



315 South Broad Street  
Cairo, Georgia 39828



*Alive Together in Christ, We Move Forward in Faith*

## Message from the Pastor



REV. WHIT BYRAM  
*Pastor*

*Cairo First UMC*

*Dear Friends in Christ,*

Throughout the year of 2017, we're celebrating our 150th Anniversary.

It began in 1867 when 20 people started gathering to formally organize the Cairo Methodist congregation. These pioneers brought with them a commitment to seeing God's love flourish and prosper under the authority of Holy Scripture. They believed in the power of prayer, the teaching of the Bible, and Biblical morality. In their view, God provided these means of grace to further his purposes in the world through the fellowship of the Church, and to help us celebrate the gospel of Jesus Christ for the sake of others.

Cairo Methodist historian Mrs. Ruth Harley (W.E.) Young, wrote, "The history of the Cairo Methodist Church is written in the lives of those Christian men and women who have poured the full measure of their faith, their time, their talent, their ingenuity and their means into the founding and establishing of a Methodist Church in this community – a beacon light to all it has served and a glory to God, whom it honors."

I can't think of better words to guide us forward into the future than these. It is my prayer that those who come behind us in 15, 25, 50, and 100 years from now will be able to look back and readily say, "They loved one another and others well. They made a difference for good throughout Cairo/Grady County. And, together, the church continued to be a beacon light to all it served and a glory to God, whom it honored."

Happy 150th, Cairo First! It's a joy to be your pastor.

With Every Blessing,

*Whit*

# Message from Buddy Whatley

*Dear Friends,*

Several times through the years, I've gone back in my life to discover why I am who I am... and Cairo First UMC was, and is, an important part of my story. I grew up three blocks from this church on Fifth Avenue, but my faith grew up in this church on South Broad Street.

We made clay villages, ate coconut cookies, and drank Kool-aid in Vacation Bible School. We caught fireflies and bumble bees on the azaleas around the church. We played football on the front lawn of the parsonage. We went to Citizens Café after MYF and evening worship to eat French fries, drink cokes, and talk about what we believed about God. And we laughed when the lights went out during my dad's funeral.

But the moment I best remember was in the basement of this church; we were roller skating on the concrete floor when Luther White, the custodian, walked in. We were caught and about to be condemned; but he simply smiled and said, "Be careful!" In an instant, I realized this was a place where we were accepted; it was a place where the "grace" of our Lord Jesus Christ was not simply a word but a lifestyle.

And so, I've spent most of my adult life sharing and teaching people the lessons I learned right here in this church... thank you, all of you, for giving me both roots for my faith and wings for my ministry!

