

12/09

AR0496
Washington

*Pleasant Grove
United Methodist Church*



Est. July 19, 1859

THIS INDENTURE made this Twenty first day of July, One Thousand eight Hundred and fifty nine between Eveline A. Clayton of the County of Washington and State of North Carolina, party of the first part and Hardy Norman, Thos. G. Tarkinton, James R. Dillon, William J. Starr and James M. White, Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church South at the X Roads at Frasur's School House Washington County, State of North Carolina, parties of the second part,

W I T N E S S E T H :

That the said party of the first part in consideration of the sum of five dollars to her in hand paid by the said parties of the second part the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged have granted, bargained, sold, released, and confirmed and by these presents do grant, bargain, sell, release and confirm, unto the said parties of the second part and to their successors and assigns for ever all that certain piece or parcel of land at Frasur's Cross Roads Washington County and State of North Carolina aforesaid.

Beginning at the point between the two roads leading from Plymouth to Columbia and about one mile from the Mackeys Ferry and on the South side of the Main Road leading from Mackeys Ferry to Columbia, running South Forty Eight West fifteen poles up the Lees Mills Road to a Stake thence South twenty eight and a half East across the point of land to the Main Road leading direct from Plymouth to Columbia thence down the said Road eighteen

poles to the place of beginning the said premises containing about three fourths of an acre of land, be the same more or less.

Together with all appurtenances whatsoever to the same belonging to have and to Hold the said land and premises hereinbefore mentioned unto the said parties of the second part, their successors and assigns to their only proper use benefit, and behoof forever.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the said party of the first part have hereunto set her hand and seal the day and year first above written.

Eveline A. Clayton (SEAL)

Sealed and Delivered in the presence of

Daniel S. Blount

R. T. Downing

Washington County - In the Probate Court:

The due execution of the foregoing and within Deed from Eveline A. Clayton to Hardy Norman & others, Trustees, was this the 29th day of September 1873, acknowledged before the undersigned Judge of Probate for said County by the Grantor. Therefore let the said deed with this certificate be registered, on payment of your fees.

J. A. Melson, Clk.

Probate Judge

Registered the 22nd day of October, 1873.

W. F. Sanderson

Register

This Church history was compiled for the 100th Anniversary on July 19, 1959 and presented by Mrs. Annie T. Chesson.

PLEASANT GROVE CHURCH HISTORY

Before this church was organized a group of people of the Methodist faith used a small rural building across the road, known as Frazier's Schoolhouse, for church services.

A venerable servant of God, who was born in Tyrrell County, N. C., later moved to Washington County, and about five years after he and his beloved wife moved into this county, where he lived for many years, and where most of his children were reared, "This Mr. Thomas G. Tarkenton," who was born on October the 22nd, 1819 and died December 2nd, 1895, was a loyal and energetic Methodist, and became instrumental in building this church.

A servant of God and good Christian lady, Eveline A. Clayton, donated the land for the church and cemetery. The deed being given on the 21st day of July, 1859, Hardy Norman, Thomas G. Tarkenton, James R. Dillon, William J. Starr, and James White, were appointed Trustees of this Pleasant Grove Methodist Episcopal Church.

Thomas G. Tarkenton was appointed steward, and class leader, and from his lineage, there has been some member on the official board up until this present time. In 1884, he moved to Bertie County, and there continued his faithful service, making his home a welcome delight for Methodist preachers.

During the period of the 1890's, this church was enlarged under the construction and supervision of T. M. Chesson, and others. Mr. Chesson and his loyal family were faithful members of this church; he served on the official board, and his devoted wife was a teacher here for many years, Annie Spruill Chesson. Their son, Thomas M. Chesson, of Elizabeth City, continues his membership here.

In the 1920's, J. C. Tarkenton II added the present windows to the church.

In 1948, under the supervision of Rev. B. E. Bingham, the church school rooms were begun, during this time with the aid of W. W. White, the members, and others, Mr. Bingham and Mr. White labored for five years, giving their untiring service until the completion of the annex, which was dedicated by the Bishop, Paul N. Garber, August the 10th, 1952. Mrs. J. C. Tarkenton had the interior of the church and light fixtures installed. Mrs. N. M. Spruill, Miss Myrtle and Nellie Tarkenton furnished the nursery room, gave the church Bible, and pulpit scarfs. Mrs. Glenwood Spruill gave the kneeling cushion around the chancel. Mrs. W. B. Chesson and Mrs. Henry Silver, with the assistance of Mr. and Mrs. W. W. White, had the heating system installed, and gave the 12 entertaining tables. The Women's Society of Christian Service, and others, gave the rugs.

