HISTORY OF
CALVARY METHODIST CHURCH

DATA COMPILED AND EDITED BY
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SPECIAL ARTICLES:

WOMANS SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE
Mrs. Essie Lee Edwards

NURSERY DEPARTMENT
Mrs. J.H. Todd

RECREATION BUILDING
Gene Lewis

May 31, 1951
In the city of Jerusalem there is a street called the "Via Dolorosa" (The Way of Sorrows), which leads from the center of the city, out through the Damascus gate in the northern wall, and on up to the Hill of Calvary. Along this street there are fourteen "stations", places where Jesus paused on His way to the Cross. Today, each of these stations, many of them difficult to find, are shrines, cared for by different religious organizations, and are visited by thousands of tourists each year.

This brief history of our church might well be called "Five Stations on the Way to Calvary", for since its beginning back in the year of our Lord 1872, there have been five different churches, each with a different name, each growing with the years and with the times, until in 1917, the present "Station" of Calvary came into existence.

Many of the grand old names of the Christian men and women who built and worshiped in these first tiny meeting houses have come on down through the years like golden beads on an unbroken chain, to take their honored places on our present church roll.

The information concerning the first churches of this group is necessarily limited due to lapse of time and fading memories. Many of the dates may be questioned but they have been arrived at as carefully as possible.
Many names are incomplete as to given names or initials but possibly, these may be supplied later.

The oldest living member of the first church in the group is Mrs. Ellen Smith Robinson of West Lake Avenue, Atlanta. Mrs. Robinson was born in 1865, and during her 85 years has witnessed almost unbelievable changes in the advancement of the church. The writer is indebted to her for the story of the first "Station" which nearly five decades later became Calvary Church.
On the vacant lot at the corner of what is now called "Lavendar Drive" and "Chappell Road", once stood the tiny church called "Bowen's Chapel". It was built of rough boards running up and down, a stick and red clay chimney, and a shingle roof. There was a door facing east on Chapel Road. The benches were made of logs with one side hewn off to make flat seats. The floor was of rough 12 inch boards and the mothers carried quilts to church to spread over them that their babies might sleep or rest in comfort.

This place of worship, built about 1872, was started mainly through the influence of Charles Bowen, a retired and well-to-do Christian man who loved churches and Sunday Schools.

In the 1870's churches were not too plentiful. Old Ezra Methodist Church (in Mozley Park) had been burned in the battle of Ezra Church on July 27, 1864. Many of the other suburban churches, among them Mt. Gilead, Mt. Zion, a Baptist church, Haw's Spring and Montgomery Chapels, were all destroyed.

By a strange freak of fate these temples of peace and their quiet graveyards became famous battle fields.

The name of John T. Akridge, a member of Bowen's Chapel, comes all the way down through the years to Calvary itself. He gave the lots on which the first three churches of the chain were built. The old Akridge
home is still standing at 334 Chapel Road (then called "Akridge Road"). A number of his descendants are now members of Calvery: Mrs. Clyde Lowe, granddaughter, Miss Barbara Louise Merck, great granddaughter and Mrs. T. J. Akridge, granddaughter-in-law.

Bowen's Chapel had no regular preacher and the first name we have of those who conducted services at the Church is that of Rev. William Joseph Rolader. This good man is mentioned in the Conference minutes of 1874, as having been "elected and ordained an elder." Rev. Rolader lived on Howell Mill Road near Nancy Creek and walked the 25 miles each time he preached at Bowen's Chapel. He also preached at Sardis, Sandy Springs and Vinings. He was a member of the Sardis Methodist Church and now rests in the Sardis Church burying grounds. On his tombstone are these words which testify to a life given to the service of his Lord:

"Rev. William Joseph Rolader was born in Germany August 6, 1816. He moved to the U.S.A. at the age of twelve years and joined the Methodist Church shortly afterwards. He was licensed to exhort and served a number of years. He married Annie Gunter on March 2, 1842 and was licensed to preach in 1856. He fasted every Friday for forty years and died in a full triumph of the Gospel faith on November 8, 1893."

Two of Rev. Rolader's grandsons are members of the Sardis Church: Ivan Rolader of Moore's Mill Road, and William Rolader, Howell Mill Road, the latter the home site of Preacher Rolader who walked twenty-five miles to bring a message to a little group of fifty people, the
Another preacher at this little chapel who served without pay was Rev. Sandford Smith, father of Mrs. Ellen Smith Robinson, Mrs. W. C. Jackson, a former member of Calvary, and Mr. O. O. Smith. Rev. Smith was largely responsible for securing local and circuit riding preachers to come to Bowen's Chapel to conduct services as often as possible.

The little church began with about fifty members but grew so rapidly that Rev. Smith went to the Methodist Conference and secured a gift of $200.00 toward building a new and larger place of worship. With this amount as an incentive, Bowen's Chapel was torn away and replaced by a larger church which for some unknown reason was called "Mt. Delight."

Before leaving Bowen's Chapel, the writer passes on a little story told her by Mrs. Robinson:

Rev. Sandford Smith, her father, was a real Methodist, "all wool and a yard wide." Once an occasion arose when two young women (one of them Mrs. T. C. Connally's sister, Carrie Elliott) desired to become members of Bowen's Chapel but both of them insisted on being baptized in Jett's Pond, which was in the neighborhood. Reverend Smith objected strenuously to this but finally agreed to accompany the young ladies to the edge of the water and he would provide another preacher to take over from there. But luck was against Preacher Smith. As one of the girls stepped down
into the pond her foot slipped and Rev. Smith, Methodist, was dragged in with her. However, the discomfited preacher quickly regained a foothold and climbed out of the pond, no worse off because of his part in the baptismal ceremonies.

