In appreciation to the many people who contributed in any way to the compilation, writing and publishing of this work.

THE HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

Sidney T. Schell
Mrs. Fannie May Lipes
Miss Earline Dowda

It should be noted that Sidney T. Schell and Mrs. Fannie May Lipes, two faithful and long time members of this church who worked long and tireless hours in recording this history, died before its publication.
"In the beginning" - these are magic words! For "in the begin­ning" God, who is all powerful, created man in his own image and breathed into him the breath of life, and man became a living soul. Thus, He gave man the power to think and to do. Since that time, all the great and good things accomplished by man in this world had its beginning in this God-given inspiration and energy.

The church here in East Point had its beginning in the mind and heart of one Thomas W. Connally. Being a young man of ambition and proper spirit, in order to provide a Christian atmosphere for the rearing of his family, erected on his own land about two miles west of what is now the City of East Point, a building to be used as a school room for the children of the settlers in that area. This was done early in the year of 1845 and much of the work in the erection of the building was done by Mr. Connally himself. Here he and his wife, Temperance Peacock Connally, started a Sunday School. Through the efforts of this young couple, the Sunday School prospered and grew in numbers. Children and young people walked for miles to attend.

Whenever it was possible, preachers traveling from one appointment to another, were invited to hold services. The Rev. James L. Jackson and the Rev. J.B. Whitley were the first to hold services there. It was about this time that the organi­zation of the Church became a reality. Later, the circuit prea­cher, the Rev. John W. Yarbrough, and the young and talented assistant, J. W. Hinton preached here with great results. Soon
a better building was erected on a more suitable site and was called Shady Grove. Continuing efforts of the families in this area strengthened the small beginning. Joseph Caldwell was an early factor in the growth of this church.

During the early years, the Methodist Church had only one Conference in the state of Georgia. Listed in the minutes are only four Bishops - Joshua Soule, James Osgood Andrew, William Capers, and Robert Paine. Both they and the preachers traveled many miles on horseback, preaching every day in the week, first at one church and then on to another. Services on Sunday generally included Sunday School for the children and a service of singing, testimony and prayer for the adults, except when the circuit preacher happened to reach the church on Sunday for a preaching service. As time went on, revivals were frequent and Methodism flourished at Shady Grove until Sherman's Army burned the building in 1864.

During the year 1865, with homes burned, membership scattered both school and church burned, little or no work was done in this area. The Rev. W. J. Myers was assigned to the circuit during this time.

Pastors serving this circuit during these years include: James L. Jackson and E. L. Whitley - 1846; A. Ray and E. Spear - 1847; John W. Yarbrough and J. W. Hinton - 1848; John W. Yarbrough and W. H. Wynne - 1849; Silas H. Cooper - 1850; Charles W. Thomas 1851; W.H. Evans - 1852; J. P. Duncan and J. M. Austin - 1853; Samuel Anthony - 1854; Thomas Boring - 1855; Claburn Trussell 0 1856-57; Smith C. Quillian - 1858; James L. Lupo - 1859; James L. Ainsworth - 1860; E. J. Harwell - 1861; D. Blalock - 1862; M. A. Leake - 1863 - 64.

In 1866, "Unvle Jack" Wardlaw, retired from active ministry as a result of an accident, settled near East Point. He conducted a revival in a large grove near the present church buildings. Torch fires at night enabled the
crowds to see during the services. This was a great revival that resulted in
the organization of a successful Sunday School, and the re-organization of the
church by Thomas W. Connally (who instigated the first organization in 1845),
John B. Wardlaw, and Joseph Caldwell. It became a part of the Atlanta Circuit
with Mt. Gilead, Wesley Chapel and Mt. Zion churches. Services were held in a
school house near the present site of the church. Later an academy was built
at the junction of North Church (then known as Newnan Road) and what is now
Ware Avenue. Mrs. Nancy Ware, one of the members of the church, having a
financial interest in the academy, offered the use of the building to the
church. Services were held there until there were sufficient members and funds
to purchase land and erect a building.

In 1868, according to recorded deeds, trustees of the church, namely
C. C. Green, W. A. Wilson and T. W. Connally, bought of John McMaster property
consisting of four acres of land beginning at what is now Ware Avenue and
extending on the present Church Street north to West Forrest (then Green
Street) and extending on West Forrest to the Cheney property line and on the
line which is now Cheney Street back to Ware.

There must have been a period of lean, hard years following, for a
building was not completed and ready for use until 1878. During this year,
on the spot where the church now stands there was erected a small frame
one-room structure with a gable roof tall enough to allow a sharp slant. It
was long enough to afford two windows on each side. On the back was built
an alcove with three narrow windows. At the front, facing Church Street,
were two entrance doors with steps for each. Later a porch was built in
front of the doors with only one set of steps. Inside, two aisles led
from the doors to the pulpit. There were long seats in the center with
short seats on each side of the aisle. The
pulpit was a square banister-type rail in front of the alcove. The lectern was placed in the center of a slightly lifted platform that extended over the whole area of the alcove. Inside the altar, in front of the lectern was a long, narrow table and on either side a pulpit chair. (These chairs, having been refinished and upholstered by the Carrie Campbell Class, are being used by them.) On either side of the pulpit were three long seats facing the left and right side of the lectern. On the right sat the elderly fathers of the church. This was known as the "Amen Corner" and often hearty "amens" encouraged the preacher. On the left sat the singers. The organ, an old-fashioned foot pedal type, was placed in the space between the seats and the altar. The church was lighted with oil lamps hanging high on the walls on both sides and on the back wall on either side of the alcove.

Here for many years Methodist families of East Point worshipped.

A very great influence in the growth of the church was the coming as a resident to East Point of "Uncle Joe" Cohran, a noted and successful evangelist. He was a wonderful help to the circuit preacher, making it possible for us to have a preaching service more than once a month. His visits among the people helped to increase the attendance and membership.

In 1884, trustees of the church deeded the Atlanta Circuit of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, a large part of the original land lot 156. There was a stipulation in the deed that a lot just back of the church building was to be retained as the property of the East Point church on which to erect a home for the abode of the pastor of the East Point Church.
However, it was later that the boundaries of this lot were legally decided and a deed made to the trustees of the church by R. A. Worthington, trustee of the Atlanta Circuit of the Methodist Episcopal Church South. Already a small home had been erected and was used as the abode for the circuit pastor. About this time, the four churches on this circuit became the East Point Circuit. They had previously been called the Fulton Circuit and the Atlanta Circuit. It is also interesting to note that the North Georgia Conference was organized the same year the East Point church was re-organized.

During the years of 1867 through 1891, much work was done by many consecrated laymen and pastors. Records of membership and accomplishments are very meager. However, a list of pastors include: S. Leake and W. J. Myers - 1865; W. J. Wardlaw - 1866-70; B. J. Johnson 1870-72; J. W. Yarbrough 1872 - 73; A. G. Dempsey 1873 - 74; W. J. Wardlaw and A. G. Dempsey - 1874 - 75; J. E. England - 1875- 76; O. A. Thrower - 1876 - 77; W. R. Fotte, Sr., - 1877 - 79; L. P. Neese - 1879 - 80; L. P. Neese and H. L. Crumley - 1880 - 81; W. W. Oalun - 1881 - 82; E. A. Gray - 1882 - 83; W. C. Dunlap - 1883 - 84; W. W. Lampkin and T. J. Richardson - 1884 - 85; Robert W. Todd - 1885 - 86; J. F. Richardson and S. Shaw 1886 - 87; W. D. Shea - 1887 - 88; and H. L. Embry - 1888 - 91.

