St. Mark Methodist Church is located on Washington Road just north of Lake Olmstead in the center of the Lake Mont Community, a fast-growing new subdivision in Augusta, Georgia. In the early months of 1949 Rev. J.R. Turner and Rev. J. Foster Young saw the need for a new Methodist Church in the midst of this fast-developing section. They began to scout around for a suitable site as near as possible to the center of the community. They found such a site on the corner of Woodbine and Washington Roads. This was reported to the District Superintendent Rev. George L. King, who immediately called the Augusta Board of Church Extension into action. This Board was composed of Julian Fiske, N.F. Fiske, E.A. French, R.F. Cannon, C.L. Powell, W.F. Burton, and Claude Kirby. They went to the site of the lot and agreed that it should be purchased immediately by the board, to be turned over to the church, as soon as the church was organized. Soon the lot was purchased and had been cleared of underbrush by the county convicts under the supervision of Bob Chavous. Once the briars and brush were cleared away, it could be seen that the large lot was not only centrally located but was well adapted to the needs.

The next obvious step was to draw together a congregation. Plans were made for a revival, and Rev. Young and Mr. Julian Fiske found a tent that could be rented for that purpose. The Revival was held in April of 1949, with Rev. Young and Turner doing the preaching. The meeting was well attended and was supported enthusiastically by the churches of Augusta. During the weeks revival about $300.00 was taken up in the regular offerings for the purpose of constructing a temporary building. Seven members were received into the membership of the church.
The temporary chapel was started almost immediately by the Woodlawn Workers Club, and other interested laymen. A small building 20x40 was constructed in less than a week. Sunday School was held in this building each Sunday, and visiting ministers and laymen filled the pulpit until Conference met in June and a regular pastor was assigned.

At the Annual Conference in June 1949 Rev. James A. Budd was assigned to the new church which was designated as "The Methodist Church on Washington Road." On August 17,1949 the new church was organized and given the name, "St. Mark Methodist Church," by unanimous vote of the Congregation, now numbering 47 members. The Officers of the new church were as follows:

Superintendent of the Sunday School, E.A. French; Trustees-R.V. Bates, A.A. Womack, J.G. Jarrell; Board of Stewards, R.C. Bates, W.C. Boliver, J.G. Jarrell, A.A. Womack, R.F. Bennett, D.H. Turner, and T.F. Wrye. Soon after the Organizational meeting it was found necessary to a 20x16 wing to the original building to give added Sunday School space.

In October the W.S.C.S. was organized with 14 women attending the Organizational meeting. Mrs. J.R. Turner, Mrs. (Paul) Layton and Mrs. (Hamby) Barton led the meeting since few of the ladies were familiar with the organizational procedure. Mrs. R.F. Bennett was elected President, Mrs. Annie H. Adams, Vice President, Mrs. J.M. Bryant Secretary, and Mrs. D.H. Turner Treasurer. Others attending the meeting were: Mrs. A.F. Moody, Mrs. T.S. Norville, Mrs. H.E. Willingham, Mrs. Harry Shlemer, Mrs. A.C. Mackinnon, Mrs. G.C. Roesel, Mrs. B.E. Mills, Mrs. J.G. Jarrell, Mrs. W.E. Trussell, Mrs. D.M. Kelly and Mrs. B.E. Mann.

The W.S.C.S. has grown steadily under the presidency of Mrs. W.E. Macky, and Mrs. Inam Deason. In July 1951 the Society was divided into two circles. The Day Circle was formed and named the "Susie Budd Circle," in honor of St. Mark's first pastor. The evening circle was formed and named
the "Alberta Layton Circle" in honor of the Augusta District W.S.C.S. President.

During the month of October 1949 it was decided to purchase an additional lot which was 93x157 feet. This gave St. Mark a frontage of 280 feet on Washington Road. The total depth of the lot between Washington Road and Woodbine Road was 314 feet.

St. Mark's first revival was held in October 1949 with Rev. W.C. Budd doing the preaching. The services were well attended and several new families were drawn into the church. The offering received during the revival was applied on the purchase of the new lot.

During the winter of 1949, St. Mark continued to grow until the Sunday School could not be housed in the existing facilities. Since the church was in debt it was not possible to begin work on the new building of the church. Therefore the Building Committee decided to build an addition to take care of the increase. The addition was a two story building 20x50. The basement being a large Sunday school building for adult classes and also to be used for suppers, and the main floor to be used as the new sanctuary. Excellent framing for the new building was secured by tearing down a house donated to the church by the Blanche Cotton Mill.

As soon as the new addition was completed, it was possible to organize new groups that were badly needed in the church. The Methodist Youth Fellowship which had formerly had no place to meet, now had an excellent meeting place. The Methodist Men's Club was organized, and soon had a membership of 35. Monthly meetings were held in the basement. In August 1950 the Young Adult class was organized through the diligent efforts of Mr. E.A. French. This class composed of young couples met the long felt need for a special class for young adults. It grew rapidly under able leadership, and undertook a number of worthwhile projects, in completing the new building, and building Sunday school rooms in the older part of
the church. The class voted to adopt the name of "The Franch Bible Class" in honor of its founder. The Adult Bible class was organized and met in the Auditorium of the Church. It adopted the name "St. Mark Bible Class." Both the French and St. Mark Bible classes have monthly meetings in the homes of the members.

On May 10, 1953 construction was begun on the new building, which will house the sanctuary and the Sunday school. The estimated cost was $200,000.00. The sanctuary is designed to seat 450. The Sunday School building will provide facilities for 550. The membership of the Church at that time was 315. St Mark is growing rapidly and has a bright future. Its present rate of growth is a hundred net increase per year, and it is expected to grow more rapidly after the main building is completed.

On Sunday July 17 St. Mark opened her New Sanctuary. The new $85,000 was opened and R.E. Watkins General Contractor commented on the deep satisfaction he received from building such a beautiful place of worship, as he presented the keys to C.W. Edwards Sr building committee Chairman. Mr. Edwards thanked the congregation for their loyalty and cooperation and gave the keys to H.E. McGinty Chairman of the Official Board, who charged the congregation to give proper respect and care to the building. Greetings and congratulations were given from other churches of the district by Julian Fiske, District Lay Leader. Mrs. J.W. Dunning of Athens, former Choir Director sang "Bless This House." Rev. James A. Budd led the congregation of approximately 450 in worship. The choir directed by J.C. Owens sang "Open The Gates of The Temple." Rev. J.J. Sneed preached the Anniversary Sermon.

During the six years of history St. Mark has received almost 600 people. More than $125,000 has been invested in lots and buildings, while last year St. Mark contributed $1700 for benevolent causes. Future plans call for the erection of a permanent educational building adjoining the sanctuary.