The years 1981-1984 were under the ministry of the Rev. Warren Latham, Jr., 1980-1983, and Rev. Harold Lyda, 1983-1985. The Church was 150 years old in 1981 and, in September of that year, celebrated the Sesquicentennial with a "dinner on the grounds" and a meaningful program. Since 1981, our members have continued to contribute their many talents and much of their time carrying on the various duties and activities of this United Methodist ministry.

Reverend Dr. Rebecca Jones, 1985-1988, Rev. David Hicks, 1988-1991, and Rev. J. Padgett Nelson, 1991-1996 have served as our most recent pastors. The members have worked faithfully to continue the various activities and programs of the Church such as the Lay ministry of the Sunday School program for the Alvista Nursing Home, the assisting of the worship services by the Liturgists, Acolytes, Greeters and Ushers, the annual Bible School week, the children's and youth's Sunday night programs, the many covered dish dinners during the years, the visitation of new members and the shut-ins, UMM and UMW meetings every month. The ladies of the Church, also, place flowers in the Sanctuary each Sunday. Many members teach Sunday School classes and serve in other ways, also, as Scout leaders, Lay preachers, Committee Chairmen and Church hostesses.

Our Choir Director, Mrs. Miriam Holliday, still serves after 43 years, with Mrs. Lib Atkinson and Mr. Butch Tigner as her assistants. Mrs. Miriam Strozier was finally able to retire as organist after 50 plus years and Mrs. Jennifer Johnson of LaGrange was hired to be our organist. She began playing for us on Nov. 11, 1990, with Mrs.
Strozier as assistant. Mrs. Stiles Turner plays the grand piano for us with Mrs. Marian Nelson as her assistant.

Many gifts and donations were made to the Church during these last 16 years. The playground was landscaped, the old Communion cloth was replaced by a new, monogrammed one and Communion napkins were made from the old cloth. Fifty new Cokesbury hymnals were given to the Church by Mr. Robert Sistrunk and new Methodist hymnals were bought by many members to honor or remember their loved ones and friends. Beautiful bookmarks were placed in each hymnal with the names of the honored or remembered ones inscribed. Other gifts were given by various members, such as 2 cordless telephones, a set of Visions cookware, a new refrigerator, new dining tables, a microwave oven, a new stove, a set of china, a new candle lighter for the Sanctuary, a new Christmas tree and new outside railings for the Fellowship Hall. The Parsonage and Church office have new answering machines and the Albert Greshams gave new bulletins to the Church. New choir robes were bought in 1993 and presented to the Church in honor of our Choir Director, Mrs. Holliday. All of these gifts and many others, too numerous to mention, are so very appreciated.

The ladies of the Church started a new club, the Newcomers Club, now called the "Lunch Bunch", strictly for social purposes. However, they have now started a Bible study in conjunction with the lunch club, which they enjoy very much. Also, the ladies began a monthly garage sale, which they call the "Bargain House". They have the use of a store in town and they sell all sorts of items, second-hand clothing, cookware, bric-a-brac and anything else that is donated. They charge only a very little to their customers and the money made goes to various charities. They have realized about $18,000., since its inception in 1990.

The Church has been a faithful sponsor of a Girl Scout Troop, several Missionary families, a Christmas party for the local nursing home each December, several pictorial directories, the last one done in 1991, a support group for Desert Storm during that war and as a temporary home
for the Baptist Church during the loss by fire of their Church. The Senior and Junior UMYF sponsor the Sweetheart Banquet every year for the Senior Citizens in the area. Many "Special" people have been honored by the Church in recent years, including Mr. Robert Perkerson for his 36 years as Sunday School Secretary, Mrs. Miriam Holliday and Mrs. Miriam Strozier for many years of sharing their musical talent with us, Mrs. Hannah Flynn for her work with the Youth, Mrs. Sara Morris for her Bargain House guidance, Mrs. Jo Moore for her dedication as Church Secretary, Mrs Louise Jarrell and Mrs. Sara Atkinson for their faithful and long attendance in the Church. Mrs. Anne Threadgill and the Claude Harmans are, also, invaluable in their work for the Church, especially, as yearly delegates to Annual Conference. Actually, each and every member of our Church is special and deserving of a special day and the Church is very dependent on and appreciative of all our members.

In 1991, the parsonage was completely cleaned and renovated. The walls were painted, new carpeting was installed as were a new dishwasher and water heater. New drapes were hung, also. After the 1995 hurricane toppled many of the pines in the back yard, measures were taken to thin the remainder and clean up the grounds.

In the 1980's, the stained glass windows in both the Sanctuary and Sunday School buildings were covered with Lexan, a thick, tough plastic in order to protect them from vandals or accidents. The windows could never be duplicated and are considered priceless antiques. Also, the doors of the Church have had to be locked at night because of a fear of being robbed, after the Church candlesticks were taken one night. They were found, later, but the members voted to lock up, anyway.

Many wonderful events have occurred during these past 15 years. Many weddings have been performed. Sadly, many funerals, also, have been held. Our faithful Liturgist of many years, Phil Flynn, died in 1989 and since that time about 20 of our members have taken turns assisting. We have had many illnesses but we have, also, celebrated many births and conducted many Christenings.

Rev. Nelson held an excellent Bible study course in 1994. He, also,
conducts Sunday afternoon Church services at Alvista Nursing Home and is a faithful visitor to our many sick and shut-ins. The ladies of the Church have an ongoing "prayer chain" which is quickly activated when needed. We are a praying church and many have benefited by our practise of "lifting-up" members and others in prayer. Communion services are held on the first Sunday of each month and on other important days during the year. Church services are held each Sunday at 11 AM with Sunday School at 10 AM. The women of the Church meet once a month at night at private homes while the men meet for breakfast once a month at the Fellowship Hall. The ladies are invited to breakfast once or twice a year which is always a treat.

Church maintenance is always being done but we have always had a caring committee to supervise and inspect. In 1992, the Fellowship Hall floors were cleaned and refinished and the carpets in the Nursery were steam cleaned plus a new roof was put on the building. Also, the front doors of the Sanctuary were stripped, sanded and refinished. Also, at that time, a water filter system was installed in the parsonage.

In 1995, the Church Sanctuary was completely redecorated, painted and carpeted. New maroon cushions were placed on the pews to blend with the new carpet of mauve. The walls and the woodwork were painted a light gray and darker gray which is very attractive. New clear glass shades were put in the chandeliers. The roof was repaired and repainted as was the outside trim of all three buildings. The Sunday School rooms were painted, also. The entire cost of this remodeling project was $30,000. which was paid up in 6 months. Immediately after finishing that effort, the members voted to refurbish the remainder of the complex. So, in 1995-96, the Fellowship Hall nursery, the kitchen and the bathroom have been refloored with a beautiful vinyl covering, the walls have been painted or papered and the fixtures have been redone. Also, both bathrooms near the office in the Church have been completely renovated. We, also, have a new copy machine and a new word processor, either paid for or donated.

We have a small Church and congregation and we are very proud of the accomplishments that we have achieved with humble dedication and faithful commitment. We hope everyone will see us in the light of the
work we do on this earth for the betterment of the Kingdom of God.

Recent Church Pastors
Rev. Marion Shivers 1972-1979
Rev. Dr. Rebecca Jones 1985-1988
Rev. David Hicks 1988-1991
Rev. J. Padgett Nelson 1991----

Recent District Superintendents
Rev. Dwight Nyswander 1977-1982
Rev. Charles Farr 1992----