Since the first organization of the church, the Sunday School had carried on and continuously grown under the superintendency of faithful, christian laymen. Among these were some of East Point's early business men and civic leaders; namely, Mr. Isaac Boyd, Messrs, John and Joe Humphries, and Mr. Richard'.
During these years the town of East Point had expanded in many ways. New industries had developed. Plants and homes had been built to take care of this growth. Churches of other denominations were being organized. A central school had been erected and the town government had been incorporated. Now Methodist families moved in to swell our membership.

During the pastorate of the Rev. C. V. Weathers in the year 1892, the Woman's Missionary Society was organized. There were eight charter members; Mrs. Williams Mims, President; Mrs. C. V. Weathers, Agent for the Missionary Advocate; Mrs. Katie Caldwell Mills, Mrs. T. N. Bunn, Mrs. Charles D. NeSmith, Mrs. Nancy Ware, Mrs. Penny Ware, and Mrs. Jimmie Callahan Austin. From the families of these faithful ladies have come many workers and officers of the church.

In approximately 1895 Miss Daisy Davies (afterward a missionary in foreign fields) and her sister, Mrs. Scales took charge of the smaller children and formed a Sunday afternoon Junior Missionary Society. Miss Emma Connally, grand-daughter of the founder, helped these ladies with the children.

During the pastorates of the Rev. J. M. Tumlin and C. H. Sasnett, 1893 - 94; W. T. Hamilton, 1895; and J. A. Reynolds 1896 - 97, the church showed gains in the Conference records for the circuit. There are no records of the local church.

From 1898 - 1901 the Rev. W. A. Dodge served as pastor, bringing with him a consecrated wife, two daughters and a son. Mrs. Dodge took the Catechism Class in the Sunday School. Miss Maybelle and Miss Annie Dodge taught in the older classes. All of them were active in the Missionary Society. During this pastorate some very significant events took place. Mr. C. R. Henry
became Superintendent of the Sunday School; the Rev. Charlie D. Tillman, evangelist and writer of gospel songs, joined the church. He, as leader of the singing, created a new interest in the worship services. As always, when men, women and children work together, things began to happen! More and more people became interested and the membership grew. The Missionary Society was very active under the leadership of Mrs. John Davies.

By 1902, when the Rev. O. C. Simmons became the pastor, he found a situation with which it was impossible to cope. There just had to be larger working quarters! Work was started at once. The church was enlarged and improved. The pulpit was changed to the Forrest Avenue side and additional space was added where the original pulpit had been, enlarging the floor space in the church. The roof was lifted and changed. The seating capacity was almost doubled.

At this time, the parsonage was also enlarged and improved to make more comfortable living quarters for our pastor, his wife, three sons and three daughters.

The church was fortunate in acquiring two local preachers, the Rev. Robert Todd and the Rev. J. W. Watkins.

By this time the children who formed the Junior Missionary Society had grown older and the "mite boxes" did not have the challenge as when they were younger. This group became the "Willing Workers" and their main activity was for the local church. One of their first projects was to purchase two silver collection plates. Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Heath, a young married couple, took over the leadership of the "Willing Workers".

At the close of the pastorate of the Rev. O. C. Simmons, the East Point Church became a station. Until this time, the

The North Georgia Conference of 1906 appointed the Rev. H. W. Joiner as first full time pastor of this church as a station. Bro. Joiner had recently lost his wife, so, with him came his sister, Miss Janie, to look after the home and his four small children -- three daughters, Katherine, Janie Lynn, and Nannie Mack, and a son, Wynn.

During this pastorate the young people figure prominently in the work of the church. Miss Janie immediately became an integral part of this group. Sunday School attendance increased to such numbers that classroom space was insufficient. Arrangement was made for the older boys and girls to hold classes in a small building on the parsonage lot and in nearby homes.

Mrs. Heath, leader of the teen group, was an accomplished musician, hence the young people became the choir for the church services.

This group also started organized recreation. Gatherings for choir practice ended in some kind of game or proper recreation. Church socials and picnics encouraged romance.

At the suggestion of the pastor, the name of this group was changed from "Willing Workers" to "The Epworth League". A charter was secured and hereby became the first Epworth League in East Point Church. The chapter early joined the Atlanta Epworth League Union and attended, in a body, the monthly meetings at the various churches in the whole Atlanta District. The Union
was a strong force in developing the character of the youth of the church. Many of the members of the local League served as officers of the Atlanta Union and also of the North Georgia Conference.

The League flourished during the next three pastorates. In fact, it was active throughout the time Epworth League organization was in effect in the Methodist Church.

The Woman's Missionary Society was very active during the time Bro. Joiner was pastor. It worked in unison with the Epworth League in their programs and projects.

In December, 1903, a Junior Missionary Society was organized by a Mrs. Webb, who was at that time a District Officer. Miss Emma Harrison was made Superintendent of thirty-one charter members. She served in this capacity for ten years.

1907 Conference records show:

Foreign Missionary Society -- 76 members -- raised $78.85
Home Missionary Society -- 31 members -- raised $67.45
Sunday School ---------------270 members -- raised $191.00
Pastor's Salary --- $700.00 -- Total raised $2,544.57
Church valued at $2,000.00
Parsonage valued at $2,000.00
Total church members - 248

At Conference of December, 1908, the Rev. J. A. Quillian was appointed pastor. With him came his wife, son and daughter. All immediately became active in church work, thereby endearing themselves to the members. During this one year's pastorate the Sunday School, Missionary Society, and Epworth League continued to do good work. The pastor was paid $950.00 and the year closed with 372 members.
Annual Conference of December, 1909 sent the Rev. J. C. Atkinson, his wife and three lovely daughters, Lois, Johnnie, and Eleanor. Lois and Johnnie entered at once into the work of the Epworth League and Eleanor mixed happily with the younger group.

In late spring of 1910 the church and community were saddened by the sudden death of Mrs. Atkinson. The two older girls bravely continued their mother's work in the parsonage home.

During the summer an unusual revival was held under the direction of the Rev. Luther Bridges and singer, Charles D. Tillman. Services were held in a tent on East Point Avenue near Ware Street. Large crowds from all denominations and citizens were attracted and the community was drawn into a closer fellowship by preaching and singing of these two consecrated men.

The year closed with 441 members and the salary paid the pastor was $1,000.00.

In December, 1910, the Rev. J. Frank Yarbrough was sent here. His wife and family, together with his mother and father, Dr. J. W. Yarbrough, a retired Methodist minister, made quite a crowd for the small parsonage.

He found the church in good condition with all groups well organized and working smoothly. The music under the direction of L. B. Dowda, and the sermons of Bro. Yarbrough were an inspiration to the congregation. This resulted in a noticeable increase in attendance.

The Rev. O. C. Simmons located and built a home in East Point before retirement. When he retired, he and his family became active in the church. What an asset to our community!
As a citizen, Bro. Simmons served on council, on the Board of Education and in other official capacities, tending toward the up-build of our growing city. He taught in the Sunday School for many years and served as chairman of the Board. Mrs. Simmons served as president of the Missionary Society and Shelton was active in Epworth League work.

Bro. Yarbrough closed out the year with 485 members. His salary was $1,000.00. This made the third consecutive pastorate of one year each.

In the fall of 1911, the Rev. Frank S. Hudson became pastor and continued for three years. His family was an asset to our church.

Bro. Hudson enjoyed visiting in the homes of his people. By so doing he became familiar with all the families of the church. Through this visitation he realized the necessity of revising the church roll which he did at once. The result was a loss of numbers in membership.

The Missionary Society and the Epworth Leagues continued good work under responsible leaders but the Sunday School was greatly handicapped for lack of room. Classes were still held in nearby homes. At a Quarterly Conference a Committee was appointed to study this situation constantly. Reports and suggestions were made to future Quarterly Conferences with no permanent results. Many changes were made, but none seemed to ever solve the problem or meet crying needs.

