

TASSELS OF REMEMBRANCE

1953-1989
by Lois Coogle



Tassels of Remembrance



of Peachtree Road United Methodist Church
1953-1989

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*To Nina who is an
important part of
PRUMC and this book.*

*Title taken from sermon topic of fiftieth anniversary
by Dr. Thomas Whiting: "Tassels of Remembrance"*

Lois Coogle

12-10-89



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Research Assistants

Mabel Meritt Body
Haviland Houston
Ernie Jamieson
Martha Kennedy
Palacia Seaman
Esther Summers
Hazel Wade

Editors

Raymonde Alexander
Sharon Coogle

Typists

Isabel Perner
Pat Stone
Mary Ann Tippet

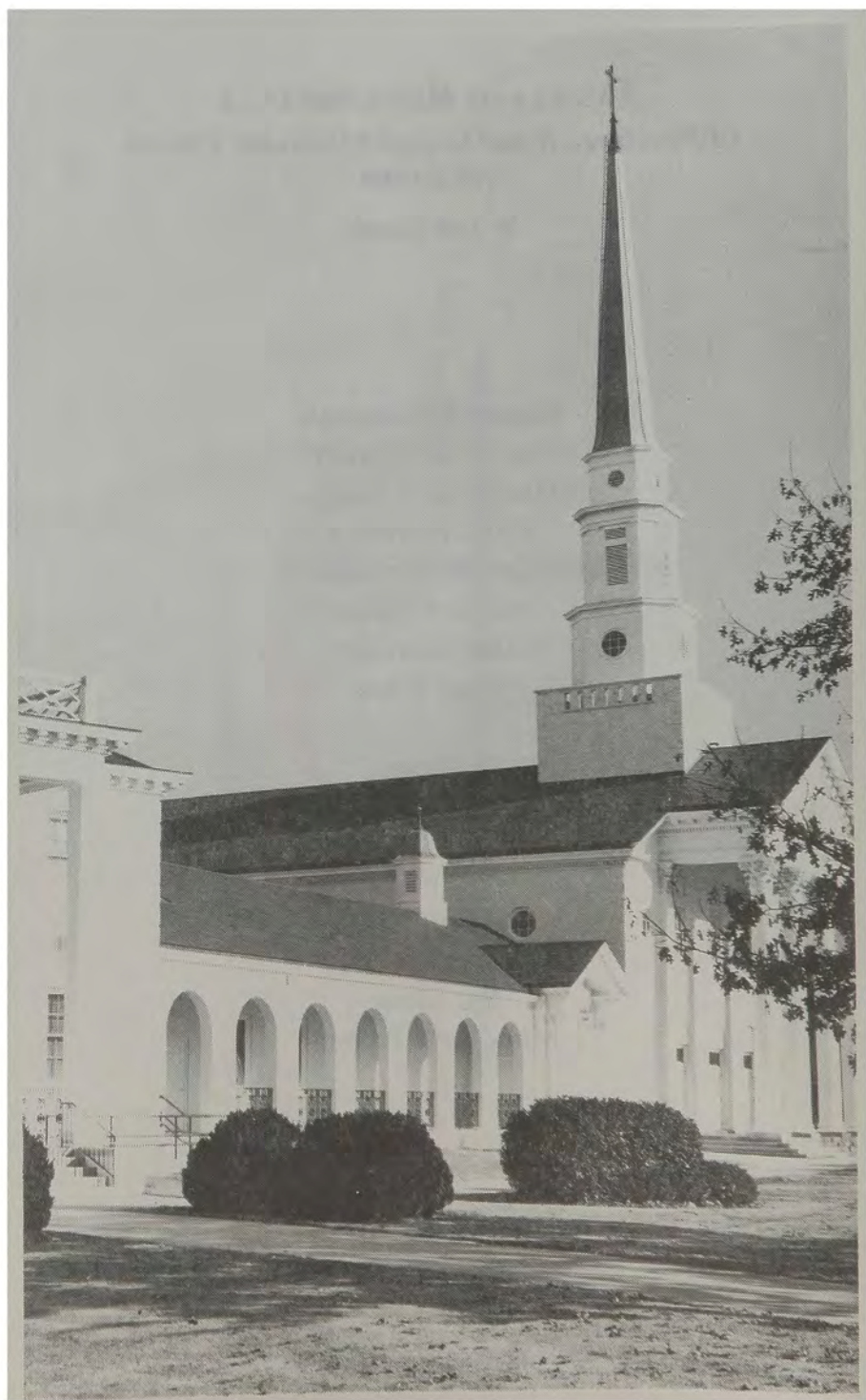


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Foreword

While times change, generations pass and the whole area of Buckhead continues to undergo major transformations, the large white columned Peachtree Road United Methodist Church remains a landmark in the community. It has tailored its ministry to meet the needs of people within and without the church walls. At the same time it has not faltered in its main goal—that of spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ.

During its sixty-five year history, this has been the church home for many of Atlanta's civic and community leaders and has grown into one of the largest Methodist churches in the denomination.

Lois Coogle, author of *Sandy Springs—Past Tense* and a member of the Peachtree Road United Methodist Church for forty-four years, has written a history of the church in *Tassels of Remembrance*, drawing the title for the book from a sermon title by former pastor, Dr. Tom Whiting. On the church's fiftieth anniversary, he chose "Tassels of Remembrance, Lamps of Hope," as his sermon topic, based on the Bible Scripture found in Numbers 15:37-41 which reads, "Any generation that forgets its history might well prove to be unfaithful to the present and the future."

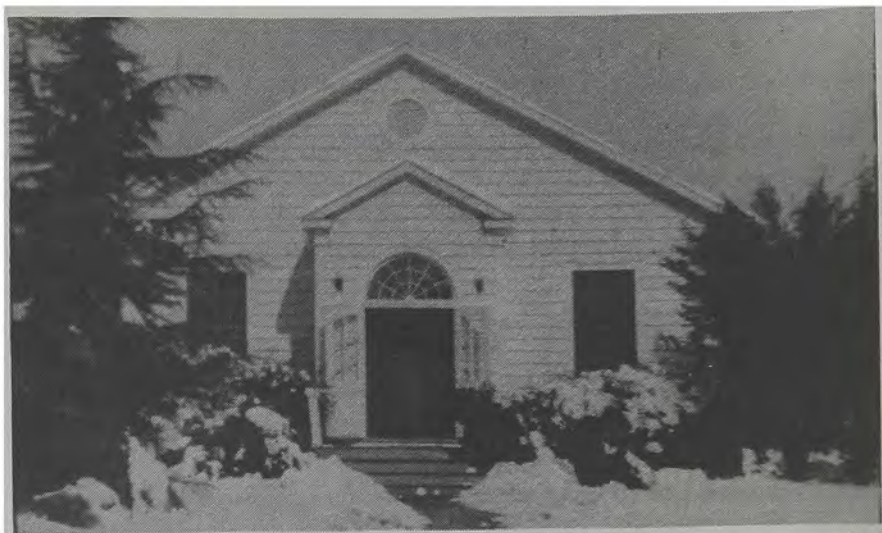
Mrs. Coogle, by profession, is a decorative painter and teacher, and considers writing any history a labor of love. Her book chronicles a past, relates the present and looks to the future.

During the two years Mrs. Coogle spent writing the book, she interviewed former pastors and more than twenty-five other people who have been deeply involved in and committed to the ongoing ministry of Peachtree Road.

In her search for material for this book, she found boxes of unfiled newspaper clippings and other material concerning the life and history of Peachtree Road United Methodist Church. She spent some months reading, sorting and trying to decide what should be included in this book.

The result of her efforts is an interesting and informative history with many anecdotes and humorous incidents. As an extra for the reader, Mrs. Coogle adds chapters which include background information on the government, creeds and confessions of the United Methodist denomination.

Billie Cheney Speed
Retired Religion Editor
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution



First church building



Great Hall

A Brief History of Peachtree Road Methodist Church

In January 1925, the Rev. J.C. Adams from the Sunday School Board of the North Georgia Conference, Mr. D.J. Cofer, a Buckhead resident and 19 theology students from Emory University made a religious survey of a one mile radius from the business center of Buckhead. Many Methodists were found already living in the area with a rapid increase in population expected. This was reason enough for 19 members to commit themselves to become founders of a new church named "Peachtree Road Methodist Church" with the Rev. E.H. Wood appointed as the first pastor.

The organizational meeting took place in the home of Dr. and Mrs. M.T. Salter. By the end of the year, eighty-eight persons had been received into membership of the new church and are today considered her charter members. A number of the members signed a personal note to enable the church to borrow \$15,000 for the purchase of a lot at Peachtree Road and Sardis Way. By June, 1925, a very rough tabernacle (ceiling and floor but no walls) had been constructed and services were held.

After a little more than a year, Emory University saved the church from foreclosure by making a substantial contribution and arranging for monthly payments that were reasonable for a young and struggling membership. With the moral and financial support of Emory University, the church survived setbacks and disappointments but gained stature and stability. The final debt was paid in April, 1941. The property was sold for \$41,500 and the lot on which the church now stands was purchased for \$17,940. All temporary buildings were moved from the old site to our present location—3180 Peachtree Road.

The following year (1942) the Great Hall was erected and served as the place for worship, banquets, plays, dinner meetings, mid-week services and all other church gatherings.

In 1947, the wooded lot to the rear of the church was purchased for the youth program and in succeeding years, land contiguous to the church-owned property was purchased, a two-story Scout Hut was built and a parsonage was acquired.

In 1949, the membership entered into a \$485,000 construction program and the colonial-style Sanctuary and Church School Building were erected. The initial phase of the organ was installed the following year.

For a number of years, the church operated with very few full-time paid staff persons. In September, 1946, the first full-time Minister of Education was employed, and it was not until 1952 that a full-time Director of Youth

and a full-time Director of Children's Work were employed. By 1952, the church membership had increased to 2,837.

In 1953, the Weekday Kindergarten was established to provide four and five-year old boys and girls with "through-the-week" educational and religious experience.

The founding members as listed on the original membership roll are:

Mrs. E.H. Wood
Mr. Guy H. Wood
Miss Mary Wood
Mrs. M.T. Salter
Mr. & Mrs. R.E. Andoe
Dr. & Mrs. F.T. Salter
Mrs. L.H. Seymour
Miss Caroline Seymour
Mrs. Eva Miller
Mrs. J.C. Henderson
Mrs. Elizabeth Walker
Mr. & Mrs. James L. Respass Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. C.J. Cofer
Miss Josephine Kofer

Eighty-eight members were received during the pastorate of Reverend E.H. Wood from April 28 to December 1, 1925. The eighty-eight persons are considered the charter members.

Peachtree Road United Methodist Church Pastors

E.H. Wood	1925
C.A. Norton	1926
T.H. Shackelford	1927-30
R.J. Broyles	1931-32
Nat Long	1932-34
T.Z. Everton	1934
A. Lee Hall	1935-38
W.G. Davis	1939
N.C. McPherson	1940-42
Nat Long	1942-53
Claud Haynes	1953-58
Frank Moorhead	1958-65
Thomas A. Whiting	1965-76
T. Cecil Myers	1967-84
John Minter	1984-87
Bishop Mack Stokes	Jan.-June 1988
Don Harp	1988-



Dr. Nat Long

1932-1934, 1942-1953

In 1945, I returned with my family to Atlanta from San Diego, where my husband had served in the navy during World War II. Because it was closer to my home than First Methodist, I transferred my membership to Peachtree Road. Nat Long was then pastor of the church, and I marveled at this man of short stature and huge personality who seemed to know each member of his congregation personally. During this second tenure of Dr. Long at Peachtree Road, the church experienced remarkable growth in its membership, its physical structure and its programs.

Dr. Long was creative and confident in his strategies to increase the size of his church family. In one instance he persuaded a family to move its membership from First Methodist, although he later denied that he knew of the family's affiliation when he invited them into Peachtree Road. Nonetheless, from this incident Dr. Long won an affectionate reputation for proselytism among the other local Methodist ministers.

Head Family

Another family came into the church rather unexpectedly. Judge T. Grady Head, his wife Tommie, and their three children had moved to Atlanta from Ringgold, Georgia, and were in the process of choosing a church. As they had visited Peachtree Road, Dr. Long visited them and asked them to join. They replied that they would give it their prayerful

consideration. During the next Sunday's service, Dr. Long announced that the T. Grady Head family were joining the church. Tommie remembered later that it seemed to take eons for the family, seated in three different places in the church, to gather at the altar, but you just didn't say "no" to Nat Long!

Dr. Long's funniest memory of a new church member was of a young man who came during World War II. He was in the Air Force and had been wounded during the war. Called upon by the Friendship Class to give a devotional one morning, he spoke about flying, how it had brought him to feel close to God. His eloquence having inspired many who heard him, he was invited to speak at a special service for youth one Sunday evening. Reluctantly he agreed. For over a half an hour he told the thrilling story of his life to a crowd gathered in the Great Hall, and for a half hour longer he answered questions from the inquisitive youths. Nat Long was mightily impressed with this young man! A short time afterward, the young man was hospitalized, and Dr. Long went to visit him. During the course of his visit Dr. Long asked him why he, having served in the Air Force, was at Georgia Baptist instead of at the Veterans' Hospital. Finally the young man confessed that he had never been in the service at all! Feeling confident among strangers, he had made up his entire story and took everyone in.

Judge Eugene Gunby

Another church member followed Dr. Long from his previous tenure at Glenn Memorial Church. Judge Eugene Gunby was crippled from childhood polio. After months of operations, treatments, and adjustments, he was finally fitted with braces and crutches, enabling him to move under his own power. He became an attorney, and for thirty years served as judge of the probate court of Fulton County. He was a faithful and loyal member of the church until his death in 1983. He had a ramp built to get his wheelchair into the church long before the law required handicapped access, and his wheelchair parked close to the front pew, his the only cushioned pew, was a familiar sight for years. Judge Gunby called himself a "sermon-scarred veteran" of Dr. Long's preaching, claiming to have heard more of his sermons than anyone save Olive, Dr. Long's wife.

Dr. Long's sermons were interesting, occasionally unique. I recall one in particular on the topic of "Salt." After the service he gave to each worshipper a sample of Morton's salt, a tangible reminder that "ye are the salt of the earth."

In 1942 Dr. Long had a staff of one secretary and one part-time janitor. The janitor, Clifford Epps, Jr., eventually became a Methodist minister and served as Dr. Long's district superintendent in 1974.

Peggy Hughes

In 1950 Mrs. Bruce Hughes succeeded Mrs. Jack Robinson as organist and choir director. Peggy Hughes' humor and vitality quickly made their influence felt. Her favorite anthem, "My God and I," soon became a favorite of the congregation. Her wit found expression on less august occasions, such as the musical programs of the Wesley Fellowship Class's annual banquets. Typical of Peggy's whimsy was organizing a womanless can-can dance routine for one such banquet with the theme of "Evening in Paris."

When Peggy Hughes finally lost her battle against cancer, there was no more fitting eulogy than the singing of "My God and I." The chimes of the church organ were dedicated to her memory in 1962.

Hazel Wade

In 1952 the growth of the church membership warranted the hiring of a director of Christian education. Miss Hazel Wade was appointed. Folger Bigelow, a long-time member of Peachtree Road and active on the Administrative and the Finance Boards, recalled the meeting at which Miss Wade was introduced. Following an elaborate list of outstanding credentials, she was presented as Miss Wazel Hade. The ice was broken! Under Miss Wade's direction great progress was made in education.

Physical Growth of Church

In 1942 the church acquired the parsonage at 257 Rumson Road. Nat and Olive Long were the first to reside there. Also in 1942 the Great Hall was built. Until 1949, it was used for all worship services, church night suppers, banquets, movies and other church activities.

