During August, 1953, around the time of camp meeting at Marietta Campground in Cobb County, the Reverend J. W. O. McKibben, District Superintendent of the Atlanta-West District, talked with several people living in the Lower Roswell Road—Powers Ferry Road community about the interest in a Methodist church in their neighborhood. Because of favorable comment for organizing a new church in this new and rapidly growing residential section, plans began to develop. During August an option was taken for two lots on the Carl E. Hamby estate fronting on Hamby Drive. On September 22, 1953, the deed on Lot No. 1 was acquired from Mrs. Sarah Hamby Shipp. On September 26, 1953, the deed on Lot No. 2 was acquired from Ben H. Hamby. The purchase of these lots was aided by contributions from Park Street Methodist Church, Peachtree Road Methodist Church and the Atlanta-West District Board of Missions.

On October 25, 1953, lay men and women from all the churches in Greater Marietta met at the Marietta Campground Church and plans were made for the survey of the Powers Ferry Road subdivision. The Reverend Robert Chaplin was chairman of the committee and had organized the survey most carefully. The surveyors were divided in groups of two each, and in three hours they surveyed 350 homes, leaving 211 to be surveyed. The Reverend Mr. Chaplin took the survey cards and compiled them, giving the report that is attached to this history.

In November, the Board of Missions of the North Georgia Conference met and voted the sum of $800.00 to be used for a salary of a student pastor for the proposed new church. On December 1, Bishop Arthur J. Moore appointed Norton Ragan Campbell, Jr., a student in the Candler School of Theology, as supply pastor for the new congregation in the east Marietta section.

Also in December, talks with Mr. O. S. Ragsdale resulted in the down payment on a six room, $12,500 brick veneer house with Mr. Ragsdale had under
construction. This house, at 107 Yancey Drive, was bought to serve as a parsonage for the new church. Final papers on its purchase were signed on March 9, 1954. The down payment and the first notes on the house were paid from funds from the Atlanta-West District Board of Missions.

The first organizational meeting of the church was held on Sunday, December 13, 1953, at the Powers Ferry Road Elementary School. Ministers present included the Reverend J. W. O. McKibben, the Reverend Norton R. Campbell, Jr., the Reverend Paul A. Turner, the Reverend Robert Chaplin, the Reverend Peter Manning, the Reverend Rudolph Baker, the Reverend C. H. Wheelis; the Reverend W. F. Byrd, the Reverend James N. Love, the Reverend A. J. Peters, and the Reverend Maynard Luttrell. Delegations from the following churches were recognized: Marietta First Church, Fair Oaks, Campground, Marietta Circuit, and Park Street. Because of a county-wide temperance meeting being held on the same afternoon and because of an excessively heavy rainfall, the number present who wished to become charter members of the new church was small. On this afternoon seven adults signed their names as charter members of the new church.

On January 8, 1954, a meeting of the first charter members and the pastor was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. T. M. Arnold at 107 Cloverdale Drive. At this meeting Brother Campbell told the group of plans underway to secure a loan from the Board of Missions for the construction of a church building. The group discussed some of the cards on prospective members and made plans to call on friends and neighbors during the following week.

On January 15, another meeting was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Spivey on Lower Roswell Road. At this meeting S. B. Spivey was elected temporary chairman of the Official Board and Neil Bass was elected treasurer.

On January 22, 1954 the church was officially organized at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. N. Dorris. After a period of worship those present were received into official membership in the Powers Ferry Road Methodist Church.
The first quarterly conference of the church was called by the Reverend J. W. O. McKibben. The following business was transacted: Powers Ferry Road Methodist Church was voted the official name of the church; S. B. Spivey was confirmed as chairman of the Official Board, and Neil Bass as treasurer. Mrs. J. N. Dorris was elected secretary of the Official Board. Those named the Trustees of the church were Neil Bass, Mrs. J. N. Dorris, Joel Copeland, G. B. Carson, and B. L. Oliver. Elected to serve as stewards were J. N. Dorris, T. M. Arnold, Mrs. T. M. Arnold, W. C. King, Mrs. W. C. King, B. L. Oliver, S. B. Spivey, Mrs. S. B. Spivey, G. B. Carson, and Joel Copeland. T. M. Arnold was named recording steward. A publicity committee of Mrs. T. M. Arnold and Mrs. W. C. King was appointed. A Recoding Committee was appointed, consisting of Mrs. S. B. Spivey, Mrs. T. M. Arnold, and Mrs. J. N. Dorris.