At the end of this pastorate the membership totaled 435, due to revision of the roll. The salary was $950.00.

In 1914 a former pastor, the Rev. C.V. Weathers, was returned to East Point. His wife and two sons were welcomed by the
congregation. Charles and Noble at once entered into the activities of the young people. Charles served as steward and President of the Epworth League for more than two years of his father's pastorate. While here Noble married an East Point girl, Kathleen Mixon. They made their home here for many years during which time he served as President of the Epworth League, Steward and Trustee.

The church was well organized in all departments and proceeding in an orderly manner. Senior League, with a membership of about 40, held weekly meetings on Sundays just before the evening service. There was a regular attendance of from 25 to 30. It continued to be affiliated with the Atlanta Epworth League Union, and took part in the monthly programs and its various activities. Epworth Leagues of North Georgia Conference had opened up two Mission Fields in Cuba. For the entire duration of the project this League raised and sent in a prorata share, which ranged from $50.00 to $75.00 per annum.

Junior League, with 45 to 50 members, was under the direction or watch-care of the Woman's Missionary Society.

During this pastorate of four years the church was completely renovated inside and out. Woman's Home Division of the Society and the Epworth League raised funds to pay cost of inside work, and the men of the church took care of the outside costs. Inside, the balcony was extended at both ends, affording two new Sunday School Class rooms and a Pastor's study underneath. This inside renovation helped the crowded condition of the Sunday School but was not sufficient. Classes were still held in the parsonage and in three homes nearby.

During 1917, Bro. Weathers, with the help of the stewards
and young people made a house to house canvass of East Point. This friendly visitation resulted in a card record of all the people by families and revealed the fact that many Methodist families were not attending any church. Another canvass was made to the business houses of the town and thereabout for advertisements which yielded funds to have printed a small church directory. This contained information concerning the organization of the church and the correct roll by families with their addresses. It also showed an increase in membership.

Another important forward step took place during this pastorate. Mrs. G. C. Trimble, as President of the Woman's Missionary Society, was instrumental in the purchase of a new Communion Set of individual service cups.

Bro. Weathers completed his four year pastorate all assessments paid up - a total of $1,692.00. Pastor's salary was $1,000.00 per year.

In December, 1918, Dr. F. J. Mashburn was assigned to the church. Due to ill health, Dr. Mashburn served only one year. During this time the Sunday School Superintendent, Mr. L. H. Caveny, appointed Miss Effie Grace Schell to represent him at a Sunday School Convention in Rome, Georgia. Miss Mildred Mixon also attended as a Children's Worker in the Sunday School. Upon their return, they started a movement for a new church building. They raised quite a nice sum, which was used in the new sanctuary built in 1920. By this time the membership had dropped from 541 to 375.

In December 1919, the Rev. C. A. Norton and his wife came to serve this church. Almost immediately upon his arrival,
Bro. Norton and the members of the Official Board began to make plans for a new sanctuary. At a Quarterly Conference of April 1920, it was voted to sell the old church building for a sum of $500.00. With this money a temporary tabernacle was erected on the northeast corner of Church and Forrest Avenue. Work was immediately begun on the new sanctuary. In about eleven months the building was completed. With great rejoicing, the congregation assembled to hear Bishop Warren A. Candler at the eleven o'clock service, and the Rev. Frank Eakes at the evening service. The church was full of old and new members as well as many friends.

Revivals were frequent during this pastorate of three years, with an increase of two hundred and thirty members by professions of faith and transfer. The financial condition was much better than it had been in years.

Prominent among the tireless workers was a retired minister and former pastor, a beloved member of this Quarterly Conference and congregation, the Rev. O. C. Simmons. He not only took an active part in coming to church but he gave of his time, talents and money. No member of the church worked harder than he in the erection of the new sanctuary.

By appointment of conference in December 1920, the Rev. Neal A. White, his wife and son, Gordon, came to East Point. He found the church well organized in all departments with enthusiastic workers. The congregation was very proud of the new building -- however, it was heavily burdened with debt.

The church had always been fortunate in having good leaders for the choir, which was made up of volunteers of all ages. So far, no money had ever been appropriated for professional leadership. This year the Rev. Homer Jenkins, one of the local preachers, took charge of the music. Mrs. White, the pastor's wife, helped and for two years the music was outstanding.

Sunday School attendance still increased and its contributions paid for the literature used and swelled the amounts paid by the church to the Orphan's Home and Missions.
When East Point Church was made a station, the mission at Gate City Mills had, by order of Conference, been under the care of either East Point or College Park stations. Its financial contributions were reported through one of these Quarterly Conferences. During Bro. White's pastorate Gate City reported $150.00 for missions each year.

A special debt paying campaign was launched and by concerted effort of the three organizations and the laymen, the following amounts were raised: Sunday School (415 members) $732.00; Woman's Missionary Society (90 members) $1,037.00; Epworth League (38 members) $400.00; Laymen $1,200.00; total of $3,369.00 paid on building. This brought our indebtedness down to $10,000.00.

Twenty-two new members were added on profession of faith, ten of whom joined from the Sunday School after direct pastoral instruction. Pastor baptized six infants and four adults.

There had been organized in the Atlanta area, an annual Training School for Sunday School workers. Classes met nightly for two hour sessions. The instructors were professionals in Bible and Sunday School methods. Various courses were offered to different age groups. These schools were held at a central church, inviting all Sunday Schools in that area to attend. Sometimes as many as ten courses were offered for the week's study and credits were given for the completion of a course. Many in this church took advantage of the opportunity and in 1923 eight teachers received credits. Through the years the school has become a source of Christian enrichment. Teachers and workers have increasingly realized its value in helping them to become stronger workers in God's kingdom. Sometimes as many as forty workers attended. Several times this church has sponsored the Annual Training School.
Much was accomplished in the two years Bro. White was pastor. Though he was not well, often in constant pain, he was always bright and patient and worked unceasingly at his task. Membership increased from 666 to 764 and during this last year a grand total of $10,885.00 was raised and spent.

For the next three years the church was under the leadership and guidance of the Rev. E. W. Jones who was sent by Conference in December of 1924. His family, wife and two daughters, came with him.

Early in this pastorate, the Sunday School, according to a new plan, by act of Conference, was organized into Departments. Enrollment was divided by ages, each Department to care for certain age groups. Somehow, space was made available for each department to meet separately during Sunday School hour. Each department had a superintendent, secretary, and a teacher for each year group. If possible classes were limited to eight to a teacher. Each department divided the Sunday School hour into two periods - one for worship together and one for separate class instruction. Enrollment provided four departments - Cradle Roll, Primary, Junior and Intermediate. In this case, it was decided not to have an Adult Department as yet, since practically all adult classes were meeting in homes and other buildings near the church. This new organization necessitated a great increase in teachers and workers. Volunteers were drawn from adult classes, Epworth League, Missionary Society, or wherever available. When completed there were 46 officers and teachers - total enrollment of 492, with an average attendance of 397. What a large group of bewildered, inexperienced people launching into a sea of unknown adventure! However, with
splendid literature, teacher guides, worker instructions, faith, and willingness to try, the change took place. The monthly Workers' Council, when teachers and officers came together, aired problems, and smoothed out efforts, was a wonderful help in making a go of this plan. Each year thereafter the workers looked forward to, and took advantage of, Annual Training Schools in this area. With time, training credits mounted. Everyone was happy with the result and soon a successful Daily Vacation Bible School was organized.

