Red Oak
United Methodist Church

3611 ROOSEVELT HIGHWAY (U.S. 29)
RED OAK, GEORGIA
767-1268
Early in 1946, at the suggestion of The Rev. W.M. Twiggs, District Superintendent of the LaGrange District, the Rev. C.F. Hughes (then pastor at Union City) undertook a survey of the Red Oak community, to determine the feasibility of starting a new Methodist church in the area. In the summer of the same year, the Red Oak Christian Church generously volunteered the use of their church building for the holding of a revival, at which Dr. O.P. Fitzgerald, pastor at College Park Methodist Church, was the preacher.

As a result of Rev. Hughes' survey and of the revival, several families in the area expressed their interest in a Methodist church for Red Oak.
Thus, on Sunday afternoon, September 29, 1945, seventeen people met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Joe A. Argo on Washington Road, and under the leadership of Rev. Hughes, voted to organize themselves into a Methodist Church.

Several items of business were acted upon, a time and place were selected for a meeting for the purpose of setting up the necessary boards and committees, and after prayers of dedication and Thanksgiving, the Sacrament of The Lord's Supper was administered by Rev. Hughes and a benediction was pronounced.

On October 16, less than three weeks after the organization of the church, the Woman's Society of Christian Service was organized at the home of Mrs. H.F. Nash, under the direction of Mrs. R.P. Segars, W.S.C.S. President of the LaGrange District. The following officers were elected: President - Mrs. C.L. Hayes; V. President - Mrs. Joe Argo; Recording Sec'y and Treasurer; Corresponding Sec'y - Mrs. H.F. Nash. Other officers were elected at a later meeting.

Weekly meetings of the congregation in the homes of various members followed the organizational meeting, and at most meetings, other members were added; some by transfer and others on profession of faith. At the organizational meeting, it had been agreed that all who joined the congregation between September 29 and the meeting of the Annual Conference in November would be considered to be charter members.

There follows a list of these Charter Members:

Mrs. C.L. Estes
Mr. Roy C. Gibson
Mrs. Roy C. Gibson
Charles N. Gibson
Dorothy E. Gibson
Elsie K. Gibson
Robert C. Gibson
Sara Ellen Gibson
Mr. Carl L. Hayes
Mrs. Carl L. Hayes
Doris Hayes
Groover Hayes
Mrs. E.T. Herman
Joyce Herman
Miss Barbara Jones
Mrs. Annie Lassiter
Mrs. Frank Lee
Mrs. J.T. McConnell
Miss Kathryn McConnell
Mr. H.F. Nash
Mrs. H.F. Nash
George Nash
Mr. J.W. Perry
Mrs. J.W. Perry
Mr. J.P. Quigley
Mrs. J.P. Quigley
Mrs. T.G. Roberts
Mrs. A.D. Rogers
Janet Rogers
Mrs. J.P. Simpson
Mrs. A.F. Skinner
Mrs. Jeddie E. Spence
Betty Thurman
W.A. Thurman
Mr. S.W. Tolar
Mrs. S.W. Tolar
Mr. Melvin Ward
Mrs. Melvin Ward
Mrs. F.J. Whitley
Mrs. Allene Williams
Mrs. E.O. Williams
Mr. J.T. Wingo

Mrs. I.L. Allen
Mrs. R.L. Anderson
Mr. Joe A. Argo
Mrs. Joe A. Argo
Miss Guinevere Bailey
Mrs. Olive W. Barth
Mr. W.M. Berry
Mrs. W.M. Berry
Mr. Bryant Cherry
Mrs. Bryant Cherry
Mr. C.P. Culverhouse
Mrs. C.P. Culverhouse
By late 1946, the congregation had outgrown the home meetings and Mrs. R.A. Sewell, owner of the Sewell Hat Factory, graciously offered the use of a portion of the factory building for holding church school and worship services.

Rev. Hughes' official relationship with the church having ceased with the convening of the Annual Conference, the church was subsequently served by three consecutive part-time pastors: The Rev. Woodrow W. Jackson, an Emory theology student from Alabama; The Rev. W.M. Hunton, a superannuated minister; and The Rev. Walter M. Cross, an Emory student from Florida.

