WHAT GOD HATH WROUGHT

CHURCH HISTORY
MORRIS STREET
METHODIST CHURCH
Dalton, Georgia
1928-1948
FOREWORD

These excellent sketches speak for themselves of the marvelous beginnings under God, of the Morris Street Methodist Church.

Knowing the fine character of each writer, and what they have written, bespeaks the reason for the Church's unusual growth, both of what they have contributed and of those who were joined with them. I too, join with each of them in thanking and praising God for every gift of love shared and each sacrifice made.

May God continue to prosper this "planting of his Church", with an increasing power of His Holy Spirit in service for others. It was this Spirit which gave her birth.

Fraternally and Prayerfully,
Rev. Earnest Dixie Carlock,

June 1948

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF M. E. CHURCH ON EAST MORRIS STREET, DALTON, GEORGIA

In the summer 1928 a tent meeting was held by T. F. Cook and S. H. Millsap with Brother Maples conducting the singing. From the results a church
was organized with 21 members. In the same year the Annual Conference at Rossville with Bishop Keeney presiding, W. L. Hampton was appointed to take charge of this new work. He moved to Dalton, rented a three room house on North Spencer Street, held services in residence homes wherever they opened their homes until we rented an old store house on Underwood Street. This house was equipped by the new Church with electric lights and seats costing approximately $210.00. The services were held there until we moved to East Morris in another old store house. The services were held there till the new Church was built in 1929. Bishop Keeney, H. H. Bowen, District Supt., and J. F. Smith met with the pastor W. L. Hampton at his home on North Spencer and agreed to purchase the lot where the church now stands. It was bought in the name of J. F. Smith for $1400 with Bishop Keeney advancing the first $200. On this lot stood a partially burnt residence of Celid Hamilton. A number from Smith’s and McGaughey’s chapels came and helped clear the wreckage away. Then the parsonage was erected at a cost of $1500, leaving a debt of about $1000 the combined debt on both lot and parsonage. The pastor moved in. It was 1929.

Plans were made to build the church. W. F. Mueller had visited us and promised $3500 church extension money. We secured the blue print and the panic of 1929 had already struck and we postponed the building for the time being. J. F. Smith, Ike Duckett, C. F. Millsap, Minus Millsap, and Thurman Tatum did a lot to finance the project so far.

In fact, six of us furnished most of the funds. The church extension had helped to pay some of the debts. There was not much business this far South in Dalton, until we bought and commenced building. Brother H. H. Bowman was the District Superintendent all the time and Keeney the Bishop. The salary for the pastor was placed at $100. The Mission appropriation was $300 and continued at this rate till the latter part of 1933. When E. D. Carlock was made District Superintendent and also took charge of the work. The ladies gave a chicken supper and paid one hundred dollars. The ladies at McGaughey’s Chapel paid one hundred dollars on the parsonage. People from Smith’s Chapel and Fuller’s Chapel donated some work and other people gave some. The last thing I did was to make my report to E. J. Hammond, Field Agent.

Signed
W. L. Hampton

HISTORICAL NOTES GIVEN BY MRS. E. D. CARLOCK OF THE MORRIS STREET METHODIST CHURCH DURING THE YEAR 1933-1939 WHEN MR. CARLOCK SERVED AS DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT OF THE BLUE RIDGE DISTRICT OF THE METHODIST E. CHURCH AND ALSO PASTOR IN CHARGE.

“What hath God Wrought?” Num. 23:23. The words of this scripture are most appropriate as it pertains to the marvelous leadings and accomplishments of the group making up the forerunners and present membership of the Morris Street Methodist Church.

In the 23rd chapter of Numbers, Balaam said,
“I have received a commandment to bless and I cannot reverse it;” and seeing the future revelation of God’s glory upon his people he exclaimed “What hath God wrought.”

These words are engraved on the corner stone of this church, that in the coming years all people might know that all praise and honor are ascribed to God, for “Except the Lord build the house they labor in vain that build it”.

“What hath God wrought” is also a tribute to the untiring labors, the earnest prayers the sincere devotion of those who permitted God to work in and through them to the accomplishment of His work at this place.

Others had toiled faithfully before we came to this field of labor, and with consecrated effort we gladly took up where they left off.

