On the Southern Railroad, one and one-half miles north of Plainville, located between the farms of the late William Zuber and Clement Arnold (now known as the Hester Farm and the Grizzle Farm, respectfully), there stood at one time a Methodist Church known as Mt. Pisgah. Mr. Zuber was a leader in the church but no record of its pastors and membership is known. Grandparents and great-grandparents of the present generation attended services there in the early 1850's.

On the Southern Railroad, one mile south of Plainville in the Anthony Community near the cemetery, now known as the Morrow Cemetery, stood a Methodist Church known as Gilgal. Reverend Whitfield Anthony was pastor there at one time. Many of his descendants have belonged to the Methodist Conference.

According to the deeds of the Plainville Methodist Church, these two organizations came together in the year 1868, forming the present Plainville Methodist Church.

In the year 1868, David Sisk and Katherine Sisk deeded to J. M. Ellis, W. Hughen, David Sisk, James H. McCool, and Clement Arnold, who were the trustees of this union, the tract of land described below:

"In the county of Gordon and the State of Georgia aforesaid bounded as follows to wit lot N. 142, 24th District, 3rd Section of originally Cherokee, but now Gordon County, as follows: Beginning at the post oak tree in the north side of Dodd Ferry Road opposite W. Hughen's well, running from thence 15 rods to a pine stump corner, thence west 20 rods to a stake corner, thence south 16 rods to the Dodd Ferry Road, thence east along the road 20 rods to the beginning corner containing and laid out for two acres of land."

This land was purchased for the sum of $20.00. The deeds state J. M. Ellis, W. Hughen, David Sisk, James H. McCool and Clement Arnold and their successors in the office of forever in trust shall erect and build thereon a house or place of worship for the use of the members of the Methodist Church (Episcopal South); according to the rules and discipline which from time to time be agreed upon by the ministers and preachers of the said church at the General Conference; and in further trust and confidence that they shall at all times forever hereafter permit such ministers and preachers belonging to the said church as shall from term to term be duly authorized by the General Conference of the ministers and preachers of the said Methodist Episcopal Church South, or by the Annual Conference and authorized by the General Conference to preach and expound God's Holy Word therein.
The deeds were sealed and delivered in the presence of J. H. Morten, Lee VanDyke and W. L. McDaniel, J.P. The deeds were filed November 25, 1892, and recorded December 7, 1892, by J. U. Harkins, S.C. They are recorded in Book L, page 611.

The church which came from this union was named Union Grove Methodist Church. The name was derived from the fact that two churches were united and built in a grove of pines which were later cut and sold to finance the covering of the church.

The pastorate was in Floyd Spring Circuit from the time of the union of Gilgal and Mt. Pisgah until 1891 when it was placed on the Adairsville Charge. The four last pastors of the church while it was on the Floyd Spring Circuit, as recalled by Miss Beulah Hydle, were: Sappington, Brown, Perryman and Murdock. Miss Beulah recalls that during these days they placed chairs from the wagons in the isles to accommodate large crowds.

The church built in 1905 was the second building for Union Grove on this site. Names of members associated with the early Union Grove Methodist Church were: Autry, Boswell, VanDyke, Hester, Miller, Parrot, Gunn and Hollis, along with many others.

The structure of the building went unchanged from 1905 until 1947 when Sunday School rooms were build on either side of the church. Through the years the church has been well organized for a rural church. It has had Sunday School each Sabbath Day, preaching services one Sunday each month, an active Missionary Society and since 1941 a Wesleyan Service Guild serving with the W.S.C.S. to promote both Foreign and Home Mission Projects.

The Dalton District Conference was held here in 1945 with approximately 250 officers and ministers from the Dalton District attending. The speaker for the morning was the Reverend George King from Sam Jones Memorial Methodist Church in Cartersville.

The budget of the church was revised under the supervision of the Reverend Charles Grilhe in 1941, placing full financial responsibility in the hands of the Stewards, combining the budget of the church and Sunday School.

During World War II, the Rev. Grilhe urged the congregation to plan a building program for the church, but it was ten years before any definite action was taken to promote the growth of this idea. The following is a paragraph copied from Church Minutes of 1950:

"In December of 1950, a Building Fund was begun by the Plainville Methodist Church. Money
Mrs. George Connell (Charlcie G. Miller) ---  Pianist 18 years
Miriam Blankenship, Church Sec. & Treas., 10 years
Margaret Hopper,  "  "  "  "  1½ years
Mrs. Mollie Boswell, oldest female member of church
Mr. J. Wesley Blankenship, oldest male member of church
Miss Bauleh Hydle and Mrs. Nettie Rhodes, members the longest number of years.
Sue Fuller, youngest female member of church
Jerry Floyd, youngest male member of church
Mr. Millard Coulter was given special recognition for services rendered to the church.

Some of these special recognitions remain the same in 1958; see the addition at the end of this booklet.

The Bulletin from the Centennial Service also carries a memorial page of 120 names. These names really stand for the very foundation of the present lovely Sanctuary. It represents the first sizeable amount of money raised for the Building Fund. Miriam Blankenship and Gretta Fuller sold 120 white lillies on a cross as memorials. This cross of flowers was given to them by Mrs. A.B. McGuffy (Wayne Boswell) of Chattanooga, a former member of the church.

In 1955, the Rev. Arvil Allen, pastor of the church at that time and also an Emory Theology Student from the Kentucky Conference, began to encourage the church to make definite plans for the Building Program. For almost a year the question of whether to remodel the old Sanctuary or to erect a new one was tossed about. The decision to tear away the old building and erect a modern structure was accepted by the congregation after proper notice was given from the pulpit. Mrs. Leonard Fuller, Millard Coulter and Raymond Blankenship were appointed by the Quarterly Conference as the official Building Committee. The plans were drawn by Mr. Herman Tichler of Rome, Georgia, and were presented to the congregation for approval according to the rules of the Methodist Discipline.

On Homecoming Day in 1958, a drive for cash and pledges for the Building Fund during the following year amounted to $2381.00. The Building Committee now felt that sufficient funds had been raised to begin action to borrow the remainder of the money. The plans were to borrow the cash from the National Methodist Mission Board. One of their Board Representatives came down from Pennsylvania and met with the Official Board of the church. Plans and location for the building were approved.

The Building Committee, with the approval of the church at large, decided to build the Educational Unit first and use the Fellowship Hall for the Sanctuary until the new Sanctuary could be financed. Construction of the Educational Unit was begun in June 1956.
With the planning of the new building came another vision of being at least a half station charge. One Sunday a month was not sufficient for the needs of the congregation. The District Superintendent, The Rev. W. H. Gardner, met with the Official Board and discussed the problems involved in our forming a new charge; that is, financial backing, weakening another charge, housing problem for the minister, student pastor, etc. Even in the face of these and many other difficulties the vision would not be shattered. With the help of Rev. Gardner, plans were made to try to secure an Emory Student who would be willing to stay in Plainville two weekends a month and pastor the church. The vision broadened and with the help of funds from the Methodist Expansion Program, and the labor from the heart and hands of men, women, boys and girls in the church, the parsonage was built and furnished. Here again, we would like to say thanks to many of our Baptist friends who so freely gave their time and help.

In July 1956, the first Methodist Parsonage Family ever to reside in the little village of Plainville, with its hundred years of Methodism, moved into the community. The Rev. and Mrs. James H. Snell, Jr., with their little 11 months old daughter, Viki, moved here from Atlanta. Rev. Snell was a student at Candler School of Theology, Emory University. Mrs. Snell and Viki lived in the parsonage all week while Rev. Snell stayed in Atlanta during school days. James Hicks Snell, III, made his appearance in the Parsonage Family on February 28, 1957.

The Plainville Church withdrew from the Adairsville Charge and at Annual Conference in June 1956, the Plainville Charge was born. The Oostanaula Church from the Rome District came together with Plainville to make a full-time charge. The Oostanaula Church was to have one Sunday a month and Plainville three Sundays.

