HISTORY
OF
MARIETTA CAMPGROUND
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Established-1872
We have only touched the surface in obtaining the highlights for this history book. It will never be finished. This bit of history is like a piece of sand on a beach or like a drop of water in the ocean when we think of the many lives touched by the church, the endless hours of work, social activities, meetings, and prayers.

The records of the early church were burned in 1943. The history available prior to that has come down by word of mouth and from conference minutes.

Statistics, construction of buildings, materials and expenditures can be obtained from church and conference minutes. We have not tried to list this type of information specifically only from chapters written by the pastors, or when it was an unusual situation.

Anyone having important information concerning the church or anyone wishing to differ with the history herein may contact the Committee on Records and History of Marletta Campground United Methodist Church.

This book should be dedicated to the late Mrs. R.A. Chastain, who started it off in the right direction by asking the pastors, beginning in 1950, to write progress reports.
The names of the pastors and others who were asked to write progress reports appear with the chapter they have written.
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Officers: Charles B. Hunton, Superintendent; John W. Allgood, Assistant Superintendent; John E. Allgood, Secretary; Barry Osburn, Librarian.

Teachers of the six classes: 1st Bible Class-C. A. Donehoo; 2nd Bible Class, Georgia Gober; First New Testament Class, J. T. Smith; Second New Testament Class, Drusilla Allgood; Heart Lessons Class, F. P. Sauls; Reading and Spelling teacher, W. M. Gober.
In the year 1869 the population in Cobb County was approximately 14,242. The Marietta District included: Austell, Smyrna, Oregon, Powder Springs, Acworth, Big Shanty, Merritts, Red Rock, Lemons, Cox, Howells, Post Oak, Roswell and Gritter.

The main livelihood of the people was raising cotton and corn. Food was grown locally including beef, pork and chicken. For the winter turnins and sweet potatoes were stacked in mounds in the ground, wheat and corn were bagged for storage, apples were stacked away in barrels and fruits and vegetables were canned. Kraut was kept in a churn in the cellar, hams were cured and pork shoulders salted down.

In the rural areas there was no electricity. Oil lamps were used and wood supplied heat for homes as well as for cooking use. Many homes at this time had dirt floors. Bed ticking was stuffed with straw from the threshing of wheat and pillows and beds were made of feathers.

To keep milk cool in the summer it was kept in a spring or lowered into the well and the butter was churned by hand. The cows thrived on cotton seed meal and the mules were given oats, fodder and corn the year round. Clothes were boiled in a wash pot until they were white as snow, and the ones with a stubborn stain were beaten with a stick on a battling bench.

Home remedies were used for most diseases. Kerosene was poured on an open wound and a spider web was wrapped around a cut to control the bleeding. A slice of potatoe was used to bring a boil to a head and tobacco soothed a bee sting. Babies were delivered at home.
- by a midwife.

If a neighbor's mule died a door to door collection was taken, if his home burned everyone helped to rebuild it. Almost every home had a center table spread with a crochet doillie proudly graced by the Holy Bible and a favorite family portrait.

It was into a setting such as this that Campground Church was established.
A class record book dated 1869 reveals that a Sabbath School was organized in the Campground community. Three years later in 1872 the members of this school became charter members of the organized church. According to conference records the school served as a mission school as well. Reading and spelling were also taught. The Sabbath School met only in the spring and summer months as the structure had only a brush roof and open sides. It was first called Olin Sabbath School.

In 1872 enough money was collected to purchase an old building from the Sandy Plains community. It was constructed on the west side of the grounds, and south of Roswell Road. The Campground camp meeting was already established (1837), an arbor surrounded by tents (cabins). The area was a delightful place for church gatherings. The nearby spring provided cool refreshing water for weary travelers and their stock. In those days a minister pastored several churches and often came into the community on Saturday night, visiting the sick and preaching several times on the weekends. He stayed in the homes of the members.

(CRB)
(WOM)
HAPPENINGS OF THE EARLY CHURCH (a collection, high waters, a dedicated man, and conference help)

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

On March 18, 1877 no one made it to Sunday School because of high waters that washed the bridges away.

Rev. Joe Gable, one of the members of the class was also a local minister. He was a very dedicated man. He preached once a month at Camground. Even in failing health he continued to preach. On a certain Sunday morning, he left home to fill his regular preaching duties. Not being well 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 taken from 1st 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. Mr. Gable died, September 23, 1881 and is buried in Camground Cemetery.

Conference minutes state that church extensions contributed $20.00 in 1887 and $25.00 in 1889 in support of the church.

(WOM) (CRB) (MC)
The John P Erwin Epworth League was organized. An organization of the Methodist Church and geared to meet the needs of the young people. Usually meeting on Sunday night and using material called "The Epworth High Road" and later the "Epworth Era". John Lecroy was the New Lebanon Church's first League president. The League was organized in 1918.

Because of the growing number of young people in the community in 1927, Elmo Tabb, a student from Emory at Oxford was sent to the Marietta Circuit to pastor the six churches including New Lebanon.

Mr. Tabb lived with his mother in the parsonage. Their home was always filled with young people.

In later years Mr. Tabb along with his wife Mary served as missionaries in the Congo.

(Eugenia Pierson, Assistant Archivist at the Methodist Center, North Georgia Conference gave additional information about the Marietta Circuit in 1927. The membership for the circuit was 525 members. The conference journal shows that the Marietta Circuit paid their askings for Presiding elder, preacher and for district work.)
NEW LEBANON - ONE OF SIX CHURCHES
known as MARIETTA CIRCUIT

Sunday School was held every Sunday at New Lebanon with preaching every fourth Sunday. One minister served six churches. New Lebanon, Wesley Chapel, Holly Springs, New Hope, Mt. Bethel and Antioch. When quarterly meeting was held members of all six churches met together. The presiding elder reached at 11 O’clock, lunch was spread on the grounds, and reports were given in the afternoon. The churches alternated this kind of program until all had their turn at being host church. New Lebanon led in church membership with Antioch having the least in number until it was abandoned in 1926. The members surviving joined either Mt. Bethel or New Lebanon.

New Lebanon was built as many churches of that day, two doors in one end of the building were entrances, one for the men, the other for women. Inside, the pews were high backed benches and a partition (the heights 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.

By 1908 the second hand church building New Lebanon had constructed was in bad need of repair and was given to the Negroes who moved the building on Black Jack Mountain. New Lebanon members erected a new building, a white frame church that stood near the road on the north side of Roswell road. The building had one main floor, the sanctuary. Theater type seats were installed. Curtains
were used for partitions to make four classrooms for Sunday School. A pot bellied stove stood on one side with a pine going the full length of the room and held to the ceiling by wires. Wood was cut from the camp grounds by the men of the church. A two room building formerly part of the old parsonage stood back of the church and was used for a class room by the young people. One class member remembers the class room as always being old, was never painted with doors that would not close. Some remember the wasp, snakes and the storms that invaded many a Sunday School lesson during the years the class was taught by Miss Cynthia Allgood. We think the building survived World War I as well as World War II. (Many courting couple from the class became Mr. and Mrs. before "Johnny went marching off to war").
Revivals and baptizing by immersing was very popular and brought about a feeling of good will in the Community. In 1936 twenty eight people gave their hearts to Jesus Christ and were baptized in Kemp's Creek off Sewell Mill Road by the pastor, Rev. W. P. Rowe.

Mr. and Mrs. Rowe taught school on the camp ground to supplement their salary and help support their two children, Rafford and W. P. One pupil said of Mr. Rowe, "he could thrash you on Friday if you needed it and baptize you on Sunday if you were ready."
During the depression years, 1928 - 1932, a supply minister was sent to the Circuit. The Rev. J. L. Moore. Truly a fire and brimstone preacher. It was a year of revival and renewal. Revivals were held in all five churches. They were held at a time when it did not interfere with the farm work. Members at New Lebanon were farmers as well as the minister. There were very few automobiles in the area at the time and traveling to other churches for revivals was done mostly by horse drawn buggies or horse back. Mr. Moore, the minister preached family altars, of which his home was an example. One accepted Christ not out of love alone but from fear of a burning hell. Mr. Moore, his wife and their six children lived in the parsonage at the corner of Lecroy Drive and Roswell Road.

Mrs. Eugenia Pierson, Assistant Archivist at the Methodist Center, Atlanta, Georgia, gave the following information from the North Ga. Conference records: 22 members were received into the church at New Lebanon in 1929. The minister was paid $64 by the Circuit for that year. Mr. Moore was the pastor for four years.
A favorite past time in the good old days was sitting around an open fire and listening to the old folks tell of the past. Like...

One of the affairs which raised money for the new church which was completed in 1912 was a box supper given in Mr. Thomas H. Lecroy's barn. The box supper is remembered as a very enjoyable affair and netted quite a bit of money toward erecting the new church building. The new church was dedicated in 1912 when the Rev. J. B. Gresham was pastor.

When the church finally permitted the men and women to sit together during the worship service, Miss Cynthia Allgood said the ladies who rode their horses to the services had to be helped off the horse and the young man who assisted was allowed to sit with his lady friend. Most ladies came in a surrey buggy but some did ride side saddle to church.

Parents did not permit very many socials for young people unless they were well chaperoned. W. B. Simpson had nine children at home at one time. Some friends came by to visit one day, hoping Papa Simpson would consent to having an ice cream supper for the Eoworth League. He said yes and signs of happiness followed; one boy jumped over the swing in the yard, another climbed a tree and the girls formed a circle and sang "O' Happy Day"
1943 - Minister Expires

When the annual conference of 1941 appointed Rev. B. A. Chastain to the Marietta Circuit, New Lebanon was the strongest of the five churches. After a round of the circuit, Rev. Chastain realized that New Lebanon 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 while in active duty.

Rev. Denny Hendry, a student at Emory came to the circuit in that same year. Many New Lebanon members along with the pastor wanted to make the church a station with a full time minister. There is no known record at the Methodist Center that this was ever voted on, and since the church records were destroyed at a clean up day at the parsonage in 1943 the History Committee has nothing to base facts on except the word of several older members who remember the church conference and/or board meeting were the subject was brought up, discussed and voted down by a majority and was not brought up again until five years later when it was put into action.
Assistant Minister appointed for Marietta Circuit 1946 - 47

Annual Conference of 1946 appointed Robert T. Padgett as supply Pastor and Rev. W. M. Mason assistant. Rev. Padgett lived in the parsonage at the corner of Lecroy Drive and Roswell Road and the Rev. Mason lived on the Emory Campus. The following is a report as made by Rev. Padgett.