On December 5, 1925, our beloved, superannuated Bro. Simmons passed to his reward. How fitting that a brother laborer in the ministry, and also one of the former pastors of this church, the Rev. C. V. Weathers, be appointed by Conference to prepare his last tribute for its minutes of 1926. Below is an excerpt from that last tribute:

It can be truly said of our brother that, "A great man in Israel has fallen". Mighty in deed, gracious in character, charitable in disposition, victorious in life, he pillowed his head upon the bosom of Christ and passed triumphantly away to the city of God.

Rev. Jones came to East Point charge with the determination to wipe out the $10,000.00 indebtedness against the church building. At a called Quarterly Conference, a committee was appointed whose sole purpose was to make plans for concerted efforts to raise money to pay off this debt. All departments were urged to study ways and means and cooperate with pastor and stewards. The task seemed impossible. Time and space do
not permit an account of the undertakings and accomplishments but the Building Fund mounted. So through faith, hope, sacrifice, tenacity, and cooperation the victory was won. On a Sunday early in the fall of 1927, Bishop Candler preached the Dedication Sermon to a large congregation. A basket dinner was served in the grove near the long-needed and beautiful new sanctuary. In the afternoon the mortgage was burned. Ashes were put into a jar which was placed in a prominent place in the sanctuary in view of the congregation where it remained for years.

Brother Jones' three year pastorate was outstanding. Under his guidance and leadership, God blessed the church in a marvelous growth. It closed with a membership of 877, free of debt, and a bright forward look. Statistics show that during 1927 a grand total of $14,792.00, for all purposes, was raised and spent. In November, 1927, the Rev. G. S. Venable became pastor of East Point Methodist Church South. His wife, a son, John, and a daughter, Mary Elizabeth were important members of the parsonage home and became invaluable workers in the church.

The parsonage, built in 1876, was inadequate for our needs, so a new house on Church Street was rented to be used as a parsonage until a suitable home could be found. Early in 1928 a comfortable home was bought on Ware Avenue, two and a half blocks from the Church, at a cost of $5,125.00. The old parsonage was immediately put to use as classrooms for the Sunday School.

A Boy Scout troop was organized by Mr. James Allen. They met in the parsonage garage.

The church rolls contained the names of many people who no longer lived in East Point. Much effort was made to locate these people and after full investigation, the Quarterly
Conference voted to delete over two hundred names from our active roll.

At the General Conference of 1928, several changes were made in the organizational set-up of the church. Three General and Conference Boards (Education, Sunday School, and Epworth League) were combined into one - the Board of Education. The local church organization also included a Board of Education whose duty was to supervise the work of the Sunday School, Epworth League and all other educational work of the Church. This church immediately set up a Board of Education which met regularly each month and a Worker's Conference which met once each quarter.

During this pastorate, while Mrs. McGee was President of the Missionary Society, she called a night meeting at the parsonage for the purpose of organizing a night circle for the ladies who were employed. This took care of the ladies who were unable to meet with the day circles. The work of this group was to be the same as that of the day circles. There were eight charter members. Through the years this number has increased.

The Missionary Society was doing fine work and the three Epworth Leagues, Senior, Asbury and Epworth High, were in a flourishing condition. A Junior Board of Stewards was organized and they did excellent work.

In 1930 a complete Directory of the church, including a short history, officers of all organizations, as well as a complete list of the membership, addresses and telephone numbers, was printed. Ads were sold to the business people of the community making it possible for every member to have a free copy.

One of the outstanding events in this pastorate was the frequent visits of Bishop Warren A. Candler, whose messages were
long remembered by all who heard him.

During this ministry, the church was well organized, wide awake and working, at all times trying to further the Kingdom of God in this community.

The Rev. J. T. Robins was appointed to East Point charge at Conference in December, 1931. With no children, he, his wife and her mother found plenty of space for comfort in the larger parsonage on Ware Street. He found all departments well organized and working normally.

The Woman's Missionary Society had steadily grown in numbers and effective work. Perhaps two changes in the past plan of organization had resulted in this growth. Back in 1911, it was decided to unite the Home and Foreign Societies. Later, as the number of members increased to the hundred mark and passed, it was decided to divide the membership into Circles of twenty or less. Each Circle met separately in the homes one day in the week following monthly Business Meetings of the Society. In this way, projects could be planned, work divided, study courses could become more concentrated and effective, and a closer fellowship maintained. Following a campaign resulting in 18 new members, the Society put on a program celebrating the 25th anniversary of the union of the Home and Foreign Societies. Eleven members were present who had been active workers throughout the quarter century. The work of the women was very highly commended by the pastor in his Quarterly reports. He called them "his right hand".

A change had been made by Conference concerning Sunday School. Thereafter it was to be The Church School, and a
general superintendent was to head all the departments with assistants to the superintendent in each department. Mr. Al Schofield was elected Church School Superintendent; Mrs. R. B. Callahan, Superintendent of Children's Division; Miss Mary Neal Shannon, Superintendent of the Young Peoples Division; and Mr. N. P. Moore, Superintendent of the Adult Division. Here is a report copied from the Quarterly Conference minutes of June 30, 1935. This is to show how records of the first Church School were kept and reported periodically.

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<tr>
<td>given by Rev. C. V. Weathers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Board meeting held each month</td>
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<tr>
<td>Church School Council held each Quarter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Condition of Church School is fine - interest high in all divisions by all teachers and officers.</td>
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/s/ Al L. Schofield
General Superintendent and Chairman of the Board of Christian Education

In the Adult Division under the leadership of Mr. N. P. Moore, classes were organized and named. Each class had the power to elect its individual teacher and officers, approved by the Board
of Education. Each class could choose and carry out projects. Lack of room prevented the weekly assembly of the Adult Division, so organized classes remained in assigned rooms for study and work. There were eleven or twelve organized classes.

To show the work of these organized classes here is an example of one that has accomplished much in many ways.

On the first Sunday in October, 1932, with the Rev. J. T. Robins, pastor, and Mr. Emmett Henslee, Church School Superintendent, the Fellowship Class was organized. The class comprised four members, three Wilkes brothers and one young lady, Mr. Henslee's niece. The first meetings were held in the choir loft of the Church Auditorium. The first teacher was a new member of the church who came from another denomination - Mr. D. W. Sims, who served faithfully and well for seven and a half years.

In April 1934, plans for a Sunday School classroom were developed. Mr. S. W. Ramsey agreed to permit the class to construct a building on his property site at the corner of Ware Avenue and Church Street. As a result of the steady growth of the class it was necessary to enlarge the room on two different occasions. In 1938 the room was enlarged to accommodate one hundred ten people. Early in its history this class came to attract the young couples. Records of statistics of the growth have been kept and show that as these couples have grown into families, their children have consistently become members of the church at an early age. Through the years they brought in and held couples and individuals that had never attended any church before. One hundred and twenty-seven members of this class joined the church, many of whom became leaders and workers in the church.

This class has all along made and is still making large finan-
cial contributions to all the activities of the church organization.

This citation is given only as an example of the workings of all the organized classes of the Church School. Others worthy of mention are the Carrie Campbell, Friendship, Cokesbury, McWilliams, Men's Bible and Wesley Bible Classes.

Rev. Robins' four-year pastorate was unique in that, under his leadership, the efforts and hard work of the many former pastors began to bring forth abundant fruit, both spiritually and financially. Membership increased from 813 to 930. There were four local preachers.

Conference of 1935 sent the Rev. R. C. Cleckler. By the first Sunday in December the family had moved into the parsonage, Bro. and Mrs. Cleckler and two daughters, Sara Moss and Amy. Miss Sara Moss immediately entered into the work of the Church School. Amy, a senior in high school, soon found her place with the young people.

