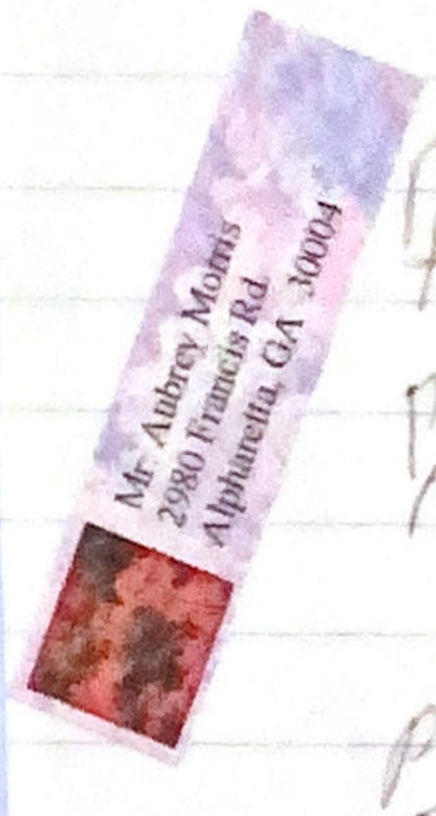
6/5/1976 Original Alpharetta Methodist Church Grave Yard Location



On June 4, 1976, on a visit to Alpharetta, I, Aubrey Richard Morris, talked to Mr. Louie Jones, a native of Alpharetta and lifelong member of Alpharetta Methodist Church.

Mr. Jones and I walked into the parking lot area of the church, now paved with asphalt, and to an old cedar tree, which Mr. Jones said was once about the center of the church's original burial ground. He said he could recall 50 or more years ago when a "large number" of graves, more than 15 or 20 were marked with stones at head and foot and that the lone cedar tree (standing in 1976) was one of two cedar trees in the burial area many years ago.

Mr. Jones also recalled that wagons and buggies, pulled by horses and mules, would be parked in the area of the original field stone grave markers, in this way eventually knocking over and obliterating the graves and stones. When the earliest "T Model" cars came along, Mr. Jones said, their owners would also park in the grave

yard area, adding to the obliteration. Mr. Jones says it "bothered" and "concerned" him because, as time passed, all traces of the original burial ground were gone.

Mr. Jones' story about the original grave yard confirms, without doubt, that the original Alpharetta Methodist Church grave yard did exist in the spot just outside of, and due North of the church sanctuary.

Mr. Jone's story adds to the authenticity of the story told me many times by my late father, Glen Thomas Morris, that his own grandfather, Charles Wesley Morris, who died within the period 1850 to 1860, details of death unknown and he was buried in this original Alpharetta Methodist Church burial ground. I remember my father pointing out the general area during my childhood, in the 1920's and 1930's, but I thought little of it then. There were a few rocks (field stones) left in the area in my own childhood as I recall. My father said his grandmother, Elizabeth (Kendall) Morris, was buried at Alpharetta City cemetery.

Thus, for the purpose of recording history, it should be noted that a goodly number of Alpharetta's original settlers, and members of the Alpharetta

(3)

Methodist Church, rest under the paved parking lot at this historic Church. No bronze plaques or engraved monuments attest to this hallowed ground, but it is sacred to the memory of so many beloved pioneer settlers, including my Great Grandfather Charles Wesley Morris. A devout Methodist.

My father always told me his Grandmother, Betsey (Kendall) Morris, was buried in the Alpharetta Town Cemetery, in the area of the Oscar James family lot, her daughter, Martha Jane Morris James having married Oscar James, a native of South Carolina.

On numerous occasions, in passing the Alpharetta Methodist Church, my father would point to the exact spot where his grandfather, Charles Wesley Morris, was buried. My brother, Hugh Thomas Morris, can attest to this.

Aubrey D. Morris
6/5/1976

Re-Attested to on this February 3, 2007
Aubrey D. Morris



The burial place Mr. Jones refers to is under the parking lot of the Alpharetta Methodist Church — the 1st. Church cemetery — and it contains the grave of Charles Wesley Morris, a charter member of A. U. M.

9/24/1986

Charles Wesley Morris

The Prudential
Atlanta Realty
Alpharetta Office
Bus. (404) 475-0505
Res. (404) 475-6282
Voice Mail 804-2500 ext. 820

CHARLES E. MORRIS
REALTOR®
Associate Broker
Multi-Million Dollar Club

Charles Wesley Morris' grave
under 1st dedicated (marked)
Space on left, SE corner of Alphabet
Methodist Cemetery, now paved over

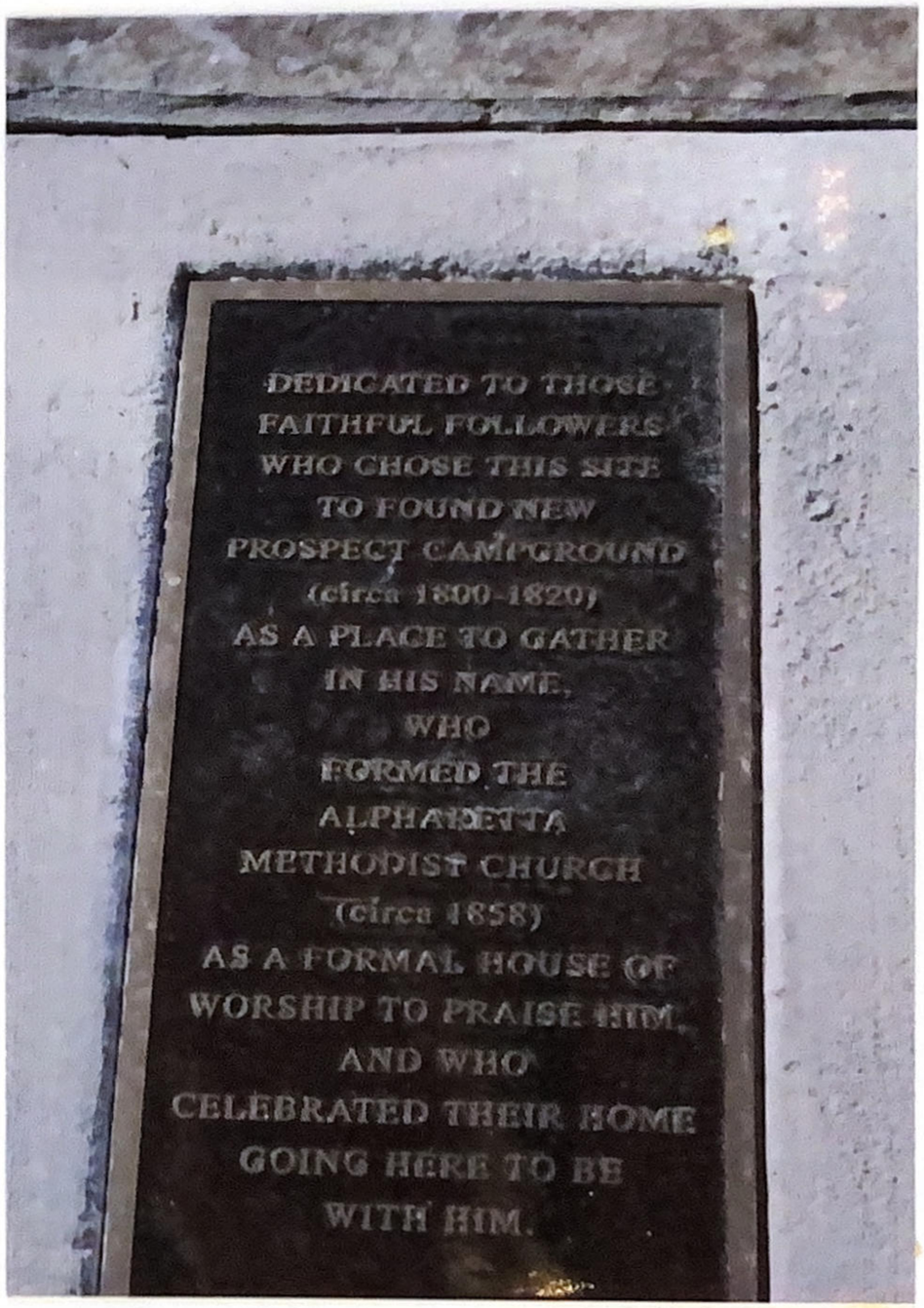






Mrs. Charles Wesley Morris,
Elizabeth (Kendall) Morris, buried
in Alphabet City (Best Hadow) Cemetery.
Her great-great-grandaughter, Rebecca
Harbaugh Fisher, 2007


ALPHARETTA
FIRST UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH


DEDICATED TO THOSE
FAITHFUL FOLLOWERS
WHO CHOSE THIS SITE
TO FOUND NEW
PROSPECT CAMPGROUND
(circa 1800-1820)
AS A PLACE TO GATHER
IN HIS NAME,
WHO
FORMED THE
ALPHARETTA
METHODIST CHURCH
(circa 1858)
AS A FORMAL HOUSE OF
WORSHIP TO PRAISE HIM,
AND WHO
CELEBRATED THEIR HOME
GOING HERE TO BE
WITH HIM.

9/14/1986



CALVIN CRUCE Staff

TRUE ALPHARETTAN: Louie E. Jones, 89, stands by historical marker in front of City Hall. An Alpharetta native, he was the last state senator from old Milton County, which he helped merge into Fulton County in 1932.

Boom becomes explosion

Growth is urbanizing once-rural Alpharetta

By Donna Williams Lewis
Staff Writer

When Billy Hunter moved to Alpharetta in 1932, he and his friends used to ride their bikes to Roswell over a bumpy two-lane dirt road. When Georgia Highway 9 was paved two years later, there was still so little traffic they roller-skated on it to Roswell's movie theater.

But their biggest thrill, Hunter said, came from hanging out the windows of Alpharetta's old bowling alley to watch patrolmen chase bootleggers speeding through the rural town in their Fords.

Even as 1980 rolled around, time had not much changed the little town of modest homes and 3,100 residents. New people had begun to move in, but most people still knew each other. You often could find the mayor and council members taking it easy at the Jolly Chef cafeteria or at Alpha Drugs' soda fountain in City Hall. There were still only two traffic lights.

But change has hit this town like a tornado in the past few years. Winding tree-lined country roads lead to bulldozers turning thousands of former farm acres into millions of square feet of office space and homes costing in the hundreds of thousands.

And such social changes as a liquor-by-the-drink ordinance are on the agenda for the City Council.

"We're looking at a decade in the history of Alpharetta that has been unprecedented in north Fulton County," said Dee West, executive director of the

See ALPHARETTA 4D

North Fulton Chamber of Commerce.

Before 1983, Alpharetta had virtually no major employers. But four major corporations, Siemens, AT&T, Digital Communications Associates and American Honda, have moved corporate or regional headquarters to the city. Numerous other mixed-use projects and a regional shopping mall have opened or are planned.

A $65 million conference center and golf resort is in the works for Alpharetta's Windward development, a 3,400-acre business-residential property of the Mobil Land Development Corp. of Georgia, a subsidiary of Mobil Oil.

Today, there are no hotels in Alpharetta. But no less than five hotels are already on developers' drawing boards.

Yuppies and their parents are moving to the city in droves. Since 1980, at least 32 single-family subdivisions have opened in the city with prices averaging from about $130,000 to $150,000, according to North Fulton Chamber of Commerce calculations. Homes in Windward presently range from $140,000 to $385,000, but "we're saying the sky's the limit" on prices of the homes yet to be built, said a Windward representative, who added that the development is expected to contain 4,000 homes by the end of this century.

Alpharetta's first apartment complex was built in 1982, and now there are either complete or under construction almost 1,500 units of luxury apartments, townhomes and condominiums. Also under construction is the city's first high-rise building for the elderly.

But this is just the beginning of the influx of newcomers. The Atlanta Regional Commission estimates that Alpharetta's population has almost doubled since 1980, and the North Fulton Chamber of Commerce predicts that, by 1993, the city's population will have increased by 770 percent since that time.

"True Alpharettans are going to be in the minority very soon," said city Director of Planning and Community Development Marie Garrett.

That already may be the case.

Louie E. Jones, 89, is the oldest male member of the First United Methodist Church of Alpharetta. He was the last state senator from old Milton County, which he helped merge into Fulton County in 1932.

In those days, Jones knew everyone in church. Now his church has 500 active members, "and I don't know one out of 10," he said.

He operated Alpharetta's only funeral home from 1918 until 1974

Alpharetta

FROM 1D

The burial place Mr. Jones refers to in this newspaper interview is under the parking lot of the Alpharetta Methodist Church-the 1st. church cemetery- and it contains the grave of Charles Wesley Morris, a charter member. A.R.M.

9/24/86

and rarely had to ask the address of anyone who needed his ambulance service.

One graveyard paved over

"Progress," as Jones put it, has changed all that. There has been so much progress, he said, that he advises people who have old family cemeteries to "put a wire fence around it or it's going to be paved over."

Jones said he knows of at least one now under asphalt, but said he feels he would offend people by revealing its location.

Jones said he is "for progress," nonetheless. Like many others in the old Alpharetta community that encircles Main Street, Jones knew that his city would have to grow someday. And most people seem satisfied that the growth has been controlled and high-quality.

Five years ago, city bookkeeper Lonnie Rainwater kept the books and City Clerk Sue Rainwater did just about everything else. There were just a handful of other clerks and employees.

That has changed. In 1982, Ms. Garrett was hired to handle planning and zoning and immediately drew up a whole new set of zoning regulations.

In 1984, a city administrator was hired. Employees have been added to existing and new departments.

A new police station is planned for a department that has seen calls increase from 3,130 in 1981 to 11,736 just in the past two months.

"Most of those have been traffic citations and accident reports," said Alpharetta Police Chief Larry Abernathy, adding that five years ago, the city could go a week without a car accident, but now averages one per day.

What used to be Alpha Drugs and the Alpharetta Library now are gaping holes in City Hall surrounded by plastic and a yellow "Police Line: Do Not Cross" ribbon. They have moved across the street into a new shopping center to make way for the expansion of city offices.

Almost 100 annexations over the past four years have added about 1,100 acres to the city. But those annexations, which Fulton County Commission Chairman Michael Lomax has called "irresponsible" and "sometimes racially motivated," led the County Commission to slap Alpharetta and Roswell with severely restricted access to sewer treatment last spring.

Developers annexing land

Less than 20 people were brought into Alpharetta with the annexations, according to Ms. Garrett, who said they were primarily huge raw tracts of vacant land brought in at the request of developers who wanted all of their property to be within the city limits.

Most of the developers who call Ms. Garrett now are calling long-distance.

ancestry



William Burney Morris
1849–1927

BIRTH 6 JUNE 1849 • Milton, Fulton County, Georgia
DEATH 19 JUNE 1927 • Fulton County, Georgia
father-in-law

Morris Cemetery
Old Morris Rd
1850-1927

Facts

Age 0 – **Birth**
6 June 1849 • Milton, Fulton County, Georgia

Age 11 – **Residence**
1860 • Milton County, Georgia
Residence Post Office: Alpharetta

Age 15 – **Watching Atlanta Burn**
July 1864 • Crossroads School, Atlanta, Georgia
See attached account of Atlanta burning.

Age 24 – **Marriage**
27 Nov 1873 • Milton County, Georgia
Charity Rhoda Jett
(1853–1931)

Age 31 – **Residence**
1880 • Alpharetta, Milton County, Georgia
Marital Status: Married; Relation to Head: Self

Age 51 – **Residence**
1900 • Coxes, Cobb co, Georgia
Marital Status: Married; Relation to Head: Head

Age 61 – **Residence**
1910 • Oak Grove, Fulton County, Georgia
Marital Status: Married; Relation to Head of House: Head

Age 78 – **Death**
19 June 1927 • Fulton County, Georgia

Burial
1927 • Sandy Springs, Fulton County, Georgia

Probate
Aug 1927 • Fulton County, Georgia

Family

Parents

Charles Wesley Morris
1806–1850

Elzabeth Betsy Kendall
1811–1895

Spouse and children

Charity Rhoda Jett
1853–1931

Glen Thomas Morris
1886–1968

Infant Morris

Sources

Ancestry sources

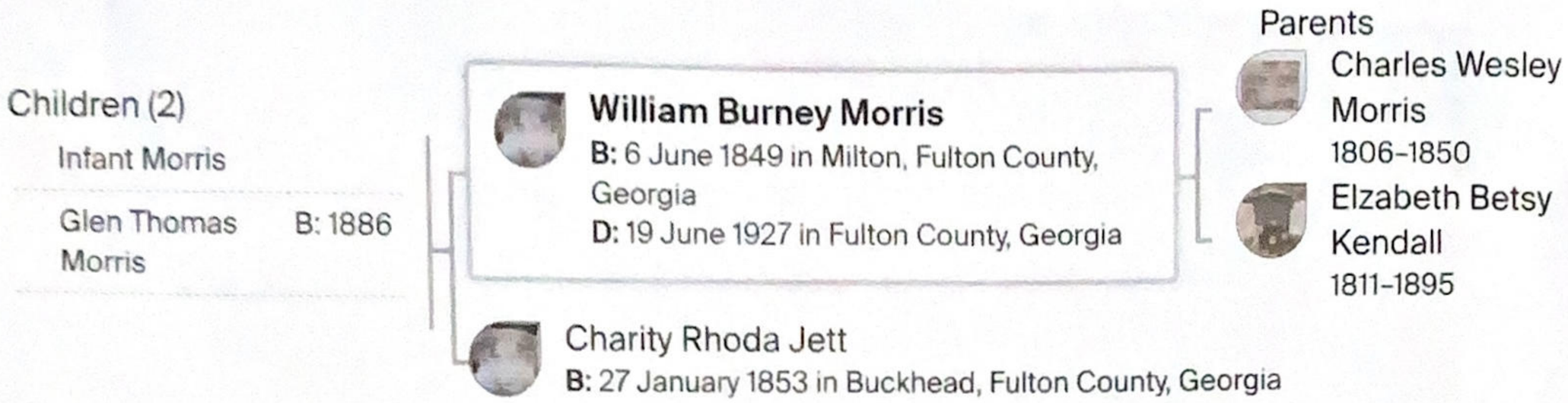
1860 United States Federal Census

1880 United States Federal Census

1900 United States Federal Census

1910 United States Federal Census

Ancestry Family Trees



William Burney Morris

in the U.S., Find a Grave™ Index, 1600s-Current

Detail | Source

Name:	William Burney Morris
Gender:	Male
Birth Date:	6 Jun 1849
Birth Place:	Milton, Fulton County, Georgia, United States of America
Death Date:	19 Jun 1927
Death Place:	Alpharetta, Fulton County, Georgia, United States of America
Cemetery:	Sandy Springs United Methodist Cemetery
Burial or Cremation Place:	Sandy Springs, Fulton County, Georgia, United States of America
Has Bio?:	Y
Mother:	Elizabeth Morris
Spouse:	Charity Rhoda Morris
Children:	Georgia Ann Jordan Infant Morris Alfred C Morris Benjamin F Morris Charles W Morris Luther Burney Morris Allie Elizabeth Burdett Allie Edith Yarbrough James F Morris Grace Davis Glenn Thomas Morris
URL:	https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/53196870/william-burney-morris

Wm Burney Morris
Charity Rhodes Jett

Louie E. Jones, 89, former state senator

Louie E. Jones of Alpharetta, a former state senator and a retired funeral director, died of heart failure Monday at his home. He was 89.

He had experienced heart problems for 12 years before his death, according to a family member.



Jones

The funeral will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Louie E. Jones Funeral Home in Alpharetta with burial at Alpharetta City Cemetery.

Mr. Jones served as senator from old Milton County in the 51st District in 1931-32 and headed the funeral home from 1918 until retiring in 1978.

Louie Eugene Jones was born Aug. 29, 1897 in Milton County, the oldest of four children of M. Harrison Jones, a funeral director, and Mrs. Naomi DeVore Jones.

