

Mrs. J. L. Whitley

HISTORY OF GRACE METHODIST CHURCH

ALBANY, GEORGIA 1925-1951

This is a history of Grace Methodist Church, Albany, Georgia as prepared in May of 1951 from such records as were available and in accordance with suggestions from the South Georgia Conference Historical Society.

Reverend W. H. Budd was pastor of the First Methodist in Albany, Georgia in the year of 1923 and realizing the great need of religious work in the mill village to the north of the city, he employed an assistant pastor to aid him in this important work. He assigned this work to Reverend Paul Redfern. Thus was planted the first seed toward the organization of a church at this place. Reverend Redfern entered upon this work with a great zeal but there soon came an urgent call for a pastor in the Florida Conference and the Bishop appointed him to go to this other field. Reverend A. E. Hancock then came to take up this important work. Reverend Hancock was a young minister, a hard and faithful worker. He had ability to organize and the qualities that fitted him for leadership and to this young minister Grace Church owes more than can ever be told. He was a successful worker. His revivals, in which he preached and sang, were seasons of spiritual power.

It is believed that services were first held in a community house, located on property belonging to the Flint River Cotton Mill; however, in October of 1925 a tent was rented for evangelistic services and Reverend H. P. Studds was invited to do the preaching. A great revival meeting was held and one hundred were added to the Church and it was decided that the time had now come for the organization of a Church.

The Christian people began to work towards this end and after much work, much prayer and, no doubt, many hardships and upsets, a

Church was organized and was operated as a mission connected with the First Methodist Church, for an undetermined length of time. It is known, however, that at the meeting of the South Georgia Conference in November of 1926, Grace Church was set up as a separate charge with Trinity Church.

The money to build Grace Church was raised in various ways. The names of all of the donors nor the amounts donated is not known; however, we read from a newspaper account that F. F. Putney, President of the Flint River Cotton Mill, at that time, made a donation of \$3,500 toward the church building and also donated the site on which it is built. It is estimated that the building when completed was appraised at \$5,500. Contract for the building was let to A. C. Knight. The building contains five Sunday School rooms and an auditorium to seat 140 people with possibilities of enlargement to seat 250. Practically all of the money to finish the construction was raised before building began.

While the names of all of the people who contributed to the building of Grace Church in time, effort, prayer and other ways, have escaped the records and the memories of the people whom we have contacted, it is felt that they are forever inscribed on the eternal records of our Lord, and, no doubt, some of their names are today on the roll of Grace Church. To those unknown who contributed so much go the thanks of the present congregation of Grace Church.

According to an undated newspaper account Reverend Hancock conducted the opening services of the church at 11:00 O'clock. A Basket Dinner was served at 12:00 o'clock. Reverend O. F. Cook preached a sermon at 3:00 O'clock. Reverend J. W. Parham gave a talk at 7:00 o'clock. Large congregations attended all of the services.

According to a Year Book and Directory of Grace and Trinity Churches for the conference year 1927 which came into our hands, the first officers of Grace Church were:

STEWARDS

Miss Ruth Whaley
Mrs. Zula Moody
Mr. W. H. McDaniel
Mr. Tommy Rhodes

TRUSTEES

Mr. W. H. McDaniel
Mr. J. C. Tolbert, Sr.
Mr. J. T. Rhodes

A list of the original members is attached hereto and known as Attachment 1. The Superintendent of the Sunday School was Miss Ruth Whaley and the President of the Epworth League was Miss Marie Akin. A list of the Pastors, Presiding Elders and Bishops through the years is attached and known as Attachment 2.

The first pastor was Reverend A. E. Hancock and services were held on the second and fourth Sundays. The Presiding Elder was Dr. Bascom Anthony and Reverend W. B. Beauchamp was Bishop. This young pastor came to Grace Church with his soul in his work. He was a faithful worker. After a lengthy illness Reverend Hancock died on November 1, 1927. He is buried in Worth County, Georgia and Attachment No. 3 hereto is a memorial to him.

Reverend R. B. Wall was appointed to the pastorate of Grace and Trinity Churches but was unable to take charge until June of 1928 at which time he was to graduate from Emory University. The pastorate was supplied by Reverend O. B. Talley until Reverend Wall could assume the charge.

In 1928-29 Reverend J. A. Thornton was pastor with the Presiding Elder and the Bishop being the same.

In 1929 Reverend L. M. Spivey came as pastor. Reverend Osgood Cook was Presiding Elder and W. B. Beauchamp was Bishop. Donald

Crosby was Superintendent of the Sunday School. Miss Ruth Whaley was President of the W.S.C.S. Good reports were given in conference records for the Sunday School and the missionary circle. The pastor was much interested in children and their activities. A parish paper, which attracted much attention, was published bi-monthly and sent into all of the homes.

Grace Church assumed a \$60.00 Belgian Mission Special to be paid during the year. An interest in missions is manifest by this act.

During the second quarterly conference the following resolution was made by the Pastor and passed by a vote of the conference: "Resolved that the Board of Trustees (or a majority thereof) of Grace Methodist Church be (and they hereby are) authorized and empowered to accept a conditional donation from the South Georgia Conference Board of Church Extension not exceeding the sum of \$300.00 for the purpose of liquidating a debt of \$500.00 to the General Board of Church Extension".

In 1930 Reverend John A. Godfrey was assigned to Grace Church. Reverend Osgood Cook was still the Presiding Elder and the Bishop was Reverend John M. Moore. Donald Crosby was still Superintendent of the Sunday School and Miss Evelyn Courson was President of the W.S.C.S. The Church participated in a city-wide simultaneous revival the last two weeks in March. The pastor worked closely with the children. At the close of the year the pastor reported improvements in all phases of the church work.

Reverend J. A. Godfrey was returned to Grace in 1931. There was no change in the Presiding Elder nor the Bishop. Efforts were being made to re-establish an Epworth League. The Sunday School and Missionary Circle ^{were} flourishing. Pastoral instruction of the children continued and advantage of every opportunity was taken to lead the children. A revival was held the third week in August with Reverend David Cripps

doing the preaching.