At the Annual Conference of 1933, Rev. E. D. Carlock was made District Superintendent and appointed to Dalton to live in the new parsonage, now to be used as a District parsonage and to shepherd the flock of Christ then worshipping in a rented store building on East Morris Street—about a half block from the parsonage. At this time any thought of building was a remote thing; the depression was most acute and the spirit of the people tinged with pessimism.

However services were being conducted each Sunday, with a Sunday School, which amidst adverse circumstances was very constant and the services characterized by sincerity and Christian devotion, with souls being converted.

In November we moved to Dalton. Upon our arrival we found the parsonage unfurnished—save for a large dining room table. Our few possessions, a baby bed, a trunk, a book case and books, and a few boxes of dishes and pictures, didn’t make a great impression upon those six bare rooms. With evening time, came the members in real “Methodist style” with a generous pounding and piling this high upon the table. We sang together “Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow”. A good steward proceeded to give my husband a $5 bill saying he once heard a Bishop say it encouraged the new preacher to make such an expression at the start of things.

We often say we can see them so plainly even now, standing about the table, their faces aglow with faith and hope as they sang with us. There was Uncle Jim Smith, Rhoda and Ike Duckett, Mr. and Mrs. Minis Millsap, Thurman Tatum, several of the neighbors, Mrs. Jack Arthur, and Mrs. William Barber, Bertha Smith, and some others we have forgotten by name.

It was prayer meeting night and so the group left to conclude the services in the mission. After the parsonage children were tucked in bed, I knelt to thank God for this “open door” which was to influence many, many souls in the way of Christian living; for from this group would come to us the inspiration to build at this place the Morris Street Methodist Church.

The vision seemed all-glorious, then we could not see the trials, the severe testing and days ahead when we must walk by sheer faith and implicit trust.

The first morning a committee came to inquire what furniture needs should be considered—and
that very afternoon Leonard-McGhee's truck brought to us what seemed then a fine supply of furnishings to transform that parsonage into a home for us. And for six happy years we enjoyed that furniture and the other pieces added from time to time.

In the midst of all these arrangements we were cheered by the presence of the most pleasant folks it seemed we'd ever seen. Charlie Millsap and his daughter Stella who brought to us plenty of sunshine and hope. Later we met Clara and Ed Scott who proved of invaluable help in the early foundational work of the church.

In those depression days we even dared to "dream" dreams, for the Spirit of the Lord was upon the congregation as we met to worship. Though lacking in trained leadership, the work prospered, everyone was eager to learn and to do and to have a good organizational set-up.

The membership was widely scattered and it was a difficult task to find the members. The pastors salary from the mission was five dollars a month. The indebtedness on the property stood at one thousand dollars—but

"Faith mighty faith the promise sees
And looks to that alone.
Laughter at impossibilities
And cries "it shall be done!"

So one day in early February 1934, Mr. Carlock took a shovel and went to the church lot and began to dig saying "Right here we will build the Church". There was no money on hand—this debt before us—but the call of God saying, "Do it and do it now".

Many at that time might well have said (if not in words—but in actions) "Behold the dreamer". There were three members who felt as their pastor and seldom have men worked harder and sacrificed more than these, digging the basement, carpentering, pouring the cement, doing what ever their hand found to do. All this work before or after their hours of labor in the cotton mill was done at a great sacrifice.

The first plan was to build the basement with a temporary roof, but through the generous offer of a member to put the building on up with a permanent roof—he paying the difference—the church began to take tangible form.

The friends of the McGauhey's Chapel, Smith's and Fuller's Chapels bolstered the morale of the men who carried on so persistently in "their labors of love" for the church—and they in turn came in large groups to donate their time and labor.

On several occasions the work halted, funds were hard to secure pledges came in small amounts. Building materials were difficult to secure. Once the Sunday School children sold stamps, representing bricks and raised $75, the Ladies Aid sold chenille spreads and coats; Mrs. Nora Long and Mrs. Hattie Hipp rendered heroic service in the tufting line, which brought help.

Once after the church work had been at a stand still for several months, a visiting minister O. B. White knelt in the parsonage to pray with us—the assurance came to us clearly then "there would be a way out",—for The light had come again.

