Pleasant Grove Church

The Methodist Protestant Church separated from the main body of Methodism in 1830. They protested some of the rules and regulations of the Methodist ME, and decided to establish a conference of their own and set up churches that they felt more comfortable with and that they could have an active part in the operation of. In 1858 Pleasant Grove Methodist Protestant was established and was also known as Protestant. The M. Barlow's and Bigger's families were charter members and had donated the land for the church. Much hard work and great self-sacrifices were made by many people to build a church of that magnitude. By cooperation and faith, their dreams became a reality.

The church was built with a petition some 3 ft. high from back to the altar separating the men from the women. Also two doors afforded separate entrances. At funerals, the inside of the altar was used for the bier.
Around 1918 the petition was removed from the altar back about 8 ft. and in the '50s a bell was removed and the front of the church redesigned to have the entrance and an aisle down the center.

Pleasant Grove was the only Methodist Protestant in Haralson County. Most others were in Dekalb Co. and Atlanta area. Center Hill, Ivy Street, Centenary & Clifton were some of other M.P. Churches.

The head of the conference was a president and any successful minister was eligible for the presidency.

The conference representing about 20 churches met once a year at a church willing to take on such a responsibility. The conference was to conduct the general business of the churches and assign pastors. It was usually in session 3 days: Fri., Sat., & Sunday, with business conducted during the day and special evangelistic services at night.

Pleasant Grove was host to the conference in 1926 and again in 1937.

It was an honor to host
the Conference. It meant work and cooperation from everyone, and it was evident that everyone did their part and were glad to be a part of such an undertaking.

A large tent was set up in the back yard of the church and it had tables, an old time ice box, two kerosene cook stoves for heat and to keep ever-ready coffee available at all times. The conferences were held in Oct., so cool days and nights were expected.

The church was heated by a big circulating heater & Rays mantle lamps and gasoline lanterns furnished the lights in 1926. No inside plumbing was available.

Everyone took care of as many delegates as possible at night & gave them breakfast. Basket lunches were served at noon and again at 5 P.M. in the tent. Barbecued pork & Brunswick stew were ample.

Rev. Esmay Cowan, his father, Daddy Cowan, Rev. John Anderson & Rev. Andrew Jenkins were all well known evangelist & many people came from adjoining communities for the night services. Rev. Jenkins & family were singers & were regularly
heard on WSB radio station. Rev. Jenkins was blind, but he never seemed to be handicapped.

Pleasant Grove had some of the best preachers in the conference. Rev. John Anderson, president, was pastor from 1915 - 1926. During this time 58 people joined the Church.

In 1926 Rev. M. L. Spain came to serve the Church. He was young and this was his first work. It was full of enthusiasm and really worked. His wife loves a musician, writing and arranging compositions. She was an accomplished pianist, and played for the Jenkins family, being a stepdaughter of Rev. Jenkins. One of their songs is in the big hymnal on 245. Rev. Spain & his wife were greatly loved by all, especially the youth. The Church was moving forward and in '26 - '28 we received 18 members. In the summer of '29 we received 23 members during the revival.

In 1937 the Conference met again at Pleasant Grove. We used the tent again and took care of delegates. This time the church had a delco system that furnished lights for church & tent.
At this conference Rev. Spain was elected president and as he also held a full-time job with an electric company in Atlanta, he was assigned to an Atlanta church as pastor. He still returned to F.I.S. from time to time as president. A few yrs. later he became very ill and died too early in life. He is buried at his beloved Pleasant Grove.

Pastors serving later were S. J. Dows - 36-37; D.C. Campbell 37-38; W.L. Hutton 38-39.

Pleasant Grove merged with the M.E. Church and became United Methodist. This was not easy for some Methodist Protestants to accept. Most of the preachers were in favor as they said, "Beingigger was better. A few members fought the merger as long as they liked, but they were out voted.

Rev. Lamar, a former M.P. pastor was sent to serve the church and he stayed 3 yrs. Then a series of Emory students were here. These students came once a month and we often had to transport them to and from the church. They were not allowed to give communion being on a flour point Charge we had a conference
each quarter, and each church was host for 1 time during the year. The 
preaching elder (now D. J. K.) preached, served 
Communion for the morning service. 
Following a basket lunch the president 
over a conference, hearing reports from 
each church.

It became evident that there 
would be no sacrificial program or 
successful Church program under 
these conditions.

Mr. T. (Pat) Millendon proposed 
to donate lumber enough to build 
a parsonage. People donated funds. 
Work and soon a 5 room house 
was ready to welcome a preacher. 
The charges were changed from time 
to time, so the parsonage became a 
burden. Some preachers preferred to live 
elsewhere and the parsonage was 
rented.

These preachers lived in the parsonage: 
Oscar Dyer, Hosi Barrett, Gilbert Steadham, 
Nezma Brittain, Albert Savage, Rev. Batch, 
W.E. Jarboe, Ralph Broome, Charles Barne, 
Charles Thomas, Paul Bone, Jerry Wilkins, 
Jack Smith, Charles Stevens, Russ Tippett, 
Joe Watson. The parsonage was sold recently.

In the 50's many things happened 
to us. The Church was moved back
from the road, the partition was removed & new benches purchased. The old pews were dressed & used as wainscoating. Hardwood floors were put in and later completely carpeted. New memorial windows bought, the old pump organ was refinished and changed to electric.

During the 60's three Sunday school rooms, a fellowship hall & 2 youth rooms were added. Central heat has also made the church more comfortable.

So this church has had a great history and we look forward to a bright and progressive future. We hope this church will forever be an outstanding landmark of Haralson County.
Pastors Served

Rev. Lamari 40-41-41-42
Rev. Noble
Rev. Cleveland
Rev. Kenneth Leifert
Rev. Howington 7-62

Oscar Dyer
Hosca Garrett
Gilbert Stedman 5-6a
Alton Smith 47-48
Theo Brittan 48-49
Bob Berric 49-50
Albert Savage 50-51-51-52-52-53-53-54 Key

J Balch
Rev. Zuloe 54-55-56

Ralph Broome
Charles Barnes
Charles Thomas 62
Harvey Bickers

Paul Bone 63
Jerry Wilkins 65-66
Jack Smith 66-67
Charles Stovens 67-68-69-69-70
Horace Johnson 70-71

Fred Tipton 71-72
Jeff Lankford 72-75
Dennis Baker 75-76
Joe Watson 76-77

Marion Roberson 78-79
Charlie Doughton 79-80

Ray Ramsey 80-84

" 84-85

Ron Lee 85-87

Harry Mitchell 87-90

over