Union Point Methodist Church, located on the Chatsworth Highway, just outside the city limits of Dalton, Georgia, was organized on a Wednesday night the latter part of November 1948. Rev. Eugene Bartenfeld was in charge of the meeting. Union Point has long been a landmark for the Dalton area. For many years the old Union Point School, a Whitfield County grade school, was a familiar site. Tradition dates the first one room school house back to ante-bellum days, but the first recorded deed is dated 1899. Celestia Ann Richardson deeded an acre of ground to the Whitfield County School Board to be used for Union Point School. The school moved when Eastside School was built. On January 29, 1949, the property was secured from Mrs. W. C. Bowen, Sr. and Mr. W. C. Bowen, Jr. for the sum of $1,500.00 for a Methodist Church. The deed was filed for record in Whitfield County Courthouse May 23, 1949, Book 53, Page 268-70, and was signed by three charter trustees of the Church – John Walraven, Earl F. Land, Jr., Fred L. Buckner, Sr. and by Russel G. Weems, Sr., who had replaced Aaron Bartenfeld. The Board of Missions of the Methodist Church donated $100.00. The deed contains the trust clause. The original acre has diminished to three-fourths acre because of changes in the highway adjoining the property and due to the sale of a few feet of ground to Floyd Painter for the sum of $300.00, which was used in paying for the property.

There were twenty-two charter members enrolled as follows: Aaron Bartenfeld, Mrs. Aaron Bartenfeld, Fred L. Buckner, Mrs. Fred L. Buckner, Billy Jack Buckner, Mrs. Patsy Buckner Cole, Earline Brackett, Mrs. W. W. Ellis, Earl F. Land, Jr., Mrs. Earl F. Land, Jr., Mrs. J. C. Locke, Mrs. Pauline Norman, Bobbie Ruth Norman, Roy Richardson, Mrs. Roy Richardson, Allo Richardson, Robert B. Stancil, Mrs. Robert B. Stancil, Mrs. John F. Tucker, John Walraven, Mrs. John Walraven and Mrs. J. M. Williams. Nine of the twenty-two are still active at this date.
At the organizational meeting, the church school and the church officers were elected as follows:

- **Sunday School Superintendent** - Earl F. Land, Jr.
- " Sec. & Treas." - Mrs. J. C. Locke
- " Adult Teacher" - Mrs. Earl F. Land, Jr.
- " Youth Teacher" - Mrs. Aaron Bartenfeld
- " Primary Teacher" - Mrs. Roy Richardson
- " Choirster" - Aaron Bartenfeld
- " Pianist" - Miss Allo Richardson

**Church Secretary** - Mrs. Earl F. Land, Jr.

**Church Treasurer** - Earl F. Land, Jr.

**Stewards** - Aaron Bartenfeld, Ch., Mrs. J. C. Locke, Earl F. Land, Jr. & Mrs. Roy Richardson

These officers served for several months and these changes were made. Mrs. F. L. Buckner became the adult teacher and Mrs. Earl L. Land, Jr. became the junior teacher. Mr. F. L. Buckner and Mr. John Walraven replaced two stewards.

Mrs. Earl F. Land, Jr., the first Church Secretary, has continued to serve and is the present Secretary. Mr. James R. Combs became Church Treasurer in June 1950 and served until June 1957. At this time, Mr. Leon Langston became Church Treasurer and serves at the present time.

The preachers who have served the Union Point Church or Charge are as follows:

- Rev. Eugene Bartenfeld 11/30/48 to 2/49
- Mrs. Peter Manning 2/49 to 6/49
- Rev. Wallace Greene (Fairview) 6/49 to 6/50
  - Associate - Rev. J. E. Brashear
- * Rev. Earl B. Carter 6/50 to 6/52
- * Rev. William Blanton, Jr. 6/52 to 3/53
- * Rev. Emery Brackman 6/54 to 6/55
- Rev. H. V. Ivestor 6/56 to 6/57
- Rev. Reid McClurd 6/57 to 6/59
- Rev. Coy Burnett 6/59 to 6/60
- Rev. W. H. Brackett 6/61 to

* Emory Theology Students.