Reverend Sandford Smith

Rev. Smith was born near College Park, Georgia in 1828 and died in 1907. He was ordained to preach by Bishop Pierce in 1880 and served Bowen's Chapel, Mt. Delight, Love's Chapel, Mt. Gilead, Mayson's, Bethel, and Mt. Zion. He bought the home place on West Lake Drive in 1874 and lived there until he died.
Mt. Delight

When Bowen's Chapel was torn down about 1875, Mt. Delight was built on the same spot at a cost of about $500.00. It was a weatherboarded building and the men of the neighborhood worked at night to make the wooden benches. The same stick and red clay chimney was used, and was later to cause the burning of the church. This building was also used as a schoolhouse for the neighborhood children and there are members of Calvary who went to school there. A Benjamin Harris was the teacher.

Mt. Delight, with a membership of about 100, was placed on a circuit with five other churches: Mt. Vernon, Mayson's, Bethel, Mt. Gilead, and Mt. Zion. Rev. W. C. Dunlap was the circuit rider preacher who ministered to these churches. This faithful, hard-working man deserves more than a passing word. He was born in 1808. At fourteen years of age he was converted and from choice joined the Methodist Church, although his parents were Presbyterians. He lived to honor the church that "threw open her doors to him and invited him within her fold." Licensed to preach in 1859, he was admitted to the Conference in 1862 and was appointed by Bishop James Andrews as chaplain in the Confederate army, which position he held until 1864. He returned to the church, was ordained by Bishop Pierce, and appointed to the Manassas Circuit. This section had been recently swept by the two great contending armies in General
Sherman's celebrated march to the sea. But nothing daunted, Rev. Dunlap accepted the call, enduring great hardships, and did a noble work. He served Atlanta City Mission in 1875, Sixth Church Mission and West End (Mt. Delight) in 1876. Following the death of the pastor of Evans Chapel (later Walker Street Church) Rev. Dunlap took on this heavy pastorate in addition to his work at Sixth Church Mission and West End. He served St. James in Atlanta in 1892 and South and West Atlanta Mission in 1894. This was his last charge, his death occurring in 1896. The Conference minutes of 1896-97 give him this well-deserved tribute: "Methodism in Atlanta owes as much to this man as, perhaps, any other. Many from all the fields of his gleaning will rise up and call him blessed."

Rev. W. C. Dunlap 1838-1896

Among the prominent names in the history of Mt. Delight are the J. T. Akridges, the Wesley Elliotts (parents of Mrs. T. C. Connally), the Sandford Smiths,
the Aikens, the Lloyd Courseys, the Adairs (grandparents of Mrs. Lester Chambers, great grandparents of Mary Chambers Reese) and the Fishbacks - the last three being members of Calvary.

In 1882, Mt. Delight was completely destroyed by fire from the defective chimney, and for the next three years its congregation worshipped at Evans Chapel which stood at the corner of Stonewall Street and Chapel Road.

The following is an interesting excerpt from a letter from Mrs. George L. Turner (until recently a member of Calvary Church) in answer to questions concerning these first churches.

"About Bowen's Chapel and Mt. Delight I know nothing except that there were such churches. Right after the War Between the States (when these chapels were built) the people in Atlanta were 'dog poor' and these little wooden buildings meant a great sacrifice to them. Often the bricks from the chimneys were picked up from the wrecked buildings which Sherman and his soldiers had destroyed, and the wood was very rough unpainted boards. Nickels and dimes built them.

"My father, Rev. Charles Oliver, was chaplain of Cobb's Legion and after the war he turned his attention to the restoration of the churches, some in Atlanta, some in other towns. He was the founder of Evans Chapel, completed in 1867 on the site of a former Fort. This chapel became a much larger church in time and erected a new
brick building at the junction of Nelson and Walker Streets, known as Walker Street Church."

About 1884, some of the Mt. Delight members gathered one Sunday afternoon in a blacksmith shop in the neighborhood and began to form plans for another church.

The result of this meeting was the building of "Lowe's Chapel", about 1885.

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Mt. Delight Church

(This drawing by Frank Jackson, according to instruction of Mrs. Ellen Robinson.)
Lowe's Chapel

Lowe's Chapel was built on Chapel Road on a lot given by J. T. Akridge, about one quarter mile nearer what is now Mozley Drive. Mr. George Lowe, son-in-law of Mr. Akridge, gave a large part of the money for its construction and the new church was called "Lowe's Chapel" in appreciation of his generosity.

It was of weather-board construction with a seating capacity of about two hundred. The foundation of this church is still standing at 311 "Chappell" Road. The change in the spelling of "Chapel" Road (as recorded in deeds of property sales at that time) occurred somewhere during the passing of the years. "Chappell" Road is now a street of neat, well-kept homes occupied by colored people.

In the Conference minutes of 1894, there is mention of a donation of $75.00 from the Church Extension Board to Lowe's Chapel in 1885-86. This was no doubt given to the Chapel's building fund. The church was placed on a circuit with three others; Mt. Vernon, on Howell Mill Road; Mayson's on Bankhead Highway; and Bethel, at Adamsville.

The big event of the year was the quarterly Conference when these four churches took their turn in being host to the other three. Those were the days when, although
money was scarce, there was plenty of food. So plentiful that at these all day meetings with "dinner on the grounds", the food had to be carried in the old hump-back trunks brought down from the attic for these great occasions. For nothing but a trunk would hold the huge amounts of fried chicken, pies and cakes (made with butter)!

Those were the times when frying chickens were 25 cents -- per chicken, not per pound; when eggs were 10 cents a dozen; butter 15 cents a pound. When eggs and butter sometimes rose to the dizzy heights of 15 and 20 cents, respectively, there often appeared at farm-house windows, new Nottingham lace curtains or maybe bottle-green window shades, and too, the preacher's family usually benefitted from these unbelievable prices with perhaps a new buggy whip for the minister, or maybe a new pair of shoes for his wife or baby -- for those were also the times when tithing was "fashionable".

