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A Brief History of Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church

Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church, Pomaria

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A Brief History of Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church

Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church, located in the Northeastern corner of Newberry County and about twelve miles from the city of Newberry, has a long and rich history. In the last months of the American Revolution settlers from Virginia and other states came into the area where Mount Pleasant Church now stands. Some of these pioneers had become acquainted with Methodist preachers and services in Virginia and Maryland, but, of course, when they reached the Broad River Valley and made their homes, there were no Methodist churches or circuit riders.

Then in the last days of the Revolution there came into this wild, new land a horseman who crossed Broad River just south of where Peak now stands and continued on to the area where the group of newly-settled Virginians lived. As if in answer to prayer, this man was a Methodist preacher, James Foster. Foster was a dedicated minister who had served several circuits in his native state of Virginia; after the death of his wife, however, the heart-broken man plunged into his work with such fervor that his health was finally ruined. Thus, forced to retire, James Foster moved down the Colonial Path and into the area where Mount Pleasant is now located. Once again this man was at work doing what he loved, preaching and instructing people in the gospel. He served as a local preacher to the area until his health failed again, and he was forced to retire once more. Although James Foster did not found the Mount Pleasant Church, his efforts were certainly responsible for providing the climate that led to its creation.

Mount Pleasant Church was actually founded in the year 1822. Before this date, however, the Methodist Bishop Francis Asbury found on the western side of Broad River a flourishing Methodist congregation worshipping in "Parrot's Log Church". Perhaps this log church was the forerunner to Mount Pleasant since a family named Parrot was among the early members of Mount Pleasant.

The church was organized in 1822, and soon the small congregation undertook to build a permanent house of worship. On August 23, 1823, William and Agnes Hutchinson deeded one and a half acres of land to the Methodist Society for its church building. The building was described as a small, unpretentious frame structure. Some of the names associated with the church in the beginning were Goodwins, Oxners, Lyleses, Gilliams and Hattons.

A second building was erected during the 1860's. There is no accurate record of what happened to the first building, although one source does say that it was presumably destroyed by General Sherman during the Civil War. The new sanctuary was prettier and larger with a gallery for the slaves. It is reported that Micajah Suber left in his will a gift of \$1,000 for the building of this church. Dr. Thomas Rutherford and the Rev. Dr. McCants were also liberal contributors to the building of the sanctuary and the support of the church. Prominent names among the members of Mount Pleasant Church late in the nineteenth century were the Grahams, Eptings, Adamases, Cromers and Willinghams.

Tragedy struck Mount Pleasant again when in 1943 lightning hit the church building and burned it down. Efforts were begun, under the leadership of Mr. A. E. Reese, to raise funds for the building of a new church immediately. The present building was completed in 1949 and was dedicated in services led by Bishop Costen J. Harrell in June of 1950. The Rev. Quincy E. Gunter was the pastor at that time. Since that time a wing has been added to provide further space for Church School classes.

Since there was a scarcity of preachers, the tradition in Methodism was to have circuit riders who served several churches at the same time, and our church has shared in this aspect of Methodism. Mount Pleasant began as a part of the Newberry Circuit, but in 1890 it became a part of the Prosperity Circuit, which also include New Hope, Zion and Prosperity. Around 1910 Mount Pleasant was moved to the Broad River Circuit, which also included New Hope, Chapin, Morris Chapel and later Capers Chapel. In 1917 the name of the Broad River Circuit was changed to the Pomaria Circuit, which was reduced in 1940 to a four-church circuit when Morris Chapel left the charge. Finally, in June of 1967, Mount Pleasant left the Pomaria Circuit and became a station church with the Rev. Charles Rector as its minister. In July, 1967 the members had completed a beautiful parsonage beside the church for the pastor and his family. In 1972, the church was renovated from funds received from the estate

of Mr. A. E. Reese and Mr. R. E. Reese. The school building that was being used was renovated from the Reese Estate and renamed the Reese Fellowship Building.

The local church at Mount Pleasant has reflected in its history the struggles that have taken place within Methodism itself. It began as a part of the Methodist Episcopal Church, but in the years before the Civil War when slavery was such a fiery issue, there was a split within the denomination. Mount Pleasant then became a church within the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. When the major Methodist branches were united in 1939, the church became a church within The Methodist Church. Finally, in 1968, when The Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren joined together, Mount Pleasant became a church within the United Methodist Church. Today the 213 members of Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church seek to fulfill the church's mission as the body of Christ.

