

## HISTORY OF PLEASANT VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH

Pleasant View Baptist Church was organized on 1 June 1904 when a council of members from neighboring churches met, including J. T. Sampson of Eighteen Mile Baptist Church; Rev. J. B. Tharp, LaGrange; Rev. W.A.M. Wood, Bedford; Rev. M. D. Howerton, Milton; J. T. Wilson, LaGrange; Noel Pennell, Sligo; L. G. Abbott, Middle Creek; C. S. Bare, Poplar Ridge; J. A. Browning, Poplar Ridge; J. M. Combs, Antioch; Richard Stewart, Bedford; John Hitt, Westport; D. T. Carson, Ballardsville; and C. G. Carson, Ballardsville.

The church minutes reflect that the official date of constitution of the church was 30 October 1904, when 15 members came from Poplar Ridge Baptist Church and J. B. Tharp was the Moderator. J. T. Wilson was Clerk. The other first members listed were D. M. Averitt, Phoeby J. Averitt, Allie B. Averitt, Chester M. Averitt, Lizzie May Averitt, Robert L. Conn, Chella Garriott, J. J. Richardson, Jennie T. Richardson, J. H. Richardson, Harriet Richardson, Emma Richardson, Irene Richardson and Flora Richardson.

The first pastor called was Rev. George W. Edens. The minutes of 5 November 1904 stated: "The Brethern of the Christian Church granted us privilege to hold services in their house until we can do better."

The first ordination services were conducted on 3 December 1904, by Brother Francisco, ordaining D. M. Averitt as a Deacon. After a sermon by Rev. Edens, subscriptions were taken for the building of a church. Bro. D. M. Averitt and Sisters Alice Sandifer, Mamie Conn and Mattie Richardson were appointed to that committee. On 31 December 1904 the Committee reported that \$448.50 had been subscribed.

On 4 March 1905 D. M. Averitt and J. E. Sandifer reported a promise of \$600.00 from the Executive Board of the Sulphur Fork Baptist Association. J. T. Sampson, John Hitt and Andy Crabb were appointed a committee to meet with the Church Building Committee to select a building lot. A lot was purchased from J. T. Voiers for \$125.00.

On 6 May 1905 Bro. John Richardson was elected Clerk, Bro. J. E. Sandifer was appointed to the Building Committee with Bro. J. J. Richardson, who was elected Treasurer of the Building Fund. Bro. D. M. Averitt was added to the Building Committee. George W. Edens, Pastor, read a statement from the Executive Board of Sulphur Fork Association which is recorded here and reads as follows:

"We, the Executive Board of Sulphur Forks Association have investigated and taken into consideration all of the facts concerning the lumber furnished by Bro. R. L. Conn and we find that there will, in our judgment, be nothing wrong in using said lumber. And we further state that we feel that should any legal questions arise in the future, Bro. Conn would be responsible for same, thus insuring protection to the church and we hereby reassess our confidence at Wises Landing together with the Committee of this Board consisting of Bros. Crabb, Hitt and Sampson, whom we have heretofore appointed and now confirm as a Committee to represent this Board in building said house."

"Done by order of Board at a called meeting this 2nd day of May 1905. J. T. Sampson, Moderator Pro Tem; Bro. J. E. Sandifer reported \$13.55 from Bro. John Hitt of Westport for the Building Fund of Baptist Church at Wises Landing. Signed by D. M. Averitt, Moderator and D. T. Carson, Clerk, Pro Tem.

On 12 September 1905 the name of Bro. John Hitt of Westport church was added to the list of organizing council members.

The members of Pleasant View Baptist Church then proceeded to build the church. Subscriptions were taken to furnish plaster for the building with work to be done by J. J. Richardson. Others to do work on the walls were Bob

Rowlett, Chester Averitt and Arch Wise. Frank Joyce furnished nails for both ends of the building.

On 2 December 1905 the amount of \$90.60 was collected for the salary of Pastor George W. Edens.

On 6 January 1906 Bro. W. T. Conn was elected Deacon unanimously. Motion was made for part of the money collected for paint to be used to purchase gasoline for the lights, which carried. Sunday School was organized with Bro. Robert L. Conn elected Superintendent; John Richardson as Secretary and Treasurer; Allie Averitt as Assistant. Teachers appointed were Mrs. W. T. Conn, Primary; Mrs. Alice Sandifer, Intermediate; Miss Allie Averitt, Advanced; and Mrs. Jennie Richardson, Bible Class, with Robert L. Conn her Assistant.