Bro. Cleckler found the charge well organized in all divisions -- a Board of Stewards of thirty six members, including four local preachers, and six trustees. During this pastorate the records of the church were kept in order. Written reports were read and filed at all Quarterly Conferences by every division. Under his leadership there must have existed a genuine interest and enthusiasm and a spirit of quiet, cooperative christian fellowship. A look at these records show a steady growth in numbers and finances.

The Children's Division was under the leadership of Mrs R. B. Callahan. There were about eight or nine classes of children between the ages of six and twelve years. Miss Sara
Moss Cleckler chose this division. She was given charge of the nine and ten year olds. There were two full classes of each age. This group occupied the old parsonage building just back of the main church building. Here class of eight to ten in numbers were held, two or three to a room. For assembly they used the long dining room, which was also used for church parties, dinners and recreation.

The Young Peoples Division occupied the balcony of the Sanctuary. Classes were separated only by cross curtains and assembly could only be effected by drawing the curtains aside. Each class spent the lesson period with curtains drawn to separate. Somehow, each teacher mastered the problem of noise during lessons and results were fruitful because everyone cooperated. Miss Earline Dowda, Superintendent of the Division held Sunday afternoon sessions for projects and fellowship with the entire group.

An Adult Division, under the leadership of Mr. N. P. Moore, sought places for meeting wherever space could be found. Men's Bible Class met in a far corner of the Sanctuary. Ladies Wesley Bible Class met in a small room under one end of the balcony. Fellowship Class erected a building on the property of a friendly and sympathetic neighbor near the church. Other adult classes met in homes on the church property newly bought for the erection of a proper Educational Building.

Quarterly Conference records reveal that Bro. Cleckler worked very closely with, looked to, and depended upon the Missionary Society to help carry out his plans and procedures on the charge. During his two years as pastor, the Society changed presidents three times. Despite this fact many worth-
while projects, besides the regular duties of the Woman's work, were carried out. Mrs. Manning, who had served efficiently, moved away but Mrs. White successfully completed the year's work. Next year Mrs. James T. McGee was made president and also served efficiently. Some local projects were attempted and accomplished. Furnishing of the parsonage was completed. Drapes for the parsonage were made and paid for as well as many smaller things that made it more comfortable. The Society helped with the Golden Cross and Orphan's Home annual funds. The Business Woman's night circle made possible a substantial contribution in the Society's projects.

Chairman of the Board of Education kept a record of the names of all young people who attended college, and of the college attended. Through special attention, recognition and keeping "in touch", the church was able to hold them as members. Many are now our ablest workers.

An every member canvass for the purpose of revising the roll resulted in a total membership of 843 at the close of Bro. Cleckler's two-year pastorate.

Perhaps a look at the Treasurer's annual report to the conference of 1937 will show how the church progressed through the years.

Insurance carried - Church Building $13,000.00
Furniture - Piano 1,000.00
Parsonage Building 3,000.00
Parsonage Furniture 1,000.00
Sunday School Bldg. 25,000.00
Total $43,000.00

Paid on Indebtedness $11,025.00
Paid Interest (Bank of Fulton Co.) $ 1,174.51
Paid Insurance 348.80
Race Relations 15.00
Golden Cross 25.00
Incidental Expenses 2,313.82

Total $14,902.33

Paid Pastor, District Superintendent, Benevolences, Retired Ministers and Bishops $ 3,538.60

The Annual Conference of December 1937 sent the Rev. Robert L. Armor to the church. He brought a family of two boys, Robert L., Jr. and John L., two daughters, little Frances and Mrs. Ruth Boggs, and his lovely wife.

The need for more Sunday School room had become acute. At the Quarterly Conference held June 12, 1938, a motion was made to tear down the old parsonage. It was purchased by a member of our church. In January 1939, the following Building Committee was named: R. E. Boyle, Jr., Chairman; S. C. Simmons, John Davidson, H. S. Jenkins, W. H. Caldwell, E. H. Skinner, W. D. Morgan, Noble Weathers; with ex-officio members A. L. Schofield and the Rev. Robert L. Armor. A Special Committee for raising funds was named as follows: Noble Weathers, D. G. Jones, Mrs. W. W. Mitchell, Mrs. J. G. Edwards, S. C. Simmons, Sidney Callahan T. B. Clonts and W. H. Caldwell.

Plans were made for each member of the church families to have a part in raising funds. Each family was given a small barrel to feed daily, to be collected weekly and turned in to the Church Treasurer. In July 1940, a loan of $20,000.00 was made with the Acacia Mutual Life Insurance Company, for which the total properties of the church were mortgaged.

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Because of the above effort, the church was very busy and the congregation grew. Of course the Sunday School suffered most from lack of space, but the anticipation of a new and larger plant kept everyone working and praying. The spiritual tone of the church was very high and all organizations were working well.

It was during the year 1939 that the three branches of Methodism held a uniting conference and the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church South, and the Methodist Protestant Church became the Methodist Church. There were changes in the set-up of the local church as well as the Annual and General Conference.

The East Point Woman's Society of Christian Service had their charter meeting September 9, 1940.

A change was made in pastors in December 1940 when the Rev. E. C. Wilson, his wife, Estelle, and Mrs. Patterson, his mother-in-law, became the parsonage family.

A new Church School building was almost completed at a cost of $37,500.00 with a $20,000.00 mortgage. It seemed that the task of raising money was to be a real challenge to the new pastor and church family. Early in the year of 1941, the church school moved into the new building. At first the building seemed too large - but everyone went to work and were soon "at home" in the new building. For the first time it was possible to have social gatherings, meals and many other activities in the gymnasium on the third floor.

The scout program, Troop 54, a Cub Pack and Explorer Post were organized.

During this pastorate was the second World War, with many
boys called into service. From July 16, 1942 through November 2, 1945, every boy in the service from this church received a monthly letter and the "Upper Room" from the pastor. Many of these boys died in action. Two were missing for several months and great was the joy when they were found and returned home. There was a service of Thanksgiving in which these men and their families took part. Both were given an award by the Government at this service. A Memorial Service was held for each boy who gave his life in the service.

For four years the membership labored diligently with the pastor and on November 19, 1944, the Church School Building was dedicated, with Bishop Arthur J. Moore, as speaker. The District Superintendent also participated in the service.

When the war ended it was a happy day when the boys came home from service and took places in the growing ranks of the church. Rev. Wilson was on hand to greet them. He was the first pastor to serve this church for five years.

In 1945 Messrs. John and Shelton Simmons gave the church its first organ in memory of their father and mother, the Rev. and Mrs. O. C. Simmons.

Dr. B. C. Gamble and his lovely wife, Jessica, were the next occupants of the parsonage. Dr. Gamble loved nothing better than preaching. He was an evangelistic preacher and during his stay here this was his greatest effort.

The Rev. Carol Fink, an Emory student, was added as a part time Youth worker. He did excellent work with the young people.

At a called Quarterly Conference on April 14, 1948, a recommendation to purchase the Vason property on Forrest Avenue was
presented. It was voted to purchase this property. The home was used for much needed Church School classrooms.

After the General Conference in which approval was granted to license women to preach, Dr. Gamble encouraged one of the most able Church School teachers to apply for a license. At the Quarterly Conference of September 29, 1948, Miss Ruth E. Rogers was recommended to the District Conference for license. At the District Conference early in 1949, Miss Ruth Rogers received a license to preach, the first woman in the North Georgia Conference to be so licensed.

During the fourth year of Dr. Gamble's ministry, a wonderful revival was held. Many fine workers were added to the church and several young people became interested in preaching. Dr. Gamble made a decision to enter the Evangelistic field at the end of the year. 1316 members were on roll and three local preachers had received licenses. The minister's salary was $5,000.00.

At the June 1949 Annual Conference the Rev. C. Hoke Sewell, his wife, Willie, and daughter, Mary, was sent to East Point as pastor of the First Methodist Church.

