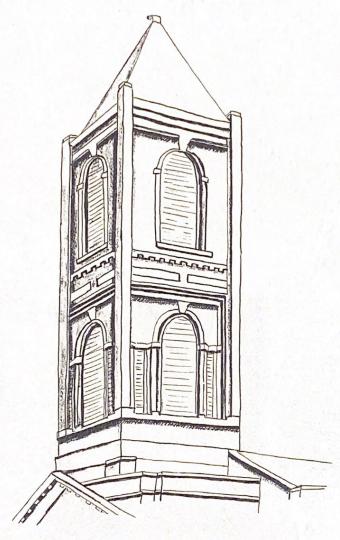
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Ashburn Methodist Church

HISTORY of the ASHBURN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 1889 – 1976

Frances Rowan Goss

Committee on History:
Josephine Evans Miller
Lucius Bedell Griffin
Frances Rowan Goss
David M. Harp

FOREWORD

Hundreds of people have walked the path of Ashburn Methodism during the years covered by this history. Among them have been the "Unconverted, Backsliders, Regenerates, and the Sanctified." Some have known what it was like to worship at a planing mill shed, and others have experienced the joy of worship in a glorious and beautiful sanctuary. Only a few of the names of those hundreds could be included in this brief history. We owe a great debt of gratitude to the many wonderful people whose names are not mentioned. Without them and the contributions they made, the church would not have endured.

The Committee on History at the time of this writing was: Josephine Evans Miller, Chairperson, Frances Rowan Goss, Lucius Bedell Griffin, and Maj. David M. Harp. Research of records and writing were done by Frances Rowan Goss, teacher and librarian, who came to Turner County in 1948 with her husband, Christopher C. Goss, a medical doctor. She and Dr. Goss, with their children, Gwen Goss Kaye, and John Goss, have been loyal members of the Ashburn Methodist Church through the years.

The Committee is indebted to Florence Baxter for proofreading, to John Goss for typing the first draft of this history, and to Woodrow Faircloth for the photographs.

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It is timely during this year of the bicentennial observance of our nation's history for Ashburn Methodists to pause and take a look at our unique history and heritage. In the eighty-seven years of the history of this church many noble and dedicated people have come and gone, leaving an indelible imprint upon this community. This is a good year for renewal of faith as we recall their names and review their deeds with deep appreciation and praise.

The history of any church consists not of the amount of money that has been raised, nor the impressiveness of its building, however desirable these may be. The history of any church must be people oriented in order to give the true impact of its mission. The people of Ashburn Methodist then have ample reason to be proud of their history because through the years impressive families and numerous impressive individuals have made its history.

The only written information available prior to 1895 is that contained in a church history written by Rev. W. E. Towson in 1927. This history is based on material gathered by the Knox-Conway Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and was gathered from people who were charter members of the church. Many facts given in this history (1976) are based upon and quoted in some instances from Reverend Towson's history. This history was presented in 1939 when the church observed its 50th anniversary.

Church Conference records and Quarterly Conference records have been kept since 1895 and are intact except for the years 1910-1939. The whereabouts of these records is unknown. However, there are many present day members of the Ashburn Methodist Church who remember much about those years and who have been very cooperative in sharing what they remember.

Records of the Foreign, Home, and Parsonage Aid Societies, later known as the Woman's Missionary Society, which became the Woman's Society of Christian Service, which in recent years has become United Methodist Women, begin with the year 1901 and have been very accurately kept and beautifully preserved through to the present time.

The names would be countless if one attempted to make a list of those faithful ones who carefully reported activities for the records that are kept of church activities. E. F. Knowles, A. R. Smith, Mrs. W. L. Story, Mrs. J. L. Evans, and R. R. Cox only start the list. And in connection with the never-to-be-forgotten task of taking care of the building and grounds, J. R. Launius, Frank Criswell and many more would have to be listed.

These sources make historical facts about the Ashburn Methodist Church easily accessible to anyone who wants to delve into church history.

The earliest settlers in this part of the state, known then as Marion, were J. S. Shingler, Sr., who came here in 1888 to establish navel stores, J. S. Betts, who arrived in 1889, and J. W. Evans, who also arrived in 1889, to begin a lumber business. Joe Lawrence, founder and editor of the newspaper known now as the Wiregrass Farmer, was also an early settler of this section. Sunday School was started and met in the Lawrence home in the early days of Marion, moving out into other homes as the early families built.

WONER COUNTY, GEORGIA

As the Sunday School became larger it met in the planing shed of the sawmill, and as time went by and the number of pupils increased the Sunday School met Wesleyan Methodist Campground. This arrangement seemed satisfactory for a number of years.

Oren A. Lay was the first Sunday School Superintendent and was followed by J. W. Evans, who served until 1904. Upon Mr. Evan's death he was succeeded by his son John L. Evans, Sr.

The early families of this Sunday School formed the nucleus of the group of people who became the Ashburn Methodist Church. They were people who had concern for each other and for the religious training of their children, but most of all they were people who loved God. The late beloved Nora Lawrence Smith, daughter of Joe Lawrence, often reminded Ashburn citizens in her time that the city of Ashburn was founded by good people who visualized this place being so The arrange of the tenth of the control of the cont

The group of people who later became known as the Ashburn Methodist Church functioned not only as a Sunday School but as early as 1888 as a mission, part of the Worth Mission, which was a part of the Waycross District. This mission was scattered over a large section of this part of the state and was made up of "five churches valued at seven hundred dollars, with one hundred eighty-six members." This mission was supplied by Rev. J. H. Taylor. When this work became a mission in 1888, it was separated from the church at Cordele to which most of its members had been attached.

The following year, 1889, the work was led by Rev. C. H. McCord and the amount paid by the mission for "ministerial support, including the pastor and presiding elder, was one dollar and twenty-six cents."

In 1890 Rev. J. J. Williams, then a resident of Ashburn, was appointed to supply the Worth Mission.