Charles 'Buddy' Whatley



REV. CHARLES WHATLEY  
*Pastor*

*Bold Springs UMC*

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# Staff

WHIT BYRAM *Pastor*

RUTH SIMS *Administrative Assistant*

KYLE PARKER *Youth, Families and  
Contemporary Worship*

JODI KINDRED *Children's Ministries*

ED LYON *Chancel and Handbell  
Choir Director*

ED SELF *Organist*

MEGAN LOKEY *Pianist*

JAMIE ALLEN *Pre-School Director*

MELISSA WHITE *and* PEG THOMAS *Nursery*

JAMES THOMAS *and* CLIFFORD JACKSON *Custodian*

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DR. NITA CRUMP



BISHOP LAWSON BYRAN

*Southwest District Superintendent*

*South Georgia Conference*

# 2017 Church Officers

LAITY COUNCIL	<i>Chad Allen</i>
BOARD OF TRUSTEES	<i>Seth Stanaland</i>
LAY LEADER	<i>Chris James</i>
STAFF PARISH	<i>Charles Davis</i>
FINANCE	<i>Edgar Smith</i>
TREASURER	<i>James Rinker</i>
ALTAR GUILD	<i>Charlene Powell</i>
AUDIO VISUAL	<i>Ross Sims</i>
BUILDING	<i>Lewis Oliver</i>
CHILDREN	<i>Cassie Hudson</i>
COMMUNICATIONS	<i>Bert Wind</i>
CONGREGATIONAL CARE	<i>Debra Smith</i>
ENDOWMENT	<i>Edgar Smith</i>
HISTORIAN	<i>Carolyn Chason</i>
LAITY TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE	<i>Mike Mills</i>
MISSIONS	<i>Miriam Funderburk and Mike Thorton</i>
MUSIC	<i>Sandra Clark</i>
NURSERY	<i>Erin Jones and Carrie Stanaland</i>
OUTREACH AND HOSPITALITY	<i>Lisa Oliver</i>
PARSONAGE	<i>Carolyn Stafford</i>
PRE-SCHOOL	<i>Clair McCaskill</i>
SAFE SANCTUARY	<i>Jamie Allen</i>
SMALL GROUPS	<i>Carol Lehman</i>
STEWARDSHIP	<i>Matt McCaskill</i>
USHERS	<i>Tony Sheffield and Herbert W. Wind</i>
VAN	<i>Tommy Smith</i>
WORSHIP	<i>Hope Almon</i>
150TH ANNIVERSARY	<i>Sonya Porter</i>

# Pastors Who Have Served Cairo First United Methodist Church

W. Whit Byram . . . . .2014-  
 Richard Turner . . . . .2011- 2014  
 Henry C. Bass . . . . .2009-2011  
 Eugene C. Cochran . . . . .2007-2009  
 Richard W. Soper . . . . .2000-2007  
 Eugene Yelverton . . . . .1997-2000  
 Paul W. Dupree . . . . .1993-1997  
 Bobby E. Davis . . . . .1991-1993  
 A. Tegler Greer . . . . .1987-1991  
 William G. Brown . . . . .1983-1987  
 Charles S. Culbreth . . . . .1978-1983  
 Loy G. Veal . . . . .1972-1978  
 Henry K. Erwin . . . . .1968-1972  
 Henry S. Brooks . . . . .1964-1968  
 P.E. Miller . . . . .1960-1964  
 J.C. Varnell, Jr. . . . .1956-1960  
 L.E. Williams . . . . .1952-1956  
 G.N. Rainey . . . . .1948-1952  
 Frank Nalls . . . . .1947-1948  
 J.W. Hitch . . . . .1945-1947  
 M.P. Webb . . . . .1943-1945  
 W.E. McTier . . . . .1940-1943  
 Leland Moore . . . . .1937-1940  
 Albert Trulock . . . . .1933-1937  
 J.E. Sampley . . . . .1930-1933  
 C.A. Jackson . . . . .1929-1930  
 Roy Sampley(3 months) . . . . .1928  
 J.B. Johnston (9 months) . . . . .1928  
 W.A. Tyson . . . . .1927-1928  
 Leland Moore . . . . .1926- 192 7  
 A.H. Robinson . . . . .1923-1926

T. E. Davenport . . . . .1920-1923  
 J. T. Christian . . . . .1918-1920  
 J. T. Ryder . . . . .1916-1918  
 W.L. Wright . . . . .1912-1916  
 W.E. Towson . . . . .1909-1912  
 N.T. Pafford . . . . .1908-1909  
 J.E. McKellar . . . . .1907-1908  
 J.C. Parker . . . . .1906-1907  
 L.W. Colson . . . . .1905-1906  
 G.P. Reviere . . . . .1904-1905  
 W.M. Blitch . . . . .1902-1904  
 W.W. Seals . . . . .1900-1902  
 Robert Kerr . . . . .1898-1900  
 T.D.Strong . . . . .1897-1898  
 J.M. Outler . . . . .1895-1897  
 D.D. Bateman . . . . .1892-1895  
 N.H. Olmstead . . . . .1891-1892  
 J.T. Ainsworth . . . . .1889-1891  
 S.W. Stubbs . . . . .1886-1889  
 N.B. Ousley . . . . .1884-1886  
 J.W. Arnold(Assoc) . . . . .1884-1886  
 H.C. Fentress . . . . .1882-1884  
 J.S. Jordan . . . . .1880-1882  
 C.C. Hines . . . . .1878-1880  
 Wesley Lane . . . . .1877-1878  
 T.J. Ainsworth . . . . .1875- 1877  
 J.W. Jackson . . . . .1874-1875  
 J.J.Giles . . . . .1873-1874  
 P.C. Harris . . . . .1869-1873  
 R.F. Evans . . . . .1868-1869  
 T.J. Colquitt . . . . .1867-1868

