

*Marietta Charge*

A HISTORY OF  
CAMP GROUND METHODIST CHURCH

*To replace any previous  
History*

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*Rev. R. F. Chaplin  
R. F. D. 2  
Marietta, Ga*

"A lot of land containing forty acres, four miles from Marietta can be bought for \$40.00. It is ideally situated with springs of water and trees from which to build a tabernacle." Thus spoke the founders of Marietta Camp Ground in 1837, and there I begin my story. *124 yrs*

Land was given and a school house built on the east side of the property -- just east of where the Sewell tent now stands. The first Sunday School was held in the building and was called Olen Sunday School. Preaching services were also held there.

The first report available is a report of the Olen Sunday School, May 23, 1868. Charles B. Hunton was superintendent, with John W. Allgood assistant and John E. Allgood, Secretary. C. A. Donohoo was teacher of the first Bible Class. Georgia A. Gober taught second Bible Class. J. T. Smith and Miss Drucilla Allgood were teachers of New Testament. The enrollment was about 60.

In 1873 Olen Sunday School was reorganized with C. B. Hunton and J. W. Allgood as superintendents. Rev. J. M. Gable and Miss Georgia Gober were teachers. John E. Allgood, Secretary; Mrs. N. C. Sauls, H. P. Sauls and C. B. Hunton were teachers of New Testament. Miss D. E. Allgood and John W. Allgood taught reading and spelling.

It is not possible to place the exact date of the first Church building on the Camp Ground. Mr. E. G. McGarity believed it to have been built about 1872. He remembered that he was not old enough to work on the building with the men but that he did carry water to the workers.

The first church building was bought from the Presbyterians at Sandy Plains and had been called Lebanon. When it was moved to Camp Ground it was re-christened New Lebanon.

New Lebanon was built as many churches of that day, - two doors in one end of the building were entrances - one for men, the other for women. Inside, the pews were high backed benches and a partition (the height of the bench backs) separated the men from the women. The partition ended with the front pew; the pulpit and altar space filled the front.

On April 8, 1883 a collection was taken for the purchase of Sunday School literature. H. P. Sauls and Frank Daniels gave 25 cents each; Miss Jessie Wyatt, 15 cents, John Kimberly, Emily Allgood and Miss Nola Jordan gave 10 cents each.

In the record for 1885 the Sunday school was called New Lebanon Sunday School.

The Annual Conference of 1886 appointed Rev. J. S. L. Sappington to Cobb Circuit. That year, in addition to the churches, the circuit reported \$1,090 "in other property." It is reasonable to suppose that at least a part of this was the circuit parsonage. We know that Rev. Sappington lived in the parsonage that year because Miss Janie Beasley and Mr. J. H. Frey were married there. This parsonage was later sold to Mr. McCord and is the place where J. T. Smith now lives on Sewell's Mill Road.

The first parsonage on the Camp Ground was a four room house built for a teacher-age about 1904. The pastor, Rev. L. D. Coggins lived in the parsonage on Sewell's Mill Road. His brother-in-law, Rev. Tyson was teaching school in the school house which stood where the Camp Ground parsonage now stands. Lumber

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was ext. and the house built where the church now stands. This teacherage later became the parsonage. Many years later part of this building was still used for a Sunday School room. It was torn down after the rooms in the basement were opened. The present circuit parsonage was built and Rev. A. E. Scott was the first pastor to live there, 1907.

The Annual Conference of 1910 appointed Rev. W. O. McMullan to the charge. That year our present Church (a new New Lebanon) was begun. The old Church was sold to the colored neighbors and is now called Gallilee.

One of the affairs which raised money for the new church was a box supper given in Mr. T. H. LeCroy's barn. The barn now belongs to Mr. J. S. LeCroy. The box supper is remembered as a very enjoyable affair. The new church was dedicated about 1912, when Rev. J. B. Gresham was pastor.

