Newton Estates
Methodist Church

Corner Northwest and Lesley Drives
College Park, Georgia

MARION PIERSO, Pastor
504 Lesley Drive
Telephone POplar 1-9897
The idea of a Methodist Church in Newton Estates was conceived in 1950 by J. W. Veatch, then District Superintendent of the Atlanta East District.

In response to Brother Veatch's suggestion a meeting of Newton Estates members of College Park Methodist Church was called by the pastor, the late Robert Kerr, in September 1950. He encouraged them to form a church of their own in Newton Estates.

With some reluctance they agreed and on October 1, 1950 the first service was held with about thirty people in attendance.

A student pastor from the Candler School of Theology, Emory University, the Rev. Mr. C. Lewis Shurbutt was appointed as pastor.

The Church School was begun November 19, 1950 at which time the church was temporarily organized.

It was permanently organized on December 17, 1950 with the Rev. W. R. Sisson, then District Superintendent of the Atlanta East District, presiding.

Forty-nine members registered on charter day.

Charter members who are still members of the church are Mr. and Mrs. Henry J. Summer; Mrs. A. B. McKay; Mr. and Mrs. Frank McLendon; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Allison, Jr.; Mr. and Mrs. Frank
O'Brien; Mr. and Mrs. William A. Mahaffey; Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Ellington; Mrs. A. G. Rice, Jr.; Mr. and Mrs. Keith S. Adams; Mrs. Mary C. Vining; Mrs. Louise Dennis Spivey; and Mr. and Mrs. Weyman Newton.

The church first began meeting in Newton Estates Grade School paying $10 a week rent and meeting in the school halls for Sunday School and in the school auditorium for worship services.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles V. Hinton furnished a portable organ which was transported to and from each service.

The present lot, located at the intersection of Northwest and Lesley Drives, was given by Mr. H. L. Newton and the first unit of the church building was begun June, 1952 and completed October, 1952 at an approximate cost of $19,683.00.

College Park Methodist, East Point Methodist and Ben Hill Methodist Churches made approximately $3,200 available for our use by giving it through the Board of Missions and Church Extension.

Children sat on concrete blocks, and homemade benches and the congregation on chairs borrowed weekly until chairs could be purchased.

The Ladies Guild was organized in 1951 in the home of Mrs. Melvin C. Pitts. It gave place to the Woman's Society of Christian Service organized in 1954. Mrs. David Morris was elected its first president.
The Men's Club was organized in 1953 and elected Mr. C. D. Bishop as its first president.

In 1954 the present parsonage lot, at 504 Lesley Drive, was purchased for approximately $1200 and a $14,000 parsonage was built at cost by Bowen Brothers Contractors, the work being completed in the Spring of 1955.

It was furnished with the money from a church sponsored Bar-B-Q which has since been established as a yearly event on the last Saturday in April.

The first occupants of the new parsonage were the family of the first full time pastor, Marion Pierson, who came in July 1955.

At this writing a building to house the sanctuary and additional church school space is under construction. It is scheduled for completion by November 1958. The congregation will always be indebted to two men who have led the way in making this possible. Without them it would have been at least two additional years before construction could have begun. They are Maxwell Walker and Robert Gibson. They encouraged us to undertake a successful $50,000 bond campaign, drew the plans for the building and are supervising its erection.

Approximately 60 of our slightly more than 70 families bought bonds. Without such wholehearted cooperation on the part of the membership no building would have been possible. We were pleased with the outstanding job of leadership in the bond program by the Southern Bureau for Fund Development, Mr. James Fletcher, Director.
The building is to be completed and furnished for about $55,000.00. Pinkerton and Laws are the general contractors.

This will leave one unit yet to be completed, i.e., the second floor of the church school building.

But this is a continued story. Significant pages are being written today and will be written in the future.

Let us "Be a Part of the Future."

PASTORS

1950-53 C. Lewis Shurbutt
1953-54 Roland D. Vanzant
1954-55 H. Jared Taylor
1955- Marion M. Pierson

CHAIRMAN OF OFFICIAL BOARD

1952-53 Ike Lasseter
1953-54 John R. Pogue
1954-56 Robert R. Gibson
1956-57 David Morris
1957-58 Maxwell W. Walker
1958-59 Lawrence A. Nelms