Mount Zion
United Methodist Church

Mount Zion
United Methodist Church
2840 Stewart Avenue, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30315
Rev. George Olin King, serving Mt. Zion during the years 1940-44 has been quoted as saying, "Mt. Zion is not an organized church but a Spirit,"

Rev. Alfred Eugene Barton pastored Mt. Zion Church from 1949-53. He once wrote of Mt. Zion history: "Mt. Zion's history is outstanding because its events have resulted from causes which cannot be claimed by just any church. Therefore, the effect of these events is of superior value because of the prevailing circumstances which have given rise to her long history. The aggressive nature and spiritual vision which characterizes the present membership is convincing evidence of her lasting effect of the church's history."

Rev. E. Parks Davis, pastor from 1975-80, is quoted from our church book: "Mt. Zion continues to follow in the footsteps of those who have gone before us. We place primary emphasis on a personal, saving relationship with Jesus Christ. We also believe that this relationship calls us into activities that offer opportunities to share our faith and serve our fellow man. We do this locally through outreach, recreational and helping ministries. We also contribute to programs of mission and love around the world. Past, present and future, Mt. Zion was, is and will continue to be a great church by the grace of God in whom we live and move and have our being!"

Noel O. Swanson, pastor from 1980 until the present, states: "History has and will say many things 'of good report' about the people of Mt. Zion. Sidney Lanier might have expressed it in the following verse -- 'With a Lover's pain they have attained the plain.' People too who have 'Heard the voice of duty call,' and they too are willing to 'toil', and be mixed with the main,' and to 'Heed the call from beyond the plain.'"

"There is a happiness to labor among a people so gracious, so gentle, so generous and forebearing. As this period of history is being written, these are good days indeed."

"As I already begin to look back from where I am now, I am aware of the fact that there isn't any way possible for me to repay what I owe to all the people whose lives have touched and enriched my own. As I watch them one by one move on to The Father's House - it is comforting to know that we shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever."
Mount Zion's beginning as a religious institution reaches back to the birth of our national independence. The grounds have served as a sacred burial place for a longer period of time than we have records to substantiate the organized church of Mount Zion. "Toombstones in the cemetery date back from 1796; unmarked graves are believed to be older," according to the Georgia Historical Commission. Mary Griffin's headstone indicates she was buried in the cemetery in 1816.

In an interview with Mrs. George W. (Gussie Gilbert) Taylor, October 2, 1938, Mrs. Taylor recalled the first burial in Mount Zion Churchyard, as she had heard it from an older member of her family:

"The first man to be interred in the churchyard was a member named Sullivan." Mrs. Taylor explained. "He belonged to Mount Zion but died while on a visit to Columbus, Ga. The congregation here decided to bring the body home," she continued, "so Thomas Jefferson Perkerson, the sheriff, and a neighbor named McCool made the trip in an oxcart. They brought Mr. Sullivan's body back and buried it near the church."

Mount Zion was first a log structure built for a schoolhouse. Miss Annie Bell Gilbert, a long time member of Mount Zion, attended day school in the log building, and Methodist services were held there by Aaron Knight, a farmer, who preached. J.E. Sentell who signed a Sunday School class roll book in 1851 also taught in the day school. Mr. Sentell's relative, Mrs. Mattie Lou Rosser Payne, is a member of the church today. The earliest available history indicated a local Methodist congregation was established around the year 1816 with about 12 members. It has been said that the first preachers received their pay in chips and whetstones. Mount Zion served as a place of worship before there was an Atlanta, a Hapeville -- even before there was a Marthasville or a Terminus.

The records and deeds of Mount Zion were kept by Mr. Sam M. Taliaferro and after him, his son, Will Ed Taliaferro. Mr. Taliaferro had a deed dated 1816 showing Judge Hamond donated a parcel of ground for a hitching rack. A deed dated, February 1, 1828, from John Eaton was for one square acre of land including the meeting house, which was then a part of DeKalb County, formerly Henry County. It is recorded that this deed was made after extensive improvements had
been made in 1825. The trustees at that time were James Mangum, William Avery, John Evans, Thomas Ward and Aaron Knight.

In 1830, a weatherboard building was erected and mortised with wooden pegs. The seats in the church were also handmade. When the building was first constructed, Old Jonesboro Road ran in front of it and in the autumn the wagons loaded with cotton creaked by on their way to Macon where the cotton was sold.

In 1845, Mt. Zion was a member of The Atlanta Circuit along with Mt. Gilead, and Wesley Chapel and was joined by East Point First Methodist (organized that year).

