HISTORY of the
Kirkwood Methodist Church
1894-1962
The information in this book was compiled by Miss Martha King and committee; B. M. Huggins, J. B. Huff, H. H. Holley, Jr., W. T. Leslie, Mr. and Mrs W. R. Porter.
Charter Members
December 1894

James W. Warren
Miss Hattie B. Warren
Alfred C. Warren
Miss Emily Lane
John F. Simmons
Mrs. Jno. F. Simmons
Geo. W. Lane
Mrs. Anne Schley Howard
Philip S. Dunlap
William A. Haygood, Sr.
Mrs. Sallie H. Dunlap
Miss Caroline Haygood
William A. Haygood, Jr.
Thomas L. Sims
George H. Sims
Martha D. Sims
W. Clyde Sims
Mrs. Henrietta Jones
Miss Helen Jones
Mrs. Dora C. Fenn
William E. Saunders, Sr.
Mrs. Agnes D. Saunders
Miss Genevieve Saunders
William E. Saunders, Jr.
Miss Lucy McLelland
Miss Pattie B. Longest
William B. Haygood
Mrs. Sallie M. Haygood
Miss Martha Haygood
Gabriel F. Harrison
Mrs. Mary E. Harrison
W. Flournoy Harrison
J. B. Hall
Andrew D. Howard
Mrs. Harriet Trammell
Miss Margaret Sims
Mrs. Florence White
Mrs. Mattie S. Cook
Frank Cook
Rev. Charles Lane—Pastor
Pastors serving
Kirkwood Methodist Church

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pastor</th>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Charles B. Lane</td>
<td>1894</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot; Ellison R. Cook</td>
<td>1894</td>
<td>During these years the Church was a half-station with East Atlanta.</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot; W. L. Pierce</td>
<td>1895</td>
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<td>&quot; H. W. Joyner</td>
<td>1896-97</td>
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<td>&quot; F. G. Hughes</td>
<td>1898</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot; C. C. Cary</td>
<td>1899-1900</td>
<td>During these years the Church was a half-station with East End Mission.</td>
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<td>&quot; W. H. LaPrade, Jr.</td>
<td>1901-02</td>
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<td>&quot; William R. Mackay</td>
<td>1903-04</td>
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<td>&quot; E. D. Hale</td>
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<td>&quot; J. W. Stipe</td>
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<td>&quot; C. L. Bass</td>
<td>1908-9</td>
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<td>&quot; T. J. Branson</td>
<td>1910-11-13</td>
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<td>&quot; C. A. Jamison</td>
<td>1912</td>
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<td>&quot; H. D. Pace</td>
<td>1914-15</td>
<td>Made a station November 1914.</td>
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<td>&quot; J. W. King</td>
<td>1916-17-18-19</td>
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<td>&quot; J. L. Allgood</td>
<td>1920-21-22-23</td>
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<td>&quot; W. T. Hamby</td>
<td>1924-25</td>
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<td>&quot; S. E. Wasson</td>
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<td>&quot; J. D. Swagerty</td>
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<td>&quot; W. M. Barnett</td>
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<td>&quot; J. W. Brinsfield</td>
<td>1928-29</td>
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<td>&quot; Paul Muse</td>
<td>1930-31-32</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot; Claude Hendrix</td>
<td>1933-34-35</td>
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<td>&quot; E. M. Wise</td>
<td>1949-50</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot; J. Foster Young</td>
<td>1951-52-53-54-55-56-57</td>
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<td>&quot; Louie F. Huckaby</td>
<td>1957-58-59</td>
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<td>&quot; Harry L. Mitcham, Sr.</td>
<td>1960</td>
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<td>&quot; Tim W. Holbrook</td>
<td>1961</td>
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HISTORY of the
Kirkwood Methodist Church

Someone has said that any institution is but the lengthened shadow of one individual, but the history of the Kirkwood Methodist Church shows that it is the lengthened shadow of not one individual, but lengthened shadows of many faithful, consecrated men and women who have loved it, worked for it, and prayed for it throughout the almost sixty-eight years of existence.