Reverend Godfrey was returned to Grace in 1932. There was no change in the other officers. The spiritual state of the church was reported to be on an upward trend with a renewal and addition of loyalty to the church. At the third quarterly conference on August 6, 1933, it was reported that the Epworth League had been reorganized.

In 1933, Reverend Godfrey was sent back to Grace. N. H. Williams was now Presiding Elder with no other changes being made.

In 1934 and 1935 Reverend L. C. Fullerton was pastor, N. H. Williams was Presiding Elder and W. N. Ainsworth was the Bishop. Reverend Roy J. Bond was listed in the Annual Conference Records as a supply pastor for part of the year 1935.

In 1936, Reverend J. D. Reese was the pastor, N. H. Williams was Presiding Elder and W. N. Ainsworth was Bishop. Mrs. D. L. Robison was President of the W.S.C.S.

In 1937 and 1938 J. W. Tinley was placed in the pastorate of Grace Church. Reverend C. Byrd Harbour was Presiding Elder and W. N. Ainsworth was succeeded in 1938 by J. L. Decell as Bishop.

In 1939 Reverend Doster C. Vincent was sent to Grace Church as Pastor and W. M. Haywood was the District Superintendent.

In November of 1940, Reverend J. P. Touchton was sent to the Charge. W. M. Haywood was still District Superintendent and Dr. Arthur J. Moore was Bishop. Roy B. Bray was Superintendent of the Sunday School. Mrs. J. L. Whitley was President of the W.S.C.S. The young people at Grace were trying to organize a choir. A youth caravan was scheduled to come to the charge from July 25 to August 2, 1941.

The children of Grace Church were meeting each Wednesday afternoon for a Junior Church under the leadership of Mrs. Touchton. The W.S.C.S. of the First Methodist Church provided thirty surplices

for a choir among the group.

The pastor recommended three things to the people at the second quarterly conference on April 13, 1941, in preparation for special evangelistic services, which were tithing, self-examination, and prayer. The revival was held and several additions to the Church were made.

Reverend Touchton was returned to Grace in 1941. Mrs. D.L. Robison, Sr. had been elected President of the W.S.C.S.

During the second quarterly conference on April 26, 1942, Grace and Trinity Churches both agreed to increase their contributions to the Church in order to employ an assistant for work at Grace. Wade Wardo, one of the young men from Trinity, was secured for this work. Cottage prayer meetings were being held at Grace and a revival meeting was held during the third quarter and there was a large ingathering of members.

In November of 1942, Reverend J. W. M. Stipe was sent to Grace and Trinity. During the third quarterly conference on July 4, 1942, it was reported by Reverend Stipe that a revival had been held. Reverend Wilburn Hancock, son of the first pastor of the Church, had worked with the young people and Reverend H. E. Stipe, the pastor's brother, did the preaching.

Reverend Stipe left during July of 1943, to serve our God and our Country as a Chaplain in the Navy. Reverend R. F. Cripps was sent as a supply pastor for a short time.

It was during the Annual Conference in November of 1943 that the Grace-Trinity Charge was dissolved and Grace was set up as a Separate charge. Reverend J. A. Thornton was sent to Grace Church in 1943 and 1944. Reverend Anthony Hearn was the District Superintendent

and Dr. Arthur J. Moore was still Bishop. Reverend Thornton set as goals for the year a larger number of subscribers to Wesleyan Christian Advocate, church repairs and a revival. Numerous repairs and improvement to the church were made. The Youth Fellowship was progressing. Reverend L. C. Harvard preached during the revival. The Crusade for Christ was successful with a larger amount being pledged than was asked.

In November of 1945 Reverend H. H. Edenfield was sent to Grace Church. J. R. Crosby was Superintendent of the Sunday School. The District Superintendent felt that Reverend Edenfield had peculiar qualifications for the work at this church. He put himself into his work and was succeeding in a remarkable manner. The Church was co-operating with a general move to promote evangelism during the year. Reverend Edenfield became seriously ill and died in Phoebe Putney Hospital on May 15, 1946. He made an indelible impression for good upon this community and will live on in the lives of the people. A funeral service was held on May 17, at Grace Church, conducted by Reverend L. A. Harrell, assisted by Reverend Anthony Hearn, Reverend Ralph Brown and Chaplain Harry Shevhart of Turner Field. The body was sent to Savannah for a service at Grace Methodist Church. Interment was in Bonaventure Cemetery. A memorial to Reverend Edenfield is attached hereto and known as Attachment 4.

Bishop Arthur J. Moore appointed Reverend W. Park Smith to serve the unexpired appointment of Reverend Edenfield. Reverend Smith had previously served in the United States Army as a Chaplain. J. L. Whitley was now Superintendent of the Sunday School. Good reports were being given from the Junior Church. The W.S.C.S. was carrying on in its usual fine way. A revival was held in September with Reverend J. Alton Davis doing the preaching.

In 1946 and 1947, Bishop Moore sent Reverend W.W. Hill to

Grace Church. The Junior Church was an important part of the Church. "Family Night" was being observed at the church each Wednesday night. Reverend H. C. Marx was the visiting minister for the revival. Many improvements were made to the church. Reverend Hill was editor of "Setence Sermons", which was published in the Wesleyan Christian Advocate and was widely quoted in many churches. Reverend Hill died on September 26, 1947. Funeral services were held at Grace Church in Albany and interment was in Americus. A memorial to Reverend Hill is attached hereto as Attachment 5.

Reverend C. E. Smith, Sr., was transferred to Grace Church on October 16, 1947. Reverend W. E. McTier was now District Superintendent. Reverend Smith was also assigned to Grace in 1948 and 1949. A revival was held in 1948 with Reverend George F. Erwin as preacher. The pastor was working closely with the children. A gas heating system was installed in the church and the parsonage, having been paid for by funds raised in various ways by all departments of the church. Chaplin M. L. Nelson led the revival during April of 1949. The church was asked to pay \$680 to the Superannuate Fund.

