HISTORY
of
MCKENDREE MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH
On Sunday, May 1, 1932, a group of persons met at the Whiteford School with Rev. Jesse L. Booth to organize a Methodist Church. After much prayer and meditation, Bro. Booth opened the doors of the Church for membership. There were approximately thirty-five Charter Members.

We met in the school auditorium for about six months during which time we purchased a three-room dwelling at 37 Whiteford Ave. N.E. for the sum of $1150.00. Our presiding elder, Dr. R. L. Russell dedicated this building as the McKendree Methodist Episcopal Church, South. All branches of the church was functioning under the leaderships of O. P. Walton, Supt. of Sunday School, Miss Lillian Freeman, leader of Epworth League and Miss Gordie Harnbrick, president of Woman's Missionary Society.

We worked and prayed hard during the depression days but through God's help, we slowly gained in numbers.

Rev. Booth served with us until November 1939 when conference appointed Rev. J. A. Gray as pastor. However, Bro. Gray was soon called back into Military Service and was succeeded by an Emory Student for a short time.

In 1941 Rev. J. D. Swaggerty was appointed Pastor. Under Rev. Swaggerty's leadership we made plans to purchase three lots at the corner of Boulevard Drive and Whiteford Avenue. However, these lots were donated to the Church by the Martin Estate. In May 1945 ground was broken for the new Church. We finished the downstairs and moved
from 37 Whiteford Ave. into the new building in 1947. The residence was then sold for approximately $1500 which was applied on our new building.

With Bro. Swaggerty's help the sanctuary was completed in April 1949.

Bro. Swaggerty left us in November, 1949, when Rev. J. D. Gray came back with us.

Bro. Gray was our pastor until 1951 when conference appointed Rev. Paul Betsill as pastor. Rev. Betsill was an Emory student and upon graduation returned to South Carolina in November 1952.

Rev. Phil Jones was then appointed Pastor. We are growing in grace and membership under his leadership.

Respectfully Submitted

(Mrs.) Gordie H. Ford
Church Historian

April 1953.