At a business meeting on 3 February 1906 a vote of thanks was given to Bro. D. T. Carson for fuel and contribution.

Rev. George W. Edens offered his resignation as Pastor on 31 March 1906 in order to accept a church in Virginia. Discussion then involved the purchase of church pews offered by the Harrods Creek Baptist Church for \$1.00 each, which offer was rejected as it was determined there were not enough seats. Mrs. Hattie Richardson, May Averitt, J. H. Richardson, and R. L. Conn were appointed as a Committee to purchase pews.

The Pleasant View Baptist Church dedicatory sermon was preached by Rev. J. G. Bow on 29 April 1906 and \$260.00 was raised for the payment of the debt and to seat the church. New seats were ordered from the factory.

Rev. A. C. Hutson was elected pastor on 9 May 1906.

An organ was installed and played at Sunday School for the first time on 9 October 1906 by Miss Sarah Sandifer.

The seats were installed and used for the first time 20 January 1907 when the congregation gathered at the church but no services were held due to high water at Wises Landing.

The Ladies Aid Society of the Church selected and paid for the window glass that was installed with some of stained glass in colors and some white frosted glass.

A library was established at the church by the Conn family in honor of their daughter, Ethel L. Conn, born 3 January 1899, died 21 February 1907. Pastor A. C. Hutson brought from Louisville, on a boat, a library of 60 books, and the "Ethel Conn Memorial Library" was established. Miss Mary Averitt was installed as Librarian. (The books have disappeared, but the little bookcase remains.)

The first funeral held in the church was for the small child of Brother M. E. Kinnett on 1 August 1909. The name was not included in the minutes.

Some of the early ministers who preached or served as pastor were Reverends McMillian, Connell, Sampson of LaGrange and Rev. J. D. Wilson of LaGrange. Rev. Phillips was called and served until 4 April 1909 when he reported he was out of school and had been offered a better position in Virginia. He was followed by Rev. J. H. Padfield on 18 April 1909. Rev. W. A. M. Wood agreed to preach until another pastor was found. It is understood that he was the Associational Missionary and frequently accommodated other churches in the vicinity. Rev. J. T. Sampson aided in the revival services. Rev. B. D. Taylor of Miller's Branch preached on 3 December 1910 and Rev. J. S. Satchwell on 4 February 1911. Tradition has it that Rev. Satchwell made many return engagements for sermons and revivals and was very popular as a preacher. The next was Rev. I. T. Spillman in April 1911.

The church continued to prosper and organized a mission church in the Norfolk School called "Mission Point" about 30 April 1910 when arrangements were made to pay the pastor \$60.00 at Mission Point and \$115.00 for the year at

Pleasant View, making a total of \$175.00 a year. Services were usually held at Pleasant View on Sunday morning and evening, and at Mission Point in the afternoon. Rev. W. A. M. Wood reported that he had collected \$85.00 for the last year's work at Mission Point. Then it was voted to appoint Bro. John Bell, Senior, of Norfolk School House (Mission Point) to be the Treasurer. Bro. W. F. Conn and Rev. W. A. M. Wood were appointed as a Committee to see about lights for the Mission and to arrange for Children's exercises.

On 6 May 1911 Rev. B. T. Vincent, Milton, came and was assisted by his brother, Rev. Levi Vincent of Crestwood, who became the regular pastor.

The first Clerk of Pleasant View Baptist Church was Mr. J. N. Richardson, who served until 9 May 1921. He was assisted during his absences by Mr. Chester Averitt, M. D. M. Averitt and Mr. Claude G. Carson, who was later elected moderator.

The minutes reflect that Bro. A. J. Garriott was appointed to collect money to finish paying for a communion set and to serve as Treasurer in June 1918. In January 1919, after a sermon by Pastor Bro. Vincent, business was conducted to contribute \$5.00 to the Baptist Orphans Home in Louisville. Concrete steps were reported as having been constructed. In June 1919 the purchase of 50 song books was authorized. In August 1919 messengers to represent Pleasant View Baptist Church at Sulphur Forks Baptist Association were A. J. Garriott, Claude G. Carson, Will Rowlett and Cole Barrickman. Alternates were Avery Stewart, Isaac Stewart, Harry Burton, and Joe Ralston.

