The history of Trinity Methodist Church since its founding in the year 1884 is an inspiring one. It is a record of a true and undying devotion, and faith in, Almighty God. It is a typical record of Methodism in action.
This history of Trinity Methodist Church was prepared from documentary information when such information was available and from communication information obtained from members when written records were unavailable. Most fortunate was the fact that the original Church Register had been preserved. This Register shows that is was purchased in the year 1884 and contains complete membership and Church conference information for the period 1884 through 1920.

The opening paragraph of the 1884 Register prepared by Trinity's first pastor reads as follows:

"Trinity Church was organized by Rev. C. L. Pattillo 1884 and its membership was made up from Pleasant Hill, Causey's Chapel and Factory Hill Churches. This Register begins with said organization. (signed) C. L. Pattillo"

The page following the one containing the Pastor's notation shows the record to be "The complete Church Register, Trinity Church, North Georgia Conference, Methodist Episcopal Church, South."

The Register fails to reflect any minutes of the 1884 organizational meetings but it does contain the following list of "Property Trustees,

Trinity M. E. Church 1884.

A. D. McEuen
S. R. Cochran
J. H. Howell
W. B. Howell, Sr.
W. H. Winters"
Trinity today is under the able guidance of Pastor John Moler. The present Church membership totals 150, of which 40 were received under Pastor Moler and the Sunday School membership aggregates 192 of which 83 joined under Pastor Moler. Trinity Church has modern facilities and is a well organized and efficient church. Presently the W.S.C.S., the Men's Bible Class, and the Courier Class are equipping and building a fine modern kitchen which will add much to the church's program of activities.

Trinity is also looking to the future, for plans are being made to construct a parsonage and to enlarge the present facilities which are fast being outgrown.

A church history can never be complete without mentioning the names of some of its faithful and outstanding members who have been responsible for shaping that history over the years.

Recently Miss Maude Baker (1891) and Mrs. Clifford Mitchell (1899) were honored for faithful service at Trinity for more than fifty years. Others approaching this length of service and who are still active members include Mrs. Pearl Manor (1902), Mrs. Effie McGee (1908) Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Wallace (1908).
Subsequent Property Trustees are shown to Be:

J. D. Fagan (Vice A. D. McEwen who died 12/26/86)
Geo. D. Cochran (Vice S. R. Cochran " 1/3/94)
J. B. Haggard (Vice W. B. Howell, Sr. Who died 11/15/96)
R. L. Banks (Vice W. H. Winters dismissed by certificate 1898)
H. E. Brown (Vice J. H. Howell who died 6/10/09)
W. B. Howell (Vice J. B. Haggard, Dismissed by cert. 1910)
C. C. Baker (Vice Geo. D. Cochran who died 5/9/15)
H. R. Brown (Vice R. L. Banks who died 12/25/17)

The "Register of Pastors" as contained in this treasured book reflects the following names and periods of service:

C. L. Pattillo Dec. 1882 to Dec. 1885
J. T. Gibson Dec. 1885 to Dec. 1886
W. Z. Glenn Dec. 1886 to Dec. 1888
W. W. Brinsfield Dec. 1888 to Dec. 1890
C. L. Pattillo Dec. 1890 to Dec. 1891
C. W. Caldwell Dec. 1891 to Dec. 1892
H. L. Edmondson Dec. 1892 to Dec. 1893
A. D. Echols Dec. 1893 to Dec. 1895
S. A. Harris Dec. 1895 to Dec. 1898
E. W. Balanger Dec. 1898 to Dec. 1899
J. A. Thurman Dec. 1899 to Dec. 1900
T. J. Eakes Dec. 1900 to Dec. 1901
W. W. Gaines Dec. 1901 to Dec. 1902
F. G. Golden Dec. 1902 to Dec. 1904
T. H. Gibson Dec. 1904 to Dec. 1906
J. L. Allgood Dec. 1906 to Dec. 1908
O. C. Simmons Dec. 1908 to Dec. 1909
C. F. Hughes Dec. 1909 to Dec. 1911
W. H. Speer Dec. 1911 to Dec. 1913
J. B. Gresham Dec. 1913 to Dec. 1915

The Register does not contain a separate list of Trinity's Charter members however it contains complete information concerning memberships such as, "When Received. How Received. By whom Received. Date of Death or Disposal." This record, which periodically was revised, shows the names of 62 members received in the year 1884.

