HISTORY OF THE
FAIR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH
Marietta, Ga.
1950-1953

Mrs. Robert L. Osborne
Historian
During the summer of 1950, "The Board of Home Missions and Church Extension" of Atlanta West District, contracted for the purchase of an eight room house and 300 ft. by 199.5 ft. of land on the corner of Joyner Avenue and Barber Road, Fair Oaks, Cobb County, for which a Warranty Deed was executed on November 1, 1950. This property, purchased from Mr. Sam Fair and Mrs. Minnie Fair, was to be used for a parsonage and chapel of the Fair Oaks Methodist Church.

On October 1, 1950, Rev. Sam Banks, a second year student at the Candler School of Theology of Emory University, was appointed by Bishop Arthur Moore to the South Marietta Development project. Rev. Banks had received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Duke University, Durham, N. C., and was a member of the Florida Conference. He was ordained a minister in June, 1951.

In the fall of 1950, a letter was put out by the District Superintendent, Dr. Lester Rumble of the Atlanta West District, and postcards sent out by the First Methodist Church, Marietta, Georgia, to all R. F. D. Box Holders who were Methodists and prospective members of the new church. A meeting was held in the Robt. L. Osborne School Auditorium on October 22, 1950, at three o'clock. There were approximately one hundred and eighty people present. Thirty-eight members were received that afternoon for membership. The following list of names were Charter Members - from October 1950 - January 1951.

1. Joseph S. Andrews
2. Mrs. Joseph S. Andrews
3. G. J. Andrews
4. Mrs. G. J. Andrews
5. Dewey Bearden
On October 21, 1950, the parsonage was occupied by Rev. Banks, and a
pounding and kitchen shower was held by the members for the new minister.

On the following Sunday, October 29, 1950, morning services were held in
the parsonage. On this date, a church conference formed a steering committee
of seven people to function until the formal organization of church officers could be consummated. The members on this committee were:

1. R. L. Osborne
2. W. M. Dunn
3. C. H. Hansard
4. T. L. George
5. J. S. Andreas
6. Mrs. C. W. Dowell
7. Mrs. D. Claude McCoy

Before our first quarterly conference, a nominating committee was elected from the floor, consisting of these men, Rev. Sam Banks, Rebt.

L. Osborne, C. W. Dowell, T. L. George, to present officers and committee chairmen to the church for election preceding the first quarterly conference.

At a church conference, one week preceding the third quarterly conference, nominations for the following officers were approved:

**Stewards:**
- J. S. Andreas
- W. L. Butch
- W. E. Dunn
- H. D. Fambrough
- M. L. Frey
- V. C. Wilson
- H. C. Vogel
- L. F. Parker
- W. C. Todd
- D. C. McCoy

**Treasurer:**
- Mrs. C. W. Dowell

**Membership Secretary:**
- Mrs. W. L. Butch

**Lay Member:**
- Mrs. D. C. McCoy

**Reserve Lay Member:**
- Mrs. V. C. Wilson

**Supt. of Church School:**
- F. B. Henry

**Supt. of Adult Group:**
- J. S. Andreas

**Supt. of Youth Group:**
- V. C. Wilson

**Supt. of Children’s Group:**
- Mrs. H. L. Lee

**Trustees: (of property)**
- W. M. Dunn
- R. L. Osborne
- C. H. Hansard

**District Steward:**
- L. F. Parker

**Reserve District Steward:**
- Mrs. F. B. Henry

**Communion Steward:**
- Mrs. W. H. Freund

**Standing Committees:**
1. Membership and Evangelism:
   - Mrs. W. L. Butch
   - Mrs. Eleanor Garrison
   - J. H. Haskins
   - T. B. Phifer
   - Mrs. W. E. Dunn
   - Evelyn Crowder
   - Hoyde Conner
   - Mrs. W. C. Todd
2. Finance  
R. L. Osborne  
W. H. Proud  
Mrs. G. W. Dowell  
D. C. McCay

7. Church Board of Education  
Mrs. H. D. Fambrough  
Mrs. J. W. Carter

3. Pastoral Relations  
H. K. Pharr  
Ernest Poore  
Mrs. J. C. Jones

8. Board of Missions and Church Extension  
W. T. White  
Mrs. A. J. Shaw

4. Amit T. L. Georg  
R. L. O'Barnes

9. Nominations  
Rev. S. A. Banks  
T. L. George  
O. W. Dowell  
R. L. Osborne

5. J. C. Jones, Jr.  
Nancy Proud  
Barbara Davis

10. Music  
Mrs. W. E. Gibson

The first meeting of the Board of Stewards was held January 23, 1951.

