HISTORY
of
AUDUBON FOREST METHODIST CHURCH
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Churches</td>
<td>54</td>
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<tr>
<td>Church Members</td>
<td>52,983</td>
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<td>Raised last year (as reported June, 1952)</td>
<td>$1,903,934</td>
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<tr>
<td>Members, Church Schools</td>
<td>36,402</td>
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<td>Members Woman's Society of Christian Service</td>
<td>8,552</td>
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THE HISTORY OF THE AUDUBON FOREST CHURCH

On June 5, 1949 at 3:30 P.M. about fifty men and women with a great vision met in the Terrace Room of the Carnegie Library in Adams Park to discuss the needs of a new Methodist Church in Cascade Heights Section of the City of Atlanta, Georgia.

Dr. Lester Rumble, District Superintendent of the Atlanta West District, North Georgia Conference, had previously sent out announcements to the effect that this meeting would be held and he was greatly pleased with the response. Dr. Rumble presided and announced to the people that a piece of ground, size 277'x272.5'x165.5'x312.3', suitable to build a beautiful church plant on had been offered by Mr. George Wilson and Mr. W. O. Duvall, at the intersection of Willis Mill and Sewell Roads.

Mr. Mark E. Johnson was elected Temporary Secretary. A discussion of the best ways to organize the Church and ways to finance it followed. It was suggested that if this Church was organized, a full time Pastor was needed. Dr. Rumble promised to see that this would be done at the Annual Conference in June.

Commitment cards were passed out and the following signed cards immediately, stating their desire to join this new Church:

Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Alexander, Sr. Mr. and Mrs. Price Howard
Mr. J. O. Alexander Miss Gloria Howard
Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Bellah Miss Gail Howard
Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Berry Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Hutt
Mr. and Mrs. M. H. Berry Mr. and Mrs. Mark E. Johnson
Miss Patricia Berry Miss Meriam Joyce Mitchell
Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Bright W. R. Mitchell, Jr.
Mr. A. T. Bright Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Murphy
Miss Clara Bright Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Norvell
Mrs. T. M. Bright Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Richard
Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Furlow Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Thompson
Miss Florence Furlow Miss Elizabeth Tillman
Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Gardner, Jr. Mrs. Howard West
Mr. Lee Griffin Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Wingo
Mrs. Willie M. Griffin

The others present stated they were keenly interested but would decide later.

It was suggested that a Steering Committee of twelve be elected to function until a Quarterly Conference could be organized. The following were elected to serve on this Committee:

C. E. Purcell, Chairman H. L. Chaffin
A. J. Bellah M. E. Johnson
M. H. Berry Sam Lockhart
C. T. Black H. L. Murphy
A. T. Bright W. L. Richard
Lawrence Brittain W. D. Thompson
Dr. Rumble announced that the Young Adults of the Atlanta West District would help with a survey of this section of the City.

On June 19th, 1949, the first Minister to preach to this newly organized congregation was Dr. Wallace Rogers, a former District Superintendent and much beloved minister. After this service everyone was urged to stay for a picnic and to aid the Young Adults with the planned survey.

The following week the North Georgia Conference met and a pastor was assigned to the new Church in Cascade Heights. On June 26th Dr. Rumble met with us and brought the morning message, also he brought along with him the new Pastor, Rev. L. B. Jones III; Brother Jones, a single man of twenty-three years, had been the Associate Pastor of the Decatur First Church. Brother Jones came to us with a preparation that is of both the mind and heart. His education has been of the best and he stood well in his classes. He has never known anything but to work in the Church, being the son of the present Pastor of Inman Park Church. Brother Jones immediately let it be known that he was planning on taking unto himself a wife the last of August. We predict for our Pastor a grand success as he leads us and a hearty cooperation was promised him. On this, the official birthday of the Church, we had fifty members to present to Brother Jones. At the close of the service, Dr. Rumble called a Church Conference. It was moved that the Church now be given a name. The name of "Audubon Forest Methodist Church" was unanimously agreed upon, in honor of the new sub-division where the Church would be located. While awaiting the construction of the first building unit of the Church the congregation will continue to worship in the terrace room of the Carnegie Library in Adams Park.