Reverend Towson states in his history, "Sometime in February 1889 a Quarterly Conference was held in what is now Poulan Circuit, presided over by Rev. J. O. A. Cook, the P. E. (Presiding Elder). At this conference Rev. J. J. Williams (already mentioned) was licensed to preach. The presiding elder had received a request for someone to preach at Marion, and he asked Mr. Williams to do so. On the following Sabbath he preached there, being entertained in the home of J. W. Evans. On (Reverend Williams') leaving, Mr. Evans handed him two dollars and said, 'This means that we want you to come back and preach for us again.' In response to this desire Mr. Williams continued to preach at Marion until the meeting of the annual conference the following fall. During this time, about June 1889, Rev. C. T. Bickley, then pastor of Crisp Circuit, assisted Mr. Williams in a protracted meeting at the old mill shed, W. C. Bass, a local preacher, being present part of the time. As a result of this meeting, the Methodist Church at Ashburn was organized in July, 1889." At that time it was part of Sycamore mission.

The charter members of the church were the following: J. S. Betts, Mrs. Josephine Betts, R. Lee Betts, Joseph T. McLendon, Mrs. Caroline E. McLendon, Thomas A. Judge, Mrs. E. E. Judge, E. B. Judge, Lawrence R. Judge, L. C. Killebrew and Youlie C. Killibrew.



A meeting was held in October of this same year, 1889, with Rev. Tom Christian, pastor at Perry leading, and the following additions were made to the church: J. S. Shingler, Mrs. Emma Shingler, J. W. Evans, Mrs. Ella B. Evans, George S. Evans, Victoria Evans, Aurena Evans, Joseph Lawrence, Mrs. Maggie Lawrence, Callie Killebrew, Ida Judge, Jessie C. Hickman, James Hodge, Lula Hodge, Ouida Hodge, John L. Evans, Ella Mae Evans, and Mae Jenkins. Some of these members were received into the church by certificate and some on profession of faith.

The need of a church building was recognized early in the history of the Methodist movement. Under the leadership of Rev. R. M. Booth in 1890, a large white frame building which still stands on Madison Avenue between South Main and S. Hudson Streets and facing north was built. W. W. Ashburn, for whom this town was named, gave the land on which the church building was erected. The year 1891 was carved on the cornerstone of this building and this cornerstone was removed to the site of the present building some years later to serve as a memento of the early days of the church. The church was in the Ashburn-Warwick mission in 1891 and became the Ashburn Circuit in 1892.

Church Conference records begin with the year 1895 during the pastorate of Rev. J. M. Glenn. This Church was in the Valdosta District then. An interesting note he made in his report concerning the "Class Leaders of the Sunday School" reads: "The roll has been divided into four classes respectively: *Unconverted*, *Backsliders*, *Regenerates*, and the *Sanctified*. The following leaders appointed: H. S. Dixon, R. P. Fain, J. Lawrence. General class meeting on fourth Sunday at eleven o'clock." He also noted: "Teachers not taking interest as they ought. Deportment of pupils not so good as ought to be . . ." His outlook may have been

pessimistic but his candid reporting must have literally spurred the members of this great movement to do better. If these people seemed lacking in enthusiasm for their organization, evidence shows that they had some basic elements of Christianity — love of God and concern for their fellowman — because during this same year a report following the question, "What is being done for the relief of the poor?" reads, "Committee appointed to look after Bro. Golden, reported that four dollars per month for 2 or 3 months will relieve his necessities." and "Bro. Jordan (was) assisted in defraying funeral expenses for his child."

Members' names were removed from the church roll "on account of being lost sight of," and according to records, (Nov. 3, 1901 report of W. F. Hixon) one member was perhaps acquainted better with the ways of the flesh than with the

ways of holiness: he was "expelled for getting drunk,"

An excerpt from Reverend Glenn's quarterly conference report of August 15, 1895 reads: "Bro H. L. Dixon was recommended to Quarterly Conference for license to exhort." This started an enviable record of members who have given generously of their time to Christian service in the field of lay speaking.

Rev. P. H. Crumpler who followed Reverend Glenn served for only one year and was followed by Rev. J. C. Flanders, who served the Church from 1897 to 1900. Concerning the Board of Stewards he wrote: "No written (report) but (oral) report (of) shortage of \$94.00 and four cents which expect to raise by Saturday." From this report dated November 2, 1897, one assumes that concern for a balanced budget started in the early days of the Ashburn Methodist Church. Financial reports during Reverend Flanders' ministry show an increase in the budget from \$1188.08 in 1899 to \$2339.96 in 1900, a gain of 100%. These figures reveal a trend that has lasted throughout the history of the church.

This same pastor gave, beginning with the year 1897, a member and financial resume of the women's work, which was led at that time by Mrs. J. W. Evans.

This same report contains a summary of youth activities in the youth organization known then as Epworth League. Having been organized in 1897, it functioned actively under its first president, Victoria Evans. It seems fitting to note here that the Epworth League "added about 25 volumes to the Church library." Later "Miss Vic" was to become the first librarian of the local public library, which was later named in her memory.

The church, though composed of people, did not neglect its physical plant, and comfortable accommodation for the parsonage family was of major importance. Church Conference records of Rev. W. F. Hixon (1901-1903) give evidence of this concern: "M. S. Cantey, J. S. Shingler, J. L. Betts, J. H. Porcher and J. L. Evans were made a committee to look into and see what was needing fixing over at the parsonage." Further concern for the physical plant was pointed out in a report in September 1902: "The Sunday School Superintendent urges the importance of additional Sunday School rooms."

June 1901 marked a reorganization of the women's work. Known as the Foreign, Home, and Parsonage Aid Societies, the organization usually met at the church. At the first meeting after the organizational meeting thirteen ladies were present and at least three offerings were taken, one for each socity. This trend has also persisted through the years. Each "Society" had its own officers. Programs

interspersed with music and scripture, and mission work were stressed. Other activities were Connectional Work, Baby Roll, Bible Study, Mite Boxes and Prayer. Names that appear prominently during the early years of this area of the work of the church include Mrs. J. W. Evans, Bessie Lawrence, Mrs. M. S. Cantey, Mrs. J. S. Shingler, Aurena Evans, Mrs. Dobson, Mrs. White, Mrs. Patent, Mrs. Bozeman, Mrs. Harrell, Mrs. Whittington, Mrs. Comer, Mrs. Walker, Mrs. George Evans, and Mrs. W. J. R. Cantey. The name of the women's work was changed in 1911 to Woman's Missionary Society.

