, Mary E., age 33
 Pattillo, William, Jr., age 7
 Pattillo, Olin, age 6
 Pattillo, Marie, age 2
 Pattillo, James, age 4 months
 Fincher, Thomas H., age 45
 Fincher, Eliza, age 43
 Fincher, Allison, age 21
 Fincher, Alonzo, age 20
 Fincher, Thomas H., Jr., age 17
 Fincher, Edgar, age 10
 Fincher, Lizzie, age 7

Does anyone know of any of the descendants of these people still living in DeKalb county?

Presiding Elders - Clarkston United Methodist Church

1894-1916

Atlanta District Decatur Circuit

Walker Lewis
 W. A. Candler
 J. S. Bryan
 W. R. Foote

John W. Heidt
 C. E. Dowman
 B. F. Fraser

1917-1931

North Atlanta District Stone Mountain Charge

J. H. Eakes
 W. H. La Prade

S. P. Wiggins

1932-1947

Decatur-Oxford District Stone Mountain Charge

Nath Thompson
 R. Z. Tyler
 Wallace Rogers

T. M. Sullivan
 Henry Jones
 C. L. Middlebrooks*

1947-1963

Decatur-Oxford District Clarkston Station

C. L. Middlebrooks*
 E. G. Mackay

J. W. Chidsey
 Delma Hagood*

1963-1975

Atlanta-Decatur-Oxford District Clarkston Station

Delma Hagood**
 Nat G. Long

Frank Prince
 Garnet Wilder

* Rev. Middlebrooks served from 1945-1949

** Rev. Hagood served from 1959-1964

Appendix E

The N. F. W. Society met on Monday Jan. 2 1899, at 3 P.M. at the hospital house for boys writing. President, Mrs. Vincent, who had prepared The New England papers were begun with reading the 99th Psalm tribally by the members present, after which prayer was offered by the President.

The roll was called and there were 20 members. Expended with revers. The income of last year was \$1.00 and account. Total collected \$3.75 making a total in the treasury \$4.75. The corresponding dec. reported having written to Mrs. Davies our Organ. Sec. in regard to "leaflets" and invited him to visit our Society. The same replied that they would gladly copy any time that the society could pay for expenses.

An election of officers was provided for, but nothing but a man, postponed on account of a few things to do, but that evening meeting that party was held at Mrs. Kent's house on Monday Jan. 15th. An organ was adjourned. The motto: Rec. de.

The instrument to the parent was made by the Society on Monday Jan. 15-1899. Mr. See the Rec.

Appendix D

At the Washburne U. S. Washburne S. on Monday Dec. 6th 1898 at 3 P.M. the N. F. W. Society was called to order. The presence was 19. The Program was begun with singing of 1st, 2nd and 3rd hymns. The Pres. The scripture lessons, Hebrews II, 14 and 17 and XL, 1-13 was read. There were 100 members who were present. The presence was 19. The new officers were read and adopted. It was decided to The presence was 19. The new officers were read and adopted. It was decided to The presence was 19. The new officers were read and adopted. It was decided to

The Treas. Sec. and etc. for the next year. The presence was 19. The new officers were read and adopted. It was decided to The presence was 19. The new officers were read and adopted. It was decided to The presence was 19. The new officers were read and adopted. It was decided to

The presence was 19. The new officers were read and adopted. It was decided to The presence was 19. The new officers were read and adopted. It was decided to

The N. F. W. Society met on Monday Jan. 2 1899 at 3 P.M. at the Social Home of Mrs. ... President, Mrs. ... who presided. The ... expenses were ...

The roll was called and three ... were ... The roll was called and three ... were ...

The ... meeting ... on Monday Jan. 15 1899. ...

At the ... Dec. 6 1898 at 3 P.M. ... The ...

The ... The ... The ...

The ... Mrs. Ed L. ...