The third building committee in the church's history was formed in 1945. Mr. Clyde Kennedy served as chairman. Members included C.R. Justi, H.R. Maugans, Spencer Brewer, Charles Robeson, B.A. Martin, and W.B. Hardman. Their work resulted in a ground-breaking ceremony on April 21, 1948, initiating construction of the sanctuary and church school building. The opening service in the new structures was held Palm Sunday, April 19, 1949, with Dr. Nat Long officiating.

Additional land for the Scout hut and recreation center was acquired in 1949. The fourth building committee, formed in 1952 under the leadership of Alvin Barge, developed plans for these two structures that were dedicated June 13, 1956. Working on the committee with Mr. Barge were H.M. Thompson, Julian Jett, Caraker Paschall and John Dunaway.

During Dr. Long's tenure the indebtedness for the Great Hall and the parsonage was retired. The sanctuary and educational building were erected and equipped, land purchased and plans made for recreational facilities.

Membership grew from 1148 members in December, 1942, to 3,010 in June, 1953. Numerous programs were initiated, including the Boy Scout program and the Methodist Men's Club. The Junior, Cherub, Intermediate, and Youth Choirs were organized.

In 1953 Dr. Long and his staff compiled a history documenting the growth of the church since its founding in 1925. The book is available in the church library.

Church Staff 1952

Dr. Nat G. Long	Senior Pastor
Rev. Warren Thomas Smith	Associate Pastor
Miss Hazel Wade	Director of Christian Education
Mrs. Bruce Hughes	Director of Music
Miss Bette Burks	Pastor's Secretary
Mrs. R.E. Stewart	Hostess
Mrs. Clarence Whitley	Church Secretary
Mrs. Elton Brown	Director of Youth



Rev. Claud Haynes

1953-1958

In June, 1953, Dr. Claud Haynes was assigned to Peachtree Road Methodist Church. A quiet, reserved, and serious-minded man, Dr. Haynes presided over continued growth in church membership and in innovative programs to serve the expanded congregation. Among those who worked most closely with him, Hazel Wade, Director of Christian Education during Dr. Haynes' pastorate, remembered him as being most supportive of all programs of growth in the church, particularly in the department of education.

Harold Hill

Another of Dr. Haynes' colleagues was Harold Hill. Joining the church in 1947, Mr. Hill quickly assumed positions of responsibility in the church, and in his lifetime served in more leadership roles than has any other member in the church's history. During his tenure as second vice chairman of the Administrative Board the entire budget of the church was pledged—an unprecedented and praiseworthy accomplishment! As chairman of the Administrative Board in 1953-1954, Mr. Hill had the opportunity to get to know Dr. Haynes well. Later he confided that of all the ministers he had been privileged to work with in his long service to the church, Mr. Hill's favorite, and the one he had found most easy to work with, was Claud Haynes.

Although quiet and reserved, Dr. Haynes had a dry wit that often took his congregation by surprise. Betty Barge recalled a story that occurred during her presidency of the Women's Missionary Society. Meeting on Tuesdays, the group did not regularly see Dr. Haynes, who met with the Kiwanis Club on Tuesdays. Occasionally, however, he would skip his own meeting to make an appearance at the Missionary Society. One such time Mrs. Barge, while presiding, saw him pass in the hall. "Come in, Dr. Haynes," she said, "and say howdy." He did come in, said "howdy," and left!

Volunteers

Dr. Haynes had the ability to inspire members to volunteer service. In 1953 Mr. Frank Summers began working one day a week to install and maintain a new record-keeping system. Mr. and Mrs. G.H. Doyal volunteered three days a week to assist in the office. Walking the four blocks from their home to the church, this elderly couple made the trip holding hands all the way.

Under Dr. Haynes' guidance, the church staff expanded to include students from Emory University to work with the youth fellowship and the recreational programs on a part-time basis. Beecher "Bimmie" Dunsmore worked with the church the entire three years he attended Candler School of Theology, directing a full time recreation program. Guided by Dr. Haynes' vision for church development, many activities were centered at the Scout hut "down in the woods." Church-wide picnics and picnics of various groups within the church were held there. In 1955 the first junior day camp was started and used the facility. Vacation Bible School held open house there, and Youth, their Sunday night vespers. These activities were the forerunners of the large recreation program the church later developed.

Membership Growth

Dr. Haynes received approximately 400 new members into the church each year of his pastorate. Some of these were children who enrolled in church membership classes taught by Hazel Wade, Director of Christian Education, Haviland Houston, an Emory student and part-time worker who came to the church in 1955, and Howard Hines, an Emory student who had taken Bimmie Dunsmore's place as Recreation Director. In 1958 they had a class of 71 children to join the church. This particular class left as a gift to the church, the gold and white pulpit scarf and Bible marker, to commemorate their acceptance into the congregation.

On the thirtieth anniversary of the founding of Peachtree Road Methodist Church, September, 1955, a directory was printed showing 3,244 members.

Through the six years of Dr. Haynes' pastorate, Herman Thompson, Harold Hill, and Dr. Charles Cooper served as faithful and untiring church school superintendents. With Miss Wade they directed the growth of attendance to numbers that demanded expanded physical facilities. Church school enrollment grew to 2,906, with an average attendance of 1,301. Sunday evening youth groups had an average attendance of 200. To accomodate the growth, double sessions of Sunday school were introduced in 1955. Nina Dobbs, superintendent, Jean Buchanan, director of the children's division, Vera Patton, superintendent and Laura Worley, director of youth, were responsible for working out a system that served as a model for other Methodist churches.

Church School News

During this time the Church School News was started. A hand-out sheet of items of personal interest to church school students, the News printed a schedule of events, stories about members and church activities, and articles on church disciplines. Helping with this endeavor was the first secretary for the educational staff, Mary Agnes Smith, whose generous service endeared her to everyone. Growth in church membership and activities at this time warranted the employment of a part-time secretary in the office of the Director of Children. Mrs. Mary de Jarnette was the first to serve in this capacity.

Weekday Kindergarten

Innovations in the church under Dr. Haynes were not confined to serving the congregation on Sundays. A major step in the outreach of the church into the community was undertaken in June, 1952, when Hazel Wade, Director of Christian Education, proposed the idea of a weekday kindergarten to the Commission on Education. Harold Hill, then chairman of the Administrative Board, cited the proposal as the most controversial in the history of the church. For some, opening the church facility to the secular community for a program that was not centered around Christian worship seemed a violation of the church, exceeding the bounds of the understood function and mission of the church itself. The debate spawned by this proposal helped the church body define itself in terms of its contemporary social setting, and set the framework for future expansion of church programs reaching out to a community beyond the congregational membership.

In March, 1953, Mr. Dan Byrd, chairman of the Commission on Education, presented the program to the Administrative Board. The proposal was passed, and a weekday kindergarten opened in September of



Dr. Haynes Staff in 1955

*Rev. Mr. Norman Manning, associate pastor; Mrs. Laura Worley, director of youth;
Miss Hazel Wade, director of Christian education; Dr. Claud Haynes, senior pastor;
Mrs. Peggy Hughes, music director; Chaplain John Esaias, associate pastor.
Seated, Mrs. Blanche Sillay, secretary to the pastor; Miss Jean Burns, finance secretary;
Mrs. Evelyn Smith, secretary and student worker.*

that year. Participation was open first to members, then to the community. Thirty, four-year-olds comprised the first class. Mrs. Mabel Cushman was principle teacher, assisted by Mrs. Lucy Simson.

Upon her resignation in February, 1957, Mrs. Cushman wrote, "There will always be a warm interest in my heart for the Weekday Kindergarten. Its purpose of extending to the church and community the fulfillment of the need for early training in Christian living is worthy of any church."

Mrs. Simson succeeded Mrs. Cushman as director. Under the twenty-two years of her guidance the kindergarten grew from 73 to 190. Children and parents alike came to love Mrs. Simson. Typical of the expressions of gratitude for her is the following letter from a parent at the end of his fourth child's class with her.

. . . how can I tell you in words what you have meant to Bette and me, and particularly to Leslie, Aimee, Hayward, and John. Your kindness, understanding, and genuine goodness have made an indelible impression on our children.

Bette and I truly feel indeed blessed that our children have had the opportunity of your influence. It has been a wonderful seven years and we hate to see it close, but we just ran out of five year olds.

May we just simply say "Thank-you."

Affectionately,
Hayward Cox

Upon the retirement of Mrs. Simson, Mrs. Caroline Brooks became director of the kindergarten, under whose leadership the program continues its tradition of excellence.

In 1958 Hazel Wade resigned as Director of Christian Education. Both she and Dr. Haynes recommended Haviland Houston as her successor, and Miss Houston accepted the position.

This same year Dr. Haynes was assigned to another church. During his six years at Peachtree Road the church underwent remarkable growth in membership and in programs. His leadership had maintained the vitality of the institution and had led it forward into innovations that responded to the changing demands of the years.



Betty Lawler, teacher, (names—left to right) Ward Hill, Pryor Manning, Marsha Spain, Mike Carreker, Bill Lathem



Dr. Frank Moorhead

1958-1965

In July, 1958 Dr. Frank Moorhead came to Peachtree Road Methodist Church as its twelfth pastor. He was later to write in his autobiographical book, *Valley of Decision*, that the seven years here were a mountaintop experience, given his aspirations and accomplishments. Dr. Cecil Myers, fourteenth pastor of Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, perhaps described him most accurately when he said, "If I needed someone to pray for me I'd call for Frank Moorhead. He is a deeply spiritual man whose ministry is guided by the constant presence of the Holy Spirit." His presence enriched the spiritual life of both staff and congregation. Esther Summers, receptionist for the church from 1957 to 1979, recalled her greatest spiritual growth occurring through the daily devotions that Dr. Moorhead initiated. Staff members took turns leading the voluntary devotionals before the work day began. It was an opportunity to "grow in grace," to learn to pray aloud and to experience strength from a group.

One day I met Dr. Moorhead in the hall of the church. He said he had heard we had measles at our house—how were Linda and Diana? I remembered how impressed I had been when Nat Long was able to name the members of the Administrative Board, but I was amazed at Dr. Moorhead's remembering the names of a plain member and her children!

One of Dr. Moorhead's earliest innovations was instituting a "Children's Hour" in the Sunday morning service. Following the first few items in the

order of worship, he called all youngsters to the front of the church and preached a simple sermonette. Before dismissing the children from the service he spent a few moments talking with them, asking what was their favorite part of church. Usually the responses were predictable—stories, music, the children's hour. One Sunday one little girl replied, "Going home." This answer startled Dr. Moorhead, but the child was insistent, going home was her favorite part of church. Her mother's explanation of the family's custom of going to brunch following the service failed to mollify Dr. Moorhead, and he deleted the question from the Children's Hour.

Physical Growth of the Church

In 1959, Dr. Moorhead presented to his congregation a five-fold call to action. He suggested the church build an educational building, an activities building, and a chapel, increase the parking facilities, and air condition the educational building and the ground floor of the sanctuary.



Otis A. Barge, chairman of 1961 Building Committee and James L. Respass, Sr., chairman of Great Hall building in 1942.

Estimated cost of the entire project was \$762,100. The church accepted the challenge and formed the fifth building committee in its history. Otis Barge chaired the committee, on which also served A.P. Almond, Howard Dobbs, E.K. Jamison, Harold Hill, Clyde Kennedy, Jr., Dillard Munford and Frank Moorhead, ex officio. The ground-breaking ceremony was held March 13, 1960.

Mrs. Lina Rauschenberg

A great deal of thought and research went into the planning of the new building. Mrs. Lina Rauschenberg, recognized nationally as a pioneer in Christian education, Mary de Jarnette, and Palacia Seaman, fellow teachers in 1958, served on a sub-committee for the children's building. They studied current literature and visited other church school facilities to design the myriad small details that made the building work well for children—the wall colors, the choice of pictures, placement of lighting in relationship to seating, the height of the coat racks, the position of the wash basins—decisions that might seem insignificant and arbitrary were carefully considered.

For her outstanding service as a teacher, Mrs. Rauschenberg was honored on May 23, 1965, with a special day at Peachtree Road United Methodist Church. The care with which she helped to design the educational building was indicative of her dedication to children's education.



Lina Rauschenberg



*Haviland Houston
Director of Christian Education*

Chapel and Other Buildings

The design of the chapel portrays architecturally the simple dignity of Christian worship. Located between the sanctuary and the educational building, its seating capacity of 144 makes it ideal for small weddings, baptisms, and funerals.

The chapel is connected to the sanctuary by a vestibule and a men's cloak room, especially useful for the ushers. The ground floor of the chapel building contains a lounge, a bride's room and a pastor's study which was later occupied by the pastoral counseling staff.

The Children's Educational Building, the Activities Building, and the Chapel were formally opened on April 23, 1961. All former pastors and superintendents of the church were special guests. Taking as his sermon title "The House of the Lord," Dr. Moorhead called this day Peachtree Road Methodist Church's finest hour. "Ours is a rich and proud heritage. Throughout the tapestry of service to our community shines the silver



Ground breaking for Chapel, April 1960 (L to R) Chaplain Esaias, the Rev. Byrd, Dr. Moorhead, James Respass, Clyde Kennedy, Chairman of Administrative Board, Mrs. Wallace Carpenter, Mr. Robert Stephens, Dr. Charles Cooper and Mr. Oliver Sale.

thread of a faith that goes forward to meet the challenge of growth. Only a growing church is a living church."

The opening of the buildings also marked the thirty-sixth anniversary at Peachtree Road Methodist Church. As he praised the accomplishments of the new buildings, Dr. Moorhead spoke of his concern that the church make the same progress spiritually as it had made in its physical expansion.

Despite the energetic drive to erect the new buildings of the church, Peachtree Road Methodist Church did not neglect its responsibilities to other missions both local and global. During Dr. Moorhead's pastorate,



Children's Educational Building Committee (L to R) Mrs. Betty Griffin, Mr. A.P. Almand, Mr. Harold Hill, Sr., Mr. Wade Millican, Dr. Charles Cooper, Mrs. Lucy Simson, Mr. Sidney Arnold, Mrs. Rauschenberg, Mrs. Palacia Seaman.

the need for neighborhood churches in the rapidly expanding northside community became apparent, and Peachtree Road Methodist Church made substantial contributions to the growth of a number of churches in the

area—among them, Northside, Northwoods, Headland Heights, St. James, Powers Ferry, Skyland, St. Phillips, Fair Oaks, Audubon Forest and the New Sardis Methodist. It increased its activity in urban ministry, supporting funds directed to Atlanta's inner city. Wesley Homes received aid from Peachtree Road, as did Camp Wesley, providing camping opportunities for inner city youngsters. Peachtree Road Methodist Church helped to build structures for the Wesley Foundation on the college campuses of Georgia Tech, the University of Georgia, and North Georgia College. The church's concept of national and world missions was reflected in its financial support of such endeavors. The church was dependably and consistently generous in its response to special appeals for contributions.

Esther Summers

In her position as receptionist for twenty-five years, Esther Summers witnessed many incidents, some amusing, some sad. Frequently people came to the church seeking help. Typically, such people arrived at the end of the day when the staff were anxious to leave. Often their pathetic stories were moving, but experience taught Mrs. Summers the stories usually fell into one of three categories: an aunt died and they need money to get to the out-of-town funeral, they ran out of gas and needed money, or they were hungry and needed just a little money to buy food.

