

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA

"Serving God And Man Since 1834"

1907



REV. B. F. FRASER
Pastor 1907

1957



REV. J. C. CALLAWAY
Pastor 1957

GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION

December 22, 1957

A GLORIOUS HISTORY

YESTERDAY— The history of any community in the days of Christian civilization has as a most important element the story of the rise and growth of its churches.

The history of the church indexes the progress of the community. That the story of the First Methodist Church of Gainesville may be told it is well to submit briefly some facts concerning the county and town in the making of which this now splendid organization had so prominent a part.

1818—Hall County was laid out in 1818 and duly organized the following year.

1821—Gainesville was located and made the established county seat.

1821—July 3, 1821 fifty acres of land deeded for the purpose of laying out the town and erecting public buildings.

1831—The first Methodist sermon delivered in Gainesville on the text: "**Who Is She That Looks Forth As The Morning, Fair As The Moon, Clear As The Sun, And Terrible As An Army With Banners?**" by the Reverend William J. Parks in the autumn of 1831.

Col. Ephraim M. Johnson can be called the "**Father of Gainesville Methodism,**" for it was under his leadership after a suggestion by a good Presbyterian, a Mr. McWharten, that the congregation was started and met in the Presbyterian Church.

In a borrowed house, with a local preacher, belonging to no circuit or district and with 15 members Brother J. W. Glenn organized the First Methodist Church in Gainesville, Georgia.

The Georgia Conference in 1834 organized the "**Cherokee District**" over which Reverend Issac Boring was appointed as presiding elder. This district swept entirely across the Northern part of the State. The little church here was received into the plan of the Gainesville Circuit—one of the Charges of the Cherokee District—and Reverend W. Calverhouse was the first preacher.

In the early part of 1834 the old Gainesville Courthouse, a frame building was sold at public outcry and Col. Ephraim Johnson bought it for \$150.00. Presbyterians, Baptists, citizens of a little town who were not related directly with any church, and neighbors from the country round about assisted the Methodists in moving the old courthouse to the lot on the corner of S. Bradford and Church streets, in almost the same location of Gainesville's City Hall today.

1872—Methodism's second house of worship built and occupied until the present structure was built in 1906-07-08.

TODAY—1907-1957—

In 1905, it became apparent that a new church building was needed—one in keeping with the progress of the city, the strength and prosperity of the Church and the position of influence and importance which the Gainesville First Church holds in North Georgia Methodism. Sunday morning in June 1905, after a strong sermon appropriate to the

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crisis, by the pastor, B. F. Fraser, a list was opened and that morning \$18,000.00 quickly subscribed for a new church. Our present sanctuary and dining room were the results of this campaign. In 1908 the building was completed and the Annual Conference met here in Gainesville with our church as their headquarters.

Soon after the lot adjacent to the new Church Building owned by the W. E. McKinney family was purchased and is now the lot on which our very comfortable and commodious parsonage and the Educational Building are both located. The present parsonage was completed and occupied in the fall of 1916. For many years prior to this date the pastor had lived in the old parsonage which still stands at the corner of College Avenue and Bradford street.

1947—On December 19, 1947 the First Methodist Church Park property was acquired from Mr. Ralph B. Hosch.

Plans for the new Educational Building were started in 1948 under the guidance of Reverend Haskel C. Stratton. This building was made available for use in 1951. The debt on this project was paid off in 1954 and on November 7, 1954 the Pruitt Memorial Building including the Sue Means Johnson—Joseph H. Pittard Chapel was dedicated by Bishop Arthur J. Moore.

1955—On December 30, 1955 a two story apartment house located adjacent to the park property made as a gift to the First Methodist Church by Heyward C. Hosch, Sr. and Walton Jackson.

1956—On January 1, 1956 a program of renovation, redecoration, and modernization was launched. A new Choir Loft was constructed and a new Austin Organ was installed replacing the original organ in use since 1917. The entire plant was air-conditioned and the Sanctuary completely redecorated.

1957—Today, December 22, 1957 marks the Golden Jubilee Anniversary of the first service held in this building.

The first sermon in the present building was preached by Dr. George R. Stewart, a famous Methodist preacher in the early part of the 20th century.

