HISTORY

of

BUFFORD METHODIST CHURCH

Sugar Hill Church
The Buford Methodist Episcopal Church, South, was organized August 18, 1871, by Rev. Joshua Bradford and Dr. "Buck" Williams, with twenty six (26) members. They were: Mrs. M. B. Garner; M. S. Garner; Miss Julia Garner; G. G. Bowman; Van Davis; Emily A. Davis; Mary Davis; Sinia Davis; W. G. Stevens; Margarette Stevens; W. J. Lott; Julia Bowman; Sarah C. Davis; Amanda Pirkle; Mary J. Black; S. M. Bowman; Emanuel Sudderth; Caroline Sudderth; Matthew C. Maddox; William Maddox; Elizabeth Mickler and Herod Pass.

Four hundred dollars ($400) was at once raised and a church building begun. Half the amount was given by two men: Col. Larkin Smith, a devout Episcopalian, and T. S. Garner, a member of the Trinity Church in Atlanta, Georgia.

In 1882 the church was added to the Lawrenceville Circuit with Rev. F. F. Reynolds, preacher in charge, and R. P. Martyn, Junior Preacher. The church was assessed $60 for Quarterage, which was paid, and the church gave $11 for foreign missions. In 1873 the Lawrenceville Circuit was divided and Buford was placed in the Duluth Circuit with Level Creek, Suwanee, Duluth, Mt. Zion, Flowery, Branch and Sardis. That year, Buford was assessed $125 for Quarterage and paid $175. In 1885, the Duluth Circuit was divided and Buford was made a half station with preaching twice a month, and Bethlehem, Level Creek, and Shiloh were associated with it. This circuit continued only a few years. In the fall of 1893 the Buford church was made a station church.
BUILDINGS: The Buford Church began August 19, 1871, as a Sunday School, in a log building on Railroad Street (formerly known as the King House, near the present site of the N. W. Buice home). There were only the temporary quarters and soon a building was erected on the site of the old School grounds, now known as Church Street. This building was completed in 1875, only three years after the organization of the Church. This second building was dedicated by Rev. W. A. Dodge, Presiding Elder and Rev. M. H. Bakes, Pastor. Here the Methodist worshiped until 1894. At the close of a great revival, while W. T. Hunnicut was pastor, Mr. Bona Allen, Sr., stated that "since the church now had religion they needed a new building", and offered to give the first $1,000. That night enough subscriptions were given to build a brick church. This building was used for worship until 1926.

During the pastorate of Pierce Harris, a movement was successfully launched to build a modern plant. The present building was completed on a lot donated by the Allen family in 1926, at a cost of $90,000. A large debt was left, which was completely paid in 1935, and the lovely sanctuary was dedicated by Bishop Warren A. Chandler and J. S. Thrailkill.

Many additions and repairs have been made from year to year. The organ was purchased in 1941, while Rev. A. E. Barton was Pastor and this included 13 chimes purchased by the church. In 1946 seven other chimes were added, and these together with the large amplifier were dedicated to the memory of the men in World War II. The amplifier was given by Mr. E. C. Dobbs, in memory of his mother, Mrs. Maude Dobbs. These were dedicated by Rev. D. L. Haygood on
Easter Sunday, April 21, 1946. The seven chimes and the plaque were dedicated by Rev. D. L. Hagood in September during the first year of R. E. Hayes pastorate. In 1950-51 the Church School plant, and the large basement, and all the exterior of the entire plant were re-decorated, under the leadership of N. O. L. Powell, Pastor; Turman Hamilton, Chairman of the Board; Curtis Bell, General Supt. of the Church School; H. S. McDonald, Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Mrs. Lester Brogdon, President of the WSCS and Jane Pruitt, MYP President. A lighted sign was placed on the lawn of the church, for identification and which speaks a message to all who pass. A Men's Club was organized and chartered in 1951, and now in June, there are 40 members.

A Christmas pageant which has been given for 7 consecutive years, still draws a capacity audience. Some $2000 worth of paintings and lighting fixtures are owned by the church. W. S. Allen is the originator and director of the pageant. The scenery is most beautiful, a part of which was painted by Roy Ledford, and McInty Moore.

Mrs. Harold Hannah served as Church Secretary from 1946 to August 1950. Miss Kathryn Powell assisted her father in the office during the remainder of 1950 and 1951.

