

1972 Atlanta - Stockbridge

HISTORY AND RECORDS OF UNION METHODIST CHURCH

The record of this church begins with the lot that was bought from John T. Bentley. Deed dated April 21, 1846 recorded June 3, 1846 in Deed Book "L" page 50, Henry County. The sum paid for this lot was \$10.00. The lot consisted of $3\frac{1}{2}$ acres more or less. This land was to be used to erect a house of worship, the Methodist Episcopal Church. The lot was in the eleventh land district. The trustees were as follows: James B. Turner, Thomas Albert, John Albert, Samuel Garrard and Henry C. Merrett.

The present church site is deeded to John G. Mann, John S. Albert, L.P. Owen, N.J. Bowen, and S.A. Helms, as trustees of the Methodist Church and their successors in office by the heirs of B.H. Ray, signed by S.A. Sappington, W.W. Ray, A.A. Bentley, J.D. Ray, J.G. Ray, D.J. Ray dated November 18, 1887. This deed states that B.H. Ray sold the land (2 acres) to the trustees of Union Church sometime during the year 1875 and that B.H. Ray died before making the deeds to same. This deed is recorded in the clerk's office in Rockdale County in Deed Book "E" page 154.

The present trustees are C.H. Bowen, J.H. Turpin, E.C. Ray, I.L. Gunter, and J.H. Fargason.

The stewards of the church are C.H. Bowen, Mrs. J.B. Browning, Mrs. H.C. Crumbley, J.M. Chafin, Miss Elizabeth Stanley, Mrs. Zed Swann, Edward M. Cox, Grady McCullough, Mrs. J.G. Moseley, Frank Morris, E.C. Ray, C.H. Ricks, and John Bert Richardson. Honary Steward: J.H. Fargason. The Junior Stewards are Jim B. Crumley, Gene Moseley, Mack Moseley, John Ricks, Bobby Stephens, and Charles Toney.

The first superintendents were: W.H. McCord, G.W. Simmons, J.S. Albert, J.G. Mann, J.D. Bowen, W.A. Bellah, Luther Morris, J.E. Ray, C.H. Bowen, Grady McCullough, and I.L. Gunter. The superintendent in charge now is E.C. Ray.

The Secretary is Jo Anne Hinton; Treasurer, E.C. Ray, The Choir-
isters were: W.M. Richardson, R.F. Helms, Frank Rowan, Roy Richard-
son, Grady McCullough. The Choirister now is H.C. Crumbley. The
organist and pianist were: Mrs. Lola Browning Burgess, Mrs. Lizzie
Mann Fargason, Mrs. Kate Ricks Regan, Mrs. Ruth Ricks Richardson,
Mrs. Ida Lee Ray Moseley, and Mrs. Miriam Ricks McCullough. The
pianist now is Mrs. Marie Richardson Moseley.

Some of the first members on record are families of the McCord,
Simmons, Bentley, Helms, Sappington, Albert, Owen, Mann, Weathford,
Ford, Ricks, Rowan, Parker, Clotfelter, Ray, Miller, Toney, Bellah,
and Richardson. The oldest member of this church living is Mrs. Ida
Helms.

The pastors on record that served this charge are:

	Rev. Calwell
1881-82	Rev. W.F. Quillian ✓
1883	Rev. R.J. Bigham ✓
1884-85	Rev. W.D. Heath
1886-87	Rev. W.F. Robinson
1888	Rev. J.L. Pierce
1889	Rev. W.A. Farris
1890	Rev. J.L. Moon
1891	Rev. H.M. Quillian
1892-93	Rev. W.A. Dillard
1894-95-96-97	Rev. H.S. Bradley ✓
1898	Rev. R.A. Eakes ✓
1899	Rev. Alfred Pierce
1900-01	Rev. G.L. Eakes
1902-03	Rev. F.A. Smith
1904-05-06	Rev. J.T. Eakes

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1907-08	Rev. S.A. Dimon
1909-10-11	Rev. W.O. Butler
1912-13-14-15	Rev. F.R. Seaborn
1916- 17	Rev. W.P. Carmichael
1918- 19- 20	Rev. W.A. Wells
1921	Rev. G.T. Sorrels
1922-23-24	Rev. J.S. Thrailkill
1925-26	Rev. R.E. Ruthland
1927	Rev. D.B. Cantrell
1928	Rev. Harrison
1929-30	Rev. L.P. Huckaby
1931-32	Rev. J.G. Davis
1933-34-35	Rev. G.P. Cantrell
1936- 37	Rev. G.G. Ramsey
1938- 39	Rev. J.W. King
1940-41	Rev. V.A. Bailey
1942-43-44-45	Rev. John D. Maxwell
1946-47	Rev. R.E. Lyle
1948-49	Rev. Charles J. Grilne

Our pastor in charge now is Rev. Robert L. Taylor

When the church was first organized babies were christened in the homes but now they are christened in the church and a number of babies have been christened in this church.

In 1934 the church was remodeled and memorial windows were added in honor of some of our members. During the pastorate of Rev. G.P. Cantrell our church was equipped with folding partitions, so that we were enabled to have four Sunday School class rooms instead of only the auditorium. A short time later new pews were added.