# Celebration Events for 2017

- ☼ Saturday, March 25 . . . . . **Spring Cleaning Day**  
*at Cairo First*
- ☼ Sunday, April 9 . . . . . **Kids Sing, 8:55 & 11:00**
- ☼ Sunday, April 30 . . . . . **1 Service: Rev. Richard Soper**  
*Confirmation*
- ☼ Sunday, April 30 . . . . . **Heritage Hymn Sing at 4:00 pm,**  
*Refreshments to Follow*
- ☼ Sunday, June 25 . . . . . **1 Service: Rev. Rick Turner**  
*Lunch to Follow at Noon*
- ☼ Sunday, July 30 . . . . . **1 Service: Rev. Henry Bass**  
*Lunch to Follow at Noon*
- ☼ Saturday, August 19 . . . . . **“Make A Difference Day”**  
*through Various Service Projects*
- ☼ Wednesday, October 4 . . . . . **Hymn Sing, Food, & Fellowship**  
*at Bold Springs UMC*
- ☼ Sunday October 8 . . . . . **Heritage Picnic at Susina Plantation**
- ☼ Saturday, October 21 . . . . . **Annual Fall Bazaar**
- ☼ Sunday, October 29 . . . . . **1 Service: Bishop Lawson Bryan**  
*Lunch to Follow at Noon*
- ☼ Saturday, November 11 . . . . . **Praise and Worship**  
*led by Kyle Parker*
- ☼ Sunday, November 12 . . . . . **In Concert: Mr. Edward Self**  
*at CFUMC*
- ☼ Wednesday, November 15 . . . . . **Food, Fellowship**  
*& The Plath Family Singers*
- ☼ Saturday, November 18 . . . . . **Song of Thanksgiving**  
*Duo Pianos and Chancel Choir at CFUMC*
- ☼ Sunday, November 19 . . . . . **1 Service: Dr. Nita Crump,**  
*Catered Lunch at Cultural Center*

## Cairo First United Methodist Church – 150 years

### 1867

In 1867, rails were laid by the old Atlantic and Gulf Railroad and a wooden depot was built in a spot that would become Cairo. Founding church member William Powell was named the first railroad agent for Cairo and later became a lay preacher. A Methodist Sunday School was organized by Mrs. Julia Hall (a widow) and two sisters, Mrs. Callie Wilmot and Miss Lizzie Everette (later Mrs. W.J. Dickey). Mrs. Hall's home on South Broad Street was used for



some of the early meetings. Callie's husband was Cairo doctor Daniel H. Wilmot, and devout Baptist. These women had been members of the Bold Springs Methodist Church which was about 8 miles northeast of Cairo. It was difficult for residents in the Cairo area to make the journey to Bold Springs. Rev. T.J. Colquitt was the first minister affiliated with the congregation. This Sunday School became the The Cairo Methodist Church.

### 1869

The Cairo Church is listed for the first time in the Journal of the South Georgia Conference under the Bainbridge District. Rev. R. F. Evans was listed as minister.

### 1870

Cairo is designated a Town. Rev. P.C. Harris served as minister from 1869-1872.

## 1873

The church purchased ½ acre (100'x210') situated in the middle of the block south of Ochlocknee Street (Third Ave. SW) from F.A. Seward. Signing on the deed were trustees: T.W. Ballard, David Cooper, Joseph G. Hall, P.H. Herring, William Powell, I.H. Stevens, P. Vanlandingham, George A. Wight, and David Williams. The first church building was constructed as a white one-room frame building with "Grecian" arched windows and wide arched doorway. Just south of the church building on South Broad Street was the Cairo Academy and just south of the school was Mrs. Julia Hall's home. Besides the 3 founding ladies and the trustees listed above other charter members included: Tom W. Brown, Stephen A. Chester and his son W.A. Chester, Rev. P.C. Harris (minister at Bold Springs Methodist), James A. Hayes (local Justice of the Peace), William Powell, Benjamin Franklin (Doc) Powell (his wife, Mrs. Emma Martin Powell, remained a member of the Cairo Baptist Church), and Capt. E.A. Vanlandingham. The church was in a charge with Bold Springs, Tired Creek, Pumphrey and Pine Hill that for a time was in the Dawson District then to the Thomasville District in 1875. The white wooden building was used from 1873 until 1902.