New Lebanon a membership of 169

1. Received 22 new members
2. Conducted a Stewardship Study Course in February.
3. Provide an every Sunday church bulletin service.
4. Week of revival series, preaching done by pastor
5. Conducted a weekly bible study course, in which the New Testament is approached from a historical standpoint.
6. This is the first year New Lebanon has had church every Sunday morning and evening.
7. Church has had two work days during which marked improvement was made in landscaping.
8. Methodist Student Day Observed, offering $58.00
9. Offering for Soo Chow University, China, $41.00
10. Reinhardt College Endowment, $28.00
11. Orphans Home Work Day Offering $80.00
12. Church entertained preachers and wives of the Atlanta West District at dinner in the clubhouse following their October meeting in the church.

cont - - -
13. Provided for one emergency patient at Emory Hospital.
14. Have a fund for the poor and needy of the community, donations being left at the altar at each Communion Service.
15. Pastor's salary, connectional work and benevolences paid in full.
16. Established a church nursery in September which cares for eight small children and babies during the worship service. Mrs. James Hardy is in charge with a corp of able assistants.
17. Painted inside of church.
18. Two other students from Emory employed to assist in providing more services for all the churches and to assist in the care of the members.
19. A Scout troop organized under the leadership of Clyde Blaylock and Verne Allgood and sponsored by the Fisherman's Club.
20. Total membership of MYF- 27
21. The first Cantata was a smashing success "The Seven Last Words" directed by the minister's wife, Mrs. Sammie Padgett.
22. Women's Society of Christian Service pledged $50.00 to the General Board of Missions. This was paid quarterly. A box of clothes and school supplies sent to foreign relief. The Society also gave $10.50 to the work of the church yard.
23. Fisherman's Club organized. Composed of twelve consecrated members of the New Lebanon Church whose purpose is evangelistic visitation, paying particular attention to the unsaved, unchurch, sick and shut-in. This organization meets monthly at the clubhouse for a supper meeting prepared by the wives. Afterwards they visit in teams of two
The Marietta Circuit Gazette, the paper published monthly and sent to members at a minimal fee, gave such news as the following:

"May 1947. The pastor's office and study have been moved from the basement of the church to the back room of the preacher's tent on the ground floor. This also is the new headquarters for the Gazette. Thanks to Sammie Padgett and Nellie M. Simpson for the editing of this fine newspaper. Thanks to the pastor and to the five reporters from the other churches who send in the news as it relates to their particular church."

"Board of Christian Education was formed in January 1947. The function of this group is to supervise the church school. Plans are formulated in monthly meetings. Teachers, officers and representatives from each organization in the church and the pastor make up the board."

"September 27, 1947. The Board of Christian Education of New Lebanon met Sunday afternoon. Officers and teachers were elected."

General Suot . . John Lecroy  
Ass'n . . . . . . . . Buster Barfield  
President of Adults Home Department . . Emma Barfield  
Director of Nursery . . Esther Hardy  
Secretary - Ms Sarah Bell  
Adult Class teacher . . Ed Hunton and J. N. Gaines  
Young Adults . . Lowell Varner and Mary Ellen Allgood  
Young People . . Mrs. M. B. Broadwell and Sarah Bell  
Juniors and Intermediates . . Emma Henry & Sammie Padgett  
Beginners and Primaries . . Mrs. Emily Phillips  

(CCS)
Breaking away from the other churches on the Circuit created many problems for New Lebanon. Although there had been a partial separation with the two student ministers there were still many things to be considered. The parsonage for instance. Would New Lebanon be the one to build a new parsonage even though the Circuit parsonage was in the community? How would things be divided? What about the treasury? Many of the older people who had been connected with the Circuit as a whole did not wish to see the bond broken. They enjoyed the quarterly meetings when all the churches came together to share reports and a read lunch together.

A few members of the Board of Stewards held meetings without knowledge of the pastor because they felt New Lebanon was not strong enough to come out on its own financially. There was dissention among New Lebanon members. A few had worked with the pastor in calling on individual families to get the feeling of the people about pledging so that a financial strain would not be experienced if the break was decided.

At the close of the church year in 1949, the charge lay leader, John T. Lecroy called a meeting of all the churches on the Circuit. The move to make New Lebanon a station church was discussed and terms of the separation were agreed upon.

The Circuit kept the old parsonage and New Lebanon rented a house on Austin Ave in Marietta until a new parsonage could be built.

Walter Rutland was the first full time minister. He was a student at Emory and a member of the Florida conference. The minister was paid $1200 salary.

(MC)
(CR)
The first Vacation Bible School was held the week of June 20, 1950. Fifty nine children were enrolled. Seven teachers were trained for the children, ages six through twelve years. A nursery was provided for the young children of the teachers. (1950)

A Wesleyan Service Guild was organized for working women. Thirteen charter members include: Mrs Ann Rutland, (pastor's wife), Carolyn Gable, Sara Dobbins, Frances Meek, Gartha Simpson, Zora Frey, Evelyn Carson, Mary Warner, Mary E. Allgood, Johnnie Lassiter, Annie Varner, Annie McGarity, and Edna Gable. The ladies met at the parsonage and officers and committees were named. (1950)

A church conference in 1948 voted to change the name of the church from New Lebanon to Marietta Camground. Only one member voted against the change. At the beginning of the new church year in 1949 it was called Marietta Camground. One other time, from 1886 to 1892 it was called Camground on the Cobb Circuit.
1950 A PARSONAGE IS BUILT
(Roswell Road, near the cemetery)

The parsonage was built through the cooperation of members of the church and community. A full time carpenter was employed and many members gave time and money to see it through. The structure consists of living room, dining room, two bedrooms, kitchen, bath and den. It is equipped with modern furniture, has plenty of closet space and cabinets. It has a gas floor furnace. The water is pumped from the spring across the road. The bank in front has been graded and will be sodded with grass.

Approximately $6,000 was spent on the house and $800 was spent on the furnishings. One full bedroom suite was given by the Gable family. A parsonage committee was organized to see that the very best of every thing went into the parsonage.

Mr. Joe Lecroy was chairman for the parsonage building program. Mrs. George Allgood was in charge of furnishings.
(After the North Ga. Conference appointments were read in 1951, Pierce Harris, noted journalist and author wrote the following to the Campground church published in the Atlanta Journal Constitution, regarding the pastor assigned to the church.

CAMPGROUND GETS FIRST PRIZE

by Pierce Harris

"While most other Americans today are waving flags and thinking of patriots, I want to beat the drum for a man who has proved himself a patriot in one country and is now starting out to be a preacher in another.

Along about supper time Thursday, July 4, 1951, the new Methodist preacher and his charming wife will be rolling his little chevrolet up in front of the parsonage at Marietta Campground. His name is Chaplin - Bob Chaplin - "Brother" Chaplin, to his new people; and his wife's name is Carolyn - two as fine people as ever set out to spend themselves in helping to make a better world. Everybody is interested in the "new preacher", so I want to tell you good people of the Campground Community: You've drawn first prize - Bob and Carolyn are TOPS; and they're going to worm their way into your hearts before you have time to get the fried chicken on the table. But let me go back a little.

Bob is English or WAS - until, before Judge Neil Andrews in Federal Court, he was naturalized into an American citizen, and as solid a one as you'll come across in a day's march. Bob was a member of the Royal Air Force - just a kid when he went in - but was a pilot of a British Lancaster and was the first pilot in the bomber command to make 30 missions over Germany without losing a member of his crew. There cont. . . .
were 90,000 men in the British bomber command; 55,000 of them were killed. Bob was shot down three times. He stayed ¾ hours in the cold water of the North Sea. John Wesley was called a "brand plucked from the burning" - Bob was one, snatched from the sea. He came to America for flight training, then went back and made 30 more missions over Germany. Then into the Air Transport Command, which took him on dangerous missions all over the world. To look at him, and to hear his modest voice, you wouldn't think he'd ever been three miles away from home.

After the war, Bob came to America to live. I visited Bob's family in London. They are fine people, but there is not much future for a boy in England. He got here like a lot of others who have chosen America - with enthusiasm and little money. He came to Atlanta to make his home and dropped around to the First Methodist Church - the best thing he ever did - for there he got his education, his license to preach and his lovely wife Carolyn.

But you don't need money if you've got friends who have some. There is a well known man here in town, frequently seen about the first tee at the Brookhaven Country Club, who might not stand up if some preacher asked all the christians to stand, but who's been caught several times "going about doing good;" and when I told him about Bob and a "call to preach" and no money, he said, "send him on out and send me the bill." The bill for five years schooling adds up, but when you've got a boy who graduates "cum laude" and goes out to be your man wearing the Royal Purple with becoming modesty but facing the future with equal confidence, you've got an investment that moth and rust cannot corrupt and neither can thieves break through and steal. No matter what inflation does to our American economy there's one cont'...
Atlan-tan who'll die rich, this fine young minister will be a pride and joy; and who knows? may some of his shining deeds for Christ's sake will be set down in the Book of Remembrance to the credit of this good and generous man.

With his recent graduation from Candler School of Theology cum laude - Bob Carolyn now take up their new life's work. For the past five years, Bob has been on the staff of the First Methodist Church, the last as Associate Minister of Education.

Treat them well, folks; and know this, if a committee had been given $5,000 and told to go out and bring in a civic asset, they couldn't have done as well as Bishop Moore has done for the, PRICE of charge. Get the frying pan ready - Bob and Carolyn will be there before the grease gets hot; and be sure and be at church Sunday morning.

(After three years at Campground, Bob was made chaplain of the Warm Springs Foundation in Warm Springs, Georgia where he served until his untimely death in 1969)
CAMPGROUND CHURCH GETS A FACE LIFT
1951    Bob Chaplin, Minister

$3,250.00 was spent for material to renovate the church. Twenty Four new pews were given, new altar furnishings were donated, including communion table and ceiling light fixtures made by Mr. Ed Hunton. The ladies of the Wesleyan Service Guild gave the carpet for the aisle of the sanctuary at a cost of $103.00. The entrance of the church was changed from South to West and a vestibule added. Most of the labor was donated by members of the church.

Twelve young people attended the preparatory membership class and were received into the church.

$600 was raised toward the purchase of an organ. Groups participating were: The fisherman's Club, Wesleyan Service Guild and MYF. The first organ was bought in 1951.

Campground Methodist Youth carried away the blue ribbon at the "Fair" held by the Cobb County Sub-District MYF. Emma Lou Davis is president of the Campground Group. The "Fair" planned for near 200 young people exhibited displays depicting the work of the Methodist youth around the world and what their missionary offerings are doing to relieve the suffering of the world. The Fair booths were built around the theme "Our Faith In Action." The festivities began with booth building and ended with Senor Reginaldo Toledo of Cuba as guest speaker. Rev. Robert Chaplin, pastor of the Campground Church and Mrs. Bea Detrick, Director of Christian Education of the First Methodist Church served as advisors.
FIRST FORMAL WEDDING AT
MARIETTA CAMPGROUND CHURCH

Nellie M. Simpson and Charles H. Miller were united in marriage at Marietta Campground Methodist Church, September 16, 1951.

Rev. Robert Chaplin performed the double ring ceremony. William G. Langhorst was soloist accompanied by Mrs. Sanford McDonald at the piano.

The reception for the couple was held at the church following the ceremony.
The Campground church has a membership of 243 members, 75% are active. The church is well organized with the four Commissions trying to get off the ground. Verne Allgood is chairman of the official board.

The church has three local preachers, J. M. Perry, John Lecroy and Junus Langford. One retired minister, S. Y. Allgood, associated with the church.

The church school is well organized under the supervision of James Transue, with 150 members enrolled and 20 officers and teachers.