On January 29 and on February 5, additional meetings of the church members were held. B. L. Oliver was elected chairman of the Commission on Membership and Evangelism.

On Sunday, February 14, the group again met at the Powers Ferry Road School. At 10:00 a.m. there was a fellowship hour followed by a worship service at 11:00. On this same afternoon at 3 o'clock there was a ground breaking ceremony led by the Reverend J. W. O. McKibben and the Reverend Norton R. Campbell, Jr. on the side for the new church building.

On Monday, Feb. 15, 1954, work began on the first unit of the Powers Ferry Road Methodist Church. Contract for the building was let to Mr. Charles J. Thomas for a bid of $14,700. This bid was based on the construction of a colonial-style brick veneer chapel with finished basement. The Reverend E. J. Hammond drew the preliminary plans for the building.

On February 21 and 28 the members of Powers Ferry Road Methodist Church worshipped with the congregation of Campground Methodist Church. The Reverend Mr. Campbell preached at both morning and evening services on these two Sundays. On March 7, a service of worship and "dinner on the ground" were held at the Campground Community House. On March 13, the pastor, his wife,
and their two months old son moved into the new parsonage on Yancey Drive.

From March 11 through May 2 the congregation conducted worship services in the auditorium of the Powers Ferry Road School.

On April 4, a Day of Dedication was held at which time the members pledged their time, talents, and money to the new church. Pledges were turned in on a three months basis. The goal set was $960.

On April 5, at the parsonage the Woman's Society of Christian Service was organized. Mrs. George Marcinko was elected president. Other officers were: vice-president, Mrs. Ray McLeroy; secretary, Mrs. W. C. King; treasurer, Mrs. T. M. Arnold; secretary of spiritual life, Mrs. J. D. Parker; secretary of missionary education, Mrs. J. N. Dorris; secretary of promotion, Mrs. Norton Campbell, Jr.; secretary of Christian social relations and local church activities, Mrs. S. B. Spivey; secretary of children's work, Mrs. R. D. Wolfe; secretary of student and youth work, Mrs. G. B. Carson.

The Sunday school of the church was held for the first time on Sunday, April 11, with G. B. Carson serving as church school superintendent. Teachers were: nursery, Mrs. J. D. Parker and Mrs. G. B. Carson; kindergarten, Mrs. J. N. Dorris and Mrs. T. M. Arnold; primary, Mrs. Ray McLeroy; junior, J. D. Parker; intermediate, Joel Copeland; youth, G. B. Carson.

The first choir of the church was composed of the young people in the church and was accompanied and directed by Mrs. Sherrod Tomlinson, a member of First Methodist, who volunteered her services until a regular choir director could be found.

The church building was used for the first time on Friday night, April 16, for a Good Friday Communion Service. The announcement in the bulletin the preceding Sunday read: "The service will be conducted as far as possible by candlelight. We would like to ask all who come to bring candles with you. Since some of us will have to sit on the floor we suggest that you do not dress up. This will be our first service in the new church building. We hope that it can be a deep worship experience for us all." The evening was damp and
rather cold, but the service was well attended. The unfinished little chapel was decorated with dogwood; music for the service was provided by records borrowed from the Atlanta Public Library. The Reverend Robert Chaplin served communion to the worshippers.

The congregation of the church continued to worship in the auditorium of Powers Ferry Road School until Mother's Day, May 9, 1954. On that Sunday the new chapel was used for the first time. Folding chairs had been purchased for the church and were used for both Sunday school and church services. The chapel had no pews, no carpeting, no blinds or drapes. The pulpit furniture was purchased from the Clarkesville Trade School, Clarkesville, Georgia, for the cost of the material used.

