A HISTORY
of
LAKEWOOD HEIGHTS METHODOIST CHURCH

WRITTEN BY:
Mrs. Tom E. Compton
Mrs. R. Frank Jordan, Sr.
In the year 1906 there was no church of any denomination in the little community of Lakewood Heights. Then, there came to this community a man who loved God, he loved people, he liked to be doing things for "folks" as he so often expressed himself.

Being a christian and a member of that fine organization, The Gideons, he was ever on the alert for opportunities to serve his Master and his fellowman.

This good man Charles Burge, "Charlie" as he was known to his many friends in and around Atlanta, came into this community with his three faithful co-workers, Mrs. Belyeu, Mrs. Sallie DeLoach, and Mr. Holt. Mrs. Belyeu was the sister of Mr. King, of King Hardware Co.

These consecrated people were workers in a Mission located on Ivy Street between Edgewood and Decatur Street. They spent their lunch hour there reading the Bible, testifying to their faith and experiences in the work. Praying with people who wanted salvation.

They began their work here in Lakewood Heights by holding prayer meetings in the homes on Sunday afternoon, and later on some nights during the week.

As interest grew in these meetings they started a Sunday School on Sunday afternoons, furnishing the literature themselves. Later a brush arbor was built on a wooded lot near where Mrs. Tom Harrison's home now is located on Jonesboro Road, one block from the intersection of Lakewood Avenue. If the weather did not permit an arbor service, the children were told to go to Mr. Jack Hook's home on the corner of Turman Avenue and Jonesboro Road just a few yards away. This house is now owned by Miss Annie Schrimper.
Soon a few of the older people began attending the Sunday School and from this interest a Revival was held, which meeting was a great success. Truly the field was white for harvest. Rev. J. Q. Watts, pastor of Hanleiter Church at Griffin, Georgia, enlisted the help of his uncle, Rev. E. M. Stanton and Rev. Knowles from Griffin, and Will Hill, a young preacher who was converted under his ministry. Mr. Wiley Milam, a singer from Griffin, and Mr. Hooten furnished the music.

The tent was erected in a grove a few feet from the road, just about where Claire Drive begins a Jonesboro Road between Jonesboro Road and Waterworks Road, which is not Lakewood Terrace, Sunday School was held under the tent on Sunday afternoons during the revival. People came in buggies and wagons from other communities.

The membership rolls of the Baptist and Methodist churches were started at this meeting. Those converted were asked which denomination they preferred and their names were recorded on that roll. Many souls were saved in this meeting. Some of the finest consecrated leaders in the two churches today were converted in this tent meeting. Most of those devout ministers and laymen who gave their time from their regular work to preach God's word and lay the foundation for two much needed churches have already received their reward in Heaven.

On June 23, 1906 the Trustees for Lakewood Heights Methodist Church bought a lot on the corner of Lakewood Avenue and Wooley Avenue, now Adair Avenue, for the sum of $150.00. The trustees were: H.L. Watts, R. F. Haney, John L. Hooks, J. S. Cooley and J. B. G. Roberts.

November 26, 1906 at Milledgeville, the North Georgia Conference Extension Board granted the Lakewood Heights Methodist Church the sum of $300.00 to be used toward the building of a church. There is no
recorded date as to when work was begun on the church. Some of these
determined men would work on the church after coming home from a hard
days labor. Sometimes there was not enough money to meet the pay roll
and these men would make up the difference from their own money. Mr.
H. L. Watts furnished the paint and glass. The first organ was bought
and given the church by A. L. Vance, an employee of Pittsburgh Plate
Glass Company, and later became the husband of Miss Mayo Cooley. The
old table with mismatched legs now still in use in the church as a
communion table was bought by Mr. H. L. Watts on Decatur Street, for
$.50.

There is no record known of the date when the building was fin­
ished or the date of the first service. The Baptist Church was com­
pleted first and the Methodists were allowed to hold their Sunday
School there in the afternoons.

The known charter members are: Mr. and Mrs. John B. Cooley,
Mrs. Mayo Cooley Russell, Mr. W. T. Cooley, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. P.
Jordan, Mr. Oscar Cooley, Mr. and Mrs. John L. Hooks, Mr. and Mrs.
J. B. G. Roberts, Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. L. W.
Plunkett, Mr. A. H. Webb, Mr. and Mrs. R. F. Haney. There may be
others that we do not know about. Mrs. L. W. Smith was the first
Ladies Aid President and Mr. L. W. Plunkett was the first Sunday
School Superintendent.