The WSCS and WSG have a combined membership of forty members. They have spent some $336.00 for local and conference work. One of the Guild projects during the year has been to sell plates with the picture of the church on it.

The MYF has an enrollment of 30 members and during the year they have been host to the Cobb County Sub District of young people. They have held a youth activity week on the camp grounds across from the church.

Two years ago the Methodist Men Club was organized, taking the place of the Fisherman's Club. This is to involve all the men if possible instead of the original twelve. It now has a membership of 30 men, who meet monthly. A number of family night
meetings have been held during the year.

The sacrament is administered once each month on the first Sunday. Mrs. Marshall Crowe is the communion steward and Miss Cynthia Allgood is honorary communion steward.

The church is valued at $20,000 and the parsonage is valued at $10,000. The church has raised during the past year for all purposes a total of $7,012.00

by Rev. J. A. Langford, Pastor.

Mr. Langford, the pastor suffered a slight stroke while pastor at Camoground. John Lecroy, a local minister and S. Y. Allgood, a retired minister in the community filled in until Mr. Langford was able to resume his work.
This era seem to be a time in the history of Campground church when the young people became most active. The ages of 12 to 23 years of age met together and participated in the Fellowship on Sunday evenings and were regulars at the district meetings once a month. Banners were given for the largest number in attendance at the monthly meetings. The Campground group was led by Sybil NeSmith and Jan Blackwell who also held district offices as well.

Parents were cooperative and often served as counselors at retreats on the camp grounds, Camp Glisson and at the other local churches. 4-H Clubs were at their peak in the schools and competition was high in all contest and activities engaged in by the youth.
The W. S. C. S. now has a membership of twenty members. The group meets on the first Tuesday in each month.

A study course in the life and letters of St. Paul was held during the year with ten members taking the course. It was held in four sessions with Mrs. S. Y. Allgood, as the teacher.

An open house was held at the parsonage sponsored by the WSCS and the WSC on the return of the pastor and his family to the church for the fourth year.

Two life members have been made this year, Mrs. W.C. Gasaway and Mrs. C. B. Sheffer.

Mrs. W. C. Gasaway, President
Mrs. J. A. Langford, Secretary of Youth Work in WSCS.
CAMPGROUND SUNDAY SCHOOL 1957

The Marietta Campground Methodist Sunday School has enjoyed one of the best years in the recent history of the school.

Attendance has increased for the last half of the church year ending June 30, 1957 to an average attendance of 105 per Sunday with a low of 68 and a high of 149. This compares to an average of 93 per Sunday and a high Sunday of 126 and a low of 69 for the corresponding period of 1956.

Offerings increased on the average also for the same period from an average of 22 to 25 dollars per Sunday.

Our teacher situation has improved so that at the present each class has a teacher and an assistant or co-teacher. In this way the job is not so prone to become a chore and the students have a better chance to develop. The teachers are free to alternate or work as assistants to each other at their own discretion.

Much has been accomplished via the church bulletin, the Messenger, which weekly enters the homes of the membership through the efforts of the pastor and his family.

All in all a very commendable year has been enjoyed and much credit is due the Rev. Langford, the Commission on Education, the teachers and the church. God's work, we feel, has been advanced.

James E. Transue
Sunday School Superintendent

(CCS)
The following is a summary of the Campground Methodist Mens Club for the year 1957.

Officers elected:
E. H. Hatmaker . . . President
Jack Gasaway . . . Vice President
T. H. Lecroy . . . Sec. & Treas.

Outstanding meetings:
Meeting on Evangelism - The program included Family Night with dinner and a motion picture on evangelism.
Fish Fry in May was sponsored by the Club.
The Club was host to the Cobb County Club at their July Quarterly meeting. This was Family Night and Dinner. Meeting was held in the arbor.
Hamburger and hot dog sale sponsored by the club was held in October.

Projects of the Club:
Construction of a new church bulletin board.
Teams named for evangelism
Donations or fund raising for Camp Glisson.

Elmer Hatmaker
President . Methodist Men

(CCS)
1958

The Commissions, Worship, Evangelism, Education, Social Concerns, and Ecumenical Affairs were re-activated and chairman named for each with regular monthly meetings under the leadership of Wilson, J. Culpepper, pastor.

A new Sunday School class was organized with a membership of 34, a couples class, and was named for Rev. Culpepper and his wife Estelle.

Mr. Culpepper retired after one year at Camground because of failing health.
THREE CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION
RECEIVED BY THE WOMEN OF THE CHURCH
1959

The first study held in the spring at the church and met on Tuesday and Thursday evening and was enjoyed by seventeen women and two men. This course was taught by Mrs. S. Y. Allgood. Study of St. Mark.

The summer study held at the church was taught by Mrs. W. J. Culpepper entitled "Isaiah Speaks.

The October study held at the church and in the homes "Alaska and Hawaii. Led by Mrs. Culpepper with the ladies assisting.

The WSCS and Guild received recognition for these three studies.
1959 - 1961

David B. Sargent Pastor. Dave and his wife Ann contributed much to the on going of the church. The following was turned in to Mrs. B. Chastain, church historian by the pastor for the records:

1. A new gas furnace was installed.
2. The exterior of the church was painted.
3. The floors were refinished at the parsonage.
4. Thirty five members were received into the church.
5. The giving of the church increased to approximately $13,000 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 a 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 clubhouse.

Clyde Blaylock, Chairman of the official board and Chairman of the building committee died on Saturday, April 21, 1962 and was buried on Easter Sunday. He did a magnificent work 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.

(Pastor)
A joint meeting of the Campground church trustees and Marietta Campground was held at the Campground Church Sunday evening June 14th. The Campground Church Trustees present were: W. C. Gasaway, Clyde A Blaylock, B. J. Blackwell, S. Y. Allgood, John Lecroy, Joe Lecroy, Hugh Dorsey Simpson, Dewey Gable and Mrs. Verne Allgood. The Campground trustees present were: Mr. E. B. Hunton, Verne E. Allgood, Dewey Gable, from Campground, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Evanson from Mt. Bethel and Jake Groover from New Hope.

The Campground church trustees asked the Camp Ground Trustees to grant a deed to the Marietta Campground Church through its trustees a piece of land to be used for further building ground including the land where the church now stands.

After much discussion it was decided that a committee be appointed to measure what the church might need. Mr. Blaylock appointed Jack Gasaway, Hugh Simpson and Mr. Blaylock to meet Wednesday evening 17th 1959 at five thirty and the other trustees were to come at seven. Then the sketch would be drawn up and presented to the other church trustees of the Marietta Circuit and New Hope church for their approval.

"Beginning at the South West Corner of the present church property and following Westwardly along Roswell Road for 332 ft then Northwardly for 400 ft., then westwardly for 332 ft then Southwardly for 400 ft to a point of beginning."

This was granted.
The following is a report prepared for Mrs. B. A. Chastain, the Church Historian, by Harry Alderman, Pastor at Marietta Campground Church for seven years.

**Highlights:**

1. Inside the church was painted (old church)
2. Carport built for parsonage (old parsonage)
3. First unit of new church building finished
4. Kitchen of parsonage enlarged
5. New living room furniture bought (sofa, chair, and end tables and lamps).
6. New hot water heater installed.
7. New gas stove bought (parsonage)
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 and Sanctuary) $100,000.00 Building program $20,000 cash - $20,000 Conference and a $60,000 loan.
12. November 12th and 13th the ladies and men out on the first bazaar. Around 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.
13. A teen Canteen was organized, Juke Box purchased, Pool equipment and Ping Pong Table purchased and a Jr and Sr. Canteen met in clubhouse with the supervision led by Mrs. Kit Baker.
14. A Lay Mission was held involving some 150 people. The greatest spiritual uplift for the entire seven years.
15. Many people came to know Christ as their personal Saviour the people joining and leaving Campground church can be obtained from my reports to conference.

History continued by Harry Alderman.

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 terminolgy. Never-the-less, 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 to subdivisions - 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 sparkplugged 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 Lecroy 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. Helen, Woody, Tommy, Jodie and I.

The old church was a lovely place - though it always seemed 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 handmade 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 roll in Sunday School but 40 was an average attendance. The basement contained the nursery and a baby playpen occupied one corner. I offered to exchange the nursery for my study. The church office was a light airy room that had been tacked on. Doss Caldwell offered to paint the nursery shortly after he joined the church.

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

The other inconvenience was the lack of restroom facilities. There was one outdoor dilapidated toilet by this time almost abandoned. If a person was to be baptized water was carried from the pastor’s home for this. If a child was in need for a wet wash cloth, his mother brought one with her in the diaper bag from home. All needs for bathroom facilities were put in the background. When I asked the former pastor what people did.
cont' Harry Alderman's report . . .

he simply said "they go home". I knew 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, the first of a long range building program. It was completed some six months after our arrival. Jack Gassaway 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 one historical moment. Realizing our needs exceeded our capabilities, I went one day to the pine thicket behind the new annex and prayed. "Lord, if all you want from this little church is for me to bury the dead, marry the marriageable and baptize a few children then 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 other families to join hands and march under the banner of Christ. Roy and I became friends and we explored together the idea of modernizing the Camp Ground. The tent holders did not take too well to this idea so we concentrated our efforts on the church. The Camp Grounds could have been put into the hands of the conference, it could have been used the year round, like Glisson or Lake Junaluska but we could not get the consent of the tentholders, since the cabins they have built themselves and they feel like it belongs to them. So all our interest then centered on the church side of the road.

Roy's expert handling of getting the people together and rounding
Harry Alderman's report...

up the money made our fellowship hall, sanctuary more than a dream. Roy and Andrew and I stood by the pine thicket and prayed - "Lord which way 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 giant step forward. $90,000 later we had a new sanctuary. In two years we had absorbed the $11,000 debt on the first four room annex and paid our indebtedness from a total of $120,000 to $60,000. We thought this was financial progress. After the fellowship hall was built there remained the problem of furnishing. Earlier Jim Transue had saved aside $1,000 from the treasury which Mary Ellen Allgood had spent to furnish the annex. But now we had no one thousand dollars. 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 help?" It did. With $1,000 we bought 300 folding chairs. Again the Lord came through. The Young Adult Class furnished the study, the Culpepper Class furnished 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 youth center - of course it became a $59,000 but even this was cheap on the market of that time - 62,000 ft was built for less than $10.00 per square ft, by Mr. Charlie Thomas - good christian Methodist, contractor with a compassionate heart.

The youth building was dedicated September 15, 1968, and it included an upstairs partial basket ball court. The music box that Mrs. Baker had bought for the Teen Canteen was 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 Bentley and wife Phyllis moved into the old parsonage, and we moved to...
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 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 Bentley and wife Phyllis moved into the old parsonage, and we moved to Bertha Way to a beautiful new parsonage. 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, and the Huntons, the Lecroys, the Blackwells and the Davis'es. These people will have such names as Hrisak, Rabuns, Pensula and Pascalls. All a part of a Christian community called the Campground. I am proud to have had a part in it.

by Harry B. Alderman, Pastor 1962 to 1969
The idea of a Kindergarten began during revival services in early 1967. Gail Mowbray and Judy McCollum began researching the idea and an advisory committee was appointed. After several meetings, at which experienced people gave us help and advice, the advisory committee approved the proposed kindergarten.

