Mount Vernon Methodist Church
R. F. D. NO. 1, BOX 39
SMYRNA, GEORGIA

MT. VERNON METHODIST CHURCH, 1821-1954

Shortly after the famous treaty at Indian Springs on January 8, 1821, in which the Creek Indians gave up all of their lands between the Chattahoochee and Ocmulgee Rivers, James M. C. Montgomery decided to settle in the brand new county of DeKalb, later Henry and now Fulton, at least the part where Mount Vernon is located.

He settled near the Chattahoochee River and United States Post Office records show that he was Postmaster of Standing Peachtree (now Bolton).

He was appointed by the U. S. Government to be agent for the Cherokee Indians and held that position until the final removal of the Cherokees in 1838.

There is an ancient cemetery on the property he owned near the Chattahoochee River and a tombstone shows he had a son buried there in 1834.

Mr. Montgomery was a pious man and soon after establishing his home, he felt the need of a church in the community; so with other interested neighbors, he built a church and organized a congregation. This original church was called "Montgomery's Chapel" and was located on Casey's Hill and Casey's Cemetery is in the ancient churchyard.

During the War Between the States, this church held a strategic position since it was located on a high hill overlooking the city and breastworks were thrown up around it.

Later, in 1867, thinking a larger community could be served, the church was moved to its present location and the name changed to Mt. Vernon. This church was a wooden structure, built in the old-fashioned style of the day. The land for the church was donated by a Mr. Golden and Mr. Thomas Moore. Later, land for a parsonage was given by Mr. Moore and Mr. Rhode Hill, but a parsonage was not built until 1893 under the pastorate of a Reverend Mr. Owens.

Many wonderful revival meetings have been held at Mt. Vernon church, but one which always stood out above all others was the one in 1869 when a large group of young people joined the church, and three of them dedicated their lives to the ministry. They were the late Rev. John Mashburn, Rev. Fred Mashburn, and Rev. E. Hinton Wood.

The church was a circuit for a number of years with Mayson, Bethel, Lowe's Chapel, and at other times with Smyrna and Vinings. It was called Bolton Circuit. Later it was made a half-station, then around the turn of the century or maybe a little later, it was made a station.

The population having greatly increased in the vicinity of the church by 1909, it was decided to build a large and more commodious sanctuary.
MT. VERNON METHODIST CURRGEN, 1821-1954 (CONT.)

Under the pastorate of Reverend Felton Williams, this was accomplished and the present building with its large auditorium, class rooms, study, etc., with its beautiful stained glass windows are evidence of the love and faith of God's people.

Many have gone from Mt. Vernon into other fields and some even to foreign lands and carried the message of God's love. Rev. Simeon Shaw went to Japan after he served us and he always said he felt that he was sent from Mt. Vernon as he knew he had the love and prayers of its people.

Let us never think of Mt. Vernon as small and unimportant as a church, for we have had during its more than one hundred years many ministers who preached here as young men who have gone on to hold the highest places our conference can give and who can say how much glory to the Kingdom of God has been given by the consecrated men and women who have labored for love of the church and used their influence to better their fellowmen.

It is quite impossible for us to name all those who have worked, often under difficulties and severe discouragement, to keep the church alive and who sacrificed — or was it really a sacrifice? — it was really a joy! to keep the faith and strive to attain the Crown.

May the doors of Mt. Vernon Methodist Church never be closed but always open with the message, "Come Unto Me", and may we ever be able to say, "I Was Glad When They Said Unto Me, Let Us Go Into The House Of The Lord."

(This was taken from a memographed story shown to the pastor and held by Mrs. J. C. Hudgins, Sr. 1584 Marietta Rd., N.W., Atlanta, Ga., who is one of the oldest members of Mt. Vernon.)

In February 1961, the congregation moved to S. Atlanta Rd., Smyrna, Cobb County, Georgia. A new building was begun in June of that same year and a $56,000. structure was completed in November of 1961.

David R. Wilson
Pastor
January 13, 1963
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