

HISTORY OF PLEASANT GROVE METHODIST CHURCH #75

Heritage of Putnam County Tennessee – 2008

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Pleasant Grove Methodist Church was organized in 1815. It was first called “The Rock Springs Episcopal Methodist Church”. This church was named Rock Springs because of a large spring which flowed through a crevice between two large rocks at the head of Rock Springs Valley. The first services were held in the homes of families living near this spring.

This was then Jackson County. Two weeks of Camp Meetings were held near this spring every year and people came miles to attend these services. They rode horse-back, or in carts and wagons bringing provisions, the family cow and stock feed, and stayed the entire two weeks.

The Tennessee Conference was organized on 12 November 1812 at Fountain Head, Tennessee, just three years prior to the organization of Pleasant Grove Methodist Church. Bishop Francis Asbury, President of the Tennessee Conference, came and held a successful revival at the site of this Camp ground, which inspired the congregation to build a church and further the Lord’s work. The ground for this church was donated by John Boyd and his son Ephraim Boyd. A copy of the original deed is as follows:

Know all men by these present that we John and Ephraim L. Boyd of the County of Jackson and the State of Tennessee, in the promotion of true and vital religion and the suppression of vice and immorality and also for divers of other good causes and consideration. Us the said John and E. L. Boyd here unto moving have given, granted and confirmed, and by these present do give, grant and confirm unto Simon Carlisle, Wesley Carlisle, Isaac Ferrell, Joseph Jared, Saunders Presley, James Lee Junior and William Blackburn, Trustees for the Rock Spring Episcopal Church and their successors in office, a certain tract or parcel of land with all appurtenances thereunto belonging, for the use and benefit of the Methodist Episcopal Church in building a meeting house, a school house, opening a Camp Ground and such other buildings and uses as the said trustees and Church desires or direct” This said land situates and lying and running as follows, to wit; On the south side of the Walton Road, directly on the old Lancaster Road, about half mile from its junction with the Walton Road. “Beginning in a black Ash marked W running east 24 poles to a sugar tree marked “WC” thence north 24 poles to a mulberry marked “D”. Thence south to the beginning.”

To have hold and enjoy the said land as after prescribed we find ourselves heirs and etc., to warrant and defend from all persons claiming under us, our heirs, Executors or administrators. In testimony, whereof we have hereunto set our hands and affixed our seals this 16th day of July A. D. 1832 and 57th of American Independence.

John Boyd (seal)

Ephraim L. Boyd (seal)

About the year 1897 this tract of land was traded to Simon P. Huddleston for the present site on the old Walton Road (now Highway 70N) and a large frame church building was erected on this site. It was replaced in 1917 with a modem brick building which is now the still existing sanctuary. During 2004 a two story Fellowship Hall was erected directly behind the present church which added about 5,400 square feet. The upper story has a large open area with tables and chairs that can be adapted to various uses and occasions. An adequate kitchen is at the rear of this large area. There are restrooms on both levels. The Educational Basement with class room facilities to meet the needs of children, who make up a sizeable percentage of the congregation, is one of the best.

Several young people have gone out from this church to be preachers and pastors. We also have a list of preachers that have gone out from Pleasant Grove Methodist Church. The list is as follows: Rev. John F. Hughes; Rev. Dow A. Ensor; Rev. William Jared; Rev. Simon M. Ensor; Rev. Jasper Nichols; Rev. John O. Ensor; Rev. John H. Nichols; Rev. Callie N. Dickens; Rev. George M. Bruce (Matt); Rev. A. J. Chisolm; Rev. Gideon Bruce; Rev. Hayden Nichols; Rev. Brice B. Nichols; Rev. Brice Byrne; Rev. Wade Jared;

Rev. Byrd Taylor; Rev. Jim Jared; Rev. Ivan DuBois; Rev. James Allison Holladay; Rev. Herbie Leftwich;
Rev. F. Pierce Jernigan.

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Source: History of Pleasant Grove Methodist Church by Pearl Huddleston Ensor.