

received Nov. 1 1991

## THE HISTORY OF CLIFTON

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Gus Pitts, a Presbyterian, was one of Clifton's early leaders. He organized the Sunday School and was the Superintendent until his death in 1905. He was influential in organizing the Mills District Sunday School Singing Convention for all the churches in the district, regardless of denomination.

Around 1920, the two side rooms were added to the building as Sunday School rooms, and around 1930 two more were added to the back. In 1923 the interior of the church was remodeled, new pews were bought and a pulpit replaced the old "sweat box." The two doors were made into windows, the large double doors were placed in the center for the main entrance, and the men and women began to sit together.

In 1932 a Youth Training Camp for the district was established at Clifton. Dormitories were built behind the tabernacle and a kitchen behind the church building. Local church leaders served as teachers and workers.

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In 1947, the pastor preached at Clifton on the first and third Sundays, at Cedar Grove on the second and fourth Sundays, and lived at Cedar Grove in the parsonage. The year 1954 was when Clifton's parsonage was built and Clifton became a station or full time charge.

The first floor of the new building was completed in 1957, and on June 28, 1964, the dream of a new church building was fulfilled with the completion of the Sanctuary.

## Clifton United Methodist Church

2918 CLIFTON CHURCH ROAD, S. E.

PASTOR - JOHN A. LINDSEY

The purpose of this brochure is to present the many and varied worship opportunities that the church offers for confrontation, growth, fellowship and service. All of these activities seek to make us more aware of God, our need for Him, others, and how we can be servants.

Through the act of worship men come before God as members of a community of faith. Worshippers come to church to offer praise and thanksgiving to God, to renew their understanding of themselves and the meaning of their lives in the presence of God, to make their humble confession of sin and inadequacy, to receive from God his grace and blessing, and to offer themselves to God in the devout work of their daily lives.

Rightly, worship and witness are inseparable. Neither one or the other, but both constitute the Church. We gather to worship and scatter to work. We withdraw to hear the Word and return to the non-Christian world as witnesses, each in his own station, his own situation, his own task. Wherever God has placed us at this time we are called creatively to cultivate God's good earth, to witness to God's great love and to live responsible lives for God's glory. Thus our common ministry flows out of hearing of God's Word and of acceptance of the Body of Christ.

For these reasons and others we encourage you to make Christ and the Church the central part of your life. Come and worship with us. We welcome you to a fellowship seeking to grow in grace and seeking to more adequately serve a needy world.

### WORSHIP SERVICES

Morning Worship - 11:00 — Evening Worship - 7:30



## THE CHURCH SCHOOL PROGRAM

The church's ministry of teaching is the nurturing of persons in the Christian gospel. Through this ministry the church communicates to those who have grown up in the fellowship as well as to new and prospective converts the fundamental meanings of the Christian faith and life, and the nature of the church and its mission in the world to the end that they will commit themselves to Christ. Children are nurtured in the faith; youth are instructed not only as to the meaning of the gospel but also its relevance to their life's choices; adults are led to a deeper insight into the meaning of life in Christ and into the impact of their faith for the common problems of our cultural life.

—Foundations of Christian Teaching.

### CHURCH SCHOOL CLASSES

9:45 - 10:45

Nursery III -----	For Infants
Nursery II -----	3 years
Nursery I -----	4 years
Kindergarten II -----	5 years
Kindergarten I -----	6 years
Elementary I -----	7 years
Elementary II -----	8 years
Elementary III -----	9 years
Elementary IV -----	10 years
Elementary V -----	11 years
Elementary VI -----	12 years
Junior High II -----	13 years
Junior High I -----	14 years
Middle High II -----	15 years
Middle High I -----	16 years
Senior High I -----	17 years
Young Adult -----	Men and Women
Friendship -----	Men and Women
Wesleyan -----	Men and Women
Bible Study -----	Men and Women
Joy Class -----	Women
Men's Class -----	Men

### UNITED METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Youth Director in Charge

These programs are based around everyday problems of the world, and how Christian youth can witness for Christ. The UMYF and the Children's Fellowship have many activities and projects outside their regular Sunday night meetings. The director and counselors provide constant supervision and leadership.

Children's Fellowship	Junior Hi	Middle Hi	Senior Hi
8 - 12 years	13-14 years	15-16 years	17-18 years

## THE WOMEN'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE

AND

### WESLEYAN SERVICE GUILDS

The purpose of the Women's Society of Christian Service and Wesleyan Service Guilds shall be to help women grow in the knowledge and experience of God as revealed in Jesus Christ; to challenge them in a Christian fellowship to make Christ known throughout the world; and to develop a personal responsibility for the whole task of the church.