## 1875

Six hundred United Friends of Temperance from around the area marched from Hayes Hall just south of the railroad on Broad Street to our church for a day-long program of speeches and singing, ending with a dinner. Dr. Daniel Wilmot and his sister-in-law Lizzie Dickey were officers in the Temperance Society.

## 1876

The Baptist and Methodist churches in Cairo began an annual May tradition of a joint Sunday school picnic. One of these was held about ¾ mile west of Cairo in a grove along the railroad. A barrel of lemonade was prominently featured and lots of food. Sometimes musicians played. Often the gatherings were held on Thursday afternoon so people felt comfortable fishing and playing games.

1879

The Clower Wight house was used as a parsonage.

1886

Henry Wight (born 1862), moved from the Sofkee Creek area into Cairo and paid for a steeple with four separate tiers topped with a slate roof. It became known as “Henry’s steeple”. Henry’s brother was Rev. (John) Byron Wight. The church listed 206 members including these surnames: Powell, Clower, VanLandingham, McManeus, Oliver, Dickey, Wight, Evans, Davis, Roddenbery, Walker, Stubbs, English, Handley, and Porter.

1893

The first parsonage was built south of the sanctuary on the west side of Broad Street for a cost of \$1000. Membership was 300 people. A Ladies Parsonage Aid Society was formed.

In the Conference minutes that year were these words, “Complaint was made against W.A. Watts, on the ground that he had profaned the Lord’s Day by doing ordinary work therein, and the presiding Elder appointed Joshua Merritt, Henry Gainous and William Merritt as an investigating committee to report at the next Conference.” Later, he was found not guilty, but warned against a repetition of the act.

A Sunday school report made this year read, “...though the attendance is a standing reproach to some who bear the name of Methodism. Why some people will not carry their children is one of the problems that will probably remain unsolved. Preaching, talking and even expostulation seem to be of no avail. Where there ought to be one hundred pupils, there are scarcely twenty-five. God will remove the bright candlestick of Methodism from its place unless we make progress.”

1894

The church bought from I.O Pearce the ½ acre section just south of the church’s land. The church now owned about an acre on South Broad Street (200’x 210’).

1889

Church member and lay minister J.B. Wight published a book, *Tobacco: Its Use and Abuse*. The local school commissioner and merchant made a special plea to parents, teachers and ministers to discourage young boys from taking up the smoking habit.

1900

A brick church was started, but being poorly constructed, the walls were torn down.

1901

The church purchased ½ acre at the corner of South Broad Street and Ochlocknee Street (Third Avenue SW) from Casper Walker for construction of the new brick sanctuary.

1902

The new brick church was completed and dedicated by Bishop Warren A. Candler. This building was used from 1902 until 1927 and sat on the northeast corner of the property at the intersection of Broad Street and Third Avenue SW. The new building had a large bell which was rung each Sunday 30 minutes before the 11 o'clock service and following funerals. Sunday school was held at 3:00 P.M. Surnames for Sunday school teachers were: Wight, Odom, VanLandingham, Oliver, Powell, Brown, Wood, Jones and Brannon.



## 1904

After a brief period of sharing a minister with Whigham Methodist Church, the Cairo Church became a solo station. The young people formed an Epworth League and held socials in the homes of members.

## 1905

Cairo Methodist Church had a Senior League of 60 members and a Junior League with 30 members. There were 3 Foreign Missionary Societies which raised \$135.75 that year. A Home Society of 36 members had raised \$192.40 for local work. The minister's yearly salary was \$900 and the presiding elder was paid \$100. Cairo is selected as county seat for newly formed Grady County.

## 1906

Cairo is designated a City.

## 1908

A Sunday school annex named the Epworth League Hall was added behind or west of the sanctuary.

Joint Baptist-Methodist Sunday school picnics were held. The church had 50 students in the senior league and 36 in the junior league.

## 1909

The WCTU (Women's Christian Temperance Union) came to Cairo with an organizational meeting conducted by Mrs. Armour at the city hall, and some time later Florence Euell Atkins, a noted temperance lecturer, spoke at our church.