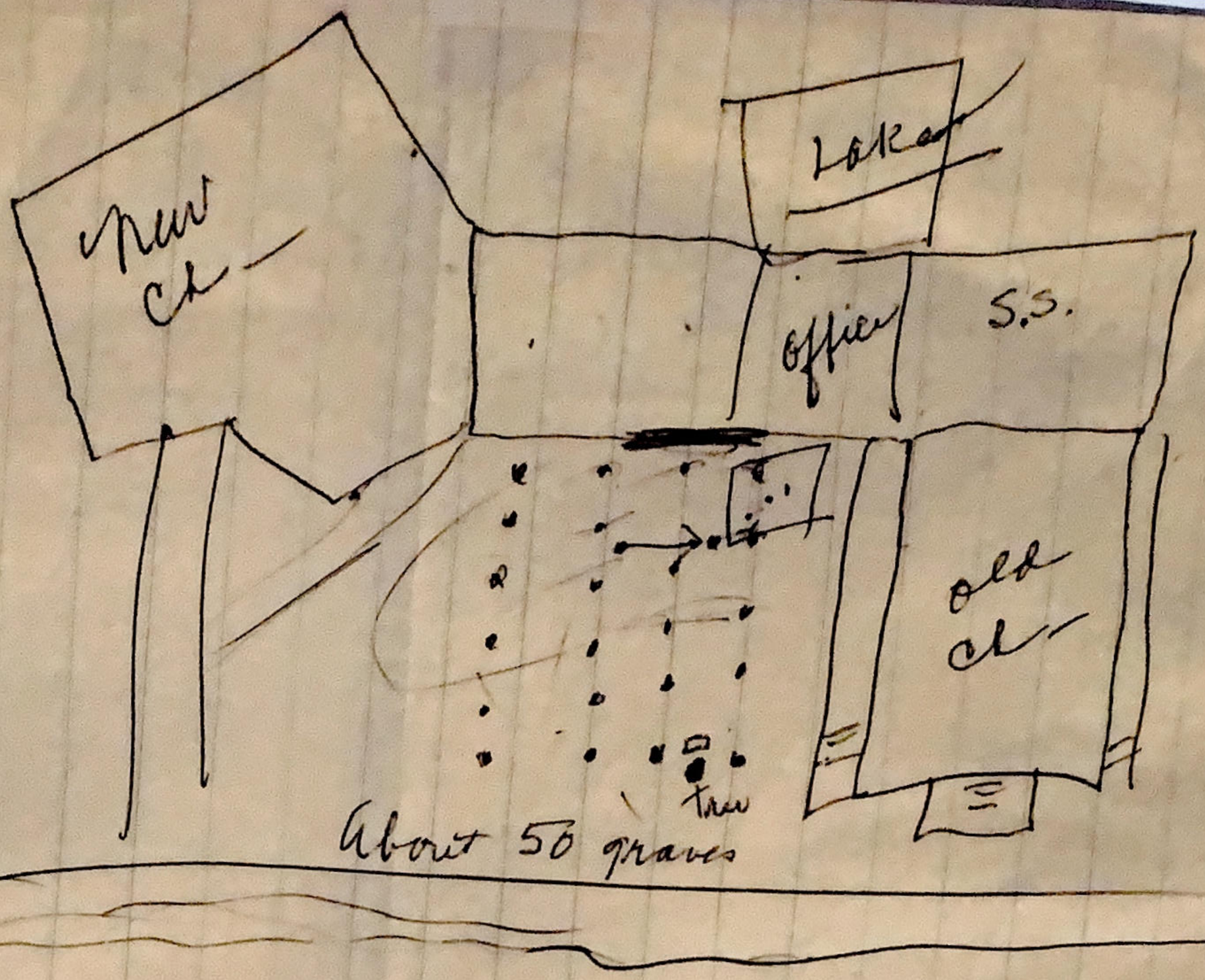
He belonged to the Georgia Funeral Directors Association, National Funeral Directors Association and Associated Funeral Directors, Masons, Shriners ande Alpharetta First United Methodist Church.

Surviving is a sister, Miss F. Marie Jones of Roswell.

He provided me with verbal account of old church Cemetery alongside Alpharetta Methodist church, (now obliterated), where Charles Wesley Morris is buried. A.D.A. 2/10/1987

Aubrey D. Morris

Re-attested February 5, 2009

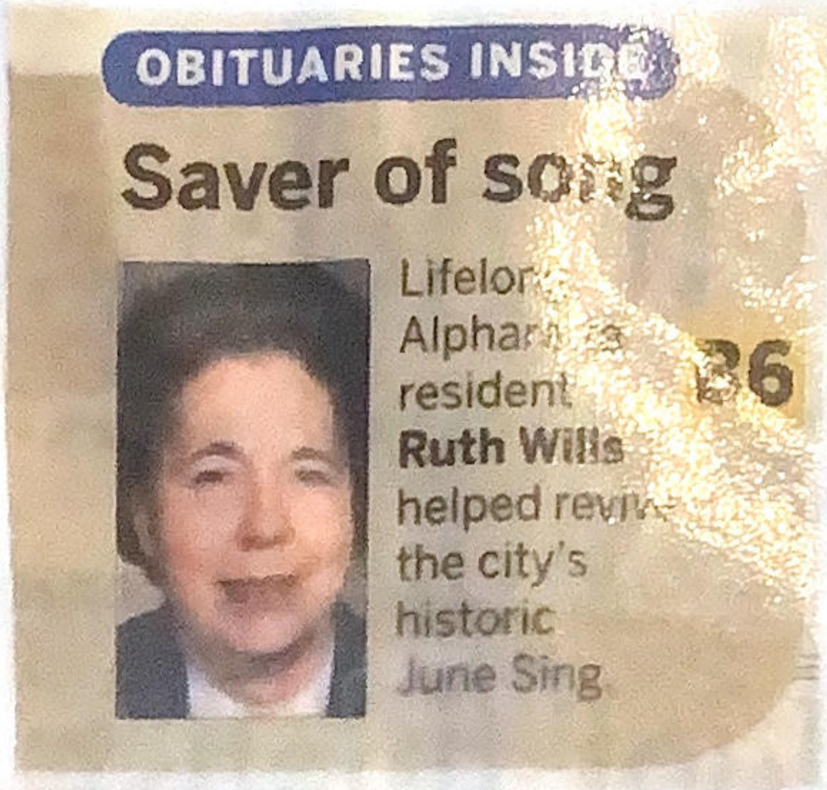


North

Note: This rendition of the original Alpharetta First Methodist Church burial ground was done in my presence by Mrs. Ruth (Spence) Wills, of 1740 Maybird Rd, Alpharetta, Ga. 30201, on Thursday, Oct. 24, 1991. Mrs. Wills has been a lifelong member of this Church, her ancestoral church. She is most anxious to participate in efforts to restore the cemetery to its earlier state, with suitable memorial identification. [illegible] the cemetery, as child and adult, also.

P.S. Mrs. Wills states that there was discussion, at the time of building the "addition" at the rear of the "old church" building, of building a new "sanctuary" centering in the area of the old cemetery, but that so much "objection" occurred from church members (familiar with the burial ground location) that the idea was abandoned.

Pam
Oct. 24, 1991



OBITUARIES

ALPHARETTA

Ruth Wills, supported historic singing event

By KAY POWELL
kpowell@ajc.com

Ruth Wills took on preservation for a song.

The educator had attended the annual June Sing in Alpharetta since she was born.

She was not a shaped note singer but did attend practices at Big Creek Primitive Baptist Church. Shaped note singers use "The Sacred Harp," a hymnal of early tunes collected by two Georgians in the mid-1800s. The June Sing started in 1868.

Mrs. Wills' parents, Bascom Spence and Oma Dodd, met at a sing. "It was really a social event outside, especially for the young people," Mrs. Wills said in a 1998 Atlanta Journal-Constitution article.

June Sing once was the biggest day of the year in Alpharetta, she said. But attendance declined. In 1985, Mrs. Wills was among a group of veteran participants who joined forces with the city's recreation department to revive the event.

"We didn't want to let it die out," Mrs. Wills said. "It used to be the biggest day of the year for Alpharetta. We'd like it to be that way again."

Now named June Singing, it still takes place every year.

The funeral for Ruth Spence Peevy Wills, 86, of Alpharetta, who died of multiple organ failure at North Fulton Regional Hospital on Saturday, is 11 a.m. today at Northside Chapel Funeral Directors.

Since the Sing was held in June, participants used whatever means available to beat the heat. Mrs. Wills said in a 1985 AJC article that one year a shopkeeper was hauled off to jail for opening up on a singing day, which was always on Sunday. At the time, the mayor of Alpharetta was a devout Methodist and strongly disapproved of Sunday commerce.

The shopkeeper's arrest didn't deter the hot crowd. "They simply took the doors down. They needed their drinks and their ice cream. It can get pretty hot here in June," she said.

More of her recollections are shared with Milton High School students and alumni in "Reflections and Recipes," a fund-raising project by the PTA to honor the school's 75th anniversary in 1998.

Mrs. Wills, class of 1937, lived a few miles from her alma mater and every year spoke to social studies classes about old Milton High.

Mrs. Wills, who became a teacher and principal, started college at age 30. It took her 12 years to earn her bachelor's degree because she went to school while working, said her son, Jack Peevy of Alpharetta.

She taught third grade at Hammond Elementary School in Sandy Springs, was principal of the old Hopewell Elementary School in Fulton County and retired as assistant principal of Haynes Bridge Middle School in Alpharetta.

"My mother was strong willed and opinionated," Mr. Peevy said. "She would give advice even when you didn't want to hear it.

"She would point very rudely at strangers and say, 'Tell me who you are.' They would, and she got along very well with them."

As president of the Alpharetta Historical Society, she appealed to the city to save the Walker House, one of the oldest in town, and the Wills House, the Victorian cottage of longtime Alpharetta Mayor Quillie Wills.

Mrs. Wills, who lived in the Crabapple farm house where she was born, bemoaned the loss of Alpharetta's history and appealed for a balance between preservation and development though, her son said, she was more strongly on the side of preservation.

There are no other immediate survivors.

OBITUARIES

Ruth Spence Wills, 86, *teacher, principal*

Mrs. Ruth Spence Peevy Wills, born Oct. 18, 1920, died Feb. 3, 2007, at North Fulton Regional Hospital.

She was preceded in death by her parents Bascom and Oma Spence, a sister Mary Spence Bailey, first husband, Hoye Peevy and second husband Edwin Wills.

She is survived by her son, retired Col. Jack Peevy, U.S. Army of Alpharetta, nephew, John Bailey and his wife Shelia of Athens, various Spence Cousins, and close friend, Kathleen Monroe, from Hopewell Elementary School, of Alpharetta.

She was a lifelong resident of Alpharetta and lived in the farmhouse where she was born in Crabapple. Her family has been in this area since the 1840s.

She was a graduate of Milton High School, attended six different colleges and universities, graduating from North Georgia College with a bachelor's degree in education and Georgia State College with a master's degree in school administration.

She was a telephone switchboard operator in Alpharetta



WILLS

in the 1930s, worked in the Fulton County Tax Office and became secretary to Principal Mary Thompson at Hammond Elementary School in Sandy Springs.

With Mrs. Thompson's encouragement, she took her first college course at age 30. This began a long difficult college career, while she continued to work and keep house. She became a third-grade teacher at Hammond. She was later appointed Principal of Hopewell Elementary School in the north end of Fulton County, and remained there until the school was closed due to lack of students.

She then became an assistant principal at Haynes Bridge Middle School in Alpharetta until her retirement. With the blessing of the Fulton County School Board she had the distinction of being the only classroom teacher in the school system that did not have a bachelor's degree and later, the only school principal without a master's degree. Both of those degrees she obtained late in life.

She had many friends too numerous to list and was well respected in Alpharetta. She was active in the community, her church, helped coordinate the annual June Sing, and enjoyed Republican Party meetings.

She was free with a smile and advice and had a full rewarding life. Funeral services were Feb 5, at Northside Chapel in the funeral home chapel with the Rev. Don Martin officiating. In lieu of flowers the asks that you make donations in her memory to the Alpharetta Tree Program, c/o City of Alpharetta, 2 South Main St., Alpharetta 30004.

FEBRUARY 8, 2007 | 9

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution / ajc.com Sunday, Feb. 4, 2007 / C11

WILLS, Ruth



RUTH SPENCE PEEVY WILLS

Mrs. Ruth Spence Peevy Wills, born Oct. 18, 1920, died February 3, 2007 at North Fulton Regional Hospital. She was preceded in death by her parents Bascom and Oma Spence, a sister Mary Spence Bailey, first husband, Hoye Peevy and second husband Edwin Wills. She is survived by son, Col. Jack Peevy, U.S. Army (Ret.) of Alpharetta, nephew, John Bailey and his wife Shelia of Athens, various Spence Cousins, and close friend, Kathleen Monroe, from Hopewell Elementary School, of Alpharetta. She was a life long resident of Alpharetta and lived in the farmhouse where she was born in Crabapple. Her family has been in this area since the 1840's. She was a graduate of Milton High School, attended six different colleges and universities, graduating from North Georgia College with a Bachelor's Degree in Education and Georgia State College with a Master's Degree in School Administration. She was a telephone switchboard operator in Alpharetta in the 1930's, worked in the Fulton County Tax Office, became secretary to Principal Mary Thompson at Hammond Elementary School in Sandy Springs. With Mrs. Thompson's encouragement, she took her first college course at age 30. This began a long difficult college career, while she continued to work and keep house. She became a 3rd grade teacher at Hammond. She was later appointed Principal of Hopewell Elementary School in the north end of Fulton County, and remained there until the school was closed due to lack of students. She then became an Assistant Principal at Haynes Bridge Middle School in Alpharetta until her retirement. With the blessing of the Fulton County School Board she had the distinction of being the only classroom teacher in the school system that did not have a Bachelor's and later, the only school principal without a Master's. Both of those degrees she obtained late in life. She had many friends too numerous to list and was well respected in Alpharetta. She was active in the community, her church, helped coordinate the annual June Singing, and enjoyed Republican Party meetings. She was free with a smile and advice and had a full rewarding life. Funeral services will be held on Monday, February 5, at 11:00 a.m. in the funeral home chapel. Dr. Don Martin officiating. Interment Green Lawn Cemetery. In lieu of flowers please make donations in her memory to the Alpharetta Tree Program, c/o City of Alpharetta, 2 South Main St., Alpharetta, GA 30004. The family will receive friends on Sunday from 2-4 p.m. at Northside Chapel Funeral Directors, 12050 Crabapple Rd., Roswell, 770-645-1414 (www.northsidechapel.com)

Express condolences at ajc.com/obits

In Memoriam

Alpharetta First United Methodist Church Origin

The late R.D. Manning, member of a pioneer Alpharetta family, gives the date of April 13,1853, stating "There was a Methodist organization in what is now Alpharetta , Georgia before there was an Alpharetta. It was called New Prospect Camp Ground". (From:VIEWS ON THE ORIGIN AND HISTORY OF ALPHARETTA,Seventh Grade Social Studies Project,1975.Copyright,1975 by Jerry C. Crowe,Canton,Georgia.He was the teacher).

The late Mrs. P.L. (Mary) Elkins, also a longtime member, in a "History" of the church, lists the starting date of the New Prospect Methodist Camp Ground as November 11,1858.

The first recorded record shows the first pastoral assignment for "Alpharetta" Church, in the Atlanta District, was for 1861. The minister was Daniel Kelsey.(Minutes of the Georgia Annual Conference, held at Augusta,Ga. Nov.28-Dec.6,1860; Bishop Pierce, President. Printed by Macon Telegraph Steam Power Press,1861).NOTE: This same Minutes book also lists the successors to Rev. Kelsey, running through the 1867 appointment.

Some important information on early Presiding Elders, who were spreading the word for the Methodist Church throughout the Cherokee Indian territory of Georgia, comes from the book "History of Methodism in Georgia and Florida, From 1785 to 1865", by George G. Smith, Jr., of North Georgia Conference, published at Macon,Ga. by John W. Burke & Co., 1877. Emory University Library.

> The author states that Cherokee Indians in this area "gladly received the missionaries sent to them."

This same valuable book reveals the following:
The Methodist Conference which met in Columbia, South Carolina on January 30, 1830, was"the last session in which Georgia received her (ministerial) appointments from the South Carolina Conference."
The first Georgia Conference met in Macon, Jan.5,1831.
The new Cherokee District, with Isaac Boring as its Presiding Elder, was laid out in 1834. This would have included the present-day Alpharetta area of the old Cherokee Indian territory. The Cherokee District swept entirely across the Northern part of the State, beginning at Clarkesville and ending at Vann's Valley, all the way from the Savannah to the Coosa Rivers and from Henry County to the Blue Ridge." (Boring had a long, illustrous history of spreading the Methodist faith in South Carolina, Florida and Georgia.) He continued in the Cherokee District as Presiding Elder til 1837; was succeeded by John Walker Glenn, 1838-41. Glenn began his itinerant ministry at the Georgia Conference held at Macon,Ga. Jan.13,1836. He was known as a "traveling preacher"and remained as Presiding Elder of the Cherokee District through 1841. He was succeeded by William Justice Parks as Presiding Elder, Cherokee District, beginning in 1842. At the Annual Conference, held January 18,1843 in Savannah, W.J. Parks was president pro tem. At that Conference Parks "was made the Special Agent of the Conference to see after its unsettled business in various parts of the State."
Chronologically, it is logical to conclude that the seeds of Methodism were sown in the present-day Alpharetta area, as missionary work under these presiding elders, who held meetings in private homes or brush arbors. The Marietta and Cumming Circuits had their beginnings under Presiding Elder John W. Glenn, in 1834 and 1835 respectively. The Marietta Mission included all of Cobb, a part of Cherokee and a part of Forsyth counties. Methodist Pastor Russell W. Johnson was assigned to the Marietta Mission and reported in 1839 a total of 395 "members in the new mission", the territory of which is described above.

(more)

Since the Roswell United Methodist Church(Mount Carmel Methodist Church), lists its beginning in 1836, it is logical to conclude that Methodists in the country to the North (present-day Alpharetta) would, by the early 1840's, be holding meetings at what was to become known as New Prospect Methodist Camp Ground.

#####

Charles Wesley Morris, born 1810 and died ca 1858, a charter member of the Alpharetta Methodist Church, is one of the early members buried in the original church cemetery. The original burial ground had been abandoned, however, long before the death of his wife, Elizabeth(Kendall) Morris, born Feb.25,1811, died May 7,1895. She was among those early burials at the Alpharetta City Cemetery, where she has a monument.
Charles Wesley Morris and wife, Elizabeth (Kendall)Morris, settled on Land Lot 1177 of originally Cherokee, later Milton, now Fulton County), in 1844, he having drawn the lot in the 1832 Cherokee Gold(Land) Lottery. This couple was married on September 9,1829 in Fayette County,Georgia. (SOURCE:Cherokee and Milton County court records.Personal knowledge of the late Glenn Thomas Morris, grandson of Charles Wesley Morris and father of the writer of this narration, Aubrey Richard Morris. He frequently pointed out the grave of his grandfather, Charles Wesley Morris, near one of the two cedar trees just North of the "old" church building, during the years 1930-1950): Hugh Thomas Morris, Alpharetta, also attests to this.

Charles Wesley Morris, one of the charter members buried in the original burial ground,had three brothers and numerous nephews who became Methodist ministers. The Morris brothers were early members of Mount Zion Methodist Church and Camp Ground, near present-day Griffin,Georgia, a church which was organized by The Rev. John Hunter at the home of their grandfather, Isaac Kendall, in 1824.(SOURCE: Letter by Rev. Jonathan Morris, Methodist minister, to his nephew, Rev. James Varnell McHaffey Morris, Methodist minister, from Lincoln, Placer County, California, on December 14,1884. Copy in possession of Aubrey R. Morris, Alpharetta,Ga., 1992).

Charles Wesley Morris, above-mentioned as buried in the original church cemetery of Alpharetta, thus brought a solid Methodist tradition when he settled in then-Cherokee county in 1844. As a charter member, he would have had to become involved in starting New Prospect Camp Ground during the period 1844-1858.

Continued research is needed in South Carolina and Georgia Methodist Church records,with the possibility of pinpointing the exact date.

Aubrey R. Morris
2980 Francis Road
Alpharetta,Georgia 30201
(404) 442-3659

Aubrey R. Morris

SECOND INTERVIEW WITH LOUIE E. JONES , OF ALPHARETTA,GEORGIA
CONCERNING ORIGINAL BURIAL GROUND AT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 11/8/1984

P.S.: On November 8,1984, I carried a tape recorder to the Louie Jones Funeral Home, at Alpharetta,Georgia, alongside the Methodist Church, and there recorded a conversation with Mr. Louie Jones on the topic of the original cemetery of the Alpharetta Methodist Church. In this recorded interview, which I still have in my possession, Mr. Jones told virtually the same story.He had joined the church in 1908- a "one room (church) house,with wooden stove,with rods across to hold the building together and curtains were put over these rods to provide for Sunday School rooms before they had church". He recalled that the original name of the church was "Prospect". In this interview, Mr. Jones remembered the "LOTT" family burial area in the original cemetery. In this interview, Mr. Jones stated the "grave yard was between the "old sanctuary and the new sanctuary now"...tnat the "stones gotaway" and they've "asphalted the area as a parking lot." Mr. Jones, in this subsequent interview, said there were"40 or 50 graves or more when I was a boy." Mr. Jones says he "knew the Lotts very well because I knew where they lived."Mr. Jones said at this time that "as far as he remembered they built the first wooden building in 1871"...and "we lived in that old wooden building til 1931." Quoting him further: "People parked their mules and wagons...run over those stones and finally all got out, you know..they parked all around the old church..one grave marker would git gone...another be gone, you know...finally got down to one...It was a LOTT.I remember that very well. It got gone.That's the last one I remember.They paved it all over as a parking lot, now.It was 40--maybe 50 people buried there..sacred place...between the old church and the new church.. There were two cedar trees there.When theybuilt the North wing of the old sanctuary, they cut down one of those trees.They left the one that's standing now."

Aubrey R. Morris
2980 Francis Road
Alpharetta,Georgia 30201
(404) 442-3659

NOTE: I have the original audio cassette of this interview with Mr. Louie Jones in my personal possession. This 25 January,1992. A.R.M.