A revival was held in March 1950 with Reverend Walter H. Elanks as the preacher.

In June of 1950 Reverend Ernest L. Veal came to Grace Church. During the year 1950-1951 much progress has been made in the life of the church. At least four things have taken place which deserve foremost attention.

In the early part of the year the exterior of the building was much in need of a coat of paint. A small congregation at this time was doing well to provide for a full time minister but the Lord makes a way. During the month of August or September one Sunday morning the Spirit of God led the pastor to place all of the money he had on the altar for the purpose of painting the building. The pastor

gave all and asked the congregation to do likewise. Many responded by giving all they had and thus the church received a coat of the best grade paint.

Another outstanding event in the life of the church was a revival held in October. At a meeting of the Board of Stewards revival services for the year were discussed. It was agreed that there should be two. However, there was the question of finances. To solve this the pastor offered to preach in one meeting and so a revival began with plans being for one week only. The results were that the Lord so wonderfully blessed and the people responded so well that the meeting continued for two weeks. Several genuine conversions were realized and spiritual progress was evident. Many People near the church attended services who had not attended church for years.

Still another outstanding event of the year took place on February 25, which was Layman's Day. Three men in the church, Aaron Sellers, Thomas Blankenship and William Berry, were asked to speak at the morning service on that day. Although they had not spoken to a congregation before each man readily responded to the call and with God's help developed his own talk. Aaron Sellers used as his subject "Sowing Good Seed". Thomas Blankenship chose "Loving your Neighbor" and William Berry spoke on "Memories which Live". The congregation was greatly impressed. The church was happy that these men who were new in the church were being added to the few but very faithful and loyal gentlemen of the church.

The fourth outstanding event in the life of the church for the year found its root in the matter of finances. Through the years there had been a cultivation along this line. The people, at this time, were to be commended in meeting their budget for only a few were assuming the responsibility. From time to time during the years, it was necessary

to make additional effort to meet the budget. It was necessary this past year also. The pastor and the Board of Stewards suggested a Pledge Campaign in the Spring of 1951. The people responded to this almost one hundred per cent in making pledges and paying them as well. As a result sometime before the end of the year the finances were paid and everybody was happy and the church was now on a sound financial system. The pastor was given a raise at the end of the year.

The W.S.C.S. at Grace Church is unusually active at this time and it is a known fact that the women of this church hold up their part in a remarkable way. During the year 1949-50 they endorsed the campaign to raise \$680 for the Superannuate Fund. This goal was reached in 1950. The Flint River Cotton Mill gave \$1.00 for every \$3.00 contributed by the Church.

A revival was held and the visiting minister was Reverend George Clary, Jr. from Warner Robins, Georgia. Several additions were made to the church.

A Daily Vacation Bible School was begun on May 28, 1951, with Mrs. Lewis Williams as the Superintendent.

For all the achievements of the year 1950-51 all credit and praise be to God for his blessings have provided the way. Suffice it to say that all Spiritual progress has come from the splendid cooperation of the people.

As we bring to a close this history of Grace Church from the year 1925 through 1951, we realize there are many things which could have been written had the information been available. Yet, however dim the records may have become, the works and influence of this church, its former pastors and others connected with the same will live long in the hearts and lives of countless hundreds; and,

as we, the present members of Grace Church, are writing our bit into the history of God's Kingdom at this place, let us resolve to write with an even clearer hand and keep our pens filled with an indelible ink.