In June 1953 Fairview, Dalton was placed on the Union Point Charge and stayed until June 1956. Mineral Springs was placed with Union Point in 1959-60. W. H. Brackett assisted Coy Burnett and William Fraker by serving the Mineral Springs Church. In June 1961, Coy Burnett accepted Mineral Springs Church.
The following District Superintendents have served Union Point Church:

Rev. Peter Manning 1947 - 1951
Rev. H. C. Stratton 1951 - 1955
Rev. W. H. Gardner 1955 - 1959
Rev. E. D. Rudisill 1959 -

Under the leadership of Rev. Earl B. Carter, an Emory Theology student from Arkansas, sixteen new members were added, an M. Y. F. was organized, a vestibule and two Sunday School rooms were built, a gas heating system was installed and other church improvements made which cost approximately $2,750.00. In August 1951, Andy Foreman, an Emory student from Louisiana, accepted Earl Carter's invitation to hold a series of revival services. The inspiration received from these services still lives in all members hearts today.

On a Sunday in September, 1952, the old church was dedicated. Rev. H. C. Stratton, D. S. was in charge of the service. Mrs. Peter Manning, Park Street Church, Atlanta, filled the pulpit in the morning. A basket dinner was spread outside and the dedication service was in the afternoon. Mrs. Manning began a building fund for a new church building during the lunch hour. $103.00 was collected and placed in a savings account at the First National Bank. Jack L. Arthur contributed the first five dollars.

During Horace Webb's pastorate, a large new room was added to the back of the church at a cost of $1,000.00. This room has now become two Sunday School rooms.

In 1959 under the capable leadership of Rev. Coy Burnette, the new modern brick Union Point Church was erected at a cost of $10,587.12. It fronts on to the old building which was converted into an educational building. The new sanctuary is 34 feet wide and 64 feet long. It will seat over two hundred people. The building committee active at this time was as follows: P. L. Langston, Sr., Roy Evans, Earl F. Land, Jr., Russel Weems, Sr., F. L. Buckner, Floyd Painter, Clifton Reese, James R. Combs and John Walraven. Special services were held on Sunday, November 29, 1959 to consecrate the building and this was followed by a fellowship dinner which was served in the old building. A large number of church members, their families and friends, who through the years had donated time, money and prayers for the growth of the church, attended the dedication November 19, 1961. Rev. Coy Burnette was in charge of the service.
The Church School was never ceased to function since it was organized in November 1948. Those who have served as superintendents are as follows: Earl F. Land, Jr., Russel G. Weems, Sr., John Walraven, John Sharpe, Harold McClain, James R. Combs, Bob Combs and Bill Evans. W. L. Evans is the present superintendent. The first yearly average attendance was 11\(\frac{1}{2}\) with offering of $5.00. The 1961-62 yearly average attendance was 40\(\frac{1}{2}\) with $19.00 offering.

Union Point has had several Vacation Bible Schools. Miss Bert Winter and her helpers were in charge of one and Miss Ann Heard assisted with one. Pastors, Sunday School teachers and W.S.C.S. members have taught the others.

The youth has always been a source of inspiration to the church. The M.Y.F. has not functioned consistently, but the youth have served the church in many capacities. This group was organized in 1950 under the leadership of Earl B. Carter and William Combs was the first president. Other presidents have been Nancy Evans, Joe Evans, James Newton, Leon Langston, Jr., Frankie Land, Rebecca Reese and at the present time, Wayne Weems is serving. Under Reid McClurd's pastorate, the M.Y. F. bought a rug for the aisle of the old church. It is being used in the nursery at the present date. Under Frankie Land's leadership, two dozen Cokesbury Hymnals were bought, window screens were replaced and a ping pong table was purchased. Under Becky Reece's leadership, gravel was bought for the driveway. Counselors who have served are as follows: Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Wills, Mr. & Mrs. John Walraven, Mr. & Mrs. Earl F. Land, Jr., Mr. & Mrs. Floyd Painter and Mr. & Mrs. Bob Combs.