Wednesday, August 28,1991

On this date, my first cousin Charles Morris and I paid a visit at 10 a.m. to The Rev. Joe Bowen, new Pastor of Alpharetta First United Methodist Church. We talked for about one-half hour, with Charles Morris and myself explaining to him that the descendants of William Burney Morris and Charity Rhoda (Jett) Morris recently voted unanimously to request the Alpharetta First United Methodist Church to provide a Memorial setting at the old church cemetery, now paved over with asphalt. We pointed out that Charles Wesley Morris, our great-grandfather, lies buried in the old cemetery.

I also gave The Rev. Mr. Bowen a copy of the memos on the two interviews I had done with the late Louie E. Jones, in which Mr. Jones discussed in some detail the size of the cemetery,,where it is located, and circumstances involved.

The Rev. Bowen seemed quite receptive. He said he would take the matter up with the proper members of the governing body of the church. The matter was left at that. Charles Morris and I decided that we should record that this meeting took place and the substance of the conversation with Rev. Bowen. The minister, indidentally, seemed to have a sense of the historic and religious-moral questions involved in the church taking steps to restore the burial ground to its sacred honor.

Aubrey R. Morris

SHIRLEY ANNE VICK
3061 SLATON DRIVE, N.W. / ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30305 / (404) 233-6818

Shirley L. Vick, D.D.S.

14 May 1991

Mr. Jim Toler
2600 Burgess Road
Alpharetta, GA 30201

5300 Penn Royal Lane
Alpharetta, Ga
(770) 753-9603

Dear Mr. Toler:

Your name was given to me by Dr. Nat Long as the chairman of the building committee of the Alpharetta Methodist Church and he suggested that I contact you regarding the following. I will certainly appreciate your consideration.

My great-great-grandfather, Charles Wesley Morris is reported to be buried in the church yard of your church in the area which was paved over some years ago. My cousin, Aubrey Morris, tells me that there has been some discussion of removing the asphalt from that section and dedicating that area to the memory of the original founders of the church, one of which my ancestor is purported to be. Dr. Long told me that he was not aware of such a plan but perhaps you could help us. We are very interested in such a project in almost any form that it would take in order that the graves which are buried would be uncovered.

I will be out of the country from May 21 to June 11, but would very much like to hear from you if there is anything the family can do to encourage something along those lines.

Thank you so much for your kind attention to this letter. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Shirley Anne Vick

cc: Dr. Nat Long
Rev. Joseph Bowen
Mr. Aubrey Morris

← Aubrey - this is the successor to Nat Long.

Alpharetta First United Methodist Church
69 N. Main St.
475-5516

Mary Ann Manzell

Phone:475-8374

Jan. 9,1989

AUBREY R. MORRIS TO ADDRESS
OLD MILTON HISTORICAL GROUP
AT MEETING ON JANUARY 19 TH.

Aubrey R. Morris, WSB Radio Editorial Director and a Milton County native,will help launch the Old Milton County Historical Society's new year. Morris, a 1940 graduate of Milton High School,Alpharetta,will be the featured speaker at the Society's meeting, at 7:30 p.m.,Thursday,January 19th. at the Alpharetta Health Center.

The subject of this hard-hitting journalist's speech will be:"Milton County-Much More Than a Myth." (Milton County,with the county seat at Alpharetta,was formed by the Georgia Legislature from portions of Cherokee, Cobb and Forsyth counties and came into being on December 18,1857. After 75 illustrous years,Milton was merged (annexed) to Fulton county on January 1,1932,with approval of the General Assembly).

Talk of "un-annexing", some serious, some facetious, was been a re-occurring topic during recent years, as the Metropolitan Atlanta growth continues its Northward explosion.

Morris, a native of Roswell, was born in the Crossville District of Old Milton County and first attended Midway School,located midway between Roswell and Alpharetta, on Highway 9, where the old "Midway Oak" still stands. He and Mrs. Morris reside on Francis Rd., in Alpharetta.He began his long career in journalism as Roswell/Alpharetta correspondent for the Atlanta newspapers and wrote for weekly newspapers in the area before attending the University of Georgia.

Mary Ann Manzell,Program Chairman,invites all old, and prospective new, members to attend the January 19th. meeting.

####



Mr. Aubrey Morris
2980 Francis Road
Alpharetta, Georgia 30201

25 January 1992

Dear Mr. Morris,

In response to our conversations regarding the proposed memorial to be located at the First Methodist Church in Alpharetta, my contribution to your data bank is very brief but none-the-less meaningful since I've been a member of that church since I was a child, and indeed my ancestors' connection with same date back to the early nineteenth century. One of my ancestors on my mother's side gave the land to be used by the Methodist Church...the same land upon which the First Methodist Church is located today; as you and I discussed, it was probably Isham Teasley who is buried at the Maxwell Cemetary in Alpharetta.

As I grew up, and attended Sunday school and church there, there were two cedar trees located where the parking lot is now, and between these trees there were two stones...one head stone and one foot stone (as I recall) and although I don't remember hearing who was buried in that exact spot, I grew up hearing that there were Indians buried in that area. It was through your revelations to me that I learned also that there were Teasleys and Morrises buried there. During the pastorship of Donald Gray, it was decided that the church needed more room and at that time a building project was begun (that is not finished to this day) and the parking lot was paved.

I don't recall that there was any discussion

-over-

regarding the disposition of the unmarked graves that were to be paved-over, but I do remember many members were upset over the project. I was, of course, a good bit younger at the time and can't supply you with any details, but I clearly remember that my mother and her sisters were quite upset (as well as the other members of my family) at what was taking place in regard to the graves. I don't recall anyone looking into the possibility of perhaps relocating the remains to another location, either...the entire area was simply paved over.

I hope that my very small contribution will be of some help to the noble cause you are undertaking.

If I can be of further help, please don't hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,

Nan Harman-Dempsey

118 Canton Street
Alpharetta, Georgia 30201
475-5277

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

JOE B. BOWEN, JR.
Senior Minister

DAVID E. TINSLEY
Associate Minister

BRANNON L. ROBERTS
Minister of Music

MARY ANN GILBERT
Minister of Program

STEVEN D. CASH
Minister to Youth

May 7, 1997

Mrs. Simi Long
301 Black Kettle Lane
Alpharetta GA 30202

Dear Simi,

I met with members of the Morris family on April 24. They wanted to be reassured that in the change of pastors that the church's commitment of a Founder's Garden as a part of Phase II of our Administrative and Educational Building would not be lost in the transition of leadership.

I assured them that this Garden was something to which this church was firmly committed and enthusiastic and that it would be put in the needs package at the outset of planning Phase II.

I also told them that when the time comes to build, we will invite them to be a part of this project through their financial gifts. They assured me they would "do their part."

Thank you for holding this opportunity to link past and present to the future and honor and remember the founders of this community and church before us. This promises to be an exciting and beautiful spot.

Joy and Peace,

Joe B. Bowen, Jr.,
Senior Minister

JBB:pr

copies:
Wes Jennings, Trustees
Ruth Wills - 3 copies for the Morris family

September 25, 20006

On this date, I, Aubrey R. Morris, personally went with Mr. Howard Gardner, of Ellijay, Ga., to the Alpharetta First Methodist Church where Mr. Gardner pointed out to me two specific areas in front of the church which he remembers, as a boy and til this day, as the area where graves were located. One was the area to the Southeast corner of the paved-over parking lot, where a cedar tree was recently moved, and the other was the Northern area of the same parking lot, which he said was South of the Bagley House, directly in front of the present-day newest sanctuary of the church.

Mr. Gardner, shortly afternoon on this same day, Sept. 25, 2006, came to my house at 2980 Francis Road, Alpharetta, Ga.

Mr. Bagley then went into detail his remembrances of the burial ground of the Alpharetta Methodist Church.

He said that he was born and raised within a short distance of the Alpharetta Methodist Church. His parents were Mr. and Mrs. Sherman Gardner.

After being baptized as an infant in the church, Mr. Gardner said he became a confirmed member of the same church as a youth around 10 to 12 years old and remembered attending Bible School in the basement of the old church, which he said also was the place where various church meetings and gatherings were held. While attending Bible School, he remembers he and other children playing around the two cedar trees marking one grave, which he said had a "marker." And there were "three other graves with rock headstones located in the area between the grave between the two cedar trees and the main street running in front of the church.."

While a student at Alpharetta Elementary School, Mr. Howard Gardner remembered, he used to "cut through" the church yard to the home of his aunt, "Nanny" Gardner and her sister, where he did after-school chores. Because of his "church upbringing," he emphasized, he "knew not to disturb" the graves in the church cemetery, located in the church yard to the North side of the church building, which is now the old sanctuary.

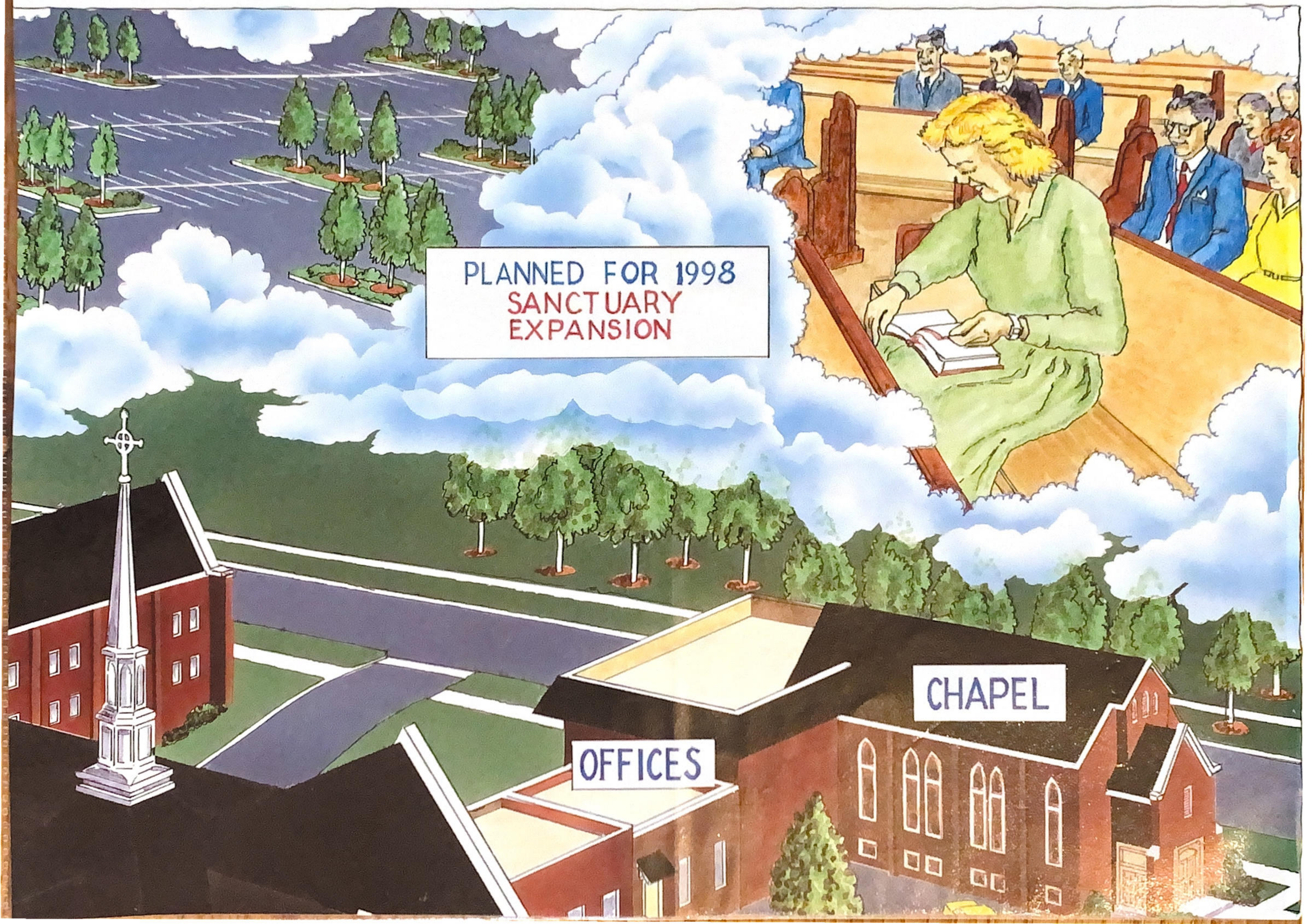
Mr. Gardner distinctly recalled that additional graves within the bounds of the church cemetery, all marked with fieldstones, were located in the area between the Bagley House and the center of the present-day paved-over area of the cemetery. He recalled that there were "20 to 30" such graves and all were in "bad shape"…that the cemetery was surrounded by 13-inch hog wire and that the fence had been long-neglected and the burial area within the fence very badly cared for." The area within the hog wire fence holding the "20 to 30" graves was "30 by 40 feet or larger," he then emphasized, adding that the fence, being hog wire, was not very tall, and that, with the passage of time and though neglect, the fence was also partially-imbedded in the soil. He doesn't remember "when the fence around the cemetery was taken down.

Mr. Howard Gardner recalled that he remained a member of Alpharetta Methodist Church for about 50 years. He was very proud of having served on the church's board of governors, (trustees,) "for at least two terms of three years each."

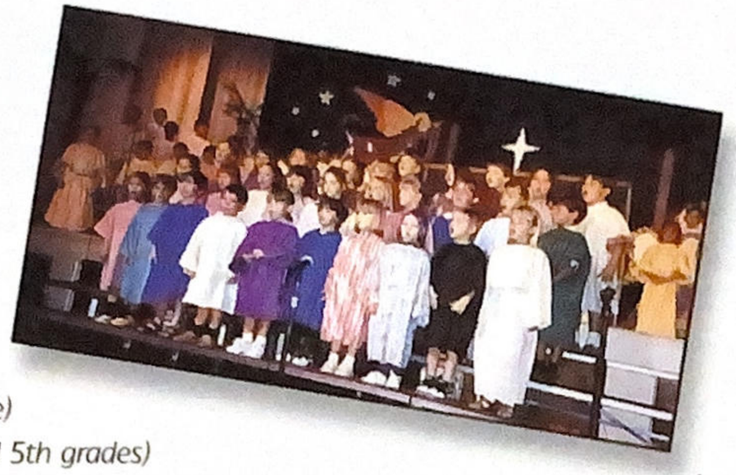
When he moved to Ellijay, Ga. , following his retirement, he became a member of the Ellijay First Methodist Church, he added.

Mr. Gardner proudly recalled various church, civic and charitable organizations he has always served on a volunteer basis, both in his home town of Alpharetta and in his current home town of Ellijay.

Aubrey R. Morris
9/25/2006

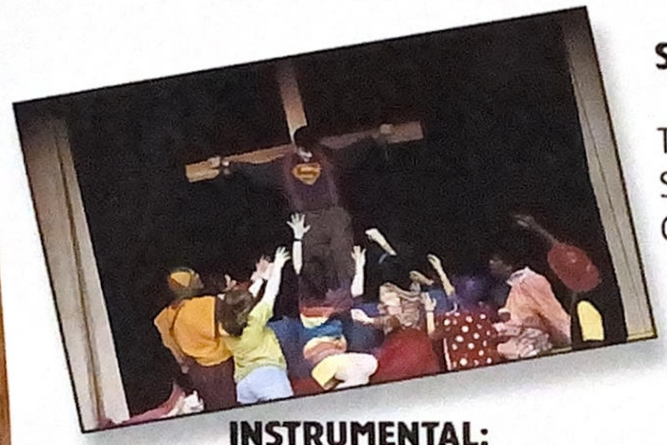

PLANNED FOR 1998
SANCTUARY
EXPANSION
OFFICES
CHAPEL

Music - Youth and Children



VOCAL CHOIRS:

Creation Choir *(2 year olds)*
Cherub Choir *(3 year olds)*
Sonshine Choir *(4 year olds)*
Melody Choir *(Kindergarten)*
Carol Choir *(1st grade)*
Rise 'n' Shine *(2nd grade)*
Celebration Choir *(3rd grade)*
All God's Children *(4th and 5th grades)*
Exodus Choir *(6th through 8th grades)*
Genesis Choir *(9th through 12th grades)*



SPECIAL EVENTS:

Traditional Nativity Pageant
Special Musicals
Children's All Music Sunday

INSTRUMENTAL:

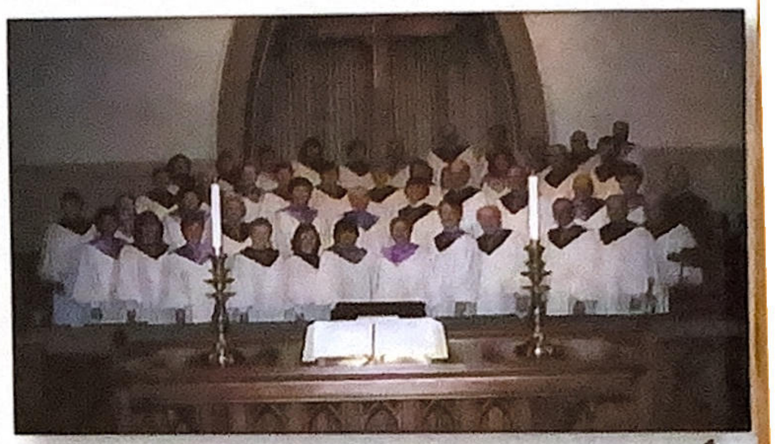
Alpha Ringers – Handbells *(6th through 8th grades)*
Wesley Ringers – Handbells *(9th through 12th grades)*
Orff Ensemble – Percussive *(4th grade and up)*

Ann Hudson, Children's Choir Coordinator
Kathy Hackett, Interim Senior High Director

Music - Adults

The Music Department is one of the largest and most active programs in the church. If you have a "song in your heart", enjoy the fellowship of other musicians, and want to share your faith through music, there is a place waiting for you in our program. No matter what your age or ability level, if you want to "make a joyful noise", come join the musical family at Alpharetta First United Methodist Church!

VOCAL CHOIRS:



The Chancel Choir
Jubilations Choir
(Senior Adults)
Grace Notes
(Women's Choir)
Sweet Spirit Singers
(Women's Ensemble)
The Chamber Singers
Under New Management
(Young Adult Contemporary Ensemble)



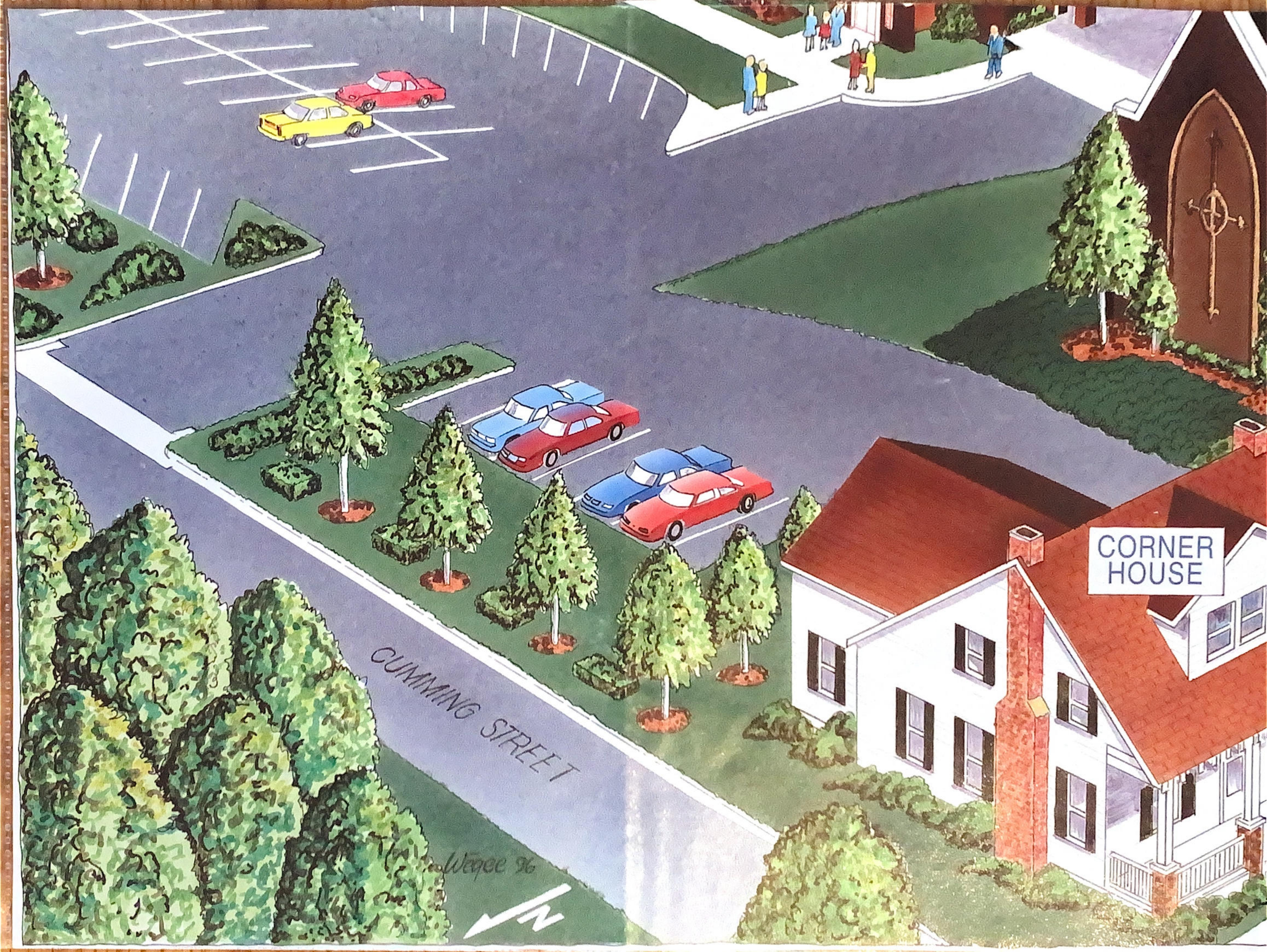
SPECIAL EVENTS:

Exciting Christmas Music
Valentine Dance
Spring Concert
Glorious Easter Music

INSTRUMENTAL:

The Band
The Adult Handbell Choir
Instrumental Ensembles

Brannon L. Roberts, Director of Music Ministries
Marie Pettet, C.A.G.O., Organist • Allen Baston, Organist


CUMMING STREET
CORNER HOUSE

Opportunities For Adults at Alpharetta First UMC

Share God's love in a fun-filled way! These ministries reach out to people both in our church and the community.

Small groups offer adults of all ages opportunities to meet new friends and grow in Christian faith.

Adult Sunday School Classes
9:40 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Bible Study
For men and women

Couples' Clubs
Informal supper clubs

United Methodist Women

United Methodist Men

Disciple Bible Study

First Place
A Christ Centered Health Program

Adult Literacy

Cancer Support Group

Newcomers Classes

Stephen Ministry
One-on-one Christian caregiving for times of crisis

54 & More
Fellowship for senior adults including monthly lunch programs, card games, exercise classes, travel, and music

Wednesday Night Suppers
Fun, food, and fellowship followed by inspirational programs or classes

Alpharetta Counseling Center (co-sponsored with Georgia Association for Pastoral Counseling) Counseling for individuals, families, and groups offering healing and hope. Call for Rev. Mary Amos or Rev. Brice Graves at (404) 636-1457











United Methodist Women

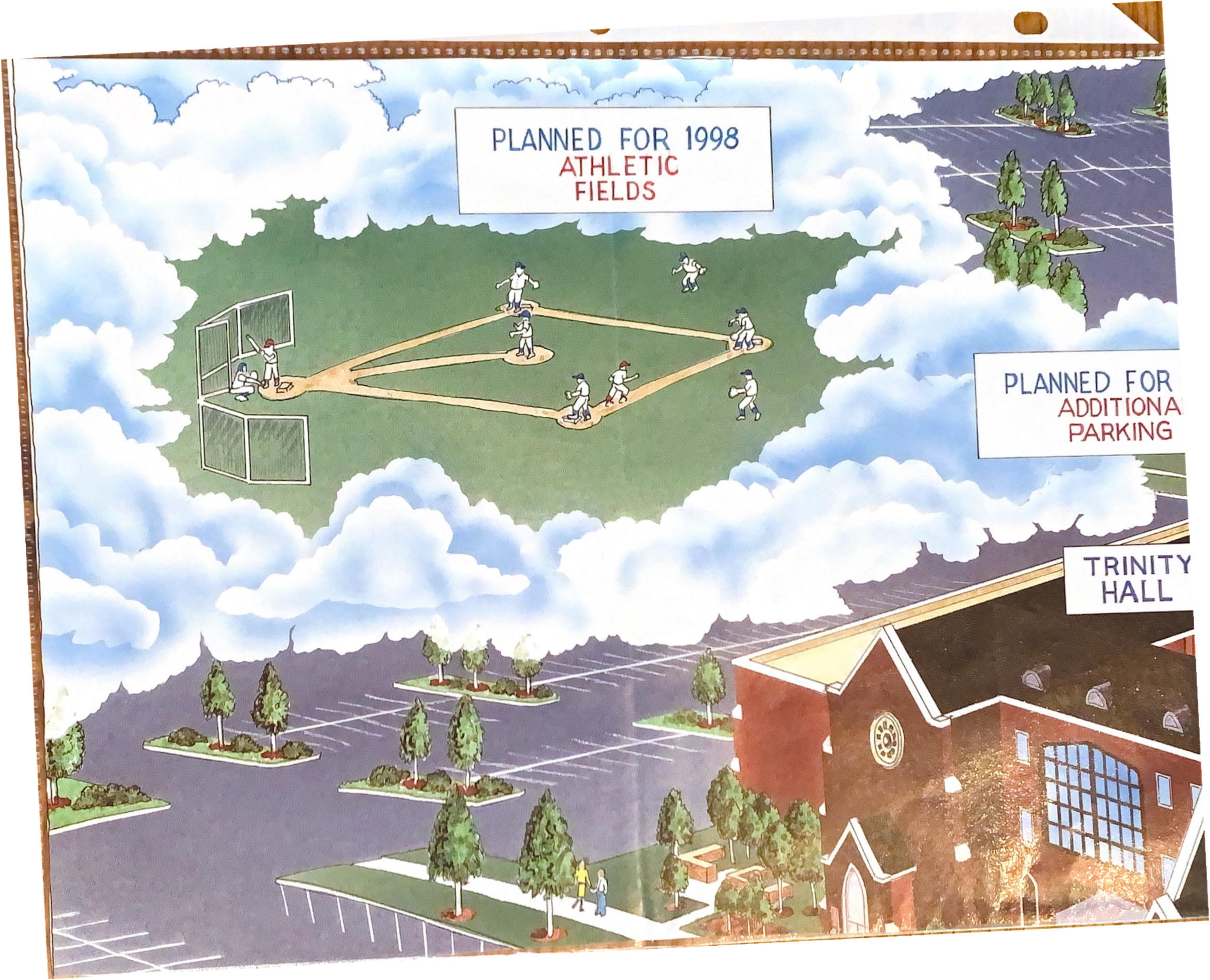
RECREATION:
Basketball, Indoor Soccer, and Roller Hockey Sports Clinics
Co-Ed Softball, Volleyball, and Soccer
Men's Basketball
Bowling, Walking, Jazzercize
Youth Aerobics
Basketball, Tennis, and Golf Tournaments
T-Ball and Baseball

CLASSES:
Cooking
Arts and Crafts
Flyfishing and Flytying
Rock Collecting
Dance and Drama
Self-Defense
CPR and First Aid
Music Reading and Guitar Lessons
Storytelling
Photography
Landscaping

FAMILY MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES:
Flyfishing Trips
Rock Collecting Trip
Church Picnic - Field Day
Kite Day
Family Game - Card Night
Easter Egg Hunt
Seasonal Activities
Canoeing and Whitewater Trips
Braves Game
Family Talent Show
Family Camping
Bike Trip

Mary Ann Gilbert, Senior Program Director
(770) 475-5576

Kim Morris, Coordinator of Activities
(770) 475-5576


PLANNED FOR 1998
ATHLETIC
FIELDS
PLANNED FOR
ADDITIONA
PARKING
TRINITY
HALL

Opportunities For Children and Youth at Alpharetta First UMC

Ours is a faith community that surrounds your child from the moment of birth with Christian love, care, nurture, and hope.

Children's Sermons & Children's Church
At each Sunday morning worship service; Ages 3 through First Grade



Children's Sunday School Classes

Nurseries (birth through 36 months)
For all Sunday morning services and classes



Vacation Bible School

Mother's Morning Out
Gail Stephens & Holly Wells, Directors –
(770) 475-2170



Preschool
Beth Ebert, Director –
(770) 410-9324

Parenting Classes

Summer Safari
Field Trips for Kindergarten through Fifth Grade



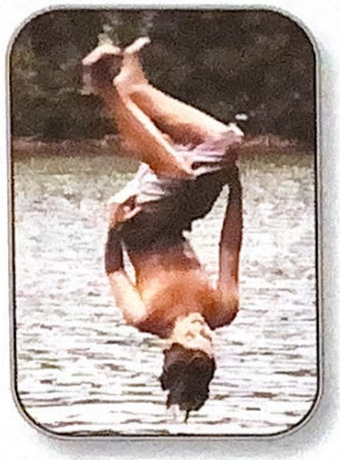
Summer Camp

Rainbows for All God's Children
A grief support program for children of divorced parents



Kim Williams, Director of Children's Programs
(770) 475-5576

Sunday School Classes for Youth



Disciple Bible Study

Anchor Bible Study Groups
Middle and High School groups share their lives

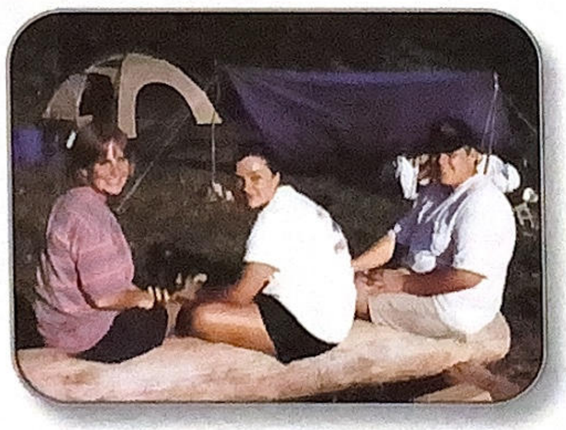




Sunday Night Youth Fellowship
Make friends, have fun, and enjoy activities!

Trinity Soup Kitchen
Feed Atlanta's homeless

Alpharetta GAP
(community service)
Helping people who can't help themselves



Retreats!
Camping!
Youth Camp!
Lock-Ins!
Concerts!
Extra Point!
(after football games)

Steven Cash, Director of Youth Ministry
(770) 475-5576

It is our hope that through our programs, Bible Studies, service projects, retreats, and special events, each youth will be faithfully committed to Jesus Christ and experience spiritual growth!

Opportunities for Children and Youth at Alpharetta First UMC

Ours is a faith community that surrounds your child from the moment of birth with Christian love, care, nurture, and hope.

Children's Sermons & Children's Church
At each Sunday morning worship service. Ages 4 through First Grade



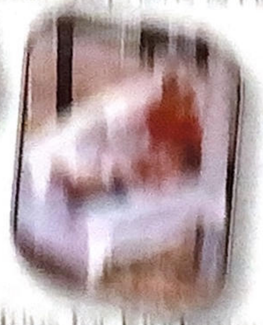
Children's Sunday School Classes
Nurseries (birth through 3K months)
For all Sunday morning worship and classes

Vacation Bible School

Mother's Morning Out
Neil Stephens Bribby Wells Director
(770) 475-3150







Preschool
Beth Elliott Director
(770) 475-3434

Parenting Classes

Summer Safari
Field trips for Kindergarten through Fifth Grade

Summer Camp

Neighbors for All God's Children
A mid-week support program for children of divorced parents



Kim Williams, Director of Children's Programs
(770) 475-3434

Sunday School Classes for Youth

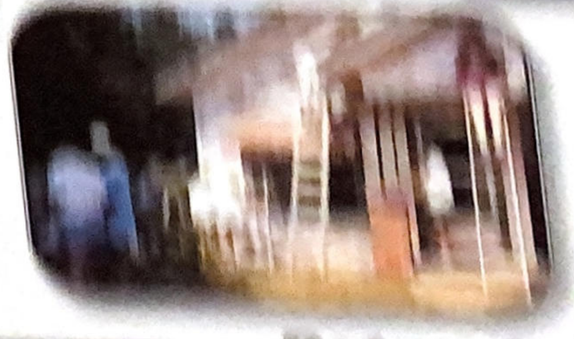


Disciple Bible Study

Sunday Night Youth Fellowship
Make friends, have fun, and apply to faith



Anchor Bible Study Groups
Middle and High School groups share their lives





It is our hope that through

NORTH MAIN STREET

DOWNTOWN ALPHARETTA

N

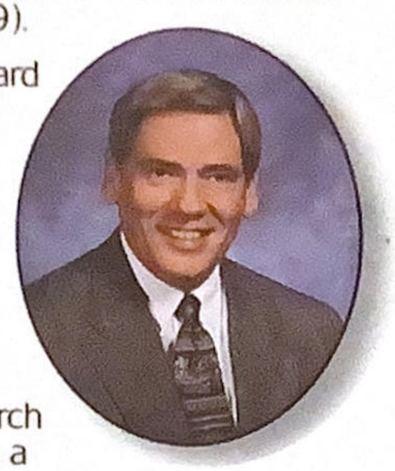
ALPHARETTA FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Ministerial Staff

Dr. Harvey West, Senior Pastor • Rev. David Tinsley, Associate Pastor
Rev. Bob Infinger, Minister of Administration

Are you a Eutychus?

Eutychus was the first church dropout. He got so bored with a sermon that he dozed off and fell out of a third story window (Acts 20:9).



At Alpharetta First United Methodist Church, we work hard to prevent the "Eutychus Syndrome". Our services of worship are lively and celebrative; our fellowship is warm and friendly; our classes and nurture events are informative and inspirational; and our ministries of outreach are Christ-inspired and purposeful.

The truth is that Alpharetta First United Methodist Church has a long and significant history of ministry and service to the people of the Alpharetta community. Established on the present church site in 1871, the church has grown from only a handful of founding members to a congregation which today numbers some 2600 people and *continues* to grow.

Because such rapid growth always carries with it the danger of persons feeling swallowed up in the bigness of it all, we work hard in a number of ways at AFUMC to remain a caring community in which people feel loved and that they *matter* as individuals created by God. We also work diligently, as the church progressively increases in size, to correspondingly increase our programs of ministry and service that we might continue making a substantial impact upon the spiritual life of the North Fulton area.

What all of this means is that the Alpharetta First United Methodist Church is a vital, growing, ministering, and caring congregation. We want to invite **you** to come and share the experience with us.

My fervent prayer for the future of Alpharetta First UMC is that, as our church family continues to grow, we will be so open to the direction of God's spirit and so enamored with genuine love for one another that God might use us in magnificent ways to accomplish his purposes for our community and world.

Come and join us in the journey!

Joy and Peace,

Harvey West

Harvey West
Senior Pastor

ALPHARETTA
First United Methodist Church



Building God's Future ... ... Today!

69 North Main Street • Alpharetta, Georgia 30004
(770) 475-5576

April 22, 1997
3:45 p.m.

At 1:30 p.m., this date, I, along with Charles Morris, Mrs. Ruth Wills and George Jones held a meeting with The Rev. Joe Bowen, pastor of Alpharetta First United Methodist Church. This meeting was arranged by Mrs. Wills, a member of the church.

Charles Morris, my cousin, and I met Ruth at the church. On arrival, she invited George Jones, a longtime member of the church, who was on hand, being a church member, and Mrs. Wills asked George to join us for the scheduled meeting with Rev. Bowen.

Mrs. Wills opened by telling Rev. Bowen that we had requested the meeting to learn the current status of plans to restore the integrity of the church cemetery, which is now covered over with asphalt paving and used as a parking lot. This subject, as previous records attest, has been the object of much concern on the part of many people.

I told Rev. Bowen, at the outset, that we had requested today's meeting with him because Rev. Bowen, who will retire from the Methodist ministry in June of this year, and will be leaving his Alpharetta congregation. He assured us that the governing body at the Alpharetta United Methodist Church is still on record favoring building a memorial garden in the cemetery area, and will, he suspects within a year or so, undertake this goal, as an adjunct of the church's building program, now under way.

Reverend Bowen also pledged that he would write a letter right away to the church's governing body re-stating his own feeling that this goal must be pursued, stating that it is of great historial importance to the church iself, as well as a matter that must be laid to rest. At this meeting, we emphasized to Rev. Bowen that we were intent on seeing proper steps be taken to rectify the decision of the church, some years past, to pave the original cemetery area in the first place. We also informed him that we appreciated his positive attitude, and would hope and pray that a spirit of cooperation between the Alpharetta First United Methodist Church and those intent on restoring the sanctity of the church burial ground, including relatives of some buried there, as well as many current church members, be maintained. Rev. Bowen promised to supply a copy of his letter to his church governing authority. I pointed out that Rev. Bowen had provided important leadership for the church, Alpharetta's first religious congregation, at a time of expansion, and that it would redound to his own credit to impress on the church's leaders the importance of ceasing to use the burial ground as a parking lot. Mrs. Ruth Wills emphasized that the original church burial ground extended, on its northern side, to the garden of a residence that once stood to the north of the church. This re-emphasized that the original church cemetery, as stated by many old-timers, contained a sizeable number of graves of early church members. Mrs. Wills was emphatic in this. Mr. George Jones, on this date, also stated, in the presence of Mrs. Wills and Charles Morris and myself, that he remembered the parking lot as the site of the early burial ground.

Aubrey P. Morris

January 27, 1992

To Whom It May Concern:

In that I am a descendant of the Teasley family, I sincerely appreciate the effort being made to restore the family cemetery behind the Alpharetta First United Methodist Church.

Sincerely,

David Teasley Harman, Sr.

David Teasley Harman, Sr.

cc: Aubrey Morris
Alpharetta First United Methodist Church

Harman
1627 Sugarmaple Lane
Conyers, Ga. 30207

Sandy Springs Cemetery (con't)

Morgan,	C T	March 11 1875 - April 13, 1906
Morgan	M A	Feb 5, 1861 - Sept 30 1905 Wife of A S Morgan
Morgan	Susan	Died July 14 1916 Wife of W A Morgan
Morgan	W A	July 29, 1842 - Dec 1, 1917
Morgan	W M	Nov 29, 1870 - Dec 26, 1900
Morris	Alfred C	Dec 31 1884 - Nov 15, 1913
Morris	Charles W	Oct 11 1875 - July 25, 1911
Morris,	Elizabeth	July 31, 1842 - July 12, 1912 Wife of W C Morris
Morris	Eugenia E Power	Oct 15 1894 - April 14, 1924 Wife of L B Morris
Morris,	W B	June 6, 1849 - June 19, 1927
Mullins,	Lottie May	May 20 1891 - Sept 22 1913
Panel	John R	June 4, 1841 - Dec 22, 1876
Panell	Rosa M	May 4 1848 - Aug 28, 1917 Wife of John R Panel
Perrott,	Robert A	March 16, 1885 - Oct 25 1924
Pinner,	Ida E	Feb 4, 1878 - Aug 26, 1914
Poss	Thelma Pauline	March 8 1904 - July 14, 1924
Power,	Cora	Oct 12 1874 - Wife of M F Power
Power,	Forrest Eugene	March 6, 1902 - Aug 17, 1926
Power	George H	Nov 27, 1845 - Jan 19, 1924
Power	M F	Jan 4, 1869 - March 13, 1931
Power	Martha C	July 20 1847 - Wife of George H Power
Power	Mary A	March 23, 1828 - Nov 24, 1908 Wife of Samuel W Power
Power,	Nancy	Dec 4, 1788 - March 1, 1885
Power	Samuel A	Sept 13, 1868 - Dec 3, 1908
Power	Samuel W	July 13, 1830 - Dec 18, 1916

	Sandy S
Preston,	Meda Ba
Puckett,	Nancy L
Reed	Celicia
Reed,	James F
Reed	Georgia
Reed,	Joel S.
Reed	N E O.

The Rev. Joe Bowen retires on a high note

By HATCHER HURD
Editor

The line to shake the Rev. Joe Bowen's hand –or hug his neck– snaked around the Alpharetta First United Methodist Church's fellowship hall, out the door, into the hall and almost outside in the street.

It was Bowen's last Sunday as minister there, and they came to say goodbye to the man who had shepherded this church through phenomenal growing pains and growth, both temporally and spiritually.

> *"It's been a good life, and I'm retiring on a good note. I have no regrets, and I'm not looking back, I'm looking forward."*
>
> ***The Rev. Joe Bowen***

"He has led us, encouraging us with his tremendous energy and his sense of humor," said parishioner Simi Long. "He's been a blessing for us. He came at the right time."

But after devoting 40 years to the ministry, Bowen, 62, decided it was time to step down, ending his career on a joyful note. He leaves a church with a strong sense of purpose, a vigorous congregation boding another expansion in the offing) and fiscal soundness.

"What are the highlights? Surviving being a pastor to start. Not all of the Methodists are converted yet," he said, but then on a more serious vein he added, "I've enjoyed pastoring families in crisis, preaching The Word. I've enjoyed it all really."

And while no life is without its ups, downs and bounces, Bowen's life has been a straight one. Born to school teacher parents in Canton, he grew up in his formative years slim and athletic in Villa Rica. He walked on the Clemson football team, playing for the legendary Frank Howard and earned a starting spot at end and a scholarship.

But the defining moment in his life came just after graduating high school in 1952 when he "heard God's call and made a commitment." "I've never looked back," he said.

After getting his degree at Clemson, he was off to seminary at



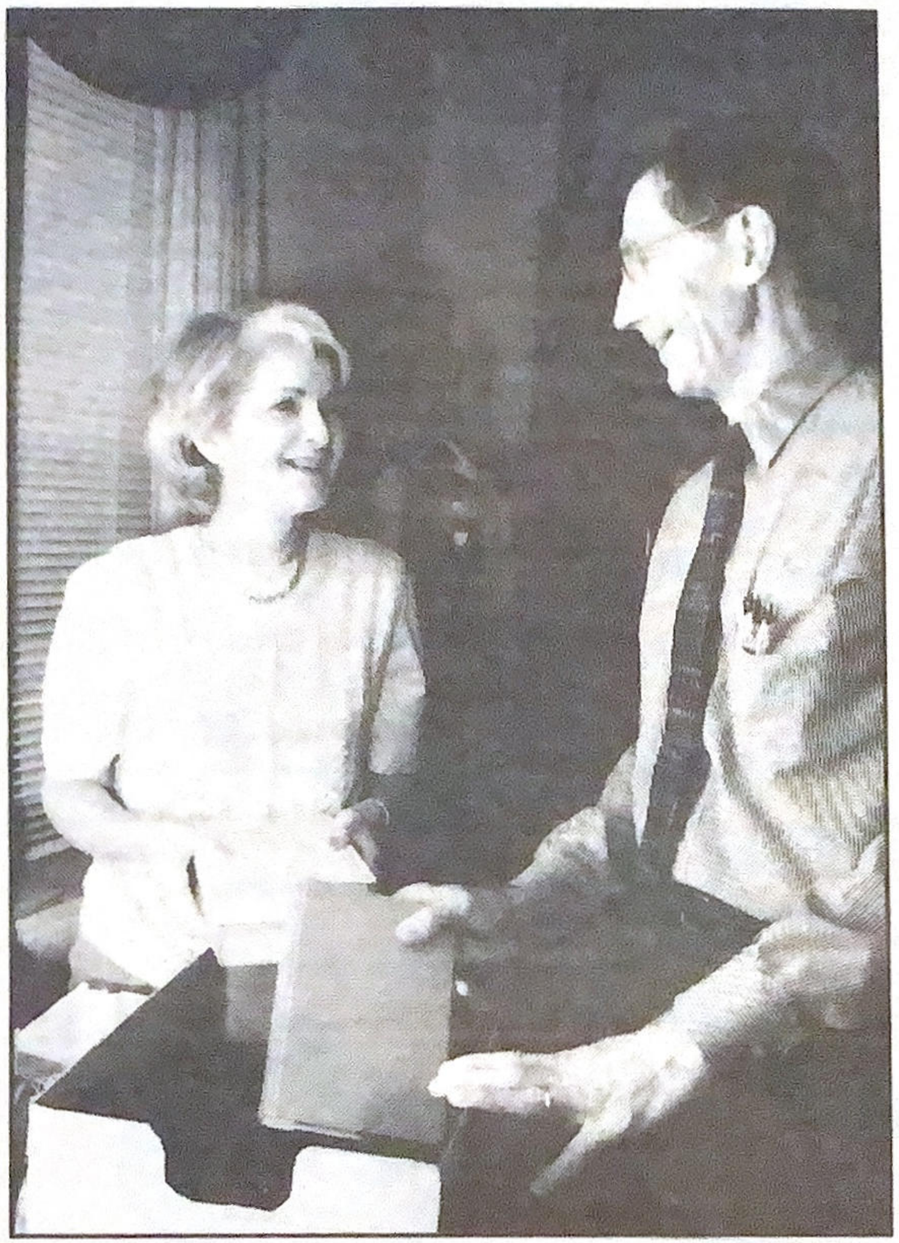
CRAIG COLLINS/Revue

Behind every good minister is a good minister's wife. Harriette Bowen helps husband Joe off with his robe for the last time at Alpharetta First United Methodist Church.

Clemson was not quite through with him yet. It seemed every morning at 7 a.m., he would see a pretty Clemson miss in the Emory cafeter expressions of the Christian faith.

"I like to get people's attention, and then keep them awake. Laugh-

the skills to build a strong ministry here. And strong things happened here. The people here are special," Bowen said. "This church has had



CRAIG COLLINS/Revue

The Rev. Joe Bowen and his wife Harriette box up his office at the church as the couple readies themselves for retirement. Travel, spending time with the grandchildren, and oh yes, a little fishing are on the agenda.

ria after the prayer breakfast. They would wave and exchange a few words of greeting each morning.

Finally, Bowen decided he would ask the pretty Clemson miss out. That's how he met Harriette, his wife and staunch supporter in his four-decade career. It was only later that he found out Harriette, who did not have a class until 9 a.m., dutifully arose early each morning just to meet "by accident."

"She chased me until I let her catch me," Bowen says, sitting in his office, packing up the flotsam and jetsam that accrues in a minister's office.

The remark draws an arched eyebrow from his bride, who remembers the chase a little differently, once he was prodded to action.

But for a minister to be successful, a minister's wife must be his invaluable aide. Bowen said he was especially blessed in that regard. Harriette grew up in a church-going Methodist family and has always loved living in the church.

"She has the gift of hospitality," he said. "And Methodists always give more after they've been fed."

As one parishioner says, she is unfailingly gracious, a true Southern gentlewoman.

Bowen's gifts for his calling are many. His sense of humor permeates his life, and anyone in his presence is going to walk away with spirits a little higher than before. Humor, he says, is one of the better is one way to do that," he says.

Another congregation member, Baxter Davis, says he likes his down-to-earth qualities.

"He's the first jock I've had as a preacher. He's been in the real world, and he's a good guy to be around. He's a real communicator -- one of the guys," Davis said.

Fulton County Commissioner Bob Fulton is a member of his church, and he observes Bowen has made not only a significant contribution to the church but to the community as well.

"He has made significant contributions to a number of organizations including the United Way and the North Fulton Community Charities. He will be missed in North Fulton," Fulton said.

Bowen has seen growth in just about every church he's pastored. He started in Snellville, then to Chapelwood in Athens, and then served at Peachtree Road in Buckhead. From there he went to LaGrange and then served a stint as superintendent of the Augusta District. He then served as pastor to Trinity-on-the-Hill in Augusta before answering the call to come to Alpharetta.

Now it would be unfair to ask Bowen which church stands out in his ministry, sort of like asking a parent to name his favorite child. But he speaks with a special pride at what has been accomplished at Alpharetta First United Methodist.

"In a real sense, my ministry was complete. I was able to bring a long, strong tradition, but it looks more to the future than the past.

"We've experienced tremendous growth. Usually churches with a great tradition are slow to change, but we didn't have to overcome that here. This church has marched ahead and gotten it done."

It is an exciting time to be in the church, Bowen says.

"People are hungry for what the church has to offer.

But the grueling demands of preaching three sermons on Sunday and pastoring such a large congregation have taken their toll. It is time to pass the torch, and Dr. Harvey West, the current superintendent of the Augusta District, has agreed to come aboard with his wife Charlyn.

The Bowens will continue to make their home in North Fulton, but continuing to spend time at their lake home called Wits Inn. There the fisher of men becomes an avid fisher of fish. His two children Lucy and Bruce have given he and Harriette five grandchildren, including Joseph Bruce Bowen Jr., the fourth in his line to carry that name.

The way Bowen sees it, they'll all be good fishermen by the time he's through. The couple will also take time to do some traveling and, yes, see some Clemson football games.

"It's been a good life, and I'm retiring on a good note," he said. "I have no regrets, and I'm not looking back, I'm looking forward."

Nan Harman - Dempsey
ATTORNEY AT LAW
31 NORTH MAIN STREET
ALPHARETTA, GEORGIA 30201

(770) 663-7503

She authorized me to quote her letter in my column. 3/14/96.

17 February 1996

Mr. Aubrey Morris
2980 Francis Road
Alpharetta, Ga. 30201

Dear Aubrey,

I wanted to thank you for the column in the latest ReVue regarding the historical homes on Canton Street in Alpharetta. My mother was Fannie Teasley who married my father, Hill Harman; her father was Dodge Teasley, whose roots go back to Alpharetta's beginning. One of his ancestors, Isham Teasley, donated the land upon which a Methodist church was built (circa 1870) in Alpharetta, which is now the site of the First Methodist Church of Alpharetta on Main Street. (I spoke to you once on the phone regarding the paving over of some graves, probably Indians, on the premises.) I believe you also spoke with my first cousin, Mary Ann (Dempsey) Mansell, on several occasions, too. Mary Ann's mother, Mozelle (Teasley) Dempsey, was my mother's sister. Their other sister was Thelma Teasley Murrah, whose daughter, Frances Herrin, now lives in the Teasley house you referred to in your column...104 Canton Street...it's well over 100 years old. I live at 118 Canton Street, next door, and the big old house next to me on the other side was built and inhabited by my Teasley ancestors, as well; later on, two aunts of Everett Newton, Miss Minnie and Miss Pearl Christian, lived there, and it was most recently occupied by Ed Waddell...it, too, is way over 100 years old. Further on up Canton is the Nat Lewis house, and across the street is the Wills house...each one is at least a century old.

I do want to thank you for the beautiful column, and I also wanted to fill you in on what some of my neighbors and I have been trying to accomplish with regard to the very property you wrote about at the beginning of your article...Canton Street and Mayfield, but specifically Canton and the Mayfield extension. Ever since Publix attempted to build on that gorgeous property between Canton, Main and the Mayfield extention, we have bombarded the powers that be at City Hall with corres-

pondence begging the City to buy the land and build a passive park on it. There have also been letters to Planning Commission members, Parks and Recreation members, etc., etc. (I also wrote one to Hatcher Hurd, with the ReVue, who chose not to respond or to help us with a column...but I'm still hoping he'll come around.) All anyone has to do is look at the beautiful trees that are there, and look at the property's proximity to the library and elementary school, and observe the number of people who use the sidewalks on Canton and Main Streets to exercise (walk, jog, stroll the baby, walk the dog) every day to realize what an absolutely made-to-order spot this would be for a little park... nothing fancy, just a few benches and swings, but mostly a place of serenity for folks to take a break and a place to preserve for the birds and squirrels that now live there. Not only that, this property is spitting distance from downtown Alpharetta, and is in the middle of the historical homes district you wrote about... what a jewel this would be in Alpharetta's land-use plan! As I've tried to convey to so many, when one visits some of the really beautiful cities in Georgia, it's not the strip shopping centers and mega grocery stores one remembers and wants to revisit....it's the parks and places of historical significance. There are enough grocery stores and shopping centers in Alpharetta !! We need to be about the business of preserving what is really important...what can't be replaced in our lifetimes...places of beauty for us, and the generations that will follow, to enjoy.

I apologize for being verbose, but when I get on this subject, I get carried away. I hope you'll have a look at this wooded property, and decide to help us in our drive to make our elected officials realize what's to gain, or lose, here; your help would certainly be appreciated...by other columns, or by whatever means that would get our message across. (I forgot to mention, when Jimmy Phillips was our mayor, he liked our idea very much, and he conveyed to me that, because of the barrage of letters from my neighbors and me, the city had taken an option to buy this property; I believe it was near being foreclosed against, and was, apparently, up for a bargain-basement price....that's the last I've heard. Chuck Martin hasn't been in office long enough for me to get a good read on what he's all about.)

Jump in if you're interested in our fight ! We'll be glad to have you help us.

Best regards,

October 23,1991

At 8:45 p.m. this date, I talked by phone to Mrs. Ruth (Spence) Wills, of Mid-Broadwell Road, Alpharetta,Ga. Phone 475-5052, a lifelong member of the Alpharetta First United Methodist Church. She told me that some 40 graves were in the original Alpharetta Methodist Church Cemetery when she was a child growing up...and that her son, a Vietnam War veteran, was once bitten by a snake while playing in the cemetery. She said many members of the church were terribly upset when the church, then under the Pastorship of Rev. Donald Gray(now living in Sandy Springs and an assistant for hospital visiting at Sandy Springs Methodist Church) This occurred,she says, around 1965-1966. "paved over thhe cemetery", using her exact words./She said she was so wrought up over the action that she ceased attendance and has, since then, attended church at Midway and other United Methodist churches in this area(Alpharetta area). She says she is very pleased that the current pastor has indicated (to me) that he wants to work with concerned members and citizens to rectify the wrong of the past in putting a parking lot over the graveyard.She calls Alpharetta her "church home". Mrs. Wills also informed me that Charlie Phillips, of the Louie Jones Funeral Home, at Alpharetta, has a "monument from the cemetery stored in the basement of the funeral home ." She invited me to talk to Charlie Phillips about this.. She also indicated that I should talk to Mr. Marvin Bagley,Jr., of Alpharetta, about the paving over of the cemetery.

Mrs. Wills also said she is a "double cousin" of Attorney Bill Spence, who has conferred with myself and my cousin, Charles Morris, on this matter.

Aubrey R. Morris

Aubrey R. Morris

P.S.:I will visit Mrs. Wills at her home in Crabapple tomorrow,Oct.24,1991.

Tuesday, October 29,1991

On this date, at 11:45 a.m., I visited Mrs. Susanne(Susie)(Aunt Pint) (JAMES) Holbrook, widow of Judson Holbrook, in her home at 164 Duluth Street, in Alpharetta,Ga. Telephone 475-5848.

Mrs. Holbrook, at age 92, is one of the oldest, if not the oldest, living member of Alpharetta First United Methodist Church. She says her parents, the late Alexander Morris James and Eugenia Mary Azalee (Wallace) James, were member of the Alpharetta Methodist Church, as well as her grandparents, Oscar James and Martha Jane(Morris) James.,and her great-grandparents Charles Wesley and Eliz.Morris.

Mrs. Holbrook recalls that the original church burial ground was just to the north of the "old church", and that the church was still an old wooden building when she was a girl. When about the age of nine, she recalls, there were, in her words, "a lot of graves. I remember the markers. They were old."

Mrs. Holbrook says the current pastor of the church appears to be a man of great dedication and community concern, for church members , as well as for the people of the community as a whole. She says she is very anxious to see the success of the effort to erect a suitable memorial for those early church members buried in the first church cemetery. Mrs. Holbrook especially remembrrs the happy memories of attending Sunday School at the church, while a child. She says her health does not permit much activity today and she is unable to attend services, although she is especially proud to be one of the oldest members yet living.

Aubrey R. Morris

Aubrey R Morris

November 9,1991.

On this date I talked by phone to Mrs. Mary Ann (Dempsey) Mansell (Mrs. Harry K. Mansell, of Roswell,Ga., a grandaughter of the late Mr. Dodge Teasley, a lomgtime member and leader of Alpharetta First United Methodist Church...the Teasley family, through Alpharetta's first Postmaster, Isham Teasley, being among the founding members of the church.

Mrs. Mansell says she "remembers the little rock grave markers" in the Methodist Church burial ground, which was located just to the north of, and alongside, the church, when she was "a child".

Mrs. Mansell listed as among the other descendants of the Teasley family: Nan Phone:922-3923..
Harmon, at 475-5277 and a brother, David Harmon, at Conyers,Ga/...also Frances Murrah Herring, at 475-6808 and her brother, Bob Murrah, the latter of Henderson, North Carolina.Mrs. Mansell says all these descendants of the Teasley family have been sadly mindful of the "paving over of the cemetery" at the church. I will endeavor to contact Mrs. Mansell's relatives regarding their views and their knowledge of the matter. A. R. Morris

P.S.: Called Nan Harmon at the above telephone number and she expressed the same knowledge of the matter as did Mr. Mary Ann (Dempsey) Manswell . Mrs. Harmon said she remembers, as a child, a small gravestone "between the two cedar trees" at the Alpharetta Methodist Church. She says her grandparents, the late Mr. and Mrs. Dodge Teasley, whotwere lifelong members of the church, were "very upset" when the graves were paved over,and the burial groud turned into parking area. Nan mentioned to me that she mentioned the burial ground matter to the Pastor, Rev. Job Bowen, who was very considerate to her and visited her at the Alpharetta Funeral Home when her husband died recently. She said Rev. Bowen appeared entirely sensitive to the matter and indicated he had been informed of the problem.....A.R.M.

Tuesday, November 12,1991

Today, at noon, I met with Mr. Marvin Bagley, an Alpharetta native, retired military officer and member of Alpharetta First United Methodist Church. We had lunch together at the Alpha Soda Cafe and discussed the original burial ground of the church, which Mr. Bagley remembers clearly. He related that he was away in military service overseas at the time the cemetery was paved over and, since the Bagley family were among the first members, he is anxious to see the area restored.

Mr. Bagley brought with him copies of deeds and plat relating to property adjoining the area of the church property where the original cemetery is located.

Mr. Bagley indicated to me that the current pastor and trustees of the church appear to be of a mind to restore this cemetery area, although he says he is concerned that such an effort not be extravagant. I told him that those people to whom we have talked have the same notion..that the paving should be removed from the grave area and a suitable memorial be erected.

Aubrey R. Morris
11/12/91

Wednesday,October 9,1991

On this date, at 3 p.m., my First Cousin, Charles Morris, and I met with Alpharetta Attorney William (Bill) Spence, a lifelong member of Alpharetta Methodist Church.Mr. Spence said he had been requested by The Rev. Mr. Bowen, Pastor, to meet with us and hear our wishes regarding the restoration of the ogiginal church cemetery site, in the form of a memorial garden or something of this type. We told him we were anxious to work with the church in providing help toward research and that we were in accord with the wishes of the pastor that the problem of the cemetery being paved over be corrected. The Rev. Mr. Bowen, incidentally, had called Charles Morris and myself on a Friday afternoon about three weeks after our meeting with him and assured us that he was moving toward setting the machinery in motion among his church governing body to affect such a cemetery memorial.

Mr. Bill Spence, who is age 85, told Charles Morris and I that he remembered our own Grandmother, the late Charity Rhoda (Jett) Morris"shouting" at this church when he was a young boy . Mr. Spence thanked Charles and I for serving as a sort of "con - science" for the church and offered the feeling that the old church cemetery should "never have been paved over in the first place". He assured us that the present pastor is deeply concerned about this and wants to take steps to honor the dead,whose Christian efforts were in behalf of this historic church.

There was no question whatever in the mind of Bill Spence, who referred to the area in question as the "church cemetery". We agreed, tentatively, that a proper thing to do would be to remove the pavement from the parking area in question, plant grass and other suitable vegetation and erect a marker, perhaps a granate one with names of people buried there, as well as could be researched. Bill Spence remembered the name of the "Lott" family, a family name which had been mentioned by Louie Jones.

Mr. Spence specifically remembeted the "Lott" tombstone marker.

Charles Morris assured Attorney Spence that it is the desire of the Morris family members to work closely and cooperatively with the church pastor and governing body and we were not attempting to interfere with the church's building expansion plan; merely to protect the integrity of the hallowed burial ground of our fore- father, Charles Wesley Morris, and others buried in the same burial ground.

Aubrey D. Morris

Wednesday , October 23,1991

On this date my brother, Hugh Thomas Morris, accompanied me to Alpharetta First United Methodist Church, where we visited the area where the original church burial ground is located.

Hugh Morris immediately pointed out the area surrounding the cedar tree as being the center of the burial area. He recalled that our late father, Glen Thomas Morris, had been with him in Alpharetta many years ago and, while there, walked from the old courthouse area up the street to the Methodist church and showed him(making a point of it) where Charles Wesley Morris lies buried near the cedar tree. My brother recalled that there was an old wrought iron fence around a portion of the burial area nearest the cedar tree. He also recalled that our late father remarked to him at that date that Charles Wesley Morris was a "charter member" of the Alpharetta Methodist Church. Fieldstones marked his grave, head and foot. He died between 1850 and 1860,leaving a wife and nine children.

This visit bears out information I have previously recorded: to wit: that I, along with my late father , Hugh T. Morris and other members of our family had been taught, on numerous occasions, that our great grandfather, Charles Wesley Morris, was buried at this particular spot and that his wife, Elizabeth Kendall)Morris , who died many years after her husband and after the old church burial ground was no longer in use, was buried(is buried) at the Alpharetta Town Cemetery.(Mrs. Elizabeth (Kendall) Morris is, in fact, buried in the lot of her grandson, Alexander Morris James, in Alpharetta Town Cemetery).

Aubrey R. Morris Aubrey R. Morris

3:45 p.m., Oct. 23,1991

GEORGIA, FULTON COUNTY

I, do certify that the within and foregoing is a
true and correct copy of the document as appears by the
original on file and record in the office of
Clerk of Fulton Superior Court.

Deeds
Book I (Milton Co.) Pages 621-623

10th Day of JAN. 1992

Otis Bell

DEPUTY CLERK, FULTON SUPERIOR COURT

JUANITA HICKS
CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF FULTON COUNTY, GEORGIA

16B-007-1188

to Highlowa Trail. thence in a northwesterly direction along said trail to Stribling's lands. thence a little South of West 741 feet. thence in a Southwesterly direction 1528 feet to Rail Road. thence West and across said railroad 1919 feet, more or less to Fulton County lines thence South on said line 1740. more or less thence East 3557 feet. more or less to East side of Roswell Rail road right of way. thence in a southwesterly direction along said right-of-way to south line of land lot 384. thence East on said line 7763 feet to the beginning point. as per plat recorded in Book "H" folio 654 records Milton County, Georgia. All public roads the railroad right-of-way, Ebenezer Church lot the cemetery lot. and the school house lot are expected excepted but any reversionary right in grantor to the school house lot is hereby conveyed to grantee. The tract described, not including exceptions contains 194 acres more or less. To have and to hold the said bargained premises together with all and singular the rights, members and appurtenances thereof, to the same being, belonging or in anywise appertaining, to the only proper use benefit and behoof of him the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns forever in fee simple. And the said party of the first part, for himself and his heirs, executors and administrators, will warrant and forever defend the right and title to the above described property unto the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns, against the lawful claims of all persons whomsoever. In witness whereof, the said party of the first part has hereunto set his hand and affixed his seal the day and year above written.