With Grace Noll Crowell we could say:
"For I have waited through the dark and I have seen a star rise in the blackest sky Repeatedly—it
has not failed me yet. And I have learned God never will forget To light His lamp. If we but wait for it It will be lit”.

On September 15, 1934, we moved the organ—a tiny little thing—and the benches and pulpit stand from the mission to the basement of the new church. With a song of rejoicing in our heart we sang “I have moved”, and we did move into greener pastures and more victorious ways of adventuring for Christ.

The first thing on the agenda was a revival—and for this J. L. Brasher D. D. a prominent camp meeting evangelist was secured. The pastor and stewards of the church financed the meeting in advance, believing that this church would best grow if the foundation laid would be of the truest Methodist doctrine and teaching. During the revival the crowd was never large, but the favor of God was upon the people. Often Bro. Brasher sang “Tis a great religion—a great religion,” and the seed sown was good and through the years it was watered with tears, and God gave a great increase. During the years that followed conversions were experienced in the regular Sunday morning and evening services throughout our ministry there.

Dr. E. J. Hammond of the Methodist Church-Board of Mission and Church Extension and a personal friend rendered invaluable service, being appointed to the work of construction and as an advisor.

One thing we regard now as a great victory was our preseverance in maintaining a Wednesday night prayer meeting; for a period of five weeks the Pastor and family were the only worshippers who came,—on the sixth Wednesday night folks came and always there was a mid week prayer meeting and it was good.

In July 1935 we held our second revival and in this meeting the fruit of the labors of the years was evidenced. After preaching one night on “Where Art Thou?” Three souls were gloriously converted, Edith and Frankie Lankford and Wheeler Headrick, and they united with the church. Each became a steward, of great worth to the church and brought some fine families into the church, the Lankfords and Hendricks.

The church was completed, sufficiently for dedication in October 13, 1935 with F. T. Kenney, Bishop officiating. Bishop Kenney had always been a dear friend of this group and on many occasions in other places he mentioned the heroic efforts and achievements of the Morris Street Church—the window purchased by the church in his honor will always bear testimony of the deep esteem in which they hold him.

There had been speculations as to the ability of such a small group hardly a dozen active families at the start, to complete the church—but, the years saw these doubts give way to faith.

In building the church, valued at $9000 the indebtedness on the property had only been increased $500 at the end of Mr. Carlock’s pastorate and District Superintendent’s termination in 1939.

It is fine to remember that the Georgia Annual M. E. Conference met at Morris Street in 1937. The whole city, Christians of many churches entertained our guests in their homes, and furnished food for the meals served in the dining room of the church. The Church will always be indebted to
these fine friends who not only then but throughout the years have shown a marvelous spirit of brotherly love.

At this Conference Bishop Chas. Wesley Flint presided and many of Methodism's great leaders were present to give inspiring messages.

The years of 1938, 1939 meant much in the spiritual and numerical growth of the church. E. M. Bartentfeld and William Barber were added to the Church family—both to become active Methodist ministers; later Claude Blackstock received his license to preach while a member of this church.

L. T. Burroughs rendered efficient and patient service in organizing the Church School, which at that time registered 90 to 100 each Sunday. A Junior and Senior League, the W. S. C. S. began to pulsate with life and with the Uniting Conference in 1939—we moved as all true Methodists do some time or other to another field of labor for our blessed Master. We had no deaths in the church family during Mr. Carlock's pastorate of 6 years.

As the others who followed us have taken up the torch to hold the light high—to preach and live this glorious gospel—our prayers shall ever be for those in the years that lie ahead—that they too might remember.

"What hath God wrought" and seek to keep this church a glorious church without spot or blemish—a place of prayer, and the gateway to heaven.

J. L. BLACK

I was appointed pastor of Morris Street and Five Springs at the Conference of 1939 and stayed until August 1, 1941, which made my term as pastor one year and eight months. My first year was the first year of United Methodism. The membership at Morris Street was a little under 100 when I went there; we had good increases, I believe the membership was about 150 when I left. The Pastor's salary first year was $500, the second year $712. The church was still in debt some, and I don't believe we paid off any of the debt. We did raise some money for a furnace. The ladies bought a heater and living-room furniture for the parsonage and painted the parsonage. Mr. Burrows was S. S. Supt. first year, then Gene Bartentfeld. Mr. Headrick was chairman of the Board. We had no deaths during my pastorate.