The church was again renovated in 2003. Refinishing of the Pews, painting the entire church on the inside, new carpet over the entire church, a new bathroom upstairs and a new office for the pastor was in part done by members of the church.

It has been said that we are so indebted to the past that we are merely midges who stand on the shoulders of giants. At Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church we recognize that we build upon the labors of those giants who have preceded us in the 200-year history of our church. We thank God for the dedication and service of such people and ask for His guidance in the years ahead.

RECORD OF MINISTERS AND IMPORTANT EVENTS OF MOUNT PLEASANT CHURCH

1822 – founding of the church

1860's- second church building constructed

1884 – M. Brown, G. R. Whitaker, ministers for the Newberry Circuit (which included Zion, New Chapel, Trinity, New Hope, Ebenezer, Lebanon, Prosperity, and Mt. Pleasant).

1890 – Mt. Pleasant was a part of the Prosperity Circuit (along with New Hope, Zion and Prosperity). J. B. Traywick was the pastor.

1892 – There were 14 Methodist churches in Newberry County, divided into four Charges with four parsonages: 1) in the town of Newberry 2) at Ebenezer 3) at Kinards 4) at Prosperity, where the preacher of the Prosperity Circuit, to which Mt. Pleasant belonged, lived.

1893 – D. D. Dantzler, minister

1894-1895 – D. Tiller, minister

1896-1898 – E. G. Price, minister

1899-1900 – W. H. Arail, minister

1901 – W. B. Wharton, minister

1902-1903 – G. R. Shaffer, minister (On December 3-9, 1902 Annual Conference was held at Central Methodist Church, Newberry.)

1904-1905 – J. K. McCain, minister

1906-1909 – H. W. Whitaker, minister

1910-1913 – S.C. Morris, minister. (New Hope and Mt. Pleasant went to the Broad River Circuit.) On April 15, 1914, D. W. Kinard, R. P. Cromer, J. P. Adams, and F. A. Graham, trustees for New Hope and the Broad River Circuit and G. A. Cromer and M. J. Smith, trustees for Mt. Pleasant, jointly and severally accepted \$500.00 as payment in full for their part out of the Prosperity Circuit parsonage.

On September 18, 1914, Mrs. Eva J. Shealy of Pomaria sold to the trustees of New Hope, Mt. Pleasant and Morris Chapel Methodist Episcopal Churches, South, of the S. C. Conference, Broad River Circuit, Cokesbury District, a lot of land in Pomaria containing one –half acre for parsonage property for \$1,200.00.

Dec., 1913 to Dec., 1915 – D. Pettus Boyd, minister. In 1914 the S. C. Conference was divided into the Upper S. C. and Lower S. C. Conferences. Mt. Pleasant was part of the Upper South Carolina Annual Conference.

Dec., 1915 to Dec., 1917 – W. A. Duckworth, minister. Capers Chapel was put on the Broad River Circuit with Mt. Pleasant, Morris Chapel, Chapin and New Hope.

1917 – At the Greenville conference the Broad River Circuit was changed to the Pomaria Circuit, which included Mt. Pleasant.

Dec., 1917 to Dec., 1918 – J. E. Strickland, minister. In November, 1918, Capers Chapel and Chapin Churches were moved to the Irmo Circuit.

Dec., 1918 – 1920 – J. M. Mason, minister

Nov., 1920 to Nov., 1921 – D. C. Gregory, supply pastor. In November, 1921, Capers Chapel and Chapin moved back to Pomaria Circuit.

Nov., 1921 to Nov., 1922 – H. H. Merritt, supply pastor

Nov., 1922 to Nov., 1923 – R. L. Doggett, minister

Nov., 1923 to Nov., 1926 – J. H. Montgomery, minister

Nov., 1926 to Nov., 1929 – C. R. Anderson, supply pastor. (The pastor's salary for the circuit was \$1,250; Mt. Pleasant paid \$325 of this amount.) At the 1929 Conference the Pomaria Circuit was changed from the Cokesbury District to the Greenwood District.

1929 – 1930 – A. O. Sutton served part of the year but was dismissed due to Conduct. George Duffie completed the year.

Nov., 1930 to Nov., 1933 – T. D. George, minister

Nov., 1933 to Nov., 1934 – J. F. Ford, minister

Nov., 1934 to Nov., 1937 – C. N. Potts, minister. At the 1935 Conference the Pomaria Charge was placed in the Columbia District.

