HISTORY
OF
STARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

May 1976

Cora Cheves, Editor
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

If we have a large task to do and no one helps or cares, that large task becomes a heavy burden to carry; but, if that same large task is met with willingness to be of help, it becomes a joint project shared among dear friends. This history is our joint project. No one turned away when asked to contribute; no one hesitated when asked a question; everyone cared enough to help.

Special thanks to Jane Saunders, Bonnie Risher, and Andrea Maddox - they have put all our gathered information together in this book form. Whether typing or helping each other find that "just right word", they were always there.

To all of you who contributed - Thank You - for without your contributions, we would not have this book.

May God Bless

Cora Cheves, Editor
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DEDICATORY PRAYER

Almighty, everlasting God our Father, in whom we have our being and from whom we receive our heritage as your children; Make us forever mindful of your goodness and mercy upon us, even now as we celebrate the remembrance of all those who in the past served and all those who presently serve your Kingdom in this community at Stark United Methodist Church; For here you have called many into the light wherein they have found fellowship with you and with one another; For here have many come in faith to be taught your ways, to hallow your name and to praise your glory; For here have many lives been nourished, and guided, and have come to experience the bond of fellowship in Christ Jesus; For here have many proclaimed their vows of holy matrimony, celebrated the sacraments, and heard pronounced the final benediction of their loved ones; For here stands a segment of your body in Christ, ready to continue its appointment as your disciple for as long as you choose to give your Church purpose; Continue, O Lord, we beseech you, to bless us, your people, and to give us strength to do your will. To the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be glory and praise, world without end. Amen.

Charles Risher
Pastor, 1976
For the following history of Stark Methodist Church, we are indebted to J. E. McMichael for Jenkinsburg Charge records which he has so faithfully kept through the years, J. C. Redman for his splendid memory of the past days, and to my mother, Mrs. G. W. Wyatt, for her contribution of knowledge and caring for my 20 month old son, Alton, while this material was being gathered and written into history.

Stark Methodist Church was organized in 1883. The plot of land for the Church was purchased from Fake Giles, land for cemetery from John McClure, between Church and cemetery from Hope McClure. It was first named Weather's Chapel. The name for C. V. Weathers, the first pastor. Later this name was changed to "Stark" for the name of this community. Stark Church was formed by the consolidation of Keys Church and Pleasant Grove Church, Keys Church being located on the land now owned by Mr. S. J. Ireland. Pleasant Grove Church on Route Number 16 is the same as is known to us now. The Congregational Methodist and the M. E. Methodist used the same building at Pleasant Grove. When the M. E. Methodist came to Stark, they sold their part in the building to the Congregational Methodist which they have kept to this date. The consolidation of Keys and Pleasant Grove was caused by both being weak churches and too many small scattered Methodist churches. About 1890, the people who had formed the old Keys Church pulled out and organized what is now Worthville Church. The people who had formed the Pleasant Grove M. E. Church later pulled out from Stark and worshiped under a brush arbor of Route Number 16 near the Oak Hill School building. This organized church was called Oak Hill. Later a church building was built and the church named Bulah. Later years Mr. Jim Maddox and his large family moved to Flovilla, the Harper family moved to Stark, the Roberts family moved to South Georgia, thus only a few families remained who were the "backbones" of the church, therefore the Church died. Later the families who were left of the old Bulah Church joined with others and organized Moore's Chapel, a Baptist Church, which was the last church in that neighborhood.
From the organization of the Church in 1883 until 1897, we have no record of the membership. In 1887, we have the following 38 members who were probably also the charter members of the Church:

W. W. Moore, Martha I Moore - Mother and Father of Mrs. E. W. O'Neal
Mary S. Duke - Sister of Mrs. E. W. O'Neal
J. W. Moore - Brother or Mrs. E. W. O'Neal and Daddy of H. M. Moore
Billie A. Moore
Altha J. Moore
J. E. Kitchens - Father of Mrs. G. R. Harper
Emma J. Kitchens - Mother of Mrs. G. R. Harper
Laura Kitchens - Sister of Mrs. G. R. Harper
Katie Clark
F. M. Hodges and Katie Hodges - Mrs. Paul Tyler's grandparents
L. P. Kelley and Susan Kelley - Grandfather and grandmother of Mrs. A. S. Cook
J. H. L. Barnes
Henry Holifield - Father of Jesse Holifield
John W. Yancy and Ludie Yancy - Mother and Father of Mrs. W. C. Redman
David B. Moore
Dr. C. A. Butner
William Trapp - Relative of Mrs. A. S. Cook
Lula A. Trapp
Sara E. Redman, Thomas E. Redman, Charles L. Redman - Sister and brothers of W. C. and J. C. Redman
Andrew Smith
Elam Cook - Father of Tom Cook
Adline Dodson
Marie Crane
Nora White
Bethena Wilson - Grandmother of Mrs. G. R. Harper
Elizabeth Fears
Richard and Cordelia Foster
Martha C. Redman - Sister of W. C. and J. C. Redman
S. H. Godsey - Father of Clarence Godsey
G. F. Stanley
J. M. and Lucy F. McMichael - Mother and Father of Emerson and Jim McMichael

We still worship in the same building which was built when the Church was organized. When the Church was first built,
it was an unpainted, unceiled, hulled in frame building. During the years, many outstanding improvements have been made on the building to make our building the comfortable and attractive place of worship which it is today. A new coat of paint was put on inside and outside the building in 1921. It has been painted outside and inside again since that time. Electric lights were added when Rural Electrification became available in 1939. Among the improvements are the addition of four church school rooms, vestibule built at front, concrete steps made, new carpet on the floor, venetian blinds added, and installation of a gas heating system. With every house, there are things of sentimental value as well as monetary value. Such things are in this Church; (1) a little bell used for reassembling the church school classes which was given the Church by Mrs. Leola Redman, wife of C. L. Redman, (2) the bell in present use was given by Mr. Wilford Shirey, (3) the clock on the wall was bought by J. Matt McMichael, (4) the picture of Christ in the pulpit was given by Walstein O'Neal and Edith O'Neal Spruill, (5) the large white vase and copper flower container were given by Mrs. R. E. McMichael, the copper container being made by her, (6) the song books now in use "Favorite Songs and Hymns" were given by A. G. Potts, (7) two communion table cloths were given by Miss Lunette Kitchens.