At the Annual Conference in June 1957, the Plainville Methodist Church was selected by the Town and Country Commission as the Church of the Year in the North Georgia Conference, with Rev. Snell as Pastor of the Year. This was an unexpected honor, indeed.

In April 1957, the old Sanctuary was moved from the church property. The precious memories of the forefathers did not leave the Plainville Methodist Church with the old Building but have been awakened to this generation and to generations to come through lasting memorials of visible beauty in stained glass windows, beautiful pews, a Holy Altar, the Cross, Candlesticks, Pulpit Bible, Baptismal Bowl and new Methodist Hymnals.

In August 1957, a ground-breaking ceremony was held following the morning worship service. A second loan was secured
from the National Board of Methodist Missions. The loan on
the Educational Unit was paid in full before the second loan
was applied for. Local contractors built both units. They
were Mr. Thad Cagle of Plainville and Mr. Bill Johnson of
Calhoun.

On January 26, 1958, the first worship service was held in
the New Sanctuary. The Rev. J. H. Snell, Jr., pastor, con­
ducted the service. One hundred sixty five attended;
visitors and former members were welcomed by the pastor and
given an opportunity to speak a few words. This service
was not the formal opening of the church but it was a ser­
vice very near and dear to the hearts of those who had
waited, hoped and prayed so long for this day.

The one thing lacking in the physical beauty of the new
Sanctuary was the absence of the new pews. The congregation
felt that it would be impossible to finance such a large
project along with the Building Debt to the Mission Board.
Plans to buy new pews were pushed aside until a later date.
Dreams of new pews did not vanish, however, and at the
suggestion of Mrs. John Blankenship, Mrs. Fred Boston,
chairman of the Pew Committee, Miss Miriam Blankenship and
Mrs. Gretna Fuller contacted children, friends and rela­
tives of former members of the church and asked if they
would like to place Pews in the church as memorials or in
honor of loved ones. This was the first of March, 1958 and
by April 15th the Pews had been spoken for and paid for.
They were installed on May 3rd by the Roswell Seating Co.

The Woman's Society of Christian Service and the Wesleyan
Service Guild have been very active throughout the years.
The groups have promoted many Foreign and Home Mission
projects. They have met their pledges to foreign missions
each year and have supplemented these pledges by shipments
of clothing, CARE packages and materials for Bible Schools
on foreign fields. Home Mission projects have been too
many and too varied to list them all here, but some examples
are: help to needy families, showers for the Parsonage,
paint for the church, visits to the sick and to the elderly,
flowers and gifts to the sick. In doing these things they
have been carrying out the wishes of Christ in many ways,
for He said, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto these my
brethren, ye have done it unto Me."

The W.S.C.S. does not have a record of its first organiza­
tion, but has been active for many years. The Wesleyan
Service Guild was organized in 1942 by the Rev. Charles
J. Grilhe. A unique situation exists in the W.S.C., in that
from the time of the charter meeting, many girls from the
Unity Baptist Church have worked as heartily and willingly
to support all phases of the Guild work as have the
Methodist girls. They have served in official capacity,
as well as being regular members. The first official
meeting of the Guild was held in the home of a Unity Baptist girl, Jeannette (Bennett) Naseworthy. The girls labor together as they "seek first the Kingdom of God...." Then by their gifts and offerings and prayers they march together "...into all the world to preach the gospel."

This type of christian love and fellowship is a blessing to any church and community. Eight of the present 22 members are Unity Baptist girls. The W.S.C.S. and the W.S.G. have a combined membership of 33.

The two organizations have five honorary members. Melba Lynn Blalock was the first honorary member (for approximately 11 1/2 years). She was made a member by the W.S.G. because she was the first child born to a guild member after its organization. Mrs. John Blankenship has made all of her grandchildren honorary members; Jane, Emily and Ellen Blankenship and Dallas Battle.

