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Narrator: Patillo

HISTORY

OF

PATTILLO MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH
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College and Feld Avenues
DECATUR, GEORGIA

The first organization for religious worship in the Oakhurst Community was a Sunday School organized by Mrs. C. J. Johnson in her home on Adair Street in 1908. The Sunday School was held on Sunday afternoons in Mrs. Johnson's home, and later in the homes of others who became interested. The Sunday School outgrew the homes in this rapidly growing community. The newly organized Ladies Aid Society purchased a lot on Hibernia Street. Here a tent was erected and Sunday School, as well as other services, was held.

In September, Rev. George W. Duvall, Pastor of Decatur First Methodist Church, borrowed the tent, moved it to the corner of W. Howard and Drexel Avenues. Here he held a Revival. Rev. C. L. Pattillo assisted with the services, then nurtured the little church in the making. This tent stood and services were held for almost two years. In 1911 a lot was bought on Melrose and Hampshire Avenues, and a small wooden building was erected.

In this building, on November 3, 1912, Rev. C. L. Pattillo organized the Oakhurst Methodist Church, South, with thirty-five members, representing twelve families.

CHARTER MEMBERS:

S.J. Hill
J.Richard Hill
Miss Lani O.Rice
Nettie V.Davis
William R.Davis
Mrs.S.E.Plaster
Mrs.Laura Hughes
Miss Bernice Sherard
Mrs. Lillie House
Mrs.Bula Purcell
Mrs.Jessie Phillips
Mrs.Mattie Aiken

Mrs.Lula Hill
Mrs.Cora M.Rice
Mrs.Frances E.Rice
Laura B.Davis
James L.Davis
Clarence L.Morgan
J.S.Sherard
Miss Ollie Sherard
Mrs.Lola Purcell
Charlie Purcell
Ralph Z. Morgan
Mrs. Addie Morgan

Miss Myrtie Hill
Miss Susan A.Rice
Elbert Davis
Marie Davis
Charles L.Plaster
J.H.Hughes
Mrs. Emma Sherard
Jas.P.House
Drayton Purcell
Ira Phillips
George Aiken
The building on Melrose was merely a shell framing, with enough weatherboarding to keep out the weather. In 1914 the Oakhurst School building was burned, and the church was loaned to the City of Decatur for school purposes. The City ceiled the building and built two class rooms which were used by the Sunday School. In the fall of 1914, Rev. H. H. Jones came as the first conference appointed pastor of the Church.

The building on Melrose was sold in 1920, and on the fifth Sunday in February, Church and Sunday School services were transferred to the Oakhurst School auditorium. Home Coming Day was held in June, 1920. Dr. J. E. Dickey, later Bishop Dickey, preached a great sermon to a capacity audience. $11,000.00 was subscribed toward a new church building at this service. In the fall of the same year, the Sunday School attendance was so heavy that it was necessary to divide the auditorium into class rooms, showing the necessity for a larger place of worship.

At the first Quarterly Conference in 1920 the trustees were instructed to select a lot suitable for a new church. The property upon which the church buildings now stand, corner of College Avenue and Feld Avenue, was purchased, and work on a temporary structure was begun on Thanksgiving Day, 1920, by the men of the church, and services were held on the third Sunday in December in the new building. It was in this same year that the church became a station, and the name changed to that of Pattillo Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church, South, honoring its founder, Rev. C. L. Pattillo.

In 1922 plans were drawn for the permanent building, consisting of three units, the Educational building to be erected first. The parsonage property, 620 West College Avenue, was also purchased in 1922.

By 1925 the church could no longer accommodate the rapidly growing membership and Sunday School attendance, and the Sunday School building was begun. The Church School plant as it now stands was completed in 1929. The opening of this modern Sunday School plant was ushered in by a series of special services begin-
ning Sunday, September 1, and continuing through the week, beginning with the Sunday School session at 9:30. Dr. A. M. Pierce preached the first sermon. Former pastors were in charge of the afternoon program.

For several years the work progressed along all lines, with the indebtedness being taken care of by the New Church Club, formed of church members, thus relieving the pastors of the burden of financial effort, and enabling them to build up the membership with good crowds attending Sunday worship services.

Came the depression, the people became discouraged, and for a time it looked as if the mounting debt and interest would engulf the church. However, in 1933 the loan was divided into monthly payments, and each monthly obligation met. However, the need for a place to worship on the ground floor became so acute that in August, 1934, despite the depression, a temporary sanctuary was built and was paid for as built. Much of the actual physical work was done by members. The organ was later installed, financed by church members.

In 1944 the indebtedness of the church was liquidated, and on Sunday, November 19, Bishop Arthur J. Moore dedicated our church school building and parsonage.

Again the rapid growth of both membership and Sunday School attendance necessitated a larger place of worship. A lot of one hundred and three feet frontage was purchased on College Avenue adjacent to the property already owned by the church, and in 1949 ground was broken for our new church. The basement was finished and used for a year, but work was delayed for about six months. It was resumed in April, 1951, and work is now in progress for its completion.
The following pastors have served Pattillo Church:

Rev. C. L. Pattillo - 1912-1914
Rev. H. H. Jones - 1915-1916
Rev. C. D. Reed - 1917
Rev. C. B. Drake - 1918
Rev. W. W. Brinsfield - 1919
Rev. J. H. Allison - 1920-1921
Rev. J. O. Brand - 1922-1924
Rev. W. M. Twiggs - 1925-1929
Rev. T. Z. B. Everton - 1930
Rev. V. E. Lanford - 1931-1933
Rev. Robt. L. Armor - 1934-1937
Rev. E. D. Rudisill - 1938-1941
Rev. S. D. Cherry - 1942-1945
Rev. Frank Q. Echols - 1946
Rev. T. M. Sullivan - 1946-1950

Rev. C. B. Cochran took over the pastorate in 1950.

The facts in this history were taken from history pamphlets compiled by Mrs.
M. E. Hill and Mr. L. D. Jolly.

Mrs. R. E. Bulloch, Church Historian