The history of Kirkwood Methodist Church begins, as well as can be learned from available records, in 1894. Kirkwood was not an incorporated town, but a country community located in DeKalb County about seven miles from the heart of Atlanta.

There was no organized church here except a small Baptist Church on Clay Street, which was moved to Howard Street about 1894. About the same time, a Presbyterian Church was organized and the congregation began worshipping in the community chapel, which is the same building now used by the Presbyterians.

As there was no building suitable, the Baptists invited the Methodists to share their building with them. Sunday School was held together. One Sunday in each month was given to the Methodists for preaching services.

The latter part of 1895 the East Atlanta Land Company put up a building to be used as a school. The auditorium was secured for the use of the Methodist Church. This building was on what is now Delano Drive. The pastor of the Church when it was organized was Rev. Charles Lane; the Presiding Elder, Rev. John W. Heidt; the Bishop, Atticus G. Haygood.

When the time came for the Methodists to have a building of their own, it seemed an impossibility, but the determined few went to work and bought a lot on Howard
Street (where the old church building now stands). In 1898, the old Edgewood Church which was owned by Asa G. Candler was being torn down. The Methodists of Kirkwood bought the lumber for $150.00. The building was started at once. The work went steadily on. There was no fund in reserve, but the payroll was met at the end of each week. By January 1, 1899, the building was completed. The Building Committee was: William E. Saunders, Sr., Chairman, James W. Warren, Treas., William B. Haygood, John F. Simmons.

There is a memorial window in the building for each of these. The pastor of the Church during this was Rev. H. W. Joyner. Among these 39 original members were the mother and father and the grandmother of Miss Annie Dunlap and the mother of Miss Roberta Robson. In point of membership Miss Annie is the oldest member of our Church.

The old bell which still rings for services here was first used on a school building located near our present State Capitol. Miss Laura Haygood, later a missionary to China, was principal of this school. When the school was no longer used, the bell was taken by the Atlanta Fire Department. When the Fire Department no longer wanted it, Mrs. William A. Haygood brought it to Kirkwood and placed it in the steeple of the church.

The first marriage was Miss Beulah Farnsworth and Mr. Lee Hardeman. The first service in the Church was the funeral of Captain William B. Haygood, the father of Miss Martha Haygood. The first baby baptized after the organization of the Kirkwood Methodist Church was Miss Roberta Robson.

The Church building remained as originally built until about 1917 or 1918 when a room was added which was used as a Sunday School Class. This was done during the pastorate of Rev. J. W. King.

In the intervening years Kirkwood had become an incorporated town and in 1921 was annexed to the City of Atlanta. It became a rapidly growing section of the city and the Church soon became inadequate. During the pastorate of Rev. J. Lee Allgood, a basement was excavated and wings were added on each side of the Church building, to provide space for Sunday School classes. A space was added behind the pulpit for a choir, and an additional room was added across the end of the building. During the time of these improvements, a piano was purchased; a foot-pumped organ having been long in use and usually played by Miss Alice Giles and Miss Genevieve Saunders.

Soon even this additional space proved inadequate and since that date the Church has been enlarging its facilities by degrees. No additional property adjoining the Church was available, so property was purchased on the other side of Howard Street and plans were begun for an Educational Building.

This was completed during the pastorate of Rev. Paul Muse. This building of red brick was constructed at a cost of $13,415.00 and is used by the Children's Division, each floor having an assembly room as well as class rooms. The Building Committee for this unit was: C. S. Strong, Jr., Chairman, Miss Mary Green, Leon Carter, M. E. Noel, W. R. Bowen, T. J. Bryan.

The erection of the sanctuary was delayed by a lack of funds and later by World War II. During these years, though, the dream remained and the members continued to contribute regularly to the Building Fund. This served a double purpose; the money was invested in War Bonds and drew some interest.