The M.Y.F. was organized in December, 1951. Gretta Fuller and Miriam Blankenship were the Adult Counsellors until 1957 when the Junior Department was organized, then Mrs. Harold Autry was added as counsellor. Mrs. Claude Bearden has been very active in Sub-District work by helping with the problem of transportation and refreshments.

The M.Y.F. boasts of having had several officers in the Kolade Sub-District since its organization: Sue Fuller was president during the year '57-'58. Buddy Autry, Mary Nan (Bearden) Ellison, Benny Coulter and Bertha Lee Canada have also held offices.

The activities and projects of the church have been many and varied over the past 100 years. Each generation has probably struggled equally as hard as the other to achieve spiritual and physical improvements for the church. On May 25, 1958, the formal opening of a beautiful new Sanctuary will be held. This is the third Sanctuary on the present church lot and the fifth Methodist Sanctuary to be built in the Plainville Community.

To win the lost to Christ and to provide christian fellowship for all mankind who may contact the church in any way has been and will be the purpose of the Plainville Methodist Church. For a TRUE Methodist is of necessity a Christian and with regards to the fundamentals of Christianity, we are not to be distinguished from other real Christians of any denominations.

"Whosoever doeth the will of my Father is my brother and sister and mother." So rises another Holy Sanctuary to proclaim to all that God is Love and Light, and the hearts of 142 Methodist bow in Humble Thanksgiving for His Mercy and Loving Kindness.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pastor</th>
<th>Presiding Elders</th>
<th>Bishops</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>J. Pettis</td>
<td>W. T. Irvine</td>
<td>A. W. Wilson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>J. H. McCoy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L. E. Russell</td>
<td></td>
<td>Collins Denny</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T. H. Maxwell</td>
<td></td>
<td>J. F. Yarbrough</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I. J. Lovern</td>
<td></td>
<td>W. A. Candler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lester Rumble</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R. W. Greene</td>
<td></td>
<td>W. B. Murrah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W. B. Hughes</td>
<td></td>
<td>V. W. Darlington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McLawry Elrod</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roger Stone</td>
<td></td>
<td>Frank Quillian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. P. Foster</td>
<td></td>
<td>W. B. Beuchamp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John K. Dean</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. R. England</td>
<td></td>
<td>John M. Moore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. R. Vincent</td>
<td></td>
<td>J. R. Turner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barrett Barton</td>
<td></td>
<td>A. M. Pierce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. B. Stephenson</td>
<td></td>
<td>W. N. Ainsworth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T. C. Ford</td>
<td></td>
<td>J. J. Threlkild</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles J. Grilhe</td>
<td></td>
<td>J. H. Decell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John B. Ward</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eugene Gilreath</td>
<td></td>
<td>C. M. Lippham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. L. Betts</td>
<td></td>
<td>Arthur J. Moore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loran Parker</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack Travelstead</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W. Arvil Allen</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James, H. Snell, Jr.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Wm. H. Gardner</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

J. O. Pettis, T. C. Ford and B. L. Betts served four years each.
T. H. Maxwell, Barrett Barton, Charles Grilhe, Arvil Allen served three years.
The others have served one to two years each.

Names of pastors before 1911 as recalled by Miss Beluah Hydle are not in order and the number of years of service to the Adairsville Charge are not known. Presiding Elders and Bishops are not known by historian.


**NOTE**
W. D. Spence served between J. B. Stephenson and T. C. Ford.
INTERESTING FACTS:

The largest collection for any one week on record was received the second week of September 1952, during a revival conducted by the Rev. Jack Travelstead. The offering for that week was $220.07.

Miriam Blankenship holds the record for services as a teacher. She has taught the Junior Class for the past 21 years and during this time she cannot recall having missed more than 8 or 10 Sundays, with the exception of three months spent at Young Harris College, but she attended Sunday School every Sunday while there.

Unity Baptist Church gave a Sunday morning offering in April 1955 to our Building Fund.