On Thursday, July 28th, 1949, a Quarterly Conference was held and twenty-five people were present. The following men were elected as Trustees of the Church: Messrs. W. L. Richard, Chairman, M. H. Berry, A. T. Bright, C. E. Purcell, and W. D. Thompson.

The first Board of Stewards was appointed: Messrs. A. J. Bellah, M. H. Berry, C. T. Black, A. T. Bright, M. E. Johnson, W. R. Mitchell, C. E. Purcell, H. L. Murphy, H. L. Chafin, D. D. Dixon, W. F. Hutt, S. M. Lockhart, J. C. Vinson and J. C. Wingo. Officers and Committee Chairmen were as follows: C. E. Purcell, Chairman, M. H. Berry, Vice Chairman, D. D. Dixon, Secretary of the Board, W. R. Mitchell, Church Secretary, H. L. Chafin, Treasurer, Miss Elizabeth Tillman, Pianist, C. T. Black, Chairman Finance, W. F. Hutt, Chairman, Building Committee.

On July 3rd, 1949, the Methodist Youth Fellowship held its first meeting. Miss Martha Powell was elected President, Jo Ann West, Vice President, Joyce Mitchell, Secretary-Treasurer. Mrs. W. F. Hutt, Superintendent of the Youth Division, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Vinson and Mr. and Mrs. Lee Foote, Counsellors.

On July 17th, 1949, the Church School held its first meeting with forty members joining on the first Sunday. Present enrollment after ten months is 170. Mr. Mark E. Johnson was elected Church School Superintendent, Mr. W. D. Thompson, Secretary. Mr. H. M. Rogers, Chairman Board of Christian Education. Mrs. W. R. Mitchell, Superintendent of Children's Division; serving under her are the following: Mrs. John Hart, Superintendent of Nursery Mrs. Price Howard, Superintendent of Kindergarten, Mrs. W. D. Thompson, Superintendent of Primary, and Mr. Sam Lockhart, Superintendent of Juniors.
The Adult Division consisted of one large class with Mr. C. T. Black serving as teacher; Mr. D. D. Dixon, Class President. Mr. W. R. Mitchell was appointed Adult Superintendent. It was felt after meeting several months that this Class should be divided into an Adult Class and a Young Adult Class, but not until October 9th was this accomplished. Two couples, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Axelberg and Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Brown undertook to contact all young adults and invite them to come the following Sunday. Through the efforts of these four, nineteen were present on the following Sunday. The Class grew by leaps and bounds with a total membership now of 48. Mr. Douglas Volk was elected President. After several months passed, Mrs. W. F. Hutt was elected Teacher of the Class. Mrs. Hutt resigned from the Youth Division and Mr. and Mrs. Lee Foote were appointed Superintendents of the Division. After the organization of the Young Adult Class, now named The Philemon Class, the Adult Class, named The Audubon Class, now has a total membership of 44. Both classes are doing excellent work. The total amount of money spent by the Church School for all purposes during the year 1949-50 was $485.00.

The Woman's Society of Christian Service held its first meeting on July 12, 1949, with a Charter Membership of 34. The following officers were elected: Meadams M. H. Berry, President, A. J. Bellah, Vice President, W. D. Thompson, Secretary, H. L. Chafin, Treasurer, H. L. Murphy, Christian Social Relations and Local Church Activities, Howard West, Missionary Education, W. R. Mitchell, Status of Women. Two Circles were organized with Mrs. W. D. Thompson, Chairman of Circle #1 and Mrs. C. L. Robbins, Chairman of Circle #2. The present membership after eleven months is . The total amount of money paid out in 1949-50 for all purposes was $588.00. The newly elected officers for 1950-51 are: President, Mrs. W. D. Thompson, First Vice President, Mrs. J. H. Byars, Second Vice President, Mrs. J. G. Bayles, Secretary, Mrs. Mark E. Johnson, Treasurer, Mrs. H. L. Chafin, Promotion Secretary, Mrs. J. W. Furlow; Committee Chairmen: Christian Social Relations and Local Church Activities, Mrs. A. J. Bellah, Missionary Education, Mrs. Howard West, Spiritual Life, Mrs. Rhea Shockley, Status of Women, Mrs. Dan Sales, Secretary of Youth Work, Mrs. W. R. Mitchell, Publicity, Mrs. M. F. Barnes, Circle Chairmen: Circle #1, Mrs. W. L. Richard, Circle #2, Mrs. C. L. Robbins, Circle #3, Mrs. J. W. Butler.