Work on the new sanctuary was actually begun in March, 1948, and the first service was held Sunday, October 31, 1948. This was during the pastorate of Rev. Henry T. Smith. This sanctuary costing $123,000.00 is of Stone Mountain Granite, Colonial
Georgian style, with a seating capacity of 600. The furnishings include a two-manual, 15 rank pipe organ, built by William G. Manley, modern pulpit furniture, a baptismal font, a pastor's study and choir rooms. The Building Committee was composed of: C. S. Winter, Sr., Chairman, Miss Mary Green, W. F. Taylor, Leon Carter, M. E. Noel, W. R. Bowen, C. W. Skeen, Sr. J. T. Woodbury was the architect.

The first baby baptized in the new sanctuary was Bobbie Elizabeth Williamson, granddaughter of Mrs. R. H. Woodbury.

The first wedding was Miss Bettie Ann Smith and Bert LordaW.

The first funeral service was for Mrs. Lyman H. Green.

The pipe organ was paid for and dedicated on April 24, 1949, by Dr. J. W. Veatch, District Superintendent.

When the new sanctuary was completed it was the desire of the congregation to have the old bell which has long called people of the community to services, moved into the steeple of the new Church, and this was done.

The old building has been used by the Young People's Division, but it is inadequate for their needs. The present plan (1951) is to have the debt on the sanctuary completely wiped out by Conference in June 1951, and work will begin immediately on a Young People's Building to be placed to the left of the sanctuary, and it will match in style and material the Educational Building. The old wooden structure, across the street, which was the original building, was sold by the Trustees of the Kirkwood Methodist about 1956 and funds placed in the Church Treasury.

PARSONAGES

The Church has had three parsonages. The first one was located at 46 Howard Street, N.E. This was purchased during the pastorate of Rev. J. W. King. Prior to that time the Church had rented a home for its pastors. At the present time (1962) two of our faithful members of the Kirkwood Methodist Church own this original parsonage—Mr. and Mrs. B. B. Long. While Rev. J. L. Allgood was the pastor, this property was sold and a home at 60 Howard Street, N.E. was purchased. A new parsonage had been needed for many years, but again lack of funds kept us from building. Miss Martha Haygood, a true and faithful member, remembered the Church most generously in her will, leaving her home and other investments. The home was sold and a new parsonage was constructed at 2065 Dunwoody Street, N.E. It is a red brick with seven rooms, two baths, gas heat, completely and modernly furnished. The furnishing of the parsonage was a church-wide affair, all departments of the Church, including the Church School, contributing. The parsonage was begun during the pastorate of Rev. H. T. Smith, but it was not completed before Conference, 1949, and Rev. E. M. Wise and his family were the first occupants. The parsonage and the lot cost $19,500.00. The Building Committee: Garnett J. Giesler, Sr., Chairman, T. J. Bryan, Miss Martha King. E. M. Foster was the contractor.

This Church has always been unique in the number of preachers and preachers' families who have been connected with it. A number of superannuated preachers have moved into the community and their presence and interest have been of much encouragement. Among them have been: Rev. E. K. Aiken; Rev. Lyman H. Green; Rev. W. C. Glenn; Dr. Elam F. Dempsey; Rev. A. E. Scott; Rev. W. W. Benson, Rev. J. W. King and at the present Rev. J. R. Turner (1962). Also in this year (1951) the Church includes in its membership three preachers' widows, three sons, and seventeen daughters of preachers. This Church has also had the great privilege and joy to have several assistant pastors, associate pastors and youth workers.
While Rev. J. R. Turner was pastor, his son Edwin married Miss Elizabeth Miller and they make their home here. Ed Smith, son of Rev. H. T. Smith, married Miss Miriam Jarrett, and he also remained here. To keep up the good work, Miss Mary Lou Wise, daughter of Rev. E. M. Wise, married Mr. Dan Campbell and they, too, have set up their home, also the son of Rev. Louie F. Huckaby, David, married Miss Patricia Stone, however at the time not a member of our church, but when Rev. Huckaby left our Church, David and family remained in the Kirkwood community.