Many faithful, intellectual and deeply spiritual women have served through the years to carry on this important phase of church work. The minutes of the meetings were kept in minute detail, hymn numbers and exact location of scripture passages used in addition to number of visits to the sick and value of garments

given to charity being carefully chronicled.

Rev. H. P. Myers, who began his pastorate in 1905, stated in one report: "The Board of Stewards seems to have gone out of business." J. L. Evans, superintendent of the Sunday School at that time, reported: "Notice that very few books are closed among the scholars while the lesson is being recited. Hope to see a decided improvement along this line in the near future." Perhaps the outlook of Reverend Myers and Mr. Evans gave the impression of a lack of enthusiasm among members for the work of the Lord at that time. But later on Reverend Myers reported: "Bro. T. F. Britt applied to church for license to exhort, which was granted without a dissenting vote," and also that "George M. Anchors was recommended and licensed by the Quarterly Conference." He stressed prayer among the different age groups and was able to report there were over a hundred conversions during one revival. In that same year a tent was procured to take care of the overflow in church attendance. Somebody was busy and enthusiastic. Under the care of this pastor the church extended itself to surrounding areas, churches being organized by him at Doles and Terrell where eleven members were received into each church. Other churches on the Ashburn Station, as it was called at that time, were Newton, Davisville, Worth, and Dakota.

Thoughts of erecting a new church building were taking place in 1905. During a meeting conducted by Reverend Myers the need of a larger and more adequate building was cited and the ability of the congregation to accomplish this was emphasized. Consequently, the property where the church now stands was bought from J. D. Bozeman for the sum of \$1,000. Deed Record Book 2, Page 162, in the office of the Clerk of Superior of Tumer County, Georgia, states that J. S. Betts, J. S. Shingler, M. S. Cantey, J. T. McLendon, J. H. Gilmore, F. E. Hudson, R. L. Betts, and G. W. Stubbs were trustees of the church.

Louise Shingler Cannon recalls that the architect who designed the church was P. E. Dennis of Macon, Georgia. She said that he had in mind a building spacious enough to accommodate big crowds as Ashburn grew larger, and durable features such as a slate roof that would last for future generations to enjoy. The arched balconies, the panels at the front of each balcony showing elaborate floral and scroll designs in intricate bas-relief, stained glass windows, the rose window in the ceiling of the east rotunda, and other features were uniquely characteristic of the decade in which this spacious edifice was built.



Bricks were purchased and unloaded on the lot and Reverend Myers was sent to another assignment at conference time.

Rev. R. E. Bailey succeeded him, Reverend Myers, as pastor. Interest in the completion of the building must have waned for a period of several years. Nothing much was done to revive the building program during his pastorate nor during the pastorate of Rev. J. C. G. Brooks who followed him. However, during his pastorate another young man, Robert Rouse, was licensed to preach.

In November 1911, Rev. W. E. Towson came to serve the Ashburn Station. By the beginning of summer the building was completed and furnished, and the congregation moved into its new home.

Reverend Towson preached in the new church for about sixteen months and was followed by Rev. J. B. Thrasher in 1913. Rev. W. G. Allaben succeeded him and remained only one year.

During the pastorate of Rev. T. E. Davenport, which began in 1916, the debt on the new church building was retired and the new church was dedicated. Bishop Warren A. Candler, who was then bishop of the South Georgia Conference, came to preach the dedicatory sermon. Mrs. H. I. Shingler and Mrs. John J. Story rendered special vocal music. It was a time of great rejoicing for the congregation who had given most genereously of their time and money to complete this beautiful church.

In 1918, two years after the dedication of the church building, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Shingler gave to the church a Pilcher organ which was enjoyed for several decades. In appreciation of this beautiful gift from the Shinglers, Colonel E. A. Rogers placed an engraved plaque on the organ stating the name of the generous donors. Mrs. Annelle Murphy, a gifted organist, served for over forty years as the church organist and was accorded a special day of recognition in her honor when she retired.

Tradition was loved, observed, and appreciated by the early Ashburn Methodists, due to the fact that they had an abiding love, appreciation, and deep respect for each other. In the early years of occupancy of the church building, Mr. J. S. Shingler designated certain pews by placing engraved name plates on them for the families of Betts, Evans, Cantey, and W. A Shingler. Because of their faithfulness to their church he felt that they should be given this recognition as a token of appreciation. Later a number of plates were added by Dr. G. C. McKenzie to honor other dedicated families. This tradition has been kept through the years as others have added plaques in memory of or in honor of beloved members.

A further act of generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Shingler was the donation to the South Georgia Conference of a parsonage to be used by retired ministers. This parsonage located on Gordon Street was first occupied by the family of Rev. C. E. Boland. This family made a great contribution in leadership to the spiritual life of the church. Later is was occupied by Rev. and Mrs. Charles Wall and Rev. and Mrs. Homer Grimes. The generosity of these wonderful people has left an indelible mark on the life of Ashburn Methodism.

A complete list of pastors who served this church from its beginning through the building program and on to the present date accompanies this history. This list was compiled by Rev. W. E. Towson and was brought up to date by the present church historian, Mrs. Josephine Miller.

Mr. J. L. Evans served faithfully as Sunday School Superintendent beginning the year 1905, when he succeeded his father, Mr. J. W. Evans. The younger Mr. Evans served until 1934, the longest period of time that any member has served in this capacity. His daughter, Mrs. Josephine Evans Miller, recalls that he had regular monthly meetings of his Workers' Council to plan and motivate the work of the Sunday School. These meetings were held in his home, and Mrs. Evans always served refreshments which certainly must have kept these sessions from being the proverbial "tedious and tasteless" hours. Mrs. Miller fondly remembers that her mother called them "Papa's Prayer Parties." Mr. Evans' concern for the work must have been very deep because Mrs. Miller says that at the beginning of each school term he went to the public school to talk to the children and enroll prospective Sunday School members. It was very appropriate that the men's class was named in his memory later.

Mrs. J. A. Comer's name has come up often when members of the church have been asked about the work during the era of the 20's. Everybody remembers her as a fine musician and leader of the youth work. Emily McKenzie Reyher recalls that she trained a group of the youth in mondolin music. This group included in addition to Emily, Clyde Reinhardt, Marion Tharpe and Maurice Grahl. Lanier Bishop accompanied them on the piano. Mrs. Comer stressed the memorizing of certain Bible passages and required strict discipline at all church meetings. For these requirements she is lovingly remembered.