On September 26, 1949, The Wesleyan Service Guild was organized with six women present. In eight months this group has grown to a total membership of fifteen. The total amount raised and disbursed this year is $158.00. The following officers were elected for 1949: Mrs. W. F. Hutt, President, Mrs. Bevel Jones, Vice President, Mrs. J. B. Sprayberry, Promotional and Recording Secretary, Mrs. Paul Duncan, Treasurer, Mrs. W. L. Richard, Coordinator. The 1950-51 Officers are as follows: Mrs. W. F. Hutt, President, Miss Catherine Nations, Vice President, Mrs. J. B. Sprayberry, Promotional and Recording Secretary, Mrs. Paul Duncan, Treasurer, Mrs. W. L. Richard, Coordinator, Mrs. Bevel Jones, Missionary Education, Mrs. J. A. Griffith, Christian Social Relations and Local Church Activities.

Even though we had no Church building to worship in, on July 31st. The Audubon Forest Methodist Church was greatly honored by having Bishop Arthur Moore bring us the morning message. His coming to us will be long remembered as a "Red Letter Day" in the history of this newly organized Church.
The Children's Choir made its debut in a Christmas Carol Program on December 18th under the direction of Mrs. Bevel Jones. A party was planned for all the children with a big Christmas Tree and presents for all.

Our first Christmas started off with Church School which was well attended, and Dr. Lester Rumble, District Superintendent, brought the morning message, "How Far Is Bethlehem?"

On January 20, 1950, the Methodist Men's Club was organized with twenty-eight men present. The following officers were elected: Messrs. D. W. Sales, President, B. J. Sprayberry, Vice President, J. G. Bayles, Recording Secretary, Lee Griffin, Corresponding Secretary, Price Howard, Publicity Chairman and A. H. Wallis, Treasurer.

On February 19, 1950, at the evening hour, Rev. L. B. Jones, Jr., father of our Pastor preached and more than 120 members and friends were present for the evening service.

Dr. Mack B. Stokes, Professor of Systematic Theology in the Candler School of Theology visited us and brought us another inspiring message.

Rev. B. C. Kerr, Superintendent of the Children's Home, visited us on May 12, 1950 and told many interesting things about all the children in the Home. Audubon Forest contributed $102.00 toward the upkeep of this wonderful Institution.

One of the outstanding days in the history of Audubon Forest was on March 26th; "Ground Breaking Day". An Architect, Wilhoit and Smith had been employed, plans for the new Church had been submitted and approved, Contract let with Contractor Donald McIvier, everything well in hand to start the first unit of our new building. This consisted of a Chapel, Sunday School rooms for each Division, Kitchen and dining room. Building valued at $42,000, excluding the fixtures and furnishings. At 3 o'clock on March 26th, 1950 some 300 members, friends and neighbors gathered on the building site. The Beecher Hills Baptist Church saluted us by playing the Chimes all through the service. A most impressive service followed; those participating were: Rev. Bevel Jones, Bishop Arthur Moore, District Superintendent, Lester Rumble and in the background were those responsible for the completion of this Building. The Contractor promised to have the building completed, under favorable conditions, by July 15th, 1950.

During the month of May the Church membership was asked to tithe, this tithe to go on the Building Fund. A goodly number signed tithe cards.

On June 18th Audubon Forest will be one year old. A great day is being planned. Church School and the 11 o'clock Church Service will be held at Mt. Gilead Camp Grounds. This is to be followed by an old fashion Picnic.

Everyone is looking forward to the day in the very near future when
Several important things happened at Audubon Forest on August 7, 1949. During the Church School hour we were visited by Bishop Marvin Franklin. On this same day the congregation was invited to attend the Wedding of Miss Mildred Hawkins, of Kentucky, and Rev. Bevel Jones, on Friday evening, August 12th at 8 o'clock at Decatur First Church with reception in the Candler Hotel, Decatur, Georgia.