On 14 March 1920 after the death of Mr. A. J. Garriott a resolution was passed to express the high esteem in which Mr. Garriott was held as a member and Treasurer of Pleasant View Baptist Church. The resolution was signed by the Pastor Rev. Levi Vincent; Claude G. Carson, Moderator; and W. H. Rowlett and a copy was sent to the Western Recorder.

Few minutes were found between 1912 and 1918, but traditional information is that Rev. Levi Vincent and his brother, Rev. B. T. Vincent, supplied Pleasant View Baptist Church during this period part time. The membership list shows 11 new members in 1916, 15 in 1918, 16 in 1919, 11 in 1920, and 7 in 1921 which would prove that the church was active.

During World War I, 1913 to 1918, community life was disrupted by families moving about, but usually as one family moved out, another moved in. Later on, Sunday School was sometimes alternately held at the Baptist Church or at Macedonia Christian Church.

The minutes show that on 12 June 1920 Rev. Levi Vincent was called as Pastor with a salary of \$200.00 a year. On 24 July 1920, a Women's Missionary Society was organized with Mrs. Minnie Scott as President and Mrs. J. H. Richardson as Vice President. Also, on 24 July 1920, a revival closed which had been held by Rev. Levi Vincent and Rev. James of Shelby County. Seven were baptized and three joined by letter.

After World War I, depression hit the farming communities first and the effects were reflected in church life. During the Depression Years the church fell upon hard times and ministers as well as farmers found it hard to make a living. Rev. Whitmore came to the Pleasant View Baptist Church and held a revival, then camped all summer with his family on the church grounds because he had no place else to go.

The church closed for a while and as with all abandoned buildings, it was damaged by having the windows broken, and it badly needed minor repairs. Some people wanted to close the church. Mrs. Rose Craig and Mrs. Minnie Scott called upon the Baptist Board in Louisville and requested assistance. They obtained \$50.00 for repairs and Mrs. Walter (Frauline Craig) Rowlett came to the meeting and prevented the church's closing. Pleasant View Baptist Church has been continuously active since then and now into the 1990's.

Recent improvements include central heating and cooling system, carpeting of the auditorium and improvement of Sunday School rooms in the basement. The American and Christian Flags were gifts from Mrs. Minnie (David) Dunlap before her death.

Music was originally played on an organ that had to be manually pumped. The piano was a gift from Miss Emma Richardson, whose family were organizing members of the church. The electric Hammond organ was a gift to the church from the family of Dr. and Mrs. Carroll (Josie Giddens) Fix. Their daughter, Mrs. Duncan (Corinne Fix) Logan, presented it after the death of her parents with a memorial plate engraved, "In memory of Dr. and Mrs. Carroll G. Fix."

[picture absent in original]

Fortunately for Pleasant View Baptist Church a native son, Rev. Herman Rowlett, who was then just a "country boy" began to preach and became pastor from 1928 to 1931 until he graduated from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and accepted a large church pastorage in Louisville. Since that time, most of the pastors have been Seminary students who have fit in with local folks and usually keep in touch with some of the families long after they have graduated.

The pastors in order of dates of service of those not already mentioned are:

Van Carroll	1931-1932	Marvin Enquist	1961-1964
Ward Barr	1932-1936	David Dunn	1964-1966
R. G. Bennett	1936-1940	Nick Coleman	1967-1970
Lloyd Chapman	1940-1941	Ed Martin	1970-1971
Rev. O'Neal	1941-1942	David Overman	1971-1972
Bronnie Nichols	1942-1943	James Brewer	1972-1975
P. F. McGuire	1943-1945	Geoffrey Lacefield	1975
Bruce Whitaker	1945-1948	Kenneth Jones	1975-1977
L. A. Dickson	1948-1951	David Taylor	1977-1979
Quinton Ivy	1951-1952	Charles Groover	1979-1981
David Small	1952-1953	Steven Brown	1981-1984
Grady Summers	1953-1955	Randy Pittman	1984-1985
Donald Zuberer	1955-1957	Bobby Elliott	1985-1987
Russell Bennett	1957-1958	Jerry Stone	1987-1989
Paul Potter	1958-1960	Harold Jenkerson	1989-
Cecil Fisher	1960-1962		

In August 1945 when news of the signing of the surrender of Japan came over the radio at Wises Landing at the end of World War II, an unusual event

took place. At the time, Rev. F. F. McQuigg was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Scott. Rev. McQuigg and Mr. Scott became so familiar they began to converse in each other's ear and drove through town blowing the horn and jangling, "THE USE IS OVER," leaving all the people they met to follow and even ring the church bell. When a crowd from Harrison's store and nearby homes arrived and had taken a turn at ringing the bell, Rev. McQuigg invited everyone inside the church and had songs and prayers of thanksgiving.

In August 8, 1941, when Rev. Cecil C. Staten was pastor, a Homecoming Celebration was held and the guest minister at the morning service was Dr. J. P. McQuinn. He made note of the fact that in 1940 while he was pastor, the current Superintendent of Sunday School, Albert L. Scott, Sr., was in the Philippines, which fact precipitated the excitement he had experienced over ringing the church bell. At the afternoon service, former pastor, Dr. Maxwell Bennett, then Professor at Southern Baptist Seminary, brought the message and Rev. John Farmer gave the devotional. Mrs. Louis Garrison, Sr.

[picture absent in original]

had prepared and read the church history. Mrs. Morris Webb called the roll, and Mrs. Dudley Andrew was in charge of special music.

The 75th Anniversary of Pleasant View Baptist Church was not celebrated until 1981, although the Church was formally reconstituted on October 4, 1904. Rev. Charles Groover was pastor during the celebration in 1981 when Homecoming Day was celebrated.

The Sulphur Springs Baptist Association met at Pleasant View Baptist Church in 1913 while Rev. Herman Walcott was pastor. The most recent Association in which Pleasant View was co-host was Poplar Ridge Baptist Church was in October 2003. At that time, the church history was updated and given by Clara Scott-Clark.

The former pastors of Pleasant View Baptist Church have become historic missionaries. Rev. Paul Foster and his wife, Nancy, with two children went to Christiana Republic. The missionary and his wife were killed by the natives, but the children were not harmed.

Rev. Bobby Elliott, pastor from 1985 to 1987, and his wife, Margaret, and two children, David, II, and Emily, IV, were sent as missionaries to Ndabura, Swaziland, South Africa, in 1987.

Sunday School Superintendents from the 1900s to the present have been: Messrs. C. G. Carson, L. H. Scott, Owen Martin, Alving Crain, Dr., Roy Scott, Henry Walcott, Edward Walcott, Albert L. Scott, Sr., Wayne Gaskin, and Robert Dunlap. C. G. Carson, L. H. Scott, Alving Crain, Dr., Henry and Howard Walcott, and Robert Dunlap were also deacons.

Baptismal services have been traditionally held at the Ohio River, opposite  
of the Baptist of Jesus in the River Station.

Three of the four members of Pleasant View Baptist Church died within one  
year 1918-1919. They were Messrs. Henry Giddett, Louis Gariotti, and Robert  
Dunlap. The remaining member is Mr. Edward Giddett.

(Compiled and written by Clara C. Scott, Church Clerk (1919-1944).)

#### DATE MEMBERS OF PLEASANT VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH

Dora Mowitt, Baptism	30 Oct. 1904	Jimmy Fisher	Jan. 1927
Clarence Averitt, Baptism	7 Jan. 1905	Elinor Gariotti	Aug. 1918
Bessie Abbott, by Baptism		Scottie Gaston	Feb. 1913
Estlin Mable Averitt, Dir.	Feb. 1917	A. J. Gariotti	Jul. 1918
Elmer Johnson	26 Jul. 1920	Irene Gariotti	Jul. 1918
Almeta Allen	30 Oct. 1922	Saisy Gariotti	Jul. 1918
Louis Eldridge, Baptism	May 1923	Louis E. Gariotti	Jul. 1918
Mrs. Stella Hall	1 May 1906	Allan Hopkins	Jul. 1919
Horton Horton	16 Dec. 1906	Louis Harrison	Jul. 1919
J. E. Hill	21 Feb. 1909	Andrew Jackson Hopkins	24 Jul. 1920
Frederic Hill	1 May 1909	Mrs. Andrew J. Hopkins	24 Jul. 1920
J. E. Hill, Jr.	1 May 1909	Raymond Hopkins	24 Jul. 1920
Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Hill	Oct. 1914	Allegail Joyce	7 May 1910
Lola Harrison	1 Mar. 1920	Donald Joyce	Feb. 1917
Henry Harrison	Aug. 1918	Eva Joyce	Oct. 1916
Ola Harrison	Aug. 1918	M. G. Elwert	28 Nov. 1908
Bertie Harrison	Aug. 1918	Margaret Elwert	5 Sep. 1909
Viola Harrison	Aug. 1918	Lillian Elmer	18 Sep. 1909
Earl Barnes	Aug. 1918	Frank Emerson	1 May 1909
Mrs. Allie Barnes	Aug. 1918	John Emerson	18 Sep. 1909
Bertie Barnes	Aug. 1918	E. T. Hoefield	3 Dec. 1906
Harry Barnes	July 1919	Flem Hoefield (Mrs.)	3 Dec. 1906
Mrs. Mary Barnes	July 1919	Mary Hoefield	5 Mar. 1910
Mrs. Belle Harrison	July 1919	Katie Hoefield	6 Sep. 1906
Flora Barnes	July 1919	Lydia Hoefield	24 Oct. 1909
Lola Barnes	July 1919	Georgia Hoefield	26 Dec. 1909
Robert Barnes	Aug. 1919	William W. Hoefield	5 Nov. 1910
Frances Barnes, Bapt.	1920	Sally Hoefield	
Charles Carson	17 Feb. 1907	Belle Hoefield, (Mrs.)	1925*
Bertie Carson	17 Feb. 1907	Billie Miles	Jul. 1919
Claude Lee Carson	Oct. 1915	John Martin	29 Nov. 1908
Willie Crafton	Jul. 1913	Mrs. John Martin	15 May 1909
Geoffrey Coon	Jul. 1913	Leatha Moore	2 May 1909
Tom Coon	2 Apr. 1909	Stella Moore	6 Jul. 1909
Joels Coon	2 Apr. 1909	Tom Martin	2 May 1908
Franklin Craig	24 Jul. 1920	Bertie Martin	1 Nov. 1909
Frank Devores	Jul. 1918	Wesley J. Moore	15 Nov. 1909
Luby Anna Devores	Jul. 1918	Janie Moore	15 May 1908
Edw. Gregory	Sep. 1922	Jessie Moore	5 Sep. 1908
Edith Gregory	Sep. 1922	Frank Moore	Oct. 1918
Mary Eldridge	Nov. 1914	Mrs. Fanny North	Dec. 1918
Elvin Eldridge	Oct. 1914	Clarence Murray	Aug. 1918
Agnes Eldridge	Oct. 1914	Miss Ruby McClure	28 Jul. 1920

\*Data withdrawn from membership

Richard Perkinson	5 Aug. 1906	Alice Sandiffer	3 Dec. 1904
Mrs. Melissa Perkinson	5 Aug. 1906	William Sandiffer	3 Dec. 1904
Clelen Perkinson	6 Sep. 1906	J. E. Sandiffer	20 Mar. 1905
George E. Richardson	6 Sep. 1906	Sarah I. Sandifer	4 Jun. 1905
Maggie Richmond	29 Nov. 1908	Virgie Shelton	27 Nov. 1908
Lacy Rodgers (Mrs.)	29 Nov. 1908	Hazel Sanders	Oct. 1915
Pearl Register	Jul. 1919	F. A. Starks	Jul. 1916
Joe Ralston	Jul. 1919	Flora Starks (Mrs.)	Jul. 1916
Irene Ralston	Jul. 1919	Isaac Stewart, Baptism	Jul. 1919
Will Rowlett	Jul. 1919	Avery Stewart	Jul. 1919
Mrs. Will Rowlett	Jul. 1919	Virgil Shelton	Jul. 1919
Mrs. J. J. Richardson (Dead)	Jan. 1920	Mrs. Nellie Stewart	24 Jul. 1920
J. H. Richardson, Dismissed	Jan. 1920*	Mrs. Minnie Scott	Sep. 1921
Emma Richardson, Dismissed	Jan. 1920*	Mrs. Dora Stewart Bptsm.	Sep. 1921
Irene Richardson, Dismissed	Jan. 1920*	Mattie Vest	2 Apr. 1905
Rebecca Richardson, Dism.	Jan. 1920*	Bertha Vest	4 Jun. 1905
George Richardson, Dism.	1920*	Sarah Vest	1 Jul. 1905
Mrs. J. H. Richardson, Dec'd	1921	Howard Vanhook	29 Nov. 1908

\*Date withdrawn from membership