In 1925 the parsonage, which had been next door to the church was moved to the corner of Rainey and Hudson. This property was purchased from the Barfield family for a sum of \$1750. The records show that the trustees of the church at that time were J. S. Shingler, J. L. Evans, D. H. Rose, G. C. McKenzie, W. K. Jenkins, C. E. Thrasher, R. L. Betts and G. E. Reinhardt.

The Ashburn Methodist Church observed its fiftieth anniversary in 1939. Rev. O. C. Cooper was the pastor, the Woman's Missionary Society became the Woman's Society of Christian Service following the unification program throughout American Methodism, the church building was valued at \$50,000 and business as usual had gone on for a long period of time. A special day was held to observe the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the church. A program of events for the day was carefully kept by at least one thoughtful member, Hilliard Johnston, and was made available to the church historian for use in this history. On the day the program shows that a history of the church was presented by J. S. Shingler. This took the place of the sermon. T. E. Thrasher gave a response in appreciation of this history. Three faithful musicians gave graciously of their talents, Mrs. Annelle Murphy was organist, and Mrs. H. I. Shingler and Mrs. J. J. Story, vocalists, sang "There's No Friend Like Jesus."

The program gave recognition to seven stewards who had served twenty years or more: W. K. Jenkins, D. H. Rose, C. E. Thrasher, Dr. G. C. McKenzie, Edwin A. Rogers and K. P. Baker. Beverly Clyde Monroe (now Mrs. Robert North) was recognized as the youngest member of the Woman's Missionary Society, having been made a life member at the age of eleven months. Mrs. J. L. Evans was recognized for having served for thirty-seven years as treasurer of W.M.S. She continued to serve through more than another decade, retiring with special recognition from the church after fifty years as treasurer of the Society. Upon her retirement she was fittingly presented with a black leather purse.

Rev. W. B. Cheshire came to Ashburn in 1941 to serve as pastor. He was here at the beginning of World War II and a Quarterly Conference report of that year states from his pastoral report: "Although the church has lost to the war program a large number of its members, it is going to carry on and not retreat nor curtail at a single point." At the meeting of the Woman's Society the day after Pearl Harbor was fired upon, Mrs. W. J. R. Cantey, President, said, "While mothers' sons are being slain, it is time for Christians to be sure that they abide in Christ in order to be able to pray the effectual prayer of faith." The members responded by offering prayer for the war effort each day at noon as the chimes were played at the church. Dr. McKenzie, Robert Shingler, Frank Criswell and others faithfully saw that the task of starting the chimes each day was carried out. The faith and determination of the people of this church brought it through the war years but not without sorrow for the six young men of its number who gave their lives in the service of their country.

Dr. G. C. McKenzie later planned and furnished a memorial chapel complete with a piano. In the chapel was placed a bronze plaque bearing the names of those young men who did not return. The chapel was dedicated several years later. The plaque was removed during a period of remodeling but was properly placed again in February 1976, with an impressive ceremony planned and carried out by Colonel William A. Long of the United States Marine Corps. Names appearing on this plaque are the following: Lt. W. W. Odom, Jr., F-C William Scott, Lt. George W. Smith, S-2 Wilburn Speight, Lt. John J. Story, Jr., and Sgt. R. M. Sumner, Jr.



The Wesleyan Service Guild came into being in 1939, functioning as a part of the Woman's Society for Christian Service. Nellie Boland served as its first president. Reports of the Guild were made through the W. S. C. S. making a complete list of its presidents impossible.

In 1946, Rev. Shannon Holloway came to serve the Ashburn Charge for a period of several years. Those who were here during that time recall the candle light communion service of Passion Week, the impressive candle light installation services for officers of the youth and women's work and observance of Book Week. These and many other such occasions were indicative of the warmth and deep spirituality of this pastor who endeared himself to so many people. This quotation from one of his reports in the post war period shows his great concern for spiritual enrichment of the church: "This is a critical period in the world's life. The claims of Christ are terribly demanding. No half-hearted worship or service will do. He demands all or nothing. Let us work together for spiritual progress and enrichment."

Dr. G. C. McKenzie distinguished himself conference-wide about this time with an idea that, though original with him, he preferred be credited to his church. According to his son, Henry McKenzie, he often said words to this effect: "If a man is willing to give his life to the service of the Methodist Church, the church

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should in turn take care of him when he reaches retirement, ^o So, with his good friend litshop Arthur J. Moore, he worked out a retirement plan for ministers of the South Georgia Conference. The Conference adopted this plan and a group of men of the Conference was appointed to assist him in putting the plan into operation. By means of this plan money that was collected for ministerial retirement was visely invested, and returns on the investments made the fund a growing one, investment firms readily helped advise the Conference Board. This plan functioned well for some years.

Rev. Louis M. Spivey followed Reverend Holloway as pastor. His fine sermons and his special talent for being a "good pastor" made Reverend Spivey a person who will be long remembered by his members. He was instrumental in organizing a Sunday School class of young couples in 1949. This group later was named the Lucius Gitffin Sunday School Class for one of its early and faithful teachers, Methodiat Men's Club with Cecil Adair as its first president was organized under the watchful leadership of Reverend Spivey, Methodist Youth Fellowship was very active at this time, Sandra Griffin, one of its enthusiastic members, serving as Sub-district president and later as South Georgia Conference president in 1952.

Another fine leader, Mrs. J. J. Story, served as South Georgia Conference president of Woman's Society of Christian Service about this same time, Mrs. Story was also a distinguished leader in the work of the W. S. C. S. in the local church, a faithful choir member, and teacher of the Philathea Class of the Sunday School. In appreciation of her fine work in these areas, the church held a special service in her honor. It was with regret that the church gave this lady up to another congregation many miles away.

Mrs. Kathleen Clark also was honored by her church for her faithfulness as a

Mrs. Kathleen Clark also was honored by her church for her faithfulness as a worker in the children's division of the Sunday School, which she served for nearly fifty years. Church members who were in her care in the nursery cannot forget her special talent for delighting them with cookies on Sunday morning. The supply, to the delight of the children, never ran low.