At one time, there were forty slaves and 36 white members on the roll book of Mount Zion. Discipline was strict in the old days. Absence from church was not tolerated and though many of it's members had to travel long miles over muddy roads in buggies and like conveyances, they were expected to be in their places at the appointed time. Casual attendance was cause for dismissal. Miss Annie Bell Gilbert had a church roll dating back to 1850 giving the names and some of the rules of the church. Members were marked present or absent. The men and women sat on opposite sides of the church, while the slaves sat in the rear of the church. The first fifty years of Mount Zion's history; services were held on the fourth Saturday and Sunday Mornings. Sunday meetings, however, usually became all day affairs. Folks brought their lunch with them and water came from a clear spring behind the church.

Miss Gilbert's church roll book lists the trustees of the church in 1851 as Rev. James Mangum, William Avery, Thomas J. Perkerson, Thomas M. Poole and Benjamin Hodnett.

Male members in 1851 were: James Mangum, William Avery, John L. Evans, Thomas M. Poole, Thomas J. Perkerson, James Caldwell, Aaron B. Knight, Nathan S. Avery, Aaron K. Evans, Henry W. Avery, Thomas Stewart, E.J. Hubbard, Ephram Poole, Madison Brown, William L. Mangum, Ephram Tomlinson, James Ratteree, George A. Stewart, David Taliaferro, Amad Poole, Peter Knight, Joseph Davis, George L. Loftin, N.H. Tomlinson, J.R. Tomlinson, J.J. Poole and John McCool.

Female members were as follows: Mary Mangum, Ann Evans, Catherine Avery, Margaret Poole, Susan Taliaferro, Mahuldal Poole, Ann Mangum, Martha Mangum, Sisley Avery, Ann Knight, Isabelle Perkerson, Elizabeth Avery, Mary Avery, Elizabeth Mangum, Frances Mangum.
Elizabeth Perkerson, Nancy Perkerson, Matilda Perkerson, Mary C. Scife, Martha Scife, Ann E. Evans, Anna Knight, Isabel Knight, Nancy Ratteree, Margaret Tomlinson, Nancy Brown, Lois Caldwell, Jemimah Tomlinson, Frances Caldwell, June Brown, Margaret Taliaferro, Mary Ann Tomlinson, Lenoan Mangum, Mary Ratteree, Julia Anne Ratteree, Mary Stewart, Sarah Stewart, Isabelle Griffin, and Mary Hubbard.

Colored Members were: Avery's Gabriel, Taliaferro's Kissey. Taliaferro's Lizzy, Taliaferro's Harriet, Gilbert's Kitt and Perkerson's Henry.

Rolls were revised in 1860 by the Rev. J.F. Ainsworth, pastor. Colored members were as follows: Hardy Humphries, Kitt Humphries, Gabriel Avery, Henry Taliaferro, Willis Taliaferro, Kisney Taliaferro, Harriet Taliaferro, Liz Taliaferro, Solmon Humphries, London Griffin, Violet Griffin, Henry Perkerson, Manerva Humphries, Laura Taliaferro and Bitt Gilbert.

In late 1864, Sherman marched through Georgia burning or using the churches. During the Civil War, Sherman's troops used Mt. Zion Church building as a barracks and a place to care for the wounded. The building was damaged by vandals who tore off the weatherboard but the pegged timbers of the framework were left intact. After the Northern Army moved on, the returning Confederate soldiers helped the dedicated members repair the church building.

Mrs. Ruth Barton Cowan remembers when she was a child standing across Perkerson Road listening to Uncle Jerry Gilbert tell about his experiences. Sitting in a cane back, straight chair, under the big oak tree where Sherman tied his horse, he related how his home was burned out and how his church was partially torn away when he came back from the Civil War. He first got his home built back, then helped repair the church. Since the northern army took away all the horses from the farms, Mr. Gilbert only had an ox and cart for transportation. When they were building the church back, Mr. Gilbert would take cornbread and eggs to church to eat. The eggs were boiled there in a tin bucket.

The income of the church was small during those times. One record entry shows that 42 people were present at a Sunday meeting and the collection was only 13 cents.
During the early years, the Methodist Church had only one Conference in the State of Georgia. Listed in the minutes are only four Bishops: Joshua Saule, James Osgood Andrew, William Capers and Robert Paine. The North Georgia Conference was organized in the 1860's.

The Atlanta Circuit: Mount Zion, Mount Gilead, Wesley Chapel and East Point was changed to Fulton and then East Point Circuit.

In 1890, the membership was 116. When Jones Chapel, in Forest Park, was organized, the membership of Mount Zion was cut to 80.

In the 1890's, Stewart Avenue was opened from the Railroad in Hapeville to Mount Zion Church, joining Jonesboro Road. On July 22, 1892, the church bought a pump organ for $36.00.