Dr. R. L. Russell filled the pulpit on August 14th in the absence of our Pastor who was Honey mooning.

On August 21st Mrs. Bevel Jones was welcomed into our midst; we feel doubly rich now in having Mildred to reside over our Parsonage. We feel she is a good asset to our Church as she is not only beautiful, but very talented. She too has known nothing but Church work, being the daughter of Rev. C. E. Hawkins in the Kentucky Conference. The Woman's Society of Christian Service gave a reception for our Bride and Groom, (The Rev. and Mrs. Bevel Jones) at the home of Mr. and Mrs. M. H. Berry.

Not having a Parsonage, our Pastor and his wife started down life’s new pathway in a rented apartment on Cascade Road; there they lived until a parsonage was bought. On September 30, 1949, the Board of Stewards met and agreed, and was confirmed by the Board of Trustees, the Quarterly Conference and the Church Conference, to purchase the Purcell home at 2099 Cascade Road for the Parsonage for the sum of $13,750.00. It is a beautiful red brick house, with six lovely rooms, large lot, 51’ x 355.9’. It is now valued at $15,000. Mr. and Mrs. Purcell donated $1,000. toward the purchase of the Parsonage. Between the Board of Stewards and the Woman's Society of Christian Service and Wesleyan Service Guild, the Parsonage has been furnished and we were proud to turn the keys over to our pastor and his wife. The total cost of furniture and fixtures thus far is $3,000.00

September 4, 1949 was set for Charter Day with a goal of 200 members. It was a day of rejoicing to the 160 members whose names went down in the history of the Audubon Forest Church.

We feel we have been very fortunate in securing some very outstanding men to come and bring us messages of encouragement. On September 18, 1949, Dr. Douglas E. Jackson, Assistant Professor of Social Ethics and Sociology at the Candler School of Theology brought us an inspiring message, which made us more determined than ever to build a building worthy of being called the House of God.

October 2, 1949 was a memorable day, as we observed World Communion. Celebrating our first communion on this day made us feel we had a part in this great organization of Methodism.

Open House was held by our Pastor and his wife for the congregation and friends of the Audubon Forest Church to see and inspect the new parsonage. The Joneses made a lovely Host and Hostess and we all went away feeling very proud of our Pastor and his lovely wife and our new Parsonage.

November 20, 1949 was our first Thanksgiving and we felt we had much to be thankful for, as no Church has ever ventured forth with the many blessings as has Audubon Forest.
we move into our new building.

The first year of our newly organized Church has been a wonderful experience for each member and we all join together in prayer for a future success in building the Kingdom of God here on earth.

As Bishop Moore wrote in our Scrap Book, we pray too, that our Church will:

"Have doors wide enough to admit all who need a Saviour's care and narrow enough to shut out pride, envy and sin."

Historian - Mrs. W. F. Hutt

June, 1950
AUDUBON FOREST

On June 5, 1949, Audubon Forest Methodist Church was organized to be located at Sewell and Willis Mill Roads. The lot, measuring 277' x 272.5' x 165.5' x 312.3', was donated by Messrs. George L. Wilson and W. O. Duvall.

At the 1949 session of the Annual Conference, Rev. Lewis Bevel Jones, III, was appointed pastor. On June 26, Dr. Lester Rumble, District Superintendent, preached and introduced the pastor to his congregation of fifty members. Their meeting place, until a building could be erected, was in the library at Adams Park. On that same date, Dr. Rumble called a Church Conference, and the new church was named Audubon Forest Methodist Church, the vote being unanimous. The name was taken from the lovely subdivision in which it is located.

On June 26, 1949, a Quarterly Conference was held and all needed officers and committees were elected. On July 12, a Woman's Society of Christian Service and a Wesleyan Service Guild were organized. On July 17, the Sunday School was organized; and on January 20, 1950, a Men's Club was established.

A beautiful six-room brick parsonage, located at 2099 Cascade Road, S.W., was bought at a cost of $13,750.00.

On March 26, 1950, ground was broken for the erection of the first unit of the church. During its first year, $28,860.00 was raised by the members.

At the 1952 Annual Conference, the pastor reported 379 members of the church, and a total of $30,540.00 raised.