Sometimes the stories became so detailed it was hard to believe they were fabricated. The church offered three ways to help. If a person was hungry, the church sent him to a restaurant where the church kept an account. If the person was in transit, he was sent to Traveler's Aid, where frequently he was already known. If other kinds of assistance were required, Peachtree Road Methodist Church contacted the Atlanta Council of Churches, or, more recently, the Buckhead Council. This latter is an organization for community assistance composed of Peachtree Road, Second Ponce de Leon Baptist, Wieuca Baptist, Peachtree Presbyterian, Christ the King Catholic and St. Phillips Episcopal churches.

Occasionally the people Mrs. Summers encountered in her job were known figures. Friday afternoons were the dulllest time of the week, as if the whole church had run down, waiting for a recharge on Sunday morning. On one particularly slow Friday, someone called asking for the telephone number of a member. Mrs. Summers replied that the lady was not in our congregation, and thought the caller might have meant to contact Peachtree Presbyterian. She would, however, be glad to look the number up for him.

"While you're doing that, would you like me to imitate some people for you?" the caller asked.

"Like who?" Esther replied.

"Here comes the president," he responded. "Here's Edward G. Robinson."

A real nut this time, Mrs. Summers was thinking. "Here's the number."

"Thank you," he said. "You have a nice telephone voice. Would you like to hear the voice of Queen Elizabeth's French chef?"

At this moment one of the assistant ministers walked in and Esther indicated for him to pick up a phone. They listened while the caller did several more imitations. "You're right," the minister agreed, "A real nut!"

The next morning Mrs. Summers turned on the television to the Early Morning Show. "Coming from Atlanta, Georgia," the announcer said, "the greatest imitator of all time, Rich Little." Friday afternoon flashed back before her—she had had him on the line!

Another day Paul Anderson, at that time the strongest man on earth, an Olympic champion, and a very personable and popular athlete, came to the front desk with an attractive young lady. He asked for Dr. Moorhead, but no, he didn't have an appointment. Dr. Moorhead was in and came to meet them. Paul Anderson asked, "Will you marry us?"

"Yes," Dr. Moorhead said, "let me get my calendar. When did you have in mind?"

"Right now," Mr. Anderson replied, pulling from his pocket all the necessary paper work.

"But we need a witness," Dr. Moorhead looked around. There was one of the church's staunchest volunteers, Frank Summers, always willing to do any job. He stood as Paul Anderson's best man, proving no job was too big for him.

Outstanding Volunteers

Mr. Summers described himself as office boy and janitor, but was actually Central Roll Secretary, a job of keeping track of Sunday attendance that required about three full days a week. He claimed he would do any job he was asked to do for the church, but reserved the right to growl a bit. This won him the nickname of "Grumpy." In 1961 the Church School News cited him as a true steward, representative of many in the church who gave generously of their time and talents.

Another outstanding volunteer featured in the Church School News was Mrs. Harold Smalley. The mother of three school-age children, she started working at the church in 1960, assisting the finance secretary on the Every Member Canvass. When the job was completed she saw the great need for office help and continued to volunteer her time, working two days a week updating prospective membership lists.

Such dedication to the church was not unusual at Peachtree Road. The church relied on volunteers to keep going. The physical expansion of the



Outstanding Volunteers, Mr. Frank Summers, Mrs. Betty Smalley.

church required hundreds of hours of planning from volunteers, and the operation of its programs required the continued dedication of volunteer leaders and workers. Willingness of church members to contribute their time to the church assured Peachtree Road Methodist Church of a leadership position in developing new programs.

Extended Sessions

One such program was a five-year-long experiment with long sessions for primary Sunday school. A two-and-a-half-hour class period allowed teachers time to get to know the boys and girls well, to think through problems, to undertake and to carry to successful completion group plans, and to worship at times when the group seemed most ready. The same staff of teachers worked with the class throughout the morning, two of the three teachers rotating quarterly so as to allow their participation in the morning worship service.

Third Graders with Nina Dobbs

Many of us know that insights to difficult questions often come when our children are learning. Mrs. O.C. Dobbs regularly prodded the parents of her third grade boys and girls to do a little Christian homework with their children. For example, as the class concluded a six months study on "What is God Like?" she asked parents to work with their children answering:

1. Eight ways we know God.
2. Name six Old Testament men who learned important things about God.
3. Why was Jesus born.
4. What is Trinity.
5. What is the Church.
6. Write a prayer.

Nina Dobbs was teacher of second and third graders for 40 years. She retired cum laude in 1987. She was Superintendent of the Children's Department in 1956. During the summers she was active in the church's Vacation Bible School.

Epworth Club

Another program that reflected the strength and vigor of volunteer leadership was the Epworth Club. Formed under the guidance of Haviland Houston in May, 1961, the Epworth Club was open to any senior lady in the church or community. In honor of the club the name of the adult lounge was changed to the Epworth Lounge.

Early in 1962 Mrs. T.D. "Peggy" Fletcher became the club's leader. She organized frequent and varied activities: luncheons, tours, trips, travelogues, music, lectures on patio gardening, religion in art, getting around in Atlanta. Club members learned from each other, sharing hobbies, sharing talents. Mrs. Fletcher herself exhibited a wide range of talents in her position as president; once, losing her voice in the middle of the meeting, she continued to conduct it in whispers and pantomime. She brought quick imagination to the Club. When one member confessed she didn't know where the stadium was, Peggy organized their next outing—lunch at the stadium. There was no game there that day, just lunch. The active, lively group ranged in attendance from thirty to one hundred and twenty. Mrs. Fletcher said the Club was run on "a hope, a prayer, and a committee," but no one denied it was her dynamic and energetic leadership that propelled the Club through the ten years of her presidency. In 1972, in honor of her outstanding leadership, Mrs. Fletcher was presented with a Life Membership to the United Methodist Women. Following her resignation, Mae

Wagon led the group for another two years, maintaining the pace and quality of the Club's activities. Upon her resignation the Club, failing to find another leader able to devote the time and energy required to do the job, disbanded.

In 1958, under the pastorate of Frank Moorhead, the church directory listed the following staff.

Church Staff 1958

Dr. Frank Moorhead	Senior Pastor
Rev. John Esaias	Associate Pastor
Miss Haviland Houston	Director of Christian Education
Mrs. W.R. Worley	Director of Youth
Miss Jean Bowman	Director of Children
Mrs. Bruce Hughes	Organist and Choir Director
Mrs. R.E. Steward	Hostess
Miss Jean Burns	Financial Secretary
Mrs. Frank Sillay	Pastor's Secretary
Mrs. Frank Summers	Receptionist
Mrs. G.T. Smith	Educational Secretary
Mrs. Lucy Simson	Director, Weekday Kindergarten



Junior church membership class, fifth grade, May 1961



Dr. Thomas Whiting

1965-1976

During the next eleven years, 1965-1976, Dr. Thomas Whiting was the senior pastor of Peachtree Road United Methodist Church. [In 1968 Peachtree Road Methodist Church became Peachtree Road United Methodist Church. See Appendix.] Keenly interested in sports, Dr. Whiting joked that he appreciated his appointment to a Buckhead church because he could sneak off to watch the Tech football players practice during his lunch hours. Many people got to know Dr. Whiting in an outdoor setting; an outstanding golfer, he enjoyed challenging golfing members of his congregation to a round on the links. More than one youngster's heart was won when he discovered his minister boasted a larger collection of baseball cards than his own, and that, under special circumstances, he'd even consider trading.

With the expansion of the physical facilities of the church close to completion, Peachtree Road was ready to nurture its spiritual growth and to expand its activities. Dr. Whiting came to the church during a time of widespread unrest in our country—the era of the civil rights movement, the beginning of protest against the Viet Nam war—when many citizens, particularly the young, were questioning long-held beliefs and mores. It was a time when churches could be a very influential part of an individual's growth, and Peachtree Road responded to this challenge well. Many outstanding leaders, both lay and staff, helped to create dynamic programs that reached out to every age and interest group in the congregation. As it helped its members through times of questioning and growth, the church as

an institution, confronted its need to evaluate its own identity as it shifted from being a neighborhood church to being a metropolitan church.

John Dressler

In 1965 John Dressler came to Peachtree Road as minister of music. Originally from Austria, the Dresslers came to Atlanta after eleven years of service in an Alabama church. With the aid of Janice White assistant director in charge of children's choirs, Mr. Dressler established seven choirs, giving church members from five years old through adulthood an opportunity to sing. This was an outstanding musical era in the church. Mr. Dressler found his thirteen-year tenure at Peachtree Road to be one of rich inspiration and productivity; between 1965 and 1978, he published four cantatas, two organ books, and thirty-five anthems.

Support Groups

Haviland Houston, Director of Christian Education until 1972, was responsible for the formation of several groups in the church. In 1966 she helped organize a support group for single and divorced adults. Dubbed the 25-Up Club, they began meeting on Thursday nights in the Activities Building. By January of the next year attendance had swelled to fifty and they moved to the Great Hall. Within a year their membership had doubled.

The early days of 25-Up Club were not easy. Men took turns guarding the door because sometimes former husbands showed up to threaten their ex-wives. One night a man came with a gun that had to be wrestled away—a bit scary, to say the least.

Although it was obvious this group needed the support and fellowship the meetings provided, initially there was a lot of resistance to the church's sponsoring the 25-Up Club. Then, as divorce became more common and friends and relatives, daughters and secretaries, became divorced people, attitudes in the church changed. Members became more sensitive to their problems, more supportive of the church's responding to their needs. In 1989 the group is still in existence with an average weekly attendance of forty, calling themselves now the United Singles.

Another program that Miss Houston initiated was Sunday Evenings on Peachtree. Several classes were offered each Sunday for approximately an hour after supper. Although classes were primarily for adults, children and youth classes were sometimes offered, and the nursery was always open. Topics included Methodist beliefs, current events, issues of personal growth, and challenges to the church presented by contemporary problems. The program ran from 1968 to 1972, attracting an average attendance of one hundred and fifty.

Counseling

In her position Miss Houston was in close contact with many members of the church, and in the late sixties she observed an increasing need for a program of professional counseling. In 1969, Dr. Whiting introduced a new ministry of pastoral counseling within the church. Citing the need for psychiatric, psychological, and spiritual counseling that was "openly and frankly Christian," Dr. Whiting invited Dr. Quentin Hand, an ordained Methodist minister holding a doctorate in psychology from Emory University, to join the staff on a part-time basis. Demand for such a ministry warranted a full-time staff position and in 1971 Larry Adams became the church's first full-time counselor and therapist. Eleven years later a second counselor was welcomed to the staff. Ron Greer, an elder in the United Methodist Church and a member of the North Georgia Conference, came well qualified in the field of family counseling.

The counseling service was established to provide both members and persons outside of the church community with a therapeutic environment at affordable fees. It is a self-supporting outreach ministry, linked to the church through its use of facilities and by formalized by-laws and its board of directors.

Youth Outreach

In the years following Dr. Whiting's appointment to Peachtree Road, the youth program thrived and flourished. Young people were drawn to church activities for a variety of reasons: programs that challenged teens to think maturely, a recreational facility that provided a place for fun within Christian fellowship, the continued presence of theological students as part-time counselors, and trips that provided opportunities to express faith in action. These were among the reasons that youth became involved with the church.

Some of the youth outreach programs were for local communities, such as helping to renovate classrooms for children in an inner city church, others were "far reach" as well as outreach. In 1966 the church sent delegates to New York for a seminar at the United Nations. In 1968, seven youths and an adult went to Bolivia for three weeks to work as junior missionaries. Their tasks were to clean and repair a small school sponsored by the Methodist Church, help with daily household chores and to assist in teaching Bible school. The group was profoundly affected by the trip, moved by the natural beauty of the country and the cultural beauty of its ancient ruins, by the vitality of its people and the festive joy of their celebrations, by the harsh poverty of Bolivia that victimized even young children. But most vividly the youths saw not what was different between this country and their own, but

what was similar in the needs, desires, and feelings of all peoples. As is true for many missionaries, they brought back within themselves more than they had given, an experience of the oneness of all humanity.

Following the success of that trip, another small group returned to Bolivia the next summer, and a larger group, thirty-two youths and five adults, set out by bus for a Sioux Indian reservation in Eagle Butte, South Dakota. Their mission was to clean and paint an old jail the city wanted to convert into a youth recreation center.

In 1970 Alaska was the destination for a month of service for ten youths and their counselors. Teaching in an ecumenical Bible school for a week brought them into contact with children from a variety of cultures—Tlingit Indian, American, Eurasian. Building a cabin at a Methodist camp west of Juneau taught the youths lessons in working together. The opportunity to serve gave rich rewards in fellowship and new friendships.

Other Activities

Travel was not essential to memorable activities for youth at Peachtree Road United Methodist Church. My son, Lee, cites the summer the youth made crabapple jelly as his favorite memory. Needing to raise money for an inner city project, the Youth Department found inspiration close at hand. After a spring of astonishingly beautiful blossoms, the crabapple trees growing in the courtyard were bowed with a bumper crop of hard, bitter, little apples. Good for nothing but jelly, the apples provided impetus and materials. There were plenty of jobs for everyone—collecting baby food jars to use for jelly containers, picking, washing and boiling the apples, making jelly the old fashioned way—not with Certo!—in large cauldrons in the church kitchen; sealing the jars and labelling them “Chapel Jelly,” selling them at the “country store” on Wednesday nights. Besides meeting their financial goal, the youths benefitted from the many lessons the project taught them—how to work together, the importance of cleaning up your own mess, the process of calculating profit and loss. The Youth Department produced Chapel Jelly both in 1968 and 1969.

A review of the activities and attendance at Peachtree Road in 1969 indicates a strong and vital church. The church directory listed 4,600 members. There were classes for children and youth, with specialized ministries for youth. 8:07 LTD, a young adult group, drew an average attendance of one hundred and fifty to their semi-weekly meetings. 25-Up had an average attendance of sixty. Senior ladies in the Epworth Club met monthly with an average of sixty attending. About forty widowed persons formed the WHO group and met monthly. About forty participated twice a

week in Mother's Morning Out. In six children and youth choirs, one hundred and seventy people participated. Thirteen hundred people participated in the recreation programs weekly. The church sponsored two Girl Scout troops, one Cub Scout pack, and two Boy Scout troops.

Rev. Al Clarke

In 1968 Dr. Whiting brought in Rev. Albert E. Clarke to be a colleague at Peachtree Road. For eleven years Al listened with care to the concerns of the congregation. He indeed left his mark on the hearts of the people of the church and he is often called back for a wedding or a funeral.

The following is a list of staff members in 1969:

Church Staff 1969

Dr. Tom Whiting	Senior Minister
Rev. Albert Clarke	Associate Minister
Rev. Joe Bowen, Jr.	Associate Minister
Rev. John Esaias	Associate Minister
Mr. Charles Fruit	Business Administrator
Dr. Quentin Hand	Minister of Counseling
Mr. John Dressler	Minister of Music
Miss Haviland Houston	Director of Christian Education
Mr. Wilton Dennis	Director of Recreation
Rev. Jerry Faulkner	Director of Youth
Miss Sue Woods	Director of Children
Mrs. Lucy Simson	Director of Preschool
Mrs. R.E. Steward	Hostess
Mr. James Woody	Bldg. & Grounds Superintendent
Mrs. Wilton Dennis	Associate Pastors' Secretary
Mrs. Joseph Evans	Finance Secretary
Mrs. Roy Plott	Church Secretary
Mrs. Frank Sillay	Pastor's Secretary
Mrs. Frank Summers	Receptionist
Mrs. James Thompson	Education Secretary

Schaller Evaluation

In 1972, the Council on Ministries called in Dr. Lyle E. Schaller, a Methodist minister and former city planner who worked with the Center for Parish Development, to make a formal evaluation of the church and its programs. Dr. Schaller visited the church over a four-day week-end, meeting with church staff and members, and submitted a report of his findings. He described Peachtree Road United Methodist Church as "a remarkably strong and vigorous congregation with exceptional leadership and also a remarkable degree of control, at this point in its history, over its future." He saw Peachtree Road United Methodist Church at that time as a church in the middle, changing from a neighborhood church but not yet a metropolitan church, not a family center, but with ministries to reach all of a family, non-geographic, and with no distinct social class.