ORIGINAL MEMBERSHIP OF GRACE CHURCH

ALBANY, GEORGIA

- | | | | |
|-----|-----------------------|------|--------------------------|
| 1. | AKIN, Marie | 56. | KINSEY, Mrs. Tom |
| 2. | AKIN, Mrs. G. H. | 57. | LITTLE, Miss Fannie |
| 3. | ADAMS, Mrs. Pearl | 58. | LOWRY, Mrs. Georgia |
| 4. | ADAMS, Genie | 59. | LOWERY, Mr. |
| 5. | ADAMS, Susie | 60. | LEWIS, Mrs. Jossie |
| 6. | ADAMS, Watson | 61. | MOODY, Mrs. Zula |
| 7. | ADAMS, Billie | 62. | MOODY, Mrs. Georgie |
| 8. | ADAMS, Burice | 63. | MOODY, Woodrow |
| 9. | ADAMS, Elton | 64. | MOODY, Leroy |
| 10. | ADAMS, Robert | 65. | MOODY, Agnes |
| 11. | AUSTIN, J. E. | 66. | MOODY, Clifton |
| 12. | AUSTIN, Mrs. J. E. | 67. | MIDDLETON, Roy |
| 13. | BARNES, Mrs. Evelyn | 68. | MIDDLETON, M. D. |
| 14. | BENTLEY, Mrs. Emanda | 69. | MIDDLETON, Mrs. M. D. |
| 15. | BARNES, Mrs. Meta | 70. | MIDDLETON, Hoke |
| 16. | BROOME, Elbert | 71. | McDANIEL, W. H. |
| 17. | BRAY, E. T. | 72. | McDANIEL, Mrs. W. H. |
| 18. | CARTER, Mrs. Stella | 73. | McDANIEL, Nellie |
| 19. | CRAWFORD, Mrs. A. E. | 74. | NOLAN, Mittie |
| 20. | CORNELL, Silas | 75. | OSBORNE, Eddie |
| 21. | CORNWELL, Mrs. Maggie | 76. | PITTMAN, Gertrude |
| 22. | CORNWELL, Elease | 77. | PITTMAN, Mrs. Lizzie |
| 23. | CROSBY, Mack | 78. | RHODES, J. T. |
| 24. | COURSON, Evelyn | 79. | ROBISON, D. L. |
| 25. | DODD, George | 80. | ROBISON, Mrs. D. L. |
| 26. | DAWSON, Ola | 81. | RAWLINS, Laura |
| 27. | FLOWERS, Mrs. Tom | 82. | SHAW, SAM |
| 28. | GREEN, Edward | 83. | SUGGS, J. C. |
| 29. | HOOD, J. A. | 84. | TOLBERT, J. C., Sr. |
| 30. | HOOD, Lillian | 85. | TOLBERT, MRS. J. C., Sr. |
| 31. | HOOD, Ira Mae | 86. | TOLBERT, J. C., Jr. |
| 32. | HOOD, Lucile | 87. | THOMPSON, GUSSE |
| 33. | HOOD, Grace | 88. | WHALEY, Miss Ruth |
| 34. | HUBBARD, Ruth | 89. | WELLS, J. W. |
| 35. | HUBBARD, Mrs. Wooda | 90. | WELLS, Mrs. J. W. |
| 36. | HARP, Mrs. Miza | 91. | WELLS, Marie |
| 37. | HALL, Mrs. Nellie | 92. | WELLS, Avis |
| 38. | HAWKINS, Mrs. Maggie | 93. | WELLS, Hilmer |
| 39. | HOLLY, Mrs. Hattie | 94. | WADSWORTH, Inez |
| 40. | HOLLY, Dorothy | 95. | WADSWORTH, Mrs. Will |
| 41. | HARDIN, Velma | 96. | WADSWORTH, Nadine |
| 42. | JEWELL, Mrs. Verdie | 97. | WADSWORTH, Hazel |
| 43. | JEWELL, T. H. | 98. | WICH, Odell |
| 44. | JEWELL, Melos | 99. | WILLIAMS, Janie |
| 45. | JEWELL, Worth | 100. | WILLIS, Andrew Jackson |
| 46. | JEWELL, Luther | 101. | WOODALL, Frank |
| 47. | JEWELL, Stella | 102. | WILLIS, Lula |
| 48. | JACOBS, W. L. | 103. | WILLIAMS, Lucy |
| 49. | JACOBS, Mrs. W. L. | 104. | WILLIAMS, Pate |
| 50. | JACOBS, Bana | 105. | WILLIAMS, Ryals |
| 51. | JACOBS, Mary | 106. | WILLIAMS, Zell |
| 52. | JACOBS, Bonds | 107. | WILLIAMS, Grady |
| 53. | JERRELL, Mrs. Eufaula | | |
| 54. | JACOBS, Olin | | |
| 55. | KINSEY, TOM | | |

LIST OF PASTORS, PRESIDING ELDERS, AND BISHOPS

GRACE METHODIST CHURCH, ALBANY, GEORGIA.

| YEAR | PASTOR | PRESIDING ELDER * | BISHOP |
|------|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1926 | A. E. Hancock | Dr. Bascom Anthony | W. B. Beauchamp |
| 1927 | A. E. Hancock | Dr. Bascom Anthony | W. B. Beauchamp |
| 1927 | O. B. Talley (Supply) | Dr. Bascom Anthony | W. B. Beauchamp |
| 1927 | R. B. Wall | Dr. Bascom Anthony | W. B. Beauchamp |
| 1928 | J. A. Thornton | Dr. Bascom Anthony | W. B. Beauchamp |
| 1929 | L. M. Spivey | Osgood Cook | W. B. Beauchamp |
| 1930 | John W. Godfrey | Osgood Cook | John M. Moore |
| 1931 | John W. Godfrey | Osgood Cook | John M. Moore |
| 1932 | John W. Godfrey | Osgood Cook | John M. Moore |
| 1933 | John W. Godfrey | N. H. Williams | John M. Moore |
| 1934 | L. C. Fullerton | N. H. Williams | W. N. Ainsworth |
| 1935 | L. C. Fullerton | N. H. Williams | W. N. Ainsworth |
| 1935 | Roy J. Bond (Supply) | N. H. Williams | W. N. Ainsworth |
| 1936 | J. D. Reese | N. H. Williams | W. N. Ainsworth |
| 1937 | J. W. Tinley | C. Byrd Harbour | W. N. Ainsworth |
| 1938 | J. W. Tinley | C. Byrd Harbour | J. L. Decell |
| 1939 | Doster C. Vincent | W. M. Haywood | J. L. Decell |
| 1940 | J. P. Touchton | W. M. Haywood | Arthur J. Moore |
| 1941 | J. P. Touchton | W. M. Haywood | Arthur J. Moore |
| 1942 | J. W. M. Stipe | W. M. Haywood | Arthur J. Moore |
| 1943 | R. F. Cripps (Supply) | W. M. Haywood | Arthur J. Moore |
| 1943 | J. A. Thornton | Anthony Hearn | Arthur J. Moore |
| 1944 | J. A. Thornton | Anthony Hearn | Arthur J. Moore |
| 1945 | H. H. Edenfield | Anthony Hearn | Arthur J. Moore |
| 1946 | W. Park Smith (Supply) | Anthony Hearn | Arthur J. Moore |
| 1946 | W. W. Hill | Anthony Hearn | Arthur J. Moore |
| 1947 | W. W. Hill | Anthony Hearn | Arthur J. Moore |
| 1947 | C. E. Smith, Sr. | W. E. McTier | Arthur J. Moore |
| 1948 | C. E. Smith, Sr. | W. E. McTier | Arthur J. Moore |
| 1949 | C. E. Smith, Sr. | W. E. McTier | Arthur J. Moore |
| 1950 | Ernest L. Veal | W. E. McTier | Arthur J. Moore |

* The title Presiding Elder was changed to District Superintendent during the year 1939.

MEMORIAL TO AUBRA ERNEST HANCOCK AS PUBLISHED IN THE CONFERENCE.
MINUTES FOR THE YEAR 1927, SIXTY-FIRST SESSION, WRITTEN BY REV.
OSGOOD F. COOK.

