New Lebanon Church was a part of a circuit for seventy years, more or less. Beginning with the Annual Conference of 1949, it became a station and the name was changed to the more commonly used one of Campground.

Our first pastor, Walter B. Rutland was a student at Emory and a member of the Florida Conference. He returned to Florida after his graduation in 1951.

The Annual Conference of 1951 appointed Robert F. Chaplin pastor. Brother Chaplin had worked hard among us. We came to love him, his charming wife and daughter Barbara. Our membership has increased. We have felt our spiritual life deepened. Our hearts are warmed and we know that our love for the Master and for His church has grown.

The Annual Conference of 1954 appointed Rev. J. A. Langford to serve Campground Church. Rev. and Mrs. Langford and their boys, J.A., Jr., Andre and Waldo, have made a great contribution to the church during their four years here. Rev. Langford suffered a slight stroke which caused him some trouble. Rev. John J. LeCroy and Rev. S. Y. Allgood (retired Okla. Conference) filled in until Rev. Langford was able to resume his work. Rev. Langford reported about 40 members added to the church. One of the Langford sons entered the ministry. During this four years, about $800.00 was added to the salary and the driveway around the church was paved. Rev. Langford transfered to South Bend, East Atlanta District.

The Annual Conference 1958 appointed Wilson J. Culpepper to this church. He and his lovely wife came to us from four years at Powder Springs Church. They were both diligent in the work. Rev. Culpepper was a superb organizer as was Mrs. Culpepper. Our commissions were re-activated and new interest grew in all departments. However, both were in failing health and he retired in 1959.

Annual Conference 1959 appointed David B. Sargent to Campground Church. From 1959 to 1961 the following was accomplished:

1. A new gas furnace was installed
2. The exterior of the church was painted
3. Floors refinished at the parsonage
4. Around 35 new members were received
5. The giving of the church was increased to approximately $13,000.00 per year, through use of every member visitation
6. The ground on which the church sits was sold to the church by the Campground Trustees for $1.00.
7. Ground was broken for the first stage of a long range building program
8. One young man made the decision to enter the ministry.

On Monday, August 21, 1961, Jeffrey Bart Sargent was born. The Sargents have one other son, Wesley Mark.

On August 28, 1961 a resolution was adopted by the Quarterly Conference to let the regular church trustees become the successors to the Marietta Campground Parsonage Trustees. The property under trustees of the church includes: parsonage, church and club house.
Clyde Blaylock, Chairman of the Official Board and Chairman of Building Committee died on Saturday, April 21, 1962 and was buried on Easter Sunday. He did a magnificent job with the building program. John LeCroy was elected Chairman of the Building Committee.

W. C. Gasaway agreed to supervise the erection of the educational wing.

Annual Conference 1962 appointed Harry B. Alderman to Campground Church.

From 1962 to 1969 the following was accomplished:

1. Inside of church was painted
2. Carport built for parsonage
4. Kitchen of parsonage enlarged
5. New living room furniture bought (sofa, chair, end tables and lamps)
6. New hot water heater installed
7. New gas stove bought
8. Inside and outside of parsonage painted (June, 1964) new cabinets in kitchen
9. Budget increased to $23,000 (1964)
10. Voted Jan. 3, 1965 to begin building of additional unit to new addition (Fellowship Hall - Sanctuary) $100,000.00 building program, hope to start in about three weeks. $20,000.00 cash - $20,000.00 Conference and $60,000.00 loan.
12. November 12 & 13 the ladies and men put on the first Bazaar. Approximately $1,100 was cleared. It is hoped that this will be done every year as the personal fellowship of working together has greatly enriched the people in the church.

The following was written by Rev. Alderman:

Oct. 13, 1969 - Camp Meeting meant little to the city boy sent to the country to serve the little white frame church. A dirt road separated the parsonage from the cemetery - the cemetery separated the parsonage from the church. One could walk to the house of the Lord if he was careful to step precisely between the graves. Across the road the old outdoor arbor stood with its antique elegance surrounded by the horseshoe row of cabins the local people referred to as "tents". Tent was a misnomer, but the idea of Abraham on the move to form a nation with a wondering wilderness people, I suppose, accounted for the terminology. Nevertheless, there was much simplicity and beauty in the rural setting here - tall trees and green grass and few automobiles to clutter the scene. But progress was beginning to make itself felt. Some cow pastures had already been converted into sub-divisions. The inevitable parade was to march through. Our feeling was that people were coming and we needed to modernize for their coming. The people that we were sent to shepherd were converted farmers. The aircraft industry had pulled a few into the plants. Gardening was becoming more a hobby than a means of living. The spiritual fervor of the folks was amazingly graceful.

In time we saw additions to the church. Hugh Jordan was the first member of a young adult class. He joined the church and spark-plugged a vigorous class of young folks whose first project was to add a carport to the little white house where the pastor lived. When Mr. John asked the county to pave
the road in front of the house they brought the pavement right to the sparkling new carport. Mud and dust became a thing of the past, but motor vehicles increased the decibels on the little island now surrounded by asphalt upon which we lived.

