HISTORY

OF

COLLINS MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH
Collins Memorial Methodist Church had its beginning in a small chapel erected by Mr. Thomas Moore that the people of the little town of Bolton, Georgia might have an afternoon Sunday School. Bolton is located on a hill overlooking the Chattahoochee river, north of Atlanta where the Marietta and Bolton Roads cross and now is a part of the city of Atlanta.

The church was organized October 16, 1908 by a few interested people, most of them were members of Mount Vernon Methodist Church, South but were residents of Bolton.

Mrs. Alice Eugenia Collins offered her carriage house located back of her residence on Bolton road for the temporary meeting place and the present site is across the street and one block west of this point.

Mrs. Collins, who later married Doctor J. T. Daves, then the presiding elder, gave the grounds on which the present church, church school, and parsonage are located.

The first parsonage that was built burned and another was erected in the same location. All buildings have been improved and added to during the years to meet the growth of the church but the original buildings still stand.

Mr. E. A. Hudson, Mr. J. O. Gary, Mr. S. L. Adams, Dr. Paul McDonald, and Mr. W. M. Jeffries were appointed on the building committee to estimate the cost of the building and begin work as soon as three fourth of the amount needed had been raised. In a very short time the church was built. the other buildings were added later.

The Official Roll for the year 1908-9 named Mrs. A. E. Collins, Mrs. M. B. Moore, Mr. J. O. Gary, Mr. D. P. Daniell, Mr. E. A. Hudson, Mr. J. P. McClain, Mr. S. L. Adams, and Mr. W. M. Jeffries.

January 15, 1909 was the date of the first quarterly conference. Dr. Joel T. Daves, P. E., Mr. Ben Graham, Pastor in Charge, Mr. W. M. Jeffries, Sec., Mr. S. L. Adams, Mr. J. P. McClain, Mr. D. P. Daniell

Elected Trustees; Mrs. A. E. Collins, Mr. D. P. Daniell, Dr. Paul McDonald, Mr. E. A. Hudson, Mr. J. P. McLain, Mr. S. L. Adams, Mr. J. O. Gary, and Mr. W. M. Jeffries

Elected Stewards; Mr. E. A. Hudson, Mr. J. P. McLain, Mr. S. L. Adams, Mr. A. P. McDonald, Mr. D. P. Daniell, Dr. Paul McDonald, and Mr. W. M. Jeffries.

The Sunday School report at the 2nd Q. C. was as follows:

Sunday School was started on first Sunday after conference with about thirty members present. The average attendance for the first month was about thirty and for the quarter sixty-eight. We now have one hundred and thirty enrolled. Mr. W. M. Jeffries superintendent.

The Woman's Missionary Society was organized January 19, 1909 and has worked with zeal and loyalty since that date. On September 9th, 1940 it became the Women Society of Christian Service and at this time a Wesley Guild was organized. In the year 1950 a Young Women's circle was added and is doing a wonderful work. The W. S. C. S. now has three circles and a guild. Mrs. Alonzo Richardson organized the first society with the following officers and charter members; President-Mrs. R. E. Manson, 1st V. President-Mrs. M. B. Moore, 2nd V. President-Mrs. Alice Campbell, 3rd V. President-Mrs. Emma Walker, Connectional Treasurer—Mrs. E. A. Hudson, Corresponding Secretary—Mrs. W. J. Lloyd, Local Treasurer—Mrs. E. A. Collins, who was succeeded in a short while by Mrs. S. L. Adams.
A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE COLLINS MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH
2220 BOLTON ROAD, N. W.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

Charter Members: Mrs. E. J. Spinks, Mrs. S. L. Adams, Sr., Mrs. Elizabeth Fisher, Mrs. T. Walter Moore, Mrs. Paul McDonald, Mrs. A. P. McDonald, Mrs. W. M. Jeffries, Miss Robbie Parker (Mrs. E. B. Moore, Sr), Miss Sallie Anderson (Mrs Paul Hudgins), Mrs. Susan McQuick, Mrs. H. E. Wood, Mrs. L. V. Golden, Mrs. J. O. Gary, Mrs. A. T. McDonald. Mrs. B. F. Hudgins was the first president of the W. S. C. S.

The church started with thirty-one charter members and now has a reported enrollment of 604 members with about 400 active and inactive that can be accounted for. The church school has an enrollment now of 250 members and the W. S. C. S. has a membership of 85.

The first Bishop was Bishop E. E. Hoss and the present Bishop is Bishop Author J. Moore.

The first Presiding Elder was Dr. Joel T. Daves and the present District Superintendent is Rev. J. W. O. McKibben.

The first pastor was Rev. Ben Graham and the present pastor is Rev. Henry H. Dillard.

Interesting Side-lights:
This church is often referred to as the church of the four widows because the following ladies were so active in the founding and building of this church; Mrs. Alice Eugenia Collins, Mrs. Martha Branham Moore, Mrs. Elizabeth Fisher and Mrs. Susan McGuirk.

These saying which are quite familiar to the older residents, "Collins started with a BANG!" or "Collins was started with the firing of a gun" grew out of the fact that the pastor at Mount Vernon Methodist Church was accidentally wounded by a spent bullet (No one ever knew from where it was fired) was a good excuse for the people living in Bolton to insist that they have a church in their own community and the preacher would not be subject to the dangers of so congested an area.

HISTORIAN: MRS. WILL MAULDIN
DATE: MAY 1, 1952