Benson Barrett followed me until conference.

A Sketch of the Work done by Morris Street Methodist Church from December 1, 1941 to December 1, 1946.

By Rev. J. B. Godfrey

On December 1, 1941, together with my wife and four children, we moved into the Morris Street parsonage. It was not like moving into an entirely new work for I had preached in a revival at this church a few years before while Rev. and Mrs. Carlock were there. I knew most of the leading members of the church and what they stood for, therefore we had no trouble in becoming adjusted to the work.

At this time Morris Street Church only had half-time, Five Springs being on the same charge.

I had only been on the charge one week when the news of "Pearl Harbor" came over the radio.
This sad news brought sorrow to all our hearts for we knew that meant another World War. Then for almost four years this church with all others went through much sorrow. On by one of our boys were carried away to war. Scarcey a home was left untouched. Two of my own sons were taken.

But through the whole time each day at home and each Sunday in Church are remembered these boys in prayer. We know God heard and answered our prayers. For many of the boys testified that they could feel our prayers "over there".

Only one out of more than twenty was lost in service. That was Obelee Eaton, the grandson of Rev. T. F. Cook who also had a part in helping to establish this church.

The fall of 1942 several of the members began talking about taking full time. Some thought we could while others were afraid to take the step. In fact at first I was not so sure myself that it could be done. However, after thinking over the matter and also praying about it too I came to the conclusion that it could be done. We then called the members together one night (about 25 or 30 were present) and talked the matter over and decided to get some pledges and see how much we could get pledged. So from this group that night we got about 3/4 of the necessary amount pledged. And we knew we could get the rest from other sources.

Then we told the District Superintendent and he let us take full time. The church took over what Five Springs was paying and added about a hundred to that making $1560 for the pastor. This together with a reasonable amount for benevolences was paid by the week without any trouble. We had another good year. Many were added to the church.

Then the next conference 1943, it was not hard to step up a little more so the pastor's salary was raised to more than $1800. This with a raise in all other benevolences was paid. This too was a good year for Morris Street. All the work of the church was gradually growing. There was no unusual great revivals in the church but there was always that deep spiritual presence of God. And the whole church was moving along in a very fine way.

The next important step was to clean the church of an old debt of more than $1300, which had been on the church since it was built. This full amount was raised in October 1944 and enough over to paint and cover the parsonage and to do some other work.

The raising of this money was the last active church work in which Brother Ed Scott participated. He together with myself secured this money here in Dalton. Ed passed away not very long after this and we lost one of the church's best friends and one of my closest personal friends. He truly loved the church and did what he could for it.

Then when the end of the year came around the stewards agreed to raise the pastor's salary to $2080 and also make an increase in benevolences. This all was met with ease and added to that was $848 "Crusade For Christ" offering. This too was not in full and many added to the church and all work going good.

Then in the fall of 1945 we began talking more and more the need of a furnace for the church. We found that this would cost about one thousand dollars. This seemed like a lot of money after paying
the debt on the church, the Crusade money and raising all assessments. But Morris Street Church was not to back down. So again we raised the full amount and in October 1945 the furnace was completely installed and paid for. This left the church in still better spirits, souls were being saved all along and the attendance was growing.

Then when conference came around I was sent back for the 5th year. Again the stewards stepped the salary up to $24000 and took the full askings for benevolence which was $400. We had paid the full askings the year before although we did not accept it.

All these pledges were met before the year was out entirely through the church offerings. With some in the treasury, coal for the winter and all incidentals paid.

This year we received 37 members into the church. Some of these are proving to be amongst our most loyal workers.

Now the church stands as one of the most promising young churches of North Georgia. It was laid upon a spiritual foundation and is being built of material which will stand the test of time.

There are now 237 members on roll and one hundred and thirty of these have been received into the church during the last five years.

May God’s richest blessings ever rest upon this God’s house and God’s congregation and may this group be among the host that Christ calls his bride as we walk before the throne of God on that great day.