Organ renovation in 1950, at a cost of \$400 "gives this splendid instrument a new lease on life," according to one of Reverend Spivey's Quarterly Conference reports. An air conditioning system which was installed in the church during this time and other improvements made at the parsonage and church show Reverend Spivey's ministry here to have been very productive.

Succeeding Reverend Spivey was Rev, Dan Williams, whose stay marked some reorganization in the work of the church. The "Board of Stewards" became the "Official Board" of the church and the various Commissions were named: Missions, Christian Education, Membership Evangelism, and Finance, An extensive renovation of the church during this time resulted in repairs to the woodwork and memorial windows, painting the exterior trim and interior sanding and refinishing the sanctuary floors, installation of carpet runners, and addition of velvet draperies in the balconies, Individual gifts of a new communion table, an altar set, and new choir robes added much to the beauty and usefulness of the church property. Men's Club was very active during this time.

At a special session of the Quarterly Conference, November 13, 1955, a motion was made and passed by an overwhelming majority to authorize the sale or trade



of the parsonage which had an estimated value of \$7500 at that time. This parsonage was located at the corner of Rainey and Hudson Streets. A further motion also passed to authorize plans to buy or build or otherwise provide more adequate parsonage property.

In 1957 the present parsonage on Lamont Street was completed. The home was designed by R. P. (Bob) Adamson. T. E. (Buddy) Kennedy, Jr. served as Chairman of the Building Committee, with the following men serving with him: Jack Zorn, John Rogers, H. H. Averett, Dr. C. C. Goss, J. C. Roberts and the pastor, Rev. Berrien Minter. Greer Monroe served as Chairman of the Building Fund with Miss Nellie Boland as treasurer. Serving as chairman of interior decorating was Mrs. W. T. Scott. Flournoy Burch landscaped the grounds. When completed, the home was appraised at about \$30,000. It should be noted here that the lot upon which the parsonage was built was given by Mr. and Mrs. Jack Zorn. An additional lot was purchased at a cost of \$1700 to make a more spacious setting for the home. Rev. Berrien Minter and family were the first to occupy the new home. The final debt was retired in a few years, and open house was held and the parsonage was dedicated on April 25, 1965, by Bishop John C. Smith.

Rev. and Mrs. C. L. Wall became resident retirees of the community when they moved into the district parsonage for retired ministers about the year 1956. Upon his arrival here he states in his report to the Quarterly Conference that "the members of the John L. Evans Church School Adult Class of men gave us a beautiful 'pounding' and bought a nice bedroom suit for our comfort." Reverend Wall gave faithful service to the church in pastoral care, and how can anyone forget the very true bass he sang to the Wesley hymns on Sunday morning at worship, true in pitch and tone, fortissimo, and about a beat behind the congregration? Another Charles, Charles Wesley, must have thrilled to the fervent spirit in which Brother Wall belted out his bass. He endeared himself to this church community and, though he was retired, his reports show that he kept quite busy working in the fields of the Lord.

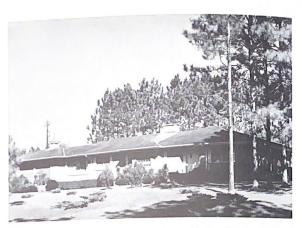
Mrs. H. I. Shingler retired in 1957 as choir director after 43 years of dedicated service to the church. Noted for stressing promptness with her choir members, she started singing at 7:30 Monday night at choir practice whether anybody else was there or not. She had many faithful choir members upon whom she could depend: Mrs. J. J. Story, Mrs. Mattie Matthews, and others who have "made a joyful noise unto the Lord." A special day was accorded this dear lady upon her retirement and a silver service was presented to her from the church as a token of appreciation. She was succeeded by Margaret Hursey, a fine musician, who had special attraction for the youth of the church. At the peak of her popularity a very fine performance of about an hour and a half from the great oratorio, "The Messiah," by Handel was rendered under her direction.

The brilliant piano talent of Mrs. Hazel Kerns who gave many hours of her time to her church, and the tenor solo voice of her beloved brother Mr. O. C. Turner helped to make the music of this church unsurpassed in excellence on many occasions. Helen Jordan, too, gave generously of her time and talent to children's music and in other areas of church music.

In 1960, Rev. W. R. Smith followed Reverend Minter as pastor. Reverend Minter served for a period of two years.

During these years and for some years before and after, the Methodist Youth Fellowhip enjoyed annual trips to the beach for periods of fun and Christian fellowhip. Austin Saxon served as their able Counselor. Participation in these trips, beautiful Christmas programs, Holy Week services, barbecue dinners, and other meaningful and worthwhile projects, furnished many a youth of this church high moments in his faith experience, and never-to-be-forgotten fellowship with other youth believers of the Methodist faith. Mr. Saxon gave generously of his time and talent as the youth counselor for a period of 18 years, and he too was accorded a special day when the church attempted to show their appreciation for his splendid work.

Coming into their own about this time was a group of fine young people under the able leadership of Mrs. Josephine Miller who called themselves "The Misfits". They chose this name because they were a group of such varying interests that they could not find a class in the Sunday School into which they could comfortably fit. They met regularly until they were called upon to assemble themselves with the other groups into which they could perhaps correspond in years and interests. "The



Misfits" were like the proverbial square pegs in round holes and so they were disbanded in 1961, when Rev. Leland Moore attempted reorganization of some areas of the Sunday School work.

Reverend Moore arrived in June, 1960, to serve his fiftieth year in the ministry. He was a man of amazing energy in spite of his years. His enthusiasm for remodeling the church prompted the constructing of a huge cake in the rotunda of the church to honor the birthday of our Savior. Though it was wood and plaster of Paris, it was made warm with the glow of candles at the Christmas program, and the placing on the altar of birthday gifts to Christ to improve the physcial plant of the church. After the program, a time of fellowship was enjoyed with real cake and punch to add to the festivity of the occasion.

Vacation Church Schools for the children were held (and still are held) under the auspices of the Sunday School. Capable leadership and excellent teachers have made this a highlight of the summer program when the children have enjoyed felowship, hand-crafts, Bible stories, and refreshments always graciously served by the ladies of the church.