Colonel Joseph Humphries was Sunday School Superintendent of a well attended Sunday School until Hapeville church was built. Sunday School was held every Sunday even though Church Services were held on each 4th Sunday.

On January 18, 1908, Hapeville Methodist Church was organized and Mount Zion's membership suffered such a severe loss that it was decided by the Presiding Elder of the Atlanta District to close the church and combine Hapeville and Mount Zion. One of the good men of the church, Uncle Jerry Gilbert found a large family in the community (Wm. Henry and Veshtie Johnson Morgan and their four children), brought them into the church and the church now had enough members to remain open. The Morgan family members are still a part of Mount Zion.

Sam M. Taliaferro was appointed Sunday School Superintendent and he continued until his death in 1912. At that time, Mr. Jerry Gilbert was appointed superintendent.

In 1922, Mount Zion was placed on the Ben Hill Circuit with Mt. Gilead, Ben Hill and Owl Rock, pastored by J. Fred Sparks, supply preacher of the South Atlanta District.

With C.S. Forrester as Pastor, Mount Zion Methodist Episcopal Church, South became a half station with Ben Hill in 1933. Social activities during this time were almost entirely church connected. There were church picnics at Grant Park in the main pavilion. There was always plenty of home cooked food. The children skated on top
of the pavilion while the older folks played ball and rowed boats on the pond. Other church activities included ladies softball games in a cow pasture on Grand Avenue, Box Suppers, Carnivals and Tacky parties. Mr. and Mrs. Roy Morris, Sunday School teachers often took the youth to Lake Bennett in Fayetteville, to camp out under the stars. Someone would always fish or opossum hunt.

In 1937, the Conference approved Mount Zion as a full station with Rev. Harry L. Wood as Pastor. The old weatherboard building was torn down and the congregation held services in the Hapeville City Hall until our present brick building was completed and dedicated in 1939. The structure cost approximately $20,000.00 and was completely debt free. Rev. Harry L. Wood and Dr. W.G. Henry, Sr., Presiding Elder, participated in the dedication on January 29, 1939. Bishop W. T. Watkins delivered the dedication sermon. On the dedication bulletin that day was this:

THE CHURCH
I. It's Founder is Glorious
II. It's History is Glorious
III. It's Citizens are Glorious
IV. It's Privileges are Glorious
V. It's Destiny is Glorious

Mr. George W. Taylor and Mr. J.E. Barton played a very prominent part in the construction of this building. Miss Katie Pegg (Heir of Uncle Sammy Pegg) was one of the largest contributors, donating $5,000.00. Church membership was about 285 and Sunday School enrollment 225 at the time of the dedication.

The years 1942-45 took many of our members to different parts of the world to serve our country in World War II. Many were heroes, some lost their lives, but all served their country well. Mount Zion folks prayed for them, sent them boxes of goodies and welcomed them back home —- we still remember!
### World War II Servicemen

| EZELL WEAVER       | RUSH HICKS       | EDWARD ECHOLS    |
| TOMMY CHEATHAM    | CHARLES WALDROP  | CHARLES EDWARD PATTON |
| VERNE PETTITT      | JACK ALLEN       | DAVID ELLIS       |
| WILBURN TURNER     | HARVEY PATTON    | NORPHAN E. MARWITZ |
| WALTER TURNER     | RICHARD ROBERTS* | J. R. MURPHY, JR. |
| WALTER WEST       | ELMER MORRIS     | C. R. HASON       |
| J. H. CRAWLEY, III| EDWARD WHITTEN   | ROBERT SCHENCK    |
| BILL CRYMES        | RAYMOND BUTLER*  | WILL C. SIMMS     |
| GUY LITES, JR.    | RUFUS MORRIS     | DONALD BOSSHARDT  |
| HARRIS MOODY       | DAVID MORRIS     | FRANK KIRBO       |
| M. B. RACE        | H. S. GARRISON   | GUY PLATT         |
| HAROLD MORRIS     | A. E. CASH       | BEN MORRIS        |
| RAY BROWN          | O. N. SHELMUTT   | A. W. MILLER, JR. |
| CLIFFORD MORRIS   | CHARLES PIERCE   | JACK ALLGOOD, JR. |
| W. W. WALL         | LESTER MORRIS    | R. L. WISE, JR.  |
| CHARLIE CAIN       | ROBERT BROWN, JR. | ESTELLE WISE   |
| MARVIN R. POOLE    | FRANK HIGGINS    | BOYD WISE, JR.   |
| JIM MORRIS         | HARRY SMITH      | A. E. BARTON, JR.|
| CALVIN MURPHY      | CARL MARWITZ     | J. O. ROBERTS    |
| KENNEDY BROWN      | BILL CRAWLEY*    | H. T. ROBERTS    |
| ARDELL CAWTHON     | W. G. MOCK, JR.* | W. B. WISE, JR.  |
| CLAUDE HARRIS      | HOWARD DURAN     | J. J. ANTHONY    |
| LESLIE BROWN       | DR. ROGER J. REYNOLDS | C. W. BARTON |
| FRANK PLATT        | J. L. BUTLER, SR. | P. M. ROGERS    |
| WALTER THOMAS      | J. H. DRAKE      | T. L. WALKER     |
| WILFRED PAYNE      | JEANETTE JONES   | H. P. WOOTEN     |
| W. M. CALLAWAY     | ROY MORGAN       | C. W. SEVER, JR. |
| WILBURN BUTLER     | JACK HIGGINS     | J. E. HUNT, JR.  |
| L. O. PARKER       | HAROLD LITES     | R. W. WALKER     |
| W. M. CRANKSHAW    | J. G. HAYES      | J. W. SEVER      |
| J. E. ROBERTS, JR. | GEORGE McLENDON  | WENBORN WHITE    |