All women of the church are entitled to membership. The Women's Society meets on the second Thursday of each month at 10:30 in the Fellowship Hall. The Fran Shirley Guild meets every Monday night after the third Sunday in the homes. The Lynn Dunn Guild meets every first Thursday night in the homes.

### THE UNITED METHODIST MEN'S CLUB

The Methodist Men is an organization for the men of the church. They shall strive to provide essential services to and for the men of the church. Its principal areas are: To interpret and apply the purposes of the Methodist Men's Organization: to anticipate the nature of the ministry which the Church must provide for its men who are called to be servants of Christ in the world.

The club meets every third Sunday morning for breakfast at 7:30 and the program to follow. Officers are elected annually from the church membership.

### MUSIC MINISTRY

All nations and tribes have their music. There is music for every occasion and event in man's life, from the birth until his death. Music has been found to be a satisfactory means of expressing every kind of feeling from the deepest sorrow to the highest flights of love. But singing Christian hymns not only binds together the members of a congregation; it also weaves unconsciously a bond of unity among the membership of different communions, even people of different faiths.

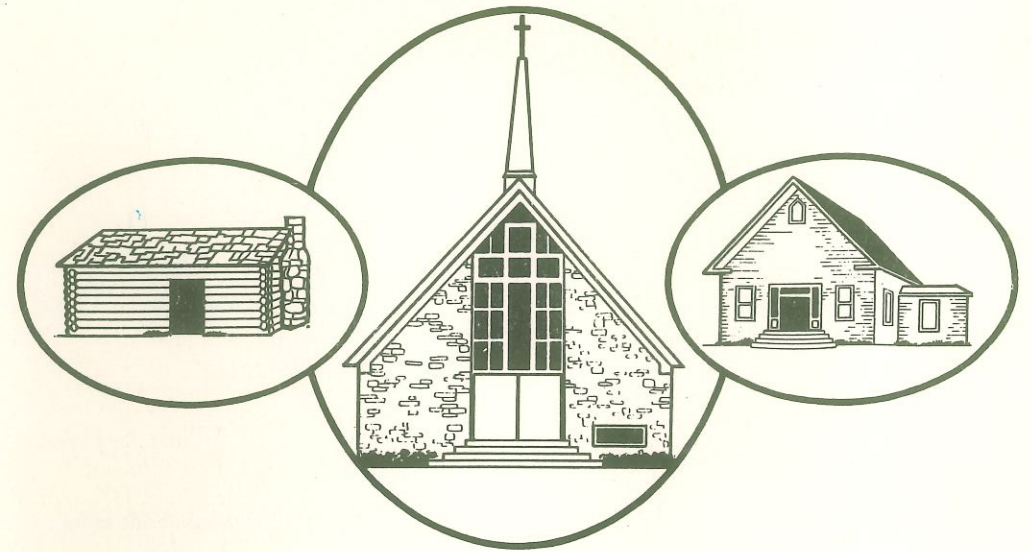
The Chancel Choir meets Wednesday nights at 7:30 for practice. Anyone who wishes to sing may contact the director and join the choir.

The Youth and Children's choirs meet Sunday afternoon during the activities for practice and sing once a month at the evening service and occasionally on Sunday morning.

The Messengers is a group of teenagers in the UMYF who sing hymns and folk music at the worship services and travel to other places for personal appearances. Selection for this group is made by try-outs by the choir director. Any teenager may ask for an opportunity to audition.



# SERVICES OF WORSHIP AND DEDICATION



1830 — 1975

## Clifton United Methodist Church

2916 Clifton Church Road, S.E.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30316

WILLIAM A. TYSON, Jr  
WILLIAM F. WINDOM  
FRANK H. PRINCE  
WILLIAM R. CANNON

Ministers  
District Superintendent  
Bishop

MAY 25, 1975

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP

Eleven O'Clock

THE PRELUDE

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No 1: "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing". Charles Wesley

CALL TO WORSHIP: "Rise Up, O Men of God" . . . . . Choir

INVOCATION

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH No 738: "The Apostles' Creed"

CHILDREN'S SONG

\*RESPONSIVE READING No. 558: "The Glory of God" . . . . . Psalm 19

\*THE GLORIA PATRI

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON . . . . . I Kings 8:22-30

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON . . . . . Matthew 16:13-18

BAPTISM AND RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER . . . . . William G. Fields

PASTORAL PRAYER

\*HYMN No. 59: "We Gather Together" . . . . . Netherlands Folk Hymn

WELCOME OF VISITORS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY

ANTHEM: "Oh Come, Loud Anthems Let Us Sing" . . . . . Choir

SERMON: "And They Built A Church" . . . . . William A. Tyson, Jr.