J. B. Godfrey
Pastor December 1941 to December 1946

A. D. WHITTEMORE, PASTOR

At the Annual Conference session in November 1946 I was assigned to the Morris Street Church as Pastor in Charge. We (myself, wife, and two children age 8 and 6) arrived in Dalton on December 3, 1946 at a little before noon. It was like going back home after twelve years of service in the farthest areas of the North Georgia Conference to be sent back to serve this relatively young church in the county of my youth. I was only eight years of age (our son’s age at this move) when my family moved from Gordon County to Whitfield. My Mother still lives just seven miles from Dalton on the Cleveland Road.

I felt very close to this church for I had known those who were instrumental in its establishment. Brother Frank Cook and brother Sam Millsap organized prayer meetings and Sunday School, and conducted one revival meeting in a tent all of which grew into and was organized as a Methodist Church which was finally known as Morris Street Methodist Church. In earlier days I knew the families of others who are now members of the church here. I have for a good many years known others, members of McGauhey’s and Smith’s Chapels, who helped and encouraged in the building of Morris Street Church. All of which gave me a deeper love and appreciation and thanks to God for the privilege of serving Him here. I have also known and loved the other preachers and their families who have lived and labored here so earnestly and lovingly and sacrificially through the years. God has wonderfully and gloriously blessed their labors. And God has graciously blessed this church in every
one of the former pastors. I thank God that in His infinite love, grace, and mercy He has allowed His humble servant to follow their labors in His service here. Hampton, Carlock, Black, Barrett, Godfrey, and I would not forget Sam Millsap, the young preacher not yet a member of the Conference, working in the mill, spending off hours, time and hard-earned money helping to establish a church in neglected area. Nor would I ever forget that Man of God, lover of God and Man, friend of boys and girls; preacher of righteousness and the love of God; loved by all; Rev. Frank Cook who preached and prayed and planned that the church might be established and prosper and grow in favor with God and Man. Blessed! Thrice blessed are we —You and I—by their labors and prayers. What a glorious heritage is ours! Yes "I thank God for you continually in my prayers."

Well when we arrived about noon Dec. 3, 1946, we found Mrs. Keys and Mrs. Scott and others busy in the kitchen preparing our first meal for us. Before we had finished unloading our personal belongings, we were called to partake of and enjoy a bountiful dinner well prepared and delightfully served.

In the afternoon the chairman of the Board of Stewards, Bro. Guy Warmack, called and welcomed us personally and in behalf of the church. It helps too. Before Bro. Warmack had gone from our door, the treasurer (at least Bro. Lonnie Keys in her behalf) appeared and gave me my first week's salary (consisting, I believe entirely of one dollar bills). Believe me, that helps too. I hope it will ever be the policy of the church.

On Saturday evening people began to gather at the church at about seven-thirty. In a few minutes it seemed as if we had a good congregation. I had heard nothing of a Saturday night service in the regular program of the church. I began to wonder if we still had Saturday night meetin' in these parts. I was about ready to get my Bible and go over and see if we should conduct a worship service when one of the Stewards appeared at the door of the parsonage inviting the family over to the church saying that we were having company. We went. The house was about full of people as I had thought. We had a regular party. The children played games and we all had a good time. We don't have any OLD FOLKS in our church but those who have been here a good while even joined in the fun and seemed to like it. They said and did very nice things, welcoming the new preacher and family in grand style. Then someone rolled the wheelbarrow from a Sunday School room. It was loaded and running over with the best things to eat that could be had for money. Sugar, canned goods, flour, bread, cakes, fruit, name it—it was all there. (I notice the Carlocks had something like this happen to them) It must be a habit. Well, it's a good one—I believe. These things represent sacrifices, so soon after the war. Many of them were hard to get. There were none to spare. Thank God for such people to work with. And may God bless our efforts to His own good will.

In a few days after we moved to Dalton the painters came and painted the parsonage inside which was needed very much. It is wonderful what a little paint will do to the insides of a parsonage and to the outside too as for that matter. And you'd be surprised to know how it helps the insides of preachers families too when you brighten up the
house where they live. And My! how it takes
gloom out of our souls to brighten and beautify the
place of worship.