## 1910

The church's Board of Stewards June meeting recorded the following in the minutes, "The fact that two members of our church had been caught gambling was brought to the attention of the Board, After a full and free discussion it was unanimously agreed that the pastor see these two men and have them come

before the Board at their convenience for a hearing, and for the purpose of making an acknowledgment, should they see proper to do so...Chairman Wight called the attention of the Board to the bold work done by Bro. Allen Horton, the night watchman, in apprehending a crowd of gamblers...The pastor, with P.H. Herring and P.W. Bussey were appointed a committee to see the laymen and as many others as they might think necessary, as to the manner in which they are violating the laws of the church by their non-attendance upon its services.”

## 1911

The city of Cairo installed electric street lights along Broad Street. A 20-day protracted meeting with 63 services was held at the church. After a temperance sermon here, the congregation adopted a resolution, “That members of this church and congregation do view, with shame and humiliation, the non-enforcement of the prohibition laws in Savannah, Augusta, Atlanta and other cities and towns.”

## 1915

The William Powell Bible Class was begun as a men’s and women’s class taught by Rev. Walter C. Jones. By 1931 it was an all men’s class. The class functioned for approximately 80 years.

## 1918

The United States enters World War I. Many official meetings were not held because of the dangers of the influenza epidemic. The church held a “flag raising service” to honor the 26 men of the church who are enlisted in the World War battle. Membership was 536. The church and parsonage were insured for \$10,000.

## 1921

The state convention of the WCTU was in Cairo for 3 days with sessions held at this church. Lunch was served each day in the Epworth League Hall.

## 1922

The Women's Missionary Society divided the membership into "Circles" one of which was the Business Woman's Circle (later called the Wesleyan Service Guild). The church had 629 members on roll.

## 1924

The Methodists of the country began to discuss unification of Northern and Southern branches. Our local church stewards voted 65-11 opposing the unification.

## 1926

With a planned budget of \$50,000 the cornerstone was laid for a new brick church in the footprint of previous church building. During the construction the Cairo Presbyterian Church on Fourth Avenue loaned its sanctuary for worship and prayer meeting. Cairo High School (later named Southside Elementary School) on Third Street SE was used for Sunday school.

## 1927

The new brick church building "with tall Grecian columns, wide inviting steps and wide, friendly doors" was completed debt-free by Easter Sunday. Dr. W.A. Walker donated \$6,000 toward a



Pilcher pipe organ. The Annual Conference report showed property worth \$90,000 with a total annual church budget of \$54,234.00. The minister now earned \$2750 a year and there were 610 members with 523 attending Sunday school.

## 1928

The WCTU held its district rally at the church to find “a detour around the Al Smith mud hole”. The main speaker called Smith “officially and personally wet.”

## 1932

The men of the church funded a “modern electrically lighted bulletin board” on the front lawn. A double wedding of sisters was held at the church.

## 1934

The first mention of a summer Bible school was this year. Mrs. Addie Lou Powell Hardy (granddaughter of William Powell), having served as organist for 30 years, was paid \$15 a month.

## 1935

Except for Broad and Railroad Street, all the street names in Cairo were changed to number names. No more did Cairo's streets carry the names of the city's earliest settlers: Mitchell, Wight, Decatur, Pearce. Ochlocknee Street on the north side of the church was renamed Third Avenue SW.

## 1936

Overhead plaster in the sanctuary fell and services were held in the Sunday school area. An envelope system for financial giving was introduced.

## 1939

This year within the United States the Methodist Episcopal Church, South and the Methodist Episcopal Church united with the Methodist Protestant Church to form what was called The Methodist Church.

## 1941

In December Pearl Harbor, Hawaii is bombed by the Japanese and the United States enters World War II. The annual church budget was \$5804 with \$80 for lights & water and \$24 for telephone.

## 1942

Service flags were placed in the sanctuary. Many of the women of the church worked in the Red Cross rooms. Serving in our armed services for the war effort were 116 church members. Five members would pay the ultimate sacrifice.

## 1944

A Youth Chapel was created on the third floor of the church building. The church now had 889 members with 736 actively attending. The Sunday school had 554 regular attendees. Evening youth fellowship had 40 members.

