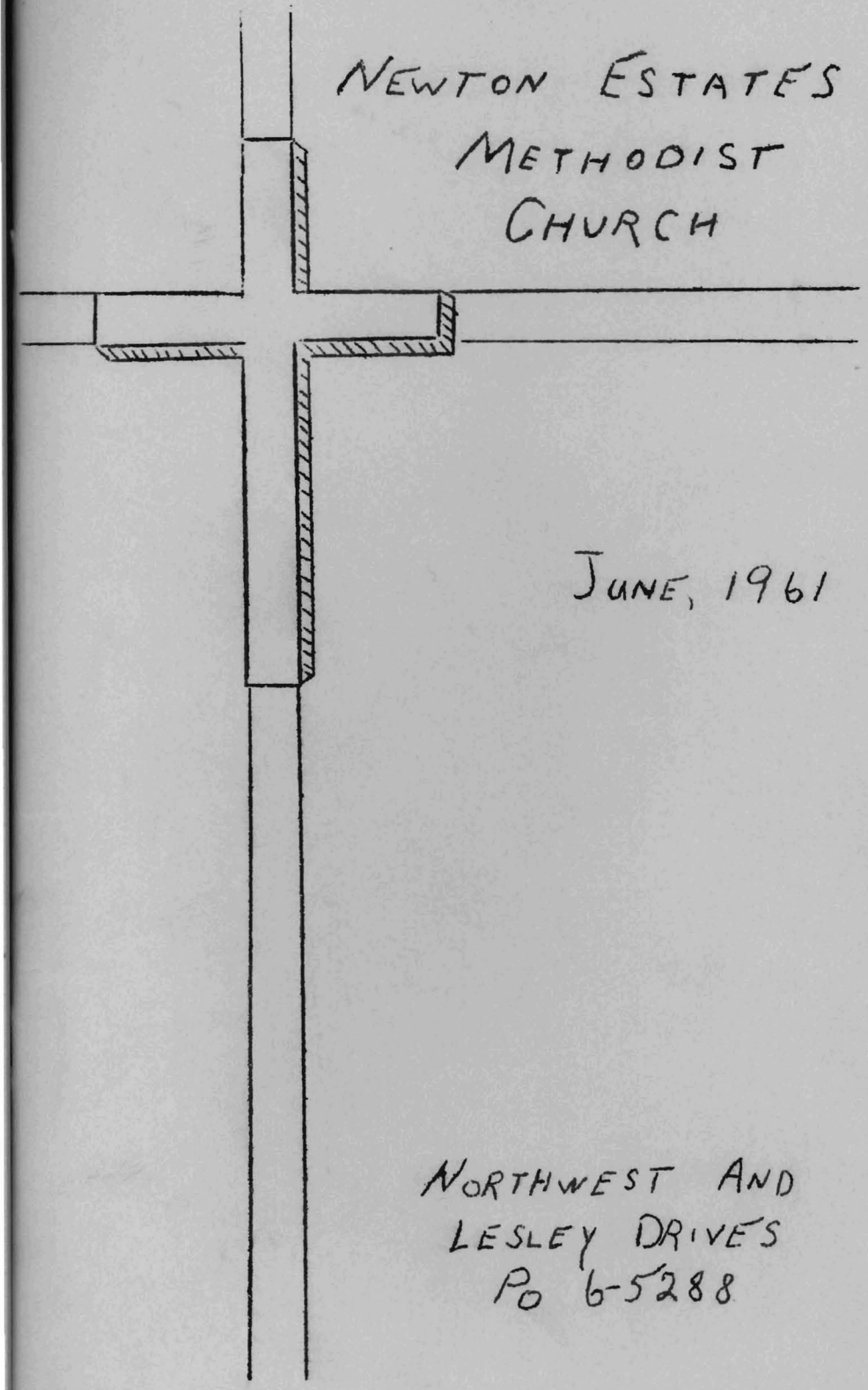

NEWTON ESTATES METHODIST CHURCH

JUNE, 1961

NORTHWEST AND LESLEY DRIVES
PO 6-5288

History of Newton Estates
Methodist Church

The idea of a Methodist Church in Newton Estates was conceived in 1950 by J. W. Veatch, then District Superintendent of the Atlanta East Eistrict.

In response to Brother Veatch's suggestion a meeting of Newton Estates Members of College Park Methodist Church was called by the Pastor, the late Robert Kerr, in September 1950. He encouraged them to form a church of their own in Newton Estates.