The first pastor was Reverend E. K. Akin in 1907-08-09. His
charge was known as the South Bend Mission. Some of the old timers
say there were five churches on this charge: South Bend, Lakewood
Heights, East Atlanta, Marvin and Mt. Olive, later being changed to
South Bend, Lakewood Heights, and Nellie Dodd. In 1906 conference
records show the salary of all churches as $334.00, 1907 as $505.00, and 1908 as $535.00. Value of five churches was $7,000.

In 1908 South Bend and Lakewood Heights and Nellie Dodd were recorded as the South Atlanta and Nellie Dodd charge. Rev. W. P. Lovejoy was Presiding Elder at this time.

Rev. W. L. Underwood served as pastor from 1910 through 1913 and in 1911 the three churches had 295 members. The pastor's salary was $525.00, of which the church paid $414.00 and the Mission Board $100.00. In 1912 Mt. Olive Church was sold for $70.00, which was one of the original churches, pastor's salary $481.00 (paid $402.00). Brother L. W. Plunkett served as Superintendent of the Sunday School until November 1912, when Mr. R. B. Gaines was elected Superintendent. At annual conference this year, Nellie Dodd was taken from this charge. In 1913 the two remaining churches had a membership of 301 and paid a pastor's salary of $327.00.

In 1914 through 1917, Rev. William Greenway served as pastor and J. M. Elliott was elected Sunday School Superintendent. The pastor's salary was $383.00, paid $395.00, and the value of both churches was $3500.00. During 1916 a resolution was passed as follows: "Resolved that we trustees of Lakewood Heights be and are hereby authorized to borrow a sum not to exceed $250.00 for the purpose of enlarging the church for Sunday School purpose and approved by Presiding Elder, Cooley, Watts, Plunkett, Blount, Cooley, Jordan and Elliott." This was recorded in Second Quarterly Conference records. Recorded in Third Quarterly Conference records was: "The new Sunday School room has been built and $141.00 paid on it." In 1916 the pastor's salary
was raised to $600.00 for the two churches. Church conference records show that the ladies were working hard to get the seats and piano paid for, also the pulpit furniture which is still in use. The first cradle roll department was organized with 25 members. The league was re-organized with Mr. J. W. Street taking charge. In February of this year Rev. Greenway married Miss Estelle Watts, which was the first wedding to be held in the church.

S. H. Belk served as pastor in 1918 and W. H. LaPrade was Presiding Elder 1918 and 1919, also 1920. There were no records kept during this year.

Rev. J. M. Perryman was pastor 1919-20 with C. B. Clayton as supply pastor. None of the records were kept with the exception of the pastor's salary ($606.43 paid). Rev. C. B. Clayton finished the last two quarterly conferences for Rev. Perryman. Rev. Perryman married one of our Lakewood Heights girls, Miss Nell Barnett.

In 1921, Rev. George W. Davis was pastor and J. H. Eakes was Presiding Elder from 1921 through 1923. Pastor's salary was $1000. The records do not show the amount each church was assessed.

Brother H. M. Quillian served as pastor from 1922 through 1925, with Supply Pastor O. K. Lausk for the year 1922-23. Total membership of both churches was 442, total property value $7,500, total enrollment of Sunday Schools was 360, and the pastor's salary was $1500. The grand total revenue raised for the year was $3,424.00. The Woman's Missionary Society raised $221.00. J. M. Elliott served as Sunday School Superintendent from 1914 to 1924, the longest record of any Superintendent in the church.
Roy Price served as supply pastor for the year 1924-25 and W. T. Hunnicutt served as Presiding Elder from 1924 until 1927. Total membership for this year was 579, total value of property was $7,500, total enrollment of the Sunday School was 433, the pastor's salary for both churches was $1,850, the Woman's Missionary Society raised $1,057, and the grand total raised for the year was $5,707.

For the year 1925-26, Rev. V. L. Bray served as pastor, and D. H. Hampton was Supply Pastor. The total membership was 615, total value of property was $7,500, total enrollment of the Sunday School was 483. The pastor's salary for both churches was $1,800 and the Woman's Missionary Society raised $875.00. Total money raised for the year was $5,412. Mr. A. A. Parks was elected Sunday School Superintendent and served through 1927.

For the year 1926-27, Rev. Bray again served as pastor and R. E. Musser Jr., supply pastor. The total membership was 616, total value of property $7,000, total enrollment of the Sunday School 407, pastor's salary was $1,800, Woman's Missionary Society raised $1076, and the total for the year was $5,747.

Rev. Bray served as pastor for the year 1927-28, R. E. Musser Jr. was supply pastor, and the total membership was 654. The property value remained at $7,000 and the Sunday School enrollment was 606. The pastor's salary was $2,040 and the Woman's Missionary Society raised $685. The total raised for the year was $6,694.

