

The Church School

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The purpose of THE CHURCH SCHOOL is to provide guidance for coordinators and church school administrators, to assist them with their specific responsibilities in the educational ministry of the church. The magazine also provides guidance and units of study for intergenerational or family groups.

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Appreciating our heritage . . .

THE INMAN PARK STORY

By CORA MAE LeVERT

Inman Park United Methodist Church of Atlanta, Georgia, observed the anniversary of the dedication of the church on April 17, 1975, in an informative and entertaining manner. The celebration committee began to work several months ahead of the date and endeavored to achieve two major aims.

The first aim was to honor the founders in appreciation of our heritage. The second aim was to review the present activities of the church and through this presentation accept a challenge to "serve the present age."

For five months previous to the occasion, three members took picture slides of all the church groups and activities. From a probable 300 slides, 150 were chosen. A committee member wrote the script, and this interpreted the meaning and significance of the pictures.

The following is the general outline of the program.

1. Potluck supper served to members and guests.
2. A brief printed history of the founding of the church distributed to all persons present. The history began with the first brush arbor in 1866.
3. Program after supper, begun by the congregation



Inman Park: more than a century of open doors, faith, and service, currently through the ministry of pastor Aleck G. Poolos.

singing the same hymn sung at the dedication: "Come, Thou Almighty King."

4. Presentation of slides, beginning with one of the open door of the church and an invitation for all present to enter. The showing took about one hour.

5. At the conclusion someone played the original organ, and the congregation sang the same song that was sung in the beginning: "I Love to Tell the Story."

Specific procedures helped the program attain the desired goals.

- The slides were organized in the following groups:

1. The administrative division, minister, secretaries, administrative board, and council on ministries.

2. The three ministries of the church: teaching, worship, and service.

- The teaching ministry began with a picture of a red rose on the communion table, signifying that a new baby had been born into the church family. From this point the slides continued, showing pictures through the children's division and on through the entire church school until the last one of the oldest class in the church. None of the pictures was posed, but all showed the classes in their normal activities.

- The worship ministry came next. The first pictures here were those of the rituals of the church: baptism of a baby, communion, and a wedding. Others pictured the Sunday morning worship: the minister in the pulpit, the offering being taken, the choir singing an anthem, and the congregation with heads bowed in prayer. Pictures showed the beautiful interior of the sanctuary at Easter and Christmas, and the choir in a sacred concert.

- The third service, ministry, portrayed several interesting activities: filling baskets at Christmas for the church shut-ins, weekday kindergarten children in various activities, well baby clinic, visits to elderly people, an opportunity shop (used clothing), ladies sewing cancer pads for the cancer home, and a meeting of the Breakfast Club.

- Following these three ministries, we pictured the women's work and organization, special days in the church calendar (such as an honor day for one of the church school teachers who had taught for fifty years), scenes of the annual Christmas festival, Homecoming Day (a big event), and the choir retreat at a nearby lake.

- Probably the Introduction and the Conclusion of the program created the desired atmosphere and feelings. These two parts of the script follow.

Introduction

"A church without memories is a church without a history."

The history of Inman Park United Methodist Church is a priceless heritage of cherished memories. Among these is that of the dedication on April 17, 1898. Bishop Galloway presided over the ceremonies and led the congregation in singing "Come, Thou Almighty King."

Tonight we honor these early founders. Their first church was a brush arbor, which they built in 1866. Later, a wooden structure, and finally this stone church, served the growing congregations. During these 110 years certain procedures have changed, but the real purpose of the church has remained constant. One definition of the church is, "The church is a company of persons who have responded to God's call in Christ in a relationship of love and friendship." Inman Park was then and is now that kind of church.

Tonight, as we remember the past and review the present, we believe that "old memories and young hopes can go hand in hand." Someone has said that a picture is worth a thousand words, and the slides will show, better than words can tell, how the church today "serves the present age" as did its ancestor.

Conclusion

The immediate surroundings have changed since the horsecars ran up and down Edgewood Avenue, but this tall, sturdy, gray stone church remains unchanged. The original bell in the belfry called people to come to church and worship God.

The door is still open to welcome persons to come in, and in the friendly atmosphere of the church to learn of Jesus and the Christian faith; to worship God with heart, strength, and mind; and to serve people in their varied needs.

The church today may not fulfill all the dreams of its founders, but as we remember the past, review the present, and anticipate the future, we can accept a new challenge for teaching, worship, and service.

This portrayal of the church in 1975 is made in appreciation of the founders. In 1898, they sang with confidence and joy "I Love to Tell the Story." Tonight, accompanied by their organ, we can sing the same song with the same confidence.

CS

Mrs. LeVert is a member of Inman Park Church.

DHS
Archives

Inman Park Methodist Church

DHS
Archives

(Located on
Edgewood Ave.,
Fulton County)

Churches - Methodist -
Inman Park Methodist
Church

History
by Kellert, Jr.

February 17 after considerable delay, a full
class institution of learning, not a university
or college, but a school of high order will
meet a long felt want in the community
& will bless the church & people."

I called the church & they
are located in Fulton County.

A History of
Inman Park
Methodist Church
by Mrs. E. H. Kellert, Jr.
1968
35 pages.

Families of David Deitz and John Wyley
settled in eastern suburb of Atlanta
in 1866. The two men constructed an
arbor. They covered the top with brush
wood. The brush arbor was completed
in 1866 & this was the original Inman
Park Methodist Church. In the honor
of Mr. Hays, a devout layman, the
arbor was named Hays Chapel. Changes
in the status of Hays Chapel were being
made constantly & in 1872 it was called
Edgewood Mission.

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Archives

Inman Park
Methodist Church

This church is
located in
Fulton County.

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In 1878 it seemed advisable to build a new
place of worship to be called Edgewood Methodist
Episcopal Church South. The church was built
about one-fourth mile east of the present
location. The church was a small, "up & down"
frame building. The church assisted in
establishing St. Luke's Mission. Fifty-four
of the Edgewood members organized a mission
near Elsas May Factory. "Rev. J. R. Mayson was
appointed by the Conference as principal of
Edgewood Seminary. He opened the school on