At the time of the organization of the Church, it was on the Flovilla Charge with the parsonage at Flovilla. About 1888, it was placed on the Jenkinsburg Mission. The present parsonage at Jenkinsburg was built in 1892. While the parsonage was being built, the pastor, R. A. Eakes, lived at Stark in the house now owned by W. L. White and occupied by Tommy Leverette. In 1908, a preacher did not live in the parsonage and it was rented out for $5.00 per month. In 1896, the parsonage was valued at $700.00. That year the parsonage trustees were instructed to insure the parsonage and cover the barn. The parsonage has always demanded the attention of the people just as any other home does. Throughout the years, we find work being done on it. In the Quarterly Conference minutes we find the parsonage receiving much attention in 1928 in the way of remodeling, repairing, and painting with lumber being donated by J. E. McMichael. In 1933, a garage was built with J. M. and J. E. McMichael sawing and contributing the lumber. This garage burned in 1949 and has recently been replaced. In 1938, the parsonage
received more paint and a new roof. During the years 1948, 1949, and 1950, many improvements were made to make it an attractive and comfortable home. Today our parsonage has 5 rooms sheet-rocked and painted, a bath, and two porches.

As heretofore mentioned, Stark was first on Flovilla Charge and later being placed on Jenkinsburg Charge on which it has remained until the present time. In 1895, we find the Jenkinsburg Charge being composed of the churches of New Hope, Worthville, Island Shoals, Jenkinsburg, and Stark. The entire paying $255.00. In 1901, the charge was composed of Jenkinsburg, Worthville, Stark, and Pepperton; 1902, Bula, Stark, Jenkinsburg, and Worthville; 1903, Stark, Jenkinsburg, Worthville, New Hope, and Bula. Today, our Charge is composed of Jenkinsburg, Worthville, England Chapel, Flovilla, Pleasant Hill, and Stark and the entire Charge paying $2559.00. Interesting items are recorded in the Quarterly Conference minutes pertaining to the Charge and its work. The following are taken from the Pastor's Reports to Quarterly Conferences:

1895 - "Our people passed through Christmas time and very few backslid so we are making some progress these hard times." "One lady from each church was appointed to raise money to paint the parsonage."

1896 - "The whole charge is in a reasonable healthy condition."

1900 - "No members have been stricken from the roll by conference, none have been expelled, all seem to be respectful." "Stark use to have meeting on Saturday but the reports show it was never well attended."

Stewards who have served the Church and the years follow: We have no records of the first stewards, but they were probably William Redman, Jim Maddox, E. M. Bledsoe, and W. W. Moore.

John Moore - 1 Year - 1895
D. B. Moore - 7 Years - 1895-1902
J. Matt McMichael - 10 Years - 1895-96, 1903, 1906, 1915-17 1919-21
T. E. Redman - 8 years - 1896, 1899, 1904-09
S. A. Biles - 1 Year - 1897
J. E. McMichael - 54 Years - 1897-1950
J. C. Redman - 30 Years - 1897-98, 1923-45, Honorary Steward 1946-50
C. L. Redman - 1 Year - 1900
J. E. Kitchens - 2 Years - 1904-05
O. A. Andrews - 5 years - 1906, 1910-12, 1918
W. C. Redman - 15 Years - 1906-07, 1910-22
W. R. Kitchens - 3 Years - 1906-08
E. R. Harper - 6 years - 1907-12
G. R. Harper - 37 Years - 1913-49
J. M. McMichael - 29 Years - 1918, elected in 1921 to fill vacancy caused by his father's death, 1922-50
A. E. O'Neal - 9 years - 1927-35
I. C. Smith - 4 Years - 1936-39
I. H. Cawthon - 11 Years - elected in 1939 to fill vacancy caused by death of I. C. Smith, 1940-50
J. R. O'Neal - 10 Years - 1941-50
Max Redman - 6 years - 1945-50
E. H. Cook - 6 Years - 1945-50
S. J. Ireland - 4 Years - 1945-48
Annie Lou Wyatt - 5 Years - 1945-49
R. E. McMichael - 3 Years - 1948-50
A. G. Potts - 2 years - elected in 1949 to fill vacancy caused by death of G. R. Harper, 1950
Malvin Redman - 1 Year - 1950
Grady Redman - 6 Years - 1945-50
L. D. Singley - 6 Years - 1945-50

The first Woman's Society of Christian Service, then called "Missionary Society" was organized February 18, 1934 by the Jenkinsburg Missionary Society and the pastor's wife, Mrs. R. C. Owen. Mrs. E. W. O'Neal was elected President and ten members were enrolled at the first meeting and new ones added until the total membership was sixteen. The members were: Mrs. Ira Cawthon, Mrs. J. M. McMichael, Mrs. G. R. Harper, Mrs. S. A. Biles, Mrs. W. Shirey, Bible Study, Mrs. J. R. O'Neal, Treasurer, Mrs. G. W. Wyatt, Mrs. I. C. Smith, Mrs. E. W. O'Neal, President, Mrs. Bernard Gaston, Recording Secretary, Mrs. R. C. Owens, Mrs. Pink O'Neal, Mrs. J. C. Redman, kept dues paid up, Miss Lois McMichael, Program, and Miss Elizabeth McMichael, Miss Annie Lou Wyatt, Reporter. The first work of the society was planting shrubbery at the Church at a cost of $5.00. During the first year new dishes for the parsonage were bought, a box was sent to the Goodwill
Industries valued at $4.00, spent locally $11.36 and paid a pledge of $10.00. The first study book was taught by Mrs. Owen and was on Japan. The society continued good work until the middle of 1936 when it ceased to function.