We found the church in good shape spiritually
and financially. There was a small balance in the
treasury even after paying the first week salary. However there were repairs really needed that
took all of this and more in the first few weeks of
the year. And it has not been all clear sailing in
the finances since that time. But I'd rather be in
to a church in debt and trying to do something
than one that had money in the bank and just
enjoys being good-for-nothing. Oh it has not been
too far off beam at anytime; but we have had to
call on some of our friends a few times. Thank God
for friends who are friends in deed.

In Dec. 1946 the Sunday School attendance was
on the average around 55-60. We have watched
the Sunday School grow through the months until
the closing quarter of the past Church School year
our average attendance was ninety. And we have
now enrolled in our Sunday School about 150 mem-
bers. Our average this quarter has been above 70.
The attendance at the church services has increased
in like numbers. The first two weeks in June we
held our revival services at the church. We had
Rev. B. L. Barton to preach in the revival meeting,
and Tommie McMillan led the singing. Brother
Barton preached and conducted the services in a
very successful way. The church was inspired and
blessed in the meeting. Tommie did a fine job with
the singing and worked with the young people,
keeping a very fine spirit among them.

Along with the revival we conducted a Vacation
Church School in the morning hours. Mrs. Edd
Scott was director for the school and did an ex-
cellent job. I suppose this was among the best if
not the very best Vacation School our church has
ever had. Much lasting good was done and much
of the advance the Church School throughout the
year has grown out of that school and the untiring
and leadership of Mrs. Scott and those who help
her.

In July the first Summer-time Annual Confer-
ence of the North Georgia Conference was held
in Atlanta and the Lord and The Bishop appoint-
ed us again to the Morris Street Church. We began
immediately to plan for the Fall revival. It was
difficult to find a preacher to lead us in these
services. We wanted the very best. We decided after
much prayer to ask Brother Sam Millsap to preach
for us. He came and preached for one week. We
had another good meeting. Some members were
added to the church and old members were blessed.
It was at the close of this meeting that we had
Home-Coming Day in 1947. Brother Millsap
preached a very stirring message on this occasion
and we had a great day at the church.

During a little more than a year we have noticed
a growing interest among the members, in the
whole program of the Church and Christianity.
(For instance—the first Special Offering for Mis-
sions that I took in this about a year ago amounted
to about ten dollars, while just recently we received
a Special Offering on one Sunday morning for
Missions which totaled nearly fifty dollars, and that
in addition to the regular offering of the church.)
We have added 24 members to the church rolls
during this time. Many other instances could be
cited which encourage us and assure us that under
God's leadership and blessing the Church is developing and growing in His grace.

On April 26th 1948 the Reverend W. M. Twiggs came to our church to conduct revival services. We had hoped to have two weeks of services, but brother Twiggs was unable to stay more than a week. He came to us a sick man. We have learned since the meeting was over that he was suffering with Bronchitis while he preached to us that week.

We had a good meeting. Brother Twiggs preached in a very creditable manner the Unsearchable Riches of Christ. The Church was inspired and others were lead to the Lord. After the meeting we received twelve new members into the church and baptised 5 babies. This brings our membership to a total of 245.

Pilate said, "What I have written I have written". And he probably spoke more than he meant. This is the history of your church (as we have remembered and written it) but our writing it has not made it. Your life in the church-your willingness to work with God has made it as good as it is. While your wilfulness and lack of cooperation with him and with his other workmen has made it no better than it is.

This is what has gone before—has been. What is to be depends also largely upon us and our spirit of work and cooperation one with another and with God and Christ Jesus. What will the next chapters of history contain of success and glory to God and His Church? God is willing—Are you?

The Lord bless you and keep you: the Lord make his face shine upon you, and be gracious unto you: the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. Amen.
Also a pulpit bible given in memory of Ebelee Eaton who gave his life in service to his country. Other improvements include a new pulpit, a new piano, transferring the furnace from a coal furnace to an oil furnace, redecorating of basement and nursery.

In thefield of evangelism the church has had several great revivals in connection with several weeks of visitation evangelism. This evangelistic emphasis is largely responsible for the 75 new members that have been added to the church during my ministry here. Truly God has blessed us all and has led us into deeper and richer experiences with Christ.

The church has also increased in her giving to all causes. The pastor's salary has been increased from $2600 to $3300 and of course all other apportionments have increased in proportion.

It is my prayer that the Morris Street Methodist Church may continue to join the Apostle Paul in his high resolve "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."