Many have been the faithful and loyal laymen who have served as Officers, Teachers, Lay Leaders, Chairmen, Presidents and leaders of groups during these years.
OFFICIARY OF THE CHURCH 1929-1930

Chairman Board of Stewards: Truman Hamilton
Chairman of the Finance Committee: Benson Jones
Secretary: Jimmie McCollum
Treasurer: Bert Benson
Chairman Board of Trustees: H. S. McDonald
President W. S. C. S: Mrs. Lester Brogdon
President Young Peoples Division: Elmer Lynn
President M. Y. F: Jane Pruitt
President Intermediate M. Y. F: Mary Shadburn
Church Sexton: Grady Morgan

CHURCH SCHOOL

General Superintendent: Curtis Bell
Superintendent Adult Division: B. B. Cole
Superintendent Young Peoples's Division: Harlan Wages
Superintendent Children's Division: Mrs. Golden Shadburn
Superintendent Home Department: Mrs. N. O. L. Powell
General Secretary: Roy Hay
General Treasurer: Bill Allen

TRUSTEES OF CHURCH PROPERTY

H. S. McDonald, Chairman
John Q. Allen
Bona Allen, Jr.

CARL PIRKLE, SR.
J. LOSS SHADBURN

STEWARDS

Garnet Akins
Curtis Bell
Clyde Cantrell
J. L. Hall

Stanley Allen
Bart Benson
C. R. Etheridge
Truman Hamilton

W. S. Allen
Lester Brogdon
Miss Ertha Garner
Arnold Hamner
R. L. Hannah  |  Roscoe Hartley  |  Mrs. W. J. Hutchins
L. L. Harrison |  Benson M. Jones |  Jimmie McCollum
Mrs. W. F. Moore |  Handsel Morgan  |  Victor Nicholson
Carl Pirkle, Jr. |  Mrs. J. B. Puckett |  Wilse Ridgeway
Claude I. Rylee  |  W. H. Smith, Jr. |  R. E. Brogdon, Honorary

Those who have served this church as Pastors are:

F. F. Reynolds and R. P. Martyn..................1872
In Duluth circuit.................................1873
W. H. Eakes....................................1875
John Carr......................................1876-77
W. P. Smith....................................1878
J. Rembert Smith.................................1879
J. A. Perryman..................................1880
G. S. Bradley..................................1881-82
J. H. Mashburn..................................1883
B. Sanders.....................................1884-85
H. L. Embry.....................................1886
M. H. Eakes.....................................1887-88
E. G. Murrah....................................1889
W. W. Oslin....................................1890
J. W. Quillian..................................1891
W. A. Farris....................................1892
J. E. Rorie.....................................1893
W. T. Hunnicutt.................................1894-95
C. V. Weathers.................................1896
T. C. Betterton.................................1897
H. L. Embry.......................................1898-99
J. M. Tumlin.....................................1900-01
C. C. Ary.......................................1902
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Years</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>J. B. Allen</td>
<td>1903</td>
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<tr>
<td>W. T. Hamby</td>
<td>1904</td>
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<td>A. C. Cantrell</td>
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<td>J. B. Allen</td>
<td>1907</td>
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<td>S. A. Harris</td>
<td>1908-09-10</td>
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<td>H. B. Mays</td>
<td>1911-12</td>
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<td>S. B. Ledbetter</td>
<td>1913</td>
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<td>A. W. Quillian, Sr.</td>
<td>1914</td>
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<td>Felton Williams</td>
<td>1915-16</td>
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<td>G. W. Duvall</td>
<td>1917-18-19</td>
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<td>H. L. Edmondson</td>
<td>1920-21</td>
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<td>R. M. Dixon</td>
<td>1922-23</td>
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<td>Pierce Harris</td>
<td>1924-25-26-27</td>
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<td>H. B. Mays</td>
<td>1928-29-30-31</td>
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<td>W. T. Irvine</td>
<td>1932</td>
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<td>J. S. Thrailkill</td>
<td>1933-34-35-36</td>
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<td>T. R. Morehead</td>
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<td>Paul Turner</td>
<td>1938</td>
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<td>A. E. Barton</td>
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<td>D. L. Hagood</td>
<td>1942-43-44-45-46</td>
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<td>R. B. Hayes</td>
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<td>N. O. L. Powell</td>
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