HISTORY

of

LELAND METHODIST CHURCH
The Board of Missions of the Atlanta West District, under the leadership of Dr. Lester Rumble, determined early in the fall of 1950 to organize a new Church to serve around 2000 unchurched people in the communities of Leland, Mableton, Floyd and the highway section extending to the Chattahoochee river.

Census cards of Methodist people in the communities were obtained from Mt. Harmony Baptist Church, and using these names as a mailing list, announcement was made of a meeting to be held on October 22, 1950 at 3:00 p.m. to discuss organization. The meeting was also published in both the Atlanta Journal and Constitution and in the local newspaper.

Realizing their need for a house of worship around forty people attended the meeting which was held in the old Cobb County Community Center. Eleven people signed membership commitments at this meeting.

Announcement was promptly made for preaching service to be held on Sunday morning October 29, with Dr. Lester Rumble in charge. At this first morning service, a steering committee was appointed, composed of the following people: Marvin Coursey, Pope Allen, W. H. Cartwright, G. O. Bane, Edd Holbrook, J. W. Holbrook, R. D. Wilson and Mrs. George L. Turner. About thirty-five people attended this service.

A Sunday School was organized on November 1, 1950 with the following officers and teachers elected. Superintendent, Marvin Coursey, teachers, Mrs. Pope Allen, Mrs. Marvin Coursey, Marvin Coursey, Pope Allen and G. O. Bane. Reverend Julian C Callaway, Jr. is teacher of the young people. Mrs. E. G. Holbrook, Secretary and Treasurer.

A basket dinner was held in the building on Sunday December 24, following morning service in which Reverend J. W. Callaway, Sr. District Superintendent of Athens-Elberton district and Father of the Pastor was guest speaker. Announcement was made on this day that the Church had been named, "The Leland Methodist Church".

The first board of Stewards was composed of the following men: Marvin Coursey, chairman, R. D. Wilson, Edd Holbrook, Pope Allen, W. H. Cartwright, and Mrs. R. D. Wilson. The board of trustees was G. O Bane, J. W. Holbrook and R. D. Wilson.
At an auction sale held on February 15, 1951, the Community Center building was bought by the trustees for $625.00 and the chairs in the building were purchased for the sum of $100.00. A pulpit and Altar rail was built by the men of the Church, and chairs were bought for the Sunday School rooms. A piano was given by Mrs. G. R. Elliott, and a picture was given by a friend for the pulpit. Mrs. W. C. Norrell presented a Communion service in memory of her husband, Wesley C. Norrell.

A meeting to organize a Woman's Society of Christian Service in the Church was held on February 18, 1951 at the Church. Julian Callaway, pastor, Mrs. John Patton, District President, Mrs. Haynes, also a district officer and twelve women of the Church were present. Officers elected were: President; Mrs. R. D. Wilson, Vice President; Mrs. E. G. Holbrook, Promotion Secretary; Mrs. Pope Allen, Recording Secretary, Mrs. Wm. L. Mauch, and Treasurer, Mrs. W. C. Norrell.

The charter membership closed at the end of the first revival, which began April 1, 1951, and closed Sunday April 8, with services led by Reverend J. C. Callaway Sr. The charter members were the following: Pope Allen, Mrs. Pope Allen, W. H. Cartwright, Mrs. W. H. Cartwright, Mrs. Sam Cook, Helen Coursey, Marvin Coursey, Mrs. Marvin Coursey, Mrs. Jimmie Dodd, E. G. Holbrook, Mrs. E. G. Holbrook, J. W. Holbrook, Mrs. J. W. Holbrook, Mrs. Clyde D. Long, W. L. Mauch, Mrs. W. L. Mauch, Mrs. J. T. Moody, W. C. Norrell, Mrs. W. C. Norrell, J. E. Fucckett, Mrs. J. E. Fucckett, R. D. Wilson, Mrs. R. D. Wilson, Mrs. W. M. Noland, G. J. Ferguson, Mrs. G. J. Ferguson and Charles Ferguson.

On Monday August 6, in spite of heat and inadequate facilities, the pastor and seven other workers met with approximately forty-five children for our first Vacation Bible School.

In September the pastor and a room mate at Emory University moved into the community. The parsonage being a streetcar owned by Mr. R. D. Wilson and located in his yard 1.2 miles north of Bankhead Highway on Pebblebrook Road. Wesley Stephens, the room mate was then serving as pastor of Trinity Methodist Church two miles South West of Leland in Mt. Pisgah community.

