VI. Charge Conference called to Order (Charge Conference convened as the "Annual Church Conference") (Paragraph 147).

Election of other Local Church Official desired (The Pastor, as Chairman, presenting the Report of Nominating Committee).

Deciding upon the Name of the New Church.

Mission Offering.

Any Other Business?

VII. Adjournment.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Part I. OFFICIAL HISTORY OF THE NEW CHURCH.

Background

In the fall of 1969, C.W. Edwards, Pastor of Cokesbury United Methodist Church, encouraged the District Superintendent, Dr. Delma L. Hagood, to consider the need of a new church in the burgeoning suburbs of South Augusta. During the conference year 1970-71, Dr. Hagood presented the dream of a new outpost for Christ in South Augusta to the Methodist Ministerial Alliance (Augusta Area Ministers). The Urban Work Committee, the District Committee on Buildings and Church Location, and the District Board of Missions, who concurred in the need.

Early in the spring, the Conference Secretary of Missions and Church Extension, Dr. Candler Dudd, conferred with Dr. Hagood and the District Committee on Buildings and Church Location, as to a proposed site on Meadowbrook Drive.

On May 21, 1971, after due notice, a called session of the Church and Charge Conference was held at Barton Chapel United Methodist Church at 7:30 p.m.
The District Superintendent's records show that after one hour of discussion, in regard to Barton Chapel joining with the formation of a new United Methodist Church, on Meadowbrook Dr., the vote of the congregation was as follows: 74 members present, 58 voted to remain at their present location, 9 members voted to move, and 7 did not vote.

In May of 1971, the District Committee arranged for the purchase of 9.8 acres of land from Mrs. J.A. Criswell, at 2947 Meadowbrook Drive. The property held a large five room house, a half acre pond, and a two room cottage complete with kitchen and bath.

**Finances**

Mrs. Criswell agreed to sell the property for $44,000, half of which was paid for by the Conference Board of Missions and Church Extension. The other half was to be paid for by the district through the District Builders Club, which is an organization sponsored by the District Board of Missions, through which individual laymen across the district are given the opportunity to give $10.00 in the fall and then again in the spring, beyond their giving to the local church, to the work of District Church Extension.

Mr. Levins Laney, a member of St. John and an executive of the Georgia Railroad Bank, was very helpful in working out the financing of the loans for the property and the new parsonage. Invaluable time and assistance has been given by Mr. Alec Streyer, a member of Trinity on the Hill United Methodist Church, Treasurer of the Augusta District Board of Missions and an executive officer of the C&S Bank of Augusta. During the first six months of the church's life, Mr. Streyer has received and disbursed all monies through the District Board of Missions.

**Parsonage**

The District Committee also anticipated the need for a parsonage and decided that the Lord's money would best be invested in a permanent parsonage rather than a rental unit.

Accordingly, a contract was arranged with Wilson Homes of Thomson, Ga. to build a four bedroom home on the southeastern corner of the property on a lot 125' wide and 200' deep. Work was begun on June 14 and the parsonage family moved into its lovely new home on August 12.

Although the completed house would retail on the open market for $30,000, Wilson Brothers built it for the church for $20,639. The Merry Brick Co. of Augusta, Ga., gave a generous discount on the brick used in construction.

The Georgia Power Co. of Augusta made it possible for the parsonage to be furnished with $800 worth of utilities (refrigerator, washer and dryer) for $649. Maxwell Bros. South, made possible the purchase of over $1800 worth of furnishings for the parsonage at only $1287.50. Additional necessary furniture was supplied by the new parsonage family.

The new parsonage was further beautified with the gift of wall to wall carpets by the following companies located in Dalton, Ga. through their representatives active in the Dalton 1st United Methodist Church:

The Needletuft Shop; J&J Industries; Cowntuft; Cabin Craft; Charter Carpet; Coronet Industries.