With some reluctance they agreed and on October 1, 1950 the first service was held with about thirty people in attendance.

A student pastor from the Candler School of Theology, Emory University, the Rev. Mr. C. Lewis Shurbutt, was appointed as pastor.

The Church School was begun November 19, 1950 at which time the church was temporarily organized.

It was permanently organized on December 17, 1950 with the Rev. W. R. Sisson, then District Superintendent of the Atlanta East District presiding.

Forty-nine members registered on charter day.

Charter members who are still members of the church are Mr. and Mrs. Henry J. Summer; Mrs. A. B. McKay; Mr. and Mrs. Frank McLendon; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Allison, Jr.; Mr. and Mrs. Frank O'Brien; Mr. and Mrs. William A. Mahaffey; Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Ellington; Mr. and Mrs. Keith S. Adams; Mrs. Mary Vining; Mrs. Louise Dennis Spivey; and Mr. and Mrs. Weyman Newton.

The church first began meeting in Newton Estates Grade School paying $10 a week rent and meeting in the school halls for Sunday School and in the school auditorium for worship services.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles V. Hinton furnished a portable organ which was transported to and from each service.

The present lot, located at the intersection of Northwest and Lesley Drives was given by Mr H. L. Newton and the first unit of the church building was begun in June of 1952 and completed in October 1952 at an approximate cost of $19,683.00.

College Park Methodist, East Point Methodist and Ben Hill Methodist Churches made approximately $3,200 available for our use by giving it through the Board of Missions and Church Extension.

Children sat on concrete blocks and home made benches and the congregation on chairs borrowed weekly until chairs could be purchased.

The Ladies Guild was organized in 1951 in the home of Mrs. Melvin C. Pitts. It gave place to the Woman's Society of Christian Service organized in 1954. Mrs. David Morris was elected its first president.

The Men's Club was organized in 1953 and elected Mr. C. D. Bishop as its first president.

In 1954 the present parsonage lot at 504 Lesley Drive, was purchased for approximately $1200 and a $14,000 parsonage was built at cost by Bowen Brothers Contractors, the work being completed in the Spring of 1955.

It was furnished with the money from a church sponsored Bar-B-Q which has since been established as a yearly event on the last Saturday in April.

The first occupants of the new parsonage were the family of the first full time pastor, Marion Pierson, who came in July 1955.

The most recent unit of our building houses the Sanctuary, a choir room and a large assembly hall which, by the use of folding accoustical petitions, can be converted into three classrooms. This unit was built and furnished for $55,000, thanks to Mr. Maxwell Walker and Mr. Robert Gibson, who encouraged us to undertake a highly successful $50,000 bond campaign to provide the necessary money, then drew the plans and supervised the construction of this unit without cost for their work. They will exemplify good stewardship for us for years to come. A plaque of appreciation to them is in the vestibule of the Sanctuary.

(Since January 1959 Mr. Walker and his family have moved their residence to East Point, Georgia and have become members of Headland Heights Methodist Church.

Mr. Gibson and his family, although still members here, have moved to South Bend Fleet, England, where Mr. Gibson manages a plant for the Cluett-Peabody Company.)

The building was occupied on January 18, 1959.

Serving on the Building Committee at the time of its completion were: William Stephens, Chairman, Maxwell Walker, Robert Gibson, Henry Burch, John Cown, E. L. Moore, Ralph Ellington, David Robertson, C. D. Bishop, James Whelchel, and Frank McLendon.

Pinkerton and Laws Company was the general contractor.

Retirement of the remainder of our indebtedness is being adequately covered as an item in our annual budget.

Preliminary plans for a second floor to our church school unit have been drawn and work will begin as soon as adequate funds are available.

A church is people - people in action. Any adequate history must take into account the present. For that you are urged to read the descriptions on the following pages as to what is happening now.

Much of the significant part of our history lives in the future. If you are not now doing so, we invite you to help us write that chapter.

PASTORS

1950-53	C. Lewis Shurbutt
1953-54	Roland D. Vanzant
1954-55	H. Jared Taylor
1955-	Marion Pierson

CHAIRMEN OF OFFICIAL BOARD

1950-52	Charles R. Allison, Jr.
1952-53	Ike Lasseter
1953-54	John R. Pogue
1954-56	Robert R. Gibson
1956-57	David Morris
1957-58	Maxwell W. Walker
1958-59	Lawrence A. Nelms
1959-60	William E. Stephens
1960-	Lowell B. Rawson