Clarkston Methodist Church
Building Fund Committee

Appointed by Rev George Stone 1958

Dr M.W. Ecke - Chairman

- Ken Bergman (ex-officio)
- Jem Brownlow
- Mrs Robert Carlton
- John Findley
- Bob Haynie
- Douglas Hudson
- Don Hunter
- Scott Kee
- Fran McCall
- Mrs E.P. Moody
- Mrs Frances Moore

- Morgan Collins (ex-officio)
- Candler Morris
- E.J. Norton (ex-officio)
- Mrs C.O. Petty
- Mercer Quinn (ex-officio)
- Walter Rice
- C.H. ("Red") Riley
- Mrs E.A. Royston
- A.H. Dixon
- George Stone, Pastor

August 26, 1960

Mr. Melvin W. Ecke
Chairman Building Committee
Clarkston Methodist Church
Clarkston, Georgia

Dear Mr. Ecke:

We propose to construct on your property in Clarkston, Georgia a sanctuary and add two floors to your existing educational building according to plans prepared by W.J. Hammond-- Sheets 1-4 dated April, 1960; sheets 5-8 dated May, 1960; sheets 9-10 dated June, 1960; and specifications dated July, 1960 with 12 pages for the sum of one hundred, forty-eight thousand, seven hundred (\$148,700.00) dollars.

Should we be awarded this contract, we will begin construction within 15 days and will complete it in 180 days.

We appreciate the opportunity of submitting this proposal and trust that we may be able to complete this project for you.

Yours truly,

M. W. Ecke
M. W. Ecke, Jr.

February 24th, 1933
Atlanta, Ga.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BUILDING COMMITTEE:

I am enclosing copy of minutes of February 15th meeting.

On Saturday morning, February 15th, 8:30 o'clock, Mr. Cook, Brother Young, and I met Mr. Still at the First National Bank, Decatur branch. \$1000 was borrowed from the bank as per application which had been previously made. An additional loan of \$85.71 was secured from the bank on basis of note signed by Brother Young and endorsed by E. Rold Hunter and J. W. Cook.

Mr. Cook, treasurer, then drew check to Mr. J. L. Still in amount of \$1940.30, said amount being due him for extras and contract price of building.

Yours very truly,

E. Rold Hunter
E. Rold Hunter, Secretary

REEL J

121-2034-1000
121-2034-1000

Appendix B

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Clarkston Methodist Church has been authorized by action of the Quarterly Conference and the Church Conference on July 10, 1960 to negotiate a loan not to exceed \$30,000 for the purpose of building a new sanctuary and adding two stories to the present educational building,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT

the Board of Trustees of Clarkston Methodist Church hereby authorize W. Oliver Lindsay, Henry Walker, Kenneth Bergmann, and Melvin Ecks to negotiate a loan with the Standard Federal Savings and Loan Association of Atlanta and to sign any written instruments necessary for the consummation of this loan, not to exceed the figure stated above, on behalf of this Board of Trustees. The execution of such written instruments will be considered binding and effective as the action of Clarkston Methodist Church.

This resolution was adopted at a meeting of the Board of Trustees of Clarkston Methodist Church on July 10, 1960.

W. Oliver Lindsay
President

W. Oliver Lindsay

MARION THOMPSON
PRINCIPAL

Appendix J



JIM CHERY
SUPERINTENDENT

DeKalb County School System
KITTRIDGE SCHOOL
2383 NORTH DRAUID HILLS ROAD, N. E.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30329

A Brief History of Kittridge Elementary School,
DeKalb County, Georgia

May 30, 1966

Kittridge Elementary School, located at 2383 North Druid Hills Road, was occupied on October 27, 1958. The school was named for a pioneer DeKalb County educator, Watson Kittridge.

Mr. Kittridge came to this region in 1824 from his birthplace in Spencer, Massachusetts. He was a teacher in the Decatur Academy. It is said that he was the first person to teach English in this school. He later taught at Ichaffey School, located in the general vicinity of the present Mt. View community. Still later, he taught at a school located near the present intersection of North Decatur Road and the Lawrenceville Highway.

The pioneer DeKalb County educator lived on what might be termed a plantation, just north of Druid Hills Road in the immediate vicinity of the Lawrenceville Road intersection.

A son of Mr. Kittridge, Edward, taught at the old Oak Grove School, when the school was located on Shallowford Road. Winnie Lee Kittridge, a granddaughter, was also a DeKalb County teacher.

Descendants of Watson Kittridge reside in DeKalb County today.

Before Kittridge was opened, its attendance area was served by W.D. Thomson and Briar Vista schools. At the time the building was originally occupied, the enrollment was 545. There were 18 faculty members.

The school was constructed to include 11 classrooms, a library, cafeteria, and office facilities. The school was situated on 10 acres of land.

Gregson and Associates were architects for the building and ensuing additions.

THE SCHOOL CANNOT LIVE APART FROM THE COMMUNITY