The church loaned the money for initial expenses to the kindergarten and a Board of Directors of the kindergarten was set up. The board members were and still are (1968) Judy McCollum, Chairman; Ann Holcomb, Jo Adams, Tom Rogers and Nelson Wood, members of the Board. Ex Officio members Andrew Hembree and Mary Ellen Allgood. Also this year June Bentley has agreed to serve as teacher adviser.

It took many hours of hard work during the summer of 1967 in order to have the classroom ready for the opening day of school. Quite a few of our church members got in on the action but when the first day of school arrived our kindergarten was ready and beautifully equipped.

Gail Mowbray was to have been our lead teacher, as you know the Mowbrays moved away in August of 1967. We interviewed teachers and were very fortunate to hire Mrs. June Knieriem as lead teacher and Ann Holcomb as assistant.

The first school year opened with 24 students registering and 23 children completed the kindergarten year.

The board feels the first year was very successful, we also feel we have succeeded in providing this community with a quality
kindergarten. The reputation of Campground Kindergarten seems to be good so we can assume the parents of the children are pleased. Another reason we feel the first year was successful is because we operated in the black.

In the early part of 1968 we decided to expand the school. A four year class has been added along with our five year group. Both classes started this school year with full enrollment and a waiting list.

The teaching staff this year is June Knieriem, Susan Connelly, and Mary Hart.

The Board and Teaching Staff know we have a lot to learn, as you know there are no guidelines for a kindergarten in Cobb County or most of Georgia. We are trying to establish the best possible curriculum for our students. And all of those people involved in the kindergarten have found serving God through children is a great opportunity and very rewarding.

(Kindergarten report given at Administrative Board Meeting)
LAY WITNESS MISSION
April 1968

The Charge Lay Leader Roy P Varner, the Pastor the Rev. Harry Alderman, and an appointed committee met in late winter, of 1967 to plan a Lay Witness Mission. Fred Bentley and Ben C. Johnson were coordinators.

The Lay Witness Mission was held April 19th, 20th and 21st at the church with 150 people involved. Prayer groups were organized, a prayer vigil was in progress twenty four hours prior to the night the lay mission began.

Layman and Lay Women came, some from churches in other states as well as local churches to witness of their faith. On Friday April 19th a covered dish supper was held at the church with table group discussions following in assigned rooms. On Saturday April 20th coffees were held in the homes of the members with leaders prepared to lead in study. A luncheon was held, separate for men and women, with testimonies and sharing time following the meal.

Saturday night all groups came together for speaking and question and answer period. Sunday School was led by the visitors to the Lay Witness Mission. The Sunday worship hour was also a sharing time, with leaders being the guest speakers. Sunday lunch was enjoyed as a group at a nearby restaurant. Sunday night April 21st was the closing service with many local people participating.

All who witnessed the occasion agreed their spirits were lifted and they were drawn close to God.

(CR)
(This is also mentioned in Harry Alderman's report)
Dr. East Stanley Jones, world famous missionary and evangelist, held a one day Ashram at Campground United Methodist Church, December 2, 1970. The Ashram began at 9 A.M. Groups meeting in prayer and study led by Mr. Jones, enjoyed a sack lunch in the youth building. In the afternoon He spoke briefly then introduced Yaska Nishamura, who filled in for him, as he left early to keep an appointment. Testimonies were given of the days experience in the company of so great a man.

A preaching mission was held during the week of November 29 through December 4th at Smyrna United Methodist Church and sponsored jointly by the area churches in getting Mr. Jones to be the preacher for this meeting. He preached each evening, one being a healing service.
Much of the year's work 1969 - 1970 dealt with the organizational structure of the church. The Administrative Board and Council on Ministries were revamped. The leaders attended every training school possible to be up to date on the new organization of the church. Both the COM and Board got off to a good start under the direction of Paul K Shumpert and Joe Paschall. Fifty new members were added to the rolls of the church bringing the total membership to five hundred and seventy four.

In June 1970 the church entered a seven month year in preparation for the new calendar-fiscal year beginning in January 1971. The annual Conference year 1970 - 1971 was not one of exciting progress at Campground, but there are several things worthy of note for the history of the Church. Rev. B. H. Berrier was appointed to serve as pastor of the church for the second year. All groups in the church met during July to plan their year's work, and at the year's end most of the goals had been reached.

The national economic recession, plus the cut back at Lockheed Georgia seriously affected the number of new families moving into the area. Still there are forty two new members added to the church rolls. Average church attendance for the year was one hundred and forty nine. Total evaluation of all property was set by the trustees at $380,000.00.

A Spiritual Life Mission was held March 19-21. Dr. Gordon Thompson, Professor of Homiletics at Candler School of Theology
continue 1969-1971, B. H. Berrier, pastor

was the preacher. Rev. James Ling, a native of Malasia and Director of the United Methodist Youth Service Fund, was our Youth Leader.

In June, our youth minister, Howard Bentley was graduated from Emory University and returned to his home Conference in Kentucky. Phyllis and Howard made history with the young people, by presenting several dramas and involving all the young people of the church.

The church closed out the year in good fashion, and made plans for another twelve months of service.

(Pastor)
In 1971 the Work Area in Evangelism invited the Senior Citizens to dinner at the church. Twenty five people responded and became known as the V.I.P.'s.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Jordan  
Mr. Guy Dickerson  
Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Lancaster  
Mrs. H. W. Frey  
Mr. Cecil Page  
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Dimmock  
Mr. and Mrs. John Lecroy  
Mr. & Mrs. G. C. Elliott  
Mr. & Mrs. Cha. Black  
Mr. & Mrs. C. B. Sheffer  
Mrs. Dewey Smith  
Miss Amilee Sewell  
Mrs. Mattie Clackum  
Mrs. Toy Lee  
Mrs. Ruby Hembree  
Mrs. Elda Chastain  
Mrs. John Lord  
Mrs. M. L. Crowe

One of the first social activities of the group was a talent show featuring: Clarice Smith and Ruby Lancaster doing the Charleston, John Lecroy played the harp, Elda Chastain gave a reading, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Jordan sang and played the piano. The V.I.P.'s have brought canned goods for Must at thanksgiving time, they play Bingo, they bring the dishes they make best for the covered dish dinners. They have had speakers from the Bird Watchers Club of America, visitors from Volunteer Services and many have become volunteers in hospital work. Films have been shown of historical places in the states and overseas.

Their leaders have been Mrs. James Hardy, Mrs. Jack Downs and Mrs. Dick Davis. They are now co-sponsored by the Culppeper S.S. class and Friendship S. S. Class, these classes provide transportation. Also, 1976 The V.I.P.'s have a membership of seventy.
1971 - 1972

by Katherine Downs, for the Church Historian
Mrs. B. A. Chastain.

1971-1972 has found Marietta Campground United Methodist Church more involved with others than previous years. We helped sponsor MUST a Marietta Urban Organization, which also includes several other churches in the area. Each Saturday morning, our church bus goes to a low-income development area to furnish transportation for those who need to get to a shopping area. A small fee is charged for the pride of the participants. We have also donated linens, clothing and food for ones who have contacted this group for help.

Our church also helped a young girl with her two babies who were stranded in this area with no available help. She was temporarily aided financially and otherwise by the people of our church. As a result, she is situated here with a self-supporting job.

There has been a decline in the membership of the church as a result of the job situation at Lockheed. In one adult Sunday School class, four couples moved out of town in one month. The entire church has felt comparative loss.

Our WSCS has experienced its best year in that it has been so much better organized through Peggy Gilleland, as president. It has grown in numbers through membership drives and with new families in the church. The Guild is also active and each of these organizations have approximately twenty active members. Both of these groups have changed their fiscal year to coincide with the calendar year.
The women of the church have had a cook book published containing 185 recipes and it sells for $2.50. The first order of 500 books have been sold, 150 more obtained and sales have been profitable. In October and March, we had a "Cook Book Dinners" serving dishes using recipes in the book and served approximately 200 each dinner. As a result of the meals, we were able to add $500 to the church treasury each time. Also, $400.00 was paid on the air conditioner added to the youth building in June. We have also helped the Men's Club with their chicken dinner, where another $400 profit was realized.
On September 17, 1972 a centennial celebration was held. The people dressed for the morning worship service as they did in 1872. Approximately two hundred fifty people attended a covered dish dinner and later came together for the drama in the afternoon. The drama, "Scene From The Past" portraying Henry and Abigail Jones, their children Walter and Rosalee; Jonas and Sarah Smith and Hansel Fridell. The cast included Mr. and Mrs. Dean Brownlow, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Thomas, Lisa Jordan, Chuck Brownlow, Harner Dolvin and Gary Davis. Mr. Dolvin represented Rev. Goggins, a minister in the early days. Forty eight people representing families of the early days walked down the aisle of the church as their names were called, this too was included in the drama. Tom Lanford, Minister of the church represented an early District Superintendent.

The Marietta Daily Journal wrote: "A centennial celebration comes only once every hundred years. That fact may be obvious but what is not so evident is why a rash of beards and mustaches has broken out at the Marietta Campground United Methodist Church. The reason is that there is much to do about the Campground United Methodist Church's one hundredth birthday which will be celebrated Sunday."

(A copy of the book, prepared especially for the day and given to all who were present, may be found with other clippings in the church scrapbook.)
In October 1971, the Women's Division voted that there should be "one new inclusive organization for women, with a new name," to be a successor to the Women's Society of Christian Service and Wesleyan Service Guild.

The ladies at Campground Church were a part of the 1,500,000 members and 33,500 societies and guilds with a budget of $11,100,000, to join hands in this new organization in the United Methodist Church. Under the leadership of Mrs. Lee Bierce the change took place at Campground with committees and Mission Coordinators in Christian Personhood, Supportive Community, Christian Social Involvement and Christian Global Concerns.

As this important year goes down on paper one remembers the fine activities and gestures of outreach that followed. The offerings of money, food and time given to Must Ministries the Sara Murchy Home, Campershirs, Life memberships and money sent for Missions. Having Mother of the Year, Mrs. Emerson Cochran and Mrs. Lanford (pastor's mother) as speakers for the Mother's Day banquets. Fashion shows and Bazaars, workshops and business meetings made the new United Methodist Women's organization a successful one, with Mrs. Peggy Gilleland as president and Mrs. Thurman Slone as vice president - 1974 - 75.

(UVM)
& handbook
The dreams of the W.S.C.S and the Wesleyan Service Guild became a reality when the Chrismon tree hanging full of Christian symbols adorned the sanctuary for the first time on Christmas of 1972.

The ladies, led by Emily Anthony, began work on the symbols early in the year of 1972. Each family interested carried material home and made it a family project. Groups led by Jewel Woodliff and Exie Davis along with Peggy Gilleland, Katherine Downs, Lee Bierce and Roberta Lanford worked with enthusiasm to finish the first Chrismon tree in time for dedication and lighting for Christmas 1972.