Another WSCS was organized in February 1945 by the pastor and his wife, Rev. and Mrs. B. N. McHan, with Mrs. Max Redman as President and 13 members: Mrs. I. H. Cawthon, Mrs. J. M. McMichael, Mrs. S. J. Ireland, Mrs. J. R. O'Neal, Mrs. G. W. Wyatt, Mrs. G. R. Harper, Mrs. B. N. McHan, Mrs. Max Redman, Mrs. J. E. McMichael, Mrs. Bernard Gaston, Mrs. E. W. O'Neal, Mrs. I. C. Smith, and Mrs. L. D. Singley, Jr. A pledge of $30.00 was paid for the first year and a total of $37.34 was spent locally. The biggest item locally was the purchase of a communion set for the Church at a cost of $19.00 complete. The first book studied was "The American Indian" and taught by Mrs. W. S. Norton, wife of the Jackson Methodist minister. The second year the pledge was raised to $40.00 which it has remained until the present time. The membership has varied from 12 to 20 members. James Crawford Redman was made a Baby Life Member in 1949. The WSCS has been instrumental in raising money for furnishings for the parsonage, setting out shrubbery at the Church and parsonage, remembering the aged and shut-ins of the Church and community, and one of the biggest projects was the painting of the floor of the Church and the purchase of a new carpet in 1950.

Epworth Leagues have not been so successful at Stark. Three different leagues have been organized, but was of short duration each time. The first Epworth League was organized by the pastor, J. W. Hunt, on March 21, 1897 with ten members. Members Emory and Lucy Harper were two of the ten. This was in operation until August of that year. The second Epworth League was organized in April 1898 by the pastor, J. W. Hunt. In the pastor's report to the Fourth Quarterly Conference of that year he wrote, "The league at Stark has been very successful in its work. I attended a meeting of this league and the exercises would have been a credit to any league anywhere." The league ceased to function soon afterwards. The third league was organized March 1, 1936 with 36 members, 12 of this number being the older people and were known as "honorary members". Miss Annie Lou Wyatt was President and Miss Helen McMichael was Secretary and Treasurer. By October, it was inactive.
The first Daily Vacation Bible School was in August 1948. Mrs. A. G. Potts was Director. Mrs. Harold Spruell was in charge of the music and organized a children's choir which was used during the revival. The average attendance was 41 and certificates were presented to 39 children. A collection of $10.00 was sent to the Methodist Children's Home in Decatur. A Daily Vacation Bible School has been held each year since.

Mrs. G. W. Wyatt was first appointed Golden Cross Director. This was in 1927. The amount collected that year was ten cents. Other Golden Cross Directors have been Mrs. Pink O'Neal, Miss Lois McMichael, and Miss Annie Lou Wyatt. The highest amount paid in one year through the Church for Golden Cross work has been $135.00.

Recognition of babies known as "Baby Day" was first observed in September 1948 when a program was rendered in honor of the babies of the Church and their parents and Church School Certificates were presented to the babies. The babies honored were Jimmy Redman, Franklin Singley, Beth Wilson, Douglas Brooks, Phyllis Vaughn, Peggy O'Neal, Pat Maddox, and Mary Jo Harper. The second such day was in March 1950 when certificates were presented to Connie Cawthon, Connie Maddox, Leon Cook, and Alton Potts.

The following items are interesting to recall: The first records available were in 1895 and we found J. Matt McMichael the Secretary and recording Steward of the Jenkinsburg Charge which was then in the South Atlanta District, North Georgia Conference. In 1896, J. E. McMichael was elected Recording Steward which position he has held continuously since with the exception of the years 1906-1910 during which time T. E. Redman was Recording Steward. In 1897, there were union prayer meeting of the Methodist and Baptist in Stark Community each week. In 1938, they held union Church School and worship services on the fifth Sundays. The Methodist preacher preaching at the Baptist Church and the Baptist preacher preaching at the next fifth Sunday at the Methodist Church.

Recorded in the minutes of the Quarterly Conferences are resolutions of the deaths of T. B. McMichael, I. C. Smith, and G. R. Harper.
In 1895 and for several years following, J. C. Redman was Church Secretary. G. R. Harper was Church Secretary and Treasurer for a long number of years. A. G. Potts was elected to this post in 1949.

Babies which have been baptised are:
- 1907 - Bernice McMichael by E. C. Marks
- 1907 - Lois McMichael by E. C. Marks
- 1907 - Evelyn McMichael by E. C. Marks
- 1934 - Harry Redman, Jr. by R. C. Owen
- 1934 - John Row Redman by R. C. Owen
- 1948 - James Crawford Redman by B. N. McHan
- 1948 - Peggy Carol O'Neal by W. C. Bowen
- 1948 - Mary Josephine Harper by W. C. Bowen
- 1951 - Emily Beth Harper by C. E. Askew

Amount of money paid pastors:

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List of preachers who have served Stark Church:

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(See Page 26 for Update)
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<td>W. T. Hunnicut</td>
<td>1932-35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W. M. Twiggs</td>
<td>1936-39</td>
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<tr>
<td>R. L. Russell</td>
<td>1940-42</td>
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<tr>
<td>M. M. Maxwell</td>
<td>1943</td>
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<tr>
<td>A. M. Pierce</td>
<td>1944</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paul Turner</td>
<td>1945-48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry H. Jones</td>
<td>1949-50</td>
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(See Page 25 for Update)
We are very proud of the record that the Sunday School has made through the years. A Sunday School was organized some years after the organization of the Church and it has been in continuous operation since its organization. In 1895, 1896, and 1897, it was the only Sunday School on the charge and in all three years it was reported in fine working order. A statement from records in 1897 reported the Superintendent, J. M. McMichael, was very enterprising and the attendance was good. The teachers seemed to be doing good work. Later in the same year the pastor's report said, "The Sunday School at Stark deserves special mention. It is on solid basis with good steady attendance and not subject to the fluctuations so often noticeable in Sunday Schools. Stark Sunday School is like Indian Springs, never goes dry and never overflows, but is always good". In 1898, Stark Sunday School was mentioned as one of the few country Sunday Schools that never go into winter quarters. In that year the Sunday School undertook to raise the mission assessment for the Church by voluntary contributions one Sunday in each month. The first report from the Sunday School to Quarterly Conference was in 1919 which showed the average attendance to be 50. In 1941 and 1942, the average attendance was 30. Our present average is 48. In 1944, we began paying the fourth Sunday offering to World Service. This has continued to the present date. The Sunday School has always been the foundation of the Church and through it many worthwhile things have been accomplished. In 1949, a nursery was opened. For a long number of years, Boyd and Jim McMichael used their cars to bring people to Sunday School. For sometime, Boyd McMichael held Sunday School on Sunday afternoons in the community around Barnett's Bridge. From the doors of Stark Church have gone sons and daughters who are leaders and teachers in many other churches and are blessings to the churches in which they serve. During the 1920's, Children's Day was observed the first Sunday in June for several years. In later years Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, and Christmas were observed with appropriate programs and socials.
### Sunday School Superintendents:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Years</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T. E. Redman</td>
<td>1895</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. A. Biles</td>
<td>1896</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Matt McMichael</td>
<td>1897, 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1904, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. W. O'Neal</td>
<td>1903</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. R. Harper</td>
<td>1905, 1906</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O. A. Andrews</td>
<td>1907, 1908, 1909, elected to fill vacancy caused by death of J. M. McMichael in 1921, 1922</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Max Redman</td>
<td>2, 1947, 1948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LeRoy O'Neal</td>
<td>1, July - September 1949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Max Redman</td>
<td>1, 1949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fred Cook</td>
<td>1, 1950</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

When we say the word "Sunday School" quickly rushing to the mind are those teachers in the Sunday School.

Tribute to them all we's pay, those now her and those away, Tellers of the ancient Glories, Readers of the ancient stories, Counselors of the golden rule, Teachers of the Sunday School.

(See Page 26 for Update)
Little known and mentioned not
Much beyond the parish plot,
Tracing through the Bible's pages
Stories which have grazed the ages,
Leading youngsters by the hand
To, and through the Holy Land.

Still today I can recall
Verses learned when I was small,
Here almost a life's December,
Much they taught me I remember,
May their ardor never cool
Teachers of the Sunday School.

Some of them of the past and present we mention: J. Matt
McMichael, E. W. O'Neal, Boyd McMichael, Mrs. O. A. Andrews,
J. C. Redman, Mrs. G. W. Wyatt, I. C. Smith, Jim McMichael,
E. H. Cook, Mrs. J. R. O'Neal, Mrs. Ira Cawthon, Mrs. Max
Redman, Mrs. S. J. Ireland, Mrs. A. E. O'Neal, Mrs. I. C.
Smith, Misses Bernice, Lois, Elizabeth, Sara Frances Mc-
Michael, Mrs. Harold Vaughn, Mrs. J. M. McMichael, Fred
Cook, Mrs. A. G. Potts.

This is not the end of the history of Stark Methodist
Church. Stark Church shall continue to live on and on and
on. As we have traced back through the pages of time, we
are truly grateful for those heroes of the past who have
given us this Church. Only by our lives and the up build-
ing of the Church can we show our appreciation to them --
that this Church may be a living memorial to those who
labored and now rest. To us of the present, it is our duty
to make this the kind of Church our forefathers dreamed
and planned for it to be. To the future generations -- we
give you Stark Methodist Church, a church of which we are
proud and one of which we hope you will be proud. We de-
pend on you to carry on when our final history is written.
Only with our hands to the plow and not looking back, but
ever looking forward shall we be fit for members of Stark
Church and the kingdom of God.
INTERESTING MINUTES OF THE SIXTIES
By
Eva O'Neal
Historian

After 1951, no records are available from the time this history is being written until November 1963. At this time, Mr. Max Redman was Chairman of the Board and Herman Cawthon was the Secretary. The following is taken from the minutes of the Sixties.

The year...1963 Rev. Don Harp was pastor. The question of going half time was brought up for the Church. But alas, going half time with Jenkingsburg or Flovilla could not be worked out. Rev. Harp who visited the District Superintendent reported that Rev. Callaway felt that plans could be worked out...as of July 1, 1964 and to make plans accordingly.

A Special Called Meeting of the Official Board was held July 26, 1964 with Chairman Redman presiding. Jimmy O'Neal, Chairman of the Building Committee, told of his committee's study of other churches buildings and recommended to the Board that Stark build another room on the opposite side of the Church from the young adults room. The new room will be larger than the other with a door opening into the auditorium and a sound proof curtain to divide the room into two classes. (Those on the Building Committee were: Jimmy O'Neal Chairman, Max Redman, Co-Chairman, Horace Cawthon, Malvin Redman and Jim McMichael) It was also the time to make the decision on whether to put the rest rooms on the front or back of the Church. It was decided to put them in one of the rooms on the back. Mr. & Mrs. Guice Potts donated all the plumbing. A well was dug in July of 1964, and plenty of water was found at 36 feet. Chairman Redman donated the cost of the well. This summer Jimmy O'Neal had the bill board under construction and would donate all his labor and the Church was to pay for the materials only. The Board meeting of Aug 5, 1964 Jimmy O'Neal reported on plans and progress for the building program. He stated that Bobby Whitaker would start any day on the project on a cost plus basis. Emerson McMichael made a motion to let Bobby Whitaker build a pump house while he was here...

Emerson McMichael and Ira Cawthon reported that they had received 40 subscriptions to the Wesleyan Christian Advocate.

