

Standing the test of time



It stands as a reminder of the history of Loganville. Almost centrally located in the downtown area, both its stature and gray stones make Loganville First United Methodist Church stand out. And it has stood as a beacon for the community for more than 100 years. The oldest church in Loganville, there is no definite date as to when the first roots were planted of the congregation. Loganville

FUMC's own history notes in 1823 a small group of people are credited with what was to become New Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church, one of many names for what is now Loganville FUMC. In 1868, historical accounts note the church was sold as a decision was made by church leaders to construct a sanctuary inside Loganville, at the time the center of local commerce but yet to be chartered as a town. Published accounts note that the

decision was met with resistance, with Robert Rogers so bitterly opposed he locked the church building after the sale, boarded up the windows and challenged those wanting to attempt to gain access to items inside the building. A reorganization took place at that time and the congregation was renamed the Loganville Methodist Church, first using a building on a plot of land owned by the Ma-

sons until a new building was constructed. The current church has been through three additions but the original house of worship that was built in 1905 continues to be used today — complete with the original stained-glass windows. Local lore notes that the beautiful granite sanctuary came about as a result of the Rev. Sam P. Jones, a prominent

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revivalist preacher at the time who hosted a revival in Loganville in 1905, the town where his daughter resided. His three-day event, where he offered three sermons a day, helped raise \$5,000 for a new building — an amount that would equate today to more than \$128,000. The preacher returned in 1908 for the church's dedication.

Using granite from Stone Mountain, the original church was designed in the shape of a cross but in 1959 a brick parsonage was built and in 1961, an annex was added for Sunday school rooms, a fellowship hall and a kitchen. This first addition is recognizable by the slightly different colored granite that was used but the expansion was needed to allow the sanctuary to return to its original configuration. Continuing to meet the demand of a growing congregation, the last structure was added in 1981, part of the campus that is not built of granite on the outside and is a two-story fellowship hall and education annex. This last part was renovated in 2004 to better accommodate the pre-school operated by the church.

Though much of the historic nature of the building has been preserved over the years, one thing could not be saved: the huge oak trees that dated back to when the church was first built. When they were removed the campus went through a redesign that has for the most part held true today.

Loganville Methodist would serve as the main charge of the area, leader of six different churches in and around the community. It was in June 1968, with a congregation of about 100, the church became full-time, meaning it no longer met just two Sundays a month but every Sunday and no longer shared its pastor with the Methodist church in Walnut Grove.



Then, in 1971, the name Loganville First United Methodist Church was formally adopted.

Congregation members have done their best to preserve the historical structure of the church, but it is in some of its oldest members where some of the best memories still remain.

Ann Jones has been attending the church for as long as she can remember. She reflected on being a communion steward in 1959 with her mother, washing by hand the little glass cups used for communion. The stewards were also responsible for cleaning the church on Saturday nights before the next day's service, though the weather often dictated sometimes going early on Sunday mornings.

Jones remembers a few summers where honeybees left choir members ducking for cover and swatting at them in a time where open windows were the only form of cooling the air inside the church. The insects were at their worst at funerals, where an increase in the number of flowers often attracted their attention.

"People used their fans to swat the bees as much as to cool themselves," Jones said, adding it went on for a few years before a local beekeeper in the area was able to remove the hive from the walls of the church.

She points to the darker stained wood paneling on the roof of the sanctuary where partitions once were hung so the church could separate adult Sunday school classes in a time of dire need for additional space. At one point the children had Sunday school classes in a converted street car that someone purchased and brought all the way from Atlanta.

Jones also recalls a stove that sat in the middle of the sanctuary where a congregation member would, on a rotating basis, come in Sunday mornings and get a fire going during the colder months of the year. She also remembers shared summer Bible school classes with the Loganville Christian Church.

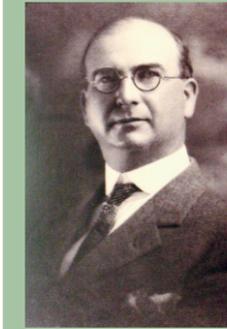
Like the congregation, its newest leader, the Rev. Dr. Bob Hoffman, can see the pride that remains in the history of Loganville First United Methodist Church.

"It is a source of appreciation, respect for the spiritual heritage here," he said, adding his first reaction when entering the sanctuary was a "very worshipful" design. "You appreciate the architecture. You recognize immediately that it is a hall of worship. I am a more tradition-minded and it is certainly noticeable the care and maintenance of such a historic building. You recognize immediately the sense of pride from the congregation in its building. It is a true asset, I think, not only for us but for the town as a whole right here in the city's center."