## 1945

Community memorial service for President Roosevelt was held at the church. Local citizens were asked to join the nation in mourning the President's death by proclaiming a complete cessation of business activities for one hour on Saturday afternoon in order to attend the service.

## 1946

The installation of the chimes and amplifier system was donated by the Fellowship Class. The chimes were nicknamed, "Uncle Billy's chimes" because citizens used to say when the Methodist church bells rang, "Uncle Billy Powell (William Powell) is calling us to church". The Howard LeGette family presented to the church new mahogany pulpit furniture upholstered in maroon velour.

## 1948

Discussion began about the establishment of a second Methodist church in Cairo.

**1949**

An explosion, apparently caused by a leaking gas stove in the basement, rocked the church doing considerable damage.

**1950**

The Korean Conflict begins and members are called to serve in our armed forces.

**1952**

The church acquired A.B. Wight's property on the east side of South Broad Street and land owned by J.S. Wight behind it on First Street S.E. to build a parsonage.

**1953**

A new parsonage was built across Broad Street from the sanctuary at a cost of \$20,000. On the Sunday before Christmas, 70 members of the combined



choirs of First Baptist, Methodist and Presbyterian churches of Cairo, directed by Glenn Pelham, presented a religious program. The choirs were accompanied by Mrs. Dwight Brown on the organ.

**1955**

The two-story children's Sunday school building was completed south of the main church building.



**1959**

The Cairo church organized Friendship Methodist in northeast Cairo. The church also installed air-conditioning in the Broad

Street sanctuary. The oscillating wall fans in the sanctuary were replaced with electric wall sconces.

## 1962

All 13 Methodist churches in Grady County united for a revival at our church with Bishop Arthur Moore preaching. The church purchased property just west or behind the sanctuary on Third Avenue SW from Mrs. P. D. Pelham. Trustees at that time were: Francis E. Allen, R.A. Bell, R.S. Jones, L.A. Powell, Frank C. White, Alvin B. Wight, John B. Wight, Mrs. J.S. Wight, and Walter Williams.

## 1963

Members begin being drafted into the armed forces for the Viet Nam War.

## 1967

The church celebrated its centennial with 759 members. The centennial observance was a four-day celebration in November with Whigham native and a former Cairo Methodist preacher, Dr. Albert Trulock, preaching.

## 1968

Within the United States the Methodist Church joined the Evangelical United Brethren Church to form the United Methodist Church. The Cairo First Methodist Church became the Cairo United Methodist Church. This same year the Women's Society of Christian Service merged with the Wesleyan Service Guild to become United Methodist Women. A lot adjacent to the southwest corner of church property was purchased from J. Albert Collins. A storage building was erected behind the parsonage. Wall-to-wall carpeting was installed in the sanctuary. There were 53 youth attending Methodist Youth Fellowship on Sunday nights. 18 young people from the church were serving in the armed forces. The church sponsored a Boy Scout troop. The value of the land, buildings and furnishings was listed at \$455,000.

## 1969

The church purchased a lot owned by J.A. Collins behind or west of the 1894 property.

## 1972

The first elevator was installed in the church building. Membership was reported to be 733.

## 1973

Over 1660 hours of work, mostly by United Methodist Men, remodeled the church basement to provide offices for staff and classrooms.

## 1974

An educational fellowship hall building with kitchen, classrooms and chapel was built. The chapel was furnished by the Wight family and dedicated to the memory of J. Byron Wight.



## 1975

United Methodist Women held their first Holiday Bazaar to raise monies for missions.

## 1976

One of the large columns in the front of the church and a large oak tree were damaged by high winds.

## 1977

Completing a personal 3-year project, Mrs. Newell Baker presented the needlepoint kneeling cushions for the altar area. XYZ (Xtra Years of Zest) was organized for older members. Ruth Sims begins work as the church secretary and Ed Self begins as organist.

## 1978

Wednesday Family Night Suppers were begun under the direction of Emily Gandy and Dorothy Hopkins. Meals were \$1.50 for adults, 75 cents for students and \$5.00 a family. The Burleigh Law Sunday School class organized the first Vashti Walk-a-thon. For the first time the church purchased a van to use for groups participating in church activities. A Sunday evening Galilean service was held where the minister preached from a boat on the shore of a local pond. Handbells were given to the church by Arline sisters, Adolyn McQuiddy and Myrtice Moore. Three groups of ringers were formed: Youth, Adult and XYZ.

