Churches in the Easley Community

Alice Methodist
(see McKissick Memorial United Methodist)

Alice Wesleyan
Alice Wesleyan Church was founded in 1930 in a house across from Owens Store on Bannister Street in Easley, with 33 charter members. In 1935, they constructed their church building. Then they added a Sunday school building. Later, they built a fellowship hall and a parsonage for the minister. The church provides fellowship for members of all ages. Source: Easley Progress, September 3, 1980. Abstracted by Josh Lachen.

Antioch United Methodist
Antioch United Methodist Church, located on Antioch Road off Saluda Dam Road, was organized around 1800, approximately one mile south of its present location. Francis Asbury, a well-known Methodist minister of the early American frontier, is given credit for the establishment of this church, first known as New Hope. It is believed to have been changed to Antioch in about 1830. It was then that the site was changed to the present one. Three sisters were instrumental in making this change: one, Betsy, the wife of Col. Easley; another, Patsy, wife of John Gossett; and the third, who never married, and was always known as Miss Polly King. In a book by Samuel M. Green, he reports that this church could have been credited to the marriage of Miss Elizabeth King to Col. John Easley. Rev. Green reports in 1884, that Antioch is in "Pickens District. Near this meeting-house lived father Richard Burdine, an old disciple. The organization of this church may be credited to the marriage of Miss Elizabeth King, of Spartanburg, to Col. John Easley, and her removal with him to his plantation in Pickens, on which the meeting-house stood. She was a Methodist, and her house was the preacher's home. The first meeting-house here was evidently not built to be used for a church. It seemed to have been built for a small farm house—probably the overseer's house. The weather boards had been knocked off on one side, to which a shed had been built, the studs of the partition being left in place. The membership was small, and did not increase very much for years. Samuel Easley, a son of Col. John Easley, though not a member of the church, was appointed by the preacher to act as superintendent of the Sunday School in the absence of one more competent. This he did to the best of his ability, though neither opening nor closing the school with public prayer. There is now a large church here who worship in an edifice put up at a cost of $2,000.00."

Members gathered for their first services in the homes of Solomon James and Samuel Burdine. In 1830, a church was built on the present site and the name was changed to Antioch. The original church building was replaced in 1860, and the present building was constructed in 1914. This last building was renovated in 1952, when three classrooms and a central heating system were added. A fellowship hall, dedicated to John P. Gram, was finished in 1967. Source: An Historical Outline of Greenville Circuit, South Carolina Conference M. E. Church, South by Samuel M. Green. At the Request of the 2nd Quarterly Conference 1884. George L. Thomason of Mauldin, South Carolina has taken the materials of Rev. Samuel M. Green and printed his circuit notes of 1884; Easley Progress, October 22, 1980. Abstracted by

Arial Baptist
In 1928-29, the Arial Plant of Alice Manufacturing Company was being constructed along with the houses for the employees. As Christian families moved into this new village, they needed a place of worship. Mr. Arthur J. Rampey along with others began to canvass the community to find people interested in a church. They began to meet in the hall above the community store.

On June 2, 1929, the Arial Baptist Church was organized with 31 charter members and 11 came under the watchcare of the church.

The new church was built by Mr. and Mrs. A. F. McKissick in memory of their daughter and her mother. The dedication of the first building was in the fall of 1929. The Methodist and Baptist would jointly use this chapel for the next 20 years.

Rev. F. S. Childress was the first pastor serving around two years. Rev. R. F. Jones served seven years and Rev. Preston T. Garrett served six years.

In 1945, Rev. M. T. Hudgens was called as pastor. During this time the church realized the need for full service and the second church was built in the center of the village. The first parsonage was bought. One of the most unusual revivals the church experienced was in June of 1950, with Rev. Lloyd Pace leading in this meeting. Over 200 people were converted and 122 added to the church of which 91 were baptized. The outdoor pool near the Scout Hut was added in order that both Rev. Pace and Rev. Hudgens could baptize. Many joined other churches.

Several men have been ordained into the ministry from the church and are serving in many places.

In 1951, the new parsonage was built and again with a hired supervisor and free labor from the membership.

In 1957, a room was furnished at the new Baptist Hospital in Easley. Also, in 1957, Rev. Hudgens resigned to go to Eastside in Liberty, having served 15 years as pastor.


In October, 1963, Rev. M. M. Rabon began his ministry. During this time the first deaf (silent) class was begun with Joyce Smith as teacher. From this group, deaf ministry has begun in many other churches.


Rev. Nick Price began his ministry in 1973. While here because of the need for more space, land on Rice Road was purchased and in 1981, the church moved into the third building. Again free labor and a hired supervisor was used. The old church was sold to the Arial Church of
God. The Child Development Center was begun during this time. Rev. Price resigned in August, 1986, having served 13 years.

Rev. Mike Baker, the Music and Youth Director, served for a year as interim pastor. The first "Singing Christmas Tree" and the drama of