No history of the Camp Ground Church would be complete without mention of the local preachers who have labored here. Among these are Dr. Goss, and Rev. Manget who was the father of Dr. Fred Manget, who has spent many years as a missionary in China. John Sanges also was a local preacher and Rev. J. M. Gable ✓ preached at Camp Ground every second Sunday for 50 years. On a Sunday morning, he left home to walk to church. Being unwell and very tired, he stopped at the home of Mr. F. H. Hunton and asked to lie down. Having rested somewhat he went on to the Church. His text was I Corinthians 15: 55. "O Death where is thy sting? O grave where is thy victory?" He was obliged to sit before the sermon was finished and was not able to preach again. Rev. J. M. Gable died Sept 23, 1911 and is buried in the Campground Cemetery. Also buried in the Cemetery is the Rev. J. L. Varner (pastor of the church 1935-6) who died on March 12, 1948.

Mention must also be made of Rev. Sam Y. Allgood, a son of the Camp Ground who has given his life to the Methodist ministry. He retired in 1951. Also ✓ Rev. Elmo Tabb who left Camp Ground to go to Africa in 1928. In later years the church has been blessed to have Rev. J. M. Perry, a local deacon and Rev. John T. LeCroy, a local elder.

When the Annual Conference of 1941 appointed Rev. B. A. Chastain to the Marietta Circuit, New Lebanon was familiarly called Camp Ground and was the strongest of the five churches. After a round of the circuit, Rev. Chastain realized that Camp Ground should be a station Church but there is no record of his ever discussing it with the officials. Certainly no plans were made toward that goal. Rev. Chastain died in 1943, the only pastor in the history of the circuit to be removed by death.

Rev. Denny Hendry came to the circuit in June 1943. He remained three years. During that time, New Lebanon Church built classrooms and installed a furnace in the basement. Becoming a station church was discussed publicly but finally it was decided to remain with the circuit.

Annual Conference of 1946 appointed Robert T. Padgett as supply Pastor and Rev. W. M. Mason assistant. Rev. Padgett lived in the parsonage but Rev. Mason lived on the Emory Campus. That year, a room was added to the church.

The Conference of 1948 sent Rev. N. G. Mas of Tennessee with Rev. Inman Moore of Mississippi as assistant. Both were students at Emory. That year Camp Ground (still called New Lebanon) felt that our church should become a station. The charge lay leader, John T. LeCroy, called a meeting of all the churches on the circuit. The move was discussed and terms of the separation were agreed upon.

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The circuit bought New Lebanon's share of the parsonage. All legal procedures were observed and New Lebanon Church was on its own!

One of the first acts of the church was to change the name -New Lebanon - to the much more often used one -"Camp Ground."

The first pastor - Rev. Walter B. Rutland - a student at Emory Theological school took up his residence in Marietta and Camp Ground started building a new parsonage. The church gave "a long pull, a strong pull" and did not let go.

Joe S. LeCroy spent much of his time at the new building. Other members of the building committee gave freely of time and effort. The men of the church, after the day's work was done, came to work on the parsonage. Some of our people tithed., almost all brought gifts. Many planned to raise money in various ways. It was a proud and happy day for Camp Ground when Rev. and Mrs. Rutland moved into the new parsonage.

We had a good two years under the leadership of Rev. and Mrs. Rutland and the church prospered. During his ministry two new Sunday School rooms were added to the church building. Rev. Rutland was a member of the Florida Conference, and upon graduation from Emory University, returned to his own Conference.

The Annual Conference of 1951 appointed Rev. Robert F. Chaplin to serve Camp Ground Church and we have been happy to have him and his charming wife. We welcome their new daughter, Barbara Anne, to all the privileges and joys of a "preachers kid" in a Methodist Parsonage.

So far under Bro. Chaplin's able ministry, forty-seven new members have been added to the Church since July, 1951. The budget has been increased and this year it was decided to employ the services of Mr. F. W. Bell as full time custodian of the buildings and grounds. Mr. Bell and his family live on the Camp Ground, occupying the "Preacher's tent" which is situated across the road from the parsonage.