On November 5, 1950, the Sunday School was organized. The organization was as follows:

Superintendent:  
F. H. Henry

Classes:  
Kindergarten-Dixie Rose Butch  
Primary-Mrs. Harry Vogel  
Junior-Mrs. T. L. George  
Intermediate-Mrs. H. K. Pharr  
Senior High-Mrs. O. B. Fears  
Young People-V. C. Wilson  
Adults-Rev. Julius G. Jones, Sr.

The first meeting of the WSCS was held at the parsonage on Joyner Avenue on November 2, 1950. Mrs. John Patton, President of the WSCS, Atlanta West District, gave a brief talk explaining the meaning and purposes of the WSCS. Her co-workers, Mrs. Earl E. Tillman, Mrs. Lester Rumble, and Mrs. Robert J. Prentiss, were also present. Mrs. Patton gave the first dollar to our new
organization. The following officers and committee chairmen were elected:

President - Mrs. D. Claude McCay
Vice President - Mrs. W. H. Proud
Recording and Corresponding Secretary - Mrs. T. L. George
Treasurer - Mrs. G. W. Dowell
Sec. of Missionary Education and Sec. of Literature & Publications - Mrs. R. L. Osborne
Sec. of Christian Social Relations and Local Church Activities - Mrs. F. B. Henry
Sec. of Spiritual Life - Mrs. Wade Garrison
Sec. of Student and Youth Work - Mrs. O. B. Fears
Sec. of Children's Work - Mrs. Harry Vogel
Sec. of Supply Work - Mrs. H. L. Lee

Since that night, the WSCS has participated in all of the activities of the Church. The first study course was held in March, 1951. This was a Jurisdictional Class conducted by Mrs. D. R. Little, a conference approved teacher and a member of the First Methodist Church, Marietta, Georgia. The book studied was Rural Prospects, and there were nineteen (19) members enrolled.

The ladies present at the first WSCS meeting were:

1. Mrs. H. L. Lee
2. Mrs. F. B. Henry
3. Mrs. G. W. Dowell
4. Mrs. M. L. Frey
5. Mrs. Tom B. Phifer
6. Mrs. W. H. Proud
7. Mrs. Wade Garrison
8. Miss Dixie Rose Butch
9. Mrs. J. E. Poore
10. Mrs. W. L. Butch
11. Mrs. Harry O. Vogel
12. Mrs. D. Claude McCay
13. Mrs. T. L. George
14. Mrs. R. L. Osborne

The first evening service was held December 10, 1950.

The Methodist Youth Fellowship was organized on December 17, 1950.

Counsellors
T. L. George
W. L. Butch, Jr.

Friends
Ted Payne
Dixie Rose Butch
Evelyn Crowder

President
Betty Bearden

Community Service Committee
Sammie Bearden
William Shaw
Dewey Bearden
Charles Ray Plemons

Vice President
Mary Shaw

Worship Committee
Hendon Segrest
Ilene Conner
Mary Shaw
Nancy Proud
Ted Payne
Candler Power

Secretary
Dixie Rose Butch

Friends}

Treasurer
Ilene Conner
In March 1952, the MYF formed two groups. The new MYF officers of high school age were:

President
Phyllis Fears

Vice President
Tommie Lou Phifer

Full activities began on May 4, 1952, with newly appointed counsellors, Mr. and Mrs. David Lipscomb.

The Young Adult Fellowship group began with sixteen members on roll. The officers were:

President - Paul Freck
Vice-President - Candler Power
Secretary - Evelyn Crowder
Worship Chairman - Harry Vogel
Evangelism - Carolyn George
Entertainment - Jack Hoskins
Community Service - Mrs. Harry Vogel
Treasurer - Mrs. Millie Hoskins

A Men's Club, called Methodist Men of Fair Oaks, was organized on February 20, 1951. There were thirty-three men present. A supper was served by the women of the WSCS. The officers elected were:

President - Ted George
Vice-President - J. C. Jones, Sr.
Secretary - H. K. Pharr
Treasurer - G. M. Segrest

Rev. Parks Segars was the first speaker for the Club.