Dr. Schaller spoke of his impression of "a huge number of very gifted, aggressive, dedicated, skilled, activist, eager, energetic, imaginative, hard driving and trained lay leaders who are going to bring in the Kingdom of God before the end of the month—and if the Holy Spirit wants to share in this, it's up to the Holy Spirit to get on board quickly." He was impressed with Peachtree Road's corps of trained stewards, an asset of the church that he saw consistent with the leadership style of the congregation. The benefits provided by a strong stewardship program could not, however, overcome what Dr. Schaller saw as the lack of sufficient pastoral oversight. For a congregation of this size and complexity, he thought one, possibly two more members on the ministerial staff advantageous. He suggested this understaffing was possibly responsible for the low number of worshipers coming to Sunday morning services. Only about a quarter of the membership attended weekly.

Consistent with his impression of an active lay leadership, Dr. Schaller found that power was well distributed through the organization of the church, laymen and staff working with a remarkable degree of agreement, no single bloc of members overbearing in their authority, and an unusually low degree of influence wielded by church tradition or by the buildings of the church itself. But these indubitably virtuous church leaders, Dr. Schaller suggested, might have had a failing in their reluctance to quarrel, finding it easier to be polite than honest in discussing issues and problems facing the congregation. A major barrier inhibiting the work and ministry of the church, Dr. Schaller noted, was "an excess of upper middle class guilt," which probably was a manifestation of its location, the social class of the members, and the times.

Dr. Schaller was most impressed with the WHO group, a support group for bereaved persons. Elsewhere he observed that the ministry to single

adults was "more complex, less glamorous, more important, less predictable and more frustrating than many older adults realize." He pointed out that Peachtree Road United Methodist Church had an unusual opportunity to reach a very large number of young married couples during the 1970's. With only limited intention and a relatively small number of leaders, the church had already attained some success in reaching out to this group.

Other ideas Dr. Schaller suggested were to build a large fellowship hall with a couple of attractive, comfortable "church parlor" type of meeting rooms, to explore the potential of working with the several churches of other denominations geographically close and of similar size, style, and orientation in "allied ministries;" and to consider sponsoring the building and operation of housing for the elderly.

Memorial Garden

In the late fall of 1971, Martha Page Whiting, wife of Peachtree Road United Methodist Church's Senior Minister, died of cancer. Warm and friendly, Martha was a talented musician, and possessed strong faith and quiet courage. As a memorial to her, the Martha Whiting Memorial Garden was founded with gifts from family and friends.

Occupying the thousand-square-foot courtyard surrounded by the buildings of the church, the original garden was designed by horticulturist Edith Henderson. Commander Julian S. Loewus, member of Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, was instrumental in the execution of the plans, overseeing the plantings in which pink, Martha's favorite color, predominated. Donations of garden furnishings enhanced the area.

With no funds allocated and no group specifically responsible for the upkeep of the garden, maintenance over the next several years was sporadic. Under the leadership of Natalae Waters, another interested member, the garden was revitalized in the late 1970s.

Concerned about the inadequate care the garden was receiving, parishioner Ruth Cousins suggested to Dr. Cecil Myers, then the Senior Minister, the formation of a garden guild in 1982. Enthusiastic over the idea, Dr. Myers asked Mrs. Leo Sudderth, Jr., to serve as chairperson. With the assistance of co-chairperson Walter Hughes, the Martha Whiting Memorial Garden Guild refurbished the garden and formed five teams responsible for weekly garden maintenance on a rotating basis. Their careful planning resulted in a well-tended garden in which there is always something living, colorful, and seasonal to enjoy.

The garden is used daily by people of all ages. They gather in clusters or sometimes come alone to sit quietly on a wrought iron bench and sort out their thoughts. On weekdays one can often find a group of preschoolers

studying nature, or some of the staff enjoying lunch under the trees. It is the site of weddings and wedding receptions, of formal and informal meetings, and a favorite place to share with visitors.

Despite steady improvements in the garden since the formation of the Guild, the garden is not finished, nor will it ever be. Perhaps its greatest value is in symbolizing change, standing not only as a living memorial to Martha Whiting, but also to the idea that we, like the plantings, need food and water, pruning and nurturing, if we are to grow and blossom. Living is not static, but a process of becoming, in order that we might provide joy, beauty, and warmth for one another as we move through the seasons of our lives.

Mary Stewart Altar Guild

The retirement of Mary Stewart from her post as the church's hostess caused another guild to be formed in the church. Her twenty-five years of service, from 1950 to 1975, was the longest tenure of any staff member at that time. The Mary Stewart Altar Guild, named in the hostess's honor, assumed the multitude of duties Mrs. Stewart performed that kept the church running smoothly. In 1976 the Worship Committee set down the objectives of the Guild, the tasks for which Mrs. Stewart had been responsible, and assigned them to the sixteen members serving on the Guild. The objectives are:

1. To prepare for worship - books and handout materials in place
2. To provide suitable furnishings and decorations
3. To furnish and care for the vestments of the ministers
4. To care for the font
5. To oversee the proper cleaning of the church

Mrs. John R. Esaias served as first chairperson of the Guild, and Mrs. Robert B. Shelley as first vice-chairperson.

The worn pads in the collection plates were replaced with needlepoint pads depicting Christian symbols made by the Altar Guild. Mrs. Harmon Proctor and Mrs. William Lester researched and worked out the designs on painted canvas. Seventeen women worked on the needlepoint. These were dedicated and first used December 10, 1978.

Chaplain Esaias, Associate Pastor (1957-1975)

Chaplain Esaias, whose name is Welsh for Isaiah, came to Peachtree Road United Methodist Church after he had served eight years as chaplain at the Atlanta Veterans' Hospital. This post he had assumed after retiring



Mary Stewart

from the Baltimore Conference of the United Methodist Church. He served as chaplain in both World War I and World War II, retiring from the army as a colonel. When told that he could not join the Naval Chaplain Services because he was a half inch shorter than their 5'5" minimum, this conversation with the Chief of Naval Chaplains ensued:

"Is that so? Then I suppose Alexander the Great couldn't join your navy."

"No."

"John and Charles Wesley and even St. Paul couldn't join."

"The great Lord Nelson, British naval hero, couldn't join."

"No."

"The Lord God help the Navy! Remember, men are measured from their chins up, not from the tops of their head down. I will join the army."

And everyone who met him through the rest of his life knew that from the heart up, "Chap" was a giant.

One of Haviland Houston's most delightful memories of Chaplain Esaias



Chaplain and Mrs. Esaias

occured one Sunday before Christmas. He was scheduled to read the scripture from Matthew 2. Somehow he misplaced his book mark and began to read from Chapter 1, a section on genealogy with many long and difficult names. When he realized his error he never blinked an eye but just kept on going, finally getting to the assigned reading at Chapter 2. The three other clergy on the staff at that time agreed he was the only one among them who could have done it. He was a respected Biblical scholar.

In honoring him at the time of his death, Dr. Whiting said, "The Chaplain was a marvelous example of how to grow old. No whiner and complainer he! At eighty he was as chipper and alert as many a fifty-year-old man. He grew old gracefully and because he saw the good in people, loved everything about living, was devoted to his family and loved devotedly his Savior. He lived on and on until God took him at near ninety."

Fiftieth Anniversary

On Sunday, April 27, 1975, Peachtree Road United Methodist Church celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. As Senior Minister, Dr. Whiting preached on the subject "Tassels of Remembrance, Lamps of Hope." The scripture was Numbers 15:37-41. "Any generation that forgets its history might well prove to be unfaithful in the present and future," he said. Speaking of the future, he found it very exciting that "it doth not yet appear what we shall be."

The logo 50 with a picture of the first church in the curve of the five and our present church in the zero was designed by the Director of Christian Education, Mr. Robert Dixon.

The processional included four persons carrying banners to represent the four functions of the church: the conduct of worship and the administration of sacraments, edification of believers, maintenance of Christian fellowship and discipline, and conversion of the world. Dr. Whiting wrote the words to a special anniversary hymn that Mr. Dressler set to music. A cantata also written by Mr. Dressler was featured at the morning service.

Co-chairmen of the fiftieth anniversary committee were Mrs. Julian Loewus, historian and curator of the exhibit room, and Mr. Robert Dixon, Director of Christian Education.

WHO

In 1969, in answer to a need for a support group for bereaved persons, the WHO group was formed. The initials stand for "we help others, we help ourselves." Dr. Quentin Hand, family counselor, and Haviland Houston planned the meeting and invited widowed persons in the church and the community. At the first meeting there was standing room only in the Wesley Fellowship Room. Healing took place almost immediately because they listened and helped each other. The loosely organized group was to become, in a very short time, the outstanding ministry in the church (see Schaller report.)

For more than a decade this group performed a service unparalleled in the city. As they gradually undertook an expanded program of travel and social activities, they began to lose their impetus for their original cause. Lack of leadership for such a group was also a problem. They remain today a small group interested in the outreach of the church.

Lay Volunteer Service

Lay Volunteer Service (LVS) was organized and first chaired by Kathleen Edens in 1974. In two years, 15,000 manhours were given by 3150 lay volunteers. LVS gave members of the church an opportunity to give to the

church their time and talent. A file was kept of services available and when available. However at this time the file is not current.

One of the duties of the Commission on Evangelism is registration and record of attendance. The signed rituals of Christian Fellowship are collected each Sunday. In 1974, volunteers Ann Holbrook and Al Steinkamp went over each name recorded. It took them three weeks working full time to put a system into operation and bring it up to date. It takes 16 hours weekly to do this posting. This work is currently done by members of the administrative board, rotating sections each Sunday afternoon.

From these records visitors are called. Persons absent for three months are contacted by their stewards to see what needs to be done to renew celebration in worship.



Dr. T. Cecil Myers

1976-1984

Dr. T. Cecil Myers was senior pastor from June 23, 1976 until June 1984. He was already well known to many in the congregation having served three Atlanta Methodist churches prior to the Peachtree Road assignment. He is a nationally known lecturer and a popular speaker on college campuses. The Freedoms Foundation of Valley Forge Award was presented to Dr. Myers April 20, 1977. The award winning sermon was entitled "America: Improve It or Lose It." He is the author of six books one of which is "Happiness Is Still Homemade." Betty Barge, an Administrative Board member, said, "In yet another committee meeting one night, Dr. Myers quipped that he didn't know how he wrote that one since he was never home long enough to know that happiness was homemade." He and Mrs. Myers in 1981 led a group to the Holy Land. Helen Gore, president of the Friendship class at that time says, "To walk where Jesus walked, pray where he prayed, is a once in a lifetime experience! There is *no way* anyone can remain the same."

Isabel Perner, one of the secretaries in the office, remembers Dr. Myers' beautiful penmanship and that he often wrote thank you notes to deserving parishioners in longhand.

Frequently he preached impressive sermons in first person. "My Name is Andrew," "The Slave Onesimus" were two. I remember that some of his sermons helped get some of my personal religious questions answered.

Meals on Wheels

During his tenure, Dr. Myers' wife, Elizabeth, organized "Meals on Wheels" in 1978. A group of persons from the church continues to carry lunches to shut-ins five days every week. From March, 1978 through March, 1988, 54,000 meals were delivered. Mrs. Myers was also an original member of Atlanta's "Singing Moms." She was a member of the choir and active in United Methodist Women.

Radio and Tape Ministries

The radio broadcast of Sunday morning worship service was started and a brief foray into television was made between 1980 and 1984. The Peachtree Pulpit, the tape ministry, began in 1982.

Dr. Myers' concern was that Peachtree Road United Methodist Church was still not defined. Downtown? Suburban? Program centered? Pulpit centered? Restricted parish? Metropolitan in nature? What activities are essential to the kind of church we foresee? What ought to be stopped? Started? What kind of organizational set-up is needed for this kind of church? "There needs to be a systematic plan of staffing and financing for the kind of church it is to be with more dependence on laity. The church must make an investment in visibility—television, radio, newspaper, in order to carry out the first purpose of the church—evangelism."

In 1983 Dr. Myers was selected as a candidate for bishop in the United Methodist church. He declined the candidacy because of progressive eye problems. He announced his retirement June, 1984 to move to Lake Hartwell where the fish were biting.

Fellowship Hall

The Fellowship Hall actually started in 1972, when the idea was presented by the Council on Ministries to the Administrative Board. Plans were presented March 12, 1975, by the architect, Jack Haynes, son of former pastor Dr. Claude Haynes, for the hall to seat for meals a maximum of 600, for relocating and enlarging the choir practice room, for the elevator, for a combination library and audio visual unit, and for turning the Exhibit Room into a Learning Center.

Groundbreaking was June 9, 1976. There was an effort made for a name for the new addition, but nothing better than "Fellowship Hall" was submitted.

The Service of Dedication was held February 1, 1984, during the Methodist Bicentennial Celebration. A dedication is held when the debt is paid off, and on this particular project, the church was ahead of schedule. The Chairman of the Building Committee was Julian Jett.

"I am pleased with the week of celebration of the Fellowship Hall and I am excited over the many uses we can make of it. It is a magnificent addition to our facilities!" These were Dr. Cecil Myers' words, speaking of the opening events. The hall was filled to capacity for the Consecration Service, which was conducted by Bishop William R. Cannon and Dr. Myers. Over 1,200 people attended the celebration dinners on January 25 and 26, 1978. The dinners were followed by a pageant entitled "That Glorious Company," which included scenes with the Apostle Peter (played by Dr. Myers), Noah and John Wesley, and special music by the children's, youth and adult choirs, plus dance and multi-media presentations. The pageant, by A. Bob Dixon, celebrated man's relationship with God and was written in an effort to include all of the different types of events that might take place in the new hall.

Elevator

A gift by Mr. and Mrs. R. Howard Dobbs, in honor of Mr. Dobbs' sister, Mrs. Dorothy Laird, made possible the installation of the new elevator. This aid to handicapped persons made it possible to go to every part of the church complex without using steps.

Bob Dixon, Coordinator of Program Ministries

Dr. Myers told that he did the preaching at Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, but Bob Dixon did the rest. He was Chairman of the Board of Diaconal Ministry for the North Georgia Conference, and a member of the Christian Education Foundation. His wife Betty was a skilled musician and contributed in leadership to our music ministry.

For seven years, 1972-1979, Bob Dixon was Coordinator of Program Ministries at Peachtree Road United Methodist Church. He is remembered as probably the most creative and best organizer of any staff member to come to Peachtree Road. He was extremely interested in dramatics and did much to bring the gospel to us through dramatics.

His creativity made you think of things you had never thought of before. I remember one lesson he taught on Jesus feeding the 5,000. He asked what colors we saw. Colors in the age-old story? There was probably none. Wrong. The blue of the sky, the blue-green of the water, the weathered grey of the boats, the faded yellow and browns of the worn tunics, the sun browned color of the people, the burnt sienna of the crusts of bread were some of the colors. Suddenly we realized this story had become very real. We were rubbing shoulders, so to speak, with those in the multitude who were fed with five fishes and two loaves.