TOMORROW— What do we see when we look into the future of First Methodist Church in Gainesville. To day we have the largest membership in the history of the Church numbering some 1200 people. On our staff we have some 13 people. With the finest equipment, with a consecrated Official Board of 65 members, we accept the challenge which the next 50 years flings at us. We remember the struggles, the faith, and the devotion, not to mention the tears and the toil which have been combined to give us what we have to day. We rededicate ourselves, with a deep consciousness of the obligation of our stewardship of time, talent, and gifts that we may be able to hand down to those who come after us a thriving, strong, dynamic, spiritual church for tomorrow. This will require not only the dedication and devotion of the members of the Official Board but of each member of the Church as well. **This we beg of you today for tomorrow.**

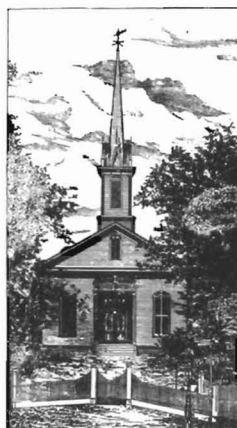
LIST OF KEY LEADERS 1907-1957

DATE	PASTOR	DIST. SUPT.	CHMN. OF BOARD	PRES. W.S.C.S.	S. S. SUPT.
1906-7	B. F. Fraser	J. R. King	Hayne Palmour	Mrs. R. Burnett	Dr. H. J. Pearce
1907-8	B. F. Fraser	J. R. King	Hayne Palmour		Dr. H. J. Pearce
1908-9	T. J. Christian	J. R. King	Hayne Palmour		Dr. H. J. Pearce
1909-10	T. J. Christian	L. C. Johnson	Hayne Palmour		Dr. H. J. Pearce
1910-11	C. E. Dowman	L. C. Johnson	Hayne Palmour		Hammond Johnson
1911-12	Frank Siler	L. C. Johnson	Hayne Palmour		Hammond Johnson
1912-13	T. R. Kendall, Sr.	L. C. Johnson	Hayne Palmour		Hammond Johnson
1913-14	T. R. Kendall, Sr.	S. R. Belk	Hayne Palmour		Hammond Johnson
1914-15	T. R. Kendall, Sr.	S. R. Belk	Hayne Palmour		Hammond Johnson
1915-16	T. R. Kendall, Sr.	S. R. Belk	S. G. Smith		Hammond Johnson
1916-17	G. M. Eakes	J. W. Quillian	S. G. Smith	Mrs. Fletcher Johnson	Hammond Johnson
1917-18	G. M. Eakes	J. W. Quillian	H. M. Newman	Mrs. J. W. Smith	Hammond Johnson
1918-19	G. M. Eakes	J. W. Quillian	W. C. Ham	Mrs. R. E. Andoe	Hammond Johnson
1919-20	G. M. Eakes	J. W. Quillian	W. C. Ham	Mrs. G. M. Eakes	Hammond Johnson
1920-21	T. R. Kendall, Jr.	W. T. Hamby	T. J. Syfan	Mrs. E. A. Barnhart	Hammond Johnson
1921-22	T. R. Kendall, Jr.	W. T. Hamby	T. J. Syfan	Mrs. E. A. Barnhart	Hammond Johnson
1922-23	W. P. King	W. T. Hamby	J. H. Hosch	Mrs. Hammond Johnson	Hammond Johnson
1923-24	W. P. King	W. T. Hamby	J. H. Hosch	Miss Beulah Eavns	Hammond Johnson
1924-25	W. P. King	J. G. Logan	H. V. Johnson	Mrs. J. R. Styles	Hammond Johnson
1925-26	W. P. King	J. G. Logan	H. V. Johnson	Mrs. Clarence Ellis	Hammond Johnson
1926-27	W. G. Crawley	J. G. Logan	B. T. Palmour, Jr.	Mrs. L. R. Sams	W. G. Mealor
1927-28	W. G. Crawley	J. G. Logan	B. Frank Whelchel	Mrs. Clarence Ellis	W. G. Mealor
