At Annual Conference in June of 1970 Rev. Marion Pierson was appointed pastor of the First United Methodist Church of East Point. He and his wife, Eugenia, his daughters, Marilyn and Elaine, and his son, Todd, moved into the parsonage, and he assumed the responsibility as pastor of a church with approximately 1800 members.

Rev. Clarence E. Wallin continued to serve effectively as associate pastor.

Reverend Pierson initiated a program aimed at finding activities in which all church members could participate. Talent cards were distributed for completion, and members were placed in areas of service which best corresponded to their abilities and interests. A concerted effort was made to appeal to each age group. Funds were set aside to enable both youth and adults to attend special conferences, and Sunday services were taped for distribution to shut-ins.

The church welcomed all visitors and encouraged them to join our ranks. Reverend Pierson wrote personal letters to individuals who visited our services, and he called on all prospective members. The second Sunday of each month was designated as membership Sunday, and on the following Wednesday night each new member was invited to be a guest at the mid-week dinner. At this time the church officials told of their duties, and a tour of the buildings was conducted. Pictures and biographical descriptions of these individuals were placed on the bulletin board at the "Crossroads."

The year 1971 was a period of dissension for some of the members of this church because of the fact that a special session of the North Georgia Conference was called to consider the merger of the North Georgia Conference with the Georgia Conference. Reverend Pierson ably steered our membership through this trying time.

The First United Methodist Church of East Point celebrated its 125th anniversary on October 3, 1971. Descendants of the founders of the church were guests at this occasion, and Reverend Pierson read letters from former pastors who were unable to attend but wished to express their congratulations and best wishes. A synopsis of the history of the church was read, and special recognition was given to fifty-year members.

The choir program, which offered all age groups an opportunity for participation, encouraged interest and enthusiasm within the congregation.

On September 9, 1972, wedding bells rang for our parsonage family. Marilyn Pierson became the bride of Benny Kay, and the wedding was solemnized in the sanctuary of our church.

In 1972 the church sponsored a Hallowe'en carnival. This event promoted good fellowship within the membership and was instrumental in keeping the children of the church off the streets on Hallowe'en night.

A Vocations Fair was a great success. Vocational counseling for the youth was available at this event.

The spiritual life of the church was strengthened throughout Reverend Pierson's ministry with Bible study and mission classes.

In 1972 the Woman's Society of Christian Service commemorated its 80th anniversary with a celebration. This organization underwent many changes in 1972 and 1973, and its name was changed to the United Methodist Women. This was a time of great unrest and dissatisfaction, and Reverend Pierson demonstrated his strong abilities of leadership and organization as the women of the church solicited his help in finding a solution to the many problems involved.
Reverend Wallin decided to resign his position as associate pastor in June, 1972, so that he and his wife could make their home in Coosa, Georgia. The church presented him with a gift to show its appreciation of his services.

Rev. Judson B. Hodges, Jr., became associate pastor at this time, and he and his wife, Nancy, occupied our second parsonage on Montrose Drive. Reverend Hodges will be remembered for his ministry to the youth of our church.

A church history and directory of the membership was printed in 1972. At this time it was necessary to make some changes in the church staff in order to meet the payments on the heavy indebtedness of our sanctuary. We found it necessary to operate without an educational director and to replace our full-time musical director with one that was employed on a part-time basis.

In 1973 the Methodist Men voted to sponsor a worthy, but time-and-energy consuming project. This was the "Security Auxiliary Force of Enworth Towers." Members of this organization took turns spending the nights at Enworth Towers and ministering to the needs of its residents.

Our church participated in Key '73, which was an ecumenical evangelistic effort. On Wednesday evenings Rev. Ruth Rogers conducted a series of studies on "The Key to Luke."

The church was interested in the welfare of the less fortunate of the community. We cooperated with the other local churches in providing food, clothes, and money for the needy through the Community Concerns Committee.

At Thanksgiving in 1973 retired members of the church delivered baskets of fruit to all the shut-ins. At Christmas Reverend Pierson remembered these shut-ins with Christmas cards, and at Easter the church remembered them again with large-print New Testaments.

The Friendship House moved its location to the second floor of the Wilson Building. This unit serves those who are not sick enough to be hospitalized in mental institutions but need guidance in their attempts to cope with the society of today.

Members of the church attended the Billy Graham Crusade, and MARTA buses were chartered to furnish transportation to the Atlanta Stadium.

In 1973 a second pictorial church directory went to press.

Reverend Pierson encouraged the picture ministry, which created great interest within the church and encouraged a spirit of fellowship as members became better acquainted with one another through this medium. A photograph of the Church Person of the Week, accompanied by a few appropriate remarks, appeared in the weekly bulletin. The "Candid Corner," a picture gallery, was viewed by the membership with great interest. Slides and pictures furnished a pictorial history file.

A wide variety of types of evening worship services was planned in the summer of 1973. The series "Where Jesus Walked" featured a service on a hilltop, one at a lakeside, and a typical chapel service. Vespers were followed by a watermelon cutting, an ice cream freeze, and a sandwich supper. The schedule included a visit to Mt. Gilboa Campground, a night of drama, and the presentation of a film on the Holy Land. Many other features of interest were included in the program during the remainder of the year.

A masterful rendition of the Messiah, the Covenant Players, and Neil Wyrick's portrayal of Charles Wesley brought many favorable comments.

Reverend Pierson persistently continued his efforts to find activities
which would appeal to all members. The Fun and Travel Group, although open to people of all ages, was organized primarily to meet the needs of the senior citizens of the church. Interesting programs and trips have been featured, and the response has been tremendous. The Methodist Youth Fellowship was reorganized, and various craft groups were formed.

Although the church has struggled under a heavy indebtedness, our financial situation under Reverend Pierson was satisfactory.

The love of the members of the First United Methodist Church of East Point for Reverend and Mrs. Pierson and Reverend and Mrs. Hodges was demonstrated as they left our ranks in June of 1971. They were honored with a beautiful reception and with generous gifts.