Carolyn Clayton

With adequate facilities for feeding larger groups and with enriched programs under the direction of Ron Hall, Coordinator of Program Ministries, the Wednesday church night suppers became more popular with an average attendance of 450. (In 1988, however, this average had dropped to 350.) The spacious fellowship hall has become the banquet hall for Church School parties and other group activities. Hardly a committee meeting is held without food being served. The one person who makes all of this run smoothly and efficiently is Carolyn Clayton who succeeded Mary Stewart as church hostess in January 1976. In 1984 the Methodist Church changed the title of church hostess to director of Community Events, but her duties are still infinite.

How would you like to feed 1000 people in a week? That's what Carolyn did the week of August 14, 1988—the Administrative Board, North Georgia Conference, and Council on Ministries. Her biggest claim to fame was serving 1200 people from North Georgia United Methodist women in twenty minutes. The truth is this lady just knows how to do it. She says serving 25,000 in 1988 is a conservative estimate.

Delmar Bethea

Carolyn Clayton is the first to give credit to her assistants for the success of her job. Top of the list is Delmar Bethea who has been in the Peachtree Road kitchen since 1961, first as a maid and now as head cook. Her



Delmar Bethea

twenty-eight years is the longest tenure of any person employed at the church.

On June 15, 1983, Peachtree Road honored Delmar Bethea with a "This Is Your Life" celebration. Her praises were sung not only for her work but also for her exemplary Christian life.

Her favorite recipes from Mary Stewart, hostess, are chess pie and baked chicken. Her favorite recipes from Carolyn Clayton are broccoli, baked pork chops and pecan pie.

She remembers one Family Night Supper when Joe Harris, beloved janitor for many years, came bouncing into the kitchen practically dying from laughter. Ike, a waiter, was moving water and spilled a glassful into the lap of one of the female parishioners. Ike looked at what he had done and blurted out, "Wait a minute, Baby, everything is going to be all right!" Joe just had to get out of the room he was laughing so hard.

Volunteers

Extremely important to the success of the kitchen has always been the help of volunteers. While many persons have helped, outstanding with hundreds of hours of service are Ann Calvert, Sara Godfrey, Vera Kellum, Christine Paulk, Beryl Loewus and Margaret Walkley.

Music in Church

Music in the Methodist Church is probably second in importance only to the sermon. During Dr. Myers' tenure, Jerry Black was organist and director with the able assistance of Caroline Brooks, director of children's choirs from 1978-1981. Mary Ratchford, outstanding member and musician in the church since 1953, remembers Mr. Black's organ selections while the parishioners were being seated. One Sunday there seemed to be an unusual number to be seated at the double asterisk in the program, and Mr. Black, after several more appropriate numbers, moved into "Get Me to the Church on Time."

September 1, 1982, Clinton Thatch became Minister of Music and shortly afterward ran the following clever ad in *Light on Peachtree*.

MEMO: To the Congregation

FROM: The Ministry of Music & Arts

Positions open: In Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Bass sections of our Adult and Youth choirs.

Physical Qualifications: You must have vision good enough to see the

director ten feet away.

Experience: No applications will be accepted from persons who have not sung, whistled, or hummed a tune at work, in the bathtub, or shower, or at some time in their lives.

Beginning Wage: Guaranteed satisfaction and joy in the service of the Lord and the church.

Fringe Benefits: Social Security: We can assure the security of Christian fellowship with a great group of people.

To apply: Your audition will be as follows: Come to one of the following rehearsals with a smile on your face and humming "Amazing Grace," fill out a registration form and you're in.

Opportunities are available in six choirs and 12 classes in the preschool.

Under Mr. Thatch's ministry the Arts Program Concert series was performed October 16, 1983 through May 20, 1984. Outstanding in this series was Jerome Hines and Fred Waring and his Pennsylvanians. Mr. Thatch writes: "The Arts program concert series was an effort to return the arts to their rightful home, the church—the first cultural center of the community."

Under his leadership and that of the organist and Assistant Director, Scott Atchison, the Music at Peachtree Road United Methodist Church has been outstanding.

The Christmas party for the Administrative Board and their guests in 1984 was one of the most outstanding parties in the history of the church. It was an English Festival complete with costumes, English ballads, the boar's head and plum pudding.

Rosebuds and Babies

A red rosebud on the altar announced the arrival of a new baby in the churches which Dr. Myers had previously served. Beginning June 15, 1977, this beautiful practice was started at our church—a red rosebud on the altar and the birth listed in the bulletin. After the service, a lay volunteer is responsible for taking the rose to the family.

Two brass rosebud vases were presented to the church by devoted members Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd C. Smith. The Smiths donated the vases "to the glory of God" and in honor and appreciation of their children and grandchildren.

Outstanding Volunteers

Mahlon Day was special. He was the preschool's honorary grandfather



Ben Askew

who used his hobby of woodworking to benefit children and teachers. The preschool surprised him on October 10, 1979, for all his work, with the salute, "We need more Days."

On one of my many trips to the church for more bits of information for this book, I met Folger Bigelow coming out of the educational building with his "satchel."

"You look like a doctor," I commented.

"Right," he said, "a doctor for the children's department. I just fixed a couple of legs and an arm or two—on the furniture, of course."

Folger is working in an area that Mahlon Day had to leave. He is another volunteer who gives so much.

Ben Askew

Dr. Myers often teased that Ben Askew, our dollar a year man, claimed he was never paid!

Ben Reynolds Askew joined Peachtree Road United Methodist Church in 1968, and soon became an outstanding volunteer. He kept regular hours, nine until four, four days a week until his death in 1982. He reported changes in his schedule to the office as faithfully as if he were the highest paid executive.

He worked out a peak time chart for power use at the church, which is still

in use. Among his other jobs, he updated membership records, kept inventory of all church properties, and worked out fire escape routes.

Administrative Board Leaders

In 1977 Robert Hill, son of Harold Hill Sr., was elected chairman of the Administrative Board. This has been the only father-son team to serve as chairmen of the board.

In the *Light on Peachtree*, June 16, 1982, there was a picture of five Hills, all on the Administrative Board at the same time: a son, Justice Harold Hill, Jr., his wife, Jane, and their daughter, Nancy, Mr. Harold Hill, Sr., Life Member of the Board, and son, Mr. Robert G. Hill.

Mrs. Wallace Carpenter, in November of 1978, was elected Chairman of Peachtree Road's Administrative Board. This was the first time a woman was elected to serve the church in this capacity. Amiable, soft-spoken Carolyn has held many offices in the church—President of United Methodist Women, Chairperson of the Council on Ministries, Stewardship Commission, Church School teacher, and other positions on committees, commissions, and task forces since joining the church in 1946.

Norman Pascall

Norman Pascall was Chairman of the Administrative Board of Peachtree Road United Methodist Church in 1973. During that year he established the section leader program.

He has been an outstanding and influential member of the Administrative Board every year since 1956. In 1973 for the Every Member Canvass he wrote, "It is particularly important in a large church like ours that we make every effort to know each other if we are to serve Christ to the fullest." Every Member Canvass meets three tests Billy Graham has prepared: "It's Biblical, it's spiritual, it provides service for others."

In 1978 as Chairman of the Building and Planning Committee he presented to the church plans for a Fellowship Hall. After pros and cons were presented the vote for the project was passed with a margin of 67.

Martha Styron

"I think the magic words in the English language are 'once upon a time'," says Martha Styron, a member of the national story tellers league. She was on the nationally syndicated radio series *Connections* in 1977. She talked about communicating Christian teaching through the art of story telling. "I am always happy to take a message of Jesus Christ anywhere I can and I do it better through stories than any other way."

Martha was eight times an elected delegate to the board of *Global Ministries* of the Methodist church. This is the current name of the General

Board of Missions, originated by Bishop Arthur Moore in 1956. She has served as Chairman of Finance and Investment of the *General Board of Church and Society* for 8 times, (meetings every 4 years).

The only law making body of the Methodist Church is *General Conference* which meets every four years. She was elected delegate six times.

Mr. Alva Maxwell

Alva G. Maxwell joined Peachtree Road in 1940. He was elected Vice Chairman of the Administrative Board, and then Board Chairman 1946-1948. He served as Chairman of the budget drive, the Finance Committee and Commission on Missions. For 10 years he was a member of the General Board of Missions, serving on the investment committee. He led in the establishment of 30 churches in the Atlanta-Marietta District.

He has been chairman of the Board of Trustees for ten years. This outstanding church leader celebrated his 98th birthday September 3, 1989.

Outreach Ministries

Outreach Ministries at Peachtree Road offer an exciting opportunity for all church members to participate in a wide variety of programs serving the needs of others. These ministries were outstanding during Dr. Myers' period of service: refugee families, international and U.S. college students who need help, children and families in inner city, senior citizens, youth requiring special counseling, women caught up in problems, children needing tutoring, and infants at Grady Hospital.

In November 1979, the Missions Commission, with the concurrence and cooperation of Dr. Cecil Myers, voted unanimously to sponsor a refugee family from the Vietnamese area—a "boat people" family. In 1979 no member of the commission, the church staff, nor the congregation could possibly have anticipated or predicted the multitude and variety of doors we would open or paths we would follow in the next few years while working with members of the eight families.

It is totally impossible for us to comprehend the conditions in which these five people were living. In every instance, whether coming from Vietnam, from Afghanistan, from Ethiopia, or from the continent, the decision was to leave their homes, families, and friends, with an unknown future. Their decisions in every instance were prompted by the political and personal persecution each family had suffered, the brutal military oppression and occupation each had experienced, and by the continuing threat of imprisonment.

Mr. Frank Evans served as chairman of the Refugee Resettlement Committee from 1979 to 1984, and was the Outreach Commission

chairman from 1981 to 1984, succeeding Ruth Cousins. He wrote that the refugee resettlement program was one of the most cost effective programs ever sponsored by our church. The impact upon 35 lives has been immeasurable.

In December 1980 the following heartwarming letter was received at the church.

To: All members of Peachtree Road United Methodist Church

"Ladies and Gentlemen:

We are the Tieu, the Vietnamese sponsored by your church. Being so warmly and helped so devotedly by you. We are deeply moved. By no means can we properly reward you for all you have given to us—the helps, the care and the friendship.

"We want to give our special thanks to Reverend Thomas Fowler, Mrs. Ruth Cousins, and Frank Evans, who have been spending so much time and energy helping us to resettle in this country.

"The United States, the country of freedom, and her people, especially the people of Atlanta don't abandon us, on the contrary, all of you stretch out warm arms to receive us. We can never forget these good graces of you. Since now, we stay beside you and study from you. We hope that someday we shall be able to serve this country. We are always trying to be good citizens and like all of you, to be charitable and ready to help others. We will never disappoint you. We love the United States because she is our new country, our new home.

We would like to send our best thanks to all church members on our first Thanksgiving Day in the United States.

Sincerely yours,
The Tieu Family"

Dora McDonald

While Dr. Myers was pastor, Dora McDonald joined Peachtree Road. She was the first black person to join this church, which better satisfied her needs than the one she was attending. She needed to hear and sing the old traditional hymns and anthems in order to be fulfilled. There came a time when she knew she had to find a church which met her needs or stop attending church.

In the early seventies sit-ins of blacks in public places were commonplace. This was a means of educating the public that they, black persons, had every right to be there. This was true in our houses of worship, and they came to our church with little incident. During this period Dr. Thomas Whiting invited the Fifth District Congressman, Andrew Young, to fill his pulpit on a Sunday morning. For the most part this popular black congressman was

warmly received. Accompanying Mr. Young, his wife, and their son, was Dora McDonald, his administrative assistant in the Atlanta office.

One Saturday in 1981 Dora scanned the religious section of the *Atlanta Constitution* and noticed that Peachtree Road had a 9:30 a.m. service. She remembered her visit with the Youngs and so visited again and was moved by the great choir and the warmth of the people. She remembers Cecil Myers' outstanding sermon "Thou Shalt Not Kill." On the third Sunday she visited she checked the ritual that she wished to join!

The late Charles Gray visited her that afternoon and in his kind way talked with her at length. She asked for an appointment with the senior minister before joining. In their conversation Dr. Myers asked Dora, "in what area of the church would you like to work?" Her answer was that she had always sung in the choir. That day she met Jerry Black, choir director, and soon she joined the church and the choir.

She says she received only one hostile letter. Every person she has met has made her feel comfortable and welcome. She writes: "I am certain that this is where God led me to serve and worship Him." She lists persons who are especially warm and gracious in addition to the staff members. Diana and Jim Roberts were her first stewards and are still extremely helpful as friends and spiritual leaders. Gloria Landreth encouraged her to join the choir when she heard her singing, and the late Doris McKee, her close choir friend, included her in many activities of the church and also many non-church activities. Doris McKee was the kind of outstanding friend one meets so seldom in a lifetime.

So Dora McDonald became the first black person to join Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, a kind loving friend, who, through the choir, and as member of the Agape Sunday School class has contributed to the church as a member of the church family.

Dr. Myers' Church Staff

Dr. Cecil Myers	Senior Pastor
Rev. Albert Clarke	Associate Pastor
Rev. Robert Murphy	Associate Pastor
Dr. Joseph Peabody	Business Administrator
Rev. Lawrence Adams	Minister of Counseling
Mr. Jerry Black	Minister of Music
Mr. Robert Dixon	Director of Christian Education
Mr. Wilton Dennis	Director of Christian Recreation
Mrs. Caroline Clayton	Hostess



Dr. John Minter

1984-1987

After Dr. Myers retired in June 1984 the staff-parish committee sought the help of the bishop to send someone to Peachtree Road to strengthen a declining congregation. Since Georgia Methodist ministers had accepted assignments in other states, the staff-parish committee asked to go outside the conference for a pastor. The request was denied. After a number of meetings the presiding bishop assigned the then district superintendent, Dr. John Minter, to Peachtree Road United Methodist Church. This was a very difficult assignment because Dr. Minter had sat in on all the meetings and had heard the requests of the staff-parish committee.

However, this kind, dedicated, and very spiritual man became Peachtree Road's 15th pastor late in 1984. Prior to his district superintendent appointment, Dr. Minter had been beloved pastor for 10 years at St. James United Methodist Church, which church was originally sponsored by Peachtree Road.

Olive Ann Sparks, a former secretary to Dr. Long and a member of our church since 1946, has been ill for several years. She said when Dr. Minter visited her there was an aura of the Holy Spirit for hours after he left her bedside. Other members witness to his kind and strengthening counseling on a one-to-one basis.

While Dr. Minter was senior pastor, the Buckhead Community Service was planned and began serving the needy on March 1, 1987. Peachtree Road is one of five churches in the community involved in feeding the poor,

finding homes for the homeless, and providing spiritual counseling. Our associate pastor of outreach, the Rev. Reece Turrentine, is the minister in charge from our church.

Dr. Minter is an outstanding Biblical-history student and in addition to his enlightening sermons, Dr. Minter wrote a powerful message each week in the *Light on Peachtree*. Especially with emphasis were his messages on the United Methodist Children's Home. In one message he listed his reason for support—the memories of his friend and parishioner Jim Van Sant who grew up as an orphan. This special friend had a place in his heart for orphan children and their needs. At the time of his unexpected death he had agreed to serve as a trustee of the Children's Home. In Jim Van Sant's memory many gifts were made to the Children's Home. Another reason for support was that Dr. Felix Robb, a Peachtree Road member, was chairman of the committee on finance of the home in 1987. What a wonderful way to support those fellow church members working in outreach positions and at the same time make a contribution to an exceptionally worthy cause.

During Dr. Minter's tenure the project of the outreach committee called Souper Sunday was instigated. This is preparing soup and sandwiches to be served to the less fortunate than we, at Trinity United Methodist Church, one Sunday each quarter.

The Rev. Charles Neal was assigned in September 1986 as minister to singles and in charge of adult education. He was instrumental in organizing three new church school classes. He also organized the "Disciple," an intensive 34 week study of the Bible. In the three years he was at Peachtree Road he was a popular leader of groups and classes. In December 1986 Dr. Minter announced that the staff was complete for the first time in two and one half years.