October 1964...The Board voted to install Stain Glass Windows and the Chairman of the Memorial Windows Committee Nevin Duffey commissioned Thoren Stained Glass Studio in Atlanta. The windows
were brought down from Atlanta by Emerson McMichael and Nevin Duffey. The cost of the windows was $499.28 plus a balance of $614.99 and labor would cost $672.73. The air conditioners were installed into the walls of the Church, and the blinds were taken down at the time the windows were installed. The Church was also painted inside and out. Those donating windows for the Sanctuary were:

Mr. & Mrs. S. J. Ireland, Jr.
Mrs. Lucille Wigginton
The A. G. Cowan Family
Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Guest (by children)
Mr. & Mrs. W. C. Redman (by children)
Mr. & Mrs. J. C. Redman (by children)
Mr. & Mrs. J. E. McMichael (by children)
Mr. & Mrs. J. M. McMichael (by children of Mr. & Mrs.
& Mr. & Mrs. R. E. McMichael (J. M. McMichael)

January 1965...A choir was organized! Gwendolyn Mc-
Michael Morris was the director and Elizabeth McMichael
was the organist. The first robes were white, and Mrs.
Bill McMichael made them. (Editor's note..many thanks
to Bill McMichael and her sewing talents..for whenever
anything is needed for the choir or Church she is al-
ways ready and willing.) The cost of the cloth was $33.10.

March 10, 1965, Elizabeth McMichael stated that the Church
owed Geise Potts for the lovely lights which are presently
in the Church ($590.00 wholesale).

Rev. A. E. Barton became the Associate Pastor in 1965 and
preached until the Church went full time. Rev. Barton
and his wife meant much to Stark Methodist. After Rev.
Barton resigned because of his health, Rev. W. R. Smith
became the Associate Pastor. (Rev. Smith and his wife
mean much to our Church. He has never taken pay for his
services in the absence of the pastor or whenever he is
called upon...1976).

"JENKINSBURG CHARGE CHURCHES ARE NAMED 'CIRCUIT OF YEAR'"
This headline appeared on Thursday, July 29, 1965 in The
Jackson Progress Argus. These are some quotes from the
article: "At the recent session of the North Georgia An-
nual Conference the churches (Stark, Jenkinsburg, Flovilla
and England Chapel Methodist Churches) of the Jenkinsburg Charge were honored by the Town and Country Commission of the Conference as the 'Circuit of the Year'. The award was given on the basis of the work done in the churches of the circuit during the past year. This work included the areas of evangelism, missions, stewardship, improvement in local church property, and improvement in general. One of the most outstanding steps taken by the churches of the circuit during the past year was the addition of two services each month to each Church."

In the year 1966, Stark Methodist received a face lift. In February of 1966, Mr. Corley was contacted to draw up plans for the new rooms on front of the Church. The plans included building two new Sunday School rooms on the front of the Church, adding columns, the cross, the portico, and brickling the building. The Building Committee was comprised of Nevin Duffey, Chairman, Jim McMichael, A. G. Cowan, Fred Cook, and Elizabeth McMichael. This building project was finished at a cost of $10,000 (everything, including wiring, light fixtures, and brickling). The contractor was Barnes Lumber Company. This project was started July 1, 1966.

March 9, 1967, Gwendolyn McMichael Morris reported to the Board that an organ, slightly used, was offered for sale for $1,295 plus tax and offered to demonstrate the following Sunday. Max Redman reported that Elizabeth McMichael, Gwendolyn Morris, Alton Cowan, and himself met after Sunday School and bought the organ. The price paid for the organ was $1200. The piano, as far as we can figure, was bought in 1960 for around $700. Elizabeth McMichael was appointed to select and buy the piano. A drive was made and volunteer workers asked for donations for which the people responded and gave freely. Two more collection plates were bought. This made a total of four plates.

Mrs. S. J. Ireland served as building fund treasurer from 1963 to March 7, 1968. Many thanks to Mrs. Ireland for a job well done. Mrs. Jim McMichael was appointed to replace Mrs. Ireland. Nevin Duffey was selected new Chairman of the Board and started serving July 10, 1968. (He continued to serve until the year 1974 at which time Harold Brooks was selected Chairman of the Board and is
at present the Chairman.) Mrs. Madge Pickett was elected Secretary upon the resignation of Herman Cawthon who served for a number of years. The Board gave thanks to Herman Cawthon and Max Redman for their faithful service.

The note on the loan for the remodeling job of 1966 was paid-in-full by January 1969.

The platform in front of the Church was paved in January of 1969. Emerson McMichael was in charge of contracting for the paving.

The Sunday School bought a robe for the pastor, Rev. Ed Galloway, to be passed down to the future pastors.

April 9, 1969. A committee was appointed to check on prices for having the nursery and Church carpeted. The Committee appointed was Max Redman and Herman Cawthon. Cleveland Furniture Company carpeted the Church for $1675.

Quarterly conferences were still being held and this one was to be held at England Chapel on the third Sunday night in April. Several people met and discussed moving the pulpit forward about two feet and also the rail was to be moved. This was agreed upon and the carpenters at Stark did the work. This enabled the Rememberance Table to be placed behind the rails.

Records indicate that the budget for 1968 and 1969 was $5,518.50 respectively.

To close my article on the Minutes of the Sixties, I thought you might be interested in having the list of our membership who joined our Church prior to 1918 and are still with us:

Asa O'Neal.................. August 1907
J. M. McMichael............... October 1, 1911
John R. O'Neal............... October 1, 1911
Clayton O'Neal............... August 6, 1916
Alma O'Neal Wilkerson...... August 6, 1916
Mattie Byrd O'Neal Gaston... July 12, 1918
R. E. McMichael.............. July 12, 1918
The 70's have been very good years for Stark United Methodist. We have seen a church on a charge go full-time with a new and beautiful brick ranch-style parsonage all but $2254.90 paid for. We have viewed the American Flag and Georgia Flag with pride and thank the thoughtfulness and generosity of Claude Dixon and Nell Swan for this gift which added to the beautification of the sanctuary.

