HISTORY OF THE CENTER HILL METHODIST CHURCH

1922 - 1951

In the spring of 1922 the Rev. W. E. Hunton, the Rev. C. D. Martin and the Rev. S. F. Bowls came to Center Hill and erected a tent on Bankhead Highway for the purpose of conducting religious services. In a few days after their arrival they were very ably assisted by the Rev. John Anderson who was presently serving as President of the Methodist Protestant Church. Rev. Anderson preached evangelistic messages for about two weeks and won many converts and backslidden Church members. As a result of these religious services the ministers were urged to stay and establish a permanent Church. Through the efforts of the interested Christians and the ministers, the Center Hill Methodist Protestant Church was organized in June, 1922 with a membership of approximately eighteen. The Rev. C. D. Martin was given the appointment as Pastor and the Church was admitted to the Methodist Protestant Conference in November 1922.

Under the leadership and Ministry of Rev. Martin the membership purchased one building lot at which time they were donated the same amount of property. The proposed building site was located on Belleview Avenue at Woods Drive. The initial building was of temporary nature but was later replaced by a permanent type building.

Although the Membership was small the Church kept her name above reproach and held an important place in the community where no church had previously been established. Many children who had not attended Sunday School before were indoctrinated in the highest and noblest principles of life. The need for a resident Pastor often caused the Membership to go unsupplied for spiritual necessities, but the indomitable spirit of some, kept the Church and Sunday School active.

Increases in membership were slowly gained under the efforts of the Pastors and when able evangelists were secured to bring a season of refreshing, recruiting and encouragement. The faithful membership and the youth of the Church kept the Church living and useful, and in 1939 the unification of the Methodist Denominations strengthened the work.

In 1939 at the time of unification there was, in addition to the Center Hill Methodist Protestant Church, a Methodist Episcopal Church, South. It was agreed by the membership of both Churches to conduct all worship services in the Methodist Protestant Church Building located on Belleview Avenue at Woods Drive. A short time later the temporary building and property that formerly housed the Methodist Episcopal Church, South was sold and all of the assets and membership were transferred to the Church on Belleview Avenue. The Church at that time was named "The Center Hill Methodist Church".

The two Pastors, Rev. G. L. Hickman and Rev. G. W. Brooks, worked together and finished the Church year. At the first North Georgia Annual Conference the Rev. G. L. Hickman, Sr. was appointed Pastor and served the Church faithfully for several years.
During the years of 1939 - 1951 the Church has continually enlarged in membership and in it's facilities. The membership has grown from approximately 80 members to 200 members. The membership has built a small educational building and completely remodeled the Auditorium.

At the time this is being written the interest among the membership is high, and the youth of the Church are an outstanding example of one of the many accomplishments The Center Hill Methodist Church can be proud of.

The Church has produced many laymen who have contributed valuable service to the Methodist Church and to mankind. It has sent one Minister in the field, Rev. Fred P. McGinnis, Methodist Minister.