HISTORY

of

SANDY SPRINGS METHODIST CHURCH
The Sandy Springs Methodist Church has had a long and glorious history. It was organized in 1848 in a little brush arbor on Mount Vernon Highway on the present property of W. E. Little. The small congregation worshiped in the arbor until 1851.

In 1851 Wilson E. Spruill donated land for a new church building on the present site of the old cemetery. The deed to this property was made out to the first trustees of the institution, the trustees being W. C. Austin, William McMurtury, James E. Spruill, Steven Spruill and William E. Sentell.

The first church was a log cabin and was heated by an old rock chimney. It was lighted by a pine knot fire. The pews were logs, and holes were bored in these logs for the purpose of placing the torches from which light was given. This building served the congregation well for fifteen years. The church's first preacher was a circuit rider by the name of Walter Manning. He preached in the church one Saturday and Sunday a month, services at eleven o'clock respectively. His salary for the first year was $10.00 in cash, three bushels of corn meal and twelve fryers.
The first man to join the church on profession of faith was Samuel W. Power. This man lived a long life and served his church well. For one hundred years now many others have been finding Christ at the altar of the church.

The charter members of the church were seven in all: Mr. and Mrs. William C. Austin and two children, Franklin and Fanny, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson E. Spruill, and Mr. James E. Spruill. The church began with seven members; one hundred and two years later there were four hundred and forty-five members.

In 1866 a frame structure was built on the present church site. This building served the congregation until 1920 when the present building was erected. This building is a beautiful brick structure, though almost inadequate due to the increase in population in the Sandy Springs community.

The building committee was W. H. Mitchell, J. A. Mabry and L. I. Burdett. Trustees at that time were W. H. Mitchell, Chairman, W. S. Copeland, J. N. Reed, J. A. Reed, L. I. Burdett, J. E. Butler and M. F. Power. The cornerstone was laid by Charles L. Bass, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Georgia, October 20, 1921.

Sandy Springs Church in a hundred years' time has been located in three different counties, DeKalb,
Henry and Fulton, and three different districts of the Methodist Church, Atlanta Heights, Marietta, and Atlanta East. The first parsonage for the charge on which Sandy Springs Church was located was built on Peachtree Road in the Atlanta Heights district at the present site of Kamper’s Grocery Store. The preachers living in this parsonage served as high as six different churches. The churches on the charge from time to time were Sardis, Winters Chapel, Dunwoody, Pleasant Hill, Sharon and Sandy Springs. Sandy Springs became a station in 1942 under the leadership of R. A. Green. The present parsonage was built in 1923, with the Rev. W. W. Cash as the first resident preacher.

Sunday School records go back as far as 1850. According to these records it is evident that the people in the first little church started with the Sunday School. The Sunday School has grown and meant much to the church across the years.

The first Women’s Missionary Society was organized in 1924 with Mrs. T. M. Carter as its president. The Epworth League was organized in 1923 with Miss Ella Burdett as president. The League was organized with thirty members and twenty-five associate members. The first musical instrument placed in the church was an organ given by Will Waites and Charlie Austin in 1891.

During these hundreds years several preachers have come out to serve the church at large in a good way. Among these men were Madison Wallraven, William B. Austin, and Winston Cranshaw. From time to time there have been
local preachers serving in their own good way the people of Sandy Springs. Among them were men by the name of Rolader, Bella, and Whitfield. Raymond Sams is the only local preacher in the church today. He is at present in school at Reinhardt College preparing himself for a larger ministry to the church.

Camp Meeting at Sandy Springs has always been a great event, especially until 1930. Up until 1930 there were several tents and people came from all over the country to live in the tents for ten days to hear the word of God and to witness for their Christ. In 1930, however, at the close of the Camp Meeting a fire swept through the arbor and burned the arbor and tents to the ground. The people rallied together and rebuilt the arbor, but since that time no tents have been built. Therefore, Camp Meeting has never been the same again. The people have come to recognize that without camps Camp Meeting is not the same. However, a ten day meeting is held in the arbor each year and these meetings are enjoyed very much.

Mrs. Edna Carpenter Burdett is the oldest living member of the church. She joined in the year 1881 at the age of seven, thus, she has given seventy years of service to her church and is still going strong. Up until the last few months she taught the ladies Bible Class and remains today as its assistant teacher.

The members of Sandy Springs Church have served the community, state and nation across the years. During
the second world war there were around forty-five men in the armed forces. Fortunately, all lived to come home. At the present time several of its members are on the battlefields of Korea.

In keeping with the slogan of Methodism's year of jubilee we take our hats off to the past and to the history of Sandy Springs Methodist Church, but to its future we take off our coats and roll up our sleeves. We believe its greatest days are yet to come.