The Church members, recognizing the need for much work to be done inside and outside of the parsonage decided to have a "Work Day" on May 19, 1951. Lunch was served by members of the WSCS to approximately 50 of our members.

Donna Sue Fambrough was baptized on January 7, 1951, the first infant to be baptized in our new Church.

The first meeting of the Board of Education, with Felton Henry as Chairman, was held on January 8, 1951.
The first adult to be baptized was Mr. W. C. Todd on December 31, 1950.

The Church was named Fair Oaks Methodist Church in March of 1951.

William Butch and Evelyn Eubanks were the first people to be married in the Church in September 1951.

Mr. W. M. Johnston's funeral was held on December 28, 1950, in the Church. He was the father of Mrs. Felton B. Henry.

Our first communion date was May 20, 1951.

There were one hundred and sixteen people at our first Easter Morning Service.

We have had a choir, a choir leader, J. C. Jones, Jr., and a regular pianist, Nancy Proud, since January 1951. Original members were:

- T. L. George
- Mrs. T. L. George
- J. C. Jones, Jr.
- D. C. McCoy
- Nancy Proud
- Pansy Todd
- Barbara Davis

Our first Bible School was held August 6-10, 1951, under the direction of Mrs. O. B. Fears.

Revival services were held August 19-25, 1951, by Rev. James Armstrong, pastor of Oak Grove Methodist Church. There was an average attendance of 65 present each night.

The first Promotion Day was October 14, 1951.

The first watchnight communion service was Dec. 31, 1951, while Rev. Sam Banks was pastor.

The first Children's Membership Training Class was held from March 15th - April 12th, 1952. Three members were admitted into the Church: Marjorie K. McCurley, Barbara Jean McCurley, and Joyce Bryan. They were baptized on April 13th, 1952 - Easter Sunday.

There have been many, many gifts to the Church and to the parsonage by our friends. The pulpit and Bible were given by Mr. Dempsey Medford and the piano by Mr. Guy Northcutt of Marietta, Georgia.
The Church from the beginning has operated on a budget system from pledges secured in a pledge campaign to enlist all members.

From May 1951 to May 1952, our Church membership increased from 110 active members to 165 active members.

One of the major contributions to the new church was the plans and specifications prepared and presented by Mr. Richard Nash of Marietta, Ga., on April 5, 1951. After these blueprints were received and reviewed by the Planning Committee, they were presented to the 14th Quarterly Conference on April 8, 1951. The recommendations of the committee were adopted. Later, the quarterly conference approved two loans of $2800 from the General Board of Missions and Church Extension in Louisville, Ky., and $3500 was arranged for by the District Superintendent, Rev. J. W. O. McKibben and Rev. Sam Banks from the Superannuate Fund. This required a note, which had the signatures of twenty-five of our church members. This money, in addition to donations by friends and members of the church, made it possible to complete the first unit of our church plant.

The total cost of the Chapel, exclusive of work donated by members, was $12,225. The church voted to accept the bid of Mr. Herman Clay for the erection of the structure, 32 ft. by 70 ft. The building was completed on March 1, 1952. The special Consecration opening service was held on March 2, 1952. The following is the program used at the opening service.

Prelude
Invocation
Hymn 6
Prayer - Rev. A. J. Peters
The Lord's Prayer
Hymn 196
Words of Welcome - Rev. Sam A. Banks
Offertory Anthem
Scripture - Rev. Lamar Cherry

Statements of Purpose -
"Your Church in the Community"
Rev. Parks Segars
"Your Part in Christ's Church"
Rev. J.W.O. McKibben
Hymn 81
Benediction
Postlude
Vacation Church School was held June 9-13, 1952, with Mrs. H. K. Pharr as the Director.

Rev. J. W. Eberhardt of Cemer, Georgia, was appointed as our first regular pastor at the June Conference, 1952. He preached his first sermon for us on June 29, 1952.

At present, we have one hundred and eighty six members.