Methodist ministers seem to have an unusual ability to choose their help mates, and certainly Ann Minter is a charming and very personable Methodist wife. While at Peachtree Road she taught the Gleaners Church School class and was an active member of the United Methodist Women. I liked her and John's attention to individuals during church night suppers, going from table to table shaking hands with parishioners. The Minters were both blessed with ability to make each member of the church feel he was important.

Rally Day '86 was a success with the catchy slogan, "Together We Make a Whole." Celebrations of "Catch the Spirit" were held throughout Dr. Minter's ministry with a guest speaker from England, talks by our bishop, and in regular worship periods by the preacher himself.

Parlor

Work was completed on the parlor, a room where families may meet

before and after a wedding or a funeral, or where ministers may host meetings. This is the room formerly used as the Exhibit Room. The exhibits are now in cabinets in several hallways in the church. Margaret Sudderth was chairperson of the committee who converted the room into a beautiful parlor. This work was done with generous donations from 10 couples and seven individuals. Open house was May 17, 1987, with members of the committee acting as hosts. As if for the occasion, 700 pink tulips were in bloom in the garden.

Pace Setters

Senior adults during this period still needed leadership. It was indeed good news in 1984 when Gene Brown, a member of Peachtree Road since 1950, retired and decided to visit the Retired Men's Meetings. Four months later he was persuaded to be their president. Under the auspices of the Adult Council of Ministries, the philosophy of the group has been rewritten and the group renamed. It is now open to senior men and women (the Epworth Club having disbanded) and is strictly for fun and fellowship. Their name is the Pace Setters. They meet once a month with an average attendance of 100.

The Lighted Cross

While Dr. Minter was senior pastor, neighbors in the community called to say they missed the lighted cross in the steeple of the church. This unique symbol was suggested by Dr. Nat Long and had been installed when the sanctuary was built. No one is sure what put the light out or exactly when. To relight it was very expensive, but John Minter was very much aware that this symbol of the church should be lighted—"a lamp to those in darkness."

It was about this time that Mr. and Mrs. Carl Kowalski, members since 1968, were counseling with Dr. Minter about Carl's illness. Carl wanted to know if there wasn't something to which he could contribute as a lasting symbol of appreciation of the church. What more appropriate than to light the cross and keep it lighted, was Dr. Minter's suggestion. Through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Kowalski there is again a "Light on Peachtree." Mr. Kowalski died on August 9, 1986 and Dr. Minter told this wonderful story at his funeral. Sara says it is joyful to her to see the lighted cross as a memorial to her husband Carl Kowalski.

Celebration of Birth

A celebration of birth began under the leadership of Dr. Minter and Ruth Cousins, president of the United Methodist Women. Thirty Peachtree Road families with children 18 months old or younger were honored by the United Methodist Women in a special worship service Sunday, June 14,



The Lighted Cross

1987. A gift to missions was made in honor of each of 46 children born to Peachtree Road members since January, 1986, (a 17 month period). Certificates of these gifts were presented to each family by Mrs. Cousins.

The second annual celebration was held October 23, 1988 with 77 children born to members between May 1, 1987 and September 1, 1988 (a 16 month period).

Lenten Services

Unusual Lenten services have been held at Peachtree Road since the time of Dr. Nat Long. For the most part this is a time of community participation when our church has combined services with those of Wieuca Baptist and Peachtree Presbyterian churches.

In 1987, however, Dr. Minter and his clergy colleagues, as he called the staff members, conducted the Holy Week services. In his message the following week he sang their praises for their Biblically sound and spiritually uplifting sermons. On Maundy Thursday the Reverend Ronald Greer gave

the homily and lead the service of Holy communion and Tenebrae, (matins and lauds sung the last three days of Holy week with a ceremony of candles). This and the unique Christmas mass celebrated on Christmas Eve are religious services borrowed from the Roman Catholic Church which Dr. Minter and the music department presented in impressive and thought provoking services.

Palacia Seaman

When Dr. Minter was assigned as Senior Minister in 1984, the chairperson of the Administrative Board was Mrs. Palacia Seaman. She was introduced as chairperson of the Administrative Board by the first vice president Jack Haynes, who said, "I present to you Palacia Seaman who is so efficient she could easily head the General Motors Company of America."

She had earned this wonderful reputation with her many leadership positions in the church, to date, more than any other person.

The Seamans joined the church in 1953. Because they had a three year old daughter, Palacia soon met Lina Rauschenberg, director of the children's department, who needed teachers desperately. She saw Palacia's potential as a teacher and said to her one Sunday, "You will teach these ten children next Sunday" and gave her a list. By 1958 Palacia was superintendent of the Children's Division and confides that Mrs. Rauschenberg was an outstanding influence on her teaching career. With Mrs. Rauschenberg and Mary de Jarnette, Palacia was on the sub committee to plan the children's building.

One of the most outstanding tasks Palacia has performed in her many leadership positions in the church, was chairing the Long Range Planning Committee in 1978. The recommendation of this group, acting on the results of the Schaller report, resulted in the construction of the Fellowship Hall.

Four years' rotation on the Administrative Board led to her being chairperson in 1984 followed by being chairperson of the staff-parish committee in 1985.

In addition, Palacia has been a church school teacher in the adult division for fifteen years.

In September of 1986, Glenn Moffett, chairman of the Administrative Board, appointed a Chancel Study Committee with Palacia as chairperson whose charge was to determine what, if any, changes needed to be made in the chancel area of the sanctuary.

The 15 member Committee met on a biweekly basis for ten months, enlisting the help of Dr. Don Saliers, professor of Worship at the Candler School of Theology and Timothy Albrecht, organmaster at Candler. The

resulting plan called for a new 82 rank organ, bringing the altar forward and using flexible seating thus increasing the liturgical space. It carried a price tag of a million dollars. However, the church was experiencing a declining trend in membership and in giving, to the extent that the Committee presented the plan to the Administrative Board, then recommended that it be tabled until such a time as the Executive and Policy Committee deemed it advisable to come back to the Board for a vote.

Church Staff 1984

Dr. John Minter	Senior Minister
Rev. Larry Adams	Pastoral Care Director
Rev. Ron Greer	Counselor
Rev. David Bailey	Minister of Programs
Rev. Noel Burt	Minister of Pastoral Care
Rev. Charles Gray	Minister of Pastoral Care
Rev. Ron Hall	Minister of Adult Ministries
Mrs. Caroline Brooks	Director of Preschool
Mr. Wilton Dennis	Director of Recreation
Miss Betsy Hood	Director of Singles
Mr. Richard Jones	Business Administrator
Mrs. Ann Marney	Director of Children
Mr. Clinton Thatch	Director of Music and Arts
Mrs. Anne Thigpen	Director of Community Events
Mr. Melvin Wells	Bldgs. & Grounds Superintendent
Mrs. Pat Williams	Pastor's Secretary

Evaluation

In November 1987, a two-way evaluation process by the staff-parish relations committee and the senior pastor ended with Dr. Minter's choosing to return to his former position of district superintendent. Bishop Mack B. Stokes, Peachtree Road United Methodist Church's bishop in residence, served as interim senior pastor from January 10, 1988, until June when Dr. Donald Harp was appointed.



Dr. Donald Harp

1988-Present

I knew I would like Don Harp when I learned that he told Emolyn Hill, a long time member of Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, to invite him to dinner the first time she cooked turnip greens and cornbread. Dr. Harp was assigned to our church June 1988, when the church was at a crossroads in growth. There was a need for some decisions to be made and he stepped in and began making them. One of the first decisions was for the staff. "Thou shalt not have a private parking place."

Change in Procedures

Any new leader has certain ways he prefers doing things, so several changes in our procedures were made. When a person joins our church, Dr. Harp assigns a member in the congregation with like interests to stand with him, introduce him, and answer any questions he might have. It must be a comforting way to begin a commitment in a new church. Dr. Harp often calls on visiting clergymen to give the benediction. The choir and congregation always sing the benediction response, "May the Lord bless and keep you forever."

After a baby is baptised, this preacher carries the child down the center aisle still reciting the baptismal ritual with use of his portable microphone.

His moments with the children on Sunday mornings are refreshing and sometimes amusing. Each Sunday a child assigned the week before puts an article in the chosen box. This object becomes the subject of the preacher's

sermonette. One Sunday it was a toy lion. After describing the lion as the king of beasts, Dr. Harp asked, "And who is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords?" In a high shrill voice came the immediate answer, "You are." It was a while before the service continued.

The schedule of administering Holy Communion has been changed. There are four annual Sunday morning communion services by intinction. This is by dipping bread into the consecrated wine and taking the elements together. There are four evening services for taking communion by kneeling. These include Maundy Thursday (before Easter) and Christmas Eve. Services by kneeling are also held each Sunday in the chapel at 9 a.m.

"Camp Meeting in the City" is scheduled for the month of August. These Sunday morning worship services feature a casual atmosphere of worship with informal singing and warm-hearted preaching.

Lyle Schaller, in his book *The Senior Minister*, says, "The one factor in producing an attractive, vital, numerically growing, faithful, unified, obedient, vigorous and large Protestant congregation is the senior pastor."

With this preacher who likes purple ties, plaid blazers, old pick-up trucks and hot dogs from the Varsity, we believe we have the "factor." He wrote in his 1988 Thanksgiving message that he was thankful for the privilege of each Sunday proclaiming the eternal riches of God's Son, Jesus Christ, to Peachtree Road, and we are thankful for him.

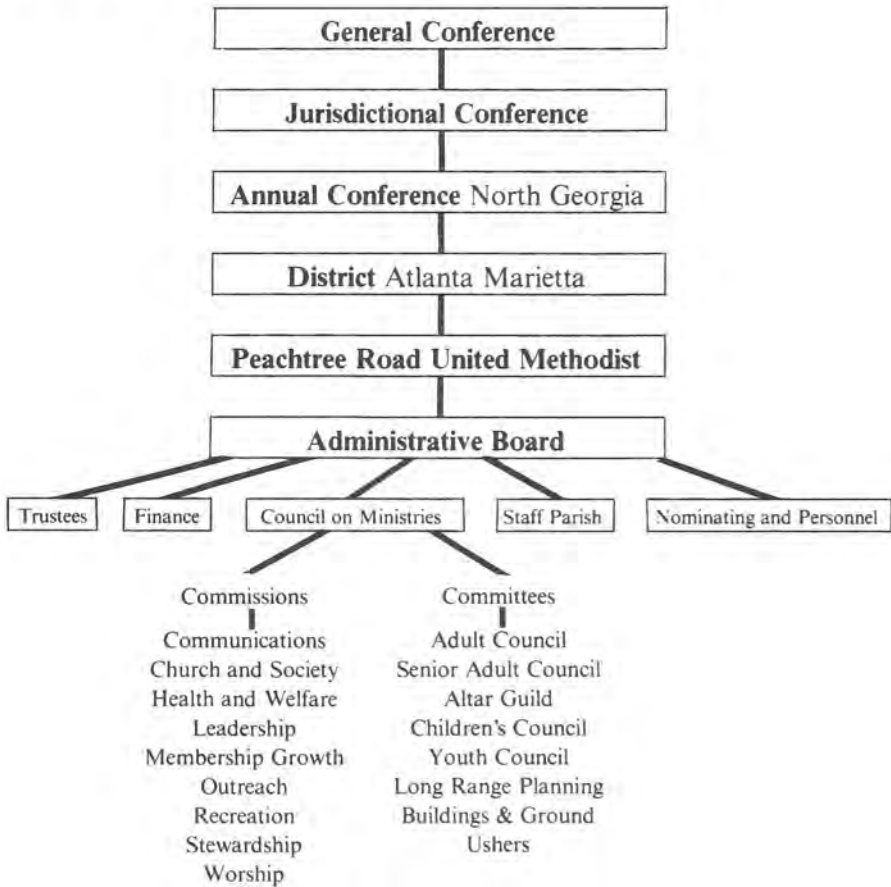
Bishop Beverly Jones said Dr. Harp's greatest asset was his beautiful and talented wife, a Southern lady from Alabama. Her artistic abilities are much in evidence by her help on the Peachtree Panache, a revived church bazaar held in November 1989.

Church Staff 1988

Dr. Donald Harp	Senior Minister
Rev. Charles Neal	Minister of Adults
Rev. Reece Turrentine	Minister of Pastoral Care
Rev. Charles Gray	Minister of Pastoral Care
Rev. Barrett Smith	Minister of Growth
Rev. Larry Adams	Director of Pastoral Counseling
Rev. Ronald Greer	Counselor
Mr. Clinton Thatch	Director of Music and Arts
Mr. Wilton Dennis	Director of Recreation
Mr. Dale Herndon	Director of Youth
Mrs. Sharon Yancey	Director of Children
Mrs. Caroline Brooks	Director of Preschool
Mrs. Carolyn Clayton	Director of Community Events
Mr. Jack Sumpter	Finance Director
Mrs. Pat Williams	Pastor's Secretary
Mrs. Inez Ramsay	Receptionist
Mr. Winston McMellion	Bldgs. & Grounds Superintendent

The Appendix

How Peachtree Road United Methodist Church Is Organized



New or Changed in Peachtree Road Organization

*Pastor-Parish Committee changed to Staff-Parish
when there were multiple ministers on the staff.*

- 1939 Methodist Episcopal, Methodist Protestant and Methodist South were united and called The Methodist Church.
- 1940 General Conference changed Woman's Missionary Society to Woman's Society of Christian Service
- 1952 General Conference changed Board of Stewards to Administrative Board.
- 1958 Epworth League changed to Methodist Youth Fellowship.
- 1967 Adult Education Council changed to Commission on Education.
- 1968 The Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren became the United Methodist Church. Sunday School was changed to Church School. Council on Missions changed to Outreach Ministries. Council on Social Concerns changed to Church in Society; Woman's Society of Christian Service changed to United Methodist Women to include the Wesleyan Service Guild.
- 1969 New Offices: Superintendent of Study in Education, Chairman of Work Area in Education. These offices were deleted after three years.
- 1970 A coordinator of Adult Ministries added.
- 1972 Director of Christian Education changed to Coordinator of Program Ministries.
- 1976 Business Administrator changed to Coordinator of Stewardship.
- 1977 Charge Conference established Work Area on Communications.
- 1979 Minister of Administration—coordination and administration of church affairs and programs. Minister of Education—responsible for total education in church.
- 1983 Council on Senior Adult Ministries added.
- 1984 Church Hostess changed to Director of Community Events.
- 1986 Evangelism changed to Membership Growth. Missions changed to Outreach.