The iron rails we use each Sunday were donated by Mr. George Swan in 1970...such a short time ago to have them taken so much for granted. We have eaten many a delicious meal on the cement tables Emerson McMichael added to the Church in 1971...Have you noticed the fine linen tablecloths we use today for the Holy Sacrament? Mrs. Claude Dixon donated one and the UMW the other. Take the time to notice the fragile hemming Claude beautifully and lovingly added to them...We have seen the upper Elementary Class have a carpet walk to raise money and then have felt new carpet under our feet in three of our Sunday School rooms.

Not one but two lawn mowers donated by Mr. and Mrs. Asa O'Neal are in use to the beautification of both the church and parsonage. They even enlarged the pump house so the lawn mower would fit.

We have seen the Sunday School treasury and Church treasury become one...We wish at this time to once again thank Fred and Louise Cook for their 15 years of service to the Sunday School and the Sunday School Treasurer duties...a job well-done is never overlooked. Our budget is growing with us...up this year to $14,855.

Two new groups have been started - Betwixt and Between class and a new Jr. MYF. We have seen our Nursery with as many as 18 children--a sign of sure growth.
We had an Asa O'Neal Day on November 11, 1975 for 67 years of membership. The Church trim has been repainted again, and the gravel in front sure beats dodging the mud puddles. (Our children might not agree!)

We have enjoyed playing together - The Sunday School has gone skating and bowling and even to a "Tacky Party"...For give me this pun, but "those who pray together and play together will stay together."
DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN....

BY
Eva O'Neal, Historian

This additional information on Stark Methodist Church building prior to 1951 has been related to me by members of the Church. We are grateful to Annie Lou Wyatt Potts for the fine job she did in the writing the previous Church History and all the contributions she has made to our Church....

Asa O'Neal, now the oldest member of Stark Church, tells of the time when several of the boys would walk to Church barefooted and in knee pants. He remembers that the Church was floor ed in tongue and grooved flooring over 12" wide and where it came together in the middle there was a crack from the back to the front. The walls and overhead were ceiled with beaded ceiling. A stove flue was built in the middle of the front of the building. A stove pipe extended down with an elbow so that the stove could be placed just to the right in front of the benches. The big coal stove could not furnish enough heat to warm the Church, therefore the congregation sat as near the stove as possible to keep warm. At one time the Church was covered with automobile tags, which were excess to the state, the tags were donated by Boyd McMichael. The time came when the sleepers and floors were taken up in order to elevate the floor 12", the wide flooring was used for subflooring, a four inch pine flooring was put over the subflooring. Eventually, the floors were sanded and refinished which looked very good. The time came when another Sunday School room was needed. This was added on the left of the Church. This was in 1951, Bobby Whittaker was the contractor, several of the members donated money and time to build. Jimmy O'Neal did the wiring, gas was added to the new room, and the young people used this room. The Church was changing in other ways...New windows with weights replaced the old ones, and Venetian Blinds were added. Several members of the Church sheet rocked the walls and wainscot was added to the bottom. This stands today. The ceiling was redone octagon shape and fixed with material which is still in the Church today.

John O'Neal also remembers how he, Mr. Cotney, George Harper, Jim McMichael and others tore out the wide flooring. He remembers that they put the boards back cross wise for the subflooring. This is the floor which is in the Church today. He tells of how they replaced the windows with other windows which had weights and put new window facing in. Tommy McMichael and
Billy O'Neal were barely old enough to drive nails when the four rooms were built on the back. They wanted to drive nails so they were allowed to drive nails to tack on the shingles. This must have been around 1945. When the Church was wired for electricity Jim McMichael and John O'Neal went to Atlanta in a Model T car to get the material to do the job. Robert Wilson who lived near did the wiring with the assistance of others. Robert did not charge anything for his labor.

"Refuse to play when called upon" By Annie Reed Harper Gaston (Mrs. Gaston and her devout parents - Fannie and Emory Harper were former members.) Around 70 years ago, she recalls, there were 2 aisles in the Church and three rows of benches. She was 8 years old and was sitting beside her grandfather on the front bench. Mr. Dink O'Neal, who could read music with ease, called upon Annie Reed to play the organ (Which she remembers as being made of light oak). She said "Let Aunt Maud play" (Maud Harper was the organist for the Church). After Church as the family was walking back home, her father said "Annie Reed, you did something today I hope I will never see you do again -- Refuse to play when called upon." She said, "I was afraid I could not play the songs Mr. Dink selected." Annie Reed from that day has never refused to play when called upon, and has gladdened the hearts of many with her unusual talent - very few people have a "touch" that surpasses Annie Reed Harper Gaston.
AS I REMEMBER

By Sara Martha Redman Brooks

Although I had always attended Sunday School, even as a baby in my Mamma's arms, my first recollection of attending Sunday classes was sitting on little benches out under the trees in the Church yard when the weather permitted. On damp or rainy days, we would sit in cars. When it became too cold to sit out, we would move inside the Church. As there were no class rooms, we the classes had to share the sanctuary in little huddles. As I remember, Bernice McMichael was the teacher then. Looking back, I remember the literature to be very attractive and fascinating to us "Wee-Folks". They were little colorful folders about 5 by 6 inches with real interesting stories, very impressive to us and always with a moral. These were accompanied by little cards about 3 by 4 inches, which also were very colorful and appealing to us. They contained Bible pictures and verses that the story in the folder was based on. We enjoyed and cherished them very much. Another feature of our program was singing little songs that were suitable to our size. We would perform on special Sundays such as Christmas, Easter, Mother's Day, Children's Day, etc. reciting appropriate poems and singing songs. This stage of our life and our part in Sunday School will always be fond memories.

