History of the Powder Springs Methodist Church
One hundred and twenty years ago on December 28, 1838 the town of Powder Springs was incorporated as "Springville, at the Powder Springs". In the early days the town was a resort town because of the Mineral Springs. The exact date of the founding of the Powder Springs Methodist Church is unknown, but as far as can be determined with any accuracy the Church was founded about the same time as the town, about the year 1838.

The first Church was a log cabin. It was located on the south side of the present Cemetery, known by many as the Methodist Cemetery and now referred to as the old Cemetery. This land was owned by Elisha and Jane Scott Lindley, who were Charter members of the Methodist Church and it is assumed that they gave the land for the first Church.

In 1844 the Church was officially organized and a frame building was constructed on the lot where the present Church stands. This land was given by Mr. Johnathan Lindley, also a Charter member. During these early years the Church was listed in the LaGrange District and known as the Powder Springs Mission. This frame building stood until July 1864. In that year the Church was occupied by the Federal Troops and during this occupancy was destroyed by fire.

Immediately following the burning of their building the Methodist were invited to hold their Services in the Presbyterian Church. This Church stood at the corner of Lost Mountain Road and Marietta Street, which is the present site of the G. M. Hardage home. The Baptist having lost their Church in a similar manner as the Methodist, were invited to use this Church also. The Presbyterian Church had been damaged during this War Between the States, so the three denominations worked together
to restore the Church so they could again hold their Worship Services. This building was shared for a number of years by the three Churches.

It was not until 1872, under the pastorate of Rev. Eldridge K. Akin that the Methodist were able to construct a new Church Building. This was made possible by the Springville Masonic Lodge F A&M #153. These two organizations joined together in building a two story wooden building that was used jointly for fifty years, or there about. The Methodist used the ground floor for Worship Services and the Masons held their meetings on the top floor. The building had a large verandah across the front and there were green blinds on the windows. There was a bell tower in this building and as history tells it, the bell was tolled when a person died and the cortege started to the Cemetery. The bell tolled as many times as the person was years old. In later years the bell was rung for the regular worship services. This bell is in the present Church.

In the meantime, Congress had enacted legislation authorizing the payment for damages done to the Churches by the Federal Troops during the Civil War. Mrs. Josie Kiser Awtery was really responsible for the United States paying money for the damages done here during the war. She persistantly kept behind Congress and other officials in Washington D. C. until she had matters in court and finally a sum was paid both the Methodist and Baptist Churches in the early 1900's. The exact amount is not known, some say $600 and others $900, regardless of the amount this money was used to purchase the equity which the Masons held in the property, dissolving the joint ownership.

In 1924, under the leadership of Rev. Fred Ray and the building committee composed of Dr. J. D. Middlebrooks, J. A. Lewis, G. D. Miller, Dr. Will Butner and G. M. Hardage a new building was started which is the
present Church building today. The old building was torn down and preparations begun for the new Church. Cards were printed for the sale of bricks and there were many personal pledges to raise funds for this new building. However only the basement was dug during the pastorate of Rev. Ray. His place was taken by Rev. Adrain Warwick and it was he who started the building and completed it. He contributed much to the building. He was a cabinet maker as well as being a Minister and today one can see his work in our Sanctuary. The Chancel Rail is a good example of the work he did. With this skill he alone saved the Church many dollars and gave the people in Powder Springs a beautiful new Church at a minimum of cost. This building was completed and dedicated in October of 1925.

During the building program some of the grandchildren of the charter members decided it would be nice to put in a memorial window for their grandparents. However when the final sum of money was raised there was not enough for the type of window that they wanted so the present stained windows were installed with the name plates at the bottom.

The building program had depleted the funds of the Church, so there was not enough money to buy new pews for the Church. The old benches were installed. During this period of building the Methodist Worship Services were not interrupted; they were given permission to hold their services in the neighboring Baptist Church.

The Church continued to grow and progress could not be held back. This was seen by individuals and groups within the Church by the year 1947. Some of the Church organizations had already begun to raise money with the idea of enlarging on the facilities of the Church. In 1949, under the pastorate of Rev. Gordon Strickland the Board of Education presented to the Board of Stewards a resolution stating the needs of the Church School
and asking for a Church School Building to meet the needs. The Board of Stewards added favorably on this resolution and on April 28, 1949 a special session of the Quarterly Conference was held, with Dr. Lester Rumble presiding. At this Conference a resolution authorizing the erection of a Church School Building was passed and the following were designated as a building committee: T. E. Meadows, Cliff Hunter, Dr. F. P. Lindley, Jones Garrard, and Coy Lewis. Two vacancies occurred in this committee, one by death and one by resignation, the vacancies were official filled and the building committee stood as follows: Carl Norris, Cliff Hunter, Dr. F. P. Lindley, Jones Garrard and Mrs. Parks Lindley. Immediately after this action by the Quarterly Conference, fund raising campaigns were started. Among the first contributions was $300 paid by the W. S. C. S. This organization continued to contribute to this program and the furnishing of this building. Other Church organizations worked too, the Church School gave every first Sunday offering, the Men's Club and the Wesleyan Service Guild, along with many individuals, helped to finance this program.

In December 1949 Rev. Gordon Strickland having completed his work at Emory University, desired to return to his home in the Florida Conference. He was succeeded by Rev. J. W. Scarborough, also from the Florida Conference who desired to complete his Ministerial study at Emory. It was in October of 1950, during his pastorate that the actual building was started and completed. The building is a two story building and holds eight classrooms on the top story. The ground floor has a large fellowship hall, kitchen, rest rooms and Pastor's Study. During this program the Sanctuary was refinished and other improvements were made.