Bro. Sewell's evangelistic sermons were spiritually received and many souls were won for Christ. During his four years as pastor, 561 members, by profession of faith and transfer of membership, were added to church rolls.

In his busy life Bro. Sewell took time to visit - not only the members of his church, but anyone that he felt needed him. He was a pastor that shared one's happiness, was a comfort in sorrow, and a help in time of trouble.

With the rapid growth of the church, Rev. Sewell became
aware of the material needs of the church. After careful planning it was decided to completely renovate and redecorate the sanctuary. This was accomplished under his leadership and the results were beautiful. Since there was a desperate need for additional room, plans were adopted whereby the third floor in the Education Building was partitioned to create Adult Sunday School classes. This was accomplished through efforts of many workers from the adult classes.

The Orr property, which adjoined the church property on Forrest Avenue, became available and by vote of the Quarterly Conference, it was purchased on July 30, 1952. There was also a need of a new home for the parsonage family. On December 9, 1952 a new home on Headland Drive was purchased and new furnishings were provided. The church had met another challenge.

In the will of Mr. Charlie Livsey, a long time friend of the church, a sum of money was given for the establishment of a library in memory of his mother, Mrs. Jane Livsey, who before her death, was a member of this church. Mrs. Davis Morgan was the first librarian and worked very hard to set it up.

Two young men were recommended by Rev. Sewell for License to preach - Mr. Matthew Bouler and Mr. Chester Hurley. There were also three licensed ministers in the church at this time - Miss Ruth Rogers, Mr. R. O. Glauzier, and Mr. C. A. Griffith.

It may be said that the Rev. C. Hoke Sewell was a man who went about doing good and was busy with the Lord's work.

On June 26, 1953, the Rev. George O. King was sent to East Point First Church. His wife, Elizabeth, son, Olin, and daughter, Beverly, became residents of our parsonage on Headland Drive. They were warmly received by the 1877 members of the church.
Early in 1954, the need for new Methodist churches in this area was brought to the attention of the District Board of Church Extension. First Church, with the help of some Emory students, surveyed a new development in the Northwest section of the city. In October, 1954, the Headland Heights Methodist Church was organized and met in the auditorium of a local radio station. With the help of the pastor and of our church, and the District Board of Church Extension, a large lot of land on Dodson Drive was purchased to build the new church.

The Northeast area of East Point was also surveyed by Emory students. Early in 1955, St. Matthew Methodist Church was organized and a beautiful lot was donated by a member of First Methodist (Mr. Allen Tankersley) on which to build this new church.

The Gate City Mills Church in the Southwest area was almost dead. Bro. King asked for that church to be placed on this Charge as a Mission, so that one of our local preachers, Miss Ruth Rogers, could work there. At the Conference of 1955, Rev. Bickell became the supply pastor at Headland Heights; Rev. Ray Finklen became supply pastor at St. Matthew and Miss Ruth Rogers became the pastor of Gate City. East Point First Methodist kept all three of the churches on its missionary budget for several years.

The crying need in the local church was more room for the expanding educational work of the church. There was also a need of space for parking. By order of the Quarterly Conference, a Church School Building was erected. This building included a chapel, kitchen, fellowship hall, three class rooms on the ground floor, seven classrooms on the second floor with two large restrooms and a storage closet.
The Woman's Society of Christian Service was very active in the planning of the new building. A kitchen committee was appointed and rules were made governing the use of the kitchen. The Official Board approved adoption of these rules.

An 8:30 A.M. preaching service was held in the Chapel the first Sunday the building was opened. A large and enthusiastic crowd was present. After the service, doughnuts and coffee were served in the Fellowship Hall. At 9:45 A.M. the classes met in the rooms assigned them.

In 1956-57, three lots became available and by order of the Quarterly Conference these lots were purchased to be used for parking. The A & P Food Store on the corner of Ware Avenue and Church Street gave permission to use their parking facilities on Sunday.

The growth of the church was nearing the two thousand mark and it was felt that an Assistant Pastor was needed. At the Conference of 1955, the Rev. E. C. Wilson was sent as Assistant Pastor.

During the five years of Bro. King's ministry, there were two part-time Directors of Christian Education on our staff. The church had grown in membership to 2032, and the financial condition was good.

At the June 1958 Annual Conference, the Rev. Joseph L. Black was appointed pastor of the East Point First Methodist Church. Soon afterward, Rev. and Mrs. Black, James, Elizabeth and John moved into the parsonage.

Much progress was made during the following four years. One of the first accomplishments was the acquisition of the land on Plantation Drive on which to build a new parsonage. This land was given by Col. Harold Sheats, a prominent Baptist
layman in this area. A lovely house was built and beautifully furnished for use by the minister and his family. A dedication service was held in which the parsonage home was dedicated to the Glory of God and His Service.

Not only was the parsonage family comfortable in their new home but the Church sanctuary was air-conditioned, making the building more comfortable for the membership during worship services.

The overall program of the Church grew during this time. The financial program rose considerably. Growth in the Church School caused the conversion of the third floor in the middle building into permanent classrooms for the Youth.

Additional personnel was needed to assist with the church program. The additions to the Church Staff included an Associate Pastor, a full-time Director of Christian Education, and a full-time Building Superintendent.

The church property increased with the purchase of a lot on Cheney Street on which a Scout Hut was built. The land purchase increased the parking area considerably.

Perhaps most important of all, the Church accepted the responsibility of supporting in full a missionary family in Pakistan.

The Rev. Frank E. Jenkins, Jr. was assigned to First Church, East Point at the June 1962 Conference. He came from the charge at Tucker. He and his wife, Polly, and the boys, Frank III and Morris, were duly established in the parsonage. The entire family soon won the hearts of the congregation through their friendly and congenial personalities.
Rev. Jenkins immediately went about completing the changes in the church organization in accordance with the Methodist plan.

In the summer a Youth-sponsored Revival was held. In the fall, a full-time Music Director was employed and the Rev. Robert Fraumann came on October 3, 1963. At once he organized a fully graded choir program for seven active choirs: Cherub Choir, ages 4 - 6; Carol Choir, ages 7 - 8; Crusader Choir, girls ages 9 - 11; Chorister Choir, boys ages 9 - 11; Concord Choir, ages 12 - 14; Chapel Choir, ages 15 - 17; and Chancel Choir, adults. Each of the choirs sings at least once a month at the regular worship service and each has a weekly rehearsal. The church is a member of the Chorister's Guild which provides choir awards for outstanding attendance and participation.

Materials covered in choirs are studies in music theory, Christian symbolism, composers, musical instruments, psalms, etc. It was the feeling of the music department that this would help prepare the total person in the meaning and knowledge of church music.

The Chapel Choir toured each summer. In this manner they were able to share the Word of God with other churches. The choirs presented concerts during the holiday seasons and appeared on television.

Later a set of two-octave Schulmerich handbells were added with two ringing choirs organized. The church then had nine active choirs.

Soon the office force was increased and a regular Church Hostess was employed.

In April of 1963, a Stewardship Revival was conducted.
This campaign resulted in untold value to the church, spiritually, materially, and financially. Attendance in all departments increased, distant and careless members restored, number of tithers increased, and weekly offerings doubled.

At a Church Conference, called on September 8, 1963, Trustees were authorized by vote of 175 FOR and 93 OPPOSED, to purchase adjacent Thompson property for the purpose of building a new sanctuary. It was decided to defer building until the property was paid for.

At the 1964 Conference, the Rev. James Cowell, an Emory student, was sent to us as Youth Director for one year. His year with our youth was a happy and successful one and showed marked growth in their development.

