

Midway United Methodist Church Alpharetta, Ga.

We know by Tradition there was a "Meeting House" on this property in 1832.

The earliest Copy of the deeds to the property are dated Jan. 29, 1838. These mention part of the property given by J. M. Rogers, also a section from John L. Ezzard. These deeds state that this property was given to the trustees for a Methodist Church, (the area where the meeting house is situated). Book 2 page 88-89. (deed records in Forsyth Co.) has a record of a trade from John L. Ezzard to John E. Wills, Wm. Hunter and H. L. Rogers, who were trustees at this time.

This was for the property where the parsonage is located. This is the property back of the Church where Mrs Annie Hardin lives. There was a spring located on this property. Mr. Ezzard owned adjoining property and needed this property because of the spring. At this time there was not a Hwy 19, so the property traded was all in one plot. All this information is recorded at Forsyth Co. Court House, that is all since it has been Forsyth

Co. Previous to that it was Cherokee Territory. Any records before 1838 might possibly be in Cherokee Co. Courthouse or in Ga State Archives.

The earliest information of the Church that it was a building of logs. This was replaced in 1877 by a frame structure, without a steeple. Later a steeple was added.

Charter members of the Church were the Hunters, Ezzards, Thompsons, Wells, Rogers and Hansards.

The oldest grave is Mrs Fannie Sophie Grinnell. The date on the marker is April 12, 1855.

Black people were buried between the present Cemetery and the basketball court. As no graves were identifiable the area was cleared and improved so that it could be kept clean.

The deeds to the Cemetery state that the property was given to the Church for a burying ground. No lots have ever been sold so it was used by anyone who wished a free lot until a few years ago then it was restricted to members and their immediate families.

There was a school building where the educational building is located. This was in use until 1918. It was a one teacher school.

The frame Church was destroyed by a tornado in April of 1920. Services were held the following Sun. in the Church yard by the corner of the road. The frame Church was mostly scattered over the main Churchyard but the area of the black burying ground and the adjacent area was covered with large uprooted trees. The large pines were uprooted. Most of the hardwoods were still standing. These trees were filled with hymnals, some of them intact although rain soaked. The pews were torn apart and scattered. The (pedal) organ was damaged but was repaired and used for a while. The many large pines on the property and on the adjoining property which belonged to Mr Kemp, were used in rebuilding the Church. A sawmill was moved on the property and these pines were sawed into the necessary material for the rebuilding of the Sanctuary. An Architect, Mr Oscar Hawkins, was hired to oversee the construction. The men of the Church and community did the labor. Mr. Wesley Bales constructed the overhead exposed beams. The remnants of the pews were gathered up and repaired. An Arbor was built where the educational building now stands.

The pews and organ were used under the
Rev. Chandler was pastor at this time.

Rev. Jesse Warwick while the new Church was
under construction. The building Committee consisted
of H.L. Wills, J.C. Weatherford, J.M. Doss, J.M. Rogers,
J.P. Eggard, John Francis, H. J. Mansard, and W.B. Wheeler.
The first service in the present Church was by
Rev. Jesse Warwick the 3rd Sun. in March 1928,
with Bishop Conder presiding.

The old pews were used in the new Church until
the Church could afford to buy new ones. The pews
in the Choir and several others in use are from
the old Church. The pews now in use cost \$1,000.00
for the entire Church. The Memorial Windows
were purchased by individuals at the cost of \$100.00
per window with the exception of the one back of
the pulpit. It cost \$500.00 (at the last appraisal 10 years
ago the windows were valued at \$1,100.00)

The first piano was bought in 1929 sponsored by
the Youth Class which consisted of four people and
the teacher, Mrs O.B. Francis Sr. The piano cost \$60.00.
Within the next year this class had grown to a membership
of 54. An Epworth League was formed from this
group with Mr + Mrs O.B. Francis Sr as Counsellors.

The first educational building was built in the early 1950's. The educational building was remodeled and facilities improved in 1969 while Luther Cooper was pastor. The annex was added in 1971.

On the first Sun in Nov, 1967 ground was broken for the parsonage. Rev. Hugh S. Page was pastor. Rev. Frank Moorhead (who had been the pastor in the middle 1930's) was District Supervisor. Those on building Committee were H. L. Wills, Chas. Francis, and Howard Avery. The parsonage was built, furnished, paid for and dedicated the first Sun. in May 1968. Rev. Moorhead presiding.

On June 21, 1970 the first service as a full time Station Church was conducted by the pastor Luther Cooper.