The Women's Society of Christian Service has always been the right arm of the church. It was organized January 16, 1949 at the church with Mrs. Peter Manning and Mrs. J. E. Gaines as principal speakers. Mrs. F. L. Buckner was elected president. She served capably for three years and later served again. Other presidents who have served are Mrs. James R. Combs, Mrs. Earl F. Land, Jr., Mrs. Bob Combs and Mrs. Kathryn Baker. Mrs. Baker is serving at the present date. Union Point has no parsonage and in the early days the women opened the doors of their homes to the young student pastors. Later they rented a room from Mrs. Walter Stancil. The Society has been active in every phase of local church work from the humble office of janitor to filling the pulpit once in the
absence of the pastor. The society has participated in district and conference work.

Our outstanding work has been buying a new piano for the church with funds raised from a chicken supper and a contribution of $4,150.82, which was applied on payment of the new church building. This contribution was raised by the sale of vanilla, cards and holding rummage sales. The following verse quoted from the President’s report May 7, 1955, reflects the spirit and work of the W.S.C.S.

"To undergird our local church
This -- has been our big research.
Pulling together "in one accord"
We’ve done our best to serve our Lord."

There are eighteen members at the present date. We humbly submit the names of all W.S.C.S. members who have been enrolled and who have served so faithfully: Mrs. Esther Acree, Mrs. Minnie G. Ault, Mrs. Kathryne Baker, Mrs. Fred L. Buckner, Mrs. W. H. Brackett, Mrs. Clarence Carr, Mrs. James R. Combs, Mrs. Bob Combs, Mrs. Joe Cavender, Mrs. Joe Dempsey, Mrs. Roy Evans, Mrs. Sibyl Ellis, Mrs. Lucille Freeman, Mrs. Ethel Faulkner, Mrs. Mildred Ivester, Mrs. Walter Johnston, Mrs. Katherine Jennings, Mrs. Earl F. Land, Jr., Mrs. A. L. Keys, Mrs. J. C. Locke, Mrs. Peter Manning, Mrs. Frances Mathis, Mrs. Reid McClurd, Mrs. Nick Newton, Mrs. James Newton, Mrs. Floyd Painter, Mrs. Clifton Reese, Mrs. Earl Ray, Mrs. Ben Richardson, Mrs. John Sharpe, Mrs. Russel Weems, Sr., Mrs. John Walraven, Mrs. E. G. Yeager, Miss Genia Combs and Miss Doris Keys.

To date there has been only one funeral service in Union Point Church and this service was not for a member of the church. Bethel Methodist Church was under construction at the time and our church was chosen. We have had three weddings in the church. On June 2, 1957, Peggie Dodson was married to Harold McClain. Rev. H. V. Ivester preformed the ceremony. On February 7, 1960, Dollie Evans was married to Horace Grey. Rev. Coy Burnett preformed the ceremony. On December 23, 1961, Lavania Reece was married to Vernon Gordon. Rev. W. H. Brackett preformed this ceremony.

Union Point has received many contributions and greatfully appreciates them all. The pulpit bible was donated to the church by Mrs. Jessie Moody, mother of Mrs. James R. Combs and a member of Tunnel Hill Methodist Church. A communion service was given to the church by Allene and Herschel Bates, also members of Tunnel Hill Methodist Church. An
alter set was donated by Drennon Crutchfield, First Methodist Church, Dalton.

At present the church membership is seventy-five. There are fifteen enrolled in the M. Y. F. and eighteen active members in the W. S. C. S.

The sources from which this history has been derived are old check stubs, church records, deeds, charter members, W.S.C.S. records, the Dalton Citizen and first hand information from the present members.

Mrs. James R. Combs
Historian