## 1981

A grand piano was placed in the sanctuary to honor Mrs. Ira Higdon, Sr. by her children. Eleven members took part in a work team to Cuernavaca, Mexico.

## 1982

A team of 7 young couples and their children traveled to St. Mary's to do construction work on the Carnegie Methodist Church.

## 1983

Six members of our church took part in a Volunteers in Mission trip to Panama. A 4' Rohr Schalmey Reed stop was added to the organ in memory of Mabel Powell Brown.

## 1984

A ministry of sending Valentine boxes to college students and service persons was begun by Kaye Herndon (McIssac). Miss Mildred Pelham, a teacher at Whigham School, died and left money to be used for students who are members of Cairo First. These became the Pelham Student Scholarships. Eleven members took part in a mission trip to Panama.

## 1986

Seven members of our church took part in a mission trip to Jamaica.

## 1988

Azalee Moor Wight passed away while attending Sunday evening service in the chapel. The church purchased the lot owned by Steve and Nancy Widener directly west of the current property along Third Avenue SW.

## 1990

Cross-stitched Chrismon ornaments were created by church members for the sanctuary Christmas tree.

## 1991

Our church sent a work team to West Virginia for Appalachian Service Project and continued to send teams in 1992, 1993, 1994 and 1996. About a dozen members participated each year.

## 1993

The rural Tired Creek United Methodist founded in the 1840s merged with Cairo First. The Men's Fellowship Breakfast began meeting at 6:00 AM at the Towne House Restaurant for Bible study and fellowship. A second Sunday Service at 8:45 A.M. with more casual format was started.

## 1995

The church began to video tape the 11:00 AM service for people unable to attend Sunday morning services.

## 1997

The Lauren Clark family donated a small building and swimming pool on the southwest side of our property. "Meet and Greet" on the first Sunday of each month was begun so that members from both worship services could fellowship with one another. Under the leadership of Johnny Carrouth, Home Repair Day began with members from our church joining other Grady County church members to form workteams to do minor repairs for local needy homeowners.

## 1998

The “bucket brigade” was begun as a way to involve children in participating in missions and the church service. The new Reuter organ was dedicated.

## 1999

United Methodist Women was discontinued because of lack of leadership.

## 2000

A new elevator was installed on the north side of the church.

## 2003

A mural featuring Noah’s Ark was painted on the walls of the first floor of the children’s building under the direction of Betty Hester.

## 2004

The church and Clark Funeral Home purchased the former Amoco Gas Station lot at the corner of South Broad Street and Fourth Avenue SE. to use as a shared parking lot. The opening of the church preschool occurred this year.

## 2005

The weekly Sunday evening service was discontinued.

## 2006

An Upper Room Bible Village was created on the second floor of the children’s building under the direction of Debbie Godbehere and Kelly Milko.

## 2007

The estate of Albert and Janie King gave a generous gift to be used for needy families.

## 2008

A third Sunday morning service was added that was traditional style of worship at an early time.

Church members organized “Church Ladies” to create programs for women and revive the fall bazaar for missions.

## 2013

With the passing of member Fred Perkins, the church’s Methodist men’s group became the Frederick L. Perkins United Methodist Men. Approximately 80 members and regular attendees left and many of that number formed The Church of Grady County. The 13th Street NW parsonage was purchased.

## 2014

A Schulmerich electronic carillon was donated by Charles and Annette Giddens to play hymns several times a day.

## 2015

Joyce and Frank Pickens left a generous gift to be used for student scholarships.

## 2016

Total membership was 702. Security locks and cameras were installed at doors in the main and the children’s building.

The estate of Brit and Virginia Worthy gave a generous gift to be used for emergency assistance to children and families.



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Sources used for Timeline: writings by Virginia Allen, Jewel Meyer, Julien B. Roddenbery, Sr. and an unknown church member; South Georgia Conference annual reports; *Grady a folk history of the life and times of Grady County* by the Cairo Messenger; *The Genesis of Grady County Georgia* by Gwendolyn Brock Waldorf.

