Mount Zion Church, Mount Zion Charge, Atlanta Southwest District, located in Fulton County and in Atlanta Georgia.

Methodist

Mount Zion, the oldest church in Atlanta and Fulton County has been called the Mother of Methodism here. The records indicate that the church was established in 1816, but the church must be much older than the records indicate as evidenced by the markings on the tombstones in the graveyard. One marking bears the name of a person who died in 1815. And there are still other markers whose inscriptions have been erased by time. We believe that the church is much older than its recorded age. We would estimate that the correct age of the old church is about 200 years. In the graveyard is the grave of Fulton County's first Sheriff, Thomas Jefferson Parkerson. During the Civil War, Sherman's troops used the church building as a barracks and hospital. The building was damaged by vandals and the returning Confederate soldiers repaired the building. The original building, made of hand hewn planks from tree trunks and mortised with wooden pegs, was taken down in 1939 to build a new and larger brick building. But the membership has outgrown the 1939 improvements so rapidly the church has had to plant on the site across the street from the present sanctuary. The new plant when completed will cost about three quarters of a million dollars and will be one of the most modern buildings in the state. We have been worshipping in the new educational building about four years and hope to finish our plant soon.

Some of the outstanding leaders of our Conference have gone out from our grand old church. Rev. and Mrs. Robert Edward Todd and Rev. James Mangum was the founder of the church. Mr. Jerry Gilbert served as trustee and superintendent of the Sunday School for approximately 60 years. Col. George
William Taylor was very prominent in our county as lawyer for a number of Railroads. Also Miss Annie Bella Gilbert and Mrs. George Taylor have played an important role in Atlanta for many years. Mr. Samuel Mobley Taliaferro, the McWilliams and the Peggs families have been prominent in Atlanta. Jere Wells served as Superintendent of Fulton County Schools for many years. Judge John L. Humphries was Judge of the Superior Court for many years. The West Family and the Morris Family and many other families have been prominent in our city for scores of years.

Our church has grown very rapidly in recent years and we now have 934 members and we have one of the most active and spiritual churches in the city. Our church is located on a 14 acre tract of land. We recently purchased some land. The estimated value of our property is $315,000.00.

The deeds contain the Trust Clause, recorded in Fulton County Court House and kept in Safety Box at the First National Bank.

Mr. Paul Morgan has served for many years as Chairman of our Official Board and is very prominent in the city. Also the Dodd Family has played a prominent part in the history of our church. Mr. Walt Callaway was a great leader in our church.

Many ministers have gone out from Mount Zion to bless the world.