The basement of the church was left unpartitioned so that it might be used for recreation or fellowship gatherings. However, to section it off for Sunday school, wires were stretched along the ceiling and curtains were hung to separate one group from another. Tables and chairs were purchased for the younger age groups and Sunday school went on despite the noisy, crowded conditions. Some of the youth groups held their classes outdoors under the trees since the weather was pretty.

A piano was purchased by the church and a few months later a Hammond electric organ was purchased for the chapel by two members of the church, J. D. Parker and J. J. Granade, Jr. Mr. Granade agreed to serve as the first choir director and under his leadership an adult choir was soon formed. The first regular organist for the church was Mr. Willis Shell, who took the job in November, 1954.

In June of 1954 the four lots adjoining the church's property on Hamby Drive were purchased by the church. The cost of these lots totaled $4,000. Of this amount $1,000 was raised within the congregation and the remainder came from the Atlanta West District Board of Missions and Peachtree Road Methodist Church. These additional lots increased the church property to approximately four and a half acres.
The drive for charter members of Powers Ferry Road Methodist Church was closed on Sunday, July 11, 1954, with a special service led by the Rev. J. W. O. McKibben and the Rev. Norton Campbell. A membership training class was received into church membership and at the close of the service others came forward to indicate their desire to unit with the church. Charter membership was closed with a total of 89 members. During this special service the pastor announced the desire of the congregation to name the chapel for the Rev. J. W. O. McKibben under whose devoted leadership the church had been planned, organized, and nurtured.

At the meeting of the North Georgia Conference in June, 1954, the Rev. Norton R. Campbell, Jr. was returned to the church to serve it as an accepted supply pastor for the salary of $1500.

As the church entered its first full conference year it began to go to work in many areas. The first budget for the church was set for $6,600. Each member was asked to make a pledge toward this goal.

During August those interested in forming a Methodist Youth Fellowship met, and under the leadership of Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Yarborough and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Barnett organized the first youth group. Installation of officers by Cobb County Subdistrict officers was held on Sunday evening, Aug. 29.

During the fall the church made plans to sponsor a cub scout pack. These plans materialized in the formation of Pack 433, which received its charter in December, 1954.

With the coming of cold weather the church faced the need for a furnace. A gas furnace was purchased and installed for $825. Five hundred dollars of this amount was donated by Peachtree Road Methodist Church.

It was during the fall of 1954 that the officials of the church realized the desperate need for more Sunday school space. In October at a special quarterly conference the trustees of the church authorized the district superintendent to borrow from the conference Board of Missions the sum of $10,000 to enable the church to add a wing to the unit already constructed. In January,
1955, the Official Board voted to accept the contractor's bid of $11,700 to construct a concrete block, two story addition to the existing building. This added approximately 3,500 square feet of floor space to the church plant. The construction work was left unfinished on the inside and the men of the church set to work putting down the sub-flooring, partitioning the classrooms, putting in the ceiling, moldings, etc., and finally undertaking the painting. For a year following the completion of the contractor's work the volunteer labor went on. As chairman of the Official Board and then as Building Committee Chairman, Mrs. S. B. Spivey made carpenters out of church members who had hardly ever held hammers. Bit by bit the work was accomplished and the fellowship gained in laboring together strengthened the church. The women were frequently on the scene with coffee and cake, cokes, ice cream, or watermelon—whatever the season demanded.

The first anniversary of the church was observed at an evening service on January 23, 1955. The membership had grown from 17 to 114. Brother McKibben was on hand to preach the anniversary service.

In June, 1955, the first vacation Bible school was conducted for a one week period under the leadership of Mrs. Ralph Ragland.

At conference in 1955 the membership of the church was reported at 127. Norton Campbell was again appointed as an accepted supply pastor.

The musical program of the church was expanded in November, 1955, with the establishment of a Junior Choir under the leadership of Mrs. Joe Granade and Mrs. David Hubler.