*KILLED IN ACTION*
With Rev. N. O. L. Powell, Pastor, the congregation financed a debt-free six room brick-veneer home across Stewart Avenue from the church for use as the Pastor's dwelling. It was the first parsonage owned by Mount Zion.

Under the leadership of Rev. Alfred Eugene Barton, Sr., and with attendance at Church School increasing, Mount Zion purchased in the Fall of 1951, the adjoining house and property across Stewart Avenue. The house had been the home place of the Morris family, of whom many are members of Mount Zion today.

During the pastorate of Dr. J. H. Allison, the basement and street level of the proposed two story educational building were built on the opposite side of Stewart Avenue. The building contains Sunday School classes on the street level and one classroom, a large fellowship hall, and a kitchen in the basement. During the pastorate of Rev. G. M. Spivey, the third story, consisting of more Sunday School classes, was finished.

A brick house located at 2121 LaVista Circle, Hapeville, was purchased, September 29, 1975 for $41,500, as a parsonage for Pastors of Mount Zion, the first being Rev. Parks Davis and family.

The Mount Zion congregation sponsored the Pathoumthong family from Laos to America during the ministry of Rev. E. Parks Davis. In February 1980, the Pathoumthongs arrived at the Atlanta Airport and were taken to their new home in Hapeville. Mrs. Mary Julia Morris, Mrs. Glenda Barton and others of the church helped make them feel at home and loved and taught them about life in America. The church welcomed the Mother, Father, three girls and three boys with hugs and smiles, which they understood. The Pathoumthong family now lives in Honolulu, Hawaii.

In 1981, a new organ was purchased and dedicated to the Glory of God. The presentation of the organ was made by Mrs. Mary Julia Morris, Worship Chairperson. Rev. Noel O. Swanson, Pastor of Mount Zion, gave the invocation. Mr. Phillip Hames, a former member, presented a concert, which brought out the beautiful potential of the organ. The cost of the organ was $12,560.

Mrs. Eunice Crankshaw was honored at a luncheon in appreciation for her 31 years of service with the Ladies Auxiliary of the United Methodist Children's Home in DeKalb County in 1981. In appreciation,
a plaque and a bouquet of red roses were presented to Mrs. Crankshaw, by Rev. Noel O. Swanson, Pastor.

October 10, 1981, Mount Zion's first triplets were born to Mr. and Mrs. Eugene C. Pettmering. On February 14, 1982 Gene and Denise presented Lendy Susan, Bo Ryan and Brett Adam to the loving care of God and the guiding support of the members. They, as parents, dedicated themselves to provide Christian education for the triplets, as for their son, Troy. Grandparents, Bill and Katherine Robins and Great-Grandmother Mrs. Minnie Ware are members of Mount Zion.

Thanks to our Worship Chairman, Mrs. Mary Julia Morris, who finds a need and goes about getting it fulfilled, our sanctuary had beautiful new light fixtures for Easter, 1982. The special funds for projects in the church come from money gifts honoring the living and the dead.

Presently, the Church School is on the rise with lots of new babies. There are four Adult classes: The Henry West Bible Class, JOY Class, Wesleyan Class and a class for young couples and singles. We have a fine group of enthusiastic youth. There is a Youth Choir that occupies the choir loft on Sunday Nights, goes to choir camp and to Panama City, Florida, each year to have fun in the sun and sing at churches in that area. The MIF and MYF have Bible study each week in a home and are quite active in projects of the church. They go to Camp Rutledge each year for inspiration and planning for the next year.

