The Deed to Bethlehem Church on the Flowery Branch Charge was made February 5, 1828. The land was purchased by John Bowman who was then thirty years of age, and one of the first settlers of this section.

He secured two and one-half acres from Absalom C. Avery and two and one-half acres from Julius C. Hendrix, and had the deed made to the Trustees and to their successors in office. In addition to the five acres, Noah Pirkle and his son J. H. purchased one-eighth acre from the I. O. O. F., adjoining the five acres, and had the deed made to the Trustees and their successors in office, making a total of five and one-eighth acres for the church and the cemetery.

The church is located near a big spring which furnished plenty of water for all needed purposes.

The Charter members were John Bowman, Julius Bowman, George Bowman, Amanda Bowman Pirkle, Jeff Pass, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Bill Cox, and some others.

The first worship services were held under a brush arbor, after which a log church was built by the community. After a number of years, a weather-boarded church was built. Not only was worship services held here, but public school was taught in the church building for many years.

The present church building was erected about 1898. The lumber was sawed by Noah Pirkle and his son, J. H. W. L. Pirkle, brother to J. H., willied $1000 to Bethlehem Church to be used for improvements. $600 of this money has been spent for a new piano, new pews, and venetian blinds. The church building is in a good condition.