The boys were given generous poundings by both congregations consisting of food, cooking utensils and miscellaneous with which to furnish their new home.

October came, and the first promotion day was observed in the Church School. Three tiny children went from the Kindergarten to Primary classes. They were, Marilyn Cook, Jimmy Kitchens and Terry Lee.
Also, in the month of October came the first anniversary of the life of the Leland Methodist Church. Our total membership at the end of this first year being thirty-five. We rejoiced and were exceeding glad in the little progress made for we knew that through our beginning and struggle the lives of many people may be touched through the years.

We celebrated the occasion with dinner on the ground. The cake with one candle was baked by Mrs. J. W. Holbrook. Our guest speaker for the day was District Superintendent, J. W. C. McKibben, who held Quarterly Conference following the noon meal.

At the end of our first year of Sunday School we had seventy-two members and were proud and happy because we felt that we had reached many boys and girls who had not been attending Sunday School.

We had an old fashioned Christmas party at the Church with gifts and fruit for the children, at Christmas and the Junior class presented a playlet of the birth of Jesus.

On Sunday, February 19, 1952 between the hours of 3:00 and 5:00 p.m. the congregation and friends were invited to attend open house at the streetcar. Cookies and punch were served and the occasion was enjoyed by all. The streetcar, with most conveniences, including bath and running water, was quite a surprise to some of the callers.

Easter Sunday, April 13, 1952 was a very memorable occasion for the Church. On this Sunday, Julian christened the first baby in his ministry and the first in our Church. Those being christened were: Douglas Allan Long and Constance Elizabeth Long, children of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde D. Long; Barbara Theresa Williams, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. Frank Williams; Linda Gail Daniell and Patricia Joanne Daniell, daughters of Mr. J. W. Daniell.

Eight young people were baptized at this service; Betty Casteel, Marcella Blackum, Mary Frances Foster, Barbara Harding, Anita Holbrook, Evelyn Kitchens, Virginia Kitchens, and Morris Noland. Also two adults were baptized and three were received by transfer.

Reverend Peter Manning led the second series of revival with gospel song services led by Reverend Jack Bezeman, beginning on Mother's Day, May 11, 1952.

Seeing our progress and need for a building to serve more people, a building committee was named so that concrete plans for a new building could be made. The following committee was named: E. G. Holbrook, Marvin Coursey, R. D. Wilson, Mrs. Sam Cook, Mrs. W. E. Gilbert, Clyde D. Long, and Anita Holbrook.
In May 1952 the Church sponsored the organization of the Cub Scouts, under the leadership of Mrs. Sam Cook and Mrs. Walt Wallace.

On June 7, 1952 the entire Church was invited to attend the wedding of the pastor, to Miss Carolyn Bohannon. The wedding to be held at Calvary Methodist Church in Atlanta.

We held our second Vacation Church School in June with six workers and an increase over last year's attendance.

June 29, the pastor's last Sunday, the Church had a picnic dinner at the Church. Reverend Callaway, after serving for twenty months at Leland Church took a charge at Mountville, near LaGrange, Georgia.

The new year began with Reverend Edison M. Amos, also a student at Emory University, as our pastor.

On our second anniversary, with homecoming and dinner on the ground, seeing a great deal of progress, the Church looked with eagerness to the coming year.

The Woman's Society of Christian Service from time to time tried projects by which to raise money for a building fund, sponsoring a rummage sale, bake sale and grocery and card sale. In November of 1952 the big drive began with a barbecue sponsored by the men of the Church.

Our Church and Sunday School space being very inadequate, all interests were turned to building sufficient space for our overflowing attendance. The Junior boys and girls must not be forgotten in their efforts to help. Each Sunday they have a special offering other than the regular Sunday School offering.

Christmas passed, with our annual Christmas party for the children, and another year began.

At Easter ten new members were received into the Church making a total of seventy-nine members. Our third revival services were held in April with Dr. Fred Glisson, Chaplain of Emory University Hospital leading the services.

On May 6, 1953, the building committee sponsored a pledge supper at the Church so that definite steps might be taken in beginning a new building. The following Saturday, May 9, 1953, Mr. Sam Cook, with equipment furnished by the McDougald construction company and transferred by the Mayfield Hauling company broke the ground and did the first grading for the Leland Methodist Church.