Aubra Ernest Hancock, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Hancock, was born at Minton, Worth County, Georgia, January 21, 1900, and departed this life at Albany, Georgia, after an illness confining him to his bed four months, November 1, 1927, having lived in this world only twenty-seven years and after service in the ministry only five years.

Reared in a christian home near a country church he was converted and joined the church in childhood.

In 1920, he was married to Miss Mary Lois Bell of Gordy, Georgia. In 1922, their first born, Ernest, Jr. was taken from them by death and the wife and one child, Wilbourne, only survive. The affliction suffered in the loss of the baby was the means in the providence of God of bringing him to a full surrender and complete submission to God's will, expressed in a call to preach. So, about that time in a meeting at the First Methodist Church of Albany, under the ministry of W. H. Budd, he answered God's call and promised to preach His gospel. He was licensed to preach at the district conference in Albany in 1922, and served faithfully and well as a local preacher until 1925, when he was admitted into the South Georgia Conference on trial and received his first and only appointment. In 1926, he was the Junior Preacher of the Albany Charge, having served in the same way as a supply two years previously. For the first year he held on to a business connection for the support of his family and at the same time took care of Grace Church at the Flint Cotton Mill and Trinity Church in East Albany. This year, however, he severed his business connection to devote himself entirely to the work of the ministry and Wesley Church in the country was added to the charge which was severed from First Church.

Ernest Hancock was a hard worker. He had the persistence of a life

insurance agent, the omnipresence of a newspaper reporter and the alertness of a politician; he made more speeches than a lawyer and more visits than a doctor; blessed with a fine physique and pleasing personality, he attracted attention and made friends rapidly; he was popular enough to associate with men about town, versatile enough to go into the homes of the rich without embarrassment and into the homes of the poor without condescension; he had the ability to organize and the qualities that fitted him for leadership; he was magnetic enough to gather about him a crop of faithful workers, noble enough to merit and hold their esteem; and, best of all, he was pure enough to "allure to brighter worlds" and good enough to lead the way.

He was an earnest worker. His soul was in his work. He was no professional parson. He considered his mission as a minister identical with that of Jesus Christ, who had said to him, "As the Father hath sent me into the world, even so send I you." So, "he came not to be ministered unto but to minister" and "To seek and save the lost."

He was a faithful worker. He seemed never to overlook or to slight the smallest details. He planned his work and worked his plans and when he died the records were so complete and so plain that we had no difficulty in making out reports for two quarterly conferences in one and for the annual conference.

He was a successful worker. His charge with neager means reports all obligations met and paid in full. His revivals, in which he preached and sang, were seasons of spiritual power. In one year he built a beautiful and adequate church and nearly paid for it, and also a comfortable parsonage and left it without debt.

He was a spiritual worker. Like Barnabas, "He was a good man full of the Holy Spirit and of faith." His character was the source and cause of all the good work of his ministry. He considered it of greater importance to live the gospel than to preach the gospel. It was his

spiritual life that created an atmosphere favorable to the accomplishment of God's purpose to save souls and redeem mankind. Being both good and full of faith, he complied with the simple requirements of the gospel, the double basis of final and eternal reward, discovered in the words of our loving Lord, "well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

His faith in God not only caused him to "abide under the shadow of the Almighty and to dwell in the secret place of the Most High", to approach the mercy seat where Jesus answers prayer and find that God is there, but also set all of the wheels of a holy life in motion and kept him in the world's busy workshop to labor for the Lord and on the forefront of the battle to fight for God.

No wonder that his death was so triumphant. During his long illness he was a patient sufferer, all the causes of unrest having been removed in the forgiveness of sin and acceptance of God and all the burdens rolled away by submission to God's will. For just before the end, about midnight, he said "I want a song, something pretty and sweet", and soon passed peacefully away to join the heavenly choir.

While, like many other Methodist preachers, he could say, "No foot of land do I possess, no cottage in this wilderness, "thank God, a little mound in the country cemetery at Kimball Church, in Worth County, is an open door to a mansion, eternal in the heavens."

MEMORIAL TO HARTRIDGE HARLAND EDENFIELD AS PUBLISHED IN
THE CONFERENCE MINUTES FOR THE YEAR 1947, EIGHTY-FIRST
SESSION WRITTEN BY REV. L. A. HARRELL.

"The true measure of a life in the quality of living, not the length of years. Measured by this standard, the life of Hartridge Harland Edenfield ranks high in the scale of values, because he put into life a quality which was of the highest, though his years were not many in number. Long before he definitely gave himself to the work of a minister, he was very active in promoting choirs, and church school work for young people and children, and he never lost his interest in this type of work, even after he became a minister.

His activities centered about children and young people. For four years he served as President of the Savannah Union and led the young people in an unusually active program of Christian Fellowship and service. He always held before them the highest ideals of life and sought to inspire them to holier living and efficient service.

Hearing the call of God to the Christian ministry, he gladly gave up a lucrative position in Savannah, accepted a charge paying only a very small per cent of his former salary, because he felt that was the work God wanted him to do. How well he did his work is to be seen in the work he did in the two charges he served during his brief ministry. He was licensed to preach August 29, 1944, and in November was appointed as pastor of the West Bainbridge Charge in the Thomasville District. He served this charge only one year but did a first class type of work while there. His district superintendent, knowing him so well, felt that he had peculiar qualifications for the work at Grace Church in Albany and at the last session of the Conference, Hartridge was given this very responsible place of leadership. It was soon evident that this was a wise appointment, because he put

himself into his work and was succeeding in a very remarkable manner when his health gave way and after several weeks of very serious illness death overtook him on May 15, 1946.

During his pastorate at Grace, he came in touch with large numbers of people in the village and in the City of Albany. Wherever he went he impressed people as being a man of God, though he sought only to be natural and at himself. He made an indelible impression for good upon this community and will live on in the lives of the people. Truly he was a man of God. Looking at his death from a human viewpoint, we say it was untimely, but who knows that God has advanced his Kingdom through his going. Thus we take a long-time view of his death and thank God for his life.