The beginning of 1956 saw the realization of one dream of the church, the installation of pews in the chapel. Individual pledges from church members and other Methodist friends made this purchase possible. The pews, ordered from the Roswell Seating Co., were first used Feb. 19, 1956, and added greatly to the atmosphere of worship in the chapel.
When the church year of 1956-57 began, the church had a full time pastor for the first time. Having received his B.D. degree in June, Norton Campbell, Jr. was ordained deacon and received into the North Georgia Conference on trial. He was again appointed by Bishop Authur J. Moore to serve Powers Ferry Road Methodist Church.

The Men’s Club of the church was organized in May, 1957. One earlier attempt to organize had been unsuccessful, partly because the men were spending so much of their time and effort on the building program of the church. The second attempt brought fruitful results. At the close of its first year the club had a membership of 33. The first officers were: David Hubler, president; Fred McNeal, vice-president; Joe Boyd, secretary; Bill Barnett, treasurer.

As the fall of 1957 approached, the Commission on Education faced the problem of the desperate need of space for Sunday school. Because the church could not undertake an immediate building program, the commission investigated means of temporary expansion. The decision was made to purchase two frame barracks-type buildings from the county Board of Education for use by the church school. Cost of the two buildings totaled $500; having them moved to the church property and placed on the necessary foundations cost $800. Part of this expense was defrayed by a gift of $700 from First Methodist Church in Marietta. The buildings were placed on the rear of the church property to be used by the youth division of the church school and also by the junior department.

During the church year of 1957-58, a building committee was formed to do intensive investigation of the needs of the church for building expansion. The Official Board authorized the signing of a contract with the firm of Bothwell and Nash to serve as architects of a complete church plant. Preliminary sketches were submitted by the architects and presented to the congregation. Although the plans and drawings met with general approval by the congregation, the study made by the building committee of the needs of the church and the
financial obligations and resources of the church seemed to indicate that the time was not yet right to add extensively to the present church plant. The committee recommended to the Quarterly Conference that certain improvements be made to the present church building and grounds and that every possible effort be exerted to begin the accumulation of a fund for a major building addition.

At the close of the church's fourth full conference year, the membership stood at 285. At the Fourth Quarterly Conference the financial secretary reported that a sum of $17,548.53 had been received and deposited up to May 1. For the same period a total of $11,528.54 had been disbursed. The average church school attendance for the year was reported at 208. Besides the World Service quota paid by the church, the sum of $261 was sent for Mission Specials.

Revivals of Powers Ferry Road Methodist Church

The first revival of the church was scheduled in November of 1954, with the Reverend Bevel Jones, pastor of Audubon Forrest Methodist Church preaching. As it turned out, however, the revival was conducted by six preachers instead of one. The pastor preached the first revival sermon on Sunday evening. Then Brother Jones preached on Monday evening as scheduled, although suffering from a sore throat. By Tuesday he had developed laryngitis and was unable to speak that night. On Tuesday night he was replaced by the Reverend Bob Vaughn, pastor of the Woodstock Methodist Church. On Wednesday night Dr. Mack Stokes of Emory University preached. On Thursday, Dr. John R. Brockhoff, pastor of the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Atlanta and professor of homiletics at Candler School of Theology, filled the pulpit. On Friday evening Dr. Claude Thompson, another professor at the Candler School of Theology, preached to the assembled congregation, closing a revival that could boast both variety and powerful preaching.
Other revival meetings include one in July, 1955, when the pastor conducted revival emphasis services each Sunday during the month, and a week of services in November, 1955, conducted by Dr. Lloyd C. Daugherty of the Methodist Board of Evangelism. In March of 1958, along with all other churches in the North Georgia Conference, Powers Ferry Church held a week's revival service. The Reverend Charles Culbreth of the South Georgia Conference was scheduled to preach, but serious illness in his family prevented his coming at the last minute. The Reverend Robert Vaughn, this time pastor of the Union Springs Methodist Church in Union Springs, Alabama, came on short notice to fill the pulpit for the services. The efforts of the church to prepare for the meetings brought forth good attendance. One person joined on profession of faith and was baptized following the service.

