HISTORY

of

MARIETTA MAPLE AVENUE METHODIST CHURCH
Walking down Maple Avenue out in Marietta, Georgia, one will pass by a brick church with the corner-stone inscription reading:

MAPLE AVENUE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
1919-1920

Let us take a backward glimpse of the "how and why" of this church, which is one of the few remaining former Methodist Episcopal Churches in the North Georgia Conference.

This church property was purchased from Mrs. Dessa L. Dunn on April 30, 1919 and the deed was made out to the Rev. E. J. Hammond, a minister in the former Methodist Episcopal Church. After buying this property, the Rev. E. J. Hammond, the Rev. E. E. Cavalier, and the Rev. W. L. Hampton held a three-week "Tent Meeting" on a vacant lot on the east side of Locust Street, almost opposite the church where the present edifice now stands.

During the first two weeks of the Tent Meeting insofar as the outward evidence was concerned, it was just "another tent meeting" with no special significance. However, the third week changed the situation and a new church was born. At the close of the meeting a new Sunday School and Church were history!
Mr. A. J. ("Daddy") Kile was the first Superintendent of this Sunday School and served in this capacity for about two years. He was succeeded by Mr. J. M. Gregg. Sunday School was held in the tent for the following two Sundays and then moved into a dwelling, which is the present parsonage, which was located on the property purchased for the new church building. Some six weeks later the dwelling was moved to the lower end of the lot purchased on Maple Avenue and was made presentable for a permanent pastor and his family. The Sunday School was moved to a dwelling on Hansell Street and remained there until July, 1920.

The three ministers responsible for the organization of the new church applied to the Board of Church Extension of the Methodist Episcopal Church for sufficient funds to erect the new church building; the present church building was largely financed through this means and on July 4, 1920 the Maple Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church was dedicated and the Sunday School moved from the dwelling house on Hansell Street into the new church.

Mr. J. T. McEntyre was the third Sunday School Superintendent and served for one year; he was followed by Mr. R. A. Cunningham, who served also for one year. Mr. McEntyre was elected again and after a year's time was succeeded by Mr. J. M. Gregg, who served in this position until shortly before his death in 1949. Mr. Clarence E. Davenport the present Sunday School Superintendent succeeded Mr. Gregg.
The first Board of Trustees of Maple Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church was:

A. H. Cunningham
J. M. Gregg
Luther Jones
Walter Pavlosky
John Martin

There were thirty-six (36) charter members of this church, the roll includes the following:

A. H. Cunningham (now deceased)
Mrs. A. H. Cunningham (now deceased)
Magda Cunningham
Mrs. Walter Pavlosky (now deceased)
John Martin
Mrs. Alfred Gunter
Octavia King (now deceased)
John Marshall Gregg
Mrs. J. M. Gregg (now deceased)
A. L. Davenport
Mrs. A. L. Davenport
Luther Jones (now deceased)
Bill Jones (now deceased)
Mrs. Bill Jones
Four children of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Jones
M. L. Barrett (now deceased)
Ernest Barrett
Jim Jones
A. J. Kile (now deceased)
Leonor Hames
Renamay Jones, (Mrs. Renamay Greenway) (now deceased)
Ruby Hurst
Harry M. Bickers
Hendrix (a young girl)
Mary Hipps (now deceased)
Pearl Hipps (now deceased)
Paul Moore (First President of Epworth League)
Edman Wile (a local preacher; now deceased)
Mr. Wallace
J. A. Brown (now deceased)
Mrs. J. A. Brown (an old gentleman, joined at tent meeting, identity lost)
The Rev. W. L. Hampton was the first pastor of Maple Avenue Church and served the first six years in succession, later serving one year. The Rev. F. L. Wade was the second pastor-in-charge, serving only ten months and was transferred to the Missouri Conference. He was succeeded by the Rev. W. W. Ashe, a retired missionary, who served one year. This minister was followed by the Rev. T. Frank Cook, who served four years; then the Rev. O. B. White, who served four years. The Rev. Harold Cochran followed the Rev. White, and Brother Cochran served four years, the pastor at the time of Methodist Unification in 1939. The Rev. E. D. Hale was the first pastor-in-charge after unification, serving only one year; then came the Rev. Marvin Warwick, who served two years; he was followed by the Rev. Tim Holbrook, who served one year and went into the Chaplaincy of World War II. He was followed by the Rev. Dr. Thomas M. Elliott, who remained here for two years, being officially retired by the North Georgia Conference. The Rev. Tim W. Holbrook returned from the war and was re-assigned to Maple Avenue and served one year. He was followed by a student-pastor, the Rev. Thomas Watson, who served the years 1949-1949–1950. Brother Watson returned to his home conference, the South Georgia Conference in 1950. He was succeeded by the Rev. Carl J. Dodds, Jr. at the Conference Session of 1950.

The Rev. E. J. Hammond served as the first District Superintendent of this church, and this minister also had the honor of having actually designed and poured the cement foundation of the present church building. He was followed by the Rev. Crippen;
Rev. W. L. Hampton; Rev. Craig; Rev. Elmer Dewey; Dr. Augustus Ernest; Rev. Wallace Rogers; Rev. Lester Rumble.

The Ladies' Aid was organized with five or six charter members at the home of Mrs. J. M. Gregg in the fall after the church dedication of July 4, 1920. Mrs. W. L. Hampton was the first President of this organization. It was during the pastorate of the Rev. E. D. Hale that the Ladies' Aid was changed into the Womans Society of Christian Service, which now has a membership of twenty-three, (23).

The Queen Esther Missionary Society of this church was organized from the members of the Young Ladies' Class and held its first meeting in January, 1934, with seventeen (17) charter members and with the Rev. Mr. White as an honorary member. Miss Nell Holbrook was the first President of this organization. After the unification of the Methodist churches, this society was changed into the Wesleyan Service Guild. Miss Sara Millwood was President of the newly organized group.

During the pastorate of the Rev. Thomas Watson the idea was conceived to build a recreational building, which also was to serve as the first floor of an educational building, in honor and memory of one of the most outstanding and consecrated laymen that this church has ever had - Mr. John Marshall Gregg. The church membership was very small but the spirit of the congregation was hopeful and with the return of a number of "G.I.'s" who were making and building homes in this community a brighter future of this small church was visioned. Committees and planning
groups were set up and within a period of two years a $12,000.00 building was completed and paid for! This was an almost unbelievable accomplishment for this small group - but with faith in action the results came forward! The John Marshall Gregg Memorial Annex was dedicated June 10, 1951, with a former pastor officiating, the Rev. Dr. Thomas Elliott.

In the Conference Minutes of 1947 it is shown that this church was paying the pastor-in-charge the sum of $1,020.00 per year! At the last Official Board meeting of the church year 1950-51 the official of Maple Avenue Methodist Church voted to raise the salary to $3,000.00, which, of course, gives a corresponding increase in other budget items of the church's entire program! The official membership today, active and inactive, is two-hundred sixty -- and the prospects of a greater Maple Avenue Methodist Church is most promising!

THE END

(Until further history is made!)