HISTORY
of
ST. PAUL METHODIST CHURCH
SAINT PAUL METHODIST CHURCH

Saint Paul Methodist was founded as mission of Trinity Methodist Church. A small band of Christian workers from Trinity held meetings in the section bound by East Hunter and Fair Streets on Sunday afternoons in 1870.

At that time the City Hall was located where the State Capitol now stands. Later in the same year, the church was organized and was named Saint Paul Methodist Church. It was located on East Hunter Street near Hill Street. The church grew until there was a large congregation and remained at this location until 1906 when our present building was erected at 501 Grant Street, Southeast, in 1926 and an educational building was completed and occupied at that time.

During the pastorate of Rev. B. F. Frazier from 1911 to 1914, the church had a membership of 3,000 members. We have had wonderful meetings at Saint Paul conducted by Rev. Morrison, President of Asbury College, Brother Charlie Dunaway and Bishop Arthur Moore when he was a young minister. This church has had lots of wonderful volunteer Choir Leaders; J. T. McDonald, Hugh Timms and Mrs. Annie Mae Norton, organist and Choir Director, and now Rev. R. Tom Houts, Assistant Pastor and Minister of Music. Mrs. Frances Shumate in Church Secretary.

We have had several wonderful leaders during the years and I will attempt to name only a few:

- J. T. McDonald
- J. K. Shippey
- John Loftis
- K. K. Kelley
- Mr. Cochran of Cochran Furniture Co.
- Mr. Polk of Polk Furniture Co.
- J. E. Powell
- J. W. Starr
- Mr. Knox Thrower
- Dr. Earl Quillian
- J. C. Little
- J. Sid Tiller
- Dr. W. L. Ballenger
- D. L. Shannon
- Ed S. Cook
- C. W. Mangum, Sheriff
- Sam S. Shepard
- Rev. Will H. Boring

Rev. Henry H. Jones, now District Superintendent of the Griffin District, was Assistant Pastor in 1913-1914, also teacher of the Baraca Class, a large class of young men before World War I. Among its members were Rev. Pierce Harris and Judge Frank Guess of the Stone Mountain Superior Court.

Our present Chairman of the Board of Stewards is Cecil W. Hester and the Church Superintendent if L. F. Waldrop. Our present Pastor is the Rev. Claude Hendrick and the membership as of this date is 1,155. We have forty-three Stewards and four Stewards Emeritus.

The annual North Georgia Conference was held at Saint Paul Methodist in 1909.
Our Pipe Organ, a John Brown organ, was shipped herefrom Chicago for the Cotton Exposition Fair - at Ponce deLeon Park - year 1895 - to be on display. Rather than to go to the expense of shipping back to Chicago, the organ was sold to St. Paul Church, then on Hunter Street, for the sum of $500.00. The organ was hand pumped - the Janitor sat behind the organ on Sunday and there was a button in front that the organist pushed and made a noise, that let the Janitor know when to pump - later a water motor was installed - this was under the church, out in the open, and when the water would freeze, some Sunday mornings they had quite a time. When the Church we are in now was built, year 1906, the organ was moved - and an electric motor was installed.

Mr. J. Gordon Moore - still living in Atlanta, was the first paid organist, salary $10.00 per month - he was the organist for 14 years - also director part of this time. Before this John Brown organ was bought, Mr. Moore played a Reed organ that was in the church. The following were in the choir that Mr. Moore directed - Mrs. Luke Minor - Mrs. Robert Jester - Miss Hattie Marbut - Miss Lottie Marbut - Mrs. Mattie Mangum Gibson - Miss Mamie Hayes (who went to New York and became a concert singer and travelled all over the country) - Mrs. Doris Snyder Key - Miss Beulah Hayes - Miss Jessie McWilliams (who is still a member of our church) - Miss Louise Kinsey - Mr. Jim McDonald - Mr. Alonzo Buice - Mr. Arthur Marbut - Mr. Albert Marbut - Mr. Luke Minor (who was Director of the Choir).

These have been organist of the church - Mr. J. Gordon Moore - Mrs. Maude McDonald Mason - Miss Ethel Beyer - Miss Maude Francis - Mr. Grady Hollingsworth - Miss Hayes Reynolds - Mrs. Annie Mae Tatum Norton - Miss Eugenia Faulkner - Mr. Paul Lowder - Mr. Bob Scoggins (now organist)

We are now raising money to buy a new organ.
Pastors that have served St. Paul since its organization:

Rev. E. F. Dempsey--------------1870-71
Rev. G. H. Patillo--------------1872-73
Rev. W. A. Pledges-------------1874
Rev. W. A. Dodge--------------1875-77
Rev. Kimball died soon after
taking charge
Rev. W. R. Brannon supplied
vacancy-------------1878
Rev. W. A. Simmons-------------1879
Rev. W. C. Dunlap-------------1880-81
Rev. A. G. Thomas-------------1882
Rev. W. D. Heath-------------1883
Rev. J. M. White-------------1884-85
Rev. J. M. Bowden-------------1886-87
Rev. M. L. Underwood---------1888-91
Rev. W. T. Bell-------------1892
Rev. S. M. Dimon-------------1893-94
Rev. W. W. Erinsfield---------1895-96
Rev. E. L. Edmondson---------1897-99
Rev. Wm. Dunbar-------------1901-02
Rev. R. B. O. England---------1903-05
Rev. H. L. Edmondson---------1906-09
Rev. J. R. King-------------1910-11
Rev. B. F. Fraser------------1912-14
Rev. J. W. Quillian-----------1915-16
Rev. R. A. Edmondson---------1917-20
Rev. W. C. Crawley----------1920-22
Rev. J. E. Ellis-------------1922-23
Rev. L. W. Collins-----------1924-26
Rev. B. F. Fraser-----------1926-29
Rev. Felton Williams--------1929-31
Rev. H. H. Jones------------1931-35
Rev. J. Lee Allgood---------1935-41
Rev. Willis M. Jones--------1941-45
Rev. E. C. Wilson-----------1945-51
Rev. Claude Hendrick---------1951-