One of the regular preachers at Lowe's Chapel was Rev. C. C. Davis, grandfather of Mrs. Lucy Brotherton and Mrs. J. P. Anderson. Other descendants of Rev. Davis at Calvary are Mrs. Annie Anderson Haney; Miss Catherine Anderson, a great granddaughter; and little Miss Serena Haney, a great, great granddaughter, a two-year old member of the Cradle Roll Department.

The Conference Memoirs of 1905-06 contains this splendid tribute to Rev. Davis: "He served in the Confederate Army throughout the struggle and won distinction."
The Methodist Church in upper Georgia is indebted to this worthy man for his unselfish efforts for her weal.

"In his palmy days, 'Uncle Chris' Davis was a power for good in evangelistic meetings, being instrumental in the conversion of sinners by the multitude. He preached with a power that wrought conviction, with an unction that led to repentance and peace. It was often said that no man could shake hands like 'Uncle Chris' Davis. He sleeps the sleep of the just in the shade of beautiful West View cemetery."

Rev. C. C. Davis

Rev. Davis and Rev. Rolader were elected and ordained elders at the same conference in 1874. Both were local preachers.

Other preachers who served Lowe's Chapel were Rev. Sanford Smith (from Bowen's Chapel and Mt. Delight), Rev. W. T. Irvine, Rev. J. N. Snow and Rev. Simeon Shaw.
The latter left the conference in 1887 to become a missionary to China.

Nearly all of the members of Mt. Delight became charter members of Lowe's Chapel and among other names that came on down to Calvary were the George W. Lowes, the W. E. Jacksons, the Jim Akridges, and the Fishbacks.

For ten or twelve years the little church served its people well. Then the negro population began to move in; the Battle Hill section was developing rapidly and the members began leaving the neighborhood, moving toward Battle Hill and West End Park.

Mrs. Ellen Smith Robinson bought Lowe's Chapel for about $300.00 and converted it into a dwelling which is still standing at 111 Chappell Road.
The Battle Hill Methodist Church South

Information concerning the actual building of this church on Racine Street is lacking but those who can recall some of the facts say that members of Lowe's Chapel, after it was sold, sponsored, helped to finance, and build this new church which was the nicest one they had ever had.

Dr. Sam Wilson, owner of extensive property in that section, gave the lot and he, with the B. F. Wilsons, the Dunlops, D. J. Baker, the Courseys, the Fishbacks, and no doubt many others whose names we do not have, built the church.

The section around the church was building up rapidly due to its promotion by a land company headed by Dr. Hiram Mozley, who owned all the Mozley Park section. The old Mozley home still stands in the Park. The land company also built a school house on Joe Johnston Avenue, now Laurel Avenue.

The first mention of the Battle Hill Church in the Conference minutes was in 1897 and it was then called "Battle Hill Circuit and Mission" with Rev. W. J. Wood in charge. The Church Extension Board had just made an appropriation of $1,000.00 toward the building fund.

It was a weather board church with a bell tower. The seating capacity was about 300; it had nice benches and an
organ, later a piano. The chancel rail in front of the pulpit was of bannister style. We mention this latter because the very young children use to sit on the slight elevation at the foot of the rail, and on one occasion during an enthusiastic revival meeting, one of the little girls got her head caught between two of the bannisters. Her screams of terror broke up the meeting and brought her frantic parents and sympathizing friends to the front to effect a rescue. This young lady is now our dignified and ever-faithful Tullie Fishback.

The following list gives the names of the Battle Hill preachers who followed Rev. Wood:

1898 - Rev. J. H. Little; 235 members, 4 Sunday Schools, 16 teachers, 225 pupils, preacher's salary $220.20.

1899 - Rev. B. E. L. Timmons; 271 members, 5 Sunday Schools, 35 teachers, 275 pupils, appropriation from Church Extension Board $150.00, preacher's salary $213.40.

In 1900 the Battle Hill Circuit and Mission became "Battle Hill and West Side", with Rev. P. A. Kellett as pastor, membership 267, 3 Sunday Schools, 23 teachers, 225 pupils, preacher's salary $239.45.

Rev. Kellett came to Battle Hill on trial, a very young man, on his first appointment, and remained until 1904. He is remembered by many Calvary members as being a popular and much loved preacher. Later he became an important leader in the church. He served Mt. Gilead in 1910-11-12 and again in 1922. It was said that he was
blessed with an unfeeling kindness and sympathy that won for him the loyalty and affection of all his congregations. His daughter tells us that while at Battle Hill he planned and thought out all his sermons while walking through beautiful West View Cemetery. His body now lies at rest there. There is a beautiful tribute to him in the Conference Memoirs of 1939 by Dr. Elam Dempsey.

Rev. P. A. Kellett

Following Rev. Kellet were:

Rev. F. W. McLesky - 1904
Rev. C. L. Patillo - 1905-06
Rev. W. T. Bell - 1907-08-09
Rev. J. B. Allen - 1910
Rev. C. A. Jamison - 1912-13
During these years the average membership was around 250, the Sunday schools of both Battle Hill and West Side, 200 pupils with 16 to 24 teachers. The average preacher's salary was $300.00. Although the money didn't come easily in those years there were always donations to Home and Foreign Missions, and to the Orphans Home. It was at this church that the Ladies Aid Society became the Women's Missionary Society, with Mrs. E. W. Brogdon in charge, at the home of Mrs. H. E. Bankston on Racine Street.