Following names are preachers who were connected with our Church during their young manhoods: Rev. Charlie Brittinn, Rev. Marshall Nelms, Rev. C. C. Cliett, Rev. George O. King and Rev. Askew Crumbley. Rev. Hubert A. White is now a local preacher in Stockbridge, Georgia (1962). Ewell Whatley, Lawrence Dean, Charles Lewis and Paul Bradley were licensed to preach from our Church.

In the conference year 1950-51 the Church was fully organized in all departments. The officers of the Board of Stewards were C. S. Winter, Chairman; Homer Murdock, Vice Chairman; Miss Martha King, Secretary and W. E. Hope, Treasurer.

The Church School is under the leadership of Mr. Leon Carter, Sr. with the following Department Superintendents: Mrs. H. H. Rochelle, Children's Division; W. R. Porter, Young People's Division; J. T. Woodbury, Adult Division; Edwin Turner, Chairman, Board of Christian Education.

The Woman's Society of Christian Service is one of the strongest organizations in the Church. Its officers are: Mrs. Garnett J. Giesler, President; Mrs. Marvin Sneed, Vice President; Mrs. Leon Carter, Sr., Secretary and Mrs. C. O. Hurst, Treasurer.

In compiling this history, it was impossible to find any record of the number of men from this Church who served their country in World War I. It is surely to be supposed that many answered the call. During World War II the service flag which had a prominent place in the sanctuary displayed about 157 stars. Three of these blue stars were changed to gold, three of our young boys paid the supreme sacrifice: James Carlton Dunlap, the son of Dr. and Mrs. J. C. Dunlap, Sr., Edward Whiddon, the son of Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Whiddon; Bob Peele, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Q. J. Peele.

During the Korean War and Universal Military Enrollment, many of our youngsters are serving the armed forces overseas as well as at home.

The Church began with 39 members, (1894) The membership has grown to 1710 (1951). According to the official Minutes of 1895, this Church with East Atlanta was assessed and paid its pastor $200.00. The Minutes of 1951 will show that the pastor has been paid $4,500.00, and an allowance of $300.00 for his transportation expenses. Present time (1962) the pastor is paid $6,500.00 and $900.00 travel expenses.

The Kirkwood Methodist Church comes to this period of Methodism at mid-century deeply grateful to the Heavenly Father for all He has done for us and we go into the next half of the century praying that the Church may continue to be used toward the furthering of His Kingdom on this earth.

"Set our feet on lofty places
Gird our lives that they may be
Armored with all Christ-like graces
In the fight to set men free.
Grant us wisdom,
Grant us courage
That we fail not man nor Thee."

The years since our history was compiled (1951-1957) have seen the Kirkwood Methodist Church in every line of work. The need for a building for the youth grew each year, and plans were soon under way to erect such a building. This building was
completed in April 1953, at a cost of $142,872.00. It is a three-storied building with all modern facilities for the entire Youth Division, two nurseries and several rooms for classes of the Adult Division. In front of this building is a beautiful Chapel building of Stone Mountain granite to match the sanctuary. The chapel which has a seating capacity of 100 is completely furnished, including an electrical organ, given by the Martha Haygood Class.

The memorial windows which were in the original sanctuary have been placed in the windows of the Chapel. The Building Committee comprised of: J. T. Woodbury, Marvin H. Sneed, Ben M. Smith, Chester W. Sleen, Sr., Leon Carter, Sr., Chas. S. Strong, Jr., Edwin Turner, C. S. Winter, Sr., and W. E. Hope. This unit was erected during the ministry of Rev. J. Foster Young. Also during the year of 1952 the Church was in need of parking accommodations and a parking lot immediately behind the Educational Building was secured.

As the Church was very active, the need of a Church parlor was felt. This need was created and furnished completely. In addition to its educational work in the Church School, the Church sponsored Scout Troop #70. In 1953 a scout hut was needed. Mr. T. J. Bryan, a former Church School Superintendent, gave a lot on Norwood Avenue on which to erect such a building, approximate cost of building being $5,000.00. Winston M. Parker, being chairman; Herbert Squires, Chairman Building Committee, Leon Carter, Sr., Robert Christie, B. M. Huggins, Charlie Lewis, Sr., M. E. Noel, Homer Overstreet, Sr., Ben Smith, Sr., Jack Walker, Sr., Ernest Foster, Edwin Turner. This building is still in use by the scouts.