Mrs. Robert L. Osborne
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Histerian
HISTORY OF
FAIR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH
213 Joyner Avenue
Marietta, Georgia

1953 - July 1956

Mrs. R. L. Osborne
Mrs. A. M. Stringer

Historians

July 1956
THE CHURCH AND CHURCH SCHOOL:

During the one year that Reverend J. W. Eberhardt was pastor, the Church grew in members up to 202 and in financial strength. The Church budget of 1952-1953 was $5,250.00.

During April 19-24th, 1953, our Church took part in a united Evangelistic Mission. We had a visiting minister, Reverend Prince Bades of Chattanooga, Tennessee (Holston Conference) for one week. Twenty-one commitments were made as a result of this mission.

Vacation Church School was held during the week of June 8th-12th, with Mrs. F. B. Henry as Director. (1953)

The Church School expanded, and the need for space became acute, so in early Spring of 1953, a Church School structure, consisting of four rooms, was begun. All of the work for the building was donated by the men of the Church, except $90.00 was spent for the concrete floor. This building was in the process of construction when at the Annual Conference of 1953, the present Pastor, Rev. William F. Byrd, was appointed to succeed Brother Eberhardt. Rev. Byrd's first sermon was on July 5th, 1953. The Church School Building was completed in the Fall of 1953, at a cost of approximately $2800, with no indebtedness. The building was officially dedicated by our District Superintendent, Brother J. W. O. McKibben, on Palm Sunday evening, April 11th, 1954.

The Church budget for the year 1953-1954 was $7,500.00.

In accordance with the provisions of our Discipline, the Official Board Plan was instituted on July 9th, 1953. Under this new system, although the Official Board is larger than the Board of Stewards was, there is a distinct advantage in following such a system, for every department in the Church has representation there, making it much easier to carry on the affairs of the Church and make decisions. The first Official Board Meeting was held August
13th, 1953, at 8:00 p.m. The following people were members: the pastor; 12 elected stewards; the 5 trustees; the lay leader; Church School Superintendent; President, MYF; President, WSCS; lay member and reserve lay member; Chairman of Commission of Education; Chairman of Commission on Missions; and Chairman of Commission of Finance.

The third anniversary of Fair Oaks Methodist Church was celebrated with a dinner after the morning service on October 25th, 1953 - the first homecoming since the organization of the Church. Rev. Don Mason from Crossville, Alabama, preached the sermon.

During the fall of 1953, some of our Church members aided in the census prior to organizing the Powers Ferry Methodist Church in Marietta.

A revival was held in our Church April 4-9, 1954, with Rev. Wallace Chappell of Birmingham, Alabama, as visiting preacher.


On April 11, 1954, there was a display of brick in the vestibule of the Church with which the Church was to be veneered. Some 25,000 bricks were needed at 10 cents each. On May 23, 1954, the choir presented a "Summer Festival of Music" to help the brick veneer fund. On June 18th, 1954, the brick veneer on the Church was completed.

Vacation Church School was held June 14-25th, 1954, with Mrs. J. R. Neal, Jr., as Director.

On August 15, 1954, "Storytime" for the little folks was begun at the Evening Worship Hour. At this time, the little folks, 6 and under, gathered at the altar and heard a Bible study told by the pastor and then sang 2 or 3 songs. This ended in October 1955.

In September 1954, the separate nursery building was completed. The old
barn was torn down and materials and labor were donated by Church members for
the new nursery.

On September 29, 1954, weekly prayer service on Wednesday Evening was
started.

On October 31, 1954, the Church celebrated its 4th Anniversary with the
second Homecoming. Lunch was spread on the grounds after the morning worship
service. Brief Church Histories were presented each family.

In October 1954, the Church had some 235 members, with a budget of $12,000;
and the Church School had a membership of 268, with a staff of 18 teachers.

Twenty (20) new pews were installed in the sanctuary in January 1955.
Many of these were donated by individuals and groups within the Church.

Beginning January 9, 1955, our Church took part in a nation-wide attend-
dance crusade. This ended at Easter with those having perfect attendance
receiving certificates. To qualify, a person must have attended at least one
Church service during each week of the period. Forty (40) persons received
these certificates.

On April 3, 1955, a beautiful picture of Christ with arms outstretched
was presented to the Church by Mrs. Paul Young. Her painting was dedicated
at the morning service.