The facts of his life are: Hartridge Harland Edenfield was born June 19, 1912, at Lyons, Georgia. He was the son of the late Lewis Cass Edenfield and Mrs. Kate Tarver Edenfield. He received his elementary education at Johnson's Corner and graduated from High School at South Georgia College, Douglas, Georgia. For two years he attended Young Harris. On August 27, 1939, he was married to Miss Margaret Ann Rogers of Savannah. To this happy union three sons were born: Jack Lewis, Hartridge Harland, Jr. and Anthony Harrell. His mother, wife and children and several brothers survive his going.

MEMORIAL TO WILLIAM WARD HILL AS PUBLISHED IN THE CONFERENCE
MINUTES FOR THE YEAR 1948, WRITTEN BY REV. L. A. HARRELL AND
REV. ANTHONY HEARN.

"September 19, 1886, William Ward Hill was born in Americus, Georgia. He was born the son of Mr. C. W. Hill and Mrs. Sophonia Kennedy Hill. His education was obtained in the public schools of Americus where he spent his life prior to entering the Methodist ministry.

After leaving school he began working in a drug store and later worked in a leading dry goods store in Americus. At the early age of eighteen, he was genuinely converted and felt the call to preach. He continued to work while he did home study, preparing to enter the conference. He realized that he did not have the education that he needed for the ministry but he determined to do his best. This determination he carried with him through all of his life. He never missed an opportunity to study in a pastor's school, training school or to attend an institute. He studied at home and made splendid progress in preparing himself for his life's work.

He was admitted on trial into the South Georgia Conference at the session held in 1910 and into full connection in Macon, in 1913. He was ordained a deacon by Bishop Warren A. Candler in 1913, and an elder in Cordele by Bishop John C. Kilgo in 1915. He ceased to labor on September 27, 1947. The end came after a brief illness.

His service record is as follows:

Washington County Circuit, Faceville, Bridgeboro, White Oak, Atkinson, Rhine, Cobbtown, Waresboro, Alma and Mershon, Garfield, Parrott, Roberts, Irwinton, Cusseta, Pinehurst, Pavo and Grace Church, Albany.

At an early age he married Miss Daisy Belle Oliver of Americus, who survives him with two daughters, Mrs. Ben Woodbury, of Bainbridge, and Mrs. Richard Frazee of Dawson; two sons, William Ward and Charles

F., both of Thomson, Georgia.

We worked with Will in the same district as pastors and then as superintendent and pastor. We always found him cooperative, faithful, dependable and ready to do what his church thought was best. He never complained about his appointments. He confessed one day that only once in his entire ministry was he ever tempted to be resentful and then only for a short time. He went to his charges to give his people all he had and to do his best for God. He sought to know the program of his church and was always ready to work with others for the building of the Kingdom of God.

While he was happy in all of his appointments, his last charge, Grace Church, Albany, was most pleasing to him. He determined to do the best work of his ministry there and was off to a good start when the end came a little less than twelve months from the time of his appointment. He left his people and his family a heritage that is most worthy of following--an example of love, loyalty and faithful service to and for the cause of righteousness. While he is no longer present he continues to live in a larger and fuller realm. His work does not cease because others caught the vision of a better world through his life and work.

Mrs. J. L. Whitley

HISTORY OF PALMYRA ROAD METHODIST CHURCH (FORMERLY GRACE METHODIST)

LIBERTY, GEORGIA

1952 - 1957

In January, 1952, a revival was held with Rev. W. A. Kelly preaching. During this period talk began of relocating the Church in order to reach more people in the fast developing section between Palmyra Road and Slappey Drive.

As the year ended a total membership of 176, 140 active and 36 inactive, was on the records. The congregation was striving to carry out programs and achieve goals.

In June of 1952, a very fine Vacation Church School was held. We had very good leadership in Mrs. E. L. Veal, Superintendent, with Mrs. J. L. Whitley, Mrs. J. D. Trammell, Mrs. E. T. Bray, Mrs. F. A. Morrison and Mrs. D. L. Robison, Jr. assisting.

During the summer, an electric water cooler was installed in the Church School Department.

At the Quarterly Conference on November 9, 1952, held by W. E. Scott, District Superintendent, the Conference voted to relocate the Church. An exchange of land with Mr. E. E. Netherbee, Sr. for a lot on the corner of Palmyra Road and Tenth Avenue was made.

Attendance has been small this year but the people have grown spiritually. Aaron Sellers, a ministerial student at Andrew College was assisted. Mr. and Mrs. Sellers started to college in September of 1951. Mr. Sellers is the first person from the Church to make the decision for God to be a minister. We pray that he will do grand and glorious work for the Lord.

Badly needed new hymn books and new Intermediate Choir robes were purchased.

In June, 1953, the Annual Conference sent Rev. Archie C. Haygood, Jr. to Grace. Our main goal at this time was the moving of the Church to the newly acquired land at Palmyra Road and Tenth Avenue.

The foundation was laid and on September 3, 1953, the Church was moved and it's name was changed from Grace Methodist Church to Palmyra Road Methodist Church. Services were held in the Church at it's new location on September 6.

During the following week the contract for replastering was let, which made it impossible for use by the congregation. At the invitation of Rev. Ralph Porterfield of the First Methodist Church graciously granted the use of their old Sanctuary and services were held there until November 15.

During the next seven weeks many wonderful improvements were made.

A new cement porch was added, the beautiful Corinthian columns were repaired, cement steps placed at each entrance, outside walls repaired and painted. The entire interior was replastered in a snow white texture finish with acoustical plastic in the ceiling and choir loft. The floors of the Sanctuary, Nave and Vestibule are sanded in natural finish. The pews have been refinished in light oak in harmony with the woodwork with a seating capacity of 200. Venetian blinds were placed at the eight large windows adding greatly to the worshipful atmosphere of the Sanctuary. The Sanctuary features the divided chancel which has contributed to the efficiency and effectiveness of Divine Worship. The furniture, made of white pine paneling, in natural finish consists of five pieces, the lectern, pulpit, altar and two pews. These lovely furnishings were a gift to the new Palmyra Road Methodist Church from the Fellowship Class of the First Church. The foam rubber cushions for the pews were donated by the Cherokee Rubber Products Company of Macon, Georgia.