Signed, sealed and delivered
in the presence of
R. L. Evenson
Thos H. Jackson Notary Public
Fulton County, Ga.

E. H. Dawson [Seal]

Recorded May 10. 1910.
J. B. Paris C.S.C.

Leo. D. Rucker et al

To

Board of Ext. Extension of the Methodist Episcopal Church South

Mortgage and Refunding Bond.

This indenture, made and entered into this 12th day of May 1910 by and between Leo. D. Rucker, J. H. Manning, W. Manning, E. P. Brisler, W. A. Teasley, C. M. Parsons, H. C. Medlock, R. C. Mundy, J. N. McClure & Jas. A. Webb as Trustees of the Alpharetta Methodist Episcopal Church South, in Alpharetta, County of Milton State of Georgia of the first part, and the Board of Church Extension of the Methodist Episcopal Church South of the city of Louisville, County of Jefferson, and State of Kentucky, of the second part: Witnesseth That, whereas the parties of the first part do hereby represent and declare that they and their predecessors in office have acquired title to, and do now hold, the premises hereinafter described in trust, that said premises shall be held, kept, maintained and disposed of as a place of residence for the traveling preachers of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, subject to the discipline, usages, and ministerial appointments of said Church, as from time to time authorized and declared by the General Conference of said Church, and the Annual Conference within whose bounds the said premises may be situated: And whereas, the party of the second part, in consideration of the uses and purposes to which said premises are devoted, as hereinafter hereinbefore declared, and of the obligation of this indenture hereinafter stated, has conditionally donated to the parties of the first part the sum of Three Hundred Dollars to be secured and

repaid as hereinafter set out: Now the parties of the first part, for and in consideration of the premises and of the sum of money so donated, and in compliance with the terms and conditions upon which the said Board of Church Extension made said donation, do, for themselves as Trustees, and for their successors in office, hereby covenant, promise and agree to and with the said parties of the second part, that in the case the property hereinafter described shall ever hereafter be alienated from the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, or cease to be used for, or be devoted to other uses and purposes than the uses and purposes set forth in the declaration of trust hereinbefore entered, the said parties of the first part shall and will forthwith refund to the parties of the second part, their successors and assigns, the sum of money hereinbefore stated, with interest thereon from the time of such alienation, or from the time of diversion of said property from said uses and purposes in said declaration of trust contained. They further obligate themselves to insure, and keep insured the improvements upon said property against loss or damage by fire. And to secure the performance of their said covenants and obligations above set forth, and in consideration of the premises, The said parties of the first part have bargained and sold, and do by these presents, grant, alien, and convey unto the party of the second part, the said Board of Church Extension of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, all of the following described real estate, to wit: The lot and tract of land in the Town of Alpharetta being 5/4 acre more or less known as the Methodist Parsonage lot, being part of lot No. 1, in the Fourth Section of said town which is a part of original land lot No. 1769 in the second District and second Section of Milton County Georgia, and part of original land lot No 1197, in the same District and Section, both of said parcels lying contiguous and more particularly described as a whole as follows: Begin at a point on the West side of main street in said town, equally dividing the frontage of lot No. 1, in the fourth Section of said town, at the North East corner of Dr. J. D. McCollums residence lot, thence back due west 210 feet, thence due North 137 feet to the inside of the sidewalk on the alley running from the Methodist Church to Canton Street, thence East along the inside of said sidewalk to Main Street, thence South to the starting point. To have and to hold unto said second party, its successors and assigns forever, with covenant of General Warranty of title to same. This instrument is executed under authority of a resolution of the Quarterly Conference of Alpharetta charge, in the bounds of the North Georgia Annual Conference, adopted at a meeting thereof held on 15th day of March 1910. Now, if said party of the first part, or any one for them, shall repay said sum of money so donated, with interest, and insurance and keep insured the improvements on said premises as aforesaid, then this indenture shall be void, else remain in full force. Witness our hands and seals, this 17th day of May 1910.

Leo. D. Rucker (Seal)
J. N. Manning (Seal)
B. F. Manning (Seal)
J. T. Crisler (Seal)
W. A. Peasley (Seal)
W. A. L. Smith (Seal)

C. M. Parsons (Seal)
W. C. Medlock (Seal)
T. L. Nunnally (Seal)
J. W. McClure (Seal)
Jas A. Webb (Seal)
J. L. Harris (Seal)
Joel Heitzsch (Seal)

Certificate of acknowledgement.

State of Georgia, County of Milton } Before me J. B. Paris clerk Superior Court of said County on this day personally appeared Leo D. Rucker, J. N. Manning, B. F. Manning, J. T. Crisler, W. A. Peasley, C. M. Parsons,

H. A. Medlock, F. A. Kennedy, J. H. McElmee, and Jas A. Stebb personally known to me to be the persons who are described in and who subscribed to the foregoing instrument of writing, and being informed of the contents thereof, acknowledged to me that they executed the same as Trustees of the Alpharetta Methodist Episcopal Church, South therein named, as their free and voluntary act, and for the uses, purposes and consideration therein expressed. Given under my hand and seal of office, this 12th day of May A.D. 1910.
My commission will expire Dec 31, 1910.

J. B. Paris C.S.C.

Recorded May 12, 1910.
J. B. Paris C.S.C.

Gilford Landrum et al
To
J. C. Landrum

State of Georgia Milton County.

This indenture, made this 28th day of December in the year of our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eight between Gilford Landrum J. R. Landrum Dessa May Landrum, Alissa May Landrum, Enla. Berry, of said County of the State of Georgia and A. H. Landrum of the County of Cherokee said State of the first part all heirs at Law of Sarah E. Landrum deceased and J. C. Landrum of the State of Georgia and County of Cobb of the second part. Witnesseth: That the said parties of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of Five Hundred and Seventy Dollars in hand paid at and before the sealing and delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have granted, bargained, sold and conveyed, and by these presents do grant, bargain, sell and convey unto the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns, all that tract or parcel of land lying and being in the 2nd Dist and 2nd Section of Milton County and being Thirty four (34) acres more or less of Lot No. 702 being all of said lot except about six acres in the north west corner lying North West of the old run of the little creek and ten acres more or less in the South west corner of lot 703 described as follows: commencing on the South line at the little creek thence up the little creek to the Still house branch, thence up said branch to the ford thence due west to the original line thence the original line to the South West Corner thence the South line to the beginning point containing in all 44 acres more less which land was conveyed by James Walker to Sarah E. Landrum by deed of record in Clerks office Milton County, Deed Book F. Page 97 and described fully therein. The parties to this deed being all the heirs at law of the said Sarah E. Landrum now deceased.
To have and to hold the said bargained premises, together with all and singular the rights, members and appurtenances thereof, to the same being belonging or in anywise appertaining, to the only proper use, benefit and behoof of him the said party of the second part his heirs and assigns forever, in fee simple. And the said parties of the first part, for themselves & their heirs, executors and administrators will warrant and forever defend the right and Title to the above described property unto the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns, against the lawful claims of all persons whomsoever.
In witness whereof, the said parties of the first part have hereunto set their hands affixed their seals the day and year above written.

(over)

Remarks

Aubrey R. Morris

Old Milton Historical Society

Thursday, January 19,1989

If you were to consult one of Georgia's best history books, you would find that Milton County is n't even mentioned. When The Rev. George White published his difinitive history of our state, titled "Historical Collections of Georgia", in 1854, this area of present-day North Fulton County was a part of Cherokee County. It wasn't until three years later,on Dec. 18,1857, that the Georgia General Assembly formed Milton County-from portions of Cherokee, Cobb and Forsyth counties. Milton county flourished for 75 years. Then, under the crushing blow of the Great Depression,it was "merged" into Fulton County on January 1,1932...as was old Campbell County, now making up South Fulton.Campbell lived to be a respectable 104 years old.

Milton County is, in every respect, much more than a myth. A recent issue of The Alpharetta ReVue published a number of photographs of some of the buildings that proudly stood here in Alpharetta, in the very same area where we are meeting tonight. One of them was the old Milton County Courthouse,located on the ground where the Alpharetta City Hall is now located. I urge you to read and re-read the special section which the ReVue reprinted from its issue of July 1983. It is only through such historical glimpses of old Milton's past, and in such ReVue columns as those written by William E.(Bill) Spence,Sr. and Carolyn Dillman that we can learn of the people, the buildings and the events that are the real "soul" of our community.

The "funeral" for Milton County may have been held 57 years ago. The legacy it left in land went to political power brokers in Atlanta and Fulton County, in exchange for some jobs in the county government for

(more)

a few, some paved roads, a convict camp and assorted other "tokens" of service from the Fulton County Commission, in exchange for the steady flow of taxes from this area into the county coffers in Atlanta.

Having given up its body, dear old Milton County today is having to fight to save its soul.Here's an example of what I'm talking about:

When I asked the then-Chairman of the Atlanta-Fulton County - Library Board why the new Alpharetta Library couldn't be made to conform, architecturally, with the surrounding neighborhood---since the Alpharetta Woman's Club had raised this question---his curt reply was in the form of a question:"What's historic about those houses?" It was only after some community leaders in Roswell raised a ruckus that the same Library Board gave in and did a slight modification on the original design of the Roswell Library.Despite protests from the Alpharetta Woman's Club, Mayor Jimmy Phillips and a few others, Alpharetta's new library,paid for with taxes, will be exactly what the Library Board, made up mostly of Atlantans,decreed Alpharetta would have..never mind the explosive growth in this area,..or any concern for local historic pride.

Speaking of growth, I've always stood for progress. A growing population calls for more schools, churches, health services/and the like. shopping centers But uncontrolled growth contains the seeds of its own destruction. There simply must be a way for the entire North Fulton area to gain control of the forces that are setting us up to become another "Golden Ghetto", the name given the once-proud community of Sandy Springs. I suggest that North Fulton could correctly be described as the "Loose Goose". The growth is running, uncontrolled, in every direction.

The fact that community leaders in Sandy Springs are now seeking help in the General Assembly,through an effort to incorporate,is a good sign. They simply want--and, I think, fully intend--to have a voice in the making of decisions that effect their homes and businesses. And they're doing this despite a hostile Fulton county legislative delegation--with the exception, of course, of Representatives Luther Colbert and Dorothy

(more)

Felton and State Senator Sally Newbill. We in North Fulton are fortunate, indeed, to have these three members of the Georgia General Assembly speaking out for this area...and fighting for our rights.

The taxation imposed by the Fulton County Commission---with a minimum of representation, number-wise---is obviously of concern to a growing number of North Fultonites North of the River. Population growth in this area, which will be reflected in the 1990 U.S.Census, is sure to bring about some legislative correction in the disproportionate voice we in North Fulton have in the State Legislature and on the Fulton County Commission. I have a feeling,though, that many taxpayers don't want to wait until--probably 1992--before any corrective action is taken. Unless some way is found to coax the General Assembly into action in our behalf, the Federal Courts may be the only alternative.Talk of "de-annexing" old Milton County from Fulton continues to be heard, although I suspect some of it is facetious. It merely reflects the dissatisfaction many North Fulton people have with the way Fulton County is running things..

There are occasional rays of hope that North Fulton may be able to come to grips with the crisis brought on by the failure of the Fulton County Commission to meet its obligation to North Fulton. You may have heard that the North Fulton Chamber of Commerce and the cities of Alpharetta and Roswell and are sponsoring an all-day conference on Friday,February 3 , titled "Building a Partnership for North Fulton's Future." A cross-section of governmental and business leaders will be on hand for this event, being held at the Roswell Holiday Inn and having a registration cost of $35. I'm pleased to read that Representative Johnny Isakson,of Cobb County, will be on hand to discuss the importance of the Governor's Growth Strategies Commission recomendations,now awaiting action in the General Assembly. Mr. Isakson will be the luncheon speaker. I urge many private citizens to attend this conference and get informed. Call the North Fulton Chamber of Commerce for details.

I'm proud to be the owner of a copy of the Milton County News ,the official organ of Milton County, published here in Alpharetta on Thursday, February 12,1914. The Editor, Mr. James L.Swilling, printed the paper's

(more)

bear the names of the familes, or places, from which they originated. It is incumbent on us to guard against ridiculous name changes, just to suit the whim and fancy of developers. Take away a name and you have no real identity. Real names have meaning. Contrived names mean nothing.

In conclusion, my appeal to you, and to all citizens of Old Milton County, is to get interested in what is happening --whether in the towns of Alpharetta and Roswell or Mountain Park or any of the many thriving communities scattered throughout our area. These are dynamic times and, as sure as the Sun rises, the changes that are going to take place in the next few years will effect all of us, hopefully for the better. The "Loose Goose" of uncontrolled exploitation, which has left our community scarred in many ways, must not be allowed to turn this area into another "Golden Ghetto."

If citizens demand their rights and pool their intelligence and their resources, they can still manage to preserve some of the qualities of life that attracted our forefathers--as well as today's newcomers- to Old Milton County. This calls for more care and concern for our neighbors..... Cooperative action between citizens (homeowners) and developers, so that our environment is enhanced, not destroyed...Greater attention by our municipalities to planned, orderly land use.....and better citizen input into the decisions which effect the overall community.

Old Milton County may have been a sleepy, rural community that had no alternative than to give up the ghost. That question might be the subject of a debate. But let's not forget the glorious legacy of our past. I don't intend to. My Great Grandfather, Charles Wesley Morris, a pioneer settler of Alpharetta who came here in 1844 and lies buried under the asphalt parking lot of the Alpharetta Methodist Church(along with a number of other original settlers of this community), would turn over in his grave if I should give up the fight.

##########

2980 Francis Road
Alpharetta,Ga. 20101
September 13,1994

Dear Bill,

My wife,Tera,and I returned over the weekend from spending a week in Berrien County,Ga.with her aging mother to learn that your dear wife Mabel had passed away. First,we got the sad news from the newspaper.And then my sister,Jean (Morris) Marks,your fellow member of the Alpharetta Methodist Church, called to tell us Sunday evening. Jean mentioned that you had inquired about me.I am so sorry that Tera and I were unable to be there to show our respects,along with the multitude of others who pour our their grief--but demonstrate their love and devotion--on such occasions.

The first thing I thought of when I got the news was the full life you and your beloved partner had shared for so many years. The family,the church,the public service,the community involvement and the travels of Bill and Mabel. I then thought about what you would probably say if you were writing another column for the newspaper. I'm sure it would be about the multitudinous joys that are the hallmark of such a blessed union.

Then I was thinking about Bill and Mabel as individuals. Bill--the one with a public image spanning a period of decades. A high achiever in his own community,as well as the state of Georgia at large.Public profile. Mabel, the quiet one...the partner behind the scene. Rarely publically extolled in print,except in her devoted husband's own appreciative writing. Mabel,the gracious lady who,every time I saw her,was wearing a radiant smile.Mabel,by Bill's side,but also behind him,pushing and encouraging.

Bill,I am reminded of my favorite poet as I search for words of comfort and solace for you,my lifelong friend,although I know that your multitude of relatives and friends have expressed themselves as best they could,through words and memorials. The words come from Thomas Gray's poignant "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard".Demonstrating that the goodness of most men and women goes unheralded.That they live out full and rewarding lives without so much as a public accolade:

"Full many a gem of purest ray serene
The dark unfathom'd caves of ocean bear;
Full many a flower is born to blush unseen,
And waste its sweetnness on the desert air."

All of God's creatures,nevertheless,are the work of his blessed hand.All are equal in God's sight.And,through "Jesus Christ His Son",we share alike in his Eternal Kingdom...whether we're still alive and doing His work,or whether our Souls are at rest with the Saints in Heaven.Be assured that Tera and I are among the many who love you and fully appreciate what you and your departed wife have done for our community,individually and as partners.

Sincerely,
Aubrey R. Morris

United States Census for 1840, District 892, Cherokee County,Ga.

Heads of Families

M.H. Ford	Wiley Thompson	Hardy Herald	Lear Fisher
James Guthrey	James Walker	John Stancil	Robert Ingram
✓ Isam Teasley	Eli McConnell	John Holland	Washington Ford
Jessee Robnett	Benajah Traman	William Fields,Sr.	Alpens Philips
John Nix	Archabald Cockbum	James Stewart	Mary Thompson
John McNicken	Madison Jamisson	✓Alford H. Teasley	McLin Waters
Daniel Stephen	Lodewick Dobb	John McDavid	Wm.B.Hutchinson
✓ Henry Emerson	Andrew Phillips	Dennis Miller	Anderson Carrol
John M. Dorris	Gideon Land	Thos. S. Simpson	James Bradford
Thos. J. Humphries	James Dorris	Jacob Owens	Gabriel Morris
Daniel Butler	Peter Edwards	William Fields,Jr.	James Dearing
Lawson Fields	Moses Black	Willis Batey	Y.W.Bates
Martin Wells	Hezekiah Miller	James Midleton	William Plemons
Abner Phillipps	Lewis Morris	James Ray	James Lowery
William York	✓Simeion B. Rucker	Nancy Trammel	David Rusk,Snr.
Oliver P. Moor	Sulcer Dobbs	Shadrick Morris	John Grimes
Stephen White	Iziah Holland	Abner Phillips,Jr.	John L. Black
John Man	Menda Phillips	✓Russel Jones	Milbery Dudley
John T. Landrum	Wm. Hardaman	✓Nancy Jones	#########
Jesse Broadwell	Jesse B.Hansford	Nathan Willaford	617 total population of Dist. 892.
Needham Broadwell	Joseph Hansford	Elizabeth Owens	97 heads of households
Gallant Runnels	Stephen Dobb	Varda Semore	285 males and 285 females, by coincidence.
Wiley Fowler	Charity White	Joseph Pannel	26 male slaves
William Holland	Thos. House	Mary Mitchel	28 female slaves
Isiah Simpson	Wealthy Walker	Willis Tucker	##########
Willis Thompson	Drucilla Walker	Lewis Wiggins	Compiled by Aubrey R. Morris.

✓ - Denotes some of early families of Alpharetta Methodist Church. A.R.M.

2980 Francis Road
Alpharetta,Georgia 30201

Mr. William Edward Spence,Sr.
Attorney at Law
31 North Main Street
Alpharetta,Georgia 30201

Dear Mr. Spence:

We are pleased to present to you the results of our investigation, and recommendations, regarding restoration of the original burial grounds of the Alpharetta First United Methodist Church. This is in accordance with our discussion in your office on Wednesday, October 9,1991.

After extensive research on the history of the church, as well as interviews with church members, past and present and with descendants of some of the early members known to be buried in the cemetery, we recommend the removal of the asphalt paving from the burial area, which can be made into a fitting memorial garden, with grass and appropriate shrubbery. At the center of the area, we propose the erection of a "Founder's Memorial" marker, of granite. This would be appropriate to the site and emphasize the unique historical legacy this very first church holds for Alpharetta and the surrounding area.

The "Memorial" marker we recommend would contain the names of 32 "Pioneer Families", which our extensive research reveals to have been key participants in the foundation and early life of New Prospect Methodist Campground. Our own great-grandfather, the late Charles Wesley Morris, is among those buried in this hallowed ground. Based on our interviews with many present-day members of these pioneer families, the unanimous conclusion is that such display of these names will be a fitting way to honor those buried there.In addition, its historical/civic/religious significance for the church and its future will be of very positive impact.

A history of the church, written by the late Mrs. P.L. Elkins, a longtime member,was the source of most of the names.The list was augmented by the study of early court and land records. Mrs. Elkins' document lists the beginning of the New Prospect Methodist Campground as November 11,1858. We were able to document the early pastors, beginning with the Civil War period,by the study of records in the Pitts Library at Emory University.We recommend the inclusion of these five early "documented" pastors' names on the memorial marker, as well as the current (1992) pastor, Rev.Joseph Bowen,and Trustees Chairman,T.Ken Driskell.

A conceptual design for such a memorial marker is included in this document,as well as copies of memoranda made in connection with our research efforts. We would be happy to work with the designated church authorities in fund-raising for such a memorial.We are convinced many of the descendants of these early church families will want to contribute financially to such a worthy endeavor.