1928-29	W. H. LaPrade, Jr.	H. C. Emory	L. W. Hosch	Mrs. Arthur Smith	Harry Tucker
1929-30	W. H. LaPrade, Jr.	H. C. Emory	L. W. Hosch	Mrs. J. R. Styles	Harry Tucker
1930-31	W. H. LaPrade, Jr.	H. C. Emory	S. O. Smith	Mrs. C. B. Rombeerg	Harry Tucker
1931-32	G. M. Acree	H. C. Emory	C. B. Romberg	Mrs. C. B. Rombeerg	Harry Tucker
1932-33	G. M. Acree	B. H. Smith	C. B. Romberg	Mrs. Geo. Acree	Harry Tucker
1933-34	G. M. Acree	B. H. Smith	John S. Rogers	Mrs. W. R. Garner	Harry Tucker
1934-35	G. M. Acree	J. F. Yarbrough	John S. Rogers	Mrs. W. R. Garner	Harry Tucker
1935-36	R. L. Russell	J. F. Yarbrough	C. B. Romberg	Mrs. Joseph Cook	R. M. Dillard
1936-37	R. L. Russell	J. F. Yarbrough	C. B. Romberg	Mrs. Joseph Cook	H. R. Tucker
1937-38	R. L. Russell	J. F. Yarbrough	C. B. Romberg	Mrs. R. L. Rogers	H. R. Tucker
1938-39	R. L. Russell	Claud Hendrick	Heyward C. Hosch	Mrs. R. L. Rogers	H. R. Tucker
1939-40	L. W. Collins	Claud Hendrick	Heyward C. Hosch	Mrs. W. R. Garner	H. R. Tucker
1940-41	L. W. Collins	Claud Hendrick	A. E. Roper	Mrs. W. R. Garner	H. R. Tucker
1941-42	L. W. Collins	Claud Hendrick	A. E. Roper	Mrs. L. B. Spears	H. R. Tucker
1942-43	L. M. Twiggs	J. Foster Young	E. D. Kenyon	Mrs. L. B. Spears	H. R. Tucker
1943-44	L. M. Twiggs	J. Foster Young	E. D. Kenyon	Mrs. L. B. Spears	H. R. Tucker
1944-45	L. M. Twiggs	J. Foster Young	J. K. Telford	Mrs. H. C. Hosch	H. R. Tucker
1945-46	L. M. Twiggs	J. Foster Young	C. J. Romberg	Mrs. H. C. Hosch	Howell C. Martin
1946-47	L. M. Twiggs	M. Elrod	T. H. Paris	Mrs. J. W. Sneed	Howell C. Martin
1947-48	H. C. Stratton	M. Elrod	Dr. H. Joiner	Mrs. J. W. Sneed	Howell C. Martin
1948-49	H. C. Stratton	M. Elrod	Chas. M. Hall	Mrs. J. W. Sneed	Howell C. Martin
1949-50	H. C. Stratton	A. B. Elizer	John Cromartie	Mrs. C. J. Romberg	B. J. Terry
1950-51	H. C. Stratton	A. B. Elizer	John Cromartie	Mrs. Dixon Rudolph	B. J. Terry
1951-52	Wm. H. Gardner	A. B. Elizer	John Cromartie	Mrs. T. H. Paris	B. J. Terry
1952-53	Wm. H. Gardner	A. B. Elizer	John Black, Jr.	Mrs. T. H. Paris	B. J. Terry
1953-54	Wm. H. Gardner	Zach C. Hayes	Roy T. Withers	Mrs. Claude Carter	B. J. Terry
1954-55	Wm. H. Gardner	Zach C. Hayes	Roy T. Withers	Mrs. Ralph Pope	B. J. Terry
1955-56	J. C. Callaway	Zach C. Hayes	J. R. Castleberry	Mrs. Charles Brice	B. J. Terry
1956-57	J. C. Callaway	Zach C. Hayes	James Telford	Mrs. Stewart McCrary	Roy Cromartie
1957-58	J. C. Callaway	Zach C. Hayes	A. Drane Watson	Mrs. Claude Carter	Roy Cromartie

"Father of Methodism in Gainesville"

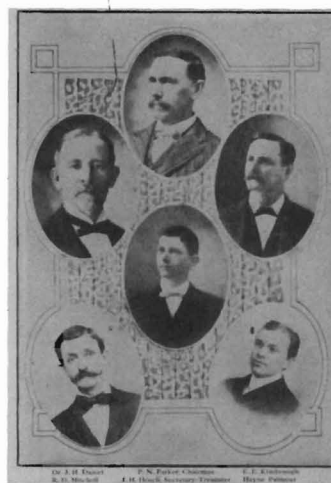


COL. EPHRAIM JOHNSON



CHURCH BUILT IN 1872

BUILDING COMMITTEE 1907



FIRST CHURCH IN 1907



PARSONAGE BUILT IN 1916



ANNEX COMPLETED IN 1951