Trinity-On-The-Hill was organized October 17, 1926 under the direction of Bishop Warren Candler and Dr. John E. Ellis, General Superintendent, with 161 Charter members - 176 in Church School, 56 in Missionary Society.

The congregation met in the old Monte Sano School Building for 7 years.

Rev. T. Z. B. Everton was the first pastor. A lot of two acres was purchased his second year on Monte Sano Avenue for $3,500; value today, $13,000.

Rev. & Mrs. Elbert D. Hale came in 1929 and hastened the development of the church plant by building a lovely brick parsonage on the new lot.

Rev. & Mrs. J. H. Allison came in 1931 and were the first to occupy the new parsonage. Their deep concern was for the young people of the church and community. His influence through consistent visitation in the homes on the Hill is felt to this day.

Rev. & Mrs. W. W. Twiggs came in 1933 and through hard, earnest work launched a great building program. The first service in the new church was held February 1935, when Bishop Candler preached. This was a great day for Methodism on the "Sand Hills" of Augusta!

Rev. & Mrs. E. C. Wilson came November 1935. He did excellent pastoral work and by unique methods paid obligations which had been incurred in the new building program.

Rev. & Mrs. W. W. Barnett came in 1939 and served faithfully through the war years and the soldiers made Trinity their church home. Through the effort of the W.S.C.S., new pews were bought (1942) and Mrs. Arthur Moore dedicated them to the Glory of God.

Rev. & Mrs. A. E. Elizer came in 1943 and worked untiringly to build an Educational Plant. Bishops Moore, Kern and Harrell turned the first spade of dirt in 1947 and in 1948 at a cost of $102,000 this building was completed. Many joined the church in this pastorate.

In July 1949 Rev. & Mrs. J. Hamby Barton came to Trinity. They found a completed church and Church School plant with 804 church members, 700 in the Church School and 130 in the W.S.C.S.
A Factual History of the organization of Trinity-on-the-Hill Methodist Church of Augusta, Georgia

Prepared from the Quarterly Conference records of Rev. John E. Ellis, Presiding Elder.

Prologue

It is said that all great undertakings are the elongated shadow of some great men, and it is felt that Trinity-on-the-Hill Methodist Church is the elongation of the shadow of a great Methodist, Doctor William Thomas Price, then District Lay Leader, who as the product of a Primitive Baptist Home, was converted to Methodism and brought with him the determination and conviction that made him impervious to all obstacles and hindrances. These were needed.

He enlisted the support and encouragement of Rev. John Estes Ellis, then presiding elder of the Augusta District, and this Church is the fulfilment of the dreams of these two men, who dared build where no one had built before. Reverend John E. Ellis and Dr. William T. Price felt the need of a Methodist Church to serve the fast growing section of Augusta, first known as "The Sand Hill" and later as "The Hill". The floods of 1908 and 1909, and the great fire of 1916 caused a general exodus from downtown Augusta to the Hill.

This need was brought to the attention of the District Conference held in Hephzibah, Georgia, on the 31st day of May, 1926, and a committee was appointed to determine the need of a church on the Hill, with power to act. Dr. Price called to his aid R. E. Florie and O. B. Verdery, Stewards of Saint James, and J. Paul Stephens, then chairman of the Board at Woodlawn, and these men canvassed the Hill section, seeking subscriptions as Charter members, which resulted in the securing of 136 names as subscribers. About two and one-half months were needed to secure so many names.

Upon receiving this encouragement, a meeting was held at the home of Honorable Julian M. Smith, on Kings Way, about the 15th of August, 1926, which was conducted by Rev. John E. Ellis, our presiding elder, who opened the meeting with a fervent prayer for God's guidance. The following were present:

Rev. John E. Ellis, P. E.
Mr. and Mrs. Julian M. Smith
Dr. William T. Price
Mr. and Mrs. J. Paul Stephens
Dr. R. L. Rhodes
Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Metz
Dr. and Mrs. W. Edward Clark
Miss Josie Bodeker
Mrs. W. E. Crosson
Robert E. Florie
It was then and there determined to organize a Church on the Hill, and a public meeting was arranged at the auditorium of the new Monte Sano School, which was held on the 9th day of September, 1926. The auditorium was well filled and the meeting was opened with prayer by Brother Ellis, who called for the enlistment of all who desired to become charter members of the new Church, and many souls were added that night. Rev. John E. Ellis, Dr. Rembert G. Smith, W. T. Price, Julian M. Smith and others spoke, and "Go Forward" was the motto.