Sincerely yours,
Aubrey R. Morris

Charles E. Morris

PIONEER FAMILIES

ALEXANDER	GARDNER	MAYFIELD	RUCKER
BAGLEY	GILSTRAP	McCLURE	SMITH
BURGESS	HARRIS	MEDLOCK	SPENCE
CRISLER	HOOK	MORRIS	TEASLEY
DEVORE	JAMES	MOSTELLER	UPSHAW
DOUGLAS	JONES	NORMAN	WEBB
EMERSON	LOTT	NUNNALLY	WESTBROOK
EASON	MANNING	PARSONS	WILLS

EARLY PASTORS: CIVIL WAR PERIOD

DANIEL KELSEY – 1861

G.W.L. ANTHONY – 1862
SAMUEL J. BELLAH – 1863
WILLIAM W. OSLIN – 1863–4
JOHN R. GAINES – 1865–6

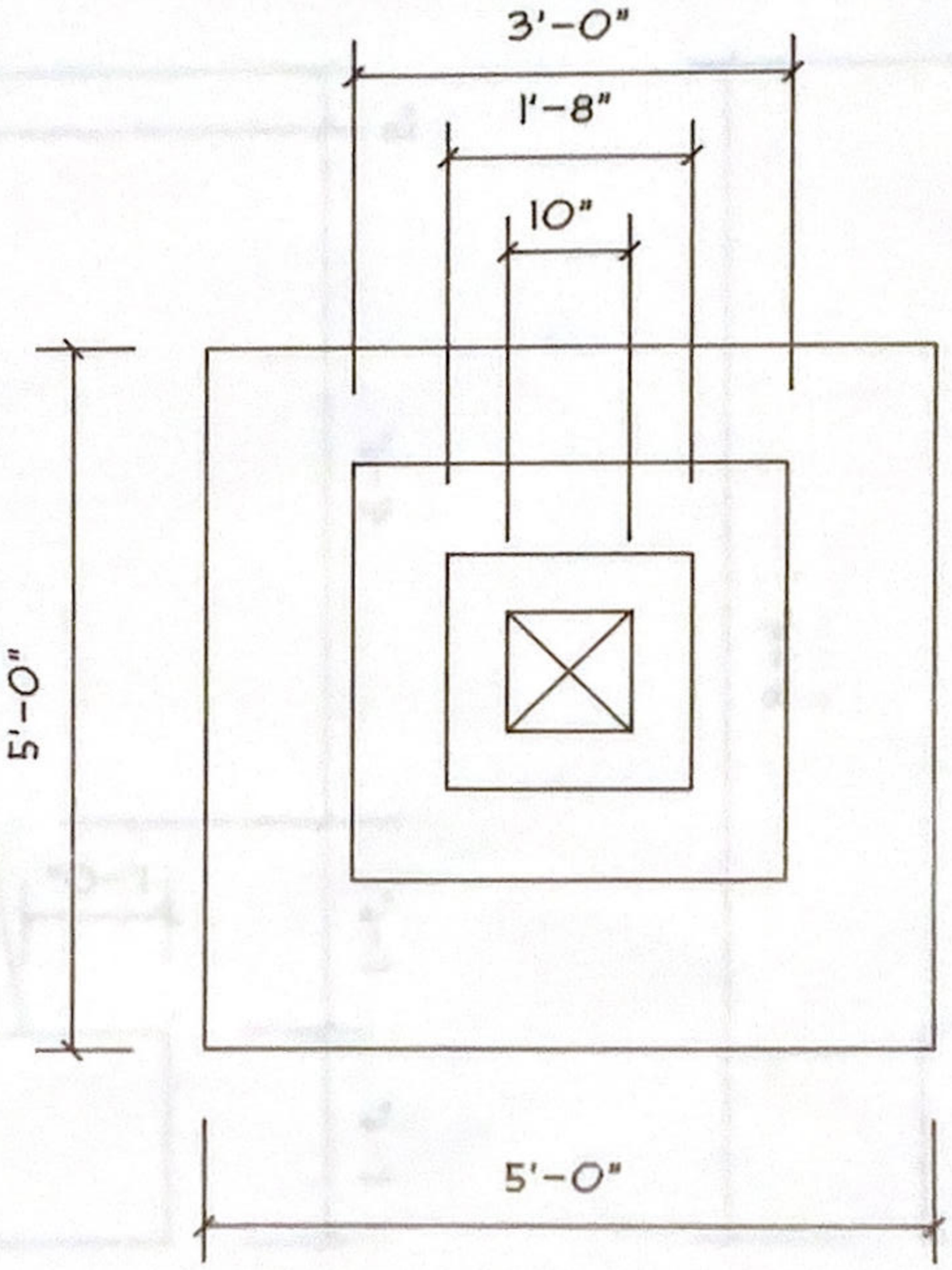
JOESEPH BOWEN
PASTOR

"IN HOC SIGNO"

1992

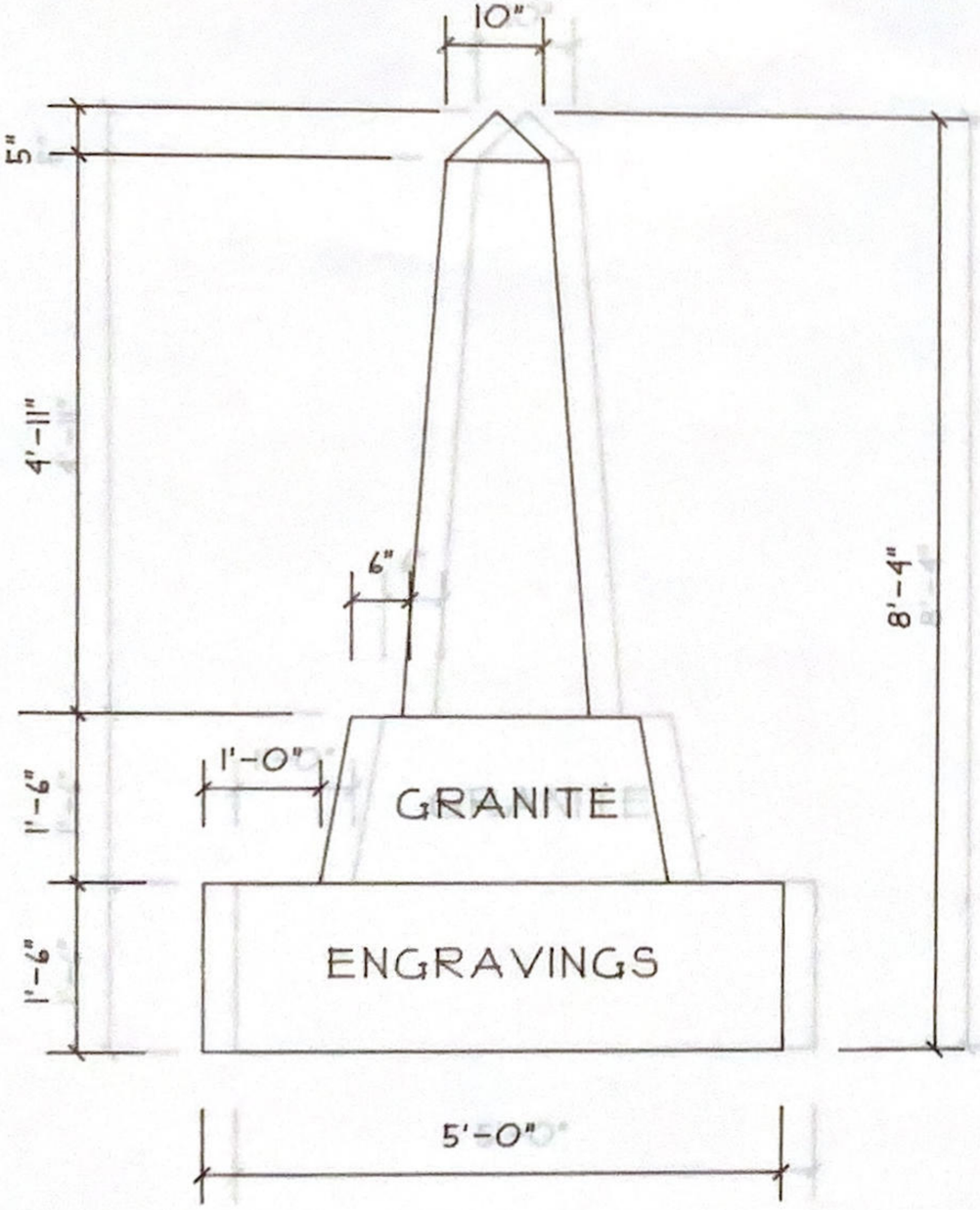
KENNETH DRISKELL
CHR., TRUSTEES

ENGRAVING #2



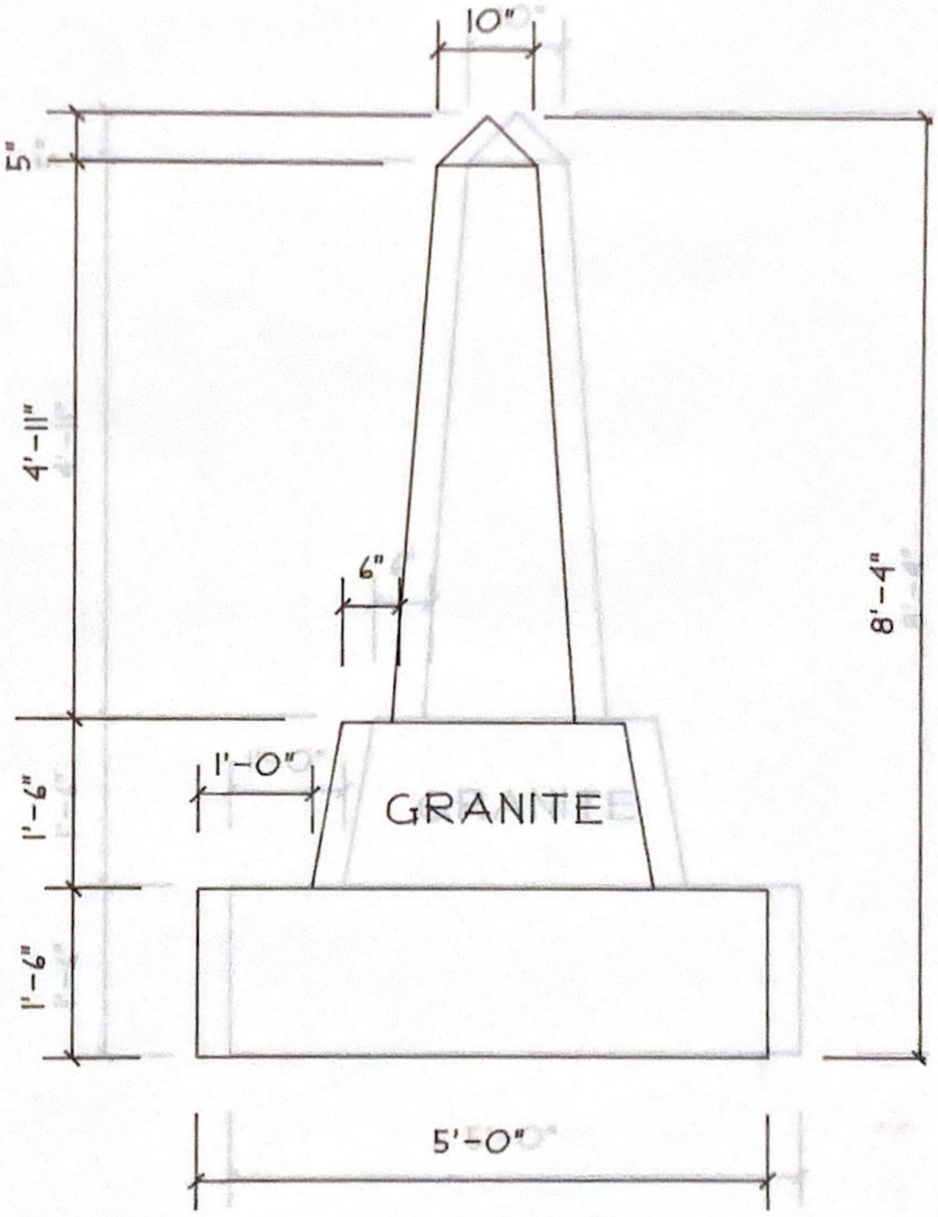
PLAN

1/2" = 1'-0"



REAR

1/2" = 1'-0"



LEFT

1/2" = 1'-0"

FOUNDER'S MEMORIAL

OFFICIAL METHODIST SYMBOL INSERTED HERE.

In this area lie the remains of
of several of those dedicated
Christians who chose this site
for Alpharetta's 1st Church

NEW PROSPECT METHODIST
CAMPGROUND-ca 1835-45

ENGRAVING #1

PIONEER FAMILIES

ALEXANDER
BAGLEY
BURGESS
CRISLER
DEVORE
EMERSON
EASON
GARDNER
GILSTRAP
HARRIS
HOOK
JAMES
JONES
LOTT
MANNING
MAYFIELD
McCLURE
MEDLOCK
MORRIS
MOSTELLER
NORMAN
NUNNALLY
PARSONS
RUCKER
SMITH
SPENCE
TEASLEY
UPSHAW
WEBB
WESTBROOK
WILLS

Douglas

DOUGLAS

EARLY PASTORS: CIVIL WAR PERIOD

DANIEL KELSEY – 1861
G.W.L. ANTHONY – 1862
SAMUEL J. BELLAH – 1863
WILLIAM W. OSLIN – 1863–4
JOHN R. GAINES – 1865–6

ERECTED 1992

✝ "IN HOC SIGNO" ✝

JOSEPH BOWEN, PASTOR
Ken Dryskell, Chr. Trustee

PIONEER FAMILIES

ALEXANDER
BAGLEY
BURGESS
CRISLER
DEVORE
EMERSON
EASON
GARDNER
GILSTRAP
HOOK
JAMES
JONES
LOTT
MANNING
MAYFIELD
MORRIS
MOSTELLER
NORMAN
RUCKER
SMITH
SPENCE
TEASLEY
LIPSHAW
WILLS

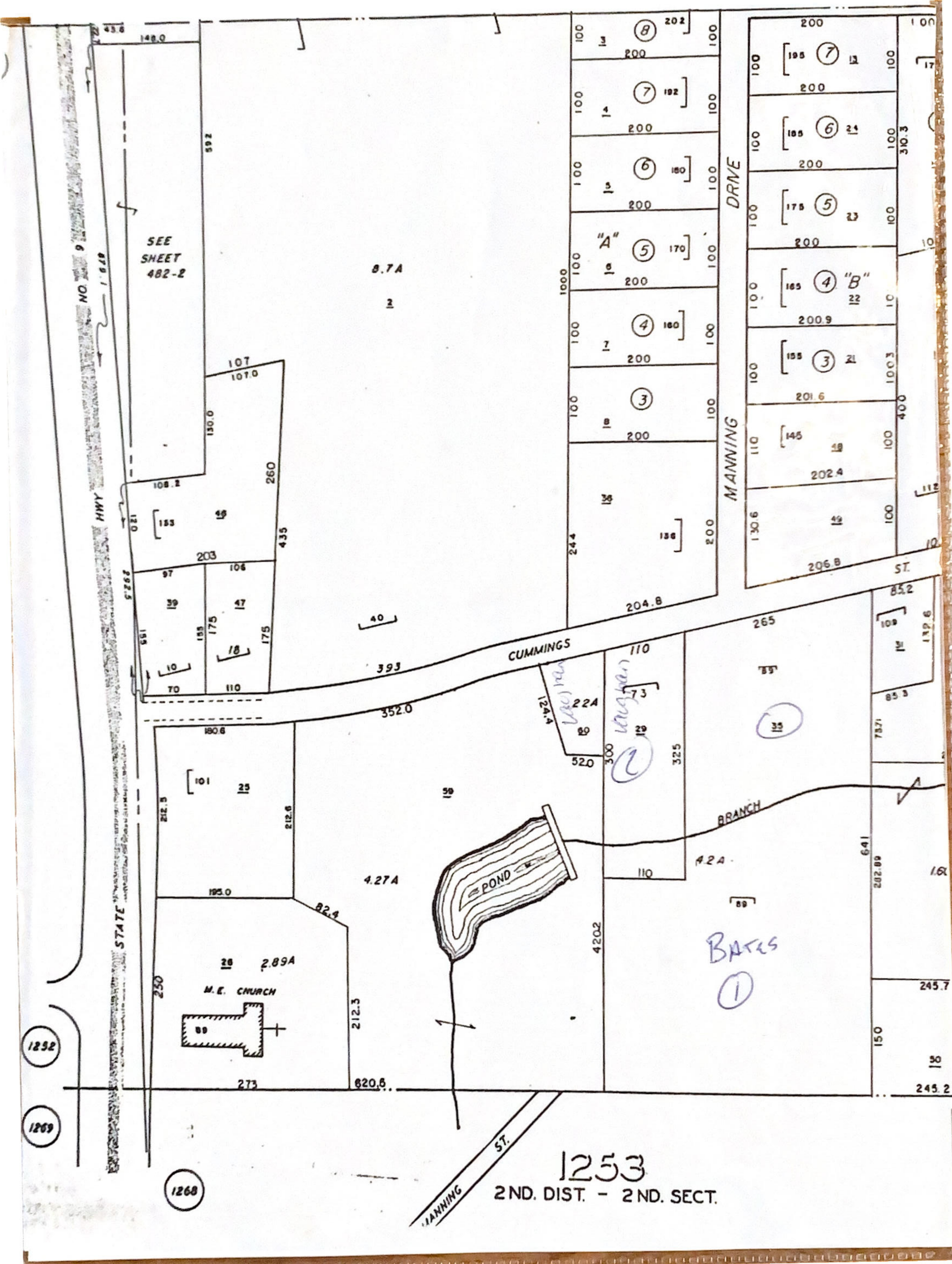
EARLY Pastors: CIVIL WAR PERIOD

Daniel Kelsey - 1861

G. W. L. Anthony - 1862
Samuel J. Bellah - 1863
William W. Oslin - 1863-4
John R. Gaines - 1865-6

✝ "In Hoc Signo" ✝

Preliminary Draft of Proposed
Memorial Marker.


SEE SHEET 482-2
8.7A
2
MANNING DRVE
CUMMINGS
ST.
STATE HWY NO 9
4.27A
2.89A
M.E. CHURCH
POND
BRANCH
4.2A
2.2A
BATES
1
2
1253
2ND. DIST. - 2ND. SECT.
1252
1269
1268

MAIN — U. S. HWY. / STATE ROUTE

JONES AVENUE — 495± — 534

STREET

BROOK

NORCROSS STREET

1.48A

.912A

0.509A

1.865A

OUT SEE SQ. 5

SEE L.L. 695-748 SHEET 258-4

SEE SHEET 258-4

SEE SHEET 270-3

1268

2ND. DIST. 2ND. SECT.

498-4

SEE SHEET 498-1

ELC

1252 1253 1253

1269

580 465

55 65 3.3A 41 270

MANNING STREET

353.9 404.2

135.5 95 378.0 352.0 18 2.78A 133 117.0 16.0 570

19 6.1A

27.54 60 29 2 75 19.8 195.3 47.2 140.5 200 61 .56A 167.5 RELOCATED MANNING ST. 165.1 62 .48A 266.6 97 2.97A 204.6 72 94

32 44 334. 97.4 160 200 475

ACADEMY STREET

292.72 100.5 106.0 2 8 67 6.3 23.3 23.7 7.29 8.55 68 106.6 8.0 117.98 265 59 21 90 69 150 150 98 79 200 202.77 59.79 89 0.279A 24 2 150 99 203.80 25 200 220 200 14 24

SEE SHEET

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

JOE B. BOWEN, JR.
Senior Minister

DAVID E. TINSLEY
Associate Minister

BRANNON L. ROBERTS
Minister of Music

MARY ANN GILBERT
Minister of Program

STEVEN D. CASH
Minister to Youth

May 7, 1997

Mrs. Simi Long
301 Black Kettle Lane
Alpharetta GA 30202

Dear Simi,

I met with members of the Morris family on April 24. They wanted to be reassured that in the change of pastors that the church's commitment of a Founder's Garden as a part of Phase II of our Administrative and Educational Building would not be lost in the transition of leadership.

I assured them that this Garden was something to which this church was firmly committed and enthusiastic and that it would be put in the needs package at the outset of planning Phase II.

I also told them that when the time comes to build, we will invite them to be a part of this project through their financial gifts. They assured me they would "do their part."

Thank you for holding this opportunity to link past and present to the future and honor and remember the founders of this community and church before us. This promises to be an exciting and beautiful spot.

Joy and Peace,

Joe B. Bowen, Jr.,
Senior Minister

JBB:pr

copies:
Wes Jennings, Trustees
Ruth Wills - 3 copies for the Morris family

SHIRLEY ANNE VICK
3061 SLATON DRIVE, N.W. / ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30305 / (404) 233-6818

14 May 1991

Mr. Jim Toler
2600 Burgess Road
Alpharetta, GA 30201

Dear Mr. Toler:

Your name was given to me by Dr. Nat Long as the chairman of the building committee of the Alpharetta Methodist Church and he suggested that I contact you regarding the following. I will certainly appreciate your consideration.

My great-great-grandfather, Charles Wesley Morris is reported to be buried in the church yard of your church in the area which was paved over some years ago. My cousin, Aubrey Morris, tells me that there has been some discussion of removing the asphalt from that section and dedicating that area to the memory of the original founders of the church, one of which my ancestor is purported to be. Dr. Long told me that he was not aware of such a plan but perhaps you could help us. We are very interested in such a project in almost any form that it would take in order that the graves which are buried would be uncovered.

I will be out of the country from May 21 to June 11, but would very much like to hear from you if there is anything the family can do to encourage something along those lines.

Thank you so much for your kind attention to this letter. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Shirley Anne Vick

cc: Dr. Nat Long
Rev. Joseph Bowen
Mr. Aubrey Morris

← Aubrey - this is the successor to Nat Long.

Alpharetta First United Methodist Church
69 N. Main St.
475-5576

WARRANTY DEED

FROM

O. L. Barnett

TO

James M. Bagley

March 9, 1918.

GEGRGIA—MILTON COUNTY.

CLERK'S OFFICE SUPERIOR COTRT.

Filed for Record at 2 o'clock P. M.