Among the members of the Battle Hill Church who came on to the Gordon Street Church were:

- The J. E. and W. O. Babbs
- Dr. & Mrs. Sam Wilson
- The T. F. McGahees (Mrs. McGahee being the first Missionary Society President)
- Mr. & Mrs. Jack Heath
- The W. F. Browns
- Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Cooper (Mr. Cooper a Sunday School Superintendent)
- The O. O. Smiths (Mr. Smith was the son of Preacher Smith from Bowen's Chapel, Mt. Delight and Lowe's Chapel. He was also a steward and Sunday School Superintendent)
- The Hart Fishbacks
- The Will Fishbacks
- J. W. Chambers and family
- The J. M. Hills
- The W. T. Mooney family
- The H. B. Bankstons
The story of the Battle Hill Church would not be complete without at least a small tribute to Mrs. Will Fishback, a member of this chain of churches as far back as Mt. Delight, and who died an active member of Calvary Church in April, 1945. Mrs. Fishback was the oldest member in point of service and her name should head the list of the faithful.
One incident told us reveals the devotion of the Fishbacks to their churches. Mr. and Mrs. Fishback were tithers and kept their tithing money intact in an old sock. At one time it became necessary to buy a new ceiling lamp for the Battle Hill Church and the congregation was asked to provide this money immediately. It was near the end of the month and there was no tithing money left in the Fishback's sock. After the evening service they sat in their living room worrying about their part of the money for the lamp. As she sat holding the empty sock in her hand, Lizzie Fishback unconsciously began turning it wrong side out and there, far down in the toe, crumpled into a tiny ball, was a dollar bill. The Fishback's relief and thankfulness over this discovery reminds us all that when we, seemingly, have reached the "end of our row", God always comes along, turns the plow around for us, and starts us off again on a new furrow of hope and faith.

By 1911, the congregation of Battle Hill began to dwindle. People were moving to beautiful West End Park and near the car line on Lucile and Gordon. The Board of Stewards decided it best to sell the church and move to a more thickly populated section.

The church was sold for $2,000.00 to Mr. & Mrs. W. C. Stevens, who remodeled it into a home. The present address is 175 Racine Street.
With the money from the sale of the Battle Hill Church the membership moved to a new location on the corner of Gordon and Wellington Streets. This building was smaller and greatly inferior to the Battle Hill Church, being only a temporary tabernacle of rough boards bought from the Baptists who had moved to their new location at the intersection of Gordon, Lucile, and Inman Street.

In spite of the uncomfortable slat-back benches and the small seating capacity the congregation entered into the new situation with tremendous energy and enthusiasm. They were now in a more populated section with prospects of a much larger membership and a greater church eventually.

Rev. C. C. Jamison, who had served out a vacancy the last half of 1911 at Battle Hill, moved with the membership to Gordon Street and served through 1912. His family lived in a rented parsonage on Wellington Street, the residence now occupied by Mrs. Matt Johnston.

In 1913, Rev. Jamison was followed by Rev. William Greenway, a young man, new in the ministry. He was very much liked by the members of the church and is remembered especially for his work with the young people. The Sunday School took on new life and there was a flourishing Epworth League. The church members were very cooperative and there were many outside activities, such as silver-teas, ice-cream and oyster suppers, usually held in the old Southern home, or on the broad lawn, of Mrs. W. T. Mooney, who lived
just across the street from the church. One of the older members tells us that a special yearly feature was the New Year’s watch-night parties held at the church, with an abundance of coffee and cookies, grandmothers and babies.

Among the new names added to those who came from the Battle Hill church and then on to Calvary, were:

- Mr. & Mrs. Roland Bryce
- Dr. and Mrs. White
- Mr. & Mrs. L. E. Loftis
- Mr. & Mrs. E. C. Houston
- Dr. & Mrs. E. O. Silveus
- Mr. & Mrs. J. T. Collier
- Mrs. Helen Sassnett
- The McDonald family

Rev. Greenway was followed by Rev. L. W. Collins in 1914. The membership at that time was 383, and the preacher’s salary had grown to more than a $1,000.00 a year.

A house on Gordon Street, two doors beyond the church was rented for a parsonage and Mr. Collins lived there with his mother and sister until his marriage in Feb. 1915, to Miss Ola Mabry of Barnesville. An incident that occurred around this time must be told because the writer heard it every time the name of Mr. Collins was mentioned:

Rev. Collins, very young and very much in love, brought his bride home on a Saturday evening. On Sunday morning he left her at the parsonage while he went to attend to his
Sunday School duties, with instructions for her to meet him at the church door just before the preaching service. He waited for her patiently as long as he could but no bride appeared. He commenced the morning services with his worried eyes on the front door, but no bride yet. He commenced reading the morning text from Matthew 7:8, "For everyone that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened" and then he stopped—so did his heart—with a horrible recollection: He had locked his bride in the parsonage and she couldn't get out! From habit he had locked both the back and front doors when he left the house.

Quickly excusing himself from the pulpit during the next song he rescued his bride, brought her proudly down the center aisle of the church and seated her in a front pew. Later it was suggested by some that she could have climbed out the window but what bride wants to climb out a window in full view of her neighbors and the passers-by on a Sunday morning!

In 1914, a great revival was held at the church with Rev. Marvin Williams the evangelist, and the congregation began to think of the possibilities of a new and larger church.

On March 2, 1915, at a meeting of the quarterly conference held in the parsonage, with Rev. A. M. Hughlett, Presiding Elder, in charge, an order was passed authorizing the sale of the assets of the Gordon Street church. These consisted of two lots: one on Greensferry Avenue
(now West View Drive) which had been bought for a parsonage site, valued at $475.00; and the church lot on which the tabernacle stood, value $900.00.