Nov., 1937 – 1938 – W. F. Johnson, minister

Nov., 1938 to June 1940 – A. E. Smith, minister. During this period the formation of The Methodist Church occurred, and Morris Chapel affiliated with the Southern Methodist denomination, leaving Chapin, Capers Chapel, New Hope and Mt. Pleasant on the Pomaria Circuit.

1941-Nov., 1950 – Q. E. Gunter, minister, served ten years as pastor. (The Pastor's salary in 1949-50 was \$1,900; Mt. Pleasant paid \$675 of this amount.)

Nov., 1950 to Oct., 1953 – A. E. Becknell, minister

Nov., 1953 – 1956 – T. E. Derrick, minister

Sept., 1956 to Aug., 1957 – Weston Stevens, minister

Sept., 1957 to June, 1960 – Thomas Poston, minister

July, 1960 to June, 1966 – John P. Griffith, minister

June 29, 1966 to June, 1967 – Charles Rector, minister of the Pomaria Circuit

June, 1967 – Mt. Pleasant became a station church. Rev. Rector was appointed to Mt. Pleasant; he preached his first sermon here on June 25, 1967. He remained at Mt. Pleasant until early in 1968, when he moved to Florence.

Early 1968 – Robert Asmus supplied Mt. Pleasant

June, 1968 to June ,1972 – George M. Riser, minister

June, 1972 to June ,1973 – Thornton B. Smith, minister

June, 1973 to June, 1978 – E. DeVon Ruth, minister

June, 1978 to June, 1980 – Wally Dixon, minister

June, 1980 to June, 1982 – William Evans, minister

June, 1982 to June, 1984 – Jack Hancock, minister

June, 1984 to June, 1989 – Paul Rogers, minister

June, 1989 to June, 1991 – Kermit Shrawder, minister

June, 1991 to June, 1997 – W. Webb Belangia, V, minister

June, 1997 to September, 1998- Melford Wilson, III, minister

September, 1998 to June, 2005 – James Williams, minister

June, 2005 to June, 2007 – Deborah Taylor, minister

June, 2007 to March 29,2012-Died at age 53– Marian Dyer, minister

April, 2012-May,2012-Interim-Paul Rogers, Minister

June, 2012 to June, 2015 -Mat Brewington, Minister

July, 2015 to December, 2019 – Bob Huggins, Minister

January, 2020 to present-Darlene Kelley, Minister

Homecoming at Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church—200 years of Blessings

Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church is celebrating their 200th Anniversary on Sunday, August 21, 2022. Mount Pleasant Church was organized in 1822 and soon the small congregation undertook to build a permanent house of worship. The first church was presumably destroyed by General Sherman during the Civil War. A second church was built during the 1860's. This church was burned when lightening struck the church in 1943. Our present church was completed in 1949.

200 Years Of Blessings!!! It has been said that we are so indebted to the past that we are merely midgets who stand on the shoulders of giants. At Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church we recognize that we build upon the labors of those giants who have preceded us in the 200-year history of our church. We thank God for the dedication and service of such people and ask for His guidance in the years ahead.

Please join us on Sunday, August 21, 2022 at 11:00 AM to celebrate our 200th Anniversary. Mrs. Priscilla Griffith will deliver the message. She is the wife of Rev. John P. Griffith who served as pastor at Mt. Pleasant Church from July, 1960

to June, 1966. Our seniors will be honored and recognized on this Sunday also. Everyone at the service on that Sunday will gather behind our 200 Year Anniversary Banner for a picture to be taken. A covered dish luncheon will be served in the Reese Fellowship Building following the service. After the meal, the Glenn Bonner Band will perform with some hymns on the stage in the auditorium.

All Members, Former Members and Friends of Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church are invited to help us celebrate our 200th Anniversary on Sunday, August 21, 2022 at 11:00 AM. Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church, 2360 Mt. Pleasant Road, Pomaria, SC

PLEASANT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CELEBRATES 200 YEARS-1822-2022

Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church, located in the Northeastern corner of Newberry County and about twelve miles from the city of Newberry, has a long and rich history. In the last months of the American Revolution, settlers from Virginia and other states came into the area where Mt. Pleasant Church now stands. Some of these pioneers had become acquainted with Methodist preachers and services in Virginia and Maryland, but, of course, when they reached the Broad River Valley and made their homes, there were no Methodist churches or circuit riders.

Then, in the last days of the Revolution, there came into this wild new land a horseman who crossed Broad River just south of where Peak now stands and continued on to the area where the group of newly-settled Virginians lived. As if in answer to prayer, this man was a Methodist preacher, James Foster. This preacher was hard at work doing what he loved, preaching and instructing people in the gospel. He served as a local preacher in our area until his health failed. Although James Foster did not found the Mt. Pleasant Church, his efforts were certainly responsible for providing the climate that led to its creation.

