In the summer of 1955, the Commission on Missions of the First Methodist Church, LaGrange, Georgia, headed by Mr. Charles Smith, began steps to organize a new Methodist church in the area of West LaGrange. The commission agreed to undertake this project, and allotted nine-hundred dollars to pay the salary for a pastor from that time until June, 1956. In the latter part of August, the District Superintendent, the Reverend J. W. Segars, contacted Riley Middleton, Jr., of Columbus, and a student of LaGrange College and offered him the charge. He accepted and came to LaGrange to begin work on September 8, 1955. Two days prior to that time, Sept. 6, the commission and other interested members of the First Methodist engaged in a census of the area to determine the degree of interest in such a project. The results were pleasing and encouraging and the information was turned over to Mr. Middleton, who began visiting.

After a sufficient number of people had verified their interest the first worship service was held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Arnold, on the Teaver Road, September 25, 1955. Fourteen persons attended. The following Sunday, the group met again in the Arnold home. The third week, in the home of J. E. Ledford, also on the Teaver Road. Mr. Ridley Ayres, Jr., offered their home the following Sunday. After several weeks of meeting in these homes, Mr. Ledford offered the use of a vacant house that he owned as a regular meeting place until such time as the church was chartered and in possession of its own property. Beginning November 20, 1955, this house was used as a temporary church. Permission was given to do any remodeling necessary, and desirable to suit the needs of a church.

To furnish the building, Mr. R. S. Clark, Superintendent of Troup County Schools, lent indefinitely, forty metal folding chairs and a piano. Friends donated an oil heater and stand to serve as pulpit. The First Methodist Church gave nine small chairs for the children's Sunday School classroom, material to be used for draperies and a worship center. Later, LaGrange College Chapel donated some pews.

December 4, 1955, Church School began with three classes, the primary, youth, and adult. On February 8, 1956, the congregation began meeting to form a choir, which practiced on Wednesday evenings.

In the latter part of February, definite plans were being formulated for a date to be designated as Charter Sunday. This date was set for March 25, Palm Sunday.

On March 4, the first group of members joining on profession of faith were baptized; Mr. & Mrs. Harry Harper, Mrs. Thomas Haynes, Mrs. G. W. Morrison, and Mrs. Harrell Pike. March 18, the first evening service was planned, to be added to the schedule of Sunday School and the eleven o'clock morning worship service. At this service, there were twenty-six present, increasing to thirty-two the second week.
During the week immediately before the Sunday of March 18, a committee composed of W. D. Arnold, J. E. Ledford, Gerald Morrison, Harry Harper, and Aubrey Eley, headed by Mr. Morrison, met to discuss a name for the new church. Henry C. Ayres Memorial was the name selected by the committee. This is in memory of Henry Ayres, a member of Long Cane Methodist church, who dedicated his life to Christ through many years of missionary work in the Belgian Congo, Africa. He was sent as a missionary from this district about the year 1925.

At the first quarterly conference, held immediately after the chartering service, the name submitted by the committee was accepted by the congregation. At this conference the first officers were also accepted. They were: Mr. Ridley Ayres, Jr., Mr. Johnnie E. Ledford, Jr., Gerald Morrison, Harry Harper, and Aubrey Eley; stewards. Trustees elected were: William Walters, Harrell Pike, Howard Walters, and John Carley. W. D. Arnold was elected Church-School Superintendent.

The first Sunday in June was set as the limit for enrolling charter members. They were: Miss Patricia Almon, Mr. W. D. Arnold, Mrs. W. D. Arnold, Mr. Ridley Ayres, Sr., Mr. Ridley Ayres, Jr., Mrs. Ridley Ayres, Mrs. Margaret Berber, Mr. James Breed, Mrs. Annie Cock, Mr. Aubrey Eley, Mrs. Aubrey Eley, Mr. Charles Eley, Mr. Harry Harper, Mrs. Harry Harper, Mrs. Thomas Haynes, Mr. J. P. Heard, Mrs. J. P. Heard, Mr. J. P. Heard, Jr., Mrs. J. P. Heard, Jr., Mr. R. P. Jackson, Mrs. R. P. Jackson, Mr. Leon Lankford, Mrs. Leon Lankford, Mr. J. E. Ledford, Mrs. J. E. Ledford, Miss Ophelia McGill, Rev. Riley K. Middleton, Jr., Mr. G. W. Morrison, Mrs. G. W. Morrison, Mr. Harrell Pike, Mrs. Harrell Pike, Mrs. E. O. Walters, Mr. Howard Walters, Mr. William Walters, and Mrs. Harvey Woodham.

Several lots were offered for consideration as church sites. Mr. Frank Young offered a choice of lots on the Fling Road, or on the Teaver Road. Mr. Curtiss Darden offered two adjoining lots on the West Point Highway, and also another lot a little further from town on the highway. After consideration by a committee established for the purpose of selecting such sites, the two lots offered by Mr. Darden was selected, and the deeds were presented to the church. The land was one hundred seventy-five feet wide, and three hundred feet deep, facing the highway.

Given a grant of two thousand dollars from the expansion day fund, the church paid one thousand two hundred seventy-five dollars for the house that was on the lot. In addition to the two lots given to the church, Mr. Darden also gave a third lot across the highway for the present tenant to build his new home.

Later, Mrs. H. S. Burdette gave an additional lot one hundred feet deep and four hundred feet wide, directly behind and adjoining the lots given by Mr. Darden.

The
The first project undertaken to begin a building fund was a chicken supper served to the Men's clubs of this district. The supper was served by the members of Ayres Memorial on April 19, 1956, at the First Methodist church. The profit amounted to two-hundred fourteen dollars and fourteen cents.

On June 13, 1956, the first prayer meeting was held at the church.

A special Quarterly Conference was held on January 23, 1957, for the purpose of discussing plans for the new church building. The District Superintendent, the Rev. J. W. Veatch, led the discussion. The blue prints were voted on and adopted by the quarterly conference.

On April 14, 1957 at quarterly conference, it was voted and adopted to give the building committee authority to go into contract with the low bidder, and proceed with the construction.

The ground breaking ceremony was held on Easter Sunday, April 21, 1957.