March 9 1918

Recorded in Book K Folio 347

March 9 1918

Claude Rainwater CLERK.

NEWS PRINT, ALPHARETTA.

News Print, Alpharetta.

STATE OF GEORGIA, Milton County.

THIS INDENTURE, made this Ninth day of March in the year of our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighteen. between O.L.Barnwell of the State of Ga. and county of Gwinnett of the first part, and James M.Bagley of the State of Georgia and County of Milton of the second part,

WITNESSETH: That the said party of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of Fifteen Hundred and No/100 DOLLARS, in hand paid at and before the sealing and delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, has granted, bargained, sold and conveyed, and by these presents do es grant, bargain, sell and convey unto the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns, all that tract or parcel of land lying and being in the town of Alpharetta, Ga.,and more fully described as follows: Bounded on the south by the M.E.Church property; On the east by land of T.H.Manning; on the north by land of T.H.Manning, C.P.Norman and R.J.Webb,and on the west by property of H.A.Gardner and land of the T.A.Teasley estate,and being a part of land lot No.Twelve Hundred,Fifty-three (1253) in the Second District and Second Section of originally Cherokee,but now Milton County,Ga. and containing one acre,more or less

10 10

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said bargained premises, together with all and singular the rights, members and appurtenances thereof, to the same being, belonging or in anywise appertaining, to the only proper use, benefit and behoof of him, the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns forever, IN FEE SIMPLE.

And the said party of the first part, for himself,his heirs, executors and administrators will warrant and forever defend the right and title to the above described property unto the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns, against the lawful claims of all persons whomsoever.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, The said party of the first part has hereunto set hand and affixed his seal, the day and year above written.

Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of

Clay Tolleson
C.P.Manning, N.P.

O.L.Barnwell (SEAL)

(SEAL)

(SEAL)

To Have and to Hold the said bargained premises, with all and singular the rights, members and appurtenances thereto appertaining, to the only proper use, benefit and behoof of his the said O L. Bonnwell his heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, in fee simple. And the said John D. Teasley his the said bargained premises unto the said O L. Bonnwell his heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, and against the said John D. Teasley his heirs, executors, and administrators, and against all and every other person or persons, shall and will warrant and forever defend, by virtue of these presents.

In Witness Whereof, The said John D. Teasley has hereunto set his hand and affixed his seal, and delivered these presents, the day and year first above written.

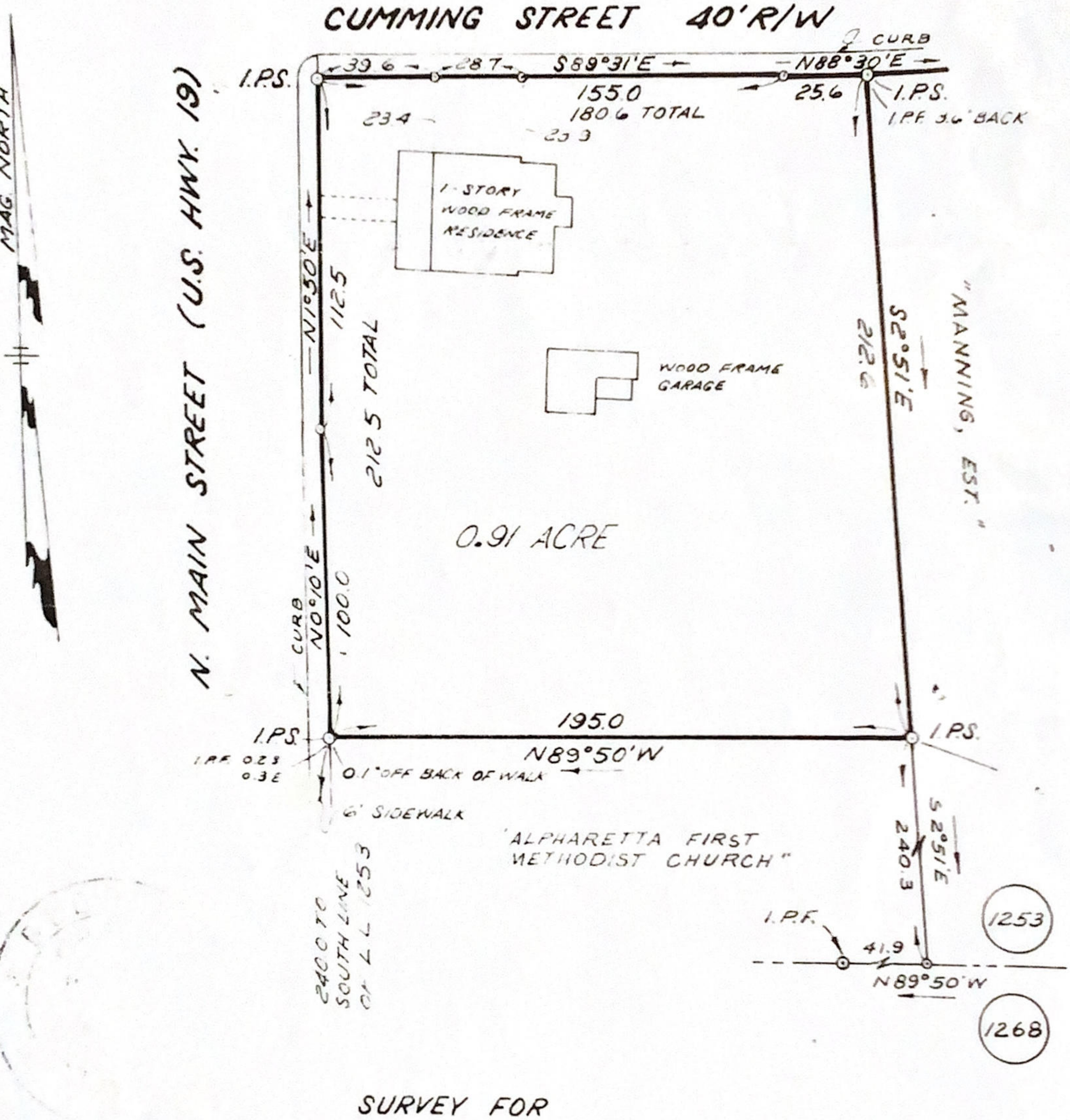
Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of

W. D. Seale
W. H. Spence. C.S.C.

John D Teasley (Seal)

(Seal)

(Seal)



SURVEY FOR

JAMES M. BAGLEY, JR.
JEWEL L. BAGLEY

LAND LOT 1253 2ND. DIST. 2ND. SECT.
FULTON COUNTY, GEORGIA
CITY OF ALPHARETTA
SCALE: 1"=50' AUGUST 4, 1976
DORSEY R. BRUMBELOW GA. REG. NO. 1317

E/C = 1' IN 10,000'

Dorsey R. Brumbelow

76104-17-38

WARRANTY DEED.

FROM

John. D. Teasley

TO

O L. Barnwell

STATE OF GEORGIA,

Milton County.

Clerk's Office, Superior Court.

Filed for record 3. day of

August. 1903

4 M.

Recorded in Book H., folio 234.

this 3. day of Aug. 1903

W. H. Spruce.

CLERK.

Foote & Davies Co., Printers, Atlanta, Ga.

WARRANTY DEED.—No. 66. Foote & Davies Co., Printers, Atlanta, Ga.

State of Georgia, Millon County.

This Indenture, made the Third day of August in the year of our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Three between John. I. Teasley of the county of Millon. State aforesaid, of the one part, and O L Bornwell of the county of State North Carolina of the other part, **Witnesseth,** That the said John. I. Teasley, for and in consideration of the sum of Three Hundred and fifty Dollars in hand paid at or before the sealing and delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have granted, bargained, sold, aliened, conveyed and confirmed, and by these presents does grant, bargain, sell, alien, convey and confirm, unto the said O. L. Bornwell his heirs and assigns, a Certain tract of land lying and being in the Town of Alpharetta, Ga and described as follows. bound on the South by the M-E. Church property. East by. T R Lewis. North by R. J Webb & T. R. Lewis. West by. W A Teasley. and lying and being & Cumming Street. On the East Side of said Street. And Containing one acre more or less. and being part of land Lot. No 1253. Second Dist & Second Section Originally Cherokee. but now. said County & State

HISTORICAL FACTS CONCERNING THE ORGANIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF MT. ZION METHODIST CHURCH AND MT. ZION CAMP-GROUND IN THE WESTERN PART OF SPALDING COUNTY, GEORGIA.

On the 8th of January 1821, the U. S. Government sent two commissioners to conclude a Treaty with the Creek Nation of Indians at the Indian Springs which released a broad area of land between the Ocmulgee and Flint Rivers for settlement by Georgians clamoring for more land. Soon after the Treaty the area was formed into several large Counties and surveyed into lots of 202½ acres, more or less, for distribution. On the 15th of May 1821 the Georgia Legislature authorized a Lottery System whereby the lots could be drawn and occupied.

Among the first settlers to arrive in our area about 1823 were a number of very devout Methodist families from Jasper and Jones Counties of Georgia. Two of the most outstanding families were the Kendalls and Morrises. The Kendalls took the initiative in 1824 to get a church organized. Under the leadership of Reverend John Hunter, Mt. Zion Methodist Church was organized in the home of Isaac Kendall with the following membership:

Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Kendall

Sarah Kendall, who later married Jesse Brown

Mary Kendall, who later married Frederick Sessions

and married secondly Isham Morris

Elizabeth Kendall, married Charles Wesley Morris

Mr. and Mrs. Asa Sessions

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Williamson

Sarah Bassett and her Mother and Father

Uncle Ben, a pious slave of H. Williamson

In 1825 Spencer Morris joined

In 1826 Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Morris joined,

also their sons Hiram, Charles, Jonathan,

and John, and daughters Polly and Alsia M.

Soon after the organization of Mt. Zion Church other Methodists were settling in our area, among whom were James R. Callaway, John Farley, Joseph Deason, Miles Parker, a Leach family, and others not named.

At first, services were conducted in the homes of the Church members. On the 18th of May 1830, John Farley, Joseph Deason and Henry Williamson bought land from Asa Sessions on which to erect a church building. It was erected on Lot 4 just North of the Present church and as I understand from old members who attended this first church it was constructed of logs. The earliest ministers to conduct services in this pioneer period following John Hunter were Thadieus Bell, from South Carolina, Jeremiah Freeman, Varnel McHaffey, and Stegall and Jesse Boring who later became Doctors of Divinity. The deed from Asa Sessions for the above mentioned land for a church building is recorded in Pike County, witnesses being James R. Callaway, Miles Parker, and John Bivins, J.P.

Membership in Mt. Zion Church had increased by 1834 to the extent that many were becoming zealous for a permanent camp ground for August revival services. On January 22, 1834 John B. Reid sold Lot 29, containing 202½ acres, more or less, for $200, to the following Trustees and their successors of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Fayette Circuit for the purpose of establishing and keeping up a camp ground; namely, John Simmons, James R. Callaway, Wm. H. Simmons, Robert Bonner and George Parker. This deed was recorded in Pike County January 23, 1834, witnesses being I. B. Williamson and Wm. Bethune, J.P.

No record has been found yet as to the progress of Mt.Zion Church from 1834 to 1849, however by this time many new family names had been added to the records. Among these are the following: Blackstock, Blanton, Bergamy, Bullard, Canada , Connally, Crowder, Davis, Dorsey, Foster, Gordon, Huckaby, Jackson, Leak, Matthews , McGeehee, McLeroy, Moats, Moon, Norton, Rivers, Scott, Shell, Tanksley, Trammell, Wilkerson, Touchstone - At some period after 1850 the first church was abandoned and the second one was erected on Lot 29 which had been bought from John B. Reid. It stood about halfway between the present Church and Hotel. At first revival services on the Camp Ground were held under brush arbors but soon after 1834 a small wooden Tabernacle was erected which was used until after the War Between the States.

My grandfather, Wm. McKendree Blanton, settled in Mt. Zion District in 1847 - a son of Reverend Benjamin Blanton who was a pioneer Methodist Minister of Virginia, the Carolinas, and Georgia under the leadership of Bishop Francis Asbury. Wm. McKendree Blanton was a graduate of old Franklin College of Athens, Georgia, ~~before it became~~ which was a part of the University of Georgia, and he was always a faithful Methodist with great devotion to Mt. Zion Methodist Church and Camp Ground after he settled in this community. He and the Kendalls were very close friends and both families gave much of their time in strong leadership and financial support to Mt. Zion Church and Camp Ground throughout their lives. There were also other faithful helpers among the church membership.

Membership in Mt. Zion Church continued to grow until 1860 when the records show 110 white members and a considerable number of slaves. A few of the former slaves were still attending Mt. Zion Church services when I was a small child. The War Between the States took its toll of members from the Church. But by 1885 the membership of the Church had increased to 200 members which held fairly steady for a number of years. It was not until and after the first World War that the membership began to decline rapidly. Society had begun to grow so mobile by this period, many left this community for other areas to seek more lucrative occupations.

During the 1860 to 1865 War period no Camp Meetings were held at Mt. Zion and much deterioration to the Tabernacle and Tents took place. It became necessary to build a new Tabernacle

and rebuild the Tents. At the first meeting after the War my Grandfather arose and suggested that an attempt be made to raise funds for a new building. In a short time Reverend Sam Jones had secured the promise of $3,000 as a starter. My Grandfather then asked that the structure be patterned like the Tabernacle at Ocean Grove, New Jersey, which was agreeable to all, and his brother-in-law, Henry Williamson, was sent to Hopewell, Virginia to secure Blue Prints. Mr. John Westbrook was employed as builder and my Grandfather sawed the timber for this massive architectual structure which could seat three thousand participants in very comfortable hand made seats. This Tabernacle was used from about 1870 to 1959 when it was struck by lightning and burned down. In a few years the present structure was erected.

By 1890 the second Mt. Zion Church was getting into bad shape and it became necessary to rebuild . It was decided to build a new church, which is the church in use at the present time. My father, William Parks Blanton, was employed to build and the church was ready for use by 1892. The timber was sawed on the Blanton plantation and my grandfather had the pews made in Griffin. At first the pews and all woodwork inside the building were stained in such a way as to show the beautiful grain of the pine wood, however many changes have been made inside the building since 1940.

For many years Mt. Zion Camp Ground was conceded to be the finest Camp Ground in the State devoted to religious service. Many faithful souls down through the years helped to make this

possible but I am sure none gave more generously of their time, effort, and financial support than did my Grandfather and Father during their years in various official positions in the service of both Mt. Zion Church and the Camp Ground .

(Signed) Martha Blanton

Witnesses:
Sarah Blanton
Charlie B. Blanton

The above Historical Survey of Mt. Zion Church and Camp Ground covering the period from 1824 through 1940 was compiled by Martha Blanton in 1980.

Sources of information for this survey are:

Mr. Aubrey R. Morris of Atlanta, Georgia.

Mrs. Herman Richardson of Blakely, Georgia.

Records from Courthouse of Zebulon, Georgia.

Records kept by my Grandfather.

My own personal Knowledge (Martha Blanton).

Ministers who have served at Mt. Zion Methodist Church since 1890, including Supplies and Student Ministers.

Rev. S. R. England
Rev. E. K. Aiken
Rev. J. J. Ansley
Rev. M. M. Walraven
Rev. Burges
Rev. J. T. Lowe
Rev. C. V. Weathers
Rev. Sansburn
Rev. Ware
Rev. G. W. Farr
Rev. Milligan
Rev. J. R. Allen
Rev. T. M. Elliott
Rev. Nath Thompson
Rev. ~~Abner~~ Sanders
Rev. J. H. Pharr
Rev. B. L. Betts
Rev. Johnson
Rev. Geo. P. Gary
Rev. J. W. Lee
Rev. J. S. Hill
Rev. Chambers
Rev. Mercer
Rev. Allison
Rev. Perryman
Rev. Tim Holbrook
Rev. Jack Lamb
Rev. Johnson
Rev. J. M. Mize
Rev. Leroy Smith
Rev. J. U. Little
Rev. Gene Walton
Rev. Stewart Green
Rev. Mary Ruth Haisten
Rev. Earl Jackson

Q.E.

WSB
RADIO

1601 WEST PEACHTREE STREET, N.E. / ATLANTA, GEORGIA / 30309

Aubrey Morris
Director of Public Relations / Promotions

August 14,1984

Dear Miss Blanton:

What a delightful surprise to receive a letter from you after such a long period of our having been out of touch.

My sincere thanks for the excellent story you did on Mt. Zion Church. I am so proud of the Mt. Zion roots my Kendall and Morris families share with the Blanton family and others in the area you are still fortunate to call home. I am glad I was, with your help, able to pursue my own investigation, turning up the Rev. Jonathan Morris letters, which thankfully preserved that precious heritage. I am continuing to document my Kendall-Morris family, focusing on Alabama and points Westward, the route of migration up to, and through, the turn of the century.

I will have to try to obtain a copy, or copies, of the Griffin newspaper which quotes you. It would be interesting to see the published accounts. Your mention of the brusque treatment accorded by one Mr. Knight, at the Griffin newspaper, is something for which I, in my profession, would like to appologize to you. Journalists, from your own experience, are often flying around in clouds of bewilderment and confusion, losing touch with the basic things which are meaningful in a community. This, sad to say, has been true for a decade or more, when the so-called "advocate" journalists have been hung up on their own ideas of what the world is about, and refuse to listen to what's going on around them. People are no different, basically, today than ever before. They're still hungry for learning the things that really interest them; things of a personal, human nature.

I was out early this morning reporting on the Primary voting and am about ready to head home. Again, let me say I'm proud to know you. And, again, many thanks for your kindness and thoughtfulness in sending the material.

Sincerely yours,
Aubrey R. Morris
Aubrey R. Morris

1536 Bloomtown Mill Rd.
Griffin, Ga. 30223

Mr. Aubrey R. Morris
626 Lowell Terr.
Atlanta, Ga. 30328

ATLANTA, GA
4 PM
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1984
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Under God's Grace

150 Years

Mt. Zion United Methodist

Campground

1834 - 1984

WELCOME BISHOP AND MRS. McDAVID

Bishop Joel McDavid has served the North and South Georgia Conferences for the past 4 years. He will be retiring in September. We extend to him and his wife Milah a warm welcome to Mt. Zion.

WELCOME:

Your presence at this special service of celebration is appreciated. You are welcome to participate in the remainder of Mt. Zion's 150th Camp Meeting. May God bless your life.

TODAY'S EVENTS:

3:00 p.m. - Afternoon Worship Service, Rev. Mark Rutland, preaching
7:45 p.m. - Evening Worship Service, Rev. John Carroll, preaching

THROUGHOUT THE WEEK:

Services: 11:00 a.m. and 7:45 p.m.
Adult Bible Study: 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.
Youth & Children Bible Study: 9:45 a.m.
Recreation Time: 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. and after Evening Worship

MINISTERS FOR THE WEEK:

Evangelists: Rev. John Carroll,
Rev. Mark Rutland
Musicians: Rev. Les Connell, Mr. Cecil Ringer,
Mrs. Linda Freeman, Mr. Winfred Goodman
Adult: Dr. Donald Boyd
Children: Mrs. Donna Wilfong, Miss Donna Boggs
Youth: Rev. Zip Long, Rev. Mitchell Hedgepeth,
Mr. Ronnie Whitworth

MEALS AVAILABLE IN DINING HALL:

Please make reservation for all meals. The telephone number is 228-8930. Thank you!

SESQUICENTENNIAL BOOKLETS AVAILABLE:

$3.00 each. See Kay Goodman, Brenda Harris, Martha O'Quinn, or Terry Walton.

CAMPGROUND T-SHIRTS

Youth Size - $6.00
Adult Size - $7.00
Available at the store.

MT. ZION UNITED METHODIST CAMPGROUND

"150th Annual Camp Meeting"
1834 - 1984
Sunday, August 12, 1984 - 10:30 A.M.

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Instrumental Prelude	
Call to Worship	Kaye Walton
*Invocation	Rev. Les Connell
*Hymn	2
Welcome & Announcements	Rev. Eugene Walton
Anthem	Choir
Sesquicentennial Celebration	Mrs. Martha O'Quinn
Ministry of Music	Jap, Joyce & Kelly Walton
*Hymn	14
The Morning Prayer	Dr. Jimmy Thompson
Our Giving of Tithes and Offerings	Choir
*The Dedication of Gifts and Doxology	
Hymn	23
Introduction of Speaker	Karen Goodman
Ministry of Music	Jap, Joyce & Kelly Walton
Sermon	Bishop Joel D. McDavid
*Hymn of Invitation	4
*The Benediction	
*The Postlude	

1536 Blanton Mill Rd.
Griffin, Ga. 30223
Aug 11, 1984

Dear Mr. Morris:

Soon after you sent me information on the organization of Mt. Zion Church I wrote up the history of the Church from all sources I could find and had a typed copy made for you but somehow failed to send it.

I offered a copy to Mr. Knight of the Griffin Daily News but he told me

me he couldnt find
room in the paper
for things like that but
now since the officials
of Mt. Zion Campground
are having the 158th
Anniversary celebration
next week 8/12th to 19th.
the papers are filled
with Mt. Zion history
drawn from mine
and another Ladies
history of the Camp ground
This has prompted me
to send this enclosure
to you that I once elected before
Sincerely Martha Deaton