

Candler

A Brief History  
Of  
WESLEY MEMORIAL CHURCH

In 1902 the membership of the First Church, located where the Candler Building now stands, decided to move further north. This left quite a gap between the new location and Trinity Church on Whitehall Street and Trinity Avenue. It was soon decided to build a new church near the center of the gap. The question was discussed by Bishop Candler, Dr. Styles Bradley, pastor of Trinity, by the Wesleyan Christian Advocate and a number of interested laymen.

"Until the hopes and aims could have definite realization temporary plans were established and the Athletic Hall on Edgewood Avenue was rented. There in November 1902 religious services were begun". -Mrs. Dewey.

Wesley Memorial Church was organized <sup>4, 19, 1903</sup> and Rev. Lincoln McConnell was appointed supply pastor at the session of the North Georgia Conference at Griffin in November 1903.

Work to erect a temporary building was begun in September 1903 and the building was completed November 8, 1903, and the first service was held in the building. Rev. Sam P. Jones preached the sermon.

On June 16, 1907, there were seven Bishops in Atlanta to present the movement to the people. Over \$200,000 was raised. Mr. Asa G. Candler gave \$50,000.

The Corner Stone of the present building was laid on October 14, 1908. Bishop Candler spoke and presented Bishop E. R. Hendrix who made the address.

Sunday April 9th, eight years after the organization of the church, was held the first service after the completion of the building. It was a great day. The auditorium was full with

many standing. More than three thousand can be accommodated there. ✓  
And thus the church was set on its ministry to many souls.

The North Georgia Annual Conference has held its sessions there in 1918, 1919, 1920, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1926, 1927, 1930 and ✓ each year since, including 1954. 10

Wesley Memorial has been blessed by some historical gatherings. In 1918 the General Conference of the former Methodist ✓ Episcopal Church, South, met there. At this Conference seven men were elected Bishops, viz: John M. Moore, William Fletcher McMurry, ✓ Urban Valentine William Darlington, William Mellard DuBose, William Newman Ainsworth and James Cannon, Jr.

The Ecumenical Methodist Conference met there in 1931. It ✓ was a great occasion indeed.

The second Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference of the ✓ Methodist Church was held there in June 1944. It continued for several days. Bishop Arthur J. Moore was host Bishop and Hoke Sewell was pastor host. At this session Costen J. Harrell and ✓ Paul Garber were elected Bishops.

Mr. Thomas Riley Marshall, Vice-President during the Presidency of Woodrow Wilson, was in the midst of delivering an address ✓ at Wesley Memorial when a paper was handed him. It told of the death of Mr. Wilson. He announced the sad news, dismissed the audience, rushed to the Biltmore hotel for his luggage and left at once for Washington. Mr. Wilson died February 3, 1924.

The late Will Rogers addressed a large audience at Wesley ✓ Memorial about 1920.

Winston Churchill, present Prime Minister of England, ✓ spoke there in 1932.

June 28, 1951, Hon. Alben Barkley, Vice President, address- ✓ ed the North Georgia Conference, subject: "This Nation Under God". 117

A few years ago the Salvation Army of the Southern States ✓  
held its Convention in Wesley Memorial. It continued for several  
days. A large number of members attended.

The following ministers have served as pastors of the  
church. (The years named as those served having been appointed the  
previous year.)

Lincoln McConnell, supply, 1903-04

R. F. Eakes 1905-06-07-08

Frank Siler 1909-10-11

W. R. Hendrix 1912

W. R. Hendrix and L. W. Collins, Jr. Pr. 1913

W. R. Hendrix and H. H. Harris 1914

H. H. Harris 1915

G. M. Eakes 1916

J. A. Sharp 1917-18

B. F. Fraser 1919-20-21-22-23

Marvin Williams 1924-25-26-27-28

L. W. Collins 1929-30

J. E. Ellis 1931

Felton Williams 1932-33-34-35

W. H. Boring 1936-37-38-39-40

Walt Holcomb 1941-42-43

C. Hoke Sewell 1944-45-46-47

L. F. Huckaby 1948-49-50-51

E. M. Wise 1952

D. J. Nyswander 1953 till December

V. L. Bray December 1953 till June 1954

Total members received on profession of faith 1248

Received by certificate and otherwise 3780

Grand Total 5028