HISTORY - ANTIOCH METHODIST CHURCH

RIVERTOWN ROAD, FAIRBURN, GEORGIA
Early in the 19th century, the John L. Kidd family settled in a woodland section of originally Coweta, later Campbell, now Fulton County, about three and one-half miles from Fairburn, Georgia on what is now Rivertown Road.

Among other pioneer families of this community was the Harrison B. McLarin. Feeling the need of a place to worship they soon organized a church. Mr. Kidd donated five acres of land for this purpose. Deeds were made to Antioch Trustees - Harrison B. McLarin, Lewis Miles and Oliver Kidd, the titles specifying that the land must be used for church, public school and burying ground. When it is no longer used for church or school, it reverts to the heirs of John L. Kidd.

Not much is known of the early history of this rural organization except that a log building was erected and served as a meeting place for a while, and, even prior to the deeding of the land a cemetery was started. The first grave was of Mary L. Kidd, infant daughter of O. C. Kidd. This was in 1836 or 1838.
In 1879, L. L. Kidd, son of John Kidd, sold to the trustees one-half acre of land adjoining the original five-acre tract, for $5.00. Deeds were made to trustees - Milton Miles, Nathaniel Henderson, John Stipe, Hilliard McLarin and John E. Steed.

Again, in 1888, L. L. Kidd and his brother O. C. Kidd, donated an additional one-third acre, deeds being made to L. Miles, John E. Steed, Hilliard McLarin, John Stipe and Nathaniel Henderson.

Seven years later, in 1895, L. L. Kidd sold to the church trustees one acre of land, this being the last parcel obtained. The officials to whom the last deeds were made were H. A. McLarin, John E. Steed, George E. Henderson, E. L. Bishop and John F. Smith.

PART TWO - TWENTIETH CENTURY.

The twentieth century found the descendants of the early officials active in the church. Now only a few are represented in the local church but many are united with other churches of the faith and are active in church work. Dan Stone goes out from Antioch as a Methodist minister. He trained at Emory in Atlanta and now has charge in Baltimore, Maryland.
The original log building was replaced by a building of sawed timbers and later on in 1904 the present house was built under the supervision of the pastor, Rev. C. M. Lipham, and a building committee of E. L. Bishop, Chairman, J. H. Burkhead, W. L. Camp, M. W. Gardner, George E. Henderson, R. P. McLarin, W. H. McLarin, John F. Smith and Mrs. A. F. Swan. Stained glass was salvaged from the razed Trinity Methodist Church in Atlanta. These windows still shut out the distractions and let in the sunlight.

Grove prayer meetings, Saturday preaching services, seating of the men on one side of the church and the women and children on the other were customs that disappeared soon after the present church was built. Cuspidors, little kerosene lamps with tin reflectors, water buckets and dippers vanished. The long sermon, formerly punctuated by the braying of restless mules and horses at the hitching posts, were cut shorter to meet the demands of changing times.

World War One bled the church of all young men, only to be followed by World War Two in which a member, Thales McGee, gave his life.
In 1952, the church carried 140 names on the roll. The church had formerly had a service once a month, then semi-monthly, becoming full-time in 1952 with a morning service each Sunday.

Just before the turn of the century, we find the Camps, Stipes, Norwoods, Cottons, Slatons, Hendersons, Hearns, Morgans, Milers, Steeds, Taylors, Smiths, (John F. Francis, known as "Dock"), Joe and others, actively interested in Antioch. Then the Bishops, Langstons, Watkins, Browns, Daileys, Milams, Stones, Reeves, Baldwins, Neeleys, Cawthons, Hodnetts, Eidsons and other Smiths entered the picture.

The church is indebted to Mrs. W. H. Reeves and Margaret and Ella Stone for the contribution they made to the music of the church. Among those who have served as Sunday School Superintendents were Mr. J. H. Burkhead, Mr. J. A. Henderson, Mrs. Mamie Taylor, Mr. G. W. Baldwin, his son, Mr. Carlyle Baldwin and Mr. W. H. Reeves.

Note: This writer is indebted to Miss Lee Bishop, former member, who compiled a more complete and colorful History of the church in 1952, for the historical facts up to that time. For a more detailed account of this earlier period, I would refer you to that history, which I understand is in the Conference Archives.
As we take up from 1952, we find the past ten years have brought several changes. The church went full-time with both morning and evening services on Sunday and midweek prayer meetings are held regularly in homes of members. The church has an active W.S.C.S., M.Y.F., and the different commissions are organized and functioning. A well organized six-class Sunday School meets each Sunday under the efficient and loyal leadership of Mr. Cecil Black, who has served as superintendence since 1952.

An eight-room educational building, now under construction, is about half completed.

About 1959 the church bought a trailer which served as a home for the last student pastor and is now serving the present Pastor and his family.

Pastors who have served Antioch since the earlier history was written are D. P. Johnston, James Hodges and the present pastor, Larry Amos. The earlier history compiled in 1952 lists pastors from 1881.

Following is a list of names carried on the church roll as furnished to this writer by the pastor, Reverend Larry M. Amos: