

HISTORY OF CASCADE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1926 - 1971

**Compiled by
History and Records Committee
Harry H. Oliver - Chairman**

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In the fall of 1926, some eighteen or twenty people met one evening in the home of Mrs. G.F. Jones, 1454 Beecher Street, intent on organizing a greatly needed Methodist Church in the Cascade section of Atlanta. So eager were they in their purpose that one said: "let's begin right now to put down our names for the new church membership". The first name to be recorded that evening was that of Mr. W.B. Alexander. Such was the real beginning of what was destined to be Cascade Methodist Church.

The first services were held on October 3, 1926, in a store building on Beecher Street near Cascade Avenue, Dr. W.T. Hunnicutt, presiding elder in charge. Twenty people attended the first Sunday service. The charter membership was closed on December 1, 1926, with one hundred twenty members. In the past forty two years the church has survived a depression, a fire, a World War and an explosion. Fourteen pastors have served the church.

The Reverend S.A.F. Wagner was the first pastor appointed to our church. Under his leadership, a beautiful lot was purchased on April 1, 1927 on the corner of Cascade Avenue and Richland Road and a wooden structure was erected on the rear of this lot. On September 24, 1936, Mr. H.T. Pullin and Dr. G.H. Stegar gave to the church the adjoining lot on Richland Road. The original building was then moved to the new lot thereby making the property large enough to build a larger and more permanent house to worship. The new building to be erected facing Cascade Avenue.

In 1939 Dr. W.T. Hunnicutt was assigned to the Cascade charge. Seeing the crowded conditions and the great need for more space in all departments of the church work, Dr. Hunnicutt launched a movement to start work on a new building. On May 20, 1940, fire heavily damaged the little frame church. Until repairs could be made, services were held in the E.L. Connally School Building. Dedicated hands, however, refuse discouragement. Plans and specifications were soon approved and on May 1, 1941, work began on the basement of our present sanctuary. The basement having been completed, work on the new sanctuary was suspended in December, 1941 because of World War II.

The Reverend J.J. Sneed was appointed pastor in 1942. During the war years Brother Sneed kept constantly before the membership a mental picture of the completed structure which had so long been the dream of the people of Cascade Methodist Church. The steel and other building materials needed for the new sanctuary were restricted until February 10, 1947. At that time the building program was started again. The new sanctuary was completed at a cost of approximately \$125,000.00 with a seating capacity of four hundred twenty-five and the first service was held in it on July 4, 1948. During the post-war years the church grew rapidly and in six years the indebtedness on the sanctuary was liquidated. On December 26, 1954, Bishop Arthur J. Moore dedicated the sanctuary.

In 1952 Reverend L.F. Van Landingham was assigned as pastor. By this time there was an acute need for additional facilities for the Sunday School. Planning began for a new church school building adjoining the sanctuary. On January 17, 1955, demolition work began on the frame building which for so long had been used as both sanctuary and church school building, and in later years as an educational annex. On January 15, 1956, the new church school building was completed and was ready for occupancy. Included in this building project was an air conditioning system for the sanctuary.

Just two years later, on the night of January 23, 1958, an explosion of a hot water heater caused major damage to both the sanctuary and the new educational building. During the months of rebuilding, services were held in the E.L. Connally School. Repairs to the buildings and replacement of equipment damaged or destroyed by the explosion amounted to \$60,000.00.

The Reverend Ralph C. Shea was appointed pastor in 1959. Work was pushed on paying off the indebtedness on the Sunday School building. In December 1962, the debt was liquidated. During the first year of Rev. Shea's pastorate a new church parsonage, located at 1415 Pollard Drive, was purchased.

In 1963 Reverend Charles T. Gray was assigned as Pastor and served the people at Cascade with his love for God and his dedication to God's work. Two houses were purchased on Richland Road. One was used to house the family of the D.C.E. and youth leader, the other for youth activities. In January, 1967, a lay witness mission was held and from this experience there came a spiritual renewal in the lives of many people. In 1968 at the General Conference in Dallas, Texas, the Methodist Church was united with the Evangelical United Brethren Church becoming the United Methodist Church. Rev. and Mrs. Gray had the privilege of attending this conference.