This church boasts of six local preachers and three superannuates. However, it has sustained loss by death of the beloved Rev. E. C. Wilson and Rev. C. A. Griffith.

A prayer group, "The Twelve", was organized. This group consisted of twelve dedicated and devout members meeting once each week to pray for spiritual power. The impact and influence of this effort was felt throughout the church.

In the fall of 1964, the church participated in the "Tricity Crusade". The crusade was planned by a joint meeting of members of all churches of East Point, College Park, and Hapeville. Services were held each night for a week in the sanctuary of College Park Baptist Church and Bishop Arthur Moore was selected to do the preaching.

The Woman's Society of Christian Service, under the efficient leadership of Mrs. Anna Cooper and Mrs. Byron Matthews has rendered most effective service beyond the call of duty to both the pastor and the entire church.

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The Church School, with its well organized staff, under the Superintendence of J. H. Barnett, Jr., has advanced. Average attendance has increased to around 700 and adult classes have helped materially and financially when necessary in carrying out the plans of the children. Through the years these classes have been organized in the Adult Division - The Welcome-All, Faith, and the Young Single Adults.

Under the efficient leadership of the Educational Assistant, Mrs. Tommye McCoy, a continuous teacher-training program was started. In order to revive interest and promote membership participation, each adult class was asked to furnish representatives to form an open discussion forum for study of different phases of Methodist beliefs and organization. This group was informal and open to all who were interested. It was scheduled to meet during the Church School hour.

It was decided to hold three sessions of study on Sunday Evenings and the cooperative efforts of the Commissions on Education, Missions and Christian Social Concerns, The Methodist Men, and the Woman's Society of Christian Service, were enlisted. This idea was suggested by Mrs. Tommye McCoy and it was hoped that it would lead to the formation of an Adult Fellowship to meet on Sunday evenings.

At the close of this year our pastor was sent to be a District Superintendent in the South Georgia Conference, our Youth Director was given a pastorate in Tennessee, and our organist, Mrs. Jeanette Wilkes moved to Florida. Mr. Cowell, leaving early was honored by the Youth with a reception and appropriate gift. The Church membership honored the families of our pastor and organist with a reception and appropriate gifts.
The Rev. Cullen B. Jones from Patillo Memorial Church, Decatur, was appointed pastor of First Methodist Church, East Point, June 1965, with the Rev. Judson B. Hodges as assistant pastor. The Rev. Jones's wife, Peggy, son, Cullen III and Rev. Hodges' wife, Betty, sons Jay, Sidney and Paul were welcome additions to the membership. Since a change in pastors had not been anticipated, a revival meeting had been planned to begin the Sunday of the new pastor's arrival. This proved to be a remarkable beginning for a new pastor. Prayer groups had been meeting and a prayer vigil of twenty-four hours was held on Saturday before the beginning of the revival. The Rev. George Morris, from the General Board of Evangelism, did some wonderful preaching and counseling.

From June to December 1965, the matter of a new church sanctuary was discussed and at a Church Conference held December 12, 1965 it was voted that a Building Committee be appointed to make plans in accordance with the Methodist Discipline.

At a called Quarterly Conference January 9, 1966, a resolution to begin the building program was presented. This resolution was approved and the following members were elected to the Building Committee: J. H. Barnett, Jr., Abb Carmichael, Frank Spain, Harold Starrett, A. H. Harbin, P. E. Stanton, Claude Jones, Jr., Ray Harris, Dr. W. W. Coppedge, F. E. Andrews, and Byron Matthews; and the Building Finance Committee elected was composed of Henry Dorsey, C. N. Johnson, Roy Goen, George Gross, W. B. Cloy, James Slaton, Brinson Futch, R. H. Hale, L. E. Gwin, Jr., Roderick M. McDuffie, L. J. McWilliams, Jr., Warren Baggett, Robert Goodson, Curtis Robertson and Henry Lester.

The purchase of the Carter property on Ware Avenue (at a
cost of $16,500.00) was also approved at this Conference.

A Finance Program by the Methodist Board of Missions was presented to the Church and was very successful in securing pledges enough to make possible the building program as soon as the property was paid in full.

In the beginning of the year 1966, it was brought to the attention of the Official Board that this church was re-organized on the present location after the Civil War in 1866. It was decided that the year 1966-67 would be a Centennial celebration year and that matters pertaining to the Church's growth should be presented to the congregation. This year was also the one hundredth anniversary of the North Georgia Conference.

Since the Rev. Hodges was assigned to another charge at Conference 1966, the Rev. J. Douglas Green became the new Assistant. His wife, Pat, and their two children, Scott and Donna were welcome additions to the membership.

The Centennial program highlighted many of the interesting features of the Church History at several evening services. On September 11, a homecoming service closing the Centennial Celebration was held with Bishop John Owen Smith as speaker. At this service, a portrait of the founder, Thomas W. Connally, was unveiled by his grand daughter, Mrs. Annie Baldwin. Following this wonderful sermon on "The Church" based on the scripture ... "and Jesus said unto them, come ye after me and I will make you fishers of men", an old-fashioned "dinner on the grounds" was served.

A very successful week of preaching and study on Prayer was conducted by Dr. Thomas Carruth. Several Prayer and Bible Study groups were formed as a result of this week's depth study on the matter of Prayer.
In the early part of the 1967-68 Conference year, the Building Committee presented to a Church Conference proposed plans for a new church plant. By a majority vote, the plans were approved and the Committee was authorized to proceed. On Sunday, June 11, 1967, after the eleven o'clock service, the Official "ground breaking" ceremony was held. For several weeks bad weather and a steel strike delayed the progress of the building program. Finally much activity was apparent.

Because of a great need to have a united effort between all departments of the Church, a group called the Executive Committee was formed to meet on a regular basis. This brought about a good relationship in the Church life.

Another Conference year with a continued building program arrived. The Education, Music, Evangelism, Missions and Social Concerns programs continued to progress despite the physical handicaps of the new building program. The Wednesday evening Family night suppers, prayer meeting, sharing and visiting groups kept the church on a forward move.

A "Lay Witness Mission" of people from other areas gave the church a great desire to be "about our Father's business". The Youth, Woman's Society of Christian Service, and the Methodist Men seemed to have a new sense of responsibility for personal evangelism.

After many discouraging delays, the Fellowship Hall was finally completed enough for the congregation to use for our Worship Services. Final services were held in the old building Sunday, July 28, 1968. It was a sad but happy day to realize that the building in which so many occasions of both joy and sorrow would be no longer a part of our lives. On the next Saturday, many of our members both young and old came to the church prepared to work - and work they did. On Sunday, everything was in readiness for the first service in the new building. On Monday, the work of tearing down the old building was begun. Many of the members did not really know the dangerous condition of the old building. As the old building was removed, the new building walls began to be finished and we could see just what was happening.
Months before the completion of the new Church home, a Memorials Committee was appointed with Miss Mary Frances Simmons as Chairman. From that date until the completion of the Church building, members, former members and many friends gave all the furnishings of the Church, either as memorials or gifts. A complete list of these gifts were entered in the Church Book of Memories. This book also includes all other gifts made in former years.

During this time, the Rev. Douglas Green felt that he must give more time to his work at Emory. He resigned as Assistant Pastor but both he and his family continued coming to the Church. The Rev. Joe Ed Morris was secured to work with us as Pastor's Assistant.

On Maunday Thursday, April 11, 1969, the first service was held in the new Sanctuary. All the pews had not been installed but chairs were placed to seat the congregation. A Membership Class of eighteen was received into the Church and Holy Communion was served.