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

\*HYMN No 470: "God of Grace and God of Glory" . . . . . Harry Emerson Fosdick

\*RECESSIONAL

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

\*Congregation Standing

DINNER ON THE GROUNDS

We will join together in a Christian feast to celebrate the dedication of the church and the love and fellowship that we know for one another and for God.

SERVICE OF DEDICATION

Sunday Afternoon, Two O'Clock

PRELUDE

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN: No 38: "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" . . Henry Van Dyke

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

This is the day which the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!"

This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.

Blessed be the Lord; may his glory fill the whole earth!

LET US PRAY:

Almighty and everlasting God, whom the heaven of heavens cannot contain, yet who art willing to have a house fashioned by man, wherein thine honor dwelleth and where men may worship thee: Of thy love and mercy, we beseech thee, vouchsafe thy presence here, that this building which we have reared to the glory of thy name, and do not wholly devote and dedicate to thee, may by thee be accepted and hallowed, to the end that souls may here be gathered, nourished in thy love, and made fruitful in thy service; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O God, by whose providence we celebrate the dedication of this church: Send down upon us, we beseech thee, thy heavenly blessing; and, because holiness becometh thine house for ever, make us living temples, holy and acceptable unto thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ANTHEM: "Bless This House" . . . . . The Choir

\*RESPONSIVE READING

The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof,  
the world and those who dwell therein;  
for he has founded it upon the seas,  
and established it upon the rivers.  
Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord?  
And who shall stand in his holy place?  
He who has clean hands and a pure heart,  
who does not lift up his soul to what is false,  
and does not swear deceitfully.  
He will receive blessing from the Lord,  
and vindication from the God of his salvation.  
Such is the generation of those who seek him,  
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Lift up your heads, O gates!  
and be lifted up, O ancient doors!  
that the King of glory may come in.  
Who is the King of glory?  
The Lord, strong and mighty,  
the Lord, mighty in battle!  
Lift up your heads, O gates!  
and be lifted up, O ancient doors!  
that the King of glory may come in!



Who is this King of glory?  
The Lord of hosts,  
he is the King of glory!

Psalm 24

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Let us unite in this historic confession of the Christian faith:

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**SPECIAL MUSIC** . . . . . The Harwell Trio

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON** . . . . . Isaiah 55:6-13

**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON** . . . . . Ephesians 2:13-22

**\*HYMN No 28: "O God Our Help in Ages Past"** . . . . . Isaac Watts

**PRESENTATION AND BURNING OF THE MORTGAGE** . . . . . Lay Leader

We present this mortgage to be burned declaring that this church building is debt free.

**PRESENTATION OF THE CHURCH BUILDING** . . . . . Chairman  
Board of Trustees

We now present this building to be dedicated to the glory of God and the service of people.

**NAMING OF THE CHURCH**

By what name shall this church henceforth be known? District Superintendent

It shall be called the Clifton United Methodist Church. Chairman  
Administrative Board

**ACT OF DEDICATION** . . . . . District Superintendent

Beloved in the Lord, we rejoice that God has put it into the hearts of his people to build this house to the glory of his name. I now accept this building to be known as the Clifton United Methodist Church, that we may dedicate it, and so set it apart for the worship of almighty God and the service of people. Let us therefore, as we are assembled, solemnly dedicate this place to its proper and sacred uses.

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

To the glory of God the Father, who has called us by his grace;  
To the honor of his Son, who loved us and gave himself for us;  
To the praise of the Holy Spirit, who illumines and sanctifies us;

we dedicate this house.

For the worship of God in prayer and praise;  
For the preaching of the everlasting Gospel;  
For the celebration of the holy Sacraments;

we dedicate this house.

For the comfort of all who mourn;  
For strength to those who are tempted;  
For light to those who seek the way;

we dedicate this house.

For the hallowing of family life;  
For teaching and guiding the young;  
For the perfecting of the saints;

we dedicate this house.

For the conversion of sinners;  
For the promotion of righteousness;  
For the extension of the kingdom of God;

we dedicate this house.

In the unity of the faith;  
In the bond of Christian brotherhood;  
In charity and good will to all;

we dedicate this house.

In gratitude for the labors of all who love and serve this church;  
In loving remembrance of those who have finished their course;  
In the hope of a blessed immortality through Jesus Christ our Lord;

we dedicate this house.

