

1972 Dalton Dist

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## Pleasant Hill - Subligna Charge

Pleasant Hill Church is on Subligna Charge in Dalton District in the North Georgia Conference. Located in West Armuchee Valley, Walker County Georgia, 5 miles south of the Dalton-LaFayette Highway, 5 miles from Subligna, Ga.

When Walker Co. Ga. was six years old, Abraham Belton Neal moved from North Carolina into the valley between Taylors Ridge and Dicks Ridge known as West Armuchee Valley. This was back in the year 1839. He was an old fashioned Methodist exhorter. He belonged to a family of 13 children and had learned lots that was valuable to him in his new life. He was young but not a strong man. He was willing to brave the hardships for the sake of an opportunity to possess a home and begin life anew in a new country. He and his family were industrious. They built a two room log house with a spacious hall between. It was on the land now owned by R.C. Grigsby. People begin to have prayer service at his home. There were not many but God blessed them. Mr. Neal brought Gospel Messages standing in the hall while the audience was seated in the yard. Some of the early settlers were Gore, Tweedle, Maloney and Story. In the summer they would build a brush arbor and have protracted meeting.

By the year 1847 enough Methodist people had come into this section to organize Pleasant Hill Church. Mr. Neal gave five acres of land and a church was built. It was built

from poplar logs and was 20 by 24 feet. It was placed on the hill side of <sup>north</sup> the spring. A name must be selected for the new Church. Miss Sue Gore suggested Pleasant Hill; it was pleasing to the people and was adopted; the name has remained.

The joy that must have flooded their souls when the log church was completed with their own labor and they came together to worship God. We have not been able to learn the name of the first pastor. In this first service I am sure the Presiding Elder came from Dalton. He took the Hymn book lined the song "Amazing Grace." Then a prayer thanking God for his goodness and mercy was offered. The power of God was felt. The reading of God's word and the sermon was brought by the Presiding Elder. All business was transacted at the Saturday Meeting. It was related to me by an older person if there was a "stink up in the church it was aired" on Saturday. The Presiding Elder spent Saturday night in the community. Then Sunday was a great day. People came for miles around to hear the Sunday morning sermon. The preachers went home with some of the members for dinner. It would be a spiritual build up for the people. The Bible would be read and the sermon discussed in the home.

The salary of the pastor was meager. Some could not give money. His horse and family must be looked after. Fodder and corn would be counted on the quarterage. The church must make quarterly reports so that gave the term quartage to the amount paid.

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In the year 1853 A.B. Neal died and was buried on the hill west of the present Pleasant Hill Church. His wife Rebecca Pichens Neal was left with eleven children to raise. She was a christian mother and loved Pleasant Hill Church. She trained the children to attend church and to carry on the work that was dear to their father's heart.

In 1857 a new frame church was--near the grave of Mr. Neal. The war clouds were beginning to hang heavy. Slavery had been practiced in the southland. The devotion between the two races is still felt in this valley. The civil war began and the work of the church was left to the women and children. After the war was over Samuel Price was pastor. A new building was needed. In the records kept by Mr. George Morton it is told how \$200 was used to erect a new building. The pastor was paid \$49.25. This was in the year 1871.

I would like to give the church roll in 1874.  
 R.P. Neal, class leader; Fletcher Hegwood, class leader;  
 R.B. Neal, steward and trustee; A.H. Neal, class leader and steward; B.F. Neal, J.B. Neal, John Gray, Dink Gray, James Hegwood, A.L. Hegwood, Joseph Story, Harvey Maloney, John White, I.L. Lumus, Belton Neal, Alford West. Female members were: Rebecca Neal, Julia Neal, Mary Neal, Kems Hegwood, Salina Story, Nancy McWilliams, Candis Henderson, Mahala Kearns, M.E. Ezell, Priscilla Maloney, Susan Maloney, Jane Gray, Margret Quinton, S.G. Maloney, Sallie Walker, Mary Annah Neal, Mary E. Quinton, Lucy Hix and Catherine West.

