

History OF THE FIRST

Alpharetta Adventist Church



Est. 1889

A man named M.G. Huffman frequently held meetings and wrote reports for the various Adventist publications on the continuing soul winning efforts in Alpharetta. In November 1889 he organized the Alpharetta SDA church with a membership of 18.

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Before the church was built, meetings were often held in tents, in the Alpharetta courthouse and at the Baptist church.

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The Joseph Webb family lived in the building on Church Street that served both as the church and school. The structure still stands today and has been renovated into a special events facility. It is told that the Webbs constructed many buildings in Alpharetta.

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Elder George W. Wells, president of the Georgia Conference in the early 1900s, lived in Alpharetta.

"The Lord wonderfully blessed our efforts. Hearts were stirred, and souls were made to tremble at his word at times in such a measure as I have not witnessed in any of my previous labors. The attendance and interest steadily increased...with an audience of between 400 and 500."

M.G. Huffman
July, 1889

On December 31, 1889, the church was dedicated. "The house and furniture cost \$1100 and the building was dedicated free from debt." *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald* for 1900, No. 11, pg. 173

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In a 1913 report on Adventist educational institutions, the *Alpharetta Intermediate School* was reported to have 40 students and 2 teachers for grades 1-8.

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In 1889 there was an article published by the *Atlanta Constitution* on the trial at the Methodist church (*M.E. Church South*) for four members charged with heresy. They "endorsed the doctrines preached by the Seventh-day Adventists" and were expelled. *Advent Review* for 1889, No. 44, pg. 7

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The early church members sometimes fell victim to the strenuous Georgia Sunday laws of their day. In August of 1889, Bro. Day Conklin was tried before the superior court of Forsyth County on the charge of violating the Sunday law by chopping wood and was heavily fined.

More in-depth writings can be found online at www.adventistarchives.org.



ALPHARETTA
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH