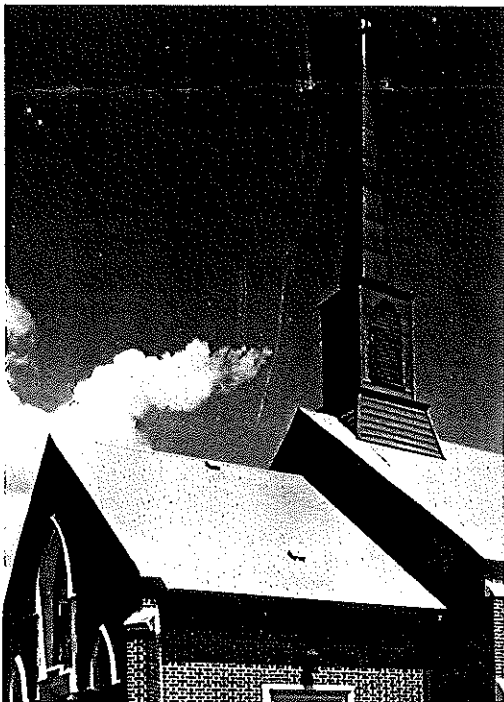


HISTORY
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
5095 LAVISTA ROAD
TUCKER, GEORGIA 30084
Phone: 938-3030

- 1904 — Church organized by Rev. Paul Connolly, with 44 Charter Members. An acre lot was purchased for \$100.**
- 1906 — First building was completed and dedicated. It was located on the Old Lawrenceville Highway. At that time, the Lawrenceville Highway, U.S. Route 29, crossed the railroad tracks near Brockett Road and was the main thoroughfare through Tucker. The Lawrenceville Highway did not cross the railroad tracks at Hugh Howell Road until an overhead bridge was built many years later. Original building site is now 4141 Bancroft Circle.**
- 1914 — Tucker Circuit was created, consisting of Tucker, Harmony Grove, Mt. Carmel, Pleasant Hill and Bethesda. Pastor: J.D. Milton.**
- 1923 — Epworth League, later the United Methodist Youth Fellowship was organized.**
- 1932 — A Women's Missionary Society was organized.**
- 1939 — The Women's Missionary Society becomes The Women's Society of Christian Service. Tucker becomes a station. Pastor: R.B. Hays.**
- 1944 — The church was destroyed by fire and was re-located to its present site. Land was donated by the Burns family.**
- 1948 — The new church and parsonage were completed.**
- 1956 — New church school rooms and a steeple were added. Pastor: T.H. Shackelford.**
- 1959 — The United Methodist Men's Fellowship was organized.**
- 1962 — A new wing with 20 classrooms, fellowship hall and kitchen was completed. Membership was 800. Pastor: Frank Jenkins.**
- 1971 — Sanctuary remodeled and gymnasium added.**
- 1978 — New parsonage was bought in the Westhampton Subdivision.**
- 1979 — Church celebrated 75th Anniversary. Pastor: L.B. Caywood.**
- 1986 — Over the years the church has experienced constant growth. The church school has 12 adult classes and classes for children and youth. Our Singles Ministry reaches all ages. Our Music Ministry consists of 10 choirs (5 singing and 5 bell choirs) with 200 people involved. The church membership stands at 1800 ... and growing!**

* * * * *

The stained glass window in the cover photograph, 'Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane' can be seen over the front doors at First United Methodist Church, Tucker.



HISTORY

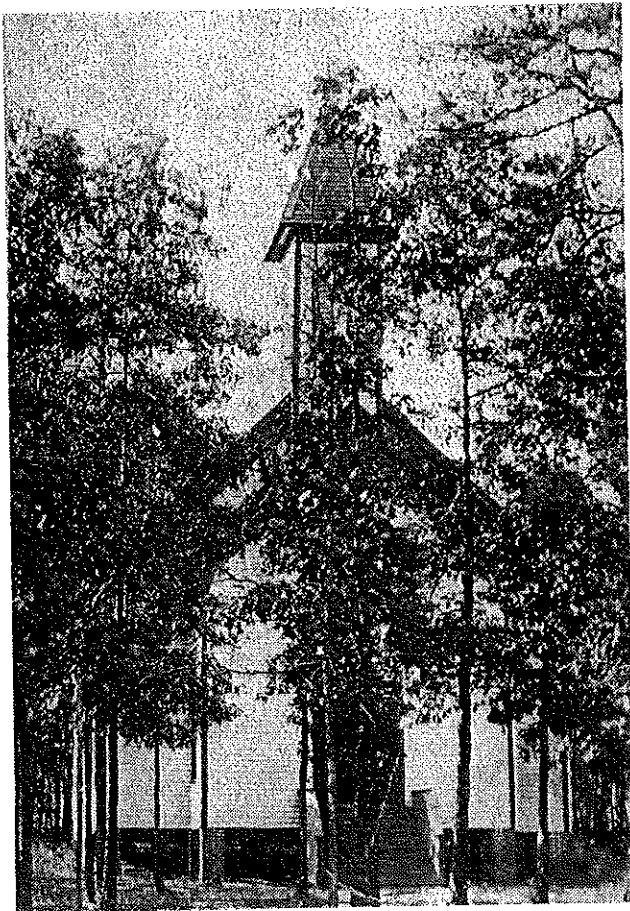
- 1988-89 Plans were begun for the construction of a new sanctuary, Sunday School classrooms and Activity Center.
- 1990 Dedication of Activities Center
- 1991 Dedication of New Sanctuary
- 1997 Membership has grown to 1500 members.
- 1997 Acquisition of Old Tucker Post Office building with plans to renovate for our Youth Ministry.

HISTORY OF FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH TUCKER, GEORGIA

In 1904 the Reverend Paul Connolly, a member of the North Georgia Conference, was the pastor of the Norcross Circuit. He saw the need of a church in the small community of Tucker. At this time the village of Tucker consisted only of Main Street which ran from near the railroad to the Lawrenceville Highway. The school was on this street, along with two stores. The general store housed the Post Office and was operated by Alf Chewning. The other store was on the Lawrenceville Highway across from Browning's Court House. It was owned by George England and his son, Junius.

Reverend Connolly organized a group of families who wanted a church closer to their homes and began to build a congregation. They built a brush arbor near the school house. This served as a meeting place in the summer, but during the winter months they held services in the school building. According to old records, Reverend Connolly did the preaching and by 1904 there were forty-four members. Pews for the arbor were brought from Mount Calvary, a church located on Lawrenceville Highway, near the Dekalb-Gwinnett County line. According to the history of the Harmony Grove Church, Mount Calvary had ceased to function, and the pews were hauled to the arbor by mule team.

The charter members of the new church were listed as follows:



Tucker Methodist Church 1906
on what is now Bancroft Circle

Alpheus G. Chewning
Delliah D. Chewning
S.C. Baggett
Wyle J. Baggett
Estelle Baggett
William A. Baggett
Jonathan L. Chewning
Ella Mae D. Chewning
Nora Britt
L. V. Britt
Charles J. Britt
Emma S. Nash
John M. Hulme
Lena Trimble
Annie Lankford
Lucy Baily
S. G. Lifsey
Susie Watkins
Emma Andrews
Charles Chewning
William P. Lankford
John H. Lankford

Charter Members



Paul L. Lindsay family picture:
Gussie Chewning Lindsay, Gladdice
Lindsay (Mayo), Elliner Lindsay
(Chapman), Caryl Lindsay (Hagan).

Mable Baggett
A. M. Baggett
Beulea Baggett
Willie Baggett
E. J. Lankford
William C. Golding
George B. Pall
Millie Lankford
Horace Fincher
Sara Dunagan Backus
Thomas Trimble
Thedora Fincher
Kate Hopkins
Oscar O. Lankford
James B. Bailey
James H. Lifsey
Annie R. Lifsey
William W. Andrews
Paul L. Lindsay
Alonza Fincher
Lillie Lankford
Odessa Shumate



Mr. & Mrs. A. G. Chewning, 1899

In the fall of 1904 the Reverend John L. Hall became the first assigned pastor of the church. At the time he was serving on the Duluth Charge. Immediately they began laying plans for a church building. A Board of Trustees made up of W.W. Andrews, J.W. Bailey, J.H. Lifsey and W.C. Golding was elected to find land suitable to the congregation. An acre plot at a cost of \$100 was bought from G.M. England. It was located on the old Lawrenceville Highway, which is now 4141 Bancroft Circle. This is occupied by the Atlanta Korean Seventh-Day Adventist Church and is the original site of the Tucker Methodist Church.

The wooden building was completed and dedicated in 1906. It had the traditional vestibule at the front and was heated by one wood burning pot-bellied stove. The members furnished the wood and brought it from home. Reverend John Jenkins preached the dedication sermon to the 100 member church. The church was on

the circuit composed of Norcross, Mt. Carmel, Meadow, Bethesda and Harmony Grove. Reverend Wild Pierce was the Presiding Elder and Bishop Duncan the Resident Bishop.

In 1914 the Tucker Circuit was created consisting of Tucker, Harmony Grove, Mt. Carmel, Pleasant Hill, and Bethesda with Reverend J. D. Milton pastor. The first parsonage was built in 1929 when Reverend Frank Q. Echols was pastor and the Tucker Circuit was made up of Tucker, Mt. Carmel, Harmony Grove and Oak Grove.

According to the North Georgia Conference Minutes, Tucker Church, then part of the Decatur-Oxford District, was made a separate station in 1939 when R. B. Hays was the pastor.

Reverend T. H. Wheelis was pastor in 1943 when expansion of buildings was begun. However, in 1944, fire destroyed the original church and the new addition.

The donation of land by the Burns family made possible a change of site to the present location. Beautiful stained glass windows were placed on each side and over the front entrance of the new sanctuary. They were given in memory of loved ones by their families.

New church facilities and a parsonage were completed in 1948 with Reverend A. D. Whittemore and Reverend Clyde Smith giving pastoral leadership.

In 1956 under the leadership of Reverend T. H. Shakleford, new church school rooms and a steeple were added.

An entire new wing with 20 classrooms, fellowship hall and kitchen was completed in 1962 with Reverend Frank Jenkins as pastor. At that time, the congregation numbered 800. The Reverend Frank Jenkins, Jr., son of F. E. Jenkins, Sr., a retired member of the North Georgia Conference, is a nephew of the Reverend John Jenkins, who preached the dedication sermon for the first church.

Reverend Neal Windom led the 1,300 members in 1971 in remodeling the sanctuary and the addition of a gymnasium.

In 1978, a new parsonage was purchased in the Westhampton Subdivision. The old parsonage, located next to the church, was redecorated and converted to the Christian Arts Center. This building currently houses the Music, Arts, and Drama Ministry of the Church.

SPECIAL DAYS

One of the special days in the early life of the church was the Sunday on which Quarterly Conference was held. This was an "all day Meetin' and dinner on the grounds". The Presiding Elder preached at eleven o'clock, then dismissed the congregation for lunch. Men carried the pews into the grove around the church and placed them with the back toward the outside. This formed a "table" for the food. The women put starched white cloths on the seats, then opened baskets of delicious food. There were biscuits and fried chicken, ham and sausage, plenty of cakes, pies, and cookies and everyone ate a generous meal. The adults went back into the church to hold a conference while the young people and children stayed outside. One of the reports the stewards had to give was

the amount of money that each had collected since the last quarter. Once, when Mr. Hugh Morgan and Mr. Z. Gober called on a member to ask if he wished to give some money to the fund needed for the quarter, he asked them what had happened to the fifty cents that he had given the last time they asked for money!

Protracted meeting was held in the summer after "crops were laid by" so that members who farmed for a living could attend services. Services were held twice a day, morning and evening. Usually a visiting preacher was invited to speak and he stayed in the homes of the members. Services lasted a week or more and were well attended. The whole family came, even to the evening service. Sometimes there were very young children. When they became sleepy, quilt pallets were put on the floor between the side pews and the pulpit. The children lay there and slept through the preaching and singing.

The women always sat in the pews to the right of the pulpit and the men occupied the ones on the left. These were known as the "Amen Corners" of the building. Preaching of the gospel and singing of familiar hymns brought many new members into the church and caused renewed interest in the work of the church among the people who were already members.

LEADERSHIP

Pastors of the First United Methodist Church Tucker include:

1903-1904	Paul Connolly	1936	J. W. Lee
1905-1907	John L. Hall	1937-1938	Harry Lee Smith
1907	W. I. Delph	1939-1942	R. B. Hays
1908-1909	F. A. Ragsdale	1943-1944	T. H. Wheelis
1910	R. F. Hodnett	1945	G. W. Hamilton
1911-1913	D. B. Cantrell	1946	A. D. Whittemore
1914-1915	J. D. Milton	1947	Tim Holbrook
1916-1918	E. G. Thomason	1948-1949	Clyde Smith
1919-1920	J. A. Partridge	1950-1953	W. W. Cash
1921-1923	C. M. Blackwell	1953-1956	T. H. Shackelford
1924-1925	John Hall	1956-1961	F. E. Jenkins, Jr.
1926-1928	J. D. Milton	1962-1963	Ewell H. Blackburn
1929-1930	F. Q. Echols	1964-1970	R. Neal Windom
1931-1932	Horace Jones	1971-1978	Norman Manning
1933-1935	R. P. Segars	1978-1984	Larry B. Caywood

Robert Story was appointed first lay leader of Tucker Church by Reverend W. W. Cash, minister, and served for eighteen years.

Ministers to come from Tucker Church include: Chaplain Major Emory G. Cowan, Jr.; Bob Windom, son of Reverend and Mrs. Neal Windom; Mike Cash, son of James and Ellen Cash and grandson of Reverend W. W. Cash.