We now, the people of this church and congregation, compassed about with a great cloud of witnesses, grateful for our heritage, sensible of the sacrifice of our fathers in the faith, confessing that apart from us their work cannot be made perfect, do dedicate ourselves anew to the worship and service of almighty God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**PRAYERS OF PETITIONS AND INTERCESSIONS** . . . . . Former Ministers

**REMEMBERING THE PAST** . . . . Former Ministers, District Superintendents, Members

**CHALLENGING THE FUTURE** . . . . . Dr. Tyson and Mr. Windom

**\*HYMN No 297: "The Church's One Foundation"** . . . . . Samuel J. Stone

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

\*Congregation Standing



## LETTERS

Dear Congregation of Clifton:

Thank you for your gracious invitation to participate in the service of dedication at Clifton United Methodist Church on Sunday, May 25. I join with the wonderful people at Clifton in rejoicing over this accomplishment and feel confident that that great church will continue to have an effective ministry in the Clifton area. I remember with a great deal of delight the four years I was privileged to be the pastor at Clifton and I convey to the people my congratulations on this great accomplishment. It is with regret that I will not be able to be present, but my thoughts and prayers will be with you.

Yours truly,  
Sam H. Coker, Pastor  
Grace United Methodist Church  
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Congregation of Clifton:

Congratulations on your progress and the achievement of a debt free building. It is gratifying to know that the congregation we served and left continued on to greater heights after our leaving! Our years at Clifton were pleasant. Some of our better memories are of the fine people of Clifton who loved us and labored with us in the early days of the present Clifton community.

Thank you for the invitation to share in a Service of Dedication on May 25th. It would be an honor to be present, but we must decline for personal reasons. We express our love to the people and our regrets.

Your letter is most kind. Thank you for being gracious concerning our small part in the history of Clifton.

Cordially,  
Lloyd W. Jackson, Pastor  
Saint Mark United Methodist Church  
Augusta, Georgia

Dear Congregation of Clifton:

Thank you so much for your invitation to Olive and me to be present for the dedication of the Clifton United Methodist Church. We would be there for sure except for the fact that I have agreed to preach the homecoming sermon on that day at Mt Zion.

To the people of Clifton, I say, "Congratulations on the great progress that you have made! This day of dedication is a proud day for you, and is a happy day for me. I deeply appreciated the opportunity of working with you when I was your District Superintendent. God bless you every one!"

Gratefully,  
Nat G. Long  
District Superintendent, Retired  
Atlanta-Decatur-Oxford District

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The first floor of the new building was completed in 1957, and on June 28, 1964, the dream of a new church building was fulfilled with the completion of the Sanctuary.

On May 1, 1975, the final note on the new building was paid and we rejoiced on the achievement of a debt free building. On May 25, 1975, a Service of Dedication was conducted along with the "presentation and burning of the mortgage."



DHS  
Indiana

Churches - Methodist -  
Clifton United Methodist Church

Church  
Ballotins -  
1830-1975

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DHS  
Indiana

Clifton United  
Methodist Church

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# PTAs congregate,

## seek church ties

BY DEBBIE STRICKLAND

DDN 3  
2/2/75

Box 10 Clifton Ave  
C

**Dekalb County.** South Dekalb residents, many of them parents of school-age kids, flock to church on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights, filling local churches to capacity.

For example, New Birth Missionary Baptist Church, one of more than two dozen churches in the area, has a membership of 15,000.

But on PTA nights, the 11 schools in the same area are often nearly empty.

With high hopes of harnessing some of the churchgoers' enthusiasm, the PTA leaders in the area have formed a task force and last week urged area churches to sponsor a "PTA Sunday" membership drive.

Fewer than half of the 25 churches invited sent representatives, but all of those present agreed to host the PTA Sunday on Feb. 12.

"We don't have to start in a big way. Consistency is going to be the key," said **Joan Walker**, the task force's director.

"The individual PTAs have tried every which way to get people out. What is it we're not doing? Maybe the ministers can stress the importance of being involved in schools."

The ministers were, for the most part, receptive to the PTA's plea.

**Marcus Dixon** of the Clifton United Methodist Church said, "All of us, we want to do whatever we possibly can to lift the PTA."

Still, several ministers described a perceived hostile barrier between them and the

schools, which are forbidden from promoting religion.  
(The PTA, because it is not a government agency, can be more liberal in its relations with churches.)

When the ministers were asked whether they felt "locked out of schools," many responded, "Yes!"

