

*A local newspaper in Atlanta wrote this story in 1943 as Central Methodist Church, now Central United Methodist Church, honored the oldest and youngest mothers of the church. Mrs. Hill was 83 years old at the time of this story and was a member of Central for sixty-six years. She was a fine example of motherhood, whose noble character radiates her personality. No one would think of Methodism in Atlanta, Georgia, without considering Mrs. Hill's dynamic personality. She was and continues to be remembered as one of the foremost leaders in the Methodist church.*

Mrs. Lula Hill

Mrs. Lula Leigh Hill was born on April 2, 1860, in Newnan, Georgia, where she spent the early years of her life. She began attending Sunday School as soon as she was old enough. Also was quite active as a girl in every phase of church work in Newnan. Her commitment laid the foundation for the noble achievements of this great personality, not only in the religious realm but in community life.

She entered Clark University in 1877, being one of its first students. She worked through school, diligently applying herself to the job of fitting herself for life.

Lula married Mr. Hill at an early age and reared a fine family. She passed into them the fine qualities she possessed. They are all successful in their various walks of life.

They are Dr. L.M. Hill, Miss Marie Hill, Mrs. Esther Smith, and Mr. Andrew Hill, all of Atlanta, Ga., and Mrs. Lena Walker of Pittsburg, Pa.

Mrs. Hill has a long period of years to her record of activity in the Methodist Church. In Newnan, Ga., she worked in the then Methodist Episcopal Church under the pastorate of Rev. George Standing. When she moved to Atlanta, Ga., she joined Loyd Street Methodist Episcopal Church in 1877. The name of this church was changed to Central Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church.

At this time, there was an enrollment of 500 in the Sunday School, the largest in the city. Mrs. Hill was active all through the years in this department, serving as Assistant Sunday School Superintendent, a teacher in the bible class, teenage girls' class, small boys' class. Later she organized a Men's class, with an average attendance of twenty-five. The last class she taught was the Women's class.

Other offices held in church activities during the years are Class leader, steward unit leader, assisted in the Epworth League, Organizer of the Woman's Club, and the Foreign Missionary Society. She was on the committee of the Court of Appeals for thirty years.

During her presidency of the Foreign Missionary Society, she made outstanding achievements. Much work was done in sending supplies and money to the foreign fields. She organized societies in South Atlanta, County Line, Summerville, and Newnan.

She was elected President of the Foreign Missionary Society of the Atlanta Conference.

At the unification of the three branches of Methodism, Mrs. Lula Hill still stood ready to do her part in the changing order of the church. Although she is now in her declining years, she is still a loyal and active member of Central Methodist Church and a charter member of the Woman's Society of Christian Service.

Mrs. Hill is the first church member to write a historical sketch on the history of Central United Methodist Church.