The cushions, kneeling pads, altar drapes and scarves are made of wine bark cloth.

The beautiful new organ was a gift of Mr. Wyman Jones and others.

Upon entering the Sanctuary, one is impressed with the beauty of the ten Cathedral milk-glass lanterns suspended by brass chains and the two flood lights that focus the pulpit and lectern. Behind the traverse drape is lighted cross that is used at the Communion services. The entire lighting of the Sanctuary is

controlled from a panel on the pulpit.

The Alter set consists of the cross, candlesticks and vases. They were presented to the Church by Mrs. Ross Powell from First Church at the Morning worship on December 6, 1933, the opening service. They were dedicated "To the Glory of God" and "In Honor of Mrs. C. C. Sapp", a loyal and devoted friend of the Church.

New drapes and furniture has been added to the Sunday School rooms by the teachers. Mrs. Jack Reynolds and the Primary Department of the First Church gave a piano to the Primary Department.

The Church Office and Pastor's Study is now attractive and well equipped with plastic upholstered office chairs, gifts of Mrs. Wyman Jones, typewriter and folding chairs from First Church, mimeograph, filing cabinets and bookcases. The pastor's desk was refinished and the blinds re-taped in green to match the color scheme of the cornices and tailored drapes contributed by Mrs. J. B. Davis.

The grounds have been graded and landscaped through the generosity of Mrs. A. L. Hammon.

Approximately \$2,000.00 was spent on the Church for its facelifting and renovation.

December 3, 1933, was the official opening of Albany's newest Church. Rev. Ralph Porterfield preached at the 11:00 o'clock hour. An old-fashioned basket lunch was enjoyed by the congregation and friends at 12:00. At the 7:30 service former pastor, A. L. Veal of Newington was guest minister.

On February 28, 1934, the Church and Organ was dedicated by Bishop Arthur J. Moore.

With the reconstitution of the Church the membership rolls were radically revised. As the year closed the membership records showed a total of 94 members including a number of new members added through the efforts of Rev. Haygood since the Church was re-constituted.

In June, 1934, the Rev. A. Russell Edwards, Jr. was sent as Pastor. His ministry began with a stress of tithing and the urge to go forward now to greater things with

our Lord.

The First Quarterly Conference on August 18, 1954, realizing the need of the Church to expand its facilities authorized the Trustees to negotiate for adjoining land. The land was purchased for \$5,500.00.

With the Church moved to its new location and expanding its facilities the need for a parsonage was keenly felt. In December, 1954, a loan of \$10,750.00 was received with which to purchase a parsonage at 1208 Ninth Avenue. The pastor's family moved to their new home on December 30, 1954. For the first time in the history of either Grace Methodist Church or Palmyra Road Methodist Church, the Church possessed its own parsonage.

The Church lost two great friends, Mr. Joel T. Haley, Jr. and Rev. Ralph Porterfield. Rev. Porterfield died in his sleep on February 22, 1955. He was undoubtedly at the peak of his ministry and the vitality of First Methodist Church as well as Albany's new Methodist Churches are monuments to his endeavors. Joel Haley died in the local hospital on February 3, 1955, after a brief illness. He had been doing effective work for the cause of Albany Methodism by serving as Chairman of the Finance Committee of the City Board of Missions.

Mr. J. T. Haley, Sr. gave \$6,000.00 and Mr. Guy Madox of Blakley, Georgia, gave \$1,000.00 in memory of J. T. Haley, Jr. to build a new class room building, kitchen and recreation hall.

The new building was started in February of 1955, and on May 4, 1955, the first official use was held with a victory rally totaling pledges of \$802.35 were made to Building fund.

1954-55 was a great year for the Church. The M.Y.F. is again active, good Vacation Bible School was held; Men's Brotherhood was organized and the W.M.C.S. did great work.

June, 1955, saw W. Russell Edwards, Jr. returned to the Church as Pastor to the delight of the congregation. Bishop Arthur J. Moore continues in his capacity.

Rev. J. B. Smith is the District Superintendant.

This year begins with increased interest and concern for the Church by individual members. A number have been particularly active in recruiting new people and in boosting in any way possible.

The Church School is doing well and is better equipped than ever before. A very good Vacation Bible School was held in June under the direction of Mrs. Lanier Bishop. The average attendance was 50.

The M. Y. F. meets regularly and though the group is small, they are doing good work.

The Methodist Men have formed a new group and have 13 men as charter members. The Conference lay-leader, Mr. A. S. Bostwick, presented the new Charter on August 9, 1955. The new officers are T. T. Harper President, S. L. Hodges Vice-President, Lanier Bishop Secretary-Treasurer and L. T. Brown Reporter.

This newly formed group has adopted a project of keeping the Church grounds in proper order. Their goal is to interest all the men of the Church in the Methodist Men.

A revival was held with Rev. J. H. Webb, Jr. doing the preaching. The revival did the Church much good. There is a spirit of friendship and kindred interests among our people which bodes well for church growth and effectiveness.

During the early fall, the old and dangerous open gas heaters that had been used to heat the church building for several years were replaced by a completely automatic, gas fired, forced air heating system which added materially to the winter comfort of worshippers. This improvement was made possible largely through the additional gift of \$1,500.00 by Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Haley, Sr. The remainder of the cost of \$2,200.00 was contributed by organizations and members of the Church.

At Christmas time this year, our Choir presented a highly enjoyable concert. It, together with a White Gift Service, high-lighted the festivities.