A special service was held and explanation was given for the symbols that decorated the tree.
Randy Nichols, native of Louisiana, and student at Emory University, came to Campground in 1973 as Minister of Music and Youth.

In his work he has involved many in varied and interesting activities. Summers for young people have been spent in camping, swimming, retreats and cook-outs. The Godspell performance was a smashing success and several repeat performances were held elsewhere.

Specials are not only presented at Sunday morning worship but extra specials at Easter, Christmas and during revivals.

Under Randy’s supervision the church became involved in providing transportation and lunches for underprivileged children for two weeks during the summer of 1975. Must Ministry Day Camp.

Other students who have directed the youth at Marietta Campground United Methodist Church while they were enrolled at Emory are as follows:

Gary Conner
Dick Frasure
Howard Bentley
Tom Giffen
One of the specialities of 1973 was the church's participation in the nationwide movement called Key 73.

Early in the year a film was shown to the Methodist Women, the Men's Club and the Adult Sunday School Classes. Members of the church wrote the devotionals for Advent. The Adult classes studied Luke during Advent and during Lent. The entire membership was invited to meet in homes of the members to watch a nationwide T.V. Special. "Faith in Action". Eight hostesses and eight discussion group leaders were selected and twenty families invited to each home. A noon prayer call on December 26th-January 6th was observed. Posters were displayed witnessing participation in calling the Nation to Christ. A breakfast was held and Yaska Nishimura was the speaker and told of her conversion to Christ. $51.00 was sent to the Tokyo Christian Schools. During Holy Week the ladies of the church and community held coffees in their homes to talk about Christ.

An Administrative Board retreat was held 1st week end in May at Tillman's Camp. Groups participated in the Billy Graham Crusade in Atlanta in June. God's Forever Family from Kennesaw Jr. College came to the Church and witness on Palm Sunday. The College choir presented an hour of music on another Sunday. A family picnic was held at Sheffer's Lake for the whole church. An Arts and Crafts day was held. The church cooperated with neighboring churches and held a Thanksgiving Service. The Year ended with Holy Communion on New Year's Eve.

The six phase chairman for the year of activities were: Chuck Lee, Elaine Wiley, Harper Dolving, Earl Robinson, Gerry Davis, Joe Ferguson, Media Chairman, Esther Davis, Pastor Tom Lanford, & Mary Ellen Allgood General Chairman.

(CR)
In August 1973 a notice was mailed out with the church bulletin as follows: "THE WANTED: TEN BRAVE CHRISTIANS". Who for one month will: 1. Meet once each week to pray together. 2. Will give two hours time each week to God. 3. Will give God 1/10th of their earning. 4. Will spend from 5:30 to 6:00 each morning in prayer and meditation. 5. Will witness for God their experience to others.

Ten people came forward to participate in this experiment. Seven continued after three months and changed the name of the group to the Searchers, meeting each Wednesday evening for Bible study and sharing.

This group was formed after careful study of the book John Wesley Experiment Group, originating in the state of Florida.
The year 1974 probably will not go down as the greatest year in the history of Campground United Methodist Church but it was a most eventful year. It was during the year that a committee called "GO CAMPGROUND" or Get Organized Campground was started. The committee was to examine needs and set priorities and get things moving. Even though the committee did not function long it was the motivation for several goals to be met. One of the big events of the year was the purchase of a new organ. This added greatly to the worship in the church. The youth choir presented "Godspell" and the children's choir with their new robes sang at many of the morning worship services.

The renovation of the offices began during this year and it was also during 1974 that Chuck and Rhonda Jackson came to the church as part of the church staff. Chuck, a theology student, came as a custodian or associate pastor in charge of building and grounds. The church softball team won two trophies and the ladies had a most successful bazaar with all the proceeds going to missions.

It was during 1974 that the church voted to continue services even during Campmeeting. This did not cut down on Campmeeting at all but did provide worship for many who would have missed all together otherwise.

A new Sunday School class was organized for the young adults and during the summer the "day camp" was held for children once a week.

One of the humorous events was the Mother Day banquet and fashion show with the men as fashion models in ladies attire. This will long be remembered as one of the funniest gatherings in the church.

We held a New Life Mission early in the year with Rev. Walter Edwards
preaching. It was also during this year that Gerry Davis, one of our young men who had heard the call to preach, began to have more opportunities to serve in the church. We all have a feeling of pride in the part we have had in Gerry's work.

The events of 1974 are all jumbled together and it is hard to remember just when things did take place but the church was active and growing and while it is probably not the greatest year we have known it was a good year.
Rev Henry S. Moody, Pastor of the Evangelical United Methodist Church in Elkton, Virginia was the preacher for the revival services held at the church April 27th through May 1st, 1975.

The services were held daily at 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. The 10 a.m. service was primarily a Bible study. It was well attended by both men and women.

The minister was treated each day to lunch provided by the people.

Jim Stephens, chairman of evangelism was in charge of the arrangements for the revival.
$1,000 was given to world and local missions from the proceeds of the Church Bazaar. The Bazaar is an annual event and has participation from the children as well as the senior citizens.

A children’s shop was added this year along with the usual crafts, plants, canned goods, flea market and baked goods.

Prior to the event many workshops were held. People were appointed early in the year to lead in the various booths.

Baked goods, including old-timey homemade fried apple and sweet potatoe pies, were served along with homemade soup, hot dogs and soft drinks and were made available throughout the day.
1976

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Pairs</th>
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<tr>
<td>1976</td>
<td>At the annual Sweetheart Banquet of the Men's Club, Esther Hardy was named Woman of the Year and Harper Dolvin was made Man of the Year. Ellen White, the church secretary was elected Sweetheart.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>Esther Hardy and Harper Dolvin (others in previous years)</td>
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<td>1974</td>
<td>Linda Davis and Frank Haman</td>
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<td>1973</td>
<td>Susie Holcombe and Carlos Davis</td>
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<td>1972</td>
<td>Letha Hembree and Barron Gilleland</td>
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<td>1971</td>
<td>Peggy Gilleland and C. C. Davis</td>
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<td>1970</td>
<td>Jewel Woodruff and Hugh Roberts</td>
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<td>1969</td>
<td>Katherine Downs and Andrew Hembree</td>
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<td>1968 and 1967</td>
<td>Connie Caldwell and Roy Varner</td>
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<td>1966</td>
<td>Edna Nix and Paul Shumpert</td>
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<td>1965</td>
<td>Mary Ellen Allgood &amp; Rev S. Y. Allgood</td>
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The Finance Committee under the leadership of Carlos and Linda Davis sponsored the Pony Express, a system soliciting the help of each member in securing estimated giving. Trail Bosses volunteered on a Sunday morning, and were given saddlebags at a special breakfast in February at the church where they put the names of the members assigned to them on the strap. The Trail Bosses first estimated their own giving, enclosed it in an envelope and carried it to the next member on his list and he in turn carried it to the next . . the last one on the list returned the saddlebag to the Trail Boss.

In two weeks the bags were turned in. The total estimated giving was approximately $45,000.
A Service of Praise and Thanksgiving was presented Sunday, March 21, 1976 when the church Organ was dedicated.

Participating in the service were: Mrs. Lee Bierce, chairman of work area in Worship; Ms. Dianne Williams, organist; Ms. Debbie Williams, pianist; Randy Nichols, director of music; the church choir; and the pastor, the Rev. Tom Lanford.

The West Virginia Wesleyan Tour Choir came to Campground Monday night, April 12, 1976. A covered dish dinner was shared in the gym prior to their presentation in the church sanctuary.
A Cantata "Hallelujah! What A Savior", by John W. Peterson was presented by the Marietta Campground United Methodist Church Choir under the direction of Randy Nichols. Tom Lanford, the pastor was the narrator and Dianne Williams, Accompanist.

The choir included: Joy Davis, Susie Holcombe, Peggy Gilleland, Marilyn Johnson, Emma Lou Simmons, Lois Stephens, Debbie Williams, Martha Jo Gantt and Barbara Sturtz.

Ike Bledsoe, Dick Davis, Verne Allgood, Paul Buttrey, Russ Johnson and David Stephens.

Selections:
- Hallelujah! What A Savior
- Tell Me The Stories of Jesus
- Behold, We Go Up To Jerusalem
- Blessed Is The King Of Israel
- My House Shall Be Called The House of Prayer
- Tis Midnight, And On Olive's Brow
- Behold I Bring Him Forth To You
- He Carried The Cross For Me
- Father, Forgive Them
- When I Survey The Wondrous Cross
- Christ Arose

(CR)
A drama was presented by the Marietta Campground Methodist Youth, Sunday March 14, 1976 celebrating the bicentennial.

Scenes from the year 1923 and 1943 were re-enacted.

Participating were:

**Jr Hi**
- Tracey Mantell
- Nora Bierce
- Joey Davidson
- Rod Slone
- Bobby Barnes
- David Lee
- Larry Stephens
- Rusty Simson
- Tonya Duckett
- Jane Shumoert

**Seniors**
- Sandra Gantt
- Terri Taylor
- Bobby Mantell
- Stanley Gantt
- David Stephens
- Keith Shumoert
- Danny Simpson
- Hal Bierce

(CR)
Randy Nichols graduated from Emory, Candler School of Theology in June and returned to Louisiana.

He was given a ministerial robe by members of the congregation of Campground Church.

On the evening of Sunday, May 23rd, he was given a special dinner at the church gym along with a miscellaneous shower.

From the paper "Reflections" which is mailed out to all members each week, Randy writes a note of thanks as follows:

Dear Friends,

It is with a great deal of sadness that I make plans to move. The past three years have been very happy ones for me, and I want you to know that each of you has been a part of that.

I want to thank you for the "going away party", the beautiful robe, and all of the expressions of good wishes as I go my way. But even more, I want to thank you for the kindnesses that have been spread so generously over the past three years. There is no adequate way to express my appreciation.

I hope in the remaining weeks I will have an opportunity to speak to many of you individually; but until then, accept this heartfelt thanks.

With love,

Randy

(CR)
What a great year this has been for me personally and to be able to work side by side with the women in Campground United Methodist Church for the glory of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. We had a beautiful installation service on December 17, 1975. Each woman vowed to work harder than she ever had before.

On March 3, 1976, to begin our Lenten program we had a twelve hour prayer vigil at the church. The women came for thirty minute intervals. On May 8th and 9th, five women attended the District Retreat at Lake Jackson. This was truly a spiritual retreat with everyone coming away with the feeling that they were blessed, which made the rest of the year more enriching for them.

On May 17th we had our United Methodist Women's Banquet. We encouraged all the women in the church to make themselves a bicentennial dress to wear to the many functions during the bicentennial year. The speaker for the banquet was Mrs. Thelma Morrison. We learned the needs, as well as fun and fellowship for all who attended.

On June 13th the ladies presented the program for the morning worship service at the church. Mrs. Mattie Powell, lay preacher brought the message with members of the UMW ushering, rendering special music, leading in responsive readings and prayers. Mrs. Powell spoke on the Home and Rearing of the Children.

On September 17th and 18th, four ladies attended the District Retreat at the Ignatius House. The weekend was so inspiring so that Mrs. Carol Slone, vice president felt that we should share it with the other women in the church which we did on the following Sunday evening at the worship service at the church.