A decision was reached that an organizational meeting should be held at the Old Monte Sano School building on a date to be arranged and a committee named to negotiate for a lease with the County Board of Education for the use of the old school house, which was entered into.

The building had been neglected for some years and the ladies of the Church organized what was called "The Clean-up Squad" and entered into the task of cleaning the building. These consecrated women went to their knees in prayer and then arose, with scrub brushes in their hands to clean up for the Glory of God. It was an inspiring sight:

### Factual History

The organizational meeting, or First called Quarterly Conference was held in the newly cleaned school house on Sunday afternoon at 4 p.m., on the 17th day of October, 1926, conducted by Rev. John E. Ellis, our presiding elder. After a prayer of consecration of the members, the following business was transacted.

J. Paul Stephens was elected the first Charge Lay Leader, and authorized to conduct services, including prayer-meetings, until the arrival of our new preacher. He was also elected secretary of the Quarterly Conference.

Dr. W. T. Price was elected as the first Chairman of the Board of Stewards.

Dr. W. Edward Clark was elected the first general superintendent of the Sunday School.

Mrs. W. T. Metz was elected as the first president of the Woman's Missionary Society.

Miss Minnie Vaughn was elected the first president of the Epworth League.

The following were elected as departmental superintendents of the Sunday School, to serve under Dr. Clark:

- **Adult Department:** Mr. Harry D. Smith
- **Intermediate:** Mrs. Elroy G. Smith
- **Juniors:** Mrs. J. Paul Stephens
- **Primary:** Mrs. W. Edward Clark
- **Beginners:** Mrs. William O. White
- **Home:** Miss Josie Bodeker
- **Secretary:** Lucian P. Howell
- **Treasurer:** William E. Jakes
Stewards: Dr. W. T. Price
     H. E. Cowan
     W. A. Eubanks
     William O. White
     Dr. J. R. Gepfert
     Elroy G. Smith
     William R. Reeves
     William C. Jones
     Lucian P. Howell
     Curtis E. Smith
     H. Douglas Graves
     William E. Jakes

Trustees: Dr. W. Edward Clark
     Julian M. Smith
     Orville B. Verdery
     J. Marvin Haynie
     T. Marion Verdery
     J. Oscar Stallings
     John W. Phillips
     Dr. Eugene M. Wilder
     Homer G. Young
     Walter E. Clark
     Julian M. Smith

District Steward: Dr. J. R. Gepfert
Recording Steward: William A. Eubanks
Chairman, Christian Stewardship Committee: Mrs. O. W. Anderson
Temperance and Social Service Committee: J. E. Stephens
                                                J. R. Gepfert
                                                W. O. White
                                                W. E. Jakes
                                                W. E. Jakes

The first Regular Quarterly Conference confirmed the above and added the following:

Stewards: Dr. W. Edward Clark
     Julian M. Smith
     Orville B. Verdery
     William T. Metz
     J. H. Richardson
     L. O. West
     J. M. Lyle

It was voted to leave the Charter Roll open until Easter Sunday, 1927.

The Church conference was elected a Building Committee with power to act in the purchase of a lot for a church building.

Our first Pastor, Reverend Thomas Zachariah Bray Everton, conducted our first Sunday Service on the first Sunday in December,
after his appointment to serve Trinity, and delivered a powerful sermon to a packed auditorium. This was the first Sunday service, as the six Thursdays preceding were designated as prayer meeting nights, so as to not interfere with other services. These were conducted by the Charge Lay Leader, as authorized by the organizational quarterly conference.

TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH WAS ON ITS WAY!