George Cantrell, father of the wife of the new pastor, donated over 200 azaleas and buxus holly to enhance the landscaping of the lawn.

Early in November, concerned members of the soon to be constituted church, suggested that a fence be installed in the back yard of the parsonage, with members providing the labor and materials to be purchased from the "Projects Fund" established shortly after the Spaghetti Supper held in October.

**New Pastor**

With the parsonage already well under way, the North Georgia annual conference was held in Atlanta, Ga., June 14-18 at Glenn Memorial United Methodist
and the Rev. Joe Peabody was appointed to be the pastor of the new church.

Realizing that the new church would not be able to support their pastor during the organizational stages, the Conference Board of Missions and Church Extensions, under the leadership of their new secretary Dr. Reynolds Greene, authorized pastoral support in the amount of $4,000, during the first year, $3,000 for 2nd year, $2,000 for 3rd year, $1,000 for 4th year. In addition, St. John United Methodist Church of Augusta are giving $1000 toward the pastor’s salary. The General Board of Missions is furnishing $500 for the 1st six months and $1000 for the Conference Year 1972. Several other churches in the district are taking the new church as a mission special.

On July 1, 1971, Mr. Peabody arrived in Augusta to begin a preliminary survey of the community and to recruit new people for the church. Since the parsonage would not be finished until August 12, other arrangements had to be made. Mr. Abe Jackson of the Royal Palms Motel and a member of the Burns Memorial United Methodist Church, graciously provided a room at Royal Palms from July 1 to 16, at which time renovation of the Criswell home had reached the stage where Mr. Peabody could live there. At that time, a roll-away bed was borrowed from Burnside Furniture Co. and the future office became the pastor’s living quarters.

Preparation

Renovation on the Criswell home was begun early in July by Allied Engineers of Harlem, Ga. Mr. Perry Dozier, President of Allied Engineers and an active member of the Harlem Methodist Church directed the conversion of the front rooms into a chapel, giving much time to the project. This work was done at the bare cost of $3729.

Additional classroom space was made available by the Conference Board of Missions and Church Extensions through the use of a 12 by 60' trailer, purchased from Brigadeer Industries for $5,500. This unit was given on loan to the new church anticipating that when it is no longer needed here, it may be moved to another location to help start another United Methodist Church.

Through the good offices of Mr. Dozier, the Harlem Church donated a piano and hymnals for the infant church.

To beautify the chapel, the District W.S.C.S. & W.S.G. donated lovely blue draperies.

Young people from the Hephabah and St. John’s churches spent an entire day cleaning and scouring the cottage, which is now used for a Kindergarten and Nursery.

The cost of renovation was borne by the Augusta District, which in addition, also bought 100 folding chairs and other necessary supplies (air conditioners, etc) at a cost of $750.

We Begin

The first service was held on August 1, 1971, at 11:00 with 63 persons in attendance, 43 from the local area and 20 visitors and friends. Most appreciated were the presence of Dr. & Mrs. Hagood and the District Lay Leader and his family, Mr. & Mrs. Roy Landrum. Mrs. Landrum, who is also the District Superintendent’s secretary, kindly consented to play the piano for the first service.

Of course, it would be impossible to list the individual contributions of time and talent by the members of this church. Many many man hours have been donated. However there are certain persons and organizations to whom we must express our appreciation publicly. At the risk of leaving someone out, we would like to express our gratitude to the following persons and organizations for their gifts of time and materials:

Dalton 1st U.M.C. - desk, filing cabinet, metal shelves  
Andy Millar - fence for the play yard
Larry Hundy - rug in the chapel
J.C. Harrison - completing the painting of cottage
Larry Nunnally - who's friend Mr. Millard donated chainlink fencing
Jerry Paulos - of Climate Control, who arranged for the 3-ton central air conditioning unit from M.D. Noland
Mize U.M.C. - air conditioner for the office
Leo Carpenter - p.a. system for the chapel
L.W. Porter - arranged for the gift of a refrig. for nursery from Mr. C. H. Rouse
St. Marks - 1. tables for classroom 2. a much appreciated mimeograph machine and cabinet 3. The Good Fellowship Church School Class - a folding table
St. Lukes - table and chairs for nursery
Phil Thornhill - 1. Flyers announcing the 1st. service 2. arranged purchase of a vacuum cleaner from the Hoover Corp.
Elbert P. Peabody - a Communion set
Paul Hyatt - 1. table for trailer 2. permanent planter dishgarden
Priscilla Nunnally - 1. curtains for nursery 2. arranged for runner for church floor
Cokesbury U.M.C. - 1. table 2. 18 choir robes
Nae Livingston - artificial flowers for chapel
Larry Dye - arranged for Mr. Sellers help in putting up fencing at parsonage - plates, etc. for Spaghetti Supper
Burns Memorial - Church school literature and additional hymnals.
Nelson Crosby - Painting the revival sign.

Part II. FIRST QUARTERLY REPORT

In the first sixteen weeks of the life of this church, we have sought to honor God through worship and service.

We began August 1, 1971 with sixty-three persons at the initial worship service. Since then we have averaged 61 persons in attendance at worship.

Beginning in October, we began what we hope will be a continuing tradition in this church. Laymen lead the singing and other parts of the service.

One of the happy experiences of the week is the fellowship hour after church on Sunday. We are grateful to Sandra Due who has faithfully seen that refreshments were provided weekly by different families in the church.

Another highlight of our early life together has been a weekly covered dish supper. Much needed work was accomplished on these nights as well as informal planning for the various activities which we have undertaken.

On Sept. 12 we began our Church school with six classes. Happily, after a few weeks, it became necessary to expand by the addition of another class in the children's division. We are deeply indebted to the faithful leaders of our church school. Few people realize how significant and lasting is the influence of a Church school teacher. We do and want to express our continued gratitude and support for these dedicated workers who are indeed extending a most important ministry to others in the name of Christ and His church. Since our opening day, the Church school has averaged 51 per Sunday.

On Sept. 15, in response to a desire expressed by a number of families in the church, a Cub Scout Pack (#127) was formed under the leadership of Mr. Andy Aillar. The church heartily endorses this type of activity and looks forward to the day when a full program of Scouting will be available to the boys and girls of this church.
In an effort to allow the United Methodists of the Augusta District to get to know the new church, an Open House was held on Sept. 19. Many hours of preparation went into this event which saw over a hundred of our fellow Methodists from across the District come and see, and go home to tell the story of the "Old thing" that God is doing in the "new place", raising up a people to worship and serve him.

October 2, was a high day in the life of our new church. We were having our first major project, a Spaghetti supper. We had been told that sales of a hundred or a hundred and fifty tickets would be outstanding. In fact, we served 198 meals and netted $256 for our "Projects Fund". Leo and Carol Carpenter provided much appreciated leadership for this supper.

October 30 saw a Halloween party at the church which had in attendance over 75 persons. Under the leadership of Peggy and Larry Dye. The chapel was invaded by a host of hot dog eating ghosts, goblins and other characters.

The next afternoon saw many of these same children Trick or Treating for UNICEF. $40 has been sent to the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund as a result of their efforts.

On November 14, the ministers and laymen of the Augusta area rendered us invaluable assistance by meeting with us on that Sunday afternoon and helping us to continue with the survey of the area. Teams knocked on the doors of 471 houses and spoke to families in 250 homes, inviting them to the church and to the revival.

The past six days have been high moments in the life of this church. Dr. Delma L. Hagood has thrilled and challenged us with his preaching. We are a stronger and more mature congregation because of his leadership.

Under his constant direction and encouraging support, we have been brought to this historic moment. It is now my privilege to present to you, Dr. Hagood, the names of persons who seek to be a part of this new congregation of the U.M.C.