

BUFORD METHODIST CHURCH  
Buford, Ga.

The Buford Methodist Church was organized in August 1871, with 26 members. This was the first church to begin in the young town of Buford, Georgia.

The new church was placed in the Lawrenceville Circuit in 1882, and Rev. F. F. Reynolds was the pastor, with R. P. Martyn, Assistant. In 1883 Buford became a part of the Duluth Circuit along with Level Creek, Suwanee, Mt. Zion, Flowery Branch and Sardis. The Buford charge was formed in 1885, with Buford as a half station, and associated with it were Bethlehem, Level Creek and Shiloh. The circuit continued only a short time and in 1893 the Buford Church was made a station.

The small Sunday School and church services were first held in a log building on Railroad Street, known as the "King House". But within three years a new building was erected on what is now Church Street or the Old School Grounds, three blocks from the original site. Two men: Col. Larkin Smith, a devout Episcopalian, and T. S. Garner, a member of Trinity Church in Atlanta, gave half the money to build the church. In this location the congregation worshipped until 1894, when through the suggestion and liberality of Mr. Bona Allen, Sr., a brick building was erected on the west side of the town square, some three blocks from the former site. Here the church grew and expanded. Then in 1924 during the pastorate of Dr. Pierce Harris, the present structure was begun and completed in 1926, on a lot given by the Allen family, located on Main Street east of the business district. This building cost \$90,000.00 and today is valued at \$125,000.00

Many additions and repairs have been made from time to time. In 1941, during the pastorate of Rev. A. E. Barton, the organ with chimes was installed. Other chimes together with amplifiers were added in 1946 under the leadership of D. L. Hagood, and were given by Mr. E. O. Dobbs in memory of his Mother, Mrs. Maude Dobbs. These were dedicated in September of 1946 by D. L. Hagood. The building had its first outside re-decoration in 1951, and much of the interior, also, was painted the first time since its construction. This face lifting, together with a lighted sign placed on the lawn, for identification and to speak a message to all who pass, was done during the pastorate of Rev. N. O. L. Powell.

Those having served the church as Pastor are: Joshua Bradford, 1871; F. F. Reynolds; R. P. Martin, Jr. P., 1872; George Cramer; R. P. Martin, Jr. P., 1873; M. H. Eakes, 1874-75; John Carr, 1876-77; W. P. Smith, 1878; J. Rembert Smith, 1879; J. A. Perryman, 1880; H. 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. H. Farris 1892; J. E. Rorie, 1893; W. T. Hunnicutt, 1894-95; C. V. Weathers, 1896; T. C. Betterton, 1897; H. L. Embry, 1898-99; T. M. Tumlin, 1900-02; C. C. Cary, 1902; J. B. Allen, 1903; W. T. Hamby, 1904; A. C. Cantrell, 1905-06; S. A. Harris, 1907-08-09-10; Henry B. Mays, 1911-12; S. B. Ledbetter, 1913; A. W. Quillian, Sr., 1914; Felton Williams, 1915-16; G. W. Duvall, 1917-18; H. L. Edmondson, 1920-21; R. M. Dixon, 1922-23; Pierce Harris, 1924-25-26-27; H. B. Mays, 1928, 29-30-31; W. T. Irvine, 1932; J. S. Thrailkill, 1933-34-35-36; T. R. Morehead, Paul Turner, 1937; Paul Turner, 1938; H. S. Smith, 1939; A. E. Barton, 1940-41; D. L. Hagood, 1942-43-44-45-46; R. B. Hayes, 1946-47-48; N. O. L. Powell, 1949-50-51.

Those serving as Presiding Elders and District Superintendents are: W. T. Caldwell, W. A. Dodge, J. R. Parker, J. T. Mixon, W. A. Parks, A. G. Worley, J. T. Gibson, M. J. Coffey, M. L. Underwood, Walker Lewis, W. L. Pierce, J. Rufus King, Luke G. Johnson, S. R. Belk, J. W. Quillian, W. T. Hamby, J. G. Logan, H. C. Emory, B. H. Smith, J. F. Yarborough, Claude Hendrick, J. Foster Young, McLowery Elrod, A. B. Elizer.

Many have been the faithful laymen to serve and sacrifice, to lead and guide in the work of this church.

The building is now in good repair. A Men's Club, the W. S. C. S., the Church School, Youth Work and required Boards, are well organized, and the church has a promising future.