The United Methodist Women of Mount Zion have always been dedicated to giving to Missions, helping in Church projects, and having enlightening studies. The U.M.W. now has four Groups: Alice Beusse Group, Kathleen Morris Group, Serendipity Group and Florence Waller Group. With 63 members, the U.M.W. has a budget for this year of $1,280.00.

January 10, 1964, is the date of the Men's Club Charter. The first officers were: President R. C. Sullivan, Vice President Paul Hall, Secretary-Treasurer Wilson Knight, and Program Chairman Bill Robins. The first meeting was January 4, 1964. Rev. Loren Young was the speaker and Herbert E. Robins played the concertina, leading the men in singing choruses. The Men's Club co-operates in many activities of the church.
Mount Zion members have always enjoyed participating in sports. In the 1930's, the ladies and men had ball teams. In 1974, a men's basketball team was organized, and in 1975 the men participated in softball. In 1976, the ladies started a softball team. All teams have won championships and trophies. For a great number of years Mount Zion folks have worshiped together and played together.

The church building contains the sanctuary and a two story plant consisting of the L.D. "Shorty" Dodd Memorial Library, the Pastor's study, the Music Director's office, the Church office, the Bride's room, (a memorial to Quincey and Mary Morris Barton) and music and storage facilities, dedicated in memory of Roy and Kathleen Morris.

The Mount Zion Cemetery is a landmark in this section of Fulton County, having been established in the early period of the church's history, and which has been maintained for the use of the local membership. The grounds now comprise nearly nine acres of land. Fulton County's first Sheriff, Thomas Jefferson Perkerson, is buried in the cemetery. Also buried there is Josiah Gilbert, one of the first practicing physicians in the county, and many other families that have served God and His Church well for generations.

Mount Zion has been a part of four denominations serving this area: The Methodist Episcopal Church, The Methodist Episcopal Church South; The Methodist Church and the United Methodist Church.

We, at Mount Zion, feel a sense of pride and thanksgiving for those of our membership who have gone from our church to proclaim the Gospel of Christ, either as full-time pastors, laymen, ministers of music, etc.

Ordained Preachers from Mount Zion:
1966 McCurdy, Rev. Jerry N.

In Theology Schools at present time:
West, Walter P., Jr. - Emory University- Atlanta
Barton, David C., Asbury College- Kentucky
Local Lay Preachers, licensed by District Conference:

- 1876 Todd, Robert W.
- 1946 White, Guy
- 1953 Price, O. Jack
- 1953 West, Robert Leroy
- 1955 Gray, J. R.
- 1955 McNeil, Jimmy
- 1959 McCurdy, Jerry Newton
- 1959 Robb, James Jr.
- 1961 Tomlin, William H.
- 1965 Hudson, Alan O.
- 1965 Robins, William S.
- 1963 Flury, William Clovis

In 1851, George L. Loftin, a member of Mount Zion went out as one of the leading Baptist evangelist.

Phillip Hames, a former member of Mount Zion, is Minister of Music in the Presbyterian Church.

During the years 1845-1906 Mount Zion was on the Atlanta Circuit with Mount Gilead, Wesley Chapel and East Point First Methodist Church. Some of the Pastor's names were taken from history kept by East Point First, under the assumption that Mount Zion would have had the same preachers. However, since in those years many of the preachers were local, it is possible they may not have preached at Mount Zion.

We are indebted to the following Pastors, who have ministered to the members of Mount Zion Church for many generations.

- KNIGHT, AARON- a farmer and preacher
- 1828 MANGUM, JAMES- a trustee and preacher, died in 1863 at age 81 and is buried in Mount Zion Church Cemetery

Prior to 1830, Georgia was a district of the South Carolina Conference.

1844 The Methodist Episcopal Church, South was formed.

1845 The Atlanta Circuit: Mount Zion, Mount Gilead and Wesley Chapel were joined by East Point First Methodist

- 1846 JACkSON, JAMES L.
- 1846 WHITLEY, E.L.
- 1847 RAY, A.
1847 SPEAR, E.
1848 YARBROUGH, JOHN W. -entered Itinerancy 1834, served the Methodist Church for 46 years, died at age 67 in Oxford, Georgia in 1880.
1848 HINTON, J.W.
1849 YARBROUGH, JOHN W.
1849 WYNNE, W. H.
1850 COOPER, SILAS H.
1851 THOMAS, CHARLES W.
1852 EVANS, WILLIAM H. - entered the ministry 1841, served the Methodist Church for 29 years; died in 1870 in Oxford, Georgia at the age of 56.
1853 DUNCAN, JOHN P. - entered the ministry 1836, died in 1881 at age 72 in Union Springs, Alabama
1853 AUSTIN, J. N.
1854 ANTHONY, SAMUEL
1855 BORING, THOMAS JESSE - Born 1807, entered the ministry 1827, died 1890 at age 83 and buried in Dixie, Georgia. Reinterred 1898 Orphan's Home, Decatur, Ga.
1856-57 TRUSSELL, CLAIRBORNE - entered the ministry 1837, retired by 1884, died 1889 at age 89 in Villa Rica, Georgia.
1858 QUILLIAN, SMITH C.