On Easter Sunday, April 13, at the eleven o'clock service, a baby was christened and two adults were received by Baptism and Profession of Faith. In the afternoon, a service of dedication and Open House was held. The Chairman of the Building Committee, Frank Spain, introduced the Architect, and the contractor. The Contractor presented the keys of the building to the Chairman of the Board of Trustees. A Bible was presented to Mr. A. W. (Red) Harbin for his untiring and faithful work on this building. A gift was also presented to the Rev. Jones for his faithful and constant attention to this building program. Tours of the building were conducted by the Youth and refreshments were served in the J. A. Ragsdale Fellowship Hall.

Before the new building was completed, the Uniting Conference of the Methodist Church and the United Brethren was held in Dallas Texas. Not only a new building but a new Church name - THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of East Point, Georgia was given to the Church.
Because of our Executive Committee which had been in existence for some time, the Council on Ministries was well established. The name of the Official Board was changed to the Administrative Board and work progressed.

Rev. Joe Ed Morris was with us for a very short time and was succeeded by the Rev. Clarence Wallin, a retired South Georgia minister.

The whole church was saddened by the passing in a short period of time of three of our oldest members - Mrs. James T. McGee, Mrs. Flora Brown and Mr. W. D. Morgan.

The new organ was installed during the month of September. On October 19 a Dedication Service and Recital by Donald McDonald was held followed by a reception in the Ragsdale Fellowship Hall.

With the many changes in the Church as well as the government of this country, many good men and women have been disturbed. This Church as well as many others has suffered both in attendance and offerings. Both the Administrative Board and the Council on Ministries worked faithfully on this problem.

A very successful Inner Life Study was held on Wednesday evenings with a "talk-back" on Sunday evening at 6:30 P.M. Fellowship hour. A three day School of Missions followed, beginning on Wednesday, February 12 and continuing Thursday and Friday. Classes were held each evening for children, youth and adults, followed by a most interesting talk by different members of the Mission team. Mrs. Betty Sneed, a Missionary to Singapore, supported by this Church, Dr. Hilda Keng (pronounced GUN) from China and Yasha Mishamorla, from Japan directed the school. Mrs. Sneed closed the study of China on Sunday morning, February 15 at the eleven o'clock service. All who were privileged to attend felt the need for much prayer for the Chinese people.

On Sunday, February 8, 1970, the District Superintendent, The Rev. William C. Bowen, informed the Church at both the 8:30 and 11:00 o'clock services that the Rev. Cullen Jones had been appointed by the Cabinet of the North Georgia Conference to be District Superintendent of the Gainesville District effective
February 27, 1970. There have been many devoted and dedicated ministers in the '144 years of this Church's history, but none have given more freely of energy, time and prayers, or of himself than has Cullen B. Jones. He deserves the love and sincere appreciation of every member of the Church.

Dr. Gordon Thompson from Emory University was appointed to this Church for the remainder of this Conference year. Dr. Thompson served as Interim pastor for four months. He and Mrs. Thompson, in a short time, endeared themselves to the entire congregation.

At Annual Conference in June 1970, the Rev. Marlon Pierson was appointed pastor. He, his wife Eugenia, daughters Marilyn and Elaine and son Todd moved into the parsonage and immediately became a part of the fellowship and work in East Point. Rev. Pierson found many things to do in such a large church, by now numbering approximately 1800 members.

In early 1971 a special session of the North Georgia Conference was called to consider the merger of the North Georgia Conference with the Georgia Conference. This caused some dissension among some of the members of this church. There were a number of meetings held, information given and discussions held. In spite of numerous problems, it is felt that the Church is of God and will survive and continue to minister to God's people. Rev. Pierson certainly served faithfully and carried this work along with great effort.

Since the re-organization of this Church a century ago, it has always been known as a "singing church." From the early days, when, because of the lack of hymn books the Pastor lined out the hymns for singing, until today, both men and women have given of their time and talents to serve the church in music. From the time the first choir was organized by the Rev. Charlie D. Tillman many have served freely and gladly. Some of them were Mr. Shuttlesworth, Mr. L. B. Dowda, Mr. Oliver, Miss Furlow Anderson, the Rev. Homer S. Jenkins, Mrs. Shelton Simmons, Mr. Carl McPherson, Mrs. Patton, Mrs. Thomason, Mrs. Sconyers, Mrs. Bunnell, Gene Harris and the Rev. Robert Fraumann. Mr. Fraumann was the first full time paid choir director. Much time was spent in recruiting
both young and old to make our choir music meaningful. The choir leaders were fortunate to get interested musicians to play the pianos. Among them were Mrs. Heath, Miss Maggie Little, Miss Jewel Harrison, Miss Garland Jones, Miss Mae Bedenbaugh, Miss Roline Trimble, Miss Frances Peacock, and Mrs. Henry Lester. Mrs. Jeanette Wilkes served many years as pianist and later as organist. Miss Jane Flemister also gave of her time and talents for both instruments when needed. From 1966 to this date Mrs. Leon English and Mr. Harry Bennett have served as organists.

Mr. W. M. Callaway and Mr. Robert H. Hale have lead the congregation singing at the 8:30 services and at the Hour of Power for many years.

Very little has been said about the fine work of the commissions. All of them have worked very hard and have accomplished in the church a desire to move forward in all areas of the church life through the years. The Commission on Social Concerns has cooperated with the Inner City work; established a Friendship House; has assisted in helping the needy in the area; has encouraged the opening of a Sunday School in the Stanton Road Apartments and other matters pertaining to Social Concerns.

The Educational work in the church has made great strides in teaching and sharing. They have cooperated in the Sunday School effort in the Stanton Road Apartments with literature and workers.

The Missionary effort has increased. Included in the 1968-69, as well as earlier budgets, are several Mission Specials. The young people, with help from several adult groups, adopted four Chinese orphans for a year.

Much hard work has been done by the Membership and Evangelism Commission. Interest in the church family is of primary importance in the life of a church. The spiritual welfare is of great concern and much work is being done in this area.

The Worship Commission’s concern is to provide an atmosphere of worship. An Altar Guild was formed which will be very helpful in the promotion of worship.
Everything in the church depends on finances - so the Commission on Finance works constantly to keep the membership informed - first of the personal responsibility of each member for the ongoing of the church's program; second, as to where these gifts are being spent. As the church shares its gracious Christian benefits with its membership, a response of cooperation in work, financial gifts and pledges, and much prayer and concern for others is necessary for success.

When we became the First United Methodist Church, the names of the various commissions changed from Commission to Work Area In Worship, etc. Even though there is a change of name the responsibilities remained the same.

A history cannot close without the mention of many loyal and dedicated people who gave of themselves with unselfish service to God and His Church. Not many names have been recorded for fear that someone would be left out; but it is necessary to name some of the families of the first fifty years who are still well remembered. First of all the founders, Connally, Wardlaw and Caldwell; Bunn, Schell, Little, Humphries, Henry, Campbell, Williams, Fowler, Brown, Jones, Simmons, Bedenbaugh, McDuffie, Harrison, Shannon, Morgan, Dowda, Mixon, Baker, McGee, Tankersley, Pierce, Wilkes, and Oliver.

For more than twenty five years, Mr. C. R. Henry was Superintendent of the Sunday School. He was active in the Board of Stewards and was a Trustee.

B. B. Baker and W. D. Morgan each served many years as Church Treasurer. They gave many hours to keeping the Church financial records in good condition and informing the membership of the needs. This is a very small tribute to these fine men.

From the Founding Fathers Connally, Caldwell and Wardlaw to this date many devoted men and women have given of their time and possessions to make this church effective. From its ranks have gone preachers, missionaries, and Christian workers. Many of its present members are descendents of the early founders and many others have been in the church for fifty years and more. May in the years to come the First United Methodist Church continue to spread the message of Christ here at home and throughout the whole world.