

HISTORY OF FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Sylvania, Ga.

The earliest records of the church state: "The Christian Church in Sylvania, Ga., was organized on Saturday, November 17th, 1883 in the Sylvania Academy, by W. D. Oliver [minister]." Charter members of the congregation were: John Gross, Mrs. Mary Oliver, Dr. Louis Brown, Mrs. Malissa Brown, Tarltin Brown, Miss Langly Brown, Miss Betsie Brown, Miss Gertrude Hobby, James W. Hagan, Mrs. Sally Hagan, Solomon Waters, Mrs. Solomon Waters, Miss Eliza Hobby, Dan E. Jenkins, Jeff Meads and Mrs. Rosa Bell Herrington.

In January of 1884, Mr. J. W. Hagan was ordained as the first elder of the church. Miss Eliza Hobby gave the land on which the church building stood for years, and on the first Sunday of July, 1885, the building was dedicated.

The church grew during the 1890's and early 1900's, and at one time, had the largest Sunday School in Sylvania. Miss Eliza Hobby passed away in 1911, as did many of the older members. Others moved away and in the years 1914 through 1928 no services were held. In 1928 the church was reopened, but again, difficulties caused the church to become inactive again for a period of a few years. It was reopened again in 1941, with building repairs taking place. But again the church became inactive until the year 1945. In 1947, the exterior of the old building was repaired, and a Sunday School was begun with 21 present. In 1959, the church began a full-time program. Prior to this, the church had services once or twice a month, usually on the third Sunday.

In the late 1950's, the church purchased some lots in Sylvan Heights. In 1963 the church began construction on its present sanctuary. The old building on Curtis and Telephone Streets was carefully torn down and much of the material was used in the construction of the new one.

On May 17, 1964, Dedication Services were held for the new building. Presenting the message was R. M. Bell, who was at that time president of Johnson Bible College in Kimberlin Heights, Tennessee.