During its storied history, more than 100 pastors are credited with having led the congregation of what is now known as Loganville FUMC. But the ministry and outreach has impacted multitudes more both in Loganville and far beyond. *L*

Loganville legend: Dr. Charles S. Floyd

Former midwife Essie Sorrels recounted in Dewey Moody's "Loganville's Living Legends" that she must have helped Dr. Charles S. Floyd bring about 900 babies into the world.



There are many residents today who have a story about Dr. Floyd, or at the very least remember the smell of his cigar or how his hands were always cold.

"He had an office where the old City Hall used to be on the corner of Pecan and Main streets. Where the flower shop is — he had two rooms in the back of that building," recalled Kent Henderson, a Loganville native and local historian. "I remember it well. I was maybe 6 or 7 years old and fell off a rock wall onto a broken Coke bottle. There were a couple of men waiting when they brought me in who had to

hold me down on the table while Dr. Floyd sewed me up."

While Dr. Floyd had an office, he oftentimes made house calls and could sometimes be found at Monroe Hospital. It was at the "emergency room" where Gloria Bienstock, another Loganville resident and local historian, has a fond memory of the good doctor.

"The year was 1946," she said, referring back to a car accident that resulted from an interesting story involving a turtle that forced her parents and their five children to pay a visit to the hospital. "The emergency room was just one room with a very high ceiling. I could feel the light from lots of windows and I remember the smell of medicine.

"Dr. Floyd entertained us all with his chatter. He knew us all because he had delivered no less than four of us at home. Mama had a broken arm and I thought my sister had a broken head. She looked at me and said, 'Gloria, where is Gloria?' I knew there was something wrong. I asked Dr. Floyd what was wrong with her and he said, 'Don't worry. She has a slight concussion, but she'll be fine.' I learned a big word at 7 years old."

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A photo taken of the Loganville doctor, farmer and community leader when C.S. Floyd Road was dedicated in his honor by the Georgia Senate in 1953.

Dr. Charles S. Floyd — the namesake for C.S. Floyd Road in Loganville — was born in Newton County but early in his life his family moved to Loganville. Dr. Floyd's father was elected chief of police for the city, which he served for 16 years.



An undated family photo shows Dr. Floyd relaxing at his home, stretched out on his favorite chair with a magazine.

Dr. Floyd was one of four children and was educated at Loganville High School. He taught school for five years before entering Atlanta Medical College, graduating in the class of 1909. Immediately after his graduation, he began a practice in Loganville.

Dr. Floyd's first wife, Birdie Scott, died in 1910 and five years later he remarried to a lady everyone from the community affectionately called "Miss Pearl." Dr. Floyd remained active in his community not only through his business but also through the Presbyterian church and as a

Mason as well as his time spent on the board of education. He resided in a home on East Main Street which was recently torn down.

Dr. Floyd's older brother, W.L. Floyd, would go on to become a prominent local businessman, owning and operating one of the city's largest general merchandise stores.

When Dr. Floyd was 70 years old, what was called Winder Road became Chas. S. Floyd Road in

honor of his long and faithful service to his community — not only for more than 50 years as a physician but also as a farmer and civic leader. He was recognized by the Georgia Senate with the honor on Feb. 23, 1953.

Dr. Floyd is buried in Loganville Memorial Gardens Cemetery located on the corner of C.S. Floyd Road and Highway 78. L

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City Officials



Lamar Norton, executive director of the Georgia Municipal Association, presented a resolution honoring former Loganville Councilman Chuck Bagley to his wife Fran during a ceremony Aug. 17th. The resolution honored not only the former councilman's service to both the GMA and the city but also his contributions to his community and service as a county commissioner. Bagley, who was in the middle of his third term on the city council, passed away on May 19.

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Three decades after being elected to the Loganville council, Jean Hall had a road dedicated in her honor on March 26th. While the name of the Loganville road — Magnolia Street — did not change, it now has signs honoring the former elected leader.



This Street Dedicated In Honor Of Jean Hall



Mayor Dan Curry and Councilman Rey Martinez were on hand at a ceremony in Monroe on Sept. 2nd breaking ground on the Walton County Veterans Memorial Fallen Heroes Garden, the first phase of the project.