One of the first Vacation Bible Schools was under the leadership of Rev. and Mrs. Y.A. Bailey.

We have been most fortunate in having for our people bus transportation to and from church. We are most grateful to the owners of the school buses who have made this service possible for a number of years. They were George Bowen, I.L. Gunter, Jack Perry, and at the present Zed Swann.

The first person buried in the Union Cemetery was a three year old child named Letson.

There have been only two weddings in Union Church. Lewis Travis Stanley and Wana White were married the second Sunday in May 1947, after the preaching hour by Rev. R.E. Lyle. On Saturday afternoon April 30, 1949 at 5:30 o'clock Norman Clark and Virginia Ray were married by Rev. Charles Grilhe.

In October 1948 this church began observing World Service Sunday by putting on a special program after Sunday School every fourth Sunday morning. The committee responsible for these programs are as follows: Mrs. George Bowen, Chairman; Mrs. Zed Swann and Mrs. Grady McCullough.

The leaders of our church today are the decendents of the families who were first members of this church.

The Building Committee that directed us in the work on our annex is comprised of the following members: E.C. Ray, Chariman; Mrs. J.G. Moseley, Mrs. Frank Morris, C.H. Bowen, and H.C. Crumbley, Treasurer.

THE HISTORY OF THE EPWORTH LEAGUE OF UNION CHURCH

The Epworth League of Union Church was organized August 15, 1922 by Rev. J.S. Thrailkill. The first president was C.H. Bowen. Others were as follows: Roy Richardson, W.G. George, C.H. Ricks, Miss Arizona Ray, Mrs. Marian Ricks McCullough, Charles Ricks, Ralph Bowen Mrs. Mary Jo Love Mathis, Mrs. Lawson Richardson, Mrs. Virginia Ray Clark, Mrs. George Bowen, Mrs. Margaret Ellen Richardson Sewell,

Harold Ricks, Mrs. Jean Miller Toney, Miss Etta Mae Bowen. Our president now is Miss Joyce Hammonds, Secretary- Mrs. Ralph Richardson.

In 1946 Rev. Robert E. Lyle organized the Sub- District Fellowship and at that time it was called Robert E. Lyle Sub-District. The Sub-District is now called the Athrujax Sub- District. Since 1947 the Epworth League has changed and is now called the Methodist Youth Fellowship. The first president of the Sub- District was Mrs. Virginia Ray Clark. The president now in charge is Miss Betty Anne LeGuin, Secretary Miss Etta Mae Bowen. The counsellor of the M.Y.F. is Mrs. George Bowen.

THE HISTORY OF THE WOMAN'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE OF UNION CHURCH

The Ladies' Missionary Society was organized by Mrs. G.P. Cantrell and Mrs. Will Mays at the home of Mrs. E.C. Ray on February 1933. The society was first named the Alice Babb Cantrell Auxiliary. In appreciation of the organization and the great work she did for our society a memorial window was bought by the church in her memory.

The first president was Mrs. Frank Morris, Secretary, Mrs. E.C. Ray, Treasurer Mrs. Paul Ray. Other presidents were Mrs. Zed Swann, Mrs. C.H. Bowen, Mrs. H.C. Crumbley, Mrs. Lawson Richardson, Mrs. E.C. Ray. the president now in office is Mrs. Frank Richardson, Vice - President Mrs. Frank Morris. Mrs. Zed Swann served several years at different times. Mrs. E.C. Ray was president during the war when so many members were away at work. Sometimes the society had only six or eight members present, but she did not quit. Why? Because she had faith. When the society was organized we had twelve members on roll. On November 15, 1947 a committee was appointed to see that flowers were sent to the sick. On this committee was Mrs. George Bowen, Chairman; Mrs. C.H. Ricks and Mrs. Holten Wyatt. Mrs. Ralph Richardson is chairman of the Flower Fund now. Treasurer, Mrs. H.C. Crumbley; Secretary, Miss Violet Ricks.

HISTORY OF THE CHRISTIAN BOARD OF EDUCATION

1947-48

The Christian Board of Education was organized September 1947. The meetings were to be held monthly in the homes on Thursday night after the second Sunday.

Pastor	Rev. Charles Grilhe
General Superintendent	Mr. E.C. Ray
Superintendent of Adult Division	Mrs. H.C. Crumoley
Superintendent of Youth Division	Miss Virginia Ray
Superintendent of Youth Division	Edward B. Cox
Superintendent of Childrens Division	Miss Violet Ricks
Representatave of W.S.C.S.	Mrs. E.C. Ray
Representative of Board of Stewards	Mr. Frank Morris
Representative of Junior Stewards	Mr. John Ricks
Representative of the Youth	Mrs. J.B. Richardson
Representative of the Youth	Charles Toney
President of the M.Y.F.	Miss Jean Miller
Members at Large	Mrs. George Bowen
	Mrs. J.G. Moseley
	Mrs. Edward Cox
Chairman	Mrs. George Bowen
Secretary	Miss Jean Miller

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Miss Lucille Hammonds
Mrs. Harold Ricks
Miss Opal Cox
Miss JoAnne Hinton
Mr. Charlie Ricks
Mrs. Edward B. Cox

Mrs. Frank Morris
Miss Joyce Hammonds

1948-49

Pastor

Rev. Charles Grilhe

Our present pastor is Rev. Robert L. Taylor.

General Superintendent

Mr. E.C. Ray

Superintendent of Adult Division

Mrs. George Bowen

Our present Superintendent of Adult Division is Mr. H.C. Crumbley.

Superintendents of Youth Division

Miss Violet Ricks

Mrs. J.G. Moseley

Mrs. Frank Morris

Mrs. Edward B. Cox

Representative of W.S.C.S.

Mrs. Zed Swann

Our president now is Mrs. Frank Richardson.

Representative of Board of Stewards

Mr. Frank Morris

Representative of Junior Stewards

Mr. John Ricks

Representatives of the Youth

Miss Joyce Hammonds

Miss JoAnne Hinton

President of the M.Y.F.

Miss Etta Mae Bowen

Our president now is Miss Joyce Hammonds.

Members at Large

Mrs. Edward B. Cox

Mrs. H.C. Crumbley

Mrs. J.G. Moseley

Mrs. Frank Morris

Mrs. J.B. Richardson

Mrs. George Bowen

Miss Etta Mae Bowen

Chairman
Secretary

The planning committee has not been changed.

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Through the efforts of our Building Committee, Christian Board of Education, our Pastors- Rev. Charles Grille and Rev. Robert L. Taylor and the people at large, who so graciously gave their time and their pledges, the new annex to our church was started in late October, 1949 and as you see is nearing completion. For this good work and cooperation we are most grateful. We hope to see our Sunday School double in number as it is already beginning to do. May we, as members of this church, keep praying that this church may continue to grow. We hope that March 12, 1950, the date of the opening service of our Educational Annex, will be as significant to our children as many of the above dates are to us.

1950-51

During the conference year 1950-51 some events and changes took place which the Committee on History includes in the subsequent lines as a part of our historical data.

Few changes were made in the officers of the Church School. Mr. E.C. Ray remains our faithful Superintendent. Miss Joyce Hammonds is the Secretary. The teachers are as follows: Men's Bible Class: Mr. C.H. Ricks; Ladies' Bible Class: Mrs. Josie Miller; Young Adult Class: Mrs. Frank Morris; Youth Class: Mr. C.D. Ricks; Intermediates: Mrs. Lucille Richardson; Juniors: Mrs. Addie Jo Swann; Primaries: Miss Violet Ricks; Beginners: Mrs. Ralph Richardson. The faithfulness and concretion of these teachers and officers have made it possible for us to have a well planned and thorough Church School Program.

Behind every movement for better education in the local Church is the important Board of Christian Education. With the addition of the names of Mack Moseley and Mrs. Josie Miller, the membership of this Board of Education remains the same as named above for

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1949-50. Through the planning of the Board of Education our Church enjoyed a very successful Vacation Bible School July 3-14 1950.

Mrs. Addie Jo Swann was the Dean of the Vacation Bible School. Teachers were: Beginners: Mrs. Vivian Richardson and Mrs. Marie Hammonds; Primaries: Mrs. Velma Moseley and Mrs. Dorothy Moseley; Juniors: Mrs. Lucille Richardson and Mrs. C.C. Bowen; Intermediates Mrs. Frank Morris and Mrs. E.C. Ray. Forty children profited from study, fun, and fellowship in one of our best schools.

The story of the W.S.C.S. is always the same- initiative and progress. Much has been accomplished this year under the leadership of the President, Mrs. Lucille Richardson, and her co-workers. Flowers have been sent to the shut-ins, the fine bulletin board was purchased, and copies of THE UPPER ROOM are being sent to our boys in the armed services. Since the beginning of our expansion program, the Woman's Society has contributed approximately \$1000.00 to this work.

Our Youth Fellowship has been most active during 1950-51. Mrs. George Bowen and Miss Lucille Hammonds have been excellent counsellors. Mack Moseley has been a faithful and efficient president. In August (1950) the M.Y.F. encamped at Shingleroof Campground. Their attendance at the services and participation in all the activities there made them the recipients of a \$25.00 first prize cash award. This year the M.Y.F. has spent \$105.00 on the improvement of the Church. What more could a Church ask of the Youth?

On Saturday afternoon, December 23, 1950 Lucious Youmans and Etta Mae Bowen were united in marriage by Rev. Robert L. Taylor in Union Church. This was the third wedding to be performed in this Church.

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Two dates are significant with regard to the finances this year (1950-51). On the Second Sunday in December more than \$400.00 was pledged to retire all of the indebtedness on the annex. On the Second Sunday in March \$229.00 was pledged to paint the Church inside and out.

We can surely say with the apostle Paul, "We count not ourselves to have apprehended." But when we survey the progress that has been made, we must not dedicate this building today (April 8, 1951) without saying "thank you" to the members who contributed and worked, to the friends and former members who prayed for us and contributed, and to almighty God who gave us the vision and the courage to carry through.