Postscript to Church history:

Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church entered the 21st Century with air conditioning and in 2005 had "running water" and an "indoor" bathroom for the first time in its 146 year history. In 2003, hurricane Isabell took the last remaining oak tree from the original grove.

While the Church membership is small in numbers, they continue the legacy that began 150 years ago.

THE NAME

One may ask how did our most beloved little country church acquire the name of "Pleasant Grove?"

I remember many years ago, the church lawn possessed a magnificent oak grove, with a gentle breeze, so refreshing and pleasant that the combination seemed quite fitting for "Pleasant Grove", so perhaps this was the origin.

Fifty years ago, those oaks furnished hitching posts for horses and mules with surreys, buggies and carts for the conveyance to church services. Truly, they were loaded with men, women and children.

Much to our sorrow, the storms and highway force have taken our grove, and left a passing memory. Cars of many makes are parked here, but fewer people. "Times have changed." But it is here that the faithful few continue to strive with a wonderful fellowship. "God Is Here," and His spiritual guidance and food continues to strengthen our lives for His service.

Written and Presented By:

Mrs. Annie T. Chesson

Pastors for Makeup - Pleasant Grove Church

1. F. B. McCall	12/07 - 12/08	28. Charles Woodruff	7/62 - 7/66
2. J. M. Benson	12/08 - 12/10	29. George Smith	7/66 - 7/70
3. J. W. Potter	12/10 - 12/14	30. Evander Parrell	7/70 - 8/74
4. D. B. Perry	12/14 - 12/15	31. D. T. Goodwin	6/74 - 6/75
5. J. D. Euxe	12/15 - 12/16	32. Ray T. Good	6/75 - 6/82
6. N. L. Debaet	12/16 - 12/18	33. Joe Tuttle	6/82 - 10/31/82
7. L. E. Sawyer	12/18 - 12/20	34. Randy Blanchard	1/1/83 - 6/84
8. E. L. Hill	12/20 - 12/23	35. Eddie J. Jarrett	6/84 - 6/86
9. R. F. Taylor	12/23 - 12/25	36. Raymond L. Martin	6/86 - 6/14/88 ^{Died}
10. D. A. Clark	12/25 - 12/26	37. Robert B. Craig	6/88 - 6/91
11. H. A. Clester	12/26 - 12/29	38. Bobby Jordan	6/91 - 2/95
12. J. Basco Hurley	12/29 - 12/32	39. Frank Alexander	6/95
13. R. Ernest Atkinson	12/32 - 12/34		
14. E. L. Stack	12/34 - 12/35		
15. W. J. Watson	12/35 - 12/37		
16. J. T. Stanford	12/37 - 12/39		
17. M. R. Guder	12/39 - 12/41		
18. B. C. Wood	12/41 - 12/45		
19. T. H. Hance	12/45 - 12/46		
20. C. H. Lewis	12/46 - 12/47		
21. Buel E. Dington	12/47 - 12/52		
22. Vance A. Lewis	12/52 - 12/54		
23. J. T. Phipps	12/54 - 7/55		
24. P. W. Atkins	7/55 - 7/56		
25. Leon Ross	7/56 - 7/58		
26. J. A. Williams	7/58 - 7/60		
27. Max W. Dalin	7/60 - 7/62		

Frances Sulberg

THE LITTLE WHITE CHURCH

The little white church
In the Fork of the Road
Has stood for a hundred years
In the name of Christ
For the passers-by and for all
Who have caused His tears.

It stands as a symbol,
Among the oaks, for a Love
more certain than death,
It stands for you and
It stands for me, it stands
For our very breath.

Won't you go to a little
white church somewhere
Anywhere across this wide world
Where the Name of Christ
Is preached and sung
And His Blood is kept unfurled?

For there you'll find
on the alter rail
Above the mourners bench,
A place for the tears
That need to be shed
From a heart that is full of fears.

Sweet peace will come,
And you'll be blessed
Beyond your dreams so fair,
For The Christ who said, "Come Unto Me," will
Surely meet you there.

By: Florence E. Coles,
Tampa, Florida