On April 17, 1955, the 2 pulpit chairs were presented by 2 families of
the Church.

During the week of April 17-22, 1955, Rev. Thomas F. Chilcote, Jr, Pastor
of the First Methodist Church in Chattanooga, Tennessee, was visiting minister
for our revival services. There was an average nightly attendance of 111.

Vacation Church School was held June 13-24th, 1955, with Mrs. O. R. Will
as Director. Average attendance was 113.

In July 1955, the Church had some 256 members, with a general budget of
$12,000.00; and the Church School had a membership of 335, with a staff of 27
teachers.
On July 14, 1955, at the regular Official Board Meeting, the following people were elected to serve on the Building Committee: W. T. Anderson, D. L. Braund, F. E. Henry, J. R. Neal, Sr., Mrs. D. C. McCoy, and Rev. W. F. In August 1955, this group conferred with Mr. E. H. King from the Byrd Division on Missions in Philadelphia about Church School Building plans.

On October 1955, at a call meeting of the Official Board, preliminary plans for a new Church School Building were unanimously approved. On November 10th, 1955, final approval of the Church School Building Plans took place. The plans were approved at a Church Conference on Thursday Evening, December 29th, 1955.

January 15, 16, and 17, 1956 were set aside as "Loyalty Days" in our Church. Fourteen teams of men visited for the purpose of getting the regular budget and building fund pledges. Some $28,000 of the $40,000 goal was pledged.

As a result of this Visitation, the men indicated a desire to visit regularly for the Church. They chose the 4th Wednesday Night in each month as their visitation night. They met for supper each time at 6:30 p.m. at the Church and then went out for visitation. D. J. Lipscomb was first in charge of this visitation. In July of 1956, the invitation was extended to all interested adults of the Church to join in this venture.

Rev. D. W. Lawson of London, England, who was studying at Emory University, Georgia, was guest minister May 6th-11th, 1956, for our revival services. There was an average nightly attendance of 108. Rev. Art. O'Neal of Emory University led the singing and worked with a youth choir.

Some 62 members of our Church took part in a Conference-wide Chain of Prayer during the 24-hour period beginning at 6:00 p.m., May 12th, and ending at 6:00 p.m., May 13th, 1956.

A "Teacher Training Institute" for all teachers in our Church School was held at our Church May 22nd-24th, 1956, with 17 persons receiving certificates.
Vacation Church School was held June 11th-22nd, 1956, with Mrs. R. W. Buschow and Mrs. William Thomas as Co-Directors. Average attendance was 102.

On Sunday, June 24th, 1956, a "Young Adults Class" was organized, with D. L. Braund as the teacher. This class was later given the name "Truthseekers" and was for Young Adults of marriageable age and those already married.

THE CHOIR:

In the spring of 1955, J. C. Jones, Jr., the Choir Director, moved to Atlanta and thus was unable to continue as Director of our Choir. John Hoskins was then chosen to direct the group. Mrs. John Mabes, Mrs. Bill Hames (Nancy Proud) and Mrs. Leonard Rudnitskas have all been pianists with the group.

In April of 1956, the choir purchased new wine colored robes.

JUNIOR CHOIR:

The organization meeting of the youth choir was at 5:30 p.m., February 19, 1956, with ages 9 through the Intermediates included. Mrs. T. L. George and Mrs. Calvin Brooks were the first directors, assisted by Mrs. John Mabes, Mrs. Bill Hames, and Mrs. Leonard Rudnitskas. This group first sang at a Church service on Easter 1956, at the 8:30 a.m. service.

FAIR OAKS MESSENGER:

This weekly paper was originally published by the MYF of the Church in August 1953. A contest was held when the paper first started to name the paper, and the name submitted by D. C. McCoy - "Fair Oaks Messenger" - was the one selected in August 1953.

After a few issues, the pastor, Rev. William F. Byrd, started publishing it. There have been lapses of several months in the publication of this bulletin due to lack of help in putting out the Messenger. When help was available, it
was usually published every two weeks.