In 1968 Reverend William R. Ridgeway became the fourteenth pastor to serve Cascade Church. On September 15, 1968, a house at 887 Cascade Avenue was purchased. This house is adjacent to the sanctuary and thereby increases the size of church property at the corner of Cascade Avenue and Richland Road. The youth activities were moved from one of the houses on Richland Road to the house on Cascade. The two houses on Richland Road now being used as rental property.

With this history we look forward to an even greater Cascade United Methodist Church and we look back with pride and appreciation to the many dedicated pastors and laymen who gave unselfishly of their talents to make this heritage possible. We give thanks to God for his rich blessings and for giving us a part in the building of His Kingdom.

The following pastors have served Cascade Methodist Church during the past 45 years.

Rev. S.A.F. Wagner	(1926 - 1928)	2 Years
Rev. C.A. Norton	(1928 - 1930)	2 Years
Rev. J.D. Swagerty	(1930 - 1932)	2 Years
Rev. A.G. Shankle	(1932 - 1933)	1 Year
Rev. Y.A. Oliver	(1933 - 1937)	4 Years
Rev. H.H. Dillard	(1937 - 1938)	1 Year
Rev. J.J. Copelan	(1938 - 1939)	1 Year
Dr. W.T. Hunnicutt	(1939 - 1942)	3 Years
Rev. J.J. Sneed	(1942 - 1950)	8 Years
Rev. E.C. Wilson	(1950 - 1952)	2 Years
Rev. L.F. Van Landingham	(1952 - 1959)	7 Years
Rev. Ralph C. Shea	(1959 - 1963)	4 Years
Rev. Charles T. Gray	(1963 - 1968)	5 Years
Rev. William R. Ridgeway	(1968 -	Present

With the wise guidance of the various pastors listed above, and the loyal support of officers, members and friends, the Church, Church School, Youth work and other organizations have continued to grow. The membership has grown from the original 120 in 1926 to over 800 today.

As of April 1971, current membership is 589.

Building Committee Responsible for Erection of Church Sanctuary

Lamar R. Williams, Chairman

R.L. Asbell, Jr.

Miller D. Barnes

J.S. Gibson

Walter E. Jackson

L.R. Schwall

Lovick H. Williamson

Building Committee Responsible for Erection of Educational Building

W.R. Shelnutt, Sr. Chairman

Luther G. Palmer

L.R. Schwall

J.M. Durham

J.E. Stanford

G.E. Rogers

O.W. Asbell

Grady M. Hunt

J.S. Gibson

(L.C. Mitchum was at one time a member of the committee. During the time of making plans he was transferred and was replaced on the committee by G.E. Rogers.)

Charter Membership of Cascade Methodist Church

Adair, M.C.
Adair, Mrs. M.C.
Akeridge, Walter J.
Akeridge, Mrs. Walter J.
Alexander, W.B.
Allen, Mrs. G.E.
Anderson, J.P.
Anderson, Mrs. J.P.
Arnold, Lawrence M.
Arnold, Mrs. Lawrence M.
Asbell, T.R.
Asbell, Mrs. T.R.
Asbell, Owen Wight
Bartlett, Mrs. J.C.
Belle Isle, Charlie
Belle Isle, Weyman
Belle Isle, Julia
Belle Isle, Mrs. R.E.
Belle Isle, R.E.
Bernhardt, R.O.
Bernhardt, Mrs. R.O.
Berry, M.H.
Berry, Mrs. M.H.
Block, Mrs. A.W.
Block, A.W.
Block, R.N.
Booth, Mrs. Margaret
Booth, Miss. Frances
Brooks, Mrs. E.M.
Brooks, E.M.
Brown, Mrs. Fannye
Burton, Mrs. Emma
Burton, W.E.
Camp, S.A.
Camp, Mrs. S.A.
Chapman, Mrs. Comer
Cox, Frank
Cox, Mrs. Flo
Cox, Meta
Davis, Mrs. J.R.
Dickey, Mrs. L.
Dobbs, Cleo
Dobbs, Mrs. Alice
Etheridge, A.F.
Etheridge, Mrs. Blanche F.
Flewellyn, Joseph Jr.
Flewellyn, J.A.
Flewellyn, Mrs. J.A.
Ford, Mrs. Paul B.