FULTON CIRCUIT
1859 LUPO, JAMES L. - entered the ministry 1858, born 1821, married a lady named Turnipseed (first name unknown), retired 1886, died 1891 at age 70 in Conyers, Georgia.
1860 AINSWORTH, JAMES T. Father of Bishop W. N. Ainsworth of Macon, Georgia.
1861 HARWELL, RICHARD J. - Born 1824 had a twin brother T. S. L. Harwell, entered the ministry in 1850, died 1895 in Jonesboro, Georgia at the age of 71.
1862 BLALOCK, D.
1863-64 LEAKE, M. A.
In late 1864 Sherman’s troops marched through Georgia, burning or using churches for taking care of the wounded soldiers.

1865 LEAKE, SANFORD - Born 1835, entered the ministry 1859, died at age 88 in 1923 in Rossville, Georgia.

1865 MYERS, W. J.

PRIOR TO 1866 MOUNT ZION WAS A PART OF THE OLD GEORGIA CONFERENCE.

1866-70 WARDLAW, WILLIAM J. - Married Mary Poor and Margaret Geiger, entered the ministry 1851, retired by 1884, died in 1890 at the age of 72 in Jasper County, Georgia.

1870-72 JOHNSON, BENJAMIN J. - entered the ministry 1857, served the Methodist Church for 19 years, died in 1876 at the age of 46 in Monroe County, Georgia.

1872-73 YARBROUGH, J. W.

1873-74 DEMPSEY, A. G. - Listed in 1885 Conference Book as an important Minister in the Mission Churches.

1874-75 DEMPSEY, A. G.

1874-75 WARDLAW, WILLIAM J.

1875-76 ENGLAND, J. E. - Born 1847, entered the ministry 1874, died 1931 at age 84 in Jonesboro, Georgia.

1876-77 THROWER, O. A.

1877-79 FOOTE, WILLIAM R., SR. - Entered the itinerancy 1849, died in Decatur, Georgia in 1882 at the age of 63.

1879-80 NEESE, LEVI P. - Born 1838, entered the ministry 1859, retired in 1889, died in 1899 in Fairburn, Georgia at the age of 61, married Missouri McCloud.

ATLANTA DISTRICT

1880-81 NEESE, LEVI P. Had 2 sons and 3 daughters.

CRUMLEY, HOWARD L. - Born 1860, entered the ministry in 1880, was a traveling preacher in 1884, died in 1917 at age 57 in Atlanta, Georgia. M. Susie E. Johnson.

1881-82 OSLIN, WILLIAM W. - Born in 1831, married Georgia V. Hickman and had 2 children, entered the ministry in 1856, retired in 1890 after serving the Methodist Church for 31 years, died in 1891 at age 60 in Harlem, Georgia.

NEWNAN DISTRICT
1882-83  GRAY, E. A. - Born 1852, entered the ministry 1874, died in 1931 at age 78 in Monticello, Georgia.
1882-83  DEMPSEY, EDWARD
1882-83  DODSON, HAMPTON
1882-83  SMITH, JOHN T. - Wife Mary Ann Stephens, granddaughter Nancy L. Parker
1883-84  DUNLAP, WILLIAM C. - Born 1838, married C. E. Kempson and had seven children, entered the ministry in 1862, was a Chaplain in the Confederate Army, died in 1896 at the age of 57 in Covington, Georgia.
1884-85  LAMPKIN, W. W.
1885-86  TODD, ROBERT W. - Local preacher, who supplied at Mount Zion for many years, entered the ministry 1878, retired 1928, had 3 daughters and 2 sons, died in 1943 at age 87 and is buried in Mount Zion Cemetery.
1886  SOUTH ATLANTA DISTRICT
1886-87  RICHARDSON, John T. - Born 1849, entered the ministry 1871, died in 1931 at the age of 81 and is buried in Delton Springs, Florida. Wife Claudia B. Fowler, 5 children
1886-87  SHAW, SIMEON - Born 1864, entered ministry 1886, Missionary
1887-88  SHEA, WILLIAM D. - Born 1829, entered the ministry 1852, retired 1891, died in 1906 at age 77 in Atlanta, Georgia.
1888-91  EMBRY, HENRY L. - Born 1855, entered the ministry 1883, died in 1925 at age 68 in Haddock, Georgia. Wife Susie C.
1891-92  WETHERS, CHARLES V. - Born 1859, married Fanny Bostwick, had 3 sons, entered the ministry 1881, retired 1926 having served the Methodist Church for 45 years, died in 1950 at age 91 in Atlanta, Georgia.
1891-92  WATKINS, J. W. G. - Born 1845, entered the ministry 1873, organized College Park Methodist Church, became totally blind but continue ministry, was Chaplain of State Senate, died in 1935 at age 89 in College Park, Georgia.
1892-94  TUMLIN, JASPER M. - Born 1858, entered the ministry 1883, served the Methodist Church 43 years, died in 1945 in Thomaston, Georgia at the age of 87.
1892-94  SASNETT, BOLLING H. - Born 1848, entered the ministry 1871.
1894-95  HAMILTON, WILEY T. - Born 1838, entered the ministry 1856, died in Atlanta, Georgia in 1902 at the age of 64. Wife Parazade Ware - 17 children, 2nd wife Eva Reid.
1895-97 REYNOLDS, JOHN A. - Born 1827, entered the ministry 1859, died in 1921 at age 93 in Conyers, Georgia, 10 children.

