

PLEASANT GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH HISTORY



Stirred Up

In 1871, a group of community people, who felt the need to religious gatherings, began meeting in various homes. Mr. Youngsboro, a white landowner, seeing the need of the people to have a central meeting place, gave his permission for them to use one of his vacant houses for worship. The house was located one half mile from the cross road on the Old Columbus road. It was named Youngsboro, in respect to the landowner and his generosity. Rev. John Thomas and Ministers from the community made up the Presbytery.

Soon after Christmas in 1873, the congregation was made up of the Colquitt, Johnson, Casen and Steven families. All being charter members. Youngsboro's first pastor was Rev. Thomas White. As the church progressed, Rev. J.J. Chisloms, Bro. Charlie Woodson, Bro. Ed Moss and Bro. Will Zellus and Rev. Tadd Jackson served as minister and the congregation grew in number.

Some years later, the members wanted to buy the land on loan to them but it was not for sale. They then purchased land on the hill near the railroad crossing called Chewacla Station. The church was located there from 1903 until 1914 and was called Chewacla.

Rev. Tadd Jackson served as minister until his death in 1917 and Rev. M.D. Pollard a member of the church carried out Rev. Jackson's term. From 1918 to 1972, the following

Pastors have served: Rev. L. Meadows, Rev. E.T. Trotter, Rev. J.C. Cooks 8 years, Rev. Ed. Slaughter 2 years, Rev. B.J. Brown 2 years, Rev. C.W. Stephens 3 years, Rev. R.B. Ford, Rev. J.F. Dixon, Rev. M.L. McMillian 4 years, Rev. W.L. 6 years and Rev. W.M. Anderson.

The Board of Deacons were: Deacons John Stringer, Andrew Joiner, Jeff Howard, Jack Joiner, Tom Rivers, Ronald Barnett, G.G. Gardner, R.C. Kallus, A.L. Tolin, Curtis W. Carter, Norah Johnson, Elisha Pollard, Charlie Pruitt, Edgar D. Comer, R.B. Grant, Edwin Comer, Ed Harper, Sam Pollard, Sr., Willie B. Harris and Dock Johnson, Sr.

During Rev. Cook's administration, the name of the church became Pleasant Grove because there were groves of pine and oak trees around the church and it was pleasant to stand and fellowship before and after worship.

Stretching Out

In September, 1972, Rev. Walter J. Hall was called to serve the Pleasant Grove Congregation. Under his administration, there was an awakening in the morale and spiritual behavior of the congregation; the choirs and auxiliaries began to grow in

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numbers and spiritual awareness. The church was also remodeled. Rev. Hall's preaching and preaching caused a revival in the church body and he ministered for give hears. Rev. Hall was called to Pastor in Atlanta, Georgia. Rev. Stephen was called to serve Pleasant Grove and served for six months.

In October, 1977, Rev. John Obelton of Columbus, Georgia was called to serve as Pastor of Pleasant Grove. The congregation received him and his family with love and devotedly followed under his administration.

During his ministry, the Deacon Wives and Nursing Department were organized, the parking area was paved and two acres of land were purchased to annex an educational building and to provide additional cemetery space.

Late in the fall of 1985, construction of the Annex began with Edger W. Jones as the contractor. A ten year mortgage was secured for the construction at a cost of \$36,250.00. Nine weeks after the construction began, ground breaking was held February 23, 1986 and by early summer the Annex was completed. Donations from members and friends were used to furnish the Annex. On November 23, 1986 a mortgage burning ceremony was held for the Annex. "DON'T FORGET TO SAY THANKS" was the sermon for the momentous occasion and there was great jubilation among the congregation.

The Board of Deacons serving at this time were: Deacons Willie B. Harris, Dock Johnson, Sr., John Dixon, Sam Pollard Jr., Arthur Jordan, Charles Nelms, Jasper Snipes, Leanadous Summers, Sr., Willie Edwards, Lemon Pollard, Joe Whitt, Wilbert Sparks, Leroy Lindsey and Paul Pollard.

On Going

Because of the revival and growth occurring at this time, the church began to see a need to move from bi-weekly meetings to becoming a full service church. Rev. Obelton was unable to take on the responsibilities of being a full time Pastor to Pleasant Grove, therefore, the Deacons began to seek assistance for the Pastor and meet the needs of the church.

February 15, 1987, Rev. Clifford Jones became the assistance Pastor and Youth Minister of the church. Rev. Jones served for four months in this capacity. It was unanimously agreed during church conference held in July to become a full service church beginning September 6, 1987. Rev. George C. McCulloh was received as acting Pastor's Assistance on first and third Sundays.

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During this time the church commissioned a committee to search for a full time Minister. By the end of the year, the committee had narrowed the list to two names, Rev. Clifford Jones and Rev. George McCulloh.

In, 1987, Rev. Obelton submitted his resignation as Pastor of Pleasant Grove and on February 28, 1988 preached his last sermon as the church's Pastor. He had served faithfully for 10 years and four months. Under his administration, the church grew in numbers and spirit. In March, the church was asked to vote on the two names submitted by the committee. With a majority vote, Rev. George C. McCulloh became the first FULL TIME PASTOR of Pleasant Grove. **Rev. McCulloh began officially as full time Pastor in May 1988.** He entered his ministry with great enthusiasm, emphasizing Jesus – the way, the truth and the life.