

1972
Oct - Nov Dist

HISTORY
Of
COLLEGE PARK METHODIST CHURCH

✓ 40

HISTORY OF COLLEGE PARK METHODIST CHURCH

COLLEGE PARK, GEORGIA

A Union Sunday School was organized in the auditorium of Cox College. From here the Sunday School moved to an old store building in the business section of College Park where it was held until the first Methodist church was constructed.

Rev. J. W. G. Watkins, a retired Methodist Minister, moved to College Park in 1893 and in 1894 organized the first Methodist church in the home of Mr. Matt Walker with thirty-two members. A few months later a frame church building was erected at the corner of S. Washington St. and E. John Wesley Avenue. This building was completed and occupied in 1895.

On completion of the church building Rev. Mr. Watkins reorganized the Sunday School and Mr. I. C. McCrory was elected as the first General Superintendent. Since that date the following have served in this capacity: R. J. Guinn, E. F. Lupton, W. J. Harris, C. M. Lipham, Major Oscar Palmour, Ben T. Largen, E. A. Main, Charles H. Daniel and Henry T. Fitzpatrick. Major Palmour served sixteen years, the longest term served as superintendent of the Sunday School.

However, the outstanding official record held in the Church School is that of Miss Sallie Kate Broom who has served as treasurer for nearly thirty years.

Miss Martha Harris is the only living charter member of the Sunday School that was organized in 1894 and is still active in the work, being a worker in the Home Department.

Mr. Alonzo Richardson, seeing the need of expansion and a larger lot, presented to the church the present location and the old building was moved and occupied until the present church was constructed in 1924, under the pastorate of Rev. Irby Henderson, and the old church building was then used for a Sunday School building.

During the pastorate of Dr. Walter Robison the church saw the growing need of an adequate church school plant to care for an ever growing church school and a Building

(CONTINUED)

Fund was launched under the leadership of Mrs. P. J. Stilwell.

Under the pastorate of Rev. R. J. Kerr the following Building Committee was elected: Charles H. Daniel, Chairman; R. W. Fitzpatrick, George Longino, Sr., W. L. Robinson and D. H. Vaughan. Through the untiring efforts of the pastor and the building committee, the new Church School plant was completed and occupied in November of 1948.

The last of the indebtedness having been lifted the Church School Plant was dedicated by Bishop Arthur J. Moore on May 20, 1951.

The Foreign Mission Society was organized in 1894 and the Home Mission Society in 1900. Later these societies pioneered in the plan for unification of the two Mission Boards. Four years previous to this, these societies had adopted a plan to pay into a common treasury and a few months later their first joint meeting was held.

During the years that have followed the W. S. C. S. has kept pace with every effort to forward the Kingdom.

One of her own daughters, Miss Catherine Parham, has been in the mission fields for many years. Today she serves in Africa and her full salary is paid by the W. S. C. S. and W. S. G. of her home church.

The following ministers have served as pastor of the College Park Methodist Church: J. W. G. Watkins 1895-1898; Peter A. Heard 1898-1901; Lunday H. Harris 1901-19-3; C. C. Jarrell 1903-06; Wm. H. LaPrade, Jr. 1906-08; Wallace Rogers 1908-11; H. C. Christian 1911-12; H. M. Quillian 1912-16; J. F. Yarbrough 1916-19; W. H. LaPrade, Sr. 1919-22; Irby Henderson 1922-27.

During the pastorate of Brother Henderson a beautiful and substantial brick church was erected which stands as a monument to the pastor and people for their unselfish devotion to Methodism. When the church was built Major Oscar Palmour served as Chairman of the Building Committee and Col. P. H. Brewster was Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

42

S. A. Harris succeeded Bro. Henderson and after two years was followed by J. P. Erwin 1929-30; R. C. Cleckler 1930-32; W. S. Robison 1932-40; John B. Tate 1940-44; O. P. FitzGerald 1944-46; R. J. Kerr 1946-50; and the last Annual North Georgia Conference appointed Rev. C. L. Middlebrooks who is now in charge of the pastorate.

In the fifty-six years of the history of the College Park Methodist Church, which was organized with thirty-two members, it has grown to be one of the outstanding churches of the North Georgia Conference with a membership of 1815.

June 19, 1951.