Property Growth of Peachtree Road United Methodist Church

- 1925 Peachtree Road built a rough wood tabernacle at 3122 Peachtree Road—Cost \$15,000.
- 1928 Added a kitchen and auditorium—Cost \$4,578 (232 members).
- 1928-39 Several temporary frame buildings were built. In 1935 a house at the corner of Peachtree Road and Sardis Way was purchased for the first parsonage. Rented homes had been used prior to this. Cost—\$6,000.
- 1941 Additional lots purchased to complete the square—\$7,000. This property was sold for \$41,500. The lot on which we now operate was purchased for \$17,940. The first parsonage at Peachtree Road and Sardis Way was sold.
- 1942 All temporary buildings were moved to 3180 Peachtree Road. The Great Hall was used from 1942 to 1949 for all worship services, parties, banquets, movies, and games, etc. The second parsonage at 257 Rumson Road was bought for \$11,000.
- 1943 Two story Scout Hut built for \$5,000.
- 1945 The lower floor of the church school building cost \$4,500. Land for driveway between Mathieson and Shadowlawn cost \$1,250. Value of properties in 1945, \$750,000.
- 1947 Wooded lot to rear of church was bought for \$7,500
- 1949 Sanctuary and Educational Building built, cost \$485,000. Value of Church properties \$870,000
- 1952 2/3 Acre to rear of church was bought for \$1,000. Scout Hut built, cost \$17,500.
- 1955 Amphitheatre built, cost \$3,000
- 1961 Educational Building, Activites Building and Chapel, cost \$762,100
- 1963 Bought 670 Old Ivy Parsonage for \$45,000
- 1977 Value of church, land properties, \$4,500,000
- 1978 Fellowship Hall, cost \$750,000. Consecration Service—January, 1978.
- 1982 Sanctuary renovated with special gift.
- 1982 Renovation of lower floor of Educational Building. Otis Barge Memorial.
- 1982 Purchased apartment building, 3200 Peachtree Road for \$450,000. Capital Funds Crusade to pay off indebtedness (extra 3 year pledging)
- 1986 Purchase of property 3198 W. Shadowlawn, cost \$375,000. This was the home of Mrs. R.E. Andoe where the Woman's Missionary Society was organized in 1925.
- 1988 Net amount of proceeds from 670 Old Ivy Road \$258,000. Bought 27 Habersham Park for \$650,000. The difference between these two amounts was contributed anonymously.
- 1989 Total worth of church buildings and properties, \$9,432,946.

Membership Statistics

Year	Church Membership	Average Attendance	Church School	Average Attendance	United Methodist Women Members
1935	411		405		124
1945	1586		972		322
1952	2837		2300		648
1960	3612		2923	1273	641
1965	4289		3338	1398	705
1970	4569		3626		625
1975	*4621	949	1822	766	502
1980	*4496	1129	1755	770	456
1984	*4564	1315	1690	1115	402
1988	*4055	870	1459	607	376

**Includes approximately 600 out of town members.*

These statistics are from the annual conference bulletin.



Peachtree Road United Methodist Church

Administrative Board Chairpersons

1925-27	F.A. O'Neal	1964	Glen Harper
1928-31	James L. Respass	1965	Alvin Barge
1933-34	Jesse M. Wood	1966	Turner McDonald
1935	Charles G. Boland, Sr.	1967	William Pritchard
1936	W.L. Ballenger	1968	Wilburn Askew
1937-38	Guy H. Wood	1969	Dr. Thomas N. Guffin
1939-40	W.B. Miller	1970-71	Paul Moore, Sr.*
1941	W.R. Bentley	1972	Tom Addison
1942-43	Troy G. Chastain	1973	Norman Paschall
1944-45	R.A. Calvert	1974	Dr. Felix Robb
1946-48	Alva G. Maxwell	1975	James Jernigan, Sr.
1949	C.R. Justi	1976	Thomas Bowles
1950	L.P. Jervey	1977	Robert Hunter
1951	E.O. Kellum, Sr.	1978	Paul Ervin
1952	Banks O. Godfrey, Sr.	1979	Carolyn Carpenter
1953	Harold Hill, Sr.	1980	William W. Wilkin, Sr.
1954	Oliver Sale, Sr.	1981	Phil McGaughy
1955	Dr. Charles Cooper	1982	Robert G. Hill
1956	Ralph Williams	1983	Burton Bridges
1957	Judge Grady Head	1984	Palacia Seaman
1958	Ernest P. Rogers, Sr.	1985	Jack Haynes
1959	Clyde Kennedy, Sr.	1986	Glenn Moffett
1960	Herman Thompson	1987	Dudley Moore, Jr.
1961	Linton West	1988	Robert Tippet
1962	Ed Callahan	1989	Alleen Bratton
1963	V.O. Rankin, Sr.		

**Fiscal year changed to Jan.-Dec.
officers served extra 6 months*

Music Directors

Miss Leona Wood	1925-45
Mrs. Jack Robins	1947-49
Mrs. Bruce Hughes	1950-62
Mr. John Dressler	1965-78
Ass't. Mrs. Janice White	
Mr. Jerry Black	1978-81
Ass't. Mrs. Caroline Brooks	
Mr. Clinton Thatch	1982-89
Ass't. Mr. Scott Atkinson	
Mr. Scott Atkinson	1989-



Peggy Hughes and Children's Choir, early 50s

Past Presidents United Methodist Women

The Woman's Missionary Society of the Methodist Church had a counter organization for employed women called Weslyn Service Guild. Though a separate organization, the purposes were similar to those of the Society—to enrich spiritual life, to practice brotherhood, to promote Christian social relations and to examine highest use of leisure time.

In 1968 the Weslyn Guild became a circle of the missionary society and the name of the combined organization changed to United Methodist Women, whose purpose was rewritten to read: The United Methodist Women are a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ, to develop a creative supportive fellowship and to expand concepts of mission through participation in global ministries of the church.

Mrs. M.D. Jamerson	1925-26
Mrs. R.E. Andoe	1927
Mrs. George Lunsford	1928
Mrs. C.E. Lovett	1929-30
Mrs. W.E. Letts	1931-32
Mrs. J.L. Respass	1933-34
Mrs. W.E. Letts	1935-37
Mrs. W.B. Miller	1938-40
Mrs. C.G. Boland	1941-43
Mrs. W.L. Ballenger	1944-45
Mrs. W.E. Letts	1946-49
Mrs. H.M. Thompson	1949-52
Mrs. Fred Thomas	1952-54
Mrs. Alvin Barge	1954-56
Mrs. Oliver H. Sale	1956-58
Mrs. J. Wallace Carpenter	1958-60
Mrs. Harry J. DeLung	1960-62
Mrs. Milton R. McClure	1962-64
Mrs. T.E. Addison, Jr.	1964-66
Mrs. William N. Thurman	1966-68
Mrs. Jack D. Haynes	1968-70
Mrs. McClellan Ratchford	1970-72
Mrs. Joseph Drewry	1972-74
Mrs. Frank Evans	1974-76
Mrs. J.D. Wingfield, Jr.	1976-78
Mrs. Paul Ervin	1978-80
Miss Barbara Gamble	1980-82
Mrs. Caroline Bullard	1982-84
Mrs. James D. Barker, Jr.	1984-86
Mrs. Robert Cousins	1986-88
Mrs. Helen Gore	1988-90

Charge Conference

In the days when a preacher had several churches in his "charge" there was a quarterly meeting with the District Superintendent to go over the business of the churches. Today, a preacher usually has but one church and the District Superintendent calls for a conference, still referred to as a Charge Conference, over which he presides or authorizes the preacher to preside. All Administrative Board members, honorary Board members, all ministers in the church and any interested member of the church may attend and vote. A ten day advance notice of the meeting is announced. Proposals to be voted on are usually made and discussed at the Administrative Board before being presented at Charge Conference.

Annual Conference

The basic body of the Methodist Church is the Annual Conference. Ministers do not belong to the local churches, not even to the church they serve. They belong to the Annual Conference, and with some amusement tell others they go to their church meetings once a year.

The Annual Conference is presided over by a Bishop who has final authority as to where the ministers are assigned as "pastors in charge." This means they are charged with the responsibility for seeing that their churches are operated according to the Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church.

A minister is a full member of the Annual Conference when he has completed his course of study at an approved seminary, has been on trial two years, has been ordained deacon and then elder and has been voted into full connection by the Conference.

Each year the life and character of every minister is reviewed. If there are any charges against a minister he gets a fair hearing from his peers.

The Annual Conference is made up of ministers and lay delegates in equal ratio.

Creeds and Confessions

The Creeds are the Church articulating its faith. The Creeds are the common mind of the Church. We have three Creeds in our Methodist Hymnal. They have been authorized by the General Conference and are suggested (but not required) for use in Methodist worship. The most widely used creed in Methodist circles is the Apostles' Creed. The oldest form of this creed goes back to the second century and it is the basis for most later creeds. The present-day form of it did not take shape until the Middle Ages.

The second, or Affirmation of Faith, is listed as a "Modern Affirmation"

in the 1966 hymnal. The original draft was done by Professor Edwin Lewis of Drew Theological Seminary at the request of Bishop W.P. Thirkield, Chairman of a Methodist Episcopal Commission on Worship and Music.

The third affirmation, often called the Korean Creed, was adopted by the Korean Methodist Church when it was organized in 1930.

The following were used in Family Worship Service on Palm Sunday, 1969:

I believe in God, the creator and ruler of all living things, father and redeemer of man.

I believe in Jesus Christ, who taught God's grace, showed God's forgiveness, patience and love and who said that God suffers with us.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, who in prayer comforts and forgives us, who lets us talk to God, and God to us.

And I believe in the church who ministers God's plan and love for everyone. Amen. *(Written by 1968-69 Church Membership Class)*

Prayer of Confession

God, I am sorry for what I have done wrong

Forgive me, God, and give me strength to stand firm.

I cheat others and myself sometimes

Forgive me, God, and give me strength to stand firm.

I am sorry we have to fight,

Forgive me, God, and give me strength to stand firm.

Sometimes people curse one another

Forgive us, God, and give us strength to stand firm.

Grownups who try to teach children sometimes make mistakes,

Forgive them, God, and give them strength to stand firm.

(Written by Elementary III and IV Long Session - 1969)

Church School Classes

In 1953 there were seven adult church school classes with 925 members. There were 875 children enrolled and 500 youth.

By 1960 five more adult classes had been organized with a total of 969 members in the twelve classes. The average attendance was 48%.

In 1969-70 the number of classes was:

children	46
youth	16
adult	21

In the year 1970 there was, for that year only, a special education class for retarded young adults. A team of teachers from Peachtree Road also assisted each Sunday with church school classes at the Retardation Center in Chamblee, Ga.

The number and kind of adult church school classes have varied through the years according to the needs for certain classes.

In a large church it is important to belong to small groups in order to

know people. Belonging to a church school class is a great way to accomplish this as well as an opportunity to grow spiritually.

In 1989 the number of classes was: children 22
youth 6
adult 18

Adult Church School Classes 1989

Name	Identification	Number On Roll	Average Attendance
Adult Bible Class	Mid 30s-40s	26	9
Men's Bible Class	All ages	12	9
Agape	Singles	70	37
Blazers	Mid 30s-40s	84	24
Timothy	Mid 40s-50s	89	40
Good News	Mid 40s-50s	28	9
Gleaners	Senior Women	42	25
Harmony	Singles Older	21	14
New Horizons	Singles 20s-30s	35	17
Potpourri	Adults-all ages		
New Beginnings	Singles-all ages	79	40
Friendship	Mid 50s-60s	170	84
Wesley Fellowship	Retired persons	96	55
Single Parents		10	6
Parents of Teenagers			
Couples	20s		
Couples	30s		
Crossroads	Singles 18-25		

Friendship Class

The Friendship class honors their founder and for many years their teacher, Miss Daisy Davies, at an annual party.

Miss Daisy came from St. Mark Methodist Church thinking of herself as being at the end of a long career as college president, leader in Polish relief in World War I, and evangelist. Miss Daisy was asked to teach a small class of young single women, most men being at that time on military duty in World War II. From that 1942 beginning, this dynamic woman, with evangelistic and caring zeal, built the Friendship class into an outstanding Sunday School class at Peachtree Road.

Since her death in 1957 the class has been taught by a corps of teachers.

The outstanding class project is its Daisy Davies Scholarship Fund which aids persons preparing for Christian ministry.

Men's Bible Class

This class, for men only, was organized in the early 1940s. It is active in its support of scholarship work at Reinhardt and Young Harris Colleges. The class is taught by five teachers who rotate Sundays. Outstanding among their teachers have been Judge T. Grady Head, Dr. John Letson, Superintendent of Atlanta Schools in the 70s and Dr. Noah Langdale, President, (recently retired), of Georgia State University.

Wesley Fellowship

In October 1986 the Wesley Fellowship class celebrated its 50th anniversary. This was the first couples class in the church and began with four couples and a teacher. Two of the couples, Anne and Bill O'Neal, and T.D. and Peggy Fletcher are still members. Twenty-nine couples have to date celebrated their golden wedding anniversaries. In terms of numbers of persons belonging, the maximum was reached in 1953 with 300 members.

Durwood Fincher, outstanding Biblical student, has been teacher of this class for 13 years.

Ethel Ballenger Class

The first ladies class of the church was organized in 1945, an out growth of Win-One Bible Class and named for the teacher of that class, Ethel Ballenger. Mrs. Ballenger taught this class until 1952 when her able assistant Mrs. Fred Thomas became teacher until 1974. In 1986 the class disbanded and the remaining members joined either the Wesley Fellowship class or the Gleaners.

Haviland Houston, at that time director of Christian education writes:

Members of the Ballenger Class became disturbed at one time because the hallway in the "old education building" was very slick on rainy days, and was somewhat slippery all the time because the floors were being waxed and buffed frequently. They requested a runner be put down in the hall, but the business manager said the rubber runner was expensive and would accumulate moisture under it. Instead, without further consultation with the class representatives, he had the building superintendent put a wooden rail on the right side along the hall. The rail, of course, was a real insult to the women in the class. They were furious. One member said to me, "It looks like a ballet bar and I'll fall and break my leg before I'll hold on to it." They refused to use the rail, and a runner finally was put down. It was a good lesson to learn—older people wanted a voice in how problems were solved relating to them, and people in charge needed to consider respect and self-esteem and reliance. Much better to be able to walk down the hall on your own, with proper mat underneath, than to hold to a railing!

Gleaners Class

The Gleaners Class, for women, was organized in 1948 with seven members. Their only teacher was Mrs. Alva G. Maxwell who gave her untiring devotion to the class until her death in 1984. Since that time a corps of teachers headed by Mrs. T.E. Addison have taught the class. Membership of this class peaked in 1953 with one hundred and seven ladies enrolled.

Scouting in the Church

According to the Council Review, Pack 3, Cub Scouts, of Peachtree Road, holds the longest duration of continuous registration in the Atlanta Boy Scout Council—1944 to the present. This pack became well known in the late 40s and 50s for its production of an annual minstrel show. The publicity was not only in the local papers, but also in the National Scout media. The familiar “Gentlemen Be Seated” was a great family show and both performers and audiences loved it. The last show was March 3, 1962, when minstrels were discontinued everywhere as probably contributing to racial unrest.

Pack 3 also conducted an experiment, in consultation with the council staff, to determine the maximum parameter which could be used in membership level. In this effort, Pack 3 operated with an 80 boy membership for approximately three years. There have been two Scout troops chartered during the Church's existence. At one time, both of these troops operated simultaneously, but this did not prove to be a practical working arrangement.

Troop 59 was in existence from 1942 to 1978. The surviving Troup 467 is a strong unit in continuous operation since 1965.

The God and Country Award is a church award. It is a requirement that aims to help a Scout fulfill the first part of the Scout Oath, “On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God—” The twelfth Scout Law recognizes the place of religion in one's life. It reminds us that Scouting is related to our home, our church, our school.

Outstanding leaders in scouting with the church have been Al Weatherly, Don Dutton, Louie Lathem, Jr., William Swilley, Jr., Alex Gholson, Preston Hill, Joe Drewry, Jerry Hoover, Harris Carlock and Ernie Jamieson.

Mr. Spurgeon Gaskin, who has been in our church since 1960, was a national Scout Executive. Upon retiring, he received many outstanding scout awards, including the local Silver Beaver Award in 1982, the Silver Antelope Award from the district (12 states) in 1983, and most prestigious, the Eagle Award given to Eagle Scouts for 25 years of distinguished service in their chosen fields.



(L to R) Scout Leaders Bill Keel, Preston Hill, Bill Swilly, Bill Caldwell, Alvin Weatherly.