Mt. Pleasant Church was actually founded in the year 1822. Before this date, however, the Methodist Bishop Francis Asbury found on the western side of Broad River a flourishing Methodist congregation worshipping in "Parrot's Log Church". Perhaps this log church was the forerunner to Mt. Pleasant Church, since a family named Parrott was among the early members of Mt. Pleasant.

The church was organized in 1822, and soon the small congregation undertook to build a permanent house of worship. One source says that this church was presumably destroyed by General Sherman during the Civil War. A second building was erected in the 1860s. Tragedy struck Mt. Pleasant Church in 1943 when lightning hit the church building and burned it down. A new church and our present church were completed in 1949.

Over the years, Mt. Pleasant Church has been part of several circuits. In 1967, Mt. Pleasant Church left the Pomaria Circuit and became a station church. In 1968, The Methodist Church and The Evangelical United Brethren joined together and Mt. Pleasant became a church within the United Methodist Church. In 2021, Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church was joined with O'Neal United Methodist Church. Our Pastor serving both churches is Rev. Darlene Kelley.

It has been said that we are so indebted to the past that we are merely midgets who stand on the shoulders of giants. At Mount Pleasant United Methodist, we recognize that we build upon the labors of those giants who have preceded us in the 200-year history of our church. We thank God for the dedication and service of such people and ask for His guidance in the years ahead.

Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church, 2360 Mt.
Pleasant Road, Pomaria, SC 29126

200th. Anniversary-----200 years of Blessings---1822-2022

Special guests:

July 24-----Rev. Jim Harris

August 21---Priscilla Griffith, Homecoming

Senior Citizens Sunday

Performance by Glenn Bonner Band at Reese

Building after Homecoming Lunch

October 23---Bishop L. Jonathan Holston

THE COMMUNITY

A Brief History of Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church

BY WILLIE MORRIS



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Recollections of Days Gone by at Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church:

I was born into Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church in 1945. I was baptized by Rev. Gunter. My Mother always saw that I was at Sunday School, church and Bible School. Tillie told me that Sadie and I sat next to my mother and were never moved. We were the best children in church, she said.

I remember that when we were young, the ladies sat on left side and men on the right. Remember church services every other Sunday at 2:30 pm because we were on a charge with other churches. We had no air conditioning back then, so we had fans on the walls and the windows were up. We had church picnics under a big tree on the side of the church.

I remember the dedicated Sunday School teachers we had. Mrs Mattie Rawls had us to pray each Sunday. Mrs. Gertrude Henderson had us to learn all 66 books in the Bible and we had to recite them in order. Mrs. Gertrude was our MYF leader also. She gave a lot of herself to the church.

When I was about 18 years old, I started helping with Sunday School. Jo Kibler was my Mentor. I think thru the years, I taught all classes from Nursery to Older Adult. I helped with and directed many Bible Schools.

Andy and I married in our church on May 30, 1965 by our Minister, Rev. John Griffith. We celebrated 56 years of marriage last May, 2021.

When I was President of the Willie Berley Circle, Rev. George Riser and I discussed when he was visiting my mother in the hospital in Augusta about honoring our Senior Citizens and making Chrismons for Christmas tree for our church. This was started in 1971. Both circles made the Chrismons. Sparky Graham was instrumental in getting patterns and materials.

In 1983, we started our first fundraiser to buy a Van for our church. "April Bloomers" idea was developed from a Beta Club magazine of Kevin's when he was in eighth grade. We all have our memories from that exciting event in our history that we will never be able to do again. We had such fun. Chicken BBQ was reinstated. Many good memories. We took many fun trips over the years in the Van.

We have had many Bazaars and Fundraisers over the years. Most of them were done to help our members that had health problems.

The United Methodist Women had a fundraiser in 1998 that was hilarious and involved our young ladies of the church. It was called "Patterns for Living". We served a mystery dinner to our guests attending.

Renovating of our church when Rev. Jim Williams was our Minister was a major event. We had to move our services to Reese Building for a period of time. This was second major renovation other than adding on wing to church.

We started a Bus campaign in August, 2008 after being told that Vans could not be used by churches. It cost us \$16,00.00 for our Van in 1986 and \$50,000.00 for our Bus. After several fundraisers and many donations from our congregation and former members, we got our Bus in 2001. God is Good!