For the year 1928-29, Rev. A. A. Tilly was pastor, there was no supply pastor, and Lakewood Heights became a station as of this year. The total membership was 478, total value of property was $8,000, Sunday School enrollment was 404, pastor's salary was $1,800 and the
Woman's Missionary Society raised $556. The total raised for the year was $4,009. The Hardy house was bought July 12, 1928 and used for Sunday School rooms.

Rev. Tilly served as pastor for the year 1929-30. J. S. Jenkins served as presiding Elder from 1927 until 1931, and E. L. Edwards was elected Sunday School Superintendent in 1928 and served through 1934. The total membership was 478, total value of property $8,000, total Sunday School enrollment was 404. The pastor's salary was $1,800, the Woman's Missionary Society raised $283, and the total for the year was $4,009.

For the year 1930-31, Rev. O. L. Kelly was pastor. The total membership was 472, total value of property was $5,000, total Sunday School enrollment was 350, total raised by the Woman's Missionary Society was $210, the pastor's salary was $1,800, and the total for the year was $3,101.

E. D. Rudisill served as pastor from 1931 through 1933, with R. L. Russell serving as presiding Elder from 1931 through 1935. The total membership for 1931-32 was 484, total value of property was $5,000, pastor's salary was $1,725 (paid $1,290) with the total for the year $2,600.

The total membership for the year 1932-33 was 486, total value of property was $5,000, Sunday School enrollment 386, Woman's Society raised $550, the pastor's salary was $1,500 and the total for the year was $4,104. Brother W. H. Pierce was ordained as Local Pastor and still serves in this capacity. The building fund was started for the Sunday School annex.
Rev. V. E. Lanford was pastor for the year 1933-34, the total membership was 528, total value of property $5,000, total Sunday School enrollment was 440, pastor's salary $1,500, Woman's Missionary Society total $490, and the total for the year was $3,444.

For the year 1934-35, H. E. McBrayer was pastor, the total membership was 608, total value of property $7,500, total Sunday School enrollment was 480, the pastor's salary was $2000, and the Woman's Missionary Society raised $193. The total for the year was $3,955.

Rev. H. H. Dillard was pastor for the year 1935-36 and Lester Rumble served as Presiding Elder. The total membership was 241, total value of church property was $5,500, total enrollment for the Sunday School was 129, pastor's salary $1,800 (paid $1,235), Woman's Society raised $151, and the total for the year was $2,410. Brother H. A. Scoggin was elected Sunday School Superintendent. The conference year of 1935-36 was one of the most trying years in the history of our church. The Rev. H. E. McBrayer, as recorded in the Annual Conference records, name was called, and was reported that he had withdrawn from the church while under suspension of trial committee. Rev. H. H. Dillard was sent to us by the Conference to finish out the year, coming to us from Ellijay, Georgia, July 1, 1935. He labored untiringly and he and his family made a great sacrifice, which will ever be remembered. Many members left the church, as will be noted in the Annual Conference Reports, conference year 1934-35. Total membership was 608 and report for the year 1935-36 was 241, or a loss of 367 members. These members or a part of them organized a church with Rev. H. E. McBrayer as pastor, and built the church on
Lakewood Avenue known as the Interdenominational Church. Today there are many that left the church when Rev. H. E. McBrayer withdrew, who have found their way back to the Lakewood Heights Methodist Church, which was their first love, and we rejoiced at their coming, and have in our hearts, love and affection for each and everyone.

Rev. C. C. Jarrell was made Presiding Elder for the year 1936. Rev. H. H. Dillard was appointed pastor for the year 1936-37. The membership was reported as low as 260. Total value of the property was $5500.00. Sunday School enrollment was 243. The Pastor's Salary was reported as $1500.00 and was paid in full. The total amount raised for this year was $2822.00. The Woman's Missionary Society raised $220.00. This was the first year that a house was rented for the parsonage. The W.M.S. raised some money and purchased some furniture.

Rev. Arthur Maness was appointed pastor in 1937. He served as pastor for two years. During these two years the enrollment was increased from 272 to 297. Value of the property decreased from $5500.00 to $4500.00. Sunday School enrollment was about the same for the two years, 330. The pastor's salary was $1500.00 and was paid in full both years. The total amount raised for the year 1937-38 was $2882.00 and for 1938-39 $2705.00. The W.M.S. raised in the first year $256.00 and in the second year $333.00.

Rev. W. G. Henry served as Presiding Elder from 1938 to 1940. In 1939 Rev. T. M. Elliott was appointed pastor. The total membership was 321. Value of property was reported as $4000.00. The Sunday School enrollment was 341. The pastor's salary was $1500.00. It was paid in full. Total amount raised for the year was $3073.00.
The W. M. S. raised for this year $405.00. Mr. Walter Lee Morris served through the year 1946 as Sunday School Superintendent.