In 1954 the Kirkwood Methodist Church was proud to go on record as having the Official Board of the Church being 100% tithers, as well as a number of members of the Church at large.

A carport for the parsonage was erected under the direction of Mr. Chester W. Sleen, Sr. and the parsonage was dedicated June 12, 1955.

In 1955 the Church auditorium and basement for Sunday School classes were air-conditioned at a cost of approximately $15,000.00. Mrs. M. E. Noel had placed in the Church a public address system in loving memory of her husband and son, Dr. M. E. Noel and Malcom. The Martha Haygood Class donated to the Church an aluminum Communion Service, the one at the Church being inadequate.

During the year 1955 a Junior Church was established. It meets every Sunday at the worship hour in the chapel with its own pastor, choir and ushers. This has become very popular with the children of the Church and has offered them an opportunity to learn about their Church.

During the Conference years of 1957 to July 1961, Rev. Louie F. Huckaby being the pastor, several additions were added for the pleasure and love of our Church. On March 4, 1958 a Church paper was published by Mr. A. C. Joy, at that time carrying no name. This publication has previously been under the direction of the W. B. Burke Bible Class solely, under the name of “Tydings of Joye.” However, when a name was given for the Church paper, it was “Church Chimes.” A Worship Center was placed in the chapel by Mr. and Mrs. Marvin H. Sneed and Mr. J. A. Bryant, Sr. (Uncle Jimmy) in loving memory of Mrs. J. A. Bryant, Sr.

The first Planning Conference under the direction of the Official Board was planned and carried out July 25-26, 1959 at Reinhardt College, Waleska, Ga. This was most successful and beneficial for training and information.

The need for a more modern kitchen was felt, and this need was finally accomplished with the best equipment, including a steam table.
Information reached members of our Church that Wesley Memorial Church had an immediate need for a bus to take children back and forth to camp, etc. While Mr. Leon Carter, Sr. was Lay Leader of our Church; B. M. Huggins, Chairman Board of Trustees, this need was granted. The bus was given the Wesley Memorial Church from Kirkwood Methodist Church in the Spring of 1960.

Under the direction of the Martha Haygood Class the grounds surrounding the Church property were landscaped, which contributed greatly to the beauty of the buildings and grounds.

During the pastorate of Rev. Louie F. Huckaby “Prayer Time” was inaugurated, being a part of the Evening Hour of Worship. This has been a source of comfort for both young and old, through the years.

In 1961 Rev. Harry L. Mitcham, Sr. became our pastor. During his pastorate the Planning Conference was continued at Bouldercrest Elementary School, where Mr. E. G. Dick, a member of our Church, is principal. Also during this time the Church office, the pastor’s study and conference room were created on the ground floor, immediately behind the Chapel. A number of new members were added to the membership of our Church, for which we thank God for His presence and guidance. All six commissions were fully organized.

In 1961 Rev. Tim W. Holbrook became our pastor. He continued the work in progress in our Church and in addition “Christ’s Birthday Party” was established as an annual affair. This was most unique and beneficial, spiritually and financially. During this time The New Fidelis Sunday School Class equipped and paid for the furnishings in the “Prayer and Counseling Room,” which is where the pastor’s study had been, from the sanctuary. Under the guidance of our pastor, Rev. Holbrook, we hope to gain greater goals in the time ahead of us. May we always hold high the banner of Christ and press toward the goal of the high calling, and always feel the presence of Christ in our lives. During the year 1962 the Church paper has changed its name to “Kirkwood Methodist Chimes” and is under the direction of Rev. Tim W. Holbrook, as of July 3, 1962.

The present value of our entire Church property is approximately $553,000.00.
NEW CHURCH