A Board of Trustees was elected and on April 23, 1915, an order was passed authorizing the purchase of a lot at 1471 Gordon Street (after considering the lot on the corner of Lucile Avenue and Altoona Place, the present site of the Kelsie Apartments, which was rejected because of the proximity of the street car line.)

On May 28, 1915 the quarterly conference ordered the removal of the church to the new location. Rev. Collins suggested the new name of "Calvary" and the Board unanimously agreed.

Thus the first five churches in the chain passed out of existence and the first service in the new, and the sixth, "station" of Calvary was held in a tent on the new lot sometime during the early summer of 1915.
Calvary Methodist Church

The old tabernacle on Gordon and Wellington Streets was torn down, moved, and erected on the new site at 1471 Gordon Street in little more than a week's time, but, upon completion, misfortune struck and the roof caved in. Then a tent was set up in the rear of the lot about where the parsonage now stands and the congregation worshipped there while the tabernacle was being reconstructed.

The years following the removal of the church were war years and although America had not yet entered the conflict, the effects of the world upheaval began to be felt in our own country. So from the summer of 1915 to the autumn of 1917, the congregation worshipped in the temporary tabernacle.

From 1915 through 1918 Calvary church was listed in the Conference minutes as "Calvary and Bethel" and Rev. Collins served both charges.

In the early spring of 1917, with the sum of $36.27 in the building fund, the church began an enthusiastic campaign to raise money for the erection of a new church facing Gordon Street.

One of the projects which proved very successful was suggested by Mrs. W. T. Mooney, the President of the Missionary Society at that time. The following is a copy of a church bulletin advertising the plan which was called the "Button Campaign"—a blue button centered by a white cross.
THE WHITE CROSS EASTER OFFERING
for the
CALVARY METHODIST CHURCH BUILDING FUND

Fifteen hundred dollars raised by Easter Sunday will enable us to begin work on a building worthy of our growing congregation. We are appealing to our friends to help us in making an Easter offering that will bring richer dividends for the kingdom of God than almost any cause we know.

One dollar will entitle the sender to a Calvary White Cross. May we count on you?

This project was completely successful and this money, added to the pledges of the members, the Sunday School, and the Missionary Society, enabled the trustees to go ahead with the building of the church which was near enough completion by September, 1917 for occupancy.

There follows, a financial statement of the building funds and building operations during those first years:

1915-1917
Bought church site at 1471 Gordon Street... $2,850.00
Bought vacant lot in rear, facing Lucile Ave.$1,500.00
Built first unit of church .......... $12,000.00
Installed gas heating plant.................. $ 960.00

1918-1919
Bought new pews............................... $1,950.00
Built class rooms in balcony ............. $450.00

1920-1921
Built Sunday School Annex and equipped it..$11,257.50
1924
Built parsonage at 1458 Lucile Ave. and finished class rooms in balcony \$5,700.00

1927
Bought house and lot at 1476 Gordon Street and erected Recreation Hall and church offices in rear \$4,600.00

1928
Erected Cradle Roll building \$1,050.00

PASTORS OF CALVARY CHURCH

1815-1817
Rev. L. W. Collins
Chairman, Board of Stewards, Dr. W. A. White
Sunday School Superintendent, R. J. Haynie

Under Rev. Collins' leadership Calvary church was built. His love and zeal for his chosen profession was an inspiration to his members and endowed them with a determination to found a church that would be a power for good in the new section of West End which was developing so rapidly.

At that time the membership of the church was about 650, the Sunday School 450, with about 25 teachers, and the preacher's salary was raised to \$1,275.00 per year.

1917-18-19
Rev. C. M. Lipham
Chairman, Board of Stewards, W. C. Stevens
Sunday School Superintendent, R. J. Haynie
During Mr. Lipham's pastorate, plans for the new Sunday School Annex were made, Mr. Lipham, himself, drawing the plans.

The Church's membership had grown to 783, the finances for the Annex were arranged and the work begun, but it was not until after Mr. Lipham's transfer to another charge that the building was finished.

1920-22
Rev. H. S. Smith
Chairman Board of Stewards, W. C. Stevens
Sunday School Superintendent, Hugh Howell.

Under Mr. Smith's leadership the Annex was ready for occupancy in 1921 and the Sunday School, with Mr. Hugh Howell as Superintendent, took on new life and grew rapidly.

Church membership 1,154; Sunday School 461, Preacher's salary $3,000.00; World Service and Specials for Missions, $175.00. Total for 1920, $12,335.00.

The Smith family, popular with the whole membership, lived in the rented parsonage next door to the church. Mr. Smith was removed from Calvary in April, 1922 to be made presiding Elder of the Elberton District.

1922-24
Rev. S. B. Strout
Chairman, Board of Stewards, Dr. W. A. White
Sunday School Superintendent, J. R. Adamson.

Under Mr. Adamson's direction the Sunday School became
the first accredited school in the Conference.

Miss Lola Liddell (now Mrs. Milam) became the first Church Secretary.

Mr. Strout replaced Mr. Smith for the remainder of 1923, and was appointed pastor in 1924. During this time the attractive parsonage was built on Lucile Avenue, the Strout family having occupied a rented house on East Ontario.

1925
Rev. E. T. Thomason served Calvary for one year and was replaced by Rev. Felton Williams in 1926. Dr. W. A. White was Chairman of the Board during this time.

1926-27-28-29
Rev. Felton Williams
Rev. J. G. Seay, local preacher, ordained Deacon in 1925
Chairman Board of Stewards, T. L. Smith
Church School Superintendent, S. D. Mullinaux, elected 1927, served ten years.
Mrs. Neal White, elected Secretary of church, is still serving.

One of the church's greatest projects became a reality under Mr. Williams' leadership—the Recreation Building for the young people.