Soon after the Building Fund was started, Millard Coulter built a large "cosh" thermometer which was placed in front of the church. What a thrill to watch the cash mark creep up toward the top which read $10,000.00!

Official Board meetings of the church are open to the congregation.

Sunday Bulletins have been printed every Sunday since the Plainville Charge came into being.

The Choir was organized soon after Rev. Snell came, and has met weekly for the past two years.

The Pastor's Salary and the Conference Budget have been doubled since 1955-56.

The Building Committee found to their amazement that for over half a century the deeds to the church had not been properly recorded in the County Courthouse.

The Hon. Ronald Chance and his office force gave their legal help in dealing with the loan, free of charge.

The old Sanctuary was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. John L. Rogers and was converted into a dwelling house.

Approximately $50,000.00 has been paid through the General Church Treasury since 1942. Cancelled checks for most of this money are on file. This does not include class projects, Guild or W.S.C.S. or the Building Program.

For the past ten years, Mr. & Mrs. John Blankenship have furnished floral arrangements almost every Sunday for the church from their own yard.

The name of the church was not officially changed from Union Grove to Plainville Methodist Church until the third Quarterly Conference in 1957.
The Prayer Cell which was organized in August, 1955, has missed only one weekly meeting since its organization.

Since 1952, the church has paid only $2,000.00 cash to foreign missions through special projects, World Service, W.S.G. and W.S.C.S. (It should be more!)

There have been 15 infants baptized since 1945.

Twenty of the old pews were sold to the North Broad Baptist Church in Rome for use in their Educational Department. Several of the pews were sold to individuals.

Since 1941, the church has paid in full every year; The pastor's salary and conference apportionments which are based on the pastor's salary.

For the past two years, the Methodist Expansion Day offering has exceeded the askings.

The youngest male and female members in May, 1958, are Douglas Moore and Jane Blankenship.

Oldest members, male and female, in May, 1958, are Mr. John Wesley Blankenship and Mrs. Mollie Scott Boswell.

Members for the longest number of years in May, 1958, are Mr. Claude VanDyke and Miss Buelah Hydle.

Mrs. George Connell has served as pianist for 23 years.

Miss Miriam Blankenship has served as pianist two years full time and ten years as assistant.

Leonard Fuller served as Sunday School Superintendent for five years.

Maurice Goswick is the present Sunday School Superintendent.

Miss Miriam Blankenship has served as Church Secretary and Treasurer for 17 years.
You might like to remember --

The last funeral service to be held in the old Sanctuary was that of Mrs. J. Wesley Blankenship.

The last wedding to be held in the old Sanctuary was that of Miss Bobbie Jean Norris and Lex Floyd.

The last infant baptism in the old Sanctuary was that of Dallas Battle.

The last member received into the church in the old Sanctuary was Mrs. Joanne Moore.

The last guest minister in the old Sanctuary was the Rev. Glenn Patterson, a student at Emory, from the Tennessee Conference.

With the Fellowship Hall in the Educational Unit being used as a Sanctuary: ---

Funerals of the following people were held in neighboring churches or Funeral Homes because of the lack of space.
- Mr. Fred Autry, Unity Baptist
- Mr. H. E. Millar, Thomas Funeral Home
- Mr. Grody VanDyke, Fellowship Baptist
- Mr. Frank Harris, Unity Baptist

First members received into the church in the Fellowship Hall, being used as a Sanctuary, were: Jane Blankenship, Gary Reese, Kenneth Wright, Jerry Edwards, Douglas Moore.

First wedding in the Fellowship Hall was that of Miss Polly Williams and Fay Autry.

First infant baptism in the Fellowship Hall was that of Gale Connell and Jimmy Snell.

First visiting minister in the Fellowship Hall was the Rev. Arvil Allen, a former pastor, of Albany, Kentucky.

New Sanctuary: ---

First funeral in the new Sanctuary was that of Mr. Eugene Goswick.

First infant Baptism was that of Ellen Melissa Blankenship.

First to join the church were Mr. and Mrs. Henry Woodall who transferred their membership from an Alabama church.