

**PLEASANT GARDEN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**Pleasant Garden, N. C. 27313**

**A HISTORY**

**BY  
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AUGUST 1988**

**WITH EXCERPTS FROM METHODISM IN  
GUILFORD COUNTY (1967) BY  
REVEREND CHARLES ODELL KENNERLY**



## FOREWORD

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Two years after celebrating 200 years of Methodism in Pleasant Garden, it seems a written history of the stages of growth and development of our church is needed.

This booklet by Phillip Way is an attempt to trace the changes that have taken place in Pleasant Garden United Methodist Church History, to include its buildings, parsonages, cemetery, church bell, church music program and a list of its ministers over the last 100 years.

Hopefully it answers the many questions that have been asked from time to time, and will faithfully document some of our rich Methodist heritage for our children.

Glenn Ayers

- August 1988 -

PLEASANT GARDEN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
PLEASANT GARDEN, NORTH CAROLINA

A HISTORY OF OUR CHURCH

Pleasant Garden was an early settlement at the cross-roads of the Wagon Road and the Salem-Fayetteville Road. Travelers came from the north almost daily bringing news about events and national movements. Among these were traveling preachers who came as early as 1776 and were known as the "followers of Wesley". These itinerant preachers organized the converts and followers into class meetings under the lay class leader who was appointed by the preacher in charge.

Some of the early family histories indicate that George Kirkman and some members of his family joined with their neighbors, the Sullivans, Sherwoods, and others in organizing a Methodist Episcopal Church in 1786.

On April 20, 1792, William Shannon sold one acre of land to the Methodist Episcopal Church in Pleasant Garden for twenty shillings (less than \$5.00). The trustees were William Weatherly, John Coe, Daniel Sherwood, George Kirkman and Daniel Sullivan.

According to old records, the first church was built in 1792 and was a log structure 24' x 30'. The graveyard began about the year 1800. The church stood in the southeastern section of the present cemetery where the William Ross plot is now located. This building served these first members for some fifty years.

The second church, according to Duke University Library records, was built in

1840. "The house was 30' x 40' with a 10-foot pitch. It was weatherboarded, ceiled, seated, with pulpit and stove." This church stood on the north side of the cemetery close to where the Pleasant Garden School gymnasium now stands. The description of the church is most interesting. Few buildings at that time were weatherboarded and sealed for this was all hand work. A stove for heating was a luxury and to have pews with backs made this one of the finest churches in this era of Methodism.

This church was typical of that generation; two front doors with two aisles; the men were seated on the right and the women on the left.

The small Sunday School classes met in the corners of the church and out of these classes came many of the later church leaders. This Church served the congregation during the trying days of the Civil War and the period of transition which followed.

The third church building was begun in 1888, and completed in 1890. It was dedicated on the second Sunday in November 1891. It was located on what is now the parking area adjacent to the present two-story educational building. This was a one-room brick building 40' x 85' and was among the first brick churches in the area. The Building Committee was: Madison Tucker, William Tucker and Horace Wolfe. The Reverend Moses J. Hunt was the pastor during the construction.

In the early 1920's, under the leadership of the Reverend A. G. Loftin, this church was rebuilt with a new front entrance

and two towers. The capacity of the sanctuary was doubled, and a new educational building was constructed in the rear. This program of expansion was dedicated on June 21, 1931.

The need for more classrooms again became acute, and the congregation, in 1950, began to make plans for a separate educational building. The present two-story educational building was begun in 1952 under the leadership of the Reverend R. P. Waugh, and completed in 1955 under the pastorate of the Reverend C. O. Kennerly.

The present brick parsonage on Sheraton Park Road was built in 1961 during the pastorate of the Reverend P. A. Bruton. It was renovated and enlarged in 1987 during the pastorate of Reverend Don Shuman, our current minister.

Following a study which began in the early 1960's, the present sanctuary and additional educational facilities were built in 1967-68, during the pastorate of the Reverend E. H. Lowman. These facilities were first used in June, 1968. They were debt-free at the end of 1977, and dedicated on April 30, 1978, during the pastorate of the Reverend M. M. Workman.

On October 12, 1986, our church had the distinction of celebrating its bicentennial, which was a complete success. Everyone enjoyed a day of celebration, complete with preaching and costumes of the era. Dr. Richard M. Fields was Chairman of our Bicentennial Committee.