Mrs. B. A. Chastain  
Chairman - Committee on  
Church Records and History.

| <u>YEAR</u> | <u>DISTRICT</u> | <u>CHARGE</u> | <u>BISHOP</u>    | <u>PRESIDING ELDER</u> | <u>PASTOR</u>    |
|-------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| 1879        | Gainesville     | Cobb          | J. C. Keener     | J. F. Mixon            | A. W. Roland     |
| 1880        | "               | "             | H. N. McTyer     | J. F. Mixon            | M. W. Arnold     |
| 1881        | "               | "             | H. N. McTyer     | W. A. Park             | M. W. Arnold     |
| 82          | Marietta        | "             | G. F. Pierce     | J. R. Mason            | J. W. Baker      |
| 83          | "               | "             | G. F. Pierce     | W. D. Anderson         | J. W. Baker      |
| 84          | "               | "             | J. C. Granberry  | W. D. Anderson         | O. B. Quillian   |
| 85          | "               | East Cobb     | A. W. Wilson     | W. D. Anderson         | H. M. Smith      |
| 86          | North Atlanta   | " "           | H. N. McTyre     | W. F. Glenn            | J. Sappington    |
| 87          | "               | " "           | H. N. McTyre     | W. F. Glenn            | Jere Reese       |
| 88          | "               | Cobb Ct.      | J. C. Keener     | W. F. Glenn            | J. D. Milton     |
| 89          | "               | " "           | J. C. Keener     | H. H. Parks            | J. D. Milton     |
| 90          | "               | " "           | R. H. Hargrove   | J. W. Heidt            | H. M. Strozier   |
| 91          | "               | " "           | J. S. Key        | J. W. Heidt            | F. R. Smith      |
| 92          | "               | " "           | O. P. Fitzgerald | J. W. Heidt            | J. A. Burtz      |
| 93          | "               | " "           | A. G. Haygood    | J. W. Heidt            | A. D. Echols     |
| 94          | "               | Marietta ct.  | A. G. Haygood    | W. F. Cook             | J. A. Burtz      |
| 95          | "               | Cobb ct.      | J. C. Keener     | W. F. Cook             | T. S. Edwards    |
| 96          | "               | " "           | A. W. Wilson     | W. F. Cook             | J. C. Holmes     |
| 97          | "               | " "           | C. B. Galloway   | W. B. Stradley         | D. C. Brown      |
| 98          | "               | " "           | W. W. Duncan     | R. J. Bigham           | J. P. Burgess    |
| 99          | "               | " "           | E. R. Hendrix    | R. J. Bigham           | Wallace Rogers   |
| 1900        | Marietta        | " "           | E. R. Hendrix    | S. B. Ledbetter        | J. L. Ware       |
| 01          | "               | " "           | C. B. Galloway   | S. B. Ledbetter        | To be supplied   |
| 02          | "               | " "           | W. A. Candler    | S. B. Ledbetter        | J. A. Sprayberry |
| 03          | "               | " "           | J. S. Key        | S. B. Ledbetter        | J. A. Sprayberry |
| 04          | "               | " "           | W. W. Duncan     | T. J. Christian        | To be supplied   |
| 05          | "               | " "           | W. W. Duncan     | T. J. Christian        | L. D. Coggins    |
| 06          | "               | " "           | Seth Ward        | T. J. Christian        | J. R. Jones      |
| 07          | "               | " "           | Seth Ward        | T. J. Christian        | J. R. Jones      |
| 08          | "               | " "           | E. E. Hoss       | W. B. Dillard          | A. E. Scott      |
| 09          | "               | " "           | E. R. Hendrix    | W. B. Dillard          | W. A. Wells      |
| 10          | "               | " "           | A. W. Wilson     | W. B. Dillard          | W. A. Wells      |
| 11          | "               | " "           | A. W. Wilson     | J. T. Davis            | W. O. McMullan   |
| 12          | "               | " "           | J. H. McCoy      | W. H. Cooper           | J. B. Gresham    |
| 13          | "               | " "           | Collins Denny    | W. H. Cooper           | J. B. Gresham    |
| 14          | "               | Marietta ct.  | Collins Denny    | W. H. Cooper           | W. H. Speer      |
| 15          | "               | " "           | Collins Denny    | W. H. Cooper           | W. H. Speer      |
| 16          | "               | " "           | W. A. Candler    | J. P. Erwin            | J. M. Crowe      |
| 17          | "               | " "           | W. A. Candler    | J. P. Erwin            | J. M. Crowe      |
| 18          | "               | " "           | W. A. Candler    | J. P. Erwin            | G. T. Shell      |
| 19          | "               | " "           | W. A. Candler    | J. P. Erwin            | G. A. Chambers   |
| 20          | "               | " "           | W. A. Candler    | S. R. England          | G. A. Chambers   |
| 21          | "               | " "           | W. A. Candler    | S. R. England          | C. B. Drake      |
| 22          | "               | " "           | W. B. Murrah     | S. R. England          | C. B. Drake      |
| 23          | "               | " "           | U. Darlington    | S. R. England          | N. A. Parsons    |
| 24          | "               | " "           | U. Darlington    | H. H. Jones            | N. A. Parsons    |