In the year 1884 the Charter members purchased a two acre plot of land from a Mrs. Mary Bryant for the sum of $20.00. This plot of land contained a grove of oak trees was the site chosen for Trinity Church. The members, who were true pioneers, cut logs from their own lands, hauled them to the Church site, cut them into rough lumber and from it and the efforts of those members, Trinity's first place of worship became a reality. The Church while small was complete in every respect with a beautiful hand carved chancel rail.

Trinity, which in 1884 was on the Powder Springs Charge, organized its Sunday School for regular Sunday services and once each month had worship services under the guidance of its founder, Reverend C. L. Pattillo. From this modest beginning trinity took its place as an instrument of God to make His presence felt not only in the immediate community but in the entire surrounding territory.

At the annual Methodist Conference held at Marietta, Georgia from December 7 to the 11th, 1887, the Church of Austell was made a three quarter station and as such was taken off of the Powder Springs Charge and made the Austell Charge. Trinity Church was placed on the Austell Charge and
had as its first pastor on the new charge, Reverend W. W. Brinsfield who conducted services once each month during the years of 1889 and 1890.

Pastors Pattillo, Brinsfield; and in fact all of those early pastors, in true Methodist tradition, rode their respective circuits on horseback. The early record of Trinity as evidence by the minutes of Church Conference appearing in the Register, clearly shows the effectiveness of these faithful and efficient servants of God. Trinity, according to that record, enjoyed a steady growth in both Church and Sunday School attendance and membership. While this fact was true, Trinity nevertheless had its trials.

The advent of World War Two created a condition in and about Trinity which would have despaired the average congregation. War conditions caused a shifting of populations throughout the entire world but most unusual was the effect of such shifting in the area served by Trinity, for suddenly Trinity was found, for all practical purposes, to be without a congregation. This fact was forcefully brought to the Pastor's attention when on a Sunday morning only three of the older faithful members were in attendance for services. Prayerfully the circuit Pastor and the faithful three considered Trinity's plight. It was decided that it was God's will that Trinity, temporarily at least, should be removed from Conference and for all practical purposes close its doors. Heart breaking was the decision to the the faithful three and other faithful members still residing in the area but who on the particular Sunday could not be in attendance. However, they were not to be denied for they continued to hold Sunday School regularly and held services whenever a pastor was found available in the area.
This heartbreaking and discouraging condition continued to exist for a number of years but through the truly valiant efforts of the faithful disciples their numbers were steadily increased. Finally the members obtained the assistance of a young student pastor from Emory University to conduct worship services. This young enthusiastic servant of God revive the hopes and dreams of the faithful. Trinity was very much alive again for Pastor Gordon Strickland not only organized the approximate 12 old members but interested many more in God's work. He spoke of building a larger and finer Church and his words were received enthusiastically. In 1949 Pastor Strickland drew sketches of a Church he had seen in England and he assisted in drawing the actual plans of a Church patterned after the sketches.

Actual construction of the new Church was started in 1949. A former member of the old Church, Mrs. Lizzie Carrol, donated all of the lumber, labor was donated and likewise the windows and pews were donated by loved ones in memory of Charter members. The new Church was constructed to seat 100 and was complete with a belfry which houses the old bell. Also, the hand carved chancel rail from the old Church was transferred to the new building.

During the period of construction of the new Church pastor Strickland was succeeded by another Emory University Student Pastor J. W. Scarborough. Under Pastor Scarborough's guidance and under date of March 13, 1950, Trinity was reorganized with approximately 60 members at which time the following were elected to Church office:

Trustees -

W. W. Wallace
Alvin Adams
Mrs. Elizabeth Carson
In 1951 and also under the leadership of Pastor Scarbrough, the prayers and hopes of the faithful were answered for Trinity re-entered Conference. Also in 1951 the Congregation moved into its new Church. Trinity Church was definitely on the move again not only growing in members but in spiritual strength. God's Blessings were many for in 1954, under the guidance of another Emory University student Pastor, Robert Bledso a $20,000 Church school building was started, the mortgage on the Sanctuary was fully paid and burned and a gift was received of a Parsonage site from Mr. & Mrs. Walter Brown. In 1955, Trinity, under the guidance of Pastor Shelton Eubanks, dedicated the Church School Building.

Since the year 1949, which was prior to the date of the re-organization, Trinity has been under the able leadership of Emory University Student Pastors. These young Servants, all of whom have greatly contributed to Trinity's rapid current growth, are listed in the order of their service as follows:
The faithfulness of those named and of the many others equally responsible in shaping this great history of Trinity, presents a stirring challenge to the present and future members of this proud, yet humble body of Methodist servants of God.

respectfully submitted,

May 19, 1957

John Moler
Pastor

Mrs. W. D. Kindred
Church Historian

139