Those who must have been in this class as well as I can remember were: Sara Martha Redman, Rebecca Redman, Annie Lou Wyatt, Sara Frances McMichael, Helen McMichael, Mary Frank Duke.
TRIBUTE TO MATT McMICHAEL
BY
EVA O'NEAL
Historian

Mr. Matt McMichael was one who meant very much to the founding of the Church. He married Lucy Maddox and they were blessed with 13 children. Mr. McMichael was a Representative of Butts County at one time. He liked to invite the preacher into his home for his wife was not able to attend Church regularly because of care needed to take care of the 13 children. Many times when the Pastor could not come, Mr. Matt would do the preaching.

The children and grandchildren have followed in their father's footsteps and have supported the Church in many ways. Mrs. Posey McMichael O'Neal, the oldest of the 13, took an active part in Church. They reared 6 children, 5 of whom are still members of the Church. Asa, their oldest, has been a member the longest of anyone on the Church roll with 67 years and still counting.

Mr. Joe, the second child, and his wife, Virgia Moore McMichael reared 11 children - 10 girls and 1 boy, all of whom are still living and have been a blessing to our Church on many occasions. He was a carpenter and helped with the building of the Sunday School rooms on the back of the Church. He served as Secretary of the Jenkinsburg Charge for many years. One of his daughters, Elizabeth, has taken an active part in the Church and is at present Choir Director and Organist of our Church. Mr. Boyd McMichael was at one time Tax Collector of Butts County, he took an active part in the Church. He served as Sunday School Superintendent and Sunday School Teacher for many years. Jim McMichael was the Song Leader of the Church for over 40 years and has also served as Chairman of the Board. He married Bessie Cook who is presently Secretary of the Administrative Board and was Treasurer of the Church from 1970 to 75. Emerson McMichael, the youngest of the 13, has been Chairman of the Cemetery Fund for over 11 years...Mr. Matt McMichael, posthumously, Thank You.
HISTORY OF STARK METHODIST CEMETERY
Submitted by Emerson McMichael & Eva O'Neal

In 1890, the cemetery was originally 1/2 acre. William Moore was the first to be buried there. Cora Reed McMichael's casket was moved from Maddox Cemetery and brought to Stark Cemetery. Those who planned the cemetery were careful to keep the graves in line. About 20 years ago, families began to bury their dead outside of the 1/2 acre and were not as strict with keeping the graves in line. The ground between the Church and cemetery was owned by Hope McClure and he agreed to sell it to the Church for $25.00 less 1/4 acre. Mr. Joe McMichael donated this amount. There were lots of rock post and trees which had to be taken down and moved away. Emerson McMichael and Marvin Strawn had this cleared away. Once again, more land was needed and 36 feet on the upper side and on the back side was bought for $100.00 from Willis McClure - the year 1965.

The Upkeep of the Cemetery: Years ago the cemetery was cleaned once a year with hoes by volunteers on the 1st. of August...but alas free labor gave out. In 1953, Annie Lou Potts started a Cemetery Fund by contacting all members & families who had love ones here and asked for donations. Most everyone responded. In 1964, the Cemetery fund was turned over to Emerson McMichael with $600.00 worth of Ga. Power Bonds and a balance of $83.66, Mr. McMichael and his committee have been very beneficial to the Cemetery Fund. With a balance on hand of $2,100.00 with interest which amounts to $142.32 per year helps to pay for having the Cemetery cleaned 5 times a year at a cost of $25.00 each cleaning.

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS

This is an update from page 11. These men have served as our District Superintendents since 1950:

Henry H. Jones
Hoke Swell
Clyde Callaway
James Moore
Frank Crawley
Neal Windom

-25-
PASTORS WHO HAVE SERVED STARK CHURCH SINCE 1951

W. H. Lewis 1953-54  Francis Ford 1969-71
Don J. Welch 1955-57  Gordon Fincher 1971-72
W. J. High 1958-59  John Huggins 1972-74
Dennis Doane 1960-63  Frank Burton 1974-75
Donald Harp Jr. 1964-67  Charles Risher 1975 -

Sunday School Superintendents Since 1950

Fred Cook 1950-56  James T. O'Neal 1964-65
Ruth Redman 1957-59  Herman Cawthon 1966-68
Eva O'Neal 1960-61  Rebecca R. Duffey 1969-74
George L. Swan 1962-63  Jane McM. Saunders 1975 -

Administrative Board Chairpersons

A board was formed several years ago and elected Jim McMichael as Chairperson. Max Redman was elected in 1964 and served until 1966 when Nevin Duffey was elected. He served as Chairperson until 1974 when our present Chairperson, Harold Brooks took office.

United Methodist Women Report: Mrs. J. P. Pickett

(Mrs. Pickett took office of President in June of 1967 and has not missed a meeting at the printing of this history -May 1976)
We have had a membership of around 20 and attendance of about 12 to 14. We meet on Monday evenings after 1st. Sunday. We try to have at least one study each year and have always chosen the Bible Study that was recommended. We changed from the Woman's Society of Christian Service to United Methodist Women in 1973. We have had several special speakers and have taken pride in sending a child to Camp Glisson on several different occasions.

Examples of United Methodist Women contributions:
$100.00 for carpet for Church
$100.00 on curtains for new Parsonage
$75.00 Shrubbery for Parsonage
$25.00 on carpet for M.Y.F.'s room
Each year a Christmas offering is sent to Ethel Harpst Home
THE CHOIR

By Elizabeth McMichael

During the pastorate of Don Harp, we began to realize the need of a choir for the church services. In 1965, the choir was organized with eleven members with Gwendolyn Morris directing and Elizabeth McMichael as pianist. Charter members of the choir were Mr. & Mrs. Jim McMichael, Nevin Duffey, A. G. Cowan, Mr. & Mrs. Asa O'Neal, Mr. & Mrs. George Swan, Mrs. Emerson McMichael, Gwendolyn Morris, and Elizabeth McMichael. Later Mrs. Nevin Duffey, Mrs. Madge Pickett, Mrs. Myrtice Kitchen, and Mrs. Mildred Pech joined the choir.