The old church was a lovely place - though it always seemed to me to be sitting side saddle. You entered a side door and you sat in the direction you entered. It was quaint - a picture of the Lord's Supper hung just behind the hand made pulpit which Mr. Ed Hunton had fashioned. He had also built the wagon wheel lights that hung from the ceiling in the arched room. You could easily preach to the 160 people who finally became present. My first congregation, as I remember, was less than 100 people. We had 80 on the roll in Sunday School but 40 was an average attendance. The basement contained the nursery and a baby play pen occupied one corner. I offered to exchange the nursery for my study, a light, airy room which had been tacked on. Boss Caldwell offered to paint the nursery shortly after he joined the church.

The only thing that was really wrong with the building was that space was at a premium and rooms were small and passages narrow. I scrubbed across ladies' knees every Sunday morning to get from the chair to the pulpit.

The other inconvenience was the lack of rest room facilities. There was one outdoor delapidated toilet by this time almost abandoned. When I asked the former pastor what people did, he said simply "They go home". I know one man, he is dead now, who had to restrict his church attendance because of bladder trouble.

It was a monumental day when the four-room annex was completed, some six months after our arrival. Jack Gasaway went ahead, against the architect's planning, and put in a rest room anyway. Boys and girls shared this life saving facility for several months and it meant that the memorable day came when Andrew Hembree could bulldoze away the public john. I remember that day like a captain who christens his first ship. It was a historical moment. Realizing our needs exceeded our capabilities, I went one day to the pine thicket behind the new annex and prayed. "Lord, if you want only from this little church for me to bury the dead, marry the marriageable and baptize a few children, I am willing. I sacrifice my own ambition, but if you want this church to become a great church, send me some help." Roy Varner and Mary joined the church the next day and they seemed to trigger others to join hands and march under the banner of Christ. Roy and I become friends and we explored together the ideas of modernizing the Campground. The tent holders did not take too well to this idea so we concentrated our efforts on the church side of the road. Roy's expert handling of getting the people together and rounding up the money made our fellowship hall-sanctuary more than a dream. Roy and Andrew and I stood by the pine thicket and prayed-"Which way Lord do we go?" The answer was "run the bulldozer through the pine thicket" and in a few hours it was flat. Campground Church had taken its first grand step forward. $90,000.00 later we had a new sanctuary. But in two years we had absorbed the $11,000.00 debt on the first four room annex and paid our indebtedness from a total of $120,000.00 to $60,000.00. We thought this was financial progress.

After the fellowship hall was built, there remained the problem of furnishings. Earlier, Jim Transue had saved aside $1,000.00 from the treasury, which
Mary Ellen Allgood had spent to furnish the annex. But now we had no $1,000.00. We had a Sanctuary but no seats. I sat in the basement study and pondered and prayed. The telephone rang. Mr. Alva Maxwell with Peachtree Road Methodist Church asked what we needed. "Chairs", I said. "Would $750.00 help?" It did. With $1,000.00 we bought 300 folding chairs. Again the Lord came through. The Young Adult Class furnished the study, the Culpepper Class the kitchen, and somehow we found enough baby beds to furnish the nursery. People continued to join the church.

Our youth had been neglected - not by intention, but by necessity, and I sought to help them get into better quarters. We secured the services of Mr. Charles Welch out of Philadelphia and he came to ascertain our needs as well as our capabilities. We planned on a $48,000.00 Youth Center - of course, it became $59,000.00 but even this was cheap on the market at that time. 62,000 feet was built for less than $10.00 per square ft. by Mr. Charlie Thomas, a good Methodist contractor with a compassionate heart.

The Youth Building was dedicated September 15, 1968, and it included an upstairs partial basketball court. The music box that Mrs. Baker had bought for the Teen Canteen was brought over from the Club House and a few of the chairs were brought in. One room was made a Chapel and benches were cut from those of the old church building.

My last summer at Campground I saw the demolition of the white frame church, the purchase of an additional parsonage. Howard and Phyllis Bentley moved into the old parsonage and we moved to Bertha Way. All these dates of beginning and ending construction can be determined from quarterly conference records.

I have not tried to be clever in this historical account, but mainly to assess a few facts on the basis of memory for the church historian.

When you look back seven years, there are blocks of time when waiting was almost all you could do. Other times you walked and then again you ran. I feel that we kept reasonably busy at the Campground. Pushed on by Cobb County progress. While schools were built to take care of the incoming flood of people, I never felt that we kept pace with the community, but I do feel that God mightily blessed our efforts.

God's answer to prayer is, "Yes, I want the Campground to be a great church and I will keep sending men and women to make it so". Somebody must help carry on the work of the Allgoods, the Huntons, the LeCroys, the Blackwells and the Davis'. These people will have such names as Hrisak, Rabun, Pensula and Paschall. All are a part of a Christian community called the Campground. I am proud to have had a part in it.

--Harry B. Alderman

Rev. Alderman wrote this story at my request. I could not have written at all without his story. I too, am glad to have been part of it.

--Sincerely,
Eldie K. Chastain, Historian
Annual Conference of 1969 transferred Rev. Alderman to Austell, Georgia and Rev. B. H. Berrier came to Marietta Campground. Much of the year's work, 1969-1970, dealt with the organizational structure of the church. The Administrative Board got off to a good start under the direction of its chairman, Paul K. Shumpert. Joe D. Paschall served as chairman of the Council on Ministries. Fifty new members were added to the roll of the church bringing the total membership to 574.

In June 1970 the church entered a seven month year in preparation for the new calendar fiscal year beginning in January 1970.