Everyone knows about our BBQ's and Bake Sales. Over the years we have had Sunday School Fellowship Dinners, trips to the Beach, Outer Banks of NC, Pigeon Forge, Lake Junaluska and many more good times.

Good memories and fellowship at our 55+ monthly meetings started by Mrs. Mary Ella Glymph. We have shared Christmas lunches, many bus trips and Bingo.

We have many other Good Memories and some Sad memories that are too many to mention.

Then the Covid pandemic came along in March 2020 which has made a major impact on all of us. Never could we have seen this coming. Not being able to have services in our church for a period of time. Had to meet in our cars or online. Unbelievable! God is Good! We are now back in church worshiping Him! Praise God!

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Willie Morris". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Willie Morris

TAX MAP # 611-2

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

PART OF MAP #

COUNTY OF NEWBERRY

TAX YEAR 2001DEED TO REAL ESTATE
(Title Not Examined)BY JB

FILED, RECORDED, INDEXED
 11/27/2000 11:50:48AM
 Rec Fee: 10.00 St Fee: 0.00
 Co Fee: 0.00 Pages: 2
 Clerk of Court
 Jackie S. Bowers

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that the undersigned Chairperson and Secretary of Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church, in Newberry County, South Carolina (hereinafter collectively referred to as Grantor), having been authorized and directed to execute this Deed by a resolution of the Board of Trustees made at a duly held meeting and in accordance with The Discipline of the United Methodist Church, and in order to transfer church property from the Church as an unincorporated association to the Church as a non-profit religious corporation, do hereby grant, convey and release to Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church of Pomaria, a non-profit religious corporation organized under the laws of South Carolina (hereinafter referred to as Grantee), the following described property:

All those two pieces, parcels or lots of land in Newberry County, South Carolina, comprising 5.55 acres, more or less, with all improvements thereon, located on the north side of State Highway No. 34 (Mount Pleasant Road), being more particularly shown and delineated on a Plat prepared for Mount Pleasant Methodist Church by Walton B. Halfacre, dated December 17, 1958, which plat shows said property to be 5.03 acres, more or less, and is recorded in Plat Book P at page 16 in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Newberry County. This property is made up of the following two tracts:

Tract #1: The original tract of 1.55 acres, more or less, was conveyed to the church around 1862, but the deed is not of record; said deed was confirmed by deed of declaration given to Mount Pleasant Methodist Church of Newberry County by George B. Caldwell, said deed dated May 14, 1942, and recorded in Deed Book 50 at page 97;

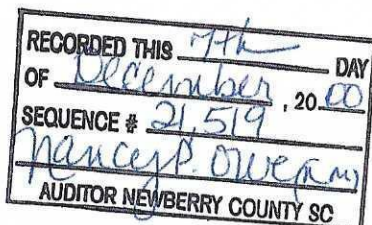
Tract #2: The second tract of 4.0 acres, more or less, was conveyed to Mount Pleasant Methodist Church by deed from The Newberry County Board of Education, dated July 12, 1952, and recorded in Deed Book 61 at page 351.

TMS # 611-2 *mail!*

Grantee's address: 2360 Mt. Pleasant Rd., Pomaria, S.C. 29126

Together with all and singular the rights, members, hereditaments and appurtenances to the said premises belonging, or in anywise incident or appertaining.

IN TRUST, that said premises shall be held, kept, maintained and disposed of for the benefit of The United Methodist Church and subject to the usages and the Discipline of The United Methodist Church.



TO HAVE AND TO HOLD, all and singular, the premises before mentioned unto the said Grantee, its successors and assigns forever. And the Grantor does hereby bind its successors and assigns to warrant and forever defend all and singular the said premises unto the Grantee's successors and assigns against Grantor and its successors and assigns and against every person whomsoever lawfully claiming, or to claim the same or any part thereof.

WITNESS our hands and seal this 26 day of November, 2000.

Witness:

J. C. DeBourgh

Roland Kilder
Chairperson and Trustee

James H. Williams

Cindy Kilder
Secretary and Trustee

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF NEWBERRY)

PROBATE

PERSONALLY APPEARED before me the undersigned and made oath that s/he saw the within named Grantor, by and through the Chairperson and Secretary of Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church, sign, seal, and as their act and deed deliver the within-written Deed for the uses and purposes therein mentioned, and that s/he, with the other witness subscribed above, witnessed the execution thereof.

SWORN TO before me this 26
day of November, 2000.

Willie A. Morris
Notary Public of S. C.
My commission expires 9-9-02

James H. Williams