The Church has received many beautiful and useful gifts, all of which have been enjoyed through the years. As far as can be determined the Church has received three memorial gifts, the first being the windows...
already mentioned. The headliner Bulletin Board in front of the Church was
given by the Jones Garrard family in memory of their son Craton Garrard
who was killed in World War II. The Hammond Organ, that we all enjoy
each Sunday was given by the Lewis family in memory of their parents and
brothers, Mr. and Mrs. John A. Lewis, James Homer Lewis, William Coy
Lewis and Lunsford Lewis.

It was during the pastorate of Rev. J. W. Scarborough that Powder
Springs Church was made a Station Church. Here-To-Fore this Church was
associated with other Churches as a part of a Circuit. From time to
time it has been placed in the following Districts: LaGrange, Rome,
Marietta, Atlanta, and is now in the Atlanta West District.

In 1954, Rev. Wilson J. Culpepper was appointed to this charge and
assumed the responsibility, along with the people, of continuing to
raise funds to pay off the indebtedness that was created by this
building program. It was with great joy then in December of 1957 that
this building was cleared of debt. This new building has served well and
has been a joy to all that have used it. However growth has not stopped
and progress must continue, again the people are beginning to feel the need
of further growth. Progress had been made--From a log cabin to a modern
brick structure, from 1838 to 1958.

This history was written for Dedication Day, March 16, 1958.

CONTINUATION OF THE POWDER SPRINGS METHODIST CHURCH HISTORY

During the pastorate of Rev. Pete Dinkins, on July 3, 1964, the
Powder Springs Methodist Church purchased from Mrs. Ada Lewis Lindley the
property adjacent to the Church property on the west side being at the
corner of Walton Street and facing Highway 278. The frontage on Marietta
Street is 125 ft. and the frontage on Walton Street is 229 ft; purchased
price was $14,000.
During the pastorate of Brother Willie Berkner, the property adjoining Mrs. Ada Lewis Lindley's property was purchased in January, 1967. This property consists of about 8/10 of an acre facing Walton Street and has a frame house that is being rented by the Church. This property was purchased for $12,000.

A Stewardship Crusade was organized in April 1968 and $56,000 was pledged toward a new Sanctuary. This Crusade was conducted by Rev. Lacquement from the Mission Board.

In the fall of 1966 a Building Committee was appointed. This group worked diligently studying and planning for the future of our church through recommendations to the Official Board and the Board of Trustees. The following was accomplished:

A. The lot and house joining the back of the church property was bought.
B. The General Board of Missions were contacted and sent a director for a fund raising campaign.
C. A Crusade Committee was appointed and at the end of the campaign had approximately $68,000 in pledges.

By January 1968 the Building Committee (having in mind that we needed Sunday School rooms, Fellowship Hall, Pastor's Study, Secretary's Office, kitchen, rest rooms, and Sanctuary) agreed to a resolution, if possible, to build a Sanctuary first. They engaged the help of the Crusade Committee. Four Master Plans were presented by the Architect. Many problems existed, such as the land elevation and finances (much time had passed since the planning had begun and the cost of building spiraled). The amount now being dealt with was $100,000 to $130,000. The present sanctuary was inspected by three builders in the community and they reported it in too bad a condition to convert into use of any kind.

The final decision was made for Master Plan IV. Master Plan IV consisted of Parts A and B.
Part A: The present Sanctuary would be torn away and replaced with a new sanctuary.

Part B: A Fellowship Building would be built on the newly acquired land. Making necessary the tearing away of the house on the land. This building would include three classrooms, a Pastor's Study, Secretary's Office, kitchen, two rest rooms, and a fellowship hall. Also a parking area would be developed for additional parking space.

Plan IV was presented before the church and adopted. The Building Committee agreed that Part B of Master Plan IV should precede Part A for two reasons. One, the immediate need for classrooms, offices, kitchen, rest rooms, and parking space. Two, these facilities could be used along with the fellowship hall when Part A is begun.

The building contract was let for $56,200 and the kitchen equipment contract for $8,377.50. Part B of Plan IV was completed in the latter part of 1969. The Church Congregation is now greatly enjoying the use of the new Fellowship Hall.

We would like to recognize the following people for their assistance and cooperation in compiling and preparing this booklet on the history of our Church. Mrs. R. G. Mellichamp, Mrs. Claude Chandler, Mrs. Tom Steed, Mrs. Thomas Gammon, Mrs. M. J. Miller, Mrs. Hoyt Henderson.

We would also like to recognize the following people who have been members of our Church 50 years or longer and are living now, May 24, 1970.

1. Mrs. Parks Meeks
2. Mr. L. B. Thomas
3. Mr. Harry Miller
4. Mrs. G. M. Hardage
5. Miss Emma Lewis
6. Mrs. Hettie Lindley
7. Mrs. W. T. Forrester
8. Mrs. Grace Johnson
9. Mrs. Maude Westbrooks
10. Mr. Tom Meadows
11. Mrs. Grady Moon
12. Mrs. W. R. Landers
13. Mrs. C. R. Hunter
14. Mrs. Betsy Mobley
15. Mrs. Agnes Dupree
16. Mrs. Bobbie McDonald
17. Mrs. Mina Turner
18. Mr. Jack Baggett

If there are others who were not listed, it was by error that they were not included.