In the spring of 1927, during a great revival conducted by -- Miller, a noted evangelist, the members enthusiastically pledged the amount necessary for this building which has meant so much, both to the young and old of Calvary Church.
Concerning Mr. Williams' pastorate, a quote from the church bulletin of November 10, 1929 expresses the feeling of the church at the end of his four years:

"November, 1929 brought to an end four most progressive years under the administration of Rev. Felton Williams. The church has done many wonderful things in these years and much praise is due the pastor who has labored so faithfully and well to achieve this end. Our church is in splendid condition in every way."

Rev. Williams is at present, Atlanta's City Missionary and is doing a wonderful work.

1930-31-32

Rev. Irby Henderson
Chairman, Board of Stewards, T. S. Elalock, A.R. Marbut
Church School Superintendent, S. D. Mullinaux

The church continued to go forward in a remarkable degree under Mr. Henderson's guidance, largely because of the love of the congregation for him and his family. He was removed after three years to become Presiding Elder of the Lagrange district. During his pastorate Atlanta had the honor of entertaining the Ecumenical Conference in October 1931.

Church Membership 1,154; Church School 1,161, Preacher's salary $3,600.00; World Service and Specials for Missions $2,459.00; Grand total for 1930, $16,540.00.
Rev. W. M. Barnett
Chairman, Board of Stewards, G. A. Campbell, E. W. Robinson

One of Calvary's most liked preachers. He and his lovely wife were an inspiration to everyone in the church. No great material advancement was made during Mr. Barnett's pastorate for those were depression years but his stay at Calvary will always be remembered as a time of spiritual growth.

Rev. Walt Holcomb
Chairman, Board of Stewards, E. W. Robinson, Ray Nixon
Church School Superintendent, A. J. McClure

Probably the greatest event in the history of the church as a whole took place during Mr. Holcomb's pastorate at Calvary—the Union of Northern and Southern Methodism. Those were unquiet days for some but Mr. Holcomb's firm hand held the boat steady for the Rebels of Southern Methodism and got us safely across the troublous waters.

Another long step forward which he took was the appointment of a Bond Committee for retiring all loans on the church property. This was fully accomplished two years later.

Mr. Holcomb was also unusually successful with the young people who came in crowds to the evening services where they especially enjoyed the antiphonal singing from the balcony.
The church membership at this time was 1380; the preacher's salary $5,000.00, Church School 1024; World Service and Specials for Missions $1,703.00; Grand total for 1940, $16,331.00.

1941
Rev. Hamby Barton
Chairman, Board of Stewards, Fred Phillips
Church School Superintendent, A. J. McClure

During Mr. Barton's pastorate the church suppers became an established custom and they brought a closer relationship among the church members. Mr. Barton's talented family was a great help to the church choir.

1942-43-44-45
Rev. T. M. Sullivan
Chairman, Board of Stewards, Fred Phillips, Lionel Williams, E. G. Pope
Church School Superintendents, A. J. McClure, Fred Allman, J. A. Walls

The church went forward rapidly under Mr. Sullivan's leadership. All indebtedness against the church was paid and an inspiring Dedication service, with the burning of the mortgage, took place April 19, 1942 with Bishop Moore in charge. That was a great day in Calvary's history and with new enthusiasm the church went on to bigger things. A pipe organ, long a mere dream, became a reality. It was bought and paid for in 1942-43 with Bishop Moore again in charge of
the Dedication on November 28, 1943.

Also the frame dwelling next door to the church, now called the Senior Annex, was bought and paid for during Mr. Sullivan's pastorate. It houses the Pastor's study, the church office and the Senior Department.

1946-47-48-49-50
Rev. J. C. Callaway
Chairmen, Board of Stewards, W. C. Clonts, A. J. McClure
Church School Superintendents, A. J. McClure, Carroll Barfield.

It was during Mr. Callaway's pastorate that a new rule was passed by the Conference making the Conference year to end in June instead of December.

Not many times in its history has the Calvary membership been as united, as cooperative, in all phases of its work as it was under Mr. Callaway's administration.

When a pastor and his family are so genuinely liked and admired as were the Callaways, the work of the church seemed easier and results were achieved with a minimum effort.

Many innovations took place in the routine of church work: the impressive changes in the Communion services; the Men's Club which has proved so successful and beneficial; the Sunday night Family suppers and the annual mid-summer Home-Coming dinners for the whole church held in the Recreation Hall, and the moving of the church offices from the inconvenient second floor of the old building to the new and more attractive rooms in the Senior Annex.
Because of Mr. Callaway's position as Secretary of the North Georgia Board of Missions he was signally honored by Bishop Moore in being chosen one of two young preachers sent from the North Georgia Conference to Belgium in 1949, to investigate the condition of our Mission field there since the war.

Mr. Callaway brought back to his congregation, a complete and highly satisfactory account of his journey through Europe. His lecture about his trip, illustrated with moving pictures, will long be remembered by the Calvary folks.

Church membership 1,582; Church School 943; World Service and Specials for Missions $4,153.00; Grand Total for 1950, $27,398.00.

1950-

Rev. L. B. Jones
Chairman, Board of Stewards, W. J. Warner
Church School Superintendent, Carroll Barfield

During the short time Mr. Jones has been Calvary's pastor, more than 127 new members have been added to the church roll. This is largely due to the many home visitations made by our pastor. His enthusiasm in all things pertaining to the church has resulted in larger attendances at both morning and evening services and also at the Fellowship Hour in the Recreation building at 6:30 on Sunday nights.

Mr. Jones has also organized the "Fishermen's Club"
(Fishers of Men), a club whose duties are to visit prospective church members who have moved into the neighborhood of Calvary. Perry Sowell is President of this club, David Bryan, Vice President.