In the year 1875 on October the twenty-first Rebecca Piekens Neal died and was laid to rest by her husband near

Pleasant Hill Church. J.B. McFarland was pastor of the church. A school building was built near the church. Dr. Hamp Hunt was one of the early teachers. Miss Dora Suttle was one that followed Dr. Hunt. Reve Reese Griffin related how she would let him sleep a nap, He said, "I must have been good while asleep." Rev. Griffin was just learning to read, the time for quarterly conference rolled around he was there. The Rev. Quillian was Presiding Elder. He said, "All those that will read the second chapter of Jude hold up your hand." Rev. Griffin held up his hand. Later he found the chapter had not been written. Those were great days for the church. The membership had reached 55. The Griffin family moved away and many others left the church. In 1890 the roll consisted of 35 names. Fletcher walton a young preacher came as pastor. He was a forceful preacher and was loved by the people. He was sent to Trion. It was a Spiritual year for that church. The work at Pleasant Hill went forward. Joel Cotey taught school and was a great Christian; a member of this church. He was a local preacher and loved to sing songs and had love in his heart for the Lord. The pastor's wife Mrs. Smith sang the "Way Faring Pilgrim" in such a sweet way that it is still mentioned by the older people.

The year of 1894 was a time that has been remembered by people of the valley. W.R. Kennedy was pastor. Rev. Jesse Hunt was teaching school at Pleasant Hill. In the summer the people came together and had a Union revival. A great revival came to West Armuchee Valley. Christians were

refreshed, renewed and many accepted the Lord Jesus as their Savior. One man told me every one was happy. Before the sun had gone behind the western hills shouting was heard at Pleasant Hill Church.

In 1902 the first musical instrument was bought. The organ had to be pumped. Many could not sing with the organ. Then in 1904 the church building was remodeled, blinds placed over the windows. In May of that year Capt. R.B. Neal died and it was a blow to the Church. Rev. Frank Neal came from Texas to the old home community to conduct the summer revival. The spiritual life of the church and valley was renewed. Miss Eugenia McWilliams played the organ and found it hard work peddling to make music.

In 1912 there was an in gathering of souls. The church roll had reached sixty-six. Wiley Maloney preached his first sermon one Sunday pm. He was a student at Young Harris College when he was taken ill. He did not live long was laid to rest in Pleasant Hill Cemetery. While J.A. Couch was pastor he asked Rev. Charles Williams of Dalton to come and carry on the protracted meeting. It was a real revival with more than 100 conversions with forty-six added to the church roll. The afternoon service at the school was a great blessing. The valley had a spiritual awakening for the power of God was felt by old and young. The next year Rev. Pierce Harris pastor of Chickamauga church came and brought strong gospel messages.

V.A. Roark was pastor and Rev. J.W. Brinsfield pastor of LaFayette church came to help in the revival. Pleasant

Hill School had been moved up the valley to consolidate it with Red Hill School. The confusion that happens when such things take place was hindering in the church. Rev. Brinsfield preached to the faithful few until Wednesday. That afternoon he returned to LaFayette. He was a great preacher and if he had stayed until after the night service, he would have stayed for the meeting. It was good for us to be reprimanded in that way.

R.I. Johnson was pastor for four years. He preached the gospel in a straight forward way. In one revival while he was pastor after he had preached E.M. Bailey and J.O. Pinion sang, "When shall I See Jesus and Reign With Him Above." Rev. Johnson was seated in the pulpit and he arose shouting --praising God. The church building was enlarged. T.W. Henson was anxious about the building and did lots of the work. It gave more room.

Barret Barton, a young enthusiastic man that loved young people and spent much time with them was pastor for three years. The organ was worn so it was replaced with a piano and a new circulator heater was bought. The work was going forward. The Sunday School was flourishing. Other pastors came and filled their places well. Rev. G.D. Erwin was pastor for nine years. The family was loved and admired. His gospel messages blessed the hearts of people. The cottage prayer meetings were organized. The men and boys would go into the homes where they were invited and have prayer meetings. The Sunday afternoon base ball game was replaced by Sunday afternoon prayer service. The young people of the

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 church had become interested in the growth of God's kingdom. Rev. Marvin Lewis and his wife came for a young peoples meeting. Great good was accomplished. Many preachers were invited to come and preach. Special services were held. Julius Orr felt the call to preach and then he went to Young Harris College. He is now pastor at <sup>Sumner Hill</sup> Young Harris. A Missionary Society was organized in 1937 but disbanded a few months later. So many could not attend the meetings. The Wednesday night prayer meeting is held at the church. There is not a large crowd but the faithful few still show interest in the spiritual life of the church and community.