In 1940 Dr. B. G. Mackay was appointed District Superintendent. This term being a new one for the old term of Presiding Elder. The total membership increased to 378. Sunday School enrollment increased to 364. The church set $1500.00 dollars for the pastor's salary and paid it in full. $3560.00 was the total amount raised during this year. The W.M. S $608.00. During this year new pews were bought for the church, and the floors were sanded and painted.

Rev. W. L. Jolly was appointed pastor in 1941. The total membership increased to 386. The value of the property decreased to $3000.00. The Sunday School enrollment was recorded as 409. The pastor's salary remained at $1500.00. The total amount raised during this year was $3246.00.

The year 1941-42 proved to be a significant year in the history of our church, for at a regular meeting of the Board of Stewards in the early part of this conference year, the urgent need of a new church was brought to bear upon the members of the Board. After some deliberation upon this matter, members of the Board who were present pledged at total of $1800.00 for the Conference Year, and the W.S.C.S.--this is the new name for the old W.M.S.--raised $287.00. This was the beginning of a Building Fund which in a few years would grow to large proportions as we shall see.

Rev. W. L. Jolly was appointed pastor again in 1942 and served as pastor until he died on the charge in June, 1944. His death was a great loss to our church. In 1943 the value of the property was reported $8000.00 and $10,000.00 in 1944. The pastor's salary was increased in 1944 to $1,820.00. During Brother Jolly's...
ministry a bulletin board was installed on the lot. This was a pet project of Brother Jolly's, and he was mighty happy when it was finally installed and put into use. The W.S.C.S. raised for the year 1943-44 $3811.00.

Brother J. W. Brinsfield was appointed pastor to finish out the year after Brother Jolly died on June 17, 1944.

Brother J. W. Veatch was appointed District Superintendent in 1944 and served in this capacity to 1950.

Brother J. W. Stephens was appointed pastor in 1944-45 and served until the conference of 1947. During this time the total membership rose from 538 to 604. The value of the property rose from $10,000.00 to $15,498; the pastor's salary from $2210.00 to $2490.00; the total amount raised for the year from $3,406.00 to $4,794.00.

In the conference year 1944-45 The Methodist Men were organized. This club has grown in significance and proportions since its inception. It is a vital part of our church program at the present.

Another significant accomplishment during this period was the use of the Church Loyalty Dinner as a means for raising funds for the Building Fund. The first such dinner netted $1500.00. The W.S.C.S. raised $1,281.00 most of which was for the Building Fund.

Rev. T. H. Shackleford was appointed pastor in 1947 and served to 1950. During his ministry the church made much progress. The Building Committee which was elected at Second Quarterly Conference, April 22, 1945: T. J. Stanton, Chairman, George R. Moore, Thos. L. Compton, O. S. Watford, E. B. Waid, T. H. Pitner, and Tom Brown. E. D. Waid was elected Building Fund Treasurer. Wm. J. J. Chase was retained as architect. During the years 1947-49 the building which we had begun to talk about several
years previously was started and completed. Mr. Charlie Foster was retained to build the first unit of the proposed new building. This unit was an educational building. Construction on the new building was begun July 19, 1948. The old building was torn down March 3, 1949. As nearly as can be ascertained now, it is believed that the first services held in the new building was March 1, 1949.

The present Church School Building is a very modern one. It is a beautiful red brick with over forty rooms in it. Included is a modern and well-equipped kitchen. Since we do not have a sanctuary, we are having to hold our worship services in what will be the dining room.

The membership increased during this period from 628 to 681. Sunday School enrollment increased from 415 to 435. The pastor's salary was raised from $3300.00 to $3675.00. The value of church property was reported as being $82,515.

Rev. Harry L. Mitcham was appointed pastor in 1950 and is the pastor at the present time. Under the leadership of Mr. Doyle A. Johnson, the church purchased a beautiful new home at 2380 Jernigan Pl. S.W. to be used as a parsonage. For a long number of years the church had been renting a house for the pastor's use. The salary was set for the year at $4,000.00. Some much needed office equipment was purchased. A secretary for the church office was hired during this year.

Church Chatter a weekly newsletter was started at this time, and the newsletter became so popular that it was made a definite part of the church program and placed in the budget.

The church membership is rapidly growing. Sunday School
attendance is on a very definite and sharp increase.

Much enthusiasm is shown by the present membership. For two years the church has averaged paying into the Building Fund one thousand dollars a month with but one or two exceptions. We now only owe six thousand dollars on the Church School Building.

We feel that God has richly blessed us in the Lakewood Heights Methodist Church. Our prayer is that God will guide and lead us on to ever higher ways of living.