Grist, Ralph S.
Grist, Mrs. Ralph S.
Hargis, Francis
Hargis, Mrs. J.E.
Harris, Mrs. A.O.
Harris, Emily C.
Hicks, Mrs. Robert L.
Huff, H. Thurman
Huff, Mrs. L.C.
Hunt, W.M.
Hunt, Mrs. W.M.
Jones, G.F.
Jones, N. Sylvan
Jones, Highsmith
Jones, Mrs. G.F.
Jones, Sarah
King, Arthur
King, Mrs. Arthur
Kitchen, Mrs. C.R.
Lewis, Linton
Lewis, Mrs. Linton
Lee, Mrs. R.H.
Lloyd, W.H.
Lloyd, Mrs. W.H.
Martin, J.H.
Nance, Mrs. A.S.
Nort, Mrs. F.A.
Oliver, Herbert
Oliver, Mrs. Ophelia
Parks, Mrs. Andrew
Pitts, J.G.
Pitts, Mrs. J.G.
Roberts, J.W. Ernest
Roberts, W.H.
Roberts, Mary Ruth
Roberts, Mrs. W.H.
Robertson, Paul W.
Robertson, Mrs. Paul W.
Ross, Mrs. M.A.
Ruark, R.C.
Shaw, J.C.
Smith, Charles E.
Smith, Mrs. Nancy E.
Smith, Dr. M.F.
Smith, Mrs. M.F.
Speir, E.M.
Speir, Mrs. E.M.
Speir, Edward
Speir, John

Charter Membership Cont'd.

Speir, Opal
Speir, Ethelyn
Sturman, B.J.
Sturman, Mrs. B.J.
Tillman, Mrs. E.G.
Troy, Mrs. Margaret
Turner, C.R.
Turner, Mrs. C.R.
Vaughan, Mrs. G.C.
Wiley, Glen
Wiley, Gladys
Wiley, Clyde
Wiley, B.M.
Wiley, Mrs. B.M.
Wiley, J.R.
Wiley, Mrs. J.R.
Willbanks, L.G.
Willbanks, Mrs. E.G.
Williams, Mrs. Lamar R.
Wilson, Mrs. C.G.
Winston, Mrs. B.F.
Winston, B.F.

Windows and Memorials in Cascade Methodist Church

Large Windows on each side of Sanctuary:

1. In memory of George Wm. Posey and John H. Cleveland by Mr. and Mrs. D. Leon Posey
2. The family of Mr. and Mrs. Ray A. Nixon
3. Mr. and Mrs. L.R. Williams
4. In memory of Mr. James P. Anderson by Mrs. James P. Anderson
5. In memory of Mrs. Walter B. Jackson by Mr. and Mrs. W.E. Jackson
6. In memory of Benjamin Martin Huchingson by children. Those members of our church are; Mrs. Mildred Baggett, Mrs. Raymond Rollison and Mrs. David P. Butz.
7. In memory of Mr. and Mrs. V.M. Hyatt by their grandchildren, Misses Madelyn, Karen, and Ellen McIntosh
8. Mr. and Mrs. Marvin H. Berry
9. The W.S.C.S. and the W.S.G.
10. The Men's Bible Class

Small Windows on stairways to balcony:

1. The family of Charles R. Hull, Jr.
2. Circle #2, 1947
3. Mrs. Marguerite Paul and Miss. Avaleen Morris
4. In memory of Eleanor and George Baxter Morris by children

Large Window in balcony in front of Church:

In memory of Mrs. Alice Edwards Dobbs and Mrs. Irene Twitty Pullen by Mr. and Mrs. H.T. Pullen

Windows and Memorials Cont'd.

The pulpit furniture was presented by the Fellowship Class, of which Miss. Grace Hendrick is teacher.

The Communion Table and flower stands by Mr. Fielding L. Dillard in memory of his father, Dr. Walter B. Dillard.

The bronze flower urns on the communion rail by Mrs. Thad M. McConnel in memory of her first husband, Mr. Luther J. Bradberry.

The Communion rail by Owen Wight Asbell, Sr.

Lot on Richland Road by Mr. H.T. Pullen and Dr. G.H. Stegar

Electric lamp post at the side entrance in memory of Mrs. Grace Alderman by the Alethean Class.

Large lighted cross in choir loft in memory of Miss. Mary Oliver and Miss. Elizabeth Gibson by Builders Class and Wesleyan Service Guild.