

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 M.E. and decided to establish a conference of their own and set up churches that they felt more comfortable with and they could have an active part in the operation of same.

In 1858 Pleasant Grove Methodist Protestant was established and was also known as Protestant. The Mr. Garity's and Biggers' 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 this magnitude. By cooperation and faith their dreams became a reality.

The church was built with a partition 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.

WRITTEN BY MISS JEANETTE ALLGOOD

2. Around 1918 the petition was removed from the altar back about 8 ft. and in the '50s the '50s was removed and the front of the church redesigned to have one 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, Foy 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

3. the conference. It meant work + 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 + it had tables, an old time ice box, two kerosene cook stoves for heat and to keep everready 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. Emory 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

4.

heard on W.S.B 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 1918-1926. 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. He was full of enthusiasm & really worked. His wife was a musician - writing and arranging compositions. She was an accomplished pianist, & 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 & 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.

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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 P. D. from time to time as president. A few yrs. later he became very ill & died too early in life. He is buried at his beloved Pleasant Grove.

Pastors serving later were S. Z. Dowis - 36-37; D. C. Campbell 37-38; W. L. Hunton 38-39.

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

Rev. Larnar, a former M. P. pastor was sent to serve our church and he stayed 2 yrs. Then a series of Emory students were here. These students came once a month and we often had to transport them to & from bus. They were not allowed to give communion. Being on a four point charge we had a conference

6. each quarter, and each church was host for 1 time during the year. The presiding elder (now D. F.) preached, served Communion for the morning service. Following a basket lunch he presided over a conference, hearing reports from each church.

It became evident that there would be no visitation program or successful church program under these conditions.

Mr. T. (Pat) McClellan 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, Nosa Garrett, Gilbert Steadham, Nezma Brittan, Albert Savage, Rev. Balch, W. E. Jarboe, Ralph Broome, Charles Barnes, Charles Thomas, Paul Bone, Jerry Wilkins, Jack Smith, Charles Stevens, Russ Tipps, + Joe Watson. The parsonage was sold recently. In the 50's many things happened to us. The church was moved back

7. from the road, the partition was removed, & new benches purchased. The old pews were dressed & used as wainscoting. 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 ~~bath~~^{rest} 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 for ever be an outstanding landmark of Haralson County.

PASTORS
SERVED

0. Rev. Lamm 40-41-41-42
Rev. Noble
Rev. Cleveland
Rev. Kenneth Seifert
Rev. Howington 2-ala

Oscar Dyer

Hosea Garrett

Gilbert Steckman 5. Ga

Alton Smith 47-48

Nezma Brithian 48-49

Bob Berrier 49-50

Albert Savage 50-51-51-52-52-53-53-54 Ky

Balch

Rev. Jarboe '54-55-56-

Ralph Broome

Retired '81

'59-'60

Charles Barnes

Spec. Appt

60-'62

Charles Thomas 62

Retired

60-'63

Harvey Bickers

Dec'd

Paul Bone 63

Jerry Wilkins 65-66

Jack Smith 66-67

Charles Stevens 67-68-68-69-69-70

Hoyt Johnson 70-71

Ross Tipps 71-72

Ted Lankford 72-75

Dennis Baker 75-76

Joe Watson 76-77

Marion Robinson 78-79

Charlie Doughton 79-80

Ray Ramsey 80-84

" " 84-85

Ron Lee 85-87

Navy Mitchem 87-90

over