Said **Philip Baker** of New Piney Grove Missionary Baptist Church, "We're locked out because we have a message and it's not a secular message.... We're allowed to come in, but we're not allowed to give our message."

He said he was invited to speak about black history in a school but was told "there were certain things I couldn't say."

Just last week, a minister was forcibly ejected from a Cobb County high school assembly for asking students who did not believe in Jesus to stand up.

Like Baker, **Tonya Summer** of Columbia Drive United Methodist Church agreed to the PTA Sunday, but complained that the schools offer little "reciprocity" to churches, in the form of "[encouraging] children to attend church."

Still, the ministers overwhelmingly supported the new initiative, and many said they plan to join the PTAs of schools in their churches' neighborhoods - now that they know it's okay to do so.

The getting-acquainted session and the PTA Sunday, according to Walker, are just

(See PTAs, Pg. 5A)



# PTAs

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(Continued from Pg. 1A)

"first steps." The task force hopes to assemble information booklets on churches' youth and summer programs, and they would like to forge agreements to post PTA and school information on church bulletin boards.

The Parent Task Force for South DeKalb's ultimate goal, though, is to motivate parents, as well as others in the community, to become involved in schools.

According to the task force's mission statement, the group seeks "to challenge and educate parents to be more accountable for their children's development and well-being."

But it's tough to "challenge and educate parents" who won't participate in the process.

Just last week, in the south DeKalb area, a school/community expo called "Taking Charge of the Total Child," held at Southwest DeKalb High School, attracted only a few dozen parents.

Topics included "How Parents Become Involved with Their Child's Education," "Parenting and Communication," "Test Taking Information for Elementary Students and High School Students," and "Transition from Elementary School to Junior High.

The organizers assembled experts from throughout DeKalb County to address these and other subjects.

The experts were greeted by rows upon rows of empty plastic chairs.

**Gl Turman**, the school system's executive director for the area, apologized for the community.

Walker's experiences with these kinds of events have been similar.

"We have, as individual PTAs, put on parenting workshops...but the turnout really wasn't very good," she said.

She hopes the new partnerships with area churches will bring about a change.



5/20/80

PAGE 10A

## CELEBRATING 150 YEARS

# Bishop To Preach at Clifton Church Anniversary

Clifton United Methodist Church 2918 Clifton Church Road, will celebrate its 150th anniversary on Sunday, May 25. Bishop William R. Cannon will preach at the 11 a.m. worship service.

After the worship service a covered dish dinner will be shared, followed by an afternoon "hymn fest". All former pastors and members, as well as friends, are invited to join the celebration.

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Protestant Church organized at the Salem Camp Ground a new church named the Clifton Meeting House. It was named after Aaron Clifton, the original owner of the property. On September 20, 1832, Starling Harris deeded approximately two acres to the trustees "in consideration for the love which he hath and beareth unto the Methodist Protestant Society a lot of land for the Clifton Meeting House and a burial ground."

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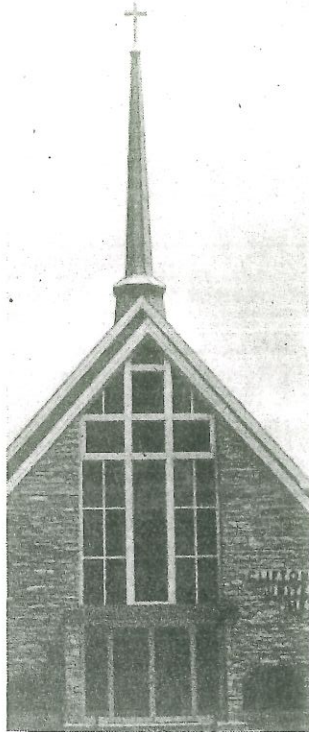
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During the past five years the neighborhood around Clifton was experienced a racial transition. Most of its membership has moved away but Clifton is gaining new members from its new

neighbors. The church expects to receive 25 new members from this 1979-1980 conference year. A great deal of effort has been given toward ministry with children and youth. The acolyte program has been expanded to include candlelighters, banner bearers, and a processional cross. A children's choir has been organized this year, and the Sunday school program completely re-organized.

The United Methodist

Men at Clifton sponsor a little league team in the Gresham Park. The United Methodist Women provide much financial support for various program needs of the church. A new circle is presently being formed. Special studies for adults have been offered during the school year, including "Praying the Psalms" and "Our Lord's Prayer." These studies will resume in the Fall, dealing with the parables of Jesus. The pastor is the Rev. J. Gary Blaine.



FOUNDED IN 1830