HISTORY

GLEN HAVEN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1946 – 1980
On July 17, 1946, eighteen people of Glen Haven Community met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Bassett to discuss the organization of a Methodist church. $825.00 was pledged to a building fund.

On August 16, 1946, a quarterly conference was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Wellborn and Mr. and Mrs. J. C. George, Sr., on Covington Road (property now owned by Lamar Ferrell Chevrolet), under the direction of Rev. Charles Middlebrooks, Sr., Superintendent of the Decatur-Oxford District, and Glen Haven Church became a reality. Rev. Hunter Bassett, who had recently returned from Germany, where he served as assistant chaplain in World War II, was appointed as our Pastor. We met each Sunday night in the homes of various members for worship.

On September 26, 1946, Mr. L. Pierce Jackson, of Forest Park, gave us one acre of land from the D. E. Jackson estate. We called it "an acre for the Lord." The following were named to the building committee: N. R. Jones, Chairman, C. W. Wellborn, J. T. Bassett, T. L. Suddeth, and W. B. Jones. Our first building, consisting of a full daylight basement housing a small auditorium and five classrooms, was built of cement block and cost $10,000.00. Rev. Jack Speer was appointed our pastor in December, 1946. On June 29, 1947, our first service was held. Following are the names of the thirty-two charter members:

Clarence W. Wellborn
Mrs. Mamie Jackson Wellborn
J. Candler George, Sr.
Mrs. Buna Loy Wellborn George
J. Candler George, Jr.
W. Travis George
N. R. Jones
Mrs. Myrtie Kelly Jones
Mrs. Ethel Hill Whiddon
James Mercer Hill
Mrs. Elizabeth Whiddon Gantt
J. T. Bassett
Mrs. Reba Johnson Bassett
Hunter Bassett
Hugh Bassett
Paul Bassett
Mrs. Margaret Mills Suddeth
Mrs. Mae Hopkins
V. G. Hopkins, Jr.
Mrs. V. G. Hopkins, Jr.
Mrs. Hilda F. Hudson
Paul L. Reynolds
Mrs. Paul L. Reynolds
Albert Lockhart
W. C. Bennett

John B. Lockhart, Sr.
Mrs. John B. Lockhart, Sr.
John B. Lockhart, Jr.
Thomas Lockhart
Marie Lockhart
Charles Lockhart
Mrs. C. T. Going

Also at this service, ten people joined the church and they were given charter membership certificates, also. They are:

T. Leonard Suddeth
Dr. V. G. Hopkins, Sr.
William Lockhart
Mrs. Albert Lockhart
Mrs. W. W. Abbott
Mr. W. W. Abbott
Nancy Abbott
Mrs. Mildred Braun
Harlan Gantt
Ronald Suddeth
Following is a complete list of our first church organization:

Building Committee
  N. R. Jones, Chairman
  C. W. Wellborn
  J. T. Bassett
  T. L. Suddeth
  W. B. Jones

Board of Trustees
  J. T. Bassett, Chairman
  C. W. Wellborn
  N. R. Jones
  J. C. George, Sr.
  Mrs. V. G. Hopkins, Sr.

Board of Stewards
  C. W. Wellborn, Chairman
  V. G. Hopkins, Jr.
  P. L. Reynolds
  Mrs. E. B. Whiddon
  Mrs. V. G. Hopkins, Jr.
  J. M. Hill

Church School Superintendent
  Mrs. N. R. Jones

Woman's Society of Christian Service
  Mrs. E. B. Whiddon, President

Music Committee
  Mrs. H. F. Hudson, Choir Director
  Mrs. J. C. George, Sr., Pianist

Church Treasurer and Secretary
  J. C. George, Sr.

About 1950, we added rest rooms, kitchen, four class rooms, and a fellowship hall with a large fireplace. Rev. Robert Engle was our minister. We enjoyed fish fries, barbecues, and chicken dinners.

Robert A. Kerr was our pastor from 1953 to 1955. Under his leadership, and hard work from all, our chapel was started. Rev. Howard B. Simms came to us in July of 1955 and on September 25, 1955, we first worshipped in our beautiful chapel, with 137 members. Following is a church directory:

Bishop Arthur J. Moore, Resident Bishop
Dr. Edward G. Mackay, District Superintendent
Howard B. Simms, Pastor
Weyman P. Wellborn, Lay Leader
J. Thomas Pyron, Jr., Church School Superintendent
J. W. Henderson, Chairman, Official Board
Mrs. Elizabeth W. Gantt, Treasurer
Mrs. James T. Meador, Recording Secretary
Mrs. E. B. Whiddon, Choir Director
Mrs. Huell F. Hudson, Pianist
Mrs. J. Candler George, Sr., Pianist
Mrs. Charles E. Wilson, Sr., President, W.S.C.S
Miss Marion Jones, President W.S.G.
Paul Spieks, President, M.Y.F.
J. Thomas Pyron, Jr., President, Men's Club

Building Committee:

Charles E. Wilson, Sr., Chairman
Thomas J. Pyron, Jr.
Weyman P. Wellborn
Mrs. E. B. Whiddon
Elasco C. Addison
A. C. Williams

Trustees:

Travis George
J. T. Bassett
N. R. Jones
L. Pierce Jackson
Mrs. V. G. Hopkins, Sr.

Through much sacrifice and hard work, we were able to purchase three acres from the Jonathan Burgess estate, which gave us room for expansion.

We continued to grow under the leadership of Rev. Marcus M. Martin, who served us from 1958 to 1962. Rev. Clyde Lancaster served from 1962 to 1969, at which time we were having three services on Sunday and the Sunday School was overflowing. This encouraged us to really build for the future--we built half of our educational building. In the early part of 1969, a building committee, composed of Jim L. Austin, Travis George, Earl Wright, Mrs. C. M. Bowden, C. E. Wilson, Sr., Curtis Hill, Don Case, and Pastor, Rev. Clyde Lancaster, was appointed. Walton Peabody, architect, and M. W. Butrill and Sons, builders, were selected. With many meetings and much prayer, our church, through faith, committed itself to building to grow with the community.

Now, through pledges, we must retire the $225,000 in bonds, sold to pay for our Educational Building and Sanctuary. This will be accomplished by 1985. Mr. Charles E. Wilson, Sr., was general chairman of the Bonds Crusade and Dr. E. Bruce Wilson was director. Furnishings and memorial committee were Mrs. Ruth Crowder, Mrs. Della Dunbrack, and Mrs. J. C. George, Sr. Rev. J. R. Phillips came to us in 1969. A red letter day for Glen Haven was our first worship service in our beautiful sanctuary, May 10, 1970, with 500 members. On May 24, 1970, at 3:00 P.M., the consecration service was held.

We have a goodly heritage and with new life and renewed purpose, we face the future with faith and determination to extend and sharpen our witness for Christ and His Church, with Pastor Raymond V. King and family, who came to us in June, 1980.

Mrs. J. Candler George, Sr.
Historian, Charter Member
Pastors:

Hunter J. Bassett, August 9 - November 21, 1946
Jack Speer, December 1, 1946
W. Ellis Williamson, August 1 - 31, 1948
Jefferson Christian, 1948 - 1950
Robert Engle, 1950 - 1951
Lewis C. Davis, 1951 - 1953
Robert A. Kerr, 1953 - 1955
All of the above were students.
Howard B. Simms, 1955 - 1958
Marcus Martin, 1958 - 1962
Clyde Lancaster, 1962 - 1969
Hugh W. McKee, 1970 - 1972
Jerry McCurdy, 1972 - 1977
Donald L. Clark, 1977 - 1980
Raymond V. King, 1980 -