The big day arrived for us to have our fourth bazaar. We wanted to make $1,000.00 to go to missions. We had already turned this over to God when we did our planning and you can count on God to do His part. The weather was beautiful, it was truly a warm Fall day. Everyone worked very hard to have their rooms ready and were blessed with customers. We made our $1,000.00 and it will all go to help someone
in need. I know God wants us to reach as far out as we can to minister to His people.

We have made booklets entitled "Praise The Lord" in which we have seven daily meditations and scriptures for the women to use before we have our quiet meal on November 18, 1976. Mrs. Betty Hodges will speak to us on Missions, and tell us what we can do to help. Mrs. Gail McClure will bring special music with accompanying guitar. We have prepared ourselves for this service and we know that it will greatly enrich our lives.

Esther Davis, President
United Methodist Women
Campground United Methodist Church
LOYALTY DAY

Loyalty Day was observed on Sunday, September 12, 1976 at the church. Each member of the church was urged to attend the worship service on that day. Chuck Lee, chairman of the York Area in Evangelism made arrangements for the day.

Members were asked to sign a pledge if they could not attend asking them to reaffirm their loyalty and support the church with their prayers, better attendance and their gifts.

A covered dish lunch was served in the gym following the morning worship.

Special guest was the new youth director, his wife and baby, the Alan Jeffersons.
The Campground United Methodist Church Library dedication was held after the morning worship service, Sunday, November 14, 1976.

The program was as follows:

- Call to Dedication by Minister, Tom Lanford
- Presentation of Library by Librarian, Dianne Williams
- Response and Acceptance by Board Chairman, Harper Dolvin
- Response by Peggy Gilliland, Member of Library Committee
- Response by Holly Holcomb, Representative of Children
- Response by Joyce McDaniel, Representative of Adults and Parents
- Response by Youth
- Response by Council of Ministries, Chairman Ike Bledsoe
- Response by Entire Congregation

We dedicate this library to the glory of God and in worship and praise of His Name. To the good of all mankind and in loving memory and honor of all who are now and have ever been part of this church.

Prayer of Dedication: Minister, Tom Lanford.

A Book Fair was held the same day with the following note:

We invite you to go by the Library and look it over and perhaps check out a book. It is your library and is here for your use. There are books of all types and for study and spiritual growth as well as fun and recreational reading.

Also, look over the book display. These books are on consignment from Cokesbury Book Store. You may purchase them for your own use, but we hope you will purchase some for the library. They can be donated in honor or in memory or just donated to the library. This is a great way to remember and honor a friend.

The book display will continue through the evening worship service. When you come up for supper at 6:30 and join in the Egypt slide presentation you can look over the books again.

We want to say thanks to Dianne Williams for this book display from Cokesbury.
Several men from the church attended the annual Men's Retreat at Rock Eagle in October, 1976. Dick Davis, President of the United Methodist Men at Camoground, Paul Buttrey, Thurman Slone, Frank Haman, Tom Lanford, Alan Jefferson, Jim Stephens, Ike Bledsoe and Don Robinson.

The men were inspired and filled with the Holy Spirit. They shared their experiences with the group at church on Sunday following the retreat and from this a Prayer and Sharing Group came into being. Each Wednesday evening at 8 p.m. from 18 to 20 people gather in a home for sharing, studying and praying together.

Homes that were opened up to receive the group in 1976 have been:

The Don Robinsons
Bob Mosers
Dick Davis’es
Gene Simmons
Thurman Slones
Jim Stephens’es
Verne Allgoods
Alan Jeffersons
Frank Hamans
Ike Bledsoes
Paul Buttreya
The year closed out in good fashion. The Cantata under the direction of Lou Allen, Dianne Williams, Pianist, and Ike Bledsoe as Narrator was held on December 19th at the church at 7:30 in the evening.

Member of Choir: Vivian Bankston, Lee Bierce, Joy Davis, Peggy Gilliland, Andrea Hembree, Susie Holcomb, Jo Jefferson, Marilyn Johnson, Emma Lou Simmons, Lois Stephens, Debbie Williams, Bonnie Brannock, Jean Dunn, Martha J Gantt, Leatha Hembree, Barbara Startt, Paul Buttrey, Gerry Davis, Russ Johnson, Collin Stackhouse, David Stephens, Ike Bledsoe, Dick Davis, Richard, and Alan Jefferson.

The young people under the direction of the youth leader, Alan Jefferson presented a live Nativity on the nights of December 20th and 21st of December.

The young people also decorated the Chrismon Tree and made wreaths for the classroom doors and doors of the church.

The Christmas Eve Service, led by the pastor was well attended at 9:30 on the night of the 24th, 1976. The service closed with the traditional candlelighting outside and a closing prayer by the pastor, Tom Lanford.
On February 2nd the Men's Club held their Sweetheart banquet in the church gym with the Auburn Avenue Rib Shack preparing the food. The following were given special honor:

1976 Woman of the Year  Peggy Bledsoe  
Man of the Year  Paul Shumoert  
Sweetheart  Esther Davis

On February 27, 1977 at 3 O'clock in the afternoon the congregation met to vote whether or not to change the name of the church. Harper Dolvin along with several other members used every means possible to promote a change. Letters for the change as well as letters against the move were published in the weekly newsletter to the people. Mr. Dolvin was not permitted to speak from the pulpit but did pass out flyers outside the church door to members encouraging the change.

The meeting on Sunday the 27th day of February, 1977 was held in a very orderly manner. The pastor presided and two people, Dewey Gable and Susie Holcomb responded to the invitation to say a few words. Mr. Gable wanted to have a vote by proxy for those who could not get to the church. Mrs. Holcomb wanted to postpone the meeting since some of the people were sick and could not attend the meeting. According to the pastor the Discipline clearly states that this could not be done. A person has to be present to be able to vote. The meeting could not be postponed.

The vote was made by secret ballot. The majority voted to retain the name CAMPGROUND.

1977 continued . . . . . .
The April Easter Sunrise Service was held April 10, 1977 at the Marietta Campground arbor. Father John Moore, pastor of St. Joseph's Catholic Church was guest speaker. A quartet, Paul Buttrey, Joy Davis, Jean Dunn, and Ike Bledsoe sang for the group.

The young people led by Alan and Jo Jefferson, and Don and Joan Robinson prepared breakfast for the congregation at the church immediately following.

The Festival of Faith was held May 1st through May 5 with Nat Long, Jr., as revival preacher. The song leader for the services was Tommy Sweat and pianist Edna Mix. The services were sponsored by the Work Area in Evangelism.

The May retreat was held at Pickens Paradise on May 20, 21, and 22nd, 1977 with Rex Kaney from Must Ministries leading the group of twenty four attending. Thurman Slone, Chairperson for Stewardship was in charge of arrangements.

The Senior Citizens were honored by Work Area in Social Concerns on Sunday May 15th. Each Senior Citizen was given a carnation prior to the 11 o'clock worship service.

Peggy Bledsoe was named Director for Bible School. The average attendance for the June School was 65.

1977 continued . . . . . . . . . . . .
Thirty five youth participated in the Dinner-Variety show held August 27, 1977. The dinner was prepared by the pastor and his wife, Roberta and Tom Lanford. The young people assisted. The menu consisted of spaghetti, french bread, crisp green salad, beverage and dessert. The show featured talent from the young people's group. Around 150 people enjoyed the show in the gym.

During Christian Education Week the congregation celebrated with a drama called "Two Hundred Years of Caring." Members from each Sunday School class participated. The role of Robert Raikes was played by Tom Lanford. C. C. Davis represented John Wesley. Ike Bledsoe is Chairperson for Christian Education.

The World Gospel Mission came to Campground United Methodist Church on October 14, 15, and 16, 1977. Four missionaries spoke and many of the people made commitments to support mission work. This was led by Jim and Lois Stephens chairpersons for missions.

Four months after annual conference a vacancy was created elsewhere and the pastor, Tom Lanford was moved to a church in Dalton Ga. and Jimmy Thurman came to Campground Church from Augusta, Ga. The change took place on November 2, 1977. Martha, the pastor's wife and their two children, Greg and Kara were welcomed and given a roundup after the evening worship service.

32 new pews were given by the congregation and two screens for front rows. All were given in honor or in memory of loved ones. Some donations were made, totaling close to $9,000. A service of dedication continued....
1977

was held on November 13, 1977. The district superintendent was present, the Mr. Charles Williams. The new pastor, Jimmy Thurman brought the morning message. Others taking part in the service were: Bob Mantell, chairperson of the Board of Trustees and Harper Dolvin Charge Lay Leader.

The annual Thanksgiving service was held at Campground on Thursday, November 23, 1977. Cloverdale Baptist Church congregation with their pastor Bill Kite, and East Marietta Christian Church pastor were guest at Campground and participated in the program.

Sunday evening, December 18th, a cantata was presented by the church choir "Specially For Shepherds", directed by Lou Allen. Singing were: Vivian Bankston, Lee Bierce, Joy Davis, Peggy Gilleland, Susie Holcomb, Jo Jefferson, Cheryl Lassiter, Jan Larkin, Lois Stephens, Emma Lou Simson, Bonnie Brannock, Jean Dunn, Sharon Hardy, Leatha Hembree, Barbara Startt. Mark Anders, Tim Anders, Paul Buttrey, Richard Hardy, Ike Bledsoe, John Burnside, Dick Davis, Dan Dudley, Alan Jefferson, and Dianne Williams Organist.

The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service December 24, 1977 was well attended. It was held at 7 P.M., early so that the children would be home to bed early and wait the arrival of Santa. The pastor Jimmy Thurman brought the devotions.

The year 1977 was closed out with a burning service at the church at 11:20. The congregation wrote their sins on paper and burned them on the altar.
With the coming of a new minister, Jimmy Thurman, came new ideas and found folks at Campground busy trying to be the church in a community that reaches out.

The young adult in the In Between Class began in January to try and reactivate their members. The following announcement appeared in the mail out bulletin which was tried and increased their attendance in the days to come.

Coming Up For Young Adults

Do you feel that your prayers go no higher than the ceiling? Then join us for the next six weeks as we look at how we talk with the Lord.

1/15 Pastor's Thoughts on Prayer...Jimmy Thurman
1/22 Why Pray .... Katherine Downs
1/29 How To Pray .... Iko Blodsoo
2/5 Power of Prayer .... Mary Ellen Allgood
2/12 Recognizing Answers. .... Paul Buttroy
2/19 Experiences with Prayer .... Jim Stephens

The series of lessons proved to be rewarding, everyone was invited from college through early 30's to be a part. They kicked off the study with an evening of fellowship for pizza on Jan. 14th at 7 p.m.

Lillies for Easter, A New Project for 1978 and engineered by the young people under the supervision of Alan Jefferson, youth minister.

"For the Sunday preceding Easter, the wooden cross will stand at the altar. It will be barren and rough, to remind us of the harsh punishment that Christ suffered on the cross."

On Easter Sunday the cross was covered with lillies to symbolize the victory of the resurrection. The lillies were donated by the church members at a set price. After Easter the lillies were taken to the nursing homes and pinned on the elderly ladies.
1978

Many programs of outreach were put into practice during the year.