The sincerity and friendliness of both Mr. and Mrs. Jones have already endeared them to Calvary members and we hope they will remain with us for a long time to come.

Church membership ___1532__; Church School ___370__; World Service and Specials for Missions $ ___2206_____; Grand Total for 1951, $ ___31,331_____.

To show the contrasts, and the advancement our church has made through the years we review briefly from the 1870s:

1872---Bowen's Chapel, value of church property probably less than $100.00, 50 members, no regular preacher, no salary.

1875---Mt. Delight, property value about $500.00, members about 100, circuit rider preacher, salary approximately $150.00 per year.

1885---Lowe's Chapel, value $750.00, members around 200, preacher's salary possibly $200.00 per year.

1900---Battle Hill, property value $2,000.00, membership 250, preacher's salary about $250.00 or $300.00 per year.

1912---Gordon and Wellington Streets---, value old tabernacle $500.00, membership 300, preacher's salary $1,000.00 per year.
1950—Calvary, value of church buildings $52,500.00, parsonage $7,500.00, preacher's salary $4,000.00 per year.

We pray that Calvary, the Sixth "station" in the chain may become a shining beacon which will point the way to bigger and better stations that will keep alive the message of Christianity and carry on in a much larger degree the business of God's Kingdom.

Ethel Martin Gregory

On the following pages are the stories of the Women's Society of Christian Service, the Cradle Roll Department, and the Recreation Building, told by those who are more familiar with their histories than this writer.
The Women's Society of Christian Service

In September 1917, while Mr. Collins was pastor, the Calvary Woman's Missionary Society (which had been changed from "The Ladies' Aid Society" at the Battle Hill Church) had a membership of about 45 and a budget of around $400.00, with Mrs. W. T. Mooney as President.

One meeting a month was held at the church, the members paying 25 cents a month. There were three circles that met in the homes and each member paid 10 cents each meeting. Sometime later two meetings of the W. M. S. were held each month at the church, the members paying 50 cents a month. The number of circles has increased through the years.

The following Presidents have led the organization through the past 33 years:

Mrs. W. T. Mooney, Mrs. L. B. Loftis,
Mrs. E. W. Brogdon, Mrs. B. D. Manston,
Mrs. C. E. Wilson, Mrs. E. C. Houston,
Mrs. Roland Bryce, Mrs. H. E. Bankston,
Mrs. J. G. Seay, Mrs. E. W. Howard, Mrs.
W. D. Callaway, Mrs. T. S. Blalock, Mrs.
B. F. Langford, Mrs. E. A. Entrekin, Mrs.
A. J. Bellah, Mrs. G. W. Longino and Mrs.
Malcolm E. Tucker, Jr.

We have been fortunate in having such wise and good leaders and we love, honor and respect them all.
After Unification of Northern and Southern Methodism in 1940, the old W.M.S. was reorganized and the name changed to Women's Society of Christian Service. Mrs. B.F. Langford was President at that time.

Many of our old customs passed out with the name and new ones took their places and the members have grown used to them, and like them.

Someone has called the W.S.C.S. a Help-meet to the church and Calvary women have truly been a help-meet to our church. We have had both the Mary and the Martha types of women, we have had the studious and the spiritual, and the willing workers who carried on when and where needed. They have been always kind, generous and friendly, and have worked harmoniously and enthusiastically together.

They were responsible for the pews and the stained glass windows in the church, paid nearly all the notes on the parsonage, contributed to the building funds for the Recreation Building, the Cradle Roll Cottage, and many other things. They also furnished the parsonage and the kitchen.

They have put on dinners, barbecues, cooking schools, food shows, demonstrations, plays, concerts, for raising funds. They have had entertaining, educational and spiritually uplifting programs, with such outstanding speakers as Mrs. Arthur Moore, Miss Daisy Davies, Miss Kate Cooper, Mrs. L.N. Awtry, Mrs. E. W. Brogdon, and many others.
We meet once a month at the Church, with average attendance of 150. The ten circles meet the same day, and luncheon is served by one of the circles each time.

The years from May 1949 to May 1951, have been very successful under the guidance of Mrs. G. W. Longino. We have more than 200 members, with a flourishing Wesleyan Guild. We sent more money to the Conference Treasurer this year than ever before; spent over $300.00 on the parsonage; formed a missionary project for the Kate Cooper Center in Seoul, Korea, and have made substantial contributions to Belgium Relief, helped remodel the church kitchen and furnished a ladies lounge.

Our society is one of the best organized in the Atlanta West District, and we are proud of the reports that have been made by all officers, chairmen and committees.

Our Mrs. E. W. Howard has been vice-president of the Atlanta West District several years, and our Mrs. Longino has just been elected president of the Atlanta West District.

We would like to mention many others of whose outstanding work we are also proud, but it would take too much space to name them all, however, we want to express appreciation to Mrs. Ethel M. Gregory for her entireing efforts, work and research on this church history. She has been a very active member for a long time. She was organist and choir director many years and arranged musical programs and coached plays. She taught speech and dramatics at the Georgia Evening College and still teaches the Gregory Bible Class.

Essie Lee Edwards.
Guiding Figures of Calvary Woman's Missionary Society

The accompanying group presents the women who have guided the destiny of the Woman’s Missionary Society of the Calvary Methodist church for the past 21 years, each having acted as president of the organization for a successful term of years. They are, first row, left to right, Mrs. W. T. Mooney, Mrs. L. B. Loftis, Mrs. E. W. Brogdon and Mrs. B. D. Manston; second row, left to right, Mrs. C. E. Wilson, Mrs. E. C. Hanston, Mrs. Rowland Bryce, Mrs. H. B. Bankston and Mrs. J. G. Seay, who is the present efficient president of the society. Photograph by George Cornett, staff photographer.
Presidents of Calvary W.S.C.S. from 1933 - 1951

Mrs. E.A. Entrekin

Mrs. G.W. Longino

Mrs. B.F. Langford

Mrs. M.E. Tucker, Jr.