In May, 1958, during Family Week, the church held a Family Life Revival, beginning on Sunday evening and continuing through Thursday evening. The preacher for these services was Dr. C. Floyd Feely, professor of counseling and pastoral psychology at Candler School of Theology.

*Woman's Society of Christian Service*

From the first the Woman's Society of Christian Service functioned as an active and vital part of the church. It undertook many projects in equipping and furnishing the new church and parsonage. Through bake sales, Christmas card sales, turkey dinners, summertime smorgasbords, and various other means, the women of the church raised funds for their projects. For the parsonage they purchased a maple dining table and matching chairs, curtains for a bedroom, pillows, and other items. For the church they contributed the cost of one pew for the chapel; they paid for doors needed in the Sunday school addition to the chapel; they raised money for the carpeting in the chapel; they paid for the materials to build the necessary cabinet and counter space for the church kitchen in the basement; they put up curtains
in the Sunday school rooms; they purchased five folding tables for use at church dinners and Men's Club suppers, and they contributed to purchasing chairs for the kindergarten and primary departments. But W.S.C.S. members directed their efforts not only toward financial goals. Other projects included maintaining a nursery during church services; placing flowers in the church each Sunday, visiting prospective members for the church and the Woman's Society. Moreover, the women took advantage of the educational emphases of their organization and conducted the study courses recommended for its members, two or more being held each year. In four years the group grew from an active membership of twelve women to one of fifty-three. During the first full conference year the total sent to the district treasurer for work beyond the local church was $154. During the fourth year it was $383. Presidents of the Woman's Society of Christian Service have been: Mrs. George Marcinko, Mrs. Ray McLeroy, Mrs. S. B. Spivey, Mrs. Joe Boyd, and Mrs. David Hubler.

Board Chairmen

The following men have served as chairman of the Official Board of Powers Ferry Road Methodist Church: S. B. Spivey '51, 54-55; J. J. Granade, 55-56; B. L. Oliver, 56-57, 57-58.

The history of Powers Ferry Road Methodist Church would not be complete without some recognition of the help it has received financially from sources outside its own membership. The Atlanta-West District Board of Missions, Peachtree Road Methodist Church, Expansion Day funds, First Methodist Church in Marietta, and other individual Methodists have expressed their concern over the growth of a new church in God's kingdom through their gifts to this congregation. Peachtree Road Church has contributed $2,000 or more to the church each year.

(Signed: Mrs. Norton R. Campbell, Jr. Compiler)
REPORT ON FIRST ROUND OF POWERS FERRY ROAD SURVEY, Oct. 25, 1953.

Number of houses visited 561
Number "at home" 350
Still to be visited 211

RESULTS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Religion</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Methodists</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>64 gave definite assurance that they will support the new church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baptists</td>
<td>246</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Catholics</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>22 Methodist preference or will support new church.</td>
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<td>Lutheran</td>
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<tr>
<td>Episcopal</td>
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<td>Presbyterian</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>2 prefer Methodist church</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christian</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>2 prefer Methodist church</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Church of Christ</td>
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<td>Advent Christian</td>
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<td>Assoc. Reform</td>
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<td>Jehovah's Witness</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moravian</td>
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<td>1 prefers Methodist church</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evangelical Reform</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2 will support new Methodist Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dobbins A.F. Chapel</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No affiliation</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>29 interested in or promised to support the new Methodist Church.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

122 will support or are interested.

N.B. 1 Of the 148 Methodists 72 had their membership in nearby Methodist churches. The other 76 had their membership in Methodist churches away from the Marietta area.

N.B. 2 The above figures do not include children under 17 years of age (see below)

CHILDREN OF METHODIST FAMILIES & OF FAMILIES WHO PREFER METHODIST CHURCH
(By age groups)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Under 2 years</th>
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<th>4 years</th>
<th>5 years</th>
<th>6 years</th>
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<tbody>
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<td></td>
<td>47</td>
<td>13</td>
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Submitted
Robert F. Chaplin