WESLEYAN SERVICE BUILD:

On Tuesday Night, March 29th, 1956, some 38 ladies of our Church enjoyed a supper meeting at the Church. The meal was cooked and served by the men of the Church. At that time, the ladies indicated to which organization they planned to belong - the Wesleyan Service Guild or the WSGS (also whether to the night or day circle). Mrs. D. C. McCay was elected as the first president of the Build.

METHODIST MEN'S CLUB:

In December 1953, this group was reorganized with D. L. Braund as its President and received its charter from the Methodist Church, designating it an official group of "Methodist Men" on December 23, 1953. At its second meeting, this group undertook to sponsor the building of an electronic organ for the Church. K. M. Hoorn, vice-president, agreed to do the building. L. F. Parker contributed the cost of the organ console, which since has been re-built by J. S. Andress and L. F. Parker. Mr. Hoorn has encountered many difficulties in building this organ, and thus it has taken many, many more hours than was originally anticipated. At present, it still is not complete.

On Monday Night, May 13th, 1956, the Methodist Men heard Rev. Leon Smith of the Methodist Church in Roswell speak on the experience of his Church with the refugee resettlement program. As a result of this meeting, the entire group present voted that our Men's Club sponsor a similar family, and the necessary steps were taken to set in motion the processes for this program.

In July 1956, Mr. and Mrs. Gerhard Trojahn and 3 sons, Wolfgang, Horst, and Klaus-Dieter, were selected by the Men's Club for sponsorship. It was decided that our Communion Offering would go to help in this venture, and all groups were offered the opportunity to share in the resettlement of this family.
METHODOIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP:

The MYF was reorganized into two groups, a senior and a junior group on February 7, 1954, with Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Neal, Jr., and Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Fambrough as counselors of the Junior Fellowship. Mr. and Mrs. David Lipscomb remained with the Senior Group as counselors. In August 1954, Mr. and Mrs. O. J. Springer joined this group as counselors.

On April 22, 1954, our MYF was host to the Cobb County Sub-District meeting.

On July 18, 1954, Phyllis Fears was chosen as President of the Cobb County Sub-District Methodist Youth Fellowship for the coming year.

In Feb. of 1955, our Church was host to the Cobb County Sub-District MYF for a spring rally. The group had a short devotional period at our Church followed by a period of recreation and refreshments at the Osborne High School auditorium.

During the week ending April 22nd-24th, 1955, the senior MYF took part in their first Christian Witness Mission. They visited other young people in the community and invited them to give their lives to Christ. A true "Revival" came at our Church on Sunday morning, April 24th, 1955, when the young people "took over" the Church service and told of their experiences in visiting others and how fruitful those visits were when they asked God's help in this venture, after at first going out without asking for it. Many, many young people and adults rededicated their lives at the altar as a result.

In the spring of 1956, the junior group was divided into 2 groups: the Junior MYF (9-11 years) with Mrs. Wendall Anderson as Counselor and the Intermediate MYF (12-13 years) with Mrs. G. A. DeLoy as Counselor.
On September 14, 1952, Mrs. Harry Vogel, Secretary of Children's Work, started holding extended sessions for primary and junior boys and girls during the morning worship service - another first for our Church.

A Day Circle was organized on April 28th, 1953, with 12 prospective members present at the first meeting.

In January of 1955, the WSGS presented Mrs. D. C. McCoy with a Life Membership in the WSGS (the first presentation of the group) at the early morning service (11:00 a.m.).

In June 1955, at a morning worship service, an honorary baby membership certificate in the WSGS was presented to Little Richard Braun (Ricky), son of the D. L. Braunds. This was the first baby membership presented in our WSGS.

The WSGS sponsored extended sessions for children 6-8 years in January-March 1956, "Indian Americans" under the leadership of Mesdames Gene Manning, A. J. Shaw, and Bill Sudderath.

When the Wesleyan Service Guild was organized in March of 1956, most of the former day circle members joined the night circle. Most of the night circle women had been working, so they joined the newly-formed Guild. For a period of several months, the Day Circle did not become reorganized. In November 1956, officers of the Day Group were elected, and this group became active again.

The ladies of the WSGS have served many Men's Club and Visitation Suppers, have taken part in many Study Courses, donated money for Vacation Church School refreshments, foreign projects, and needy people at home. The members have been active in all phases of Church work.

As of April 1956, there were 50 members of this group, according to the Annual Report of the WSGS.