The first robes worn by the choir were made by one member, Bill McMichael. We later purchased robes which are still in use. Most recently cloth for stoles was purchased by Elizabeth McMichael and made by Bill McMichael.

The church purchased an electric organ which was a great asset to the choir. The piano, Gwendolyn Morris pianist, and the organ, Elizabeth McMichael organist, were used together for the choir.

Present members of the choir are Mr. & Mrs. Jim McMichael, Mrs. Myrtice Kitchen, Mrs. Madge Pickett, Mrs. Nell Swan, Mrs. Emerson McMichael, Mrs. Asa O'Neal, Mrs. Edith Spruell, A. G. Cowan, Nevin Duffey, Donnie Thaxton, Charles Risher, with Maxine Thaxton, pianist, and Elizabeth McMichael organist and director. Gone, but not forgotten, thru death we have lost two members of our choir - Les Swan and Ray Maddox. Martha Maddox and Edith Spruell are assistant organist and pianist.

Editor's Note: Special gratitude from the choir and congregation goes to Elizabeth McMichael for her tireless efforts in choosing the music, directing the choir and playing the organ. Elizabeth's many talents are in evidence in many areas of church work for which we say: "thank you".
PARSONAGE REPORT

By Mr. and Mrs. James T. O'Neal

Although a lot of talk had been said and building fund started, very little had been accomplished in the process of building a parsonage. Withdrawing from the Jenkinsburg Circuit and going full time was a problem to solve.

In the summer of 1972 during the revival meeting, a former pastor, Rev. Bill Bowen, challenged the Stark Congregation saying we had made little progress since he had served as a circuit pastor here years ago.

Three men, James T. O'Neal, Clieett Redman, Jr., and Raymond Waites, asked Rev. Bill Bowen to meet with them, which he did in the home of Clieett Redman, Jr. He assured us we could succeed if we wanted to and with God's help. He also assured us that financial help could be gotten from the Conference Board of which he was a member. We later were granted $2,000 from the conference. From this small flame, a building committee was appointed and efforts began in fund raising.

A sight for building was sought and after several sights were looked into, an offer was made by Mrs. Nell Swan. A two acre plot was donated and this is where we built our parsonage.

A house plan was selected and an agreement was made with Mr. Glen Whitaker to be the contractor. Members donated free labor whenever possible.

A committee was appointed from the UMW to select furnishings for the parsonage. These were: Mrs. Emerson McMichael, Miss Elizabeth McMichael, Mrs. James O'Neal, Mrs. Harold Brooks, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Vaughn, and Mrs. Claude Dixon. The wiring was done by Richard Cobb, Steve, Scott, and Kip, Mr. and Mrs. James O'Neal and Patty. Landscaping was done by Jim McMichael, Harold McMichael and Steve, Emerson McMichael, Al Brown, Raymond Waites, Stanley Maddox and Stan, George Saunders and Lynn, and Mr. and Mrs. Asa O'Neal.
James O'Neal and Harold Brooks, who served as chairman and treasurer of building committee, selected contractors for heating, insulation, plumbing, and painting. Cliett Redman acted as chairman of the fund raising drive and part of the building period. He also provided storage for building materials. Mr. Alton Cowan hauled building material.

$20,000 was in the building fund when we started to build with $12,000 loan and conference funds. The building was completed and furnished for $30,806.79

A committee met with Rev. Neal Windom, District Superintendent, and asked that Stark be given a full time pastor, preferably a student; a second option being a retired minister. A second meeting was held and an advisory panel gave permission for Stark to go ahead and plan a full time program. Beginning in July 1974 at which time the parsonage had been completed and furnished and dedicated, Rev. Frank Burton, his wife Lin, and children, Bubba and Christy Lin, arrived to serve as our first full time pastor at the Stark United Methodist Church.
METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

By Mrs. James T. O'Neal

I served as counselor for the MYF from July 1960 until June 1968. Rev. Don Harp was the pastor. We attended sub-district and district meetings and undertook many projects. Margaret Vaughn Pecht served as president for two years. Many of our members served on other committees. Our enrollment was approximately 15 members.

METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

By Lee Duffey, President

The youth of Stark United Methodist Church officially established a permanent MYF on May 3, 1973. Cora Cheves, youth Sunday School teacher, took over the job as sponsor. Because of health problems, Cora was forced to turn the MYF over to Verna Cobb and Lin Burton in the winter of 1974. In the early summer of 1975, Bonnie Risher took charge of the group. Under the direction of Bonnie, the MYF membership grew. After Cora had fully recovered, Bonnie turned the MYF group back to Cora in April of 1976 and Bonnie organized a Jr. MYF.

Under the direction of the above people, the MYF members have enjoyed such activities as spaghetti suppers, swimming, skating, and seasonal parties. The MYF group has undertaken such duties as sending Christmas and Thanksgiving baskets to shut-ins, caroled throughout the community, held bake sales, and took charge of church services on numerous occasions.
The Jr. MYF began on April 4, 1976 at Stark United Methodist Church. Bonnie Risher was the sponsor and there were five children between the 3rd and 6th grades present. They were Holly Brown, Lora Cheves, Stan Maddox, Billy Redman, and Wayne Waites.

Activities for the Jr. MYF include music, object lessons, games, and crafts. There are plans for outside activities such as roller skating, picnics, and ball games. The Jr. MYF is off to a strong and vigorous beginning.
Junior Methodist Youth Fellowship

By Bonnie Reiter

The JRMYN held an April 4, 1966 at Oak Park United Methodist Church. Bonnie Reiter was the speaker and
there were five activities between the 9th and 5th
grade programs. Among these were Holy Week, Love Christmas,
drages dresses, and were held at the YWCA, Wylie
Meadow, Wylie Recreation, and Wylie Terrace.

Activities for the JRMYN include music, crafts, and lectures.
There are plans for a movie night and a talent show.
Other events include a letter writing program, and a
party game.