Lay speakers through the years have given freely and willingly of their time and talent to the work of spreading the gospel. Names appearing in reports of the church are J. R. Launius, W. D. Alexander, H. A. Miller, J. J. Story, Cecil Adair, Dr. C. C. Goss, Dr. G. C. McKenzie, J. C. Roberts, A. R. Smith, John Rogers, Austin Saxon, J. C. Greene, John Holloway, Donald Dasher, Larry Lambert, and Col. William A. Long. It should also be noted that the church gave for many years an annual contribution to the support of Rev. and Mrs. W. L. Golden, missionaries to Angola, Africa. Later the Goldens were moved to Liberia, West Africa.

Serving the church from 1961-1965 was Reverend W. E. Dennis. Under his leadership the church gave substantial amounts of money to help develop the

Methodist facility at St. Simon's Island, known as Epworth-By-The-Sea. Also, from time to time, contibutions were made to help support Dooly Camp Ground, the Methodist campground near Vienna, Georgia.

Effort was made in 1965 to reorganize the Methodist Men's Club which had become inactive. Joe McNair became president and was succeeded by George Beazley.

Rev. Aaron Sellars and his family arrived in Ashburn in 1965 to assume pastoral leadership in the church. He stresses personal evangelism and was instrumental in leading several Lay Witness Missions. Also, he saw the need for a young adult Sunday School class, as the members of the previous one organized in the 1950's had long since learned that youth is not a perpetual thing. Rather suddenly, it seemed that group was approaching the middle years. Among the charter members of the new class were Mr. and Mrs. Larry Lambert, Dr. and Mrs. Ralph McLeod, Mr. and Mrs. Buddy McLeod, Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Kennedy, Mr. and Mrs. Billie Shivers. The class was later named for its first teacher, Frances Goss.

In a called session of Quarterly Conference in the late 1960's a building committee and finance committee were elected to study needs and make plans for erection of an educational building. T. E. Kennedy, Jr. was elected chairman of building, and George Johnston chairman of finance. In June 1969, upon arrival of Rev. George Herndon as pastor, an extensive renovating, repairing, and remodeling program was begun. From painting and replacing the steeple, touching up the white trim on the outside of the church and replacing the roof, the building program proceeded to the church basement where an ambitious remodeling program was eventually completed, making the basement more functional for the work of the children's department of the church. Upon completion of this work, the grounds around the church were landscaped and the lawn was cultivated and made more beautiful. Mr. Kennedy spent long hours seeing this project through to completion.

Rev. Allen V. Johnson came in June 1973 to fill the vacancy made by Reverend Herndon's moving. At the beginning of 1973, the church concerned itself mainly with an extensive remodeling program in the sanctuary and third floor level of the church, Robert Heiserman serving as chairman of the building committee, and George Johnston serving as chairman of finance in the program. The architect who planned the work was Arthur Smith, Jr. of Valdosta, Georgia, a former member of the church and the son of the belowed Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Smith, Sr., loyal and faithful members of this congregation in its early days.

Another major undertaking which reached maturity during this time was the purchase of a new pipe organ for the sanctuary. The project was started by Group No. 6 of the United Methodist Women, with Martha Jenkins serving as Chairperson of the organ committee. Their original idea was to restore the organ given by Mr. and Mrs. Shingler, but when restoration did not seem feasible, the project moved into larger proportions and a new Casavant organ was purchased. This project was completed at a cost of \$26,300. Miss Jenkins worked long hours to see this project through to completion, and the organ was dedicated on Easter Sunday morning, April 18, 1976, by Rev. Allen Johnson. In the afternoon of that day,

Billy Berry and Jim Barnette, talented organists of Albany, Georgia, assisted by Ruth Smith Cunningham, a gifted vocalist, gave a beautiful and enjoyable concert in the sanctuary.

in the sanctuary.

On the date of the organ dedication, the newly renovated sanctuary was consecrated. Reverend Johnson was also in charge of this service.

secrated. Reverend Johnson was also at the new surroundings was the baptism of The first baptismal service held in the new surroundings was the baptism of Amanda Kay Lumsden, infant daughter of William Henry and Pat Ponder Lumsden, on April 4, 1976.

on April 4, 1970.

The funeral of Simon B. Shingler was held in the sanctuary on May 25, 1976. He was the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Shingler, Sr., who figured prominently in the early history of the church. Simon's funeral was the first to be held in the new sanctuary.

new sanctuary.

A beautiful wedding ceremony on June 26, 1976, which united Russell Rigdon and Wanda Folsom in marriage, was the first wedding in the newly renovated sanctuary.

sanctuary.

In closing, one observes that this church has a rich heritage. We need to remind ourselves often of this fact. One saintly lady, and an early member of the church, fervently added an "Amen" when she felt moved to do so during the sermons of yester-year. Her example of deep spirituality and faithfulness we must strive to emulate. Another great and saintly lady of our own time, Mary Childs, has literally encircled the globe with her efforts to provide food for the hungry through the program of "Meals for Millions". She believes we not only must be deep spiritually, but we must reach out and share our blessings with others. With Reverend Towson's words in the church history he wrote so many years ago, we can emphatically say in this year of the bicentennial observance of our nation's history, "This has been a church of many privileges, and where much has been given, much is required".

PASTORS WHO HAVE SERVED THE UNITED ASHBURN METHODIST CHURCH

J. H. Taylor	1888	J. P. Chatfield	1919 - 1921
C. H. McCord	1889	C. G. Earnest	1919 - 1921 $1922 - 1923$
J. M. Boland	1889	G. W. Matthews	1922 - 1923 $1924 - 1925$
J. J. Williams	1889	R. S. Stewart	1924 - 1925 $1925 - 1926$
C. T. Bickley	1890	W. E. Towson	1925 – 1926
R M. Booth and		J. S. Grahl	1928 – 1930
supply W. C. Bass	1891	M. P. Webb	1930 - 1930 $1930 - 1933$
R. M. Booth	1892	Paul Muse	1930 - 1933 $1934 - 1938$
T. C. Strong	1893 - 1894	O. C. Cooper	1939 - 1941
J. M. Glenn	1895	W. B. Cheshire	1941 - 1945
P. H. Crumpler	1896	L. Shannon Holloway	1945 - 1948
J. C. Flanders	1897 - 1900	Louis M. Spivey	1948 - 1952
W. F. Hixon	1901 - 1903	Dan H. Williams	1952 - 1956
H. P. Myers	1904 - 1905	Berrien Minter	1956 – 1958
R. E. Bailey	1906 - 1907	W. R. Smith	1958 - 1960
J. C. G. Brooks	1908 - 1910	Leland Moore	1960 - 1961
W. E. Towson	1911 - 1912	W. E. Dennis	1961 – 1965
J. B. Thrasher	1913 - 1914	Aaron Sellars	1965 – 1969
W. G. Allaben	1915	George W. Herndon	1969 - 1973
T. E. Davenport	1916 - 1918	Allen Johnson	1973 –