1984-1988	Juel G. Sealey
1988-1992	Bob Hugh Berrier
1992-1995	Herbert M. Chisenhall
1995-	Michael L. Cash

Michael L. Cash, our present pastor, grew up in Tucker Methodist Church. His grandfather, W.W. Cash was Senior Minister here from 1950-1953.

5/29/91 Tucker First United Methodist Church
DeKalb Neighbor



DeKalb's Fosters unite their love of art and church through creation

Stone Mountain's Marjorie, left, and J.B. Foster take one last look at one of three rosette windows soon to be installed in Tucker First United Methodist Church, of which they are members. The stained-glass windows were designed by Foster and constructed by he and Mrs. Foster over a period of two years. Foster has an

architectural background and Mrs. Foster is a professional designer. Their interest in stained glass first came in 1981 from an introductory course sponsored by the church, and later the couple was chosen to create the beautiful works for Tucker First's new sanctuary. (Staff photo by Donna Williams)

Tucker First United Methodist Church
DeKalb Neighbor 5/29/91



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SUBJECT FILE

C H O R C H E S - F I R S T U N I T E D
M E T H O D I S T C H U R C H

Atl. Journal

May, 1983

index

BRYANT

Memorial services for Mr. C. A. "Gus" Bryant of Tucker, will be Thursday, 10:30 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church of Tucker, Rev. L. B. Caywood officiating. Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Lillian M. Bryant, Tucker, a

WESTBROOK 3-26-1983

Mr. John Ralph Westbrook of 4612 Chamblee Tucker Rd., Tucker, died Friday morning, March 25, 1983. Survived by his wife, Mrs. Annie Mae Westbrook, Tucker; daughter, Mrs. M.O. (Martha) McHugh, Snellville; son, William R. Westbrook, De Ridder, La.; sisters, Miss Jessie Westbrook, Cumming; Mrs. Edna Crocker, Duluth; Mrs. Ruby Cowart, Doraville; brothers, Glenn Westbrook, Tucker; Lewis and Herbert Tinsley, both of Cumming; Marvin Tinsley, Alpharetta; three grandchildren; and other relatives. Funeral services will be Sunday, 2 p.m., from our chapel. Rev. Boyd Crocker and Rev. Lynn Holbrook officiating. Interment Eternal Hills Memory Gardens. McLane Funeral Home.

10A—GWINNETT DAILY NEWS—SUNDAY, MARCH 27, 1983

State / Deaths

deaths

Sun March 27, 1983
Gwinnett Daily News

John Westbrook

John Ralph Westbrook of 4612 Chamblee Tucker Road, Tucker, died Friday morning. Services will be at 2 p.m. Sunday at the chapel of McLane Funeral Home. The Revs. Boyd Crocker and Lynn Holbrook will officiate, and burial will be in Eternal Hills Memory Gardens.

Mr. Westbrook is survived by his wife, Annie Mae Westbrook; daughter, Martha McHugh, Snellville; son, William R. Westbrook, De Ridder, La.; sisters, Jessie Westbrook, Cumming, Edna Crocker, Duluth, and Ruby Cowart, Doraville; brothers, Glenn Westbrook, Tucker, Lewis and Herbert Tinsley, both of Cumming, and Marvin Tinsley, Alpharetta; and three grandchildren.

The Atl. Constitution John R. Westbrook

Services for John Ralph Westbrook, 74, of Tucker will be at 2 p.m. Sunday at McLane Funeral Home in Tucker, with burial in Eternal Hills Memory Gardens in Snellville.

Mr. Westbrook, a retired carpenter for the M.K. Construction Co., died Friday. He was a native of Forsyth County and a member of the First United Methodist Church of Tucker.

Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Annie Mae Westbrook; daughter, Mrs. Martha McHugh of Snellville; son, William R. Westbrook of De Ridder, La.; sisters, Miss Jessie Westbrook of Cumming, Mrs. Edna Crocker of Duluth and Mrs. Ruby Cowart of Doraville; and brothers, Glenn Westbrook of Tucker, Lewis Tinsley and Herbert Tinsley, both of Cumming, and Marvin Tinsley of Alpharetta. *March 27, 1983*

Files: CHURCHES-

FIRST UNITED

METHODIST CHURCH

of TUCKER

WESTBROOK

Funeral services for Mr. John Ralph Westbrook will be Sunday, 2 p.m., from our chapel. Rev. Boyd Crocker and Rev. Lynn Holbrook officiating. Interment Eternal Hills Memory Gardens. McLane Funeral Home.

1983

March 27, 1983
The Atlanta Constitution

3

The Atlanta

Constitution

March 27, 1983

Indexed