HISTORY

of

PORTERDALE METHODIST CHURCH
The Julia A. Porter Memorial Methodist Church

The Porterdale Methodist Church was organized on January 17, 1904 by Mr. C. T. Lummus with thirty-five chartered members. Of the thirty-five, only one is living in Porterdale at the present time, Mrs. Mamie Finley. Mr. Lummus was also chairman of Board of Stewards and superintendent of Sunday School from January 17, 1904 until his death, November 16, 1939.

The first meeting of the Porterdale Methodist Church was held in the old School Building. In 1916, the church moved to the Community Building for a year and then moved to the new school auditorium. Rev. Firley Baum was pastor during this time.

Being combined with Liberty, Red Oak, Gaither and Love Joy, the Porterdale Methodist Church was made a part of the Liberty Circuit. It remained on that circuit until the time of Rev. J. J. M. Mize when it was combined with Liberty and Covington Mill, forming a half circuit. At the time of Rev. B. H. Smith in 1925, the Porterdale Methodist Church was made a station.

Ten in 1922, a group of people, who had gathered at the School Building for Sunday School, became stirred by the subject of the lesson, "Building a Wall around Jerusalem". It was there this group decided to build a church regardless of cost. Among this group were Mr. C. T. Lummus, Miss Ethel Belcher, Dr. E. H. Adams and Rev. J. J. M. Mize, pastor at this time. A building committee was appointed and on this committee were Mr. Sid Yancey, Sr., Mr. C. T. Lummus, Dr. E. H. Adams, Mr. A. J. Cason, Mr. W. M. Weaver, Miss Ethel Belcher and Mrs. Gertrude Harper, Mr. Sid Yancey was made chairman.

The building committee held their first meeting to discuss plans for a church home. At this meeting, Dr. Adams told this story which will long be remembered. "Well, I think we will have a church building now since we, the members, are planning to build it ourselves. It reminds me of a story of a mother bird who led her brood in a wheat field. Each evening when she came home, they told her that the owner had sent a man out to see if it was time to cut the wheat. Then the mother bird would say "We will wait". Finally, one day when she came home, they told her that the owner himself came that day and said it was ready to be cut tomorrow. She said, "We will move now, for when the owner says "cut", it will be done."

The members of the Board of Trustees were James H. Porter, A. J. Cason, Dr. E. H. Adams, C. T. Lummus and Sid Yancey, Sr. - they served throughout the erection of the church. The members of the Porterdale Methodist Church had talked about needing a church building but they had wanted the North Georgia Conference or Bibb Mfg. Co. to do it. They were, at last, ready for a church and since they decided to build regardless of price, they felt sure of getting one.
The present church building was erected in 1924 by the church membership with the most gracious assistance of Mr. James H. Porter. Mrs. James H. Porter shoveled the first dirt from the church grounds. Rev. J. J. M. Mize was pastor at the time of erection of the church and this was the second church to be built in Porterdale.

The Julia A. Porter Memorial Methodist Church was dedicated as a memorial to Mr. James Porter's Mother, by Bishop Candler on the third Sunday in October 1925.