In 1948 R.J. Donaldson was pastor. He was awide awake gospel preacher. He invited Rev. Roland Walker to come for the revival. Anyone that has heard him speak from God's word understands the joy that was brought into the hearts of God's children as their hopes were renewed. The same year Rev. Frank Craton came for a weeks meeting.

The church building was made more comfortable by putting celotex over head and sheet rock on the walls. It was painted new benches made and painted. It is heated with gas and is very comfortable. The W.S.C.S. has fifteen members with Audrey Neal, president. They were interested in getting the work done on the church. They spent \$41 for celotex and sheet rock and \$20 for paint. The Youth Fellowship is not a large number but they are very helpful to the church. The Church School has 47 on roll with Frank Neal as Supt.

The five acres of ground that once belonged to the church was not recorded and the property changed hands and

now there is only two acres for church and cemetery. The church property is valued at \$3,500. Pleasant Hill Church has an interest in the parsonage at Subligna valued at \$2,000. Rev J.F. Gladney is the pastor.

There is preaching services three times each month. The church roll has 93 names but some have moved away.

I would like to give the names of Sunday School Supt. from 1870; R.B. Neal; Reece M. Neal; T.W. Henson; W.H. Gray; J.O. Pinion; L.L. Orr; J.F. Orr; Ernest Pettyjohn; Frank Neal.

The pastors of the church from 1870 are: Samuel Price; J.B. McFarland; W.R. Branham; S.D. Evans; G.W. Thomas; J.B. McFarland; W.L. Yarbrough; E.B. Reese; R.P. Martin; Shackelford; Mark Edwards; T.J. Edwards; George T. King; Sam B. Ledbetter; L.A. Snow; T.J. Edwards; Fletcher Smith; Fletcher Walton; Fletcher Smith; L.D. Coggins; W.R. Kennedy; J.N. Myers; C.H. Hartman; J.E. Russel; Walter Millican; Mat L. Harris; J.A. Sprayberry; J.S. Rawls; C.S. Martin; J.T. Pendley; I.J. Lovern; L.B. Hughes; W.S. Norton; T.E. Thurmond; A.E. Silnery; J.B. Gresham; Nelson Hinsley; J.B. Legg; J.A. Couch; V.A. Roark; R.I. Johnson; Odum Clark; V.F. Taylor; Barret Barton; J.B. Stephenson; G.T. Sorrel; Cullen Jones; G.D. Erwin; J.R. Thompson; R.J. Donaldson; J.F. Gladney.

It would not be complete with out giving the names of the Presiding Elders. I will begin back in 1870 and extend over the period until 1940: H.J. Adams; G.J. Pierce; R.W. Gigham; D.J. Myrick; Alexander M. Thigpen; W.A. Parks;

F. Mixon; W.F. Quillian; J.M. Lowery; A.G. Worley; J.B. Robbins; W.C. Dunlap; H.J. Adams; A.W. Williams; J.D. Allen; Ford McRee; W.P. Lovejoy; T.J. Christian; W.T. Irvine; Sam B. Lbetter; John F. Yarbough; S.A. Harris; Frank Quillian; J.R. Turner; A.M. Pierce.

In 1940 when the Northern and Southern Methodist churches united--I will give the District Supt. names; J.S. Thrailkill; Charles M. Lipham and our present District Supt., Peter Manning.

Trustees of Pleasant Hill Church are: A.P. Neal; Edward Bowman; J.O. Pinion; Frank Neal; Deforest Bailey.

Parsonage trustees are: Mrs. Frank Neal; Mrs. R.E. Millican; Rufus Bowman.

Amount raised for Pastor, Benevolences and up keep of parsonage in 1950 was \$775.

The Sunday School offering for 1950 was \$100.