| <u>YEAR</u> | <u>DISTRICT</u> | <u>CHARGE</u> | <u>BISHOP</u>   | <u>PRESIDING ELDER</u> | <u>PASTOR</u>     |
|-------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1925        | Marietta        | Cobb Ct.      | U. Darlington   | H. H. Jones            | J. M. Perry       |
| 26          | "               | " "           | W. B. Beauchamp | H. H. Jones            | J. C. Hayden      |
| 27          | "               | Marietta Ct.  | W. B. Beauchamp | H. H. Jones            | W. E. Tabb        |
| 28          | "               | " "           | W. B. Beauchamp | Nath Thompson          | J. L. Moore       |
| 29          | "               | " "           | W. B. Beauchamp | Nath Thompson          | J. L. Moore       |
| 30          | "               | " "           | J. M. Moore     | Marvin Williams        | J. L. Moore       |
| 31          | "               | " "           | J. M. Moore     | Marvin Williams        | J. L. Moore       |
| 32          | "               | " "           | J. M. Moore     | Marvin Williams        | M. L. Moore       |
| 33          | "               | " "           | J. M. Moore     | Marvin Williams        | W. P. Rowe        |
| 34          | "               | " "           | W. N. Ainsworth | W. M. Jones            | W. P. Rowe        |
| 35          | "               | " "           | W. N. Ainsworth | W. M. Jones            | J. L. Varner      |
| 36          | "               | " "           | W. N. Ainsworth | W. M. Jones            | J. L. Varner      |
| 37          | "               | " "           | W. N. Ainsworth | W. M. Jones            | Jack Nichols      |
| 38          | "               | " "           | J. L. Decell    | Augustus Earnest       | A. S. Ulin        |
| 39          | "               | " "           | J. L. Decell    | Augustus Earnest       | J. S. Strickland  |
| 40          | Atlanta West    | " "           | A. J. Moore     | Wallace Rogers         | J. S. Strickland  |
| 41          | " "             | " "           | A. J. Moore     | Wallace Rogers         | B. A. Chastain    |
| 42          | " "             | " "           | A. J. Moore     | Wallace Rogers         | B. A. Chastain    |
| 43          | Atlanta West    | " "           | A. J. Moore     | Wallace Rogers         | Denny Hendry      |
| 44          | Atlanta East    | " "           | A. J. Moore     | J. W. Veatch           | Denny Hendry      |
| 45          | " "             | " "           | A. J. Moore     | J. W. Veatch           | Denny Hendry      |
| 46          | " "             | " "           | A. J. Moore     | J. W. Veatch           | R. T. Padgett     |
|             |                 |               |                 |                        | W. C. Mason       |
| 47          | Atlanta West    | " "           | A. J. Moore     | Lester Rumble          | R. T. Padgett     |
|             |                 |               |                 |                        | W. C. Mason       |
| 48          | " "             | " "           | A. J. Moore     | Lester Rumble          | N. G. Mas         |
| 49          | " "             | Campground    | A. J. Moore     | Lester Rumble          | Walter Rutland    |
| 50          | " "             | " "           | A. J. Moore     | Lester Rumble          | Walter Rutland    |
| 51          | " "             | " "           | A. J. Moore     | J.W.O. McKibben        | Robert F. Chaplin |
| 52          | " "             | " "           | A. J. Moore     | J.W.O. McKibben        | Robert F. Chaplin |