HISTORY

of

FAIRBURN METHODIST CHURCH
Fairburn Methodist Church was established some years previous to the Civil War, but no records are available as to exact date of establishment. The first building was a wooden structure built several blocks south of the site of the present building. The second building was on the spot now occupied by the parsonage, and it was built during the year 1884.

The present building was projected and the building authorized by a quarterly conference in 1902, while Rev. H. F. Brannham was pastor, and the building was built and completed in 1903 and 1904 under the pastorates of Rev. J. R. Speck, Rev. E. W. Ballenger, and Rev. C. H. Lipham. The chairman of the building committee was W. A. McCurry, and it was largely due to his liberality and influence that the building was constructed.

As the Church grew, and the need for additional space for Church School classes became more and more apparent, a small wooden structure was built for the use of one of the adult classes. Then in 1935, a Church School annex was built of granite blocks, matching the original church building. This was completed, paid for as built, and dedicated in 1936. The efficient campaign which furnished the funds to build and equip this annex was conducted under the leadership of Young Hugh Longino, then the Superintendent of the Church School.

In 1947, under the sponsorship of the Youth Division, an Ampico movie projector was added to the equipment of the Church School; and in 1948, after raising the necessary funds in advance, a Möller pipe organ was dedicated; chimes were donated in memory of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Longino, and they were also dedicated at this time.

The Fairburn Methodist Church has been at different times since its organization in Palmetto Circuit, Campbell Circuit, Campbellton Circuit, Fairburn Circuit, and Fairburn and Palmetto Charge and Fairburn and Bethany Charge, and finally a station church.

At intervals, it has been in the LaGrange District, Marietta District, then again in LaGrange District, then Norman District, then South Atlanta District, in LaGrange District, then again in South Atlanta District, then LaGrange, then South Atlanta again, then LaGrange again and then in the East Atlanta District.

The bell in the present church was in the original structure and was brought over from England. It was brought from Savannah, Georgia, to Fairburn by an ox team. It is said that the party which went to Savannah for the bell were gone so long that fears were entertained for their safety, some thinking that there was a possibility that they had been captured by Indians, and a party was sent out to find them. Then the bell finally arrived, it was not placed in the steeple of this wooden church, but was placed on top of a pine pole pen for fear that lightning would strike the bell and burn the church. However, it was later placed in the steeple of the church, and the same bell has been placed in each church as built. About 1910, the bell became cracked and useless, but a fund was raised and the bell shipped to Philadelphia where the same metal was remolded into the present bell.

The church has at present outgrown the original building and annex, and a committee is now studying the needs of the church with a view towards rebuilding, remodeling, or whatever new building seems advisable to the 433 members who now comprise the membership of the Fairburn Methodist Church.

May 26, 1951