Mt. Gilead Methodist Church has written her own history in the hearts and lives of those who have gone out from her sacred altars to fulfill their missions in their respective fields of service.

As we attempt to give a brief account of the History of this church, we feel a deep sense of reverence, as we offer praise and thanksgiving to God for its pioneer membership, and all who have loved, labored, and sacrificed that we might have the privilege of worshipping God on these sacred grounds.

We have no records of the early years of this church, yet in conversation with elderly members and friends, we learned that originally, services were held under a brush arbor, and that the place of worship was called Mt. Gilead Camp Ground. In later years a little log church was built, which was also used for a school house. An account of the revivals held in those days are recorded only in Courts Above.

In the year 1843, the tract of land on which this church stands was purchased from Richard Wim, and on June 15, 1843, the deed to this property was recorded in the office of the Clerk of the Court of Cherokee County, Georgia. Mt. Gilead Church was one of the first to be established in this county. The first Board of Trustees of this property were: William Samples, John McChambers, James Lowery, David Rusk, and William H. Clark.

In the year 1882 a new church was built and through the years, many soul-stirring revivals were experienced in the church.

In 1952 there was talk of remodeling this old church. After much discussion, it was decided that a new church should be erected instead. A meeting was called and a committee was appointed to raise funds to help in the building of this new brick veneer church. At his regular appointment on the Third Sunday in October, 1953, the pastor, Rev. W. P. Berkner, appointed a Building Committee composed of Harold Rusk, George Waters, V. A. Sears, T. A. Sears, Roy Cox, and H. F. Cook. H. F. Cook was chairman of the committee.

On November 13, 1952, the corners were set up and soon work on the new church was begun. The old building was torn away and much of the material was used in the construction of the new church. The new church cost $25,853.65, not including much labor donated. On the third Sunday in April, 1953, the first preaching service was held in this new church.
The pastor, Rev. W. P. Berkner conducted the service. It was a happy occasion.

On third Sunday in November, 1953, the new church was dedicated. Rev. Jack Lamb of Mize Memorial Methodist Church, Augusta, Georgia, performed the Dedication Service. His message was from the text: "The glory of this latter house shall be greater than the former, saith the Lord of hosts and in this place will I give peace, saith the Lord of hosts." (Haggai 2:9) At the close of the service many stood around the altar to rededicate their lives. Rev. W. P. Berkner spoke in the afternoon on faith.

Mt. Gilead, like many other churches has experienced lean years as well as flourishing ones. It must have been during one of those lean years when Mr. Joe Burtz, an official of this church, rode mule back to a Quarterly Conference at Birmingham (Near Roswell) to carry $1.50 for the pastor's salary.

For the greater part of its existence Mt. Gilead has maintained a Sunday School. Among those who have served as superintendents are: George Waters, Joe Burtz, Jim Grimes, C. S. Shelburne, A. D. Cox, and Roy Cox (having served for the past thirty-five years).

Mt. Gilead church was at one time on the Holbrook Circuit. At another time it was on the Woodstock Circuit. Prior to that time, in the year 1885, records show that Mt. Gilead was added to the Hickory Flat Circuit. Mt. Gilead has also been in three Districts: Gainesville, Marietta, and Atlanta-West.

Rev. A. J. Peters of Maple Ave. Methodist Church, Marietta, Georgia, assisted Rev. W. P. Berkner in the first revival held in the new church during the third week in August, 1953. Sue Waters, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Waters, was the first to take the church vows at the altar of the new church. Roy Linton Cox III. was the first infant to be baptized in the new church. This was on the third Sunday in Sept., 1953.

On January 2, 1956, work was begun on the Church School plant. The building project was completed at an estimated cost of $2,500.00

During the third week in August, 1956 Rev. Gene Pelt, a young but fearless preacher of the Gospel, assisted Rev. Calvin Ward, our pastor, in revival services at Mt. Gilead. Three weeks previous to this time prayer services were begun in preparation for the revival. After such a soul-stirring revival, we felt we should continue these prayer meetings each week. These prayer meetings have proved times of outstanding spiritual blessing.

The church is going forward, with a good Church School plus other activities. Mr. Wendell White, one of the young adults of the church, is studying for the Methodist ministry.

History written by Mrs. Roy Cox, 1953.
Submitted to Atlanta Office, 1957
Ministers of Mt. Gilead

Prior to the year 1860 we have no record of the names of pastor's except for the year 1845 when H. P. Pitchford was pastor.


April, 1957