February 26, 1966, was celebrated as the second anniversary of the dedication of Palmyra Road Methodist Church. It is with gratitude that we are able to dedicate our Sunday School Building. Rev. J. B. Smith, our District Superintendant, and Rev. Louis M. Spivey were speakers for the days services. The Church tenders special thanks to Mr. J. I. Haley for his generous gifts which make it possible.

At the close of the year the state of the Church was generally good. We now have a membership of 181.

The Church was pleased and proud to have Rev. A. Russell Edwards, Jr. who is faithful and loyal, returned for his third year with us.

The year is off to a good start with attendance being somewhat higher than last year.

Our Church is justly proud in that it was one of only nine in the District which received a Certificate of Merit for proficiency in lay activities.

A fine Vacation Church School was held with some 56 children in attendance. Mrs. Lanier Bishop and her fine staff did a wonderful job.

Much pleasure is experienced by the congregation now that the air conditioning system has been installed in both buildings. Mr. Thad Huckabee and others contributed more than \$1,000.00 and an air conditioning loan of \$5,000.00 repayable over a 5 year period enabled us to undertake this project.

Our young people are now more active than they have been in the past. We have two N.Y.F.'s - one for seniors and one for the intermediates. Mrs. Lanier Bishop directs the Senior NYF and Mr. and Mrs. Ashton Jones direct the Intermediate NYF.

The ladies of the W.M.C. B. under the leadership of Mrs. H. A. Hogate have put lovely new carpet in the Sanctuary. It lends beauty and a dignity to the Sanctuary that one would have thought was impossible.

The Methodist Men have been busy with a number of projects such as varnishing the Sanctuary floors and painting and repairing the external trim at the parsonage.

Our choir combined with volunteers from the choir at Porterfield Memorial, under the direction of our organist and choir director, Mr. Luther Bishop, presented at both Churches, a Christmas Cantata. This presentation was the high point in our Christmas celebration and was beautifully done.

February 24, 1957 was celebrated as the third anniversary of the dedication of the Church. A good sized group attended morning worship and stayed for the basket dinner afterward. Among the guests were members of the City Mission Board and the ministers of other Methodist Churches in the city.

A ten day revival led by Rev. R. L. Walker of Smyrna, Georgia, was high point during the Fourth quarter and many blessings were received at the services. More than a dozen responded openly to the evangelist's invitations.

The Church did not grow in number as was hoped for due to the opening of the new Porterfield Memorial Methodist Church but we rejoice with the Lord that some progress was made. There was the finest kind of support and assistance from most of the officers of the Church this year. There is much work to be done in the coming year and with God's help we will seek to accomplish our goals.

This writing brings the history of SALMYNA ROAD METHODIST CHURCH up to the year 1957-58.

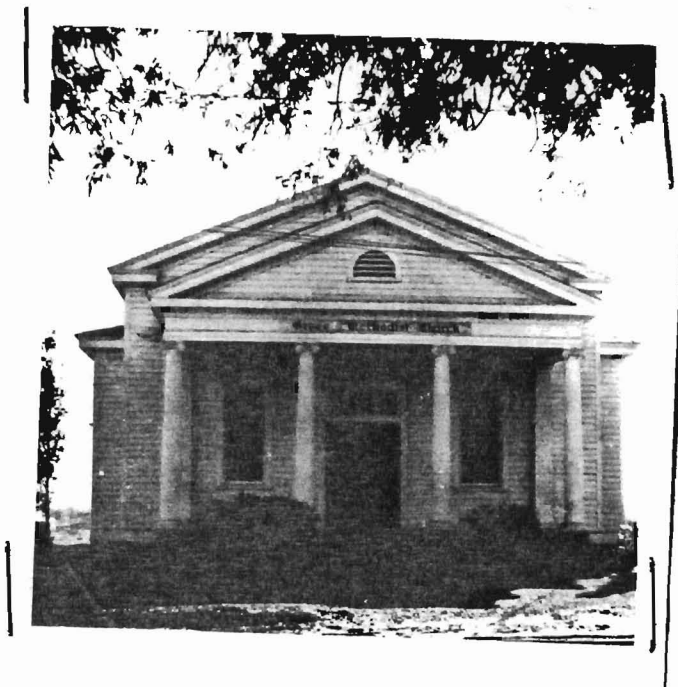
HISTORY OF PALMYRA ROAD METHODIST CHURCH (Formerly Grace Methodist)
Albany, Georgia 1959 - 1967

Rev. Edwards served the church four years. In 1959, he was moved to Athens at Georgia University Guidance for Young People, and Rev. Sam Buchanan came to Palmyra Road Church. Rev. Buchanan was an evangelistic minister, and many members were added to the roll during his first year. Church school outgrew the facilities during his second year and the trustees bought a house on a lot adjoining the church, to use as Sunday School rooms. A kitchen and a screened porch were added to the church building. The parsonage was also improved with two additional bedrooms and an additional bath.

Rev. Jan Mays came to Palmyra Road as our minister in 1961. During his second year with us, the church made other renovations, including adding a porch, making a vestibule from Sunday School rooms at the front of the church, and bricking in the frame structure. Mrs. Burlison donated shrubbery for landscaping.

In 1967, Rev. Grover Bell came to minister to Palmyra Road Church. During his ministry, the church added a dining room to the building, enlarged the kitchen, added a choir room, a nursery, four Sunday School rooms, and two baths. With sufficient room for Church School, the trustees rented out the house that had been used for Sunday School rooms.

Compiled from such records as were available (in Nov. 1981) by Blanche Houston.



GRACE METHODIST CHURCH, WHEN LOCATED ON ELEVENTH AVENUE

The church was moved to the corner of Palmyra Road and Tenth Avenue in September 1953, and the name was changed to Palmyra Road Methodist Church. Many changes were made in the physical appearance after 1953, but it had been much the same as the above picture from the date it was built until the move.

PALMYRA ROAD METHODIST CHURCH (formerly Grace Methodist Church), located on Palmyra Road and Tenth Avenue.

