The First Methodist Church was organized in 1847 when Atlanta was but a small village. For a short time its members worshipped in a building used by all denominations and also for school purposes. But during the year they raised $700.00 for a church building of their own. This sum was not sufficient to complete the building. Slabs were improvised for seats until pews could be secured. On March 24, 1848, Bishop J. O. Andrew dedicated the church which was where the Candler Building now stands. For a number of years it was called Wesley Chapel. In 1850 it was removed from the Decatur Circuit and made a station.

The growth of the church necessitated a new building. In March, 1870, a contract was signed for its construction on the site of the former structure. On September 1 of that year the corner-stone was laid. In due time the building was completed. In 1870 Wesley Chapel became the First Methodist Episcopal Church South.

The North Georgia Conference met at First Church in 1872 with Bishop Enoch M. Marvin presiding; in 1902, with Bishop W. A. Candler in charge; and in 1929, with Bishop W. B. Beauchamp, presiding.

"In the last quarter of the Nineteenth Century revivals were the rule and not the exception. During the pastorate of Dr. H. C. Morrison, later Bishop (1887-1890), 110 members were received into the church at one time, the ingathering of a week. On another occasion about 500 were taken in at one service.

"The rapid drift of the city northward led the congregation to consider moving further from the noise and disturbance of the business center. Accordingly, On December 1, 1903, the congregation moved into their magnificent new home."

Continued growth forced the recognition of the great need for an educational plant. This was undertaken at considerable cost, but the members met it heroically and all are glad. Completed in 1948, it is equipped to house the Church School of a thousand members.

All departments of the church work are flourishing under the leadership of Dr. Pierce Harris. In June, 1952, there were 2584 church members. During that year they raised for all purposes $164,271.00.