1897-01 DODGE, WILLIAM A. - Born 1844, married Mary Jones and had 2 daughters and 1 son, entered the ministry in 1862, died in 1904 at age 59 in East Point, Georgia.

1901-05 SIMMONS, O.C. - Born 1849, married Carrie ? and had 3 daughters and 3 sons, entered the ministry in 1876, served the Methodist Church for 47 years, died in 1925 at age 76 in East Point, Georgia.

1902-04 DODSON, B. F.

1905-06 JOINER, H. WYNN - Entered the ministry in 1887, became the first fulltime pastor of East Point First Methodist Church in 1906.

1906 ATLANTA DISTRICT - HAPEVILLE CIRCUIT

1906-09 WALRAVEN, MADISON M. - Relative of Mattie Lou Rosser Payne, entered the ministry 1893, died in 1937 at age 75 in Hampton, Georgia.

OCTOBER 24, 1909 FIRST SERVICE OF HAPEVILLE METHODIST CHURCH ON CIRCUIT WITH MOUNT ZION, MADISON M. WALRAVEN, PASTOR.

1909-12 KELLETT, PINKNEY AUSTIN - Entered the ministry 1900, served the Methodist Church for 31 years, died in 1939 at age 68 in Decatur, Georgia.

1912-13 JOINER, H. W. - Transferred to South Georgia Conference.


1915-19 CLARK, WILLIAM HUGHES - Entered the ministry in 1904, wife Mary Hyrah Hooper, served the Methodist Church 42 years, retired in 1946, died in 1963 at age 88, is buried in Westview Cemetery, Atlanta, Georgia.

1919-22 BARTON, J. HAMBY, SR. - Married Etta P., had 2 children, entered the ministry in 1913, served the Methodist Church for 47 years, retired in 1960, died December 1979 and is buried in Oxford Historical Cemetery, Oxford, Georgia.

1922 PLACED ON BEN HILL CIRCUIT - MOUNT ZION, MOUNT GILEAD, OWL ROCK AND BEN HILL. (SOUTH ATLANTA DISTRICT SINCE 1916)

1922-24 SPARKS, J. FRED - Supply preacher, died in Aldrich, Ala.

1924-26 ETHRIDGE, ROY PIERCE - Married Robbie Williams and had 3 daughters, entered the ministry 1917, retired in 1956, died in 1979 at age 89, buried in Nacoochee United Methodist Church cemetery, Served Methodist Church 40 yrs.

1926-29 JONES, JAMES VICKERS, SR. - Born 1891, married Ella Mae Walters, later married Myrtice Allene Pierce, Entered the ministry 1921, retired 1948, served Methodist Church 28 years, died 1979 at age 87 in Homestead, Florida.
1929-33  SILVEY, ALEXANDER E. - Married Isadelle Bateman and had 2 daughters and 1 son, entered the ministry in 1914, served the Methodist Church for 25 years, died in 1946 at the age of 60 in McCaysville, Georgia.

CHURCH, FELIX L. - Born 1861, entered the ministry 1890, was a local preacher for many years who would come preach when needed.

THE FALL CONFERENCE OF 1933 FORMED A TWO-POINT STATION OF MOUNT ZION AND BEN HILL

1933-37  FORESTER, CHARLES SCHULER - Married Catherine and had one daughter, entered the ministry in 1931. Died at age 57, buried in Greenwood Cemetery in Panama City, Florida.

THE FALL CONFERENCE OF 1937 CONFIRMED MOUNT ZION AS A FULL-TIME APPOINTMENT.

1939  THE 'METHODIST CHURCH' WAS CREATED.

1937-40  WOOD, HARRY LEE, SR. - Born 1907, married Effie Dunn, had 1 son, entered the ministry 1932, retired 1973, served the Methodist Church for 41 years, at present lives in McDonough, Georgia.

ATLANTA EAST DISTRICT

1940-44  KING, GEORGE OLIN - Born 1907, married Elizabeth B, had 1 son and 1 daughter, retired in 1972, served the Methodist Church for 41 years, entered the ministry in 1931, at present lives in East Point, Georgia.

1944-45  ALLGOOD, JACKSON LEE - entered the ministry in 1902, was the Father of 3 children, served the Methodist Church for 45 years, retired in 1947, died in 1959 at age 81 in Jacksonville, Florida.

1945-49  POWELL, NATHAN O. L. - Born 1901, married Ebbie Dooley, had 3 daughters and 2 sons. After death of wife, he married Annelle Stone. He entered the ministry in 1929, retired in 1964 after serving the Methodist Church for 35 years. At present time he lives in Decatur, Georgia.

1949-53  BARTON, ALFRED EUGENE, SR. - Born 1898, married Isabelle Lewis and had 4 children, entered the ministry 1926, retired in 1959, died in 1976 at age 79 and is buried in Arlington Memorial Park in Atlanta, Georgia.

1953-56  McNEIL, HOWARD AUGUSTUS - Born 1903, married Bessie and had 8 children, entered the ministry in 1928, died in 1973 at age 70 in Newnan, Georgia.
1956-63 ALLISON, JOHN HERMAN - Married Elbie H., and had one son, entered the ministry in 1917, served the Methodist Church for over 50 years, retired in 1963, died in 1982 at age 90, buried in Melwood Cemetery in Stone Mountain, Georgia.

1963 ATLANTA SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

1963-65 SPIVEY, GAINES A. - Born 1900, married and had one daughter and one son, wife died, married Emelyn Guffin and had one son, entered the ministry in 1931. Retired in 1966 after serving the Methodist Church for 35 years. At present time is living in Atlanta, Georgia.

1966-69 HENDERSON, WILLIAM HOYT - Born 1904, married and had one daughter, wife died. Later married Gladys Townley. Entered the ministry in 1941, served the Methodist Church for 32 years, retired in 1973. At present time is living in Powder Springs, Georgia.

1971 ATLANTA STOCKBRIDGE DISTRICT

1973 THE 'UNITED METHODIST CHURCH' WAS ESTABLISHED

1969-75 BERKNER, WILLIE PAYTON - Born 1928, married Elizabeth Davis and had 4 children, entered the ministry 1952, At present he is living in the Atlanta, Georgia area.

1977 ATLANTA-COLLEGE PARK DISTRICT

1975-80 DAVIS, ERNEST PARKS - Born 1941, wife Nancy McCulluch had 2 daughters and 1 son, entered the ministry 1967, has served the Methodist Church for 15 years, presently serving Lithia Springs United Methodist Church, Lithia Springs, Georgia.

1980- SWANSON, NOEL ORIEN - Born 1929, wife Sue Head, had 1 son. Entered the ministry in 1956, has served the Methodist Church for 26 years, presently serving Mount Zion United Methodist Church.

The information I am presenting as part of our continuing history has been taken from newspaper articles, Georgia Historical Commission, Church rolls, conversations, and sharing scrapbooks with Mrs. Ethel Waldrop Stephenson, Mrs. J. A. (Mattie Lou Rosser) Payne, Mrs. Minnie Nimmons Ware, Mrs. O. J. (Virginia Ware) Price, Mrs. J. C. (Ruth Barton) Cowan, Mr. R. C. Sullivan, Mrs. Thelma ( Morgan ) Winfrey, Mrs. Rosalie (Whitmire) Cardwell, Rev. W. Henley Campbell and I did research
at Emory University Library and East Point First United Methodist Church.

We at Mount Zion are making history for eternal life!!

Mrs. Katherine W. Robins
Katherine Ware Robins
Historian 1982

*******************************************************************

This booklet is a project of the Men's Club of Mount Zion United Methodist Church. It was assembled with the cooperation of many people.

Special "THANKS" go to:
The Methodist Men's Club for the Church Cemetery Catalogue.
Mr. Wayne Minnick-Chairman of Booklet Committee
Mrs. Katherine W. Robins-Researcher and Editor
Kay Q. Cummings- Church Secretary for typing and printing
Claude E. Smith- for printing.
Denise R. Dettmering- for the artist sketch on the cover.
Calvin C. Cooper, III-for printing the covers.