Rice bags given out months in advance to Easter were placed in each home and filled by adults and children and young people with pennies, nickels, and dimes, then they were brought to the foot of the cross on Easter Sunday. The money was sent to United Methodist Committee on Relief to help relieve world hunger. Sunday March 26, 1978.

The Haney family was adopted by the church, a mother and her two children. Groceries and clothes are brought to the church each fourth Sunday. This is sponsored by the Work Area in Ecumenical Affairs under the leadership of Mao Gattis. Another family who called on the church for help, the Dye family, continues to be helped with their various needs.

One of the members, Edith Wood, R. N. served as resident nurse at a United Methodist Church sponsored camps for the retarded on July 16, 1978.

Campground Church joined with the North Georgia Conference churches to raise $5,000,000 not to meet the needs of retired ministers and their widows. Campground's share of the goal over the next three years is $14,808. On Sunday April 23rd commitments were made by the members for $9,260. Co-chairmen for the Crusade are James Hawkins and Thurman Slone.

Another first at the church was the Church Growth Seminar held at First Baptist Church, Marietta. 19 people from the church attended. Those people who attended acted as a task force to lay ground work for a program of Evangelism. Books entitled How to Grow a Church were distributed. A meeting was held at the parsonage with the pastor leading. Theology and motives of Evangelism were put into practice...dealing with special situations and a plan for action...then visitation was set up every first and third Monday nights in each month.

Worship was made more meaningful during August. Work Area in Worship under Esther Davis and Family Ministries Coordinator secured Acworth Beach for a church wide picnic on August 29th with vesper services concluding the outing. Eighty nine people attended.
The question was asked at a Council on Ministries meeting, "How Can We Make Our Charge Conference More Meaningful?" Committees were appointed well in advance to take care of food, decorations and reports. The Mission Study on China was the theme of the evening, as it began with a fellowship meal of sweet and sour fork with the use of chopsticks. Fortune Cookies helped us celebrate as individuals arose to their feet reading out accomplishments over the past year that were printed as "fortunes" inside the cookies. The emcee acted out the role of Confucius. His "Confucius says..." before each Work Area Chairperson gave their report kept the entire group laughing. The emcee as well as many others were dressed in native costumes of China. The activities building was decorated with kites, balloons, umbrellas, and other Chinese artifacts. Reports included a composite report from the Council on Ministries and Administrative Board. Each Work Area Chairperson shared projections for the year 1979; so also did the trustees, treasurer, United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men. The youth minister reported via a Samaritan youth minister complete with shaven head, and large mustache. Interpreting for the "Chinese Visitor" was a member of the youth department. The pastor gave his report as the "Holy Man" from China and the District Superintendent joined in with making his statements while holding an opened umbrella. During the proceedings the 1979 budget was adopted and lay officials for 1979 were elected.

The youth sang "Everything is Beautiful" and truly it was on this particular evening. The meeting concluded with a Chinese Snake Dance and the church was off with a great start into 1979.
The Christmas festivities prevailed throughout December this year. The children's Christmas party under supervision of Barbara Starrett, Coordinator was held in the gym with the children seeing a film, playing games and making their own banana splits. Well in advance they brought socks of many colors to decorate a sock tree which was later put in the narthex for all to see and enjoy. The socks were taken later to the Methodist Children's Home.

The Adult Classes in the Sunday School and the United Methodist Women and Men were treated to Progressive Parties, exchanging gifts and revealing secret pals. Food was provided for needy families and clothes bought for a homeless child.

The Work Area in Worship under guidance of pastor and chairperson sponsored a "Hanging of the Greens" night. A beautiful wreath adorned every door in church and Sunday School building. The Chrismon Tree was in place in the front of the church and the Advent Wreath made the church very worshipful for the Christmas Eve Service by candlelight.

The young people led by Cindy and Steve Casteel thrilled everyone with their live Nativity in five scenes for two nights with goats, donkey and sheep from the Bentley farm.

A year end burning service was held on Sunday evening the 30th of December. The congregation wrote their shortcomings. sins on paper and burned them at the altar.

The congregation also did well financially in 1979. The first time in history of church that the budget was met, $89,580.00. The 1980 budget is set for a total of $91,741.00.

GOD BLESS US ALL

* * * * * * *
Highlights of 1979

During Lent a Sunday School Attendance Contest was held. The active members were divided into two teams, the Blue and Red. This was over a period of seven Sundays leading up to Easter. 216 were present on April 15th. The end total was 723 points for Blues and 630 for Reds. A dinner was held in the activities building Sunday night April 23rd at 6:30 p.m. The Blues having won were treated to this meal by the Reds.

Special Communion Services were held for the children, Sunday March 25th, 1979 in the Chapel. The children met in their own individual classrooms at 9:45 and then went into the chapel where the significance of Holy Communion was explained. Barbara Startt is Coordinator for the children.

Rickey Gasaway, Coach for the Campground soft ball team organized the group for active participation in the League sponsored by the churches.

The Work Area in Education organized a Square Dance Class for interested people. The Little General Cloggers performed on March 10th in the activities building and afterwards people signed up for the classes. A caller was contacted and the following week arrangements made for the beginner's class for square dancers.

People of other races and nationalities have been guest speakers at Campground church including, Yaska Nishamura 1973 during the Key 73 program, Tanamoto in the 30's and a Black minister from the Sara Murphy Home for boys. The first Black family to unite with the church was this year 1979. The Tharpe family who come from Chicago Illinois, a family of four.

Three groups meeting in a study during the fifty days to Pentecost are well attended, studying the book by Alan Walker, Breakthrough.

A new group of ladies, the Pathfinders was organized in January of this year. Thirteen ladies attended the April meeting to hear a lady speak on Abused Women and explain about the shelter now being operated in Cobb County for the Abused Women.
The first time for a man and wife to be named Man and Woman of the year at Campground. Jim and Los Stephens were awarded plaques for their outstanding service of 1978, especially with the senior citizens in the church and community.

Allan and Joe Jefferson and little Becky finished their work at Emory and the church and moved back to their native Florida. Allan as youth director, associate pastor and Jo as secretary for the church left in June 1979 and Steve and Cindy Casteel moved in their place at the Jr. parsonage to take up work as associate pastor and youth director and secretary.

Celebration of Pentecost

Prior to Pentecost Sunday three study groups using the book "Breakthrough" met every Wednesday night for several weeks for discussion and study. A Holy Spirit Seminar climax ed the study with all groups meeting at the church on Saturday June 2nd. Pentecost Sunday on June 3rd, a birthday party for the church was held with a cake and favors for all. Balloons were hoisted from several pews and given out by the young people to all present. After the service they were let go at the same time to soar into the heavens which made a pretty sight with messages inside that might fall to the ground and be recognized as God working through people at the church to make His name known.

The Administrative Board at a meeting in March voted to employ Mol Sholl over a twelve month period to help with an in depth study and survey of the church and community. Committees were set up and members trained. Church Growth Ministries, Inc have been very instrumental in church growth.

At a meeting on June 10th, 1979 the Cemetery was made the responsibility of the church and $300 a year will be placed in the budget for upkeep and volunteer donations will also be accepted.

A called church conference November 11, 1979 voted to lease the land known as the Triangle Property to a banking institution. The lease handled jointly by the Church and Campground Campmeeting is for 40 years with an income the first ten years of $15,000. 20% increase in the lease funds each ten years.
MEN'S CLUB'S HONORS:

1977
Man of the Year: Bill Gantt
Woman of the Year: Betty Hrisak
Sweetheart of the Men's Club: Joy Davis

1978
Man of the Year: Jim Stephens
Woman of the Year: Lois Stephens
Sweetheart of the Men's Club: Katherine Downs

1979
Man of the Year: John Burnside
Woman of the Year: May Gattis
Sweetheart of Men's Club: Alice Register
1980 was a special church year in that the Methodist Church celebrated the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Sunday School and Camp Ground United Methodist Church celebrated 111 years. Three special days were set aside for recognition of these events: dramas on April 20th and June 29th and a special banner day on Sept. 28th. The congregation dressed in 1890 attire and a picnic lunch followed the June meeting.

The Sunday School teachers were honored during Christian Education week and during this time, a new class was organized for Bible Study with Rev. Thurman teaching. The name they chose is "The Seekers". Also, on October 26th, the Calpepper (now Javes Dyer) class had a reunion and 45 attended Sunday School (to hear Rev. Clyde Lee) and the worship service, and 75 were in attendance for lunch in the youth building. Plans are to make this an annual affair.

During Lent, Sunday School members wore wrist bands with another person's name for whom they offered special prayers. A contest was also held. "Proclaim the Word" was the title of our revival held May 18-21, with the meetings being led by Mark Hadland and Lee Cornell.

Rev. Neil Scholl led a Spiritual Gifts Seminar on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1st.

On September 6th, The Trinity Foundation presented a program at the Methodist Campground beginning at 2 P.M. and continuing through the evening service. It was a Spiritual Holiness Bible Conference and Rally. Visiting ministers helped with the program.

$500.00 was collected for world hunger through the Love Loaf Program and food labels helped support Southwest Indian Schools.

Pan Page served as co-ordinator for a most successful Vacation Church School. The dates for this were June 16-20.

A family outing at Asworth Beach was held August 17; 70 people attended.
October 11th was "Autumn Fest Day, in which all church ladies were involved, as well as the men who served lunch, and the youth who helped with games, etc. This was sponsored by the United Methodist Women and with Pam Page as president, the women have 3 circles and new interest in the church and missions are evident. They sponsored a Youth Valentine Party, helped with the U.M.S.T. program, assisted in the community in the "Heads on Wheels" program and helped the men with the chicken fry, among the many other things. They attended a retreat at Rock Eagle.

The Men's Club changed their meeting time to the first Sunday morning of each month for breakfast at the church. Again this year, they sponsored the annual Sweetheart Banquet, at which time they name the outstanding man and woman and Sweetheart of the year. They sponsored the Christmas party at the Hilton Hotel, had successful chicken fries, helped with food at the bazaar and had a record number to attend the retreat at Rock Eagle.

The youth have had a successful year under the leadership of Steve and Cindy Casteel. They have been involved in a "Clown" ministry for which they received help from a group in Columbus, Mississippi. They had their first youth revival in the Fall, performed the musical, "Lighthouse" for Camp Ground and several other churches. They sponsored the drive-throughs at Easter and Christmas and helped with Senior Citizen Christmas favors and worked at winterizing their homes. Several week-ends found them away on retreats and they had several "lock-ins" at the home church.

Camp Ground Church was busy during the Christmas season with the many planned activities which involved the entire membership: the trimming of the Christmas tree, Sunday School class parties, Cantata, Youth drive-thrus, Christmas eve candlelight service, the children's "Giving Tree" for the Cobb County Juvenile Home. All this added to the season's joy. The year ended with the New Year's Eve Watch Night Service.

On Sunday, Nov. 23, the "Circuit Rider" came around for pledges for 1981. The program was headed by Dan Dudley and it was the most successful
Camp Ground had ever had, with pledges surpassing $100,000.00.