Soon after organizing, the members of the congregation had selected a Building Committee (W.A. Thurman, Chairman, Roy C. Gibson, Mrs. J.P. Simpson, Carl L. Hayes, Joe A. Argo, J.W. Perry and Mrs. Frank Lee) and had begun to plan for a church building. These plans came to fruition on Palm Sunday, March 21, 1949, when the first worship service was held in their new brick church with Dr. J.W. Veatch, District Superintendent, preaching the sermon. (The Rev. Walter Cross was pastor at this time)

In July, 1949, the first full-time pastor, The Rev. James Welden, along with his wife Lucy and son Jimmy, came to serve the Red Oak Methodist Church and moved into the first parsonage, a brick house near where the Red Oak Plaza shopping center is now located, rented from Mr. Frank Lee. During the Welden's four years, the membership grew to 176, and the church acquired the name of "The Church of Friendly People."

The conference year 1952-1953 brought the second full-time pastor, The Rev. C.B. Drake, with wife, Mary and son, Paul.

The four years from 1953 to 1957 saw the ministry of The Rev. R.E. (Bob) Bridges, wife Marie and family. The debt on the church had annually been decreasing, and it was during Rev. Bridges' years as pastor that the final payments were made. This done, the church could now be dedicated, and the Dedication Service was held on Easter Sunday, April 1, 1956, with District Superintendent Dr. Nat G. Long officiating.

The Rev. Julian Thompson and wife, Ruby, followed the Bridges, serving from 1957 to 1959.

Then came The Rev. A.J. ("Gus") Bruyere, who with wife, Virginia and children, was with us for the years 1959 - 1961. During this period, two events of note took place; the present parsonage was built and furnished, and the church was awarded a Certificate of Citation by the Town and Country Recognition Program, North Georgia Conference of The Methodist Church, for "outstanding work done and progress achieved" during the 1959-60 Conference Year.

From 1961 to 1966, the church was served by The Rev. Harvey C. Boyd, wife Marguerite and family. One highlight of the Boyd's first year was a Homecoming Celebration on September 17, 1961, approximately 15 years after the organization of the church, with Bishop J. Owen Smith as speaker for the occasion.

It was also during Rev. Boyd's ministry that plans were begun for the building of an Education Building. Towards this end, a Building Fund was started, and a lot and a small frame house, known as the "Foster Property" was purchased. This house was renovated somewhat on the inside, and used for church school classrooms for some time.

1966 saw the arrival of The Rev. Paul Harwell, wife Juanita and family. Rev. Harwell had previously served in the South Georgia Conference and came to us from Garden City Methodist Church in Savannah.

In early 1967, we were finally able to begin construction of the Education Building, and when it was completed, Rev. Harwell prevailed upon Mrs. Erma Marwitz to close her home kindergarten on Old National Highway, and move her operations to our Education Building,
thus making possible, in the fall of 1967, the opening of The Red Oak Kindergarten, Inc., sponsored by The Red Oak Methodist Church. The kindergarten operated for eleven years, until 1978, when Fulton County began operation of public school kindergartens.

It was also during Rev. Harwell's three-year stay that, in 1968, The Methodist Church and The Evangelical United Brethren Church merged, forming The United Methodist Church, and we became The Red Oak United Methodist Church.

From 1969 to 1972, the Rev. C. Douglas Brown, wife Beverly, and family served the church, followed by the Rev. Newton Scott, wife Shirley and family from 1972 to 1977. One innovation instituted during Rev. Scott's ministry was a Bazaar, held on the first Saturday in November, which has grown to be a Red Oak tradition.

The Rev. Robert (Bob) Partridge with wife, Carol Anne, and family succeeded the Scotts and were with us from 1977 to 1979.

During the 1979-1983 years, The Rev. Allen Green, wife Joyce and family ministered to the congregation. One high point during their stay was Homecoming in May of 1983, at which time the mortgage on the Education Building was symbolically burned, all debts having been satisfied, and the building was dedicated. The Rev. Paul Harwell, former pastor, spoke at the worship service at this celebration, and officiated at the burning of the mortgage and dedication.

As of June, 1983, we welcomed The Rev. Howard Hancock, his wife Sharon and their family into our midst.
Education Building
(completed in 1967)