MEMBERS OF THE ASHBURN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH WHO HAVE SERVED IN THE MISSION FIELD

11110 1111	E DER LED IN THE MIDDI	ONTIELD
Manie Towson	Mamie Myers	Arthur Smith, Jr.
Anita Morgan Board	Sammye Smith Vore	Sue Marie Pitts

METHODIST MEN'S CLUB PRESIDENTS (1952-

Cecil Adair	C. D. Wisham	Joe McNair
G. C. McKenzie, Jr.	(This group became inactive	George Beazly
W. D. Alexander	and was reorganized in 1965)	

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS (1889-1976)

O A I	Inha I Ctam.	
Oren A. Lay	John J. Story	G. C. McKenzie, Jr.
John W. Evans	J. R. Burgess	J. C. Greene, Jr.
John L. Evans	G. C. McKenzie, Sr.	Jack Zorn
(30 years service 1904-19	34) R. R. Shingler	

MEMBERS OF THE ASHBURN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH WHO WERE RECOMMENDED TO THE DISTRICT CONFERENCE FOR LICENSE TO PREACH

George M. Anchors	Rembert Burgess	Hatton Towson
Charles H. Smith	Rowland Burgess	William J. Stanford
Paul Kendall		

PRESIDENTS OF YOUTH WORK (Known first as EPWORTH LEAGUE, the name was changed to METHODIST YOUTH FELLOW-SHIP in 1939 and then to UNITED METHODIST YOUTH FELLOW-SHIP in 1973.)

This list has omissions and possibly some inaccuracies since we had to depend on the memory of members during some years when records were incomplete. The longest gap is for the years 1928-1934.

Victoria Evans	Grace Harwell	Bill Williams
J. R. Burgess	Lucy Baxter	Sue McKenzie
F. E. Hudson	Jane North	Julie Ewing
Eula Piver	Florence Baxter	
F. E. Hudson (served twice)	Betty Hudson	Jim McKenzie
R. C. Dunlap	John Rogers	Glenda Pitts
C. J. Betts		Joseph Blackwell
R. C. Dunlap (served twice)	Patsy Smith	Danny Alexander
Margaret Evans		Lyndora Wisham
Josephine Evans	Mary Launius	Eli Reinhardt
Annie Lou Thrasher		Mike Bloomfield
Joy Boland	David Harp	Harry Hobby
Sue West	Jan Griffin	Jan Ponder
Beatrice Law	Cynthia Scott	Mary Brown
Nellie Boland	Henry (Bo) Miller	Matt Shealy
Linda Ewing	Joyce Johnston	Anthony (Butch) Hasty
	Kay Rose	Bobbie Ponder
	Sandra Griffin	
		Mark Jordan
	Hilda Rose	Shirley Greene
Sammye Smith	Beverly Monroe	George Ponder

PRESIDENTS OF WOMEN'S WORK 1897 — 1976 (Known first as FOREIGN, HOME AND PARSONAGE SOCIETIES, this area of church work was changed in 1911 to WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY, in 1939 to WOMAN'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE and in 1973 to UNITED METHODIST WOMEN.)

Mrs. J. W. Evans	Mrs. A. J. Harris	Mrs. V. A. North
Miss Bessie Lawrence	Mrs. W. T. Scott	Mrs. J. A. Ewing, Sr.
Mrs. J. S. Betts	Mrs. Keith Reyher	Mrs. H. I. Shingler
Mrs. W. J. R. Cantey	Mrs. A. J. Harris (served twice)	Mrs. K. P. Baker
Mrs. J. S. Betts (served twice)	Mrs. Johnnie Reynolds	Mrs. J. J. Story
Mrs. W. J. R. Cantey	Mrs. Hilliard Johnston	Mrs. L. M. Spivey
Mrs. T. E. Davenport	Mrs. H. H. Averett	Mrs. Jack Zorn
Mrs. W. J. R. Cantey (served three times)	Mrs. William Long	Mrs. Hubert Hoover

				WARRANTY MEED FORM \$6-4
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CAR HATTA	THIS INDENTUR	E. made this 13th	day of Dece	mber
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	in the year of our	MARVIN WA		J-81A
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	FIRST	UNITED METHODIST	CHURCH OF ASHBURN	
t the State of	Georgia	and County of		party of the second part.
	har the said part Y	of the first part, for and	in consideration of the sum	ol
STATEEN THOUSAL	ND EIGHT HUNDRE	ED AND NO/100 (\$16	,800.00)	DOLLARS
DEAL COLUMN TO SERVE SERVE	fore the scaling and del	livery of these presents, the	receipt whereof is herebs ac	knowledged, has
a hand paid at and net	t and by	these presents do es		n, sell and convey unto the said
		these presents do es		
part_y of the second	partits			KNAMMANAK and assigns.
feet by 198 fee lorth Street wi more particular	th the South s ly described a	ide of Church Stre s follows:	e intersection of eet in the City of the East side of sa	nament, sestgra,
Street; then Street to the of Survey of	nce run South 8 nce run North o ne Point of Beg f said lands pr	9° 7' West 198 re o° 30' West 98 fe inning. This desc epared for Marvin mber 16, 1976 and	ley for a distance et to the East sic et along the East ription is given a Ward by G. E. Wal recorded in Plat	side of said North side of said North according to a Plat
Church of Ashby	urn in favor of	Marvin Ward date	Secure Debt from F ed this date in th ate at the rate of	irst United Methodist e amount of \$7,000.00 6% per annum.
Grantor, Marvin	n Ward, will pa	y all city, state year 1976.	and county ad va	lotem taxes assessed
			11 80	
			Date January	Tame Odema Dep.
TO HAVE AND TO	HOLD the said bargai	ned premises, together with		members and appurtenances then
of, to the same being:	belonging or in any wi	se appertaining, to the only	proper use, benefit and be	hood of First United
thodist Church	the said party_ of t	he second part,its	MNX success	ors and assigns, IN FEE SIMPLE on and administrators will warrant
		above described property		of the warming but as
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IN WITNESS WI			s hereunto set hi	
affixed his			day and year above written	
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Signed scaled a	and delivered in the pre	sence of:	Morun E,	Way to
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STATE OF GEORGIA --- TURNER COUNTY --- CITY OF ASHBURM.

