

By Edwin L. Key

BRIEF HISTORY OF MT. PLEASANT CHURCH

Mt. Pleasant Church was established in 1780 according to information furnished by Mr. A. S. McCormack. The original building stood about 200 yards from and directly in front of the present structure. Mr. James Thomas gave seven acres of land for the church site.

The old building continued to be used until 1883. In September of that year the building was sold to Mr. Joe Capel for \$50.00. In October the same year the present building was begun. Mr. Capel erected it letting the work be applied as payment for the lumber in the old building.

No valid information concerning the activities of the church during its early existence has been found. It is not certain that the church belonged to any conference before 1827. However tradition leads one to believe that some of the great preachers of the time preached there and stirred the people as only preachers of the emotional type can do.

From 1827 to 1844 Mt. Pleasant belonged to the Montgomery Circuit. The circuit riders during those years were:

- 1827- D. Low and William Lackson
- 1828- Z. McPherson and G. W. Daniels
- 1829- J. M. Kelly and G. W. Davis
- 1830- A. McPherson and William Richardson
- 1831- Penn Bell and Allen McCorqudale
- 1832- J. Covington and S. Bosman
- 1833- A. Brown and B. Thompson
- 1834- M. C. McTarrantine and S. Laney
- 1835- David D. Derrick and M. Russell
- 1836- David D. Derrick and T. Daniels
- 1837- W. Holliday and M. Russell
- 1838- T. L. Young and A. Huckman
- 1839- B. I. Boseman and W. McSwain
- 1840- W. Kerr and A. Huckaby
- 1841- C. Smith and Nathan Bird
- 1842- J. H. Chandler and S. W. Davis
- 1843- J. M. Bradley and J. Parker

During 1834 Mt. Pleasant, Concord, Bethel, Hebron, and Philadelphia were changed to the Rockingham Circuit. Both of these circuits were then in the South Carolina Conference, which extended from Mt. Gilead North Carolina to Georgetown, South Carolina. Mt. Pleasant remained in the Rockingham Circuit until 1902. The preachers serving during that long period were:

- 1844- Lock O'Neal
- 1845- Michael Robbins and Robert J. Limehouse
- 1846- Henry M. Durant
- 1847- Marcus A. McKibbon

1848- Dennis J. Simmons
 1849- James W. Whightman
 1850- John A. Porter
 1851- E. E. Freeman
 1853-54- S. D. Adams
 1855-56- Lemon Shell
 1857- Peter Daub and T.L. Triplet
 1858- Peter Daub and George W. Hepcast
 1859-60- Ira T. Wyche
 1861-62- James Tillett
 1863-64- H. H. Gibbons
 1865-66- S. D. Adams
 1867-68- Joseph Wheeler
 1869-71- T. W. Guthrie
 1872-75- Joseph Wheeler
 1876-77- J. R. Jenkins
 1878- Joseph Wheeler
 1879-80- P. Greening
 1881- S. C. Pharr
 1882- S. C. Caffin
 1883-84- W. S. Hales
 1885-88- F.L. Townsend
 1889- D. A. Futrel
 1890-92- H. G. Stamey
 1893- A. D. Betts
 1894-97- J. M. Lowder
 1898-99- T. S. Ethridge (Ethridge)
 1900-01- N. H. Guyton

In 1902 the Rockingham Circuit underwent certain changes, and Mt. Pleasant and Green Lake were transferred to the Roberdell Charge. Mt. Pleasant remained in that circuit until 1911. The preachers were:

1902- J. W. Gurganious
 1903- Z. T. Harrison
 1904-07- A. J. Groves
 1908-10- J. M. Ashby

In 1911 Mt. Pleasant and Ellerbe were combined to form the Ellerbe Charge. The experiment lasted only two years. Mr. Watkins was the pastor during the first year and Mr. C. C. Brothers was pastor the second year. At the end of the second year both churches were placed back in the Roberdell Charge and there remained until 1915. Mr. S. J. McConnell served the church during these two years. The circuit was again changed and Mt. Pleasant, Ellerbe, Norman, Concord, Jones Springs and Bethel were placed in Ellerbe Charge. All except Bethel, which ceased to function several years ago, are still in the Ellerbe Circuit. The pastors were:

1915- B. F. Watson
 1916- M. E. Cotton
 1917-18- G. H. Biggs
 1919-23- N. B. Johnson
 1924-28- W. F. Traywick
 1929- Mr. Lance
 1930-32- J. C. Whedbee
 1933- D. A. Pety

It was stated at the beginning of this article that Mr. James Thomas gave seven acres of land for the church site. He failed to give a deed for the property but excepted the plat in his will to his son Mr. W. J. Thomas.

In 1918 the heirs of Mr. W. J. Thomas deeded three and one tenth acres of land to the trustees of the church. One acre contains the old cemetery and the remainder surrounds the building.

The writer is indebted to Mr. J. W. Capel, Mr. A. S. McCormack, and August 3 and 17, 1933, issues of the Rockingham Post-Dispatch for the information contained in this article.

Pastors since this article appeared in September 1933:

- 1935- K. F. Duvall
- 1939- J. D. Young and Mr. Brown, Supply
- 1942- J. W. Dimmette
- 1946- C. T. Thrift
- 1948- W. J. Neese
- 1953- J. K. Bostick
- 1957- J. A. Wagnon
- 1959- J. D. Aycock
- 1962- Roger Garland
- 1964- J. Robert Regan
- 1966- W. F. Meacham
- 1975- *Ralph Hill*
- 1976- *Ulysses Thomas*
- 1977- *George Marsh*
- 1982- *James Caviness*