By action of the Fourth Quarterly Conference in 1954, the name was changed from Chatsworth Methodist Church, to: First Methodist Church.

**HISTORY OF CHATSWORTH FIRST METHODIST CHURCH**

In the early part of 1900 the Louisville & Nashville Railroad Company extended the main line of their road from Louisville to Atlanta, beginning at Etowah, Tennessee and coming on down through Murray County, Georgia.

The news of this expansion spread fast and some of the enthusiastic citizens of Spring Place, the county seat, formed the Chatsworth Land Company and bought all the property of what is now Chatsworth. These citizens knew that in the near future towns would spring up along this new route and they, of course, wanted to get in on the "ground floor", or perhaps they were just keeping pace with progress. This property, at that time, was almost a dense forest and their undertakings were a bit like the pioneering of the Pilgrims. Forest had to be cleared; roads and trails had to be laid out; factories and planing mills built and homes had to be built. Most everything that the Pilgrims had to do was work too, with the exception of having to deal with the Indians.

These citizens worked hard and fast and they found that their first need was a school for their children. This need was met by building a two-room school building on the site of what is now the American Legion Hall. These people, like the Pilgrims, did not leave out of their planning and building the fact that God must be included in the plans, so as soon as the school house was finished, they immediately organized a Sunday School and all met there on Sunday afternoons and Sunday nights for worship. This was purely a union worship and all took a part in the worship.

A short time before the Chatsworth Land Company organized, a Gospel Minister by the name of Al Conway and his wife Mary from Cincinnati came to Spring Place in a gospel wagon drawn by two horses. They had their organ built in the wagon. Mary played the organ and the two formed their choir. They did their preaching from the wagon which drew up wherever the crowds happened to be. When they heard of the newly organized Sunday school and preaching services at Chatsworth they came here and offered their services, which were gladly accepted. In a short time Mr. Conway was admitted to the Methodist Conference and then he was known as a circuit rider, better known today as a minister on a charge. Being in the Conference, Mr. Conway knew that a Methodist Church building in the Ball Ground District had been abandoned, so he and three of the established citizens went before the Presiding Elder, now the District Superintendent, and offered to buy the building from the Conference, but the Conference, knowing of the pressing need for a church in a new community, graciously agreed to give these men the building. You can imagine the jubilant and joyous reaction from the few citizens that composed the town when they heard they were to have a church in which to worship and the master of the little school did not feel too bad about the worship services being moved from his building. It was then as now, the building was not in readiness for his Monday morning's work. Even now, in 1954, we have not all learned to put things in order before we leave any public grounds or buildings.

Well, the acquiring of the abandoned building in Ball Ground District was a great challenge to the few citizens. It entailed making the trip of ten or twelve miles to the building, which meant almost a whole day's journey; then the tearing down of the building and hauling it to Chatsworth, over real country, unpaved roads, by wagon; then re-building. To-day, of course, two trucks could bring all the building including the roof to the foundation in a few hours.

In or about 1907 or 1908 the task was completed, and we have today the Chatsworth First Methodist Church. Despite the years, the framing of the abandoned building is still in excellent condition. The Reverend Al Conway was the first pastor and Mary continued to be a member of the choir.

Respectfully submitted,

T. Owens, John L. House, EC Dunn.