Fresh flowers have been on the altar each Sunday morning and special days have found Memorial and Honor booklets in the bulletins for which members have paid a small amount. Proceeds have benefitted the choir, youth, and U.W.W. and Men's Club.

The choir, under the leadership of Rev. Leon Fillingim, has progressed in number and ability. They add so much to the worship services.

Our library has grown and is being used more and more and many honors and memorials are helping to furnish it.

The V.I.P.s (Senior Citizens) are an active program for the community. Our Camp-Ground is mailed to all members, even though they aren't members of our church and we have members joining our church through this means. A monthly dinner meeting is held the last Monday night of most months and programs are planned of interest to them and this year we had 3 bus trips: Calloway Gardens, Helen, Georgia and New Orleans. Santa always comes at Christmas - a highlight in these lives. Approximately 60 on roll.

Gina BelleIsle has taken charge of the nursery and it has improved so much through her leadership and constant help.

Sports is a major program at Camp Ground. A winning softball team, tennis, golf, bowling, fishing - all keep our members busy.

The future of Camp Ground Church looks brighter than ever, due to work of the Church Growth Committee, with Don Robinson acting as chairman. A report dated May, 1980 is available to church members in which 17 suggestions are listed to improve the church as a people and a plant. These were accepted by the Administrative Board and many are already being put into use.

A kitchen has been added to the youth building for ease in handling eating groups; trees have been downed and the land levelled off so all buildings are visible from Roswell Road.

Under the leadership of Rev. Thurman, we have had a wonderful 1980 and expecting better in 1981.
To show the progress of the Church, the budget for 1980 was $92,789.00 and for 1981 is $105,022.00.

The youth celebrated the New Year with a lock-in in the gym where 35 attended. They fasted for 30 hours and had group meetings to discuss causes and solutions to the world hunger problem. $600.00 was raised for the program. The Clown program has been an interesting way for them to serve the church and community, also.

A pictorial directory of Camp Ground members was planned for January, 1981 and carried through. Four Sunday nights in January and three in February were devoted to a film series, "Focus on The Family" by Dr. James Dobson. It was well attended by church members and many visitors. Tapes of the talks were purchased for the library.

In February, a Sunday luncheon was hosted by members of the Worship work area for members of the church to show appreciation to the choir members and Leon Fillingim, choir director. 200 people attended and were entertained by a musical program put on by choir members.

The Men's Club hosted the Sweetheart Banquet at Buckhead Western Sizzlin' on February 14th. Bronze plaques were presented to the Man of the Year: Dick Davis; Woman of the Year: Martha Thurman, and Cheryl Lassiter was voted Sweetheart of the Men's Club.

A 50's dance was held in the Activities Building and dance contests were won by Joe and Jackie Hayes and Thurman and Carol Slone. Prom Queen was Peggy Gilliland and Jimmy Smith was King. Mark Gaber's band provided the music.

The Family Life Work Area sponsors a family night supper and program the first Sunday night each month. This will provide opportunity for church members to have a time of fellowship with the youth of the church.

Planning for the Lenten Season, the youth had a series on "Discipleship". The study held at the Junior parsonage, home of Steve and Cindy Casteel.

The Sunday School class members were divided into Robins and Cardinals and a membership contest ended on Easter. A dinner on April 26th ended the contest.
March is the month for sports activities and softball teams, tennis and golf tournaments are held and the men had a 3 or 4 day fishing trip.

The Easter season brought many activities - the Maundy Thursday Communion and choir concert, the youth Passion Drive Thru for 2 nights for the community and they also sponsored Easter breakfast after the Easter Sunrise Service on the church lawn.

A New Life Mission Revival was held April 26-29. Hal Brady was preacher and Bob Bowling was song leader.

Mothers and Fathers were honored on their days by the Social Concerns Committee. The youth honored graduating seniors with a banquet and helped with MUST day camp and the church's Vacation Bible School.

The Marietta Camp Ground officials and officials of the Camp Ground United Methodist Church met with representatives of the planned Cobb Savings and Loan, which is to be built on the triangle property formerly grounds for the old parsonage. The youth parsonage is to be moved to a space behind the youth building. The house will have a full basement, carport and deck. It will be completely remodeled. Bill Gantt was publicly thanked for the work he did on the youth parsonage.

With Steve Casteel completing his Emory schooling, he and Cindy moved back to their home territory in Mississippi where he will start his ministry. Dave Fortuna, an Emory student, was hired and he and Annette and two daughters, Misty and Wendy, moved into the refurbished youth parsonage.

The Council on Ministries, Administrative Board and United Methodist Women and Men voted to enroll Camp Ground in the Bethel Bible Study program. Rev. Thurman attended a seminar in February to become acquainted with the program and 17 people enrolled for a two-year intensive study course to start in September.

A shepherding program was introduced in which each Board member is given a list of 8 to 10 families in the church to serve for the next year.

On June 16-19, the North Georgia Conference was held on Emory University Campus and Camp Ground was represented by Lay Delegate, Phil Bierce, Rev. Thurman and C.C. Davis who is official Delegate for the Atlanta-Marietta District.
The Building Committee, chaired by Carl Spinks, presented recommendations for renovating the Sanctuary. Pledges were made by church members to finance the remodelling.

A July 4th picnic was held at the church and "Joyous July" was enjoyed for the month by the children. They all met in the Activities Building for the Sunday School hour for fellowship, crafts, music and the lesson. This gave the regular teachers a short vacation.

The Men's Retreat was held at Rock Eagle on September 18, 19 and 20th. Charles Allen came from Texas to be the speaker.

Esther Davis was in charge of the Lay Witness Mission held October 16, 17, 18. Approximately 30 workers came from South Carolina, Alabama, and Georgia as witnesses and helped with the meetings. The leaders were Mr. and Mrs. John Woodall from Woodland, Georgia. The meetings were well attended.

On November 1, from 3 to 6, open house was held at both the senior and junior parsonages. All the membership were invited and we were so proud of the homes and their residents.

Our V.I.P.s, (Senior Citizens) meet each month with attendance of around 80 to 90. A covered dish dinner is served except for the Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners which are parties hosted by the Fellowship, Agape and James Dyer Sunday School classes. This is a community outreach and members represent at least 5 or 6 other churches.

The Activities Building is used also for aerobics, baton classes, basketball, square dancing and other activities.

December was a busy month with class parties, dinners, the Contata, Nativity Scene Drive-through, Christmas Eve candlelight service and the New Year's Eve services.

Each year, we seem to grow in numbers and in spirit and love for each other. 1981 has been a good year!
The January Sunday night series was a study of other religions.

New members received in the church enrollment was 53 for the year and the attendance for the morning worship service was increased 10%.

The following things were accomplished during the year:
- Sanctuary renovation completed
- Covered cooking area built for outside cooking by Men's Club
- Senior parsonage kitchen remodeled
- Old kitchen renovated into beautiful parlor by the Seekers Class with funds from Paul Buttrey memorials
- New Young Adult class organized
- Steps placed on cemetery bank
- Cemetery bank weeded and pine straw added
- A pick-up truck loaded with food was collected for MUST in August and also food furnished other times of the year.
- A "Kid's Capers" program was introduced by Kerry Pursell
- A portable bulletin board for messages placed in Warthex

The Men's Club hosted the Valentine Breakfast in the Activities Building and bronze placques were presented to Don and Joan Robinson as Man and Woman of the Year and Linda Burns was voted Sweetheart of the Men's Club.

Sunday School teachers were honored by the membership with a breakfast and again a luncheon and a "Sonshine Newsletter" is mailed to teachers. Maria Laurie, Education Chairperson, is responsible for many new ideas in that area. Dan Dudley was honored as an outstanding leader at one of the morning services.

"Joyous July" was introduced to the adult Sunday School classes as well as repeated for the children. Everyone enjoyed the change and teachers taught only 1 Sunday during the month.

The fifth Sunday of the months that had five Sundays was devoted to music - our own talented members or visitors invited for special programs.

The library has increased in books and tapes of the Bible and a tape player were bought by the James Dyer Class in memory of Paul Buttrey for the use of shut-ins.
The youth have been most active and one of the things they accomplished was a sign they made changing the "gym" to the "Activities Building". The building is used for meals, the church sponsored Kindergarten, children activities, basketball, aerobics, baton classes, square dance classes, Senior Citizens meetings, Scouts, and rented for many of these groups which are not church related.

Laurie Hartigan has served as President of the U.M.Y.F. and they have enjoyed trips to the World's Fair, a snow ski trip and many local trips. They sold jackets they silk-screened to help finance their trips. They baby sat, painted, cleaned and held work days around the church and helped with leaf raking, etc. for church members not able to do the work themselves. They sponsored the drive-through at Easter and Christmas and helped with serving meals.

October 10th was Laity Day and laymen had charge of the morning service. Fred D. Bentley, Sr., Marietta attorney, was speaker for the occasion and others on the program were Katherine Downs, Lay Leader; Lee Bierce, Trustee Chairperson; Bob Hrisak, Chairman of the Administrative Board; Joe Hayes, Chairman of the Council on Ministries; Kerry Purselle had charge of the children's sermon.

One of the church sponsored things of which we are most proud are the Scouts - troop #435. At present, there are 55 members. In addition to the previous Eagle Scouts listed, the following can be added: Craig Cochran, Gregg Woodliff, Glenn Kindred, Stephen Webb.

Three had their Eagle rank when they joined #435: Charles Liotta, Jr., Brian Liotta, Eddie McAlpine.

The first troop was sponsored by the Fisherman's Club and Verne Allgood and Clyde Blaylock organized the group. Scout Masters and others have been: Cecil Brown, Charles Davis, Duane Ruggles (present leader), James Woodliff, Jimmy Thurman, Bruce Lanier, Hugh Ragsdale, Jim Hodges, Tom Lanford, and many fathers.
An unexpected gift of $10,000.00 was left to Camp Ground United Methodist Church in the estate of Harold Robinson. It is greatly needed and appreciated.

A new retreat and conference center is in the planning for the North Georgia Methodists, of which Camp Ground is a part. Mrs. Ludie Simpson left 239 acres on the Chattahoochee River in Gwinett County (30 miles northeast of Atlanta) as she specified "for the glory of God".

At the Church Conference on December 13, 1982, the Building Committee presented a plan for additional storage by enclosing a portion of the Sunday School Annex Building and it passed. Carl Spinks is Chairperson for that committee.

Also, at the Conference, it was voted to incorporate the cemetery adjoining the church and the name is: The Marietta Camp-ground Cemetery Perpetual Care Association, Inc. It had already been voted on and passed by the members of the camp ground. The officers are: President, Grace Clackum Finlayson
Secretary-Treasurer, Mary Ellen Allgood
Directors: W. G. Gantt
           Walker Gaines
           Martha Gable Dennington

The James Dyer Sunday School Class, formerly Culpepper Class, meets in the church library. Their project this Fall was to re-decorate the room and it is now beautifully carpeted, freshly painted (thanks to Jewel and Major Woodliff) and new chairs are being bought. Bill and Shirley Sheppard are donating new drapes.