Mrs. T.S. Blalock

Mrs. E.W. Howard

Mrs. W.D. Callaway

Mrs. A.J. Bellah
The Nursery Department of Calvary Methodist Church

Prior to 1928, the Cradle Roll, now the Nursery, was a part of the Beginners' Department. This was under the supervision of Mrs. E. L. Copeland and met in the room now used by the Gregory Bible Class.

In the summer of 1928, the little house now used by the Nursery was built by Mr. T. L. Smith. Its cost was $1,000.00. The Nursery moved in as an active class with Miss Mary Bridges as teacher and Mrs. J. H. Todd as secretary and pianist.

In the past twenty years there have been six superintendents: Miss Mary Bridges, Mrs. R. A. Walker, Mrs. W. R. Mitchell, Mrs. H. E. Carroll, Mrs. J. H. Todd and Mrs. A. T. Hornsby.

Workers in the Department have come and gone with the years. Some of these were: Mrs. J. M. Haire, Miss Idelle McDonald, Mrs. C. A. Cope, Mrs. Robert Haney, Mrs. Paul Hughes, Mrs. William Clonts, Mrs. Harold Russell, Mrs. Robert Sewell, Mrs. T. S. Verdell, Mrs. David Bryan, Mrs. William Coker and others. Many of these were mothers who brought their babies to the Nursery, remaining to help with the work.

At one time the mothers had a class in part of the building with Mrs. Sybil Florrid as teacher. As the nursery grew more space was needed for the children and this class disbanded.

Up until 1942 the class met as a group but at this time
it was divided into two age groups. All under two and one-half years met with Mrs. Cope in one room, from two and one-half to four years were with Mrs. Todd in another room.

The Nursery has always contributed to the projects of the Sunday School such as buying bonds, donating to the Orphan's Home, giving food at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

May it continue to grow through the years as it has in the past.

Mrs. J. H. Todd

The Nursery Department
History of Calvary Church Recreation Building
1927-1950

When Rev. Felton Williams came to Calvary in the Fall of 1925, he felt the need of a wholesome place for the youth of Calvary Methodist Church to spend their out-of-school hours. The sentiment of the congregation was in favor of this idea.

In February 1927, Evangelist Miller came to the church for special services, and the plans were set in motion. John R. Adamson served as first Chairman of the Recreation Building Committee.

In the late Fall of 1927, the church purchased the adjoining house and lot, moved the house to the rear of the lot, and built the Recreation Hall on the front facing Gordon Street. This building became a source of pleasure for the members of Calvary. The house which was moved to the rear of the lot was made into church offices and Pastor's Study, and remained so until 1948.

During the early years of World War II, when there was increasing need for planned recreation and supervision, the doors of the Recreation Hall were thrown open to all the children in the community. The City and Church worked together using the J. C. Harris playground during the day on pretty days, and the Calvary Recreation Building on rainy days and at night. The Building was renovated and Ping-Pong, Bowling, Shuffleboard, Handball, Badminton, Basketball and
Volleyball were available. The city of Atlanta furnished personnel and equipment and Calvary its gymnasium.

In 1948, again changes were made in the Building. A kitchen was added, and a Ladies lounge. During this renovation the Community project with the City was dropped. When all work was completed the Civitan Club asked permission for the use of the Building in coordination with the YMCA. A YMCA supervisor was furnished and had headquarters in the church, and carried out a worthwhile program for boys in the Community. This plan is still in effect.

The Recreation Building has grown in usefulness since its doors were first opened to Calvary Members. It fulfills a need in the Community, serving as a dining hall for very large groups, a meeting place for the Brownies, Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts, and a center for YMCA sponsored activities. It is a valuable building and has had a noteworthy place in building character and morals for the Church and community.

Gene Lewis.

The Recreation Building
Two views of "the cottage" which houses the Pastor's study, the Church offices, and the Senior Youth Department.
The Parsonage

Calvary Methodist Church
Officers of Calvary Methodist Church for 1951

Bishop in Charge ......................... Arthur J. Moore
District Superintendent ............... Lester Rumble, D.D.
Pastor .................................. L. B. Jones
Assistant Pastor ..................... Ralph Porterfield
Secretary ................................. Mrs. Neal White
Church School Superintendent ......... Carroll Barfield
Assistant Superintendents .......... Malcolm E. Tucker, Jr.
                        Adult Department
                        Mrs. Robert Jones,
                        Youth Division
                        Mrs. I.R. Huffaker,
                        Children's Department
Chairman, Board of Stewards .......... W. J. Warner
President, Men's Club .............. W. C. Clonts
President, Fishermen's Club ........ Perry Bowell
President, W.S.C.S. .............. Mrs. Malcolm E. Tucker, Jr.
Chairman, Local Board of Education ... W. A. Philips
Choir Director ......................... W. L. Cavlthon
Board of Trustees:

H. B. Bankston, Chairman  E. W. Robinson
Richard W. Florrid, Secretary W. C. Clonts
W. A. Johnson  E. G. Pope
T. S. Blalock  Charles M. Hughes
T. L. Smith

Others who have served on this important Board since 1915 are:

Dr. M. W. McLarty  J. R. Adamson
Paul Cousins  S. D. Mullinaux
The writer of this history realizes that the names of many prominent members of the church have necessarily been left out. It would have been impossible to mention all of those who have for years been faithful, honored workers in Calvary Church.

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Respectfully submitted to our Pastor, the Board of Stewards and the North Georgia Conference.

EMG