In consideration of the sum of Twenty One Hundred
(\$2100.00) Dollars in hand, paid at and before the scaling and
delivering of these presents. The said 7. J. Shingler of the
County of Decatur, State of Georgia, does hereby sell and convey
unto J. S. Betts, J. S. Shingler, M. S. Canty, J. T. McLendon, J. H
Gilmore, F. E. Hudson, R. L. Betts, and G. W. Stubbs, trustees of
the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, at Ashburn, Georgia,
County of Turner, their successors and assigns a tract of parcel of
land, which is described as follows:

Beginning at the Southwest corner where my land and J. E. Hillhouse's lot corners on Railroad Street and running in an Easterly direction slong the line between J. H. Hillhouse and myslef across lots Two (2) and Six (6) Two Hundred and Ninteen (219) feet more or less to Morth Street and there cornering then running in a Southernly direction along North Srteet Two Hundred and Fifty Seven (257) feet more or less, and there cornering with the Mrs. Elizabeth Smith Lot and there cornering then running in a Westerly direction along said line between Mrs. Elizabeth Smith and myself One Hundred and Minteen (119) feet more or less to Railroad Street, there cornering and then running along Railroad street in a Korthernly direction Two Hundred and Fifty Six and One-half (256-1/2) feet more or less back to the original starting point. Said tract or parcel of land is situated in Block Ten (10) on let Three (3) and parts of lots Two (2) and Six (6). as is shown by the official map of said town made by P. E. Dennis.

"Said land to be held in trust that said premises shall be used and kept, maintained and disposed of as a place of divine worship for the use of the ministery and membership of the Methodist Episcapal Church, South, subject to the discipline, usage, and ministerial appointments of said Church as from time to time authorised and declared by the General Conference of said Church and the annual Conference within whose bounds the said premises are situate".

To have and to hold said land and appurtenances unto said J. S. Betts, J. S. Shingler, H. S. Canty, J. T. Modendon, J. H. Gilmore, F. E. Hudson, R. L. Betts, and G. T. Stabbs, their successors and assigns in fee-simple, for the use aforesaid. Whenever it shall become necessary or may be deemed expedient, by said Methodist Episcopal Church, Scuth, to sell or otherwise dispose of said premises, or any part thereof, the said Methodist Episcopal Church, South, may and it is hereby empowered to sell or otherwise dispose of, the same by and through the Trustees (or their successors) acting under and pursuant to the rules and regulations of the discipline of the said Methodist Episcopal Church South.

To have and to hold the said land unto the said Turstees their successors and assigns, so that neither the siad T. J. Shingler nor his heirs, nor any other person or persons claiming under him shall at any time have claim or demand any right title or interest to the said land or its appurtenances, and will warrant and forever defend the right and title of the above described property against the claims of all persons whom

IN WITEESS WHEREOF, the said T. J. Shingler had hereunto set his hand and affixed his seal this the 5th day of March 1907.

I () Smuge

Signed, Sealed and Delivered

in presence of

Wingher Land

Resolution of Sympathy

At noon on Sunday, February 27, 1949, God, in His Divine Wisdom, called to its reward the soul of Mr. Harry M. Harp.

While in our midst, his beautiful character made a deep impression on all who knew him. He was a kind Father and Husband, a good and generous neighbor and a friend. He was a faithful member of the Ashburn Methodist Church and served in capacity of Steward for seventeen years.

While physically handicapped the past two years of his life, he never complained and, in spite of acute suffering, he always had a smile and a word of appreciation for the prayers, kindly words and deeds of his friends.

While the physical body has left us, the memory of his useful life will always linger with us as an example of all that is fine in manhood.

Therefore be it resolved that the Board of Stewards extends to Mrs. Harp and her shildren their most sincere sympathy and, be it further resolved, that a copy of this resolution be made a part of our minutes and a copy sent to The Wiregrass Farmer.

Respectfully submitted

Committee.

ASHBURN METHODIST CHURCH

Treasurers yearly report for 1948-1949

RECEIPTS

Balance from 1947-1948 year \$479.58
world service collection from Charm Cancol world service collection 900,00 fellowship of suffering & service (special collection) 29.35 Week of Dedication Offering (Special collection) 343.76 Revival Meeting (Special collection) 279.10

DISBURSMENTS

Pastors salary at \$275.00 per month District Supt. Salary (10% of Pastors salary) Spiscopal fund (11% of Pastors salary)	\$3300.00 330.00 49.50
	49.50
Wack of Dedication offering	343.76
	900.00
	412.50
Fellowship of service & suffering collection	29.35
Paine College	16.00
Janitors salary	521.43
Insurance premiums	440.37
Church envelopes	49.78
Church enveropes	71.53
Light bills	240.00
Organist salary	
Coml	104.00
Revival Pastor \$125.00 plus \$21.90 board bill	146.90
Church Building fund	600.00
Misc. items as follows: Flowers \$20.00, Eusic for Chois	
\$14.75, balance on electric stove \$47.00, Duplica	ating
machine, express, stencils and ink \$146.40, tuning	1g
and repairs to Piano \$22.50, printing & registrat	ion
cards by Pastor \$11.75, Ashburn Dept. Stores for	
misc. supplies at church \$11.29, church bulleting	
354.60 and 1 rubber stamp .95% making a total of	329.24
J. H. Johnston, Treasurer for 1949-1950 year, funds on	
hand close of 1948-1949 year	401,57
	\$8335.43

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