Newt Guffin was always most generous in letting the scouts use his farm. However, when Newt accompanied them it rained—every time he went, it rained. So it wasn't long until the boys dubbed him Spquernsy (the little figure with a cloud over his head in Li'l Abner). Al Weatherly never, never called off an outing. On one occasion at Stone Mountain, Al was pointing out camping locations standing in three inches of water. Everyone was drenched and miserable. Al continued setting up and with his "weatherly" luck it cleared off again.

Preston Hill, unit leader, always had to have his morning coffee before he got up. Brad Thatcher one morning at dawn awakened Mr. Hill with "Preston, this is the Lord with your coffee." This is the same Brad Thatcher who was death on trees with his hatchet. He was so bad that his hatchet had to be taken away. So there you have it—Brad Thatcher.

On campouts the boys were separated from the leaders, who always set up their own "Bent Maple Inn". Three limbs (maple, or a substitute), covered with a piece of plastic sheeting made the inn.

They Literally Lost the Shirts Off Their Backs:

It seems that 12 Boy Scouts from the Peachtree Road United Methodist Church were hiking one weekend in 1970 near DeSoto Falls with their Scoutmaster, M.D. McLendon, and Assistants Don Peters and Dave Lennox. They were about a mile from the Park when they heard cries for help. A man had slipped on some steps near the falls and had fallen 200 feet, fracturing his spine, breaking an arm, and badly spraining his ankle. He was in shock and the boys applied first aid. They made a stretcher out of their shirts, and carried him a mile back to the Park. At the hospital, in an effort not to disturb the man any more than necessary, the doctor cut the shirts off. Congratulations to the fellows in Troop 59 for knowing what to do, how to do it, and for doing it!

On November 4, 1962, the Scouts sponsored John Glenn, the astronaut, to speak at Peachtree Road.

In April of 1987 renovation of the scout hut was completed. This was made possible with gifts from family and friends of the scouts. Mr. Joe Drewry at this time received the Torch award of North Georgia Conference for his outstanding leadership of the scouts.

Recreation

In 1956 the Women's Society of Christian Service requested the official board to consider a full-time program of recreation. This request was based on the popular response to activities held at the Boy Scout hut since 1952. The Board referred this request to the Commission on Education for study. They made a long and careful study and recommended a summertime program of recreation on an experimental basis. The success of this program prompted the planning and construction of the activities building, with Mr. Robert Stephens chairman of the building committee. In April 1961 the activities building with the chapel, and the education building annex were dedicated.

The first Director was Arthur O'Neil and as the first in a new department in the church, when all of the congregation was not in favor of such, his was a hard job. In 1969 the recreation department under the Commission of Education, became the Commission on Recreation. The Christian Recreational program is now the largest department of the church. It apparently is not only filling a need in the church, but also in the community. In 1988, 7,523 reservation cards (about one-fourth by church members) were signed and fees paid for seven summer camps, eight educational classes, seven different sports, eight gymnastic classes, and nine sports events. The budget approaches \$400,000. This is big business! The church pays the salaries of four full-time employees and varying part-time ones and for the use of the

activities building. The number of part-time workers varies according to seasonal programs.

In 1988 there were 90 basketball teams! The gym was in use from 8:00 a.m., until midnight every day. The only time it was closed was 8:00 a.m to 12:00 noon Sunday morning. The mornings are reserved for Children's Day School exercise classes and ladies' slimnastics. As soon as the first class is out of regular school, an "after school" program starts. Do you wonder why there is no bowling or badminton or volleyball? It is not because there is a lack of interest, it is because there is no place to play. Wilton Dennis, Director since 1964, *originated* T-ball (preschoolers batting a ball off a metal "T"), introduced soccer and encouraged flag football. He has long since given up having all programs with facilities at the church. He leases three soccer fields, three football fields and an 80-acre summer camp. Such facilities are usually available to the church just for paying the property taxes.

The Recreation Department has a mailing list of 10,000 which includes



The Robert Taylor family demonstrate preparation for a family camping trip in May 1960.

church members, who have priority on use of the activities building. Wilton is next to the oldest employee of the church in terms of length of service. This is one of the largest church-affiliated recreational programs in the city, and fulfills one of Dr. Schaller's suggestions of specialized programs.

Philosophy of Christian Recreation

"Through a dynamic program of Christian Recreation we seek to provide a variety of situations and activities through which people may encounter God and experience growth in human relationships."

Our Prayer (in the Activities Building): In our fast moving world and in an ever changing society, Oh Thou who changeth not, guide us as we work and play.

Only through our love for others can we show our love for Thee. Amen.

Seven Commandments of Activities Building

1. Thou shalt not taketh food nor drinks into gym, lobby or game areas.
2. Thou shalt not smoke.
3. Thou shalt not runneth nor bounce balls except in the gym.
4. Thou shalt returneth all game equipment when finished with it.
5. Thou shalt not loiter. All children and youth shall be picked up promptly after activities.
6. Thou shalt not use pool tables without staff supervision.
7. Thou shalt use this Church as if it were thine own home.

"We never had a recreation program at our church before," said Dr. Frank Morehead, pastor of the church. "We want to minister to the whole person. We want to have at the church, wholesome recreation that will lead to a creative use of the leisure time of our people. What is done in the recreation building should blend in with everything else we do in the preaching and teaching ministry of the church."

Library

In May 1949 the Commission on Education appointed a library committee who recommended establishing a church library. The library was ready for an Open House in November 1950 and boasted 140 books. The total expenses were \$297 for equipment, \$125.74 for books.

In the beginning it was important to obtain as quickly as possible, a collection of books on religious subjects, as resource material for teaching both adults and children. As the collection grew and the budget increased, it became possible to add books of more general nature-on family life,

marriage, child guidance, novels in a limited number on suitable subjects, and reference books. In the juvenile section, books on science, nature, biography, fiction and short stories in the classics were chosen to help with school work.

In selecting books, the Library Committee works closely with the Staff Directors of Christian Education in the Church School in order to have available when needed, resource material on subjects currently being studied.

Circulation has grown along with the collection. In 1953 a Library Committee reported a total collection of 689 books, and an average *monthly* circulation of twenty-five books. In March, 1961, the collection numbered 1,800 books, with a *weekly* circulation of 30 to 40 books. In July, 1988 there were approximately 7,000 books and 1,300 audio visual items with a circulation of 80 books and items per week.

Since 1965 there has been a part time librarian on the staff. In 1973 a second person was added to assist in the organization of the audio-visual materials, paid on an hourly basis. This was anticipating the present merging of all media materials and services into one Resource Center.

Communications

News to a congregation as large as Peachtree Road's has always been of concern. In the late forties, messages were made available weekly to the membership in a pamphlet type publication called "Tell It" edited by Lucy Sheffield, member of Peachtree Road.

From January, 1961, through 1973 communication was by an informal weekly letter given out at Sunday School called "Church School News." This was read and reread. It gave important happenings in the church programs and time schedules. It also included original poems, what the youth were doing, reviews of new books in the library, etc., with occasionally a discussion of church disciplines. This was augmented from time to time with special editions of "Action," a larger handout of special happenings. For instance, the auctions (outreach fund raisers) were always announced and described with an "Action." The disadvantage was that if you were not at church you did not get copies of these publications.

"Insight" was the youth's weekly news tabloid. This was a regular publication during the 70s. The "Insight" Staff met every Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. Many persons contributed articles, poems, prayers.

The Preschool has always put out its own letter to the parents. The Recreation Department sends out quarterly schedules of activities.

By 1970 the "Light on Peachtree" edited by Connie Caldwell was started. Steve Rasor won the contest for naming the publication. The search for a

suitable name was lengthy, but the choice was a good one. Dr. Whiting wrote, "Light is a strong word of the Bible. It gives warmth, illuminates, and reveals." "Light on Peachtree" is a four page communication which is sent out to each member each week. This of course has the advantage of reaching everyone with better timing for announcements of future events. It usually gives a message from the pastor and a schedule of daily devotional readings. However, it lacks the personal touch of the Church School News.

"Light on Peachtree" has an occasional insert page which highlights Christian Education. This is a record of unusual happenings in the children and youth departments, giving statistics of Sunday School classes and describes any newly formed classes or groups. The publication is called "Spotlight on Education" and is the responsibility of the Commission on Education.

The United Methodist Women are responsible for their communications. "Women on the Grow" comes out monthly and gives news reports and calls for service.

The Pastoral Counseling Ministers are responsible for their pamphlet on this service which is available to any one in the church or community.

Special publications appear from time to time. Several Lenten devotional books by members of the church have been assembled. In 1974, as part of the Creative Arts Festival at the church, Lucy Sheffield edited PRIME a creative magazine with contributions from members.

The Council on Ministries periodically puts out a publication to emphasize a certain program. This publication, "The Mark," is available with all other church material at the "Welcome" desk in the Fellowship Hall.

There is a folder with beautiful colored pictures of the church, its programs, its opportunities, its schedules, and a diagram of its physical layout.

There are current leaflets or folders on happenings in the youth department. The Singles Group has its news sheet with the clever title "Salt Shaker" (Single Adult Life Together).

"Meals on Wheels" is explained in a one page information sheet.

Symbolism

The cross and flame emblem is the United Methodist Church's official symbol. Creation of the insignia began in 1968. The uniting conference directed the Program Council to design an official logo. Edward Mikula, the art director, and Edwin Maynard, the editorial director, were responsible for the chosen symbol. The cross linked with dual flame relates the church to God with the second and third persons of the Trinity.

The flame also suggests the Pentecost when witnesses saw "tongues of fire." The duality of the flame represents the merger in 1968 of two denominations—the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church.

Indeed, the symbol of the flame and the cross has become a mark known the world over.

Symbolism in the church is simple but rich. Symbols are putting together abstract ideas and visible signs, and we have come to know many of them.

In our church, the altar is a symbol of God's redemption of man. It is derived from the Altar of the Jewish Temple on which animals were sacrificed to God. Ours is a constant reminder that Christ died for our sins.

The accepted symbol of Christianity is the Cross, and means Christ's victory over death. It appears many times and in different shapes in the church, and each time means the same.

A lighted candle means Jesus is the light of the world. Most of the time a pair of candles is used to symbolize the humanity and the divinity of Jesus. Each of the seven branches of the candelabra signifies one of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit as set down in Isaiah 11:2-3. They are: wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, godliness and fear. The open Bible on the lectern is the symbol of the bread of life. Inside the chancel rail is the Baptismal Font, signifying the sacrament of baptism, the dedication of a life to Christ.

The order of worship at Peachtree Road is patterned after five elements of a true worship experience of Isaiah. (Isaiah 6:1-8).

1. Vision of God or sense of His Presence.
2. Feeling of unworthiness.
3. An assurance of His Greatness.
4. A clarification of mind as to the worshiper's duty.
5. "Here am I, Lord, send me."

Our order of worship is:

1. Prelude, Processional Hymn, Call to Worship, Choral Response.
2. Prayer of Confession.
3. The Anthem, Responsive Reading, the Creed, the Gloria and Offering.
4. Sermon seeks to give clarification of mind.
5. Closing Hymn calls worshiper to consecration, Benediction and Postlude.



Symbols in the Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary

One of the most outstanding of the Christian symbols is the dove. This signifies the Holy Ghost and its symbolic color is red. The beautiful dove displayed in the Fellowship Hall is the work of Jack Haynes, architect of the Hall. The banners of the twelve apostles hanging there are taken from the book, *Symbols, Signposts of Devotion* by Ratha Doyle McGee. These banners were made by Mmes. Carl Hartrampf, Charles Boland, Thomas Bowles, Jr., Harmon Proctor, Mr. Bob Dixon and Mr. Jack Haynes.

One of the most beautiful ways the Christian symbols are displayed is the Crismon Trees in the sanctuary each Christmas. This lovely custom originated in a Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia in 1957 and has been followed at Peachtree Road since 1962. The term is derived from two words which mean a monogram of Christ. The symbols were used by the early Christians as identification, to designate meeting places, and as a witness to unbelievers. Through the years other symbols were added until hundreds of white and gold ornaments now are used to decorate the trees. These are the liturgical colors for Christmas, white signifying purity of our Savior and gold the glory and majesty of God. A booklet on the meaning of the symbols of the Crismon Trees is available through the Altar Guild.

Did You Know That?

There are 50-60 people preparing and planning every church service.

The Korean Methodist Church of Atlanta met in the Wesley Fellowship Class room from May 19, 1980 to June, 1983.

Acolytes in our church first performed March 11, 1970. Girls were included November 17, 1978. Two training sessions are needed to become an acolyte.

St. James Church was started by Peachtree Road Methodist Church in 1956.

Deaconal ministers are deacons of the Methodist Church. From our church, Ann Marney, Betsey Hood, and Bob Dixon became deaconal ministers.

Altar flowers honoring friends or in memory of a loved one are furnished each Sunday by a member of the church.

Heaviest non-member participation percentage-wise is in the following order:

1. Mothers Morning Out
2. Weekday Kindergarten
3. Worship
4. Pastoral Counseling
5. Recreation

In April, 1982, Frank Gordy and WHO gave a brand new van, making three owned by the church.

For grades 1, 2, and 3 there were Church School sessions which lasted 9:30-12:00 from 1965 through 1969.

Gowns were first worn by ministers of Peachtree Road in 1950.

From 1951 to 1953 there were four Brownie Troops and six Girl Scout Troops.

You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown was presented by staff members on February 17, 1982 at CNS.

Snoopy was presented by members of the staff at CNS, February 29, 1984

Mrs. Frank Sillay (Blanche) retired December, 1977 after 23 years of service. She was secretary to four ministers—Dr. Claud Hynes, Dr. Frank Moorhead, Dr. Thomas Whiting, and Dr. Cecil Myers.

Billie Speed received an award for excellence in religious news feature writing in 1978. Her article described the denomination's frequent transfer

of ministers and its impact on their families. She was honored in 1986 for outstanding service in the area of religious communications by the Protestant Radio and Television Center.

Larry Adams rode a motorcycle to Peachtree Road United Methodist Church when he first became counselor. A ride in freezing rain that put icicles in his hair was a good enough reason to sell his motorcycle.

Mildred Patton Morris, in the Church School News, brought to our attention the new books which came to the library, with short concise reviews of some of them. It was informative and an incentive to use the library.

Mr. Phil Werner was an excellent auctioneer.

Chancel Chairs were dedicated January 23, 1983.

In Memory of — Mrs. Jas. Dailey Barker

Mr. Clyde Kennedy

In Honor of — Mr. and Mrs. R. Howard Dobbs

Dr. Cecil Myers

Dr. Charles Cooper loved harpsichord music so much that in 1981 his wife had one built for the church in his memory. It was built by Arch Horner, superb cabinet maker and member of our church.

Viktor Frankl, founder of logotherapy, visited Peachtree Road in 1978. The overflow crowds even sat in the kitchen, with the public broadcast system all over the church.

E. Stanley Jones, outstanding Methodist evangelist, visited Peachtree Road January 21, 1962.

Dr. Chas Shedd, author of youth religious books, visited February 15, 1970.

World Wide Communion Sunday was started in 1939 by a small group of Presbyterian ministers in the United States. It is now observed by hundreds of Protestant denominations in nearly every country on earth on the first Sunday in October.

Do you ever feel that Peachtree Road United Methodist Church is lacking in drive, that we too often “putt” things off? Are you “teed off” when things get rough? Do you feel trapped when your “fairway” is rough, and when the “eagle” you championed turns out to be a “bogey” man?

Well, cheer up, it’s not your fault. Our church was built on the site of the former Buckhead Golf Range!

Kenneth Lee Coogle

