Hanleiter Church was named for Martha Hanleiter. The first services were held in the home of Jake N. Skipper in the old mill village. They were led by Rev. William R. Hanleiter. The group that gathered in the Skipper home decided they should build a church for the Methodists in the western section of the city. The Rev. Hanleiter gave a tract of land and contributed a large amount of money. Because of his generosity, the church was named in honor of his wife, Mrs. Martha Brewer Hanleiter.

The Rev. Chris Davis served as pastor of the church. The first services were held in the building before it's completion. The building was on North 14th street. The first services were held in 1891 with the Rev. Davis living in Atlanta.

Among the first persons attending the church were the families of Jake Skipper, J. C. Hammond, Green Skipper, George Hearn, Jasper Straford, William Hanger, and Miss Matilda Hearn. These and others made up the official board and served other offices of the church.

The Rev. L. P. Winters was second pastor of the church. He lived at the corner of west Taylor & 13th streets. Rev. Winters was succeeded by Rev. T. G. Morgan who studied at Oxford University in England. Annie Johnson, daughter of Rev. Morgan, opened a day school nursery in the church building and operated on weekdays.

The Rev. Henry E. Mays followed Rev. Morgan as pastor. Rev. Mays was followed by Rev. Watts, under whose leadership the church purchased its first parsonage.

In 1950, the Rev. W. C. Nolen, pastor; Rev. Henry H. Jones, district supt.; and the officials of the church proposed that a new church be built on the site occupied by the parsonage at the corner of 14th & Broad streets. Those appointed to the building committee were H. S. Kelley, Sr., H. M. Dukes, C. C. Padgett, Miss Zara Westmoreland, and L. R. Jimerson. The church has since added an educational building with full facilities for teaching at a cost of approximately $80,000. Jack A. Cowan, church member, designed the new building and began supervision of the construction but passed away before work was well underway. Those on this building committee were, A. J. Cook, Jack A. Cowan, Mrs. Barbara Crawford, E. C. Cross, Harvey Dukes, Mrs. Rosalie McCollum, J. S. McDonald, Mrs. Francis White, and R. V. Jimerson. This building was erected in 1968 and was named the Jack A. Cowan Memorial Building.
The church has an organized church school with classes for all ages.

Mr. R.V. Jimerson serves as church school supt. (1972)

The church has had an active Woman's Missionary Society, Wesleyan Service Guild, Men's Club, and MYF throughout the years. The church also sponsors a Boy Scout and Girl Scout Troop which meet weekly at the church.

The present membership (1972) is near 409.

Hanleiter is pleased to have had Rev. Carlisle Phillips, who was called while at Hanleiter to the mission field. He is now serving in Taiwan with Hanleiter sending her missionary moneys to him for his work there.

As of date, her present pastor, Rev. Newton Scott, has served her the longest as he is in his sixth year as pastor.

1-28-72

Bickley W. Smith Jr. – Lay Leader