East End Methodist Episcopal Church

DIRECTORY

1933-1934

REV G. F. VENABLE, Pastor
Fourth Ave. and Gordon St.
Decatur, Georgia
AN OUTLINE OF THE HISTORY OF EAST END
M. E. CHURCH, SOUTH

Committee: G. W. Dukes, Miss Virginia Mountcastle, Mrs. J. L. Scott, J. A. Butler and Mrs. B. F. House.
Compiled by C. B. Farrar

At a muddy crossroad nearly 40 years ago, the present church of East End saw its beginning. The school house at Poplar Springs was the scene and the group of attendants were neither Methodists nor Baptists—they were both.

For a period of time (the records not being clear just how long) this interdenominational gathering took place each Sunday. No specific order—no regular speakers, but a group assembling to satisfy the need of a "place to worship."

From this simple beginning two churches sprang—the East End Methodist and the Fifth Avenue Baptist, both serving one of the most rapidly growing communities around Atlanta.

East End first took form as a recognized member of the Conference (according to available records) in July, 1897, and the Rev. H. W. Joyner was assigned as its first pastor. Rev. Joyner served three years, or from July, 1897, to the Annual Conference in 1899, when he was succeeded by F. G. Hughes. H. W. Joyner returned to East End again in 1905 for another year.

Charter members of East End number 27, of whom the following are still living: B. R. Mountcastle and Mrs. T. W. Johnson, who are now in California; Mrs. Ida Lockridge, Mrs. Louise Haslett, Mrs. Jesse Chewning, Carlos Knox, Mrs. J. E. Christian, Claude T. and Mrs. Claude T. Christian.

The church property, located at the corner of Fourth Avenue and Gordon Street, in South Decatur, came from the Atlanta Suburban Land Company. Those interested in the erection of a church to replace the temporary quarters in the Poplar Springs school house, purchased one lot and the other was donated by the land corporation which was developing the suburbs. Shortly after the first unit of the present church building was erected, the name was changed from Poplar Springs Methodist Church to East End, since that was the name of the community development.

East End has been a part of several circuits, that is, a varying number of Methodist churches have been in connection, some being Kirkwood, Martha Brown, Marvin, Ousley’s Chapel, and, perhaps, others. In 1928, East End felt strong enough to stand alone and was made a station with Rev. M. M. Maxwell as the first
full-time pastor. For a number of years prior to 1928 only Ousley’s Chapel remained on the circuit, which received one Sunday per month. This Sunday at East End was usually filled by local preachers, principally J. J. Sneed, T. H. Haynie and R. J. Kerr. Both Brother Sneed and Brother Kerr are now members of the Conference.

Pastors who have served East End, their length of stay and the number of members admitted during their pastorates are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pastor</th>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>H. W. Joyner</td>
<td>1897-1899</td>
<td>27 members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. G. Hughes</td>
<td>1900</td>
<td>6 members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. C. Cary</td>
<td>1901</td>
<td>26 members</td>
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<tr>
<td>W. H. LaPrade, Jr.</td>
<td>1902-1903</td>
<td>14 members</td>
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<tr>
<td>W. R. Mackey</td>
<td>1904</td>
<td>34 members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. W. Joyner</td>
<td>1905</td>
<td>52 members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O. C. Simmons</td>
<td>1906-1907</td>
<td>32 members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olin King</td>
<td>1908</td>
<td>15 members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W. E. Arnold</td>
<td>1909-1911</td>
<td>38 members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. L. Pattillo</td>
<td>1912-1913</td>
<td>45 members</td>
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<tr>
<td>W. H. Boring</td>
<td>1914</td>
<td>16 members</td>
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<tr>
<td>H. H. Jones</td>
<td>1915-1916</td>
<td>54 members</td>
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<tr>
<td>C. P. Marchman</td>
<td>1917-1918</td>
<td>13 members</td>
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<tr>
<td>J. W. O. McKibben</td>
<td>1919-1922</td>
<td>131 members</td>
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<tr>
<td>W. J. Culpepper</td>
<td>1923-1925</td>
<td>188 members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L. B. Harrell</td>
<td>1926-27 (Apr.)</td>
<td>25 members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W. T. Hamby</td>
<td>1927 (balance)</td>
<td>44 members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. M. Maxwell</td>
<td>1928-1931</td>
<td>197 members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. G. Thomason</td>
<td>1932</td>
<td>69 members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. F. Venable</td>
<td>1933</td>
<td>61 members</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Immediately after the organization of the church, a Sunday School was organized with the first three Superintendents being Dr. Link, J. N. Harris and J. E. Christian (their order not known). Those following have been C. O. Smith, A. B. Colley, J. L. Scott, P. H. Evans, R. J. Kerr and C. B. Farrar.

At first, the building consisted of only half the present auditorium (the division is easily noticeable). In 1911 this room was enlarged to twice its original size. Several years later, the class of men taught by B. R. Mountcastle built the addition now occupied by the Ladies’ Class. In 1920 the young people of the church, then organized into an Epworth League, were instrumental in having the addition made which is now occupied by the Primary Department. In 1922, under the leadership of Superintendent Colley, the side rooms occupied by the intermediate grades were erected, the construction work being done by mem-
bers of the Sunday School. Some eight years ago a temporary one-room building was erected at the rear of the church lot to take care of the overflow in the Junior Department; this was later improved and is now regularly occupied by the Tom Haynie Bible Class, men of the adult age.

At present the Sunday School has 14 classes, with others immediately in prospect, which, with its added members, will call for more class rooms. These are definitely decided upon and work is planned to begin within a month or so. The Church has a well organized Woman's Missionary Society, Junior Missionary Society and two Epworth Leagues.

Up until 1928 East End had no parsonage, but provided living quarters for their pastors in various ways. A parsonage lot adjoining the church property was purchased in 1920 and improved by the erection of an up-to-date parsonage in 1928. It was furnished new throughout, and with the addition of two rooms in 1932 it contains 8 rooms and is considered one of the best in the North Georgia Conference.

Older members tell me the memorial window in the rear of the church was made possible through the efforts of four young ladies in the church at that time (some 25 years ago). They solicited subscriptions throughout the community and the letters A K H L on the window represent their names: Mrs. Adams, Myrtle Knox, Clara Harris and Mrs. Ida Lockridge.

According to reports, one of the greatest revivals the church has seen was in 1907, with Bro. Lon Wells preaching and Blind John Hendrix as song leader. A wave of conversions swept the entire community and many of our leaders and members were taken into the church during that revival. The church was not large enough to hold the crowds and services were held outside.

The writer wishes it were possible to enumerate in tribute, some of the older members of East End who have meant so much to the Church, but full information is not available; however, the long and faithful service of B. R. Mountcastle cannot be overlooked. Brother Mountcastle literally lived with and for East End from its inception until he moved to California in 1921. Two more are Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Timms, who reared a family instilled with the spirit of "Service to God and the Church."

East End has shown progress year after year and its future is very bright indeed. It is well located in a growing community, easily accessible from Decatur, Oakhurst, East Lake or Atlanta.

May the progress which has been evident through the nearly 40 years of its history increase many-fold during the years to come, and may its foremost motive always be one of service to mankind and glory to God.

November, 1933.