History of

POWDER SPRINGS METHODIST CHURCH

Powder Springs, Ga.

"From little acorns great oaks grow,
From little springs great waters flow."

The exact date of the founding of the Powder Springs Methodist Church is unknown, but as far as it can be determined with any accuracy, this church was founded about 1838, when a group of Methodists met for worship in a log cabin on the south side of the present cemetery in Powder Springs, Ga.

In 1844 the church was officially organized, and a frame construction building was built on a lot that had been donated to the church by Mr. Jonathan Lindley. That original property gift is the site of the present church. This building stood as a House of God until July, 1864 when it was destroyed by the Federal troops of General Sherman.

During the pastorate of the Reverend C. K. Aiken, 1872, a very unusual thing happened in the life of this church. The Methodists and the Masons of the area built a two-story wooden building that was jointly owned and used for over fifty years. The Methodists used the ground floor for worship services, and the Masons used top floor for lodge meetings. At that time, most of the Masons were Methodists, and this was a wonderful gesture on the part of the Masonic organization toward the re-establishment of the Methodist Church in Powder Springs after the Civil War.

In the Meantime, Congress had enacted legislation permitting reimbursement to churches for the destruction suffered in houses of worship effected by Federal troops. This church received nine hundred dollars as a consequence of this federal legislation, with which it purchased the equity which the Masons held in the church property, dissolving the joint ownership of the church building.

In 1925, the old wooden building which had served so well in the community in the service of God and humanity was torn down; and a modern brick building constructed under the leadership of the Rev. Fred Ray. The building built in 1925 is the present sanctuary.

However, this progress was not to be all. Realizing that the church organization had outgrown the single building, the Rev. J. W. Scarborough and the people of the Powder Springs
Methodist Church launched a building program, in October, 1950. A large Church School building was erected, construction which doubled the size of the Church plant.

This new building makes the facilities adequate indeed. There are large class rooms, two rest rooms, a large kitchen, pastor's study, and a dining hall and recreation hall measuring seventy two feet by thirty six feet. A wonderful heating system was installed throughout the entire Church and church school, and in every respect the facilities are complete. The rooms are furnished and the church program suffers in no way from a lack of equipment. During the building program of 1950, the sanctuary was refinished and a modern Hammond organ was installed. The church is well marked as the result of the memorial gift of one of the prominent families of the church. The church stands today as an active and vital influence in the affairs of the Kingdom and the community. It is a beautiful church and well equipped to serve in the capacity for which it has been built over the years.

The Sunday School is active and growing; the Methodist Men's Organization has been of great and invaluable service in this Church's history; and the Woman's Society of Christian Service has made a contribution of tremendous import to the success of this part of God earthly Kingdom. All phases of the Church program has gone forward, and is continuing to go forward, with enthusiasm and genuine zeal. Not only has the church progressed in a material way; the spiritual progress has been something to behold. In 1950, the entire church budget was $1853, exclusive of the building program which came at the end of the year, and the Pastor's salary was $1200. This year the budget is approximately $8,000, and the pastor's salary is $3,000. Church attendance has increased enormously, the church has moved within the last three yeats from a student pastorate to a full-time pastorate, the church sponsors a radio program each Sunday afternoon, and in every way is manifesting a deep spiritual concern for the things of the Kingdom.

So, the little acorn has grown until it is a great spiritual oak that gives heavenly shelter to a well organized membership and program; and the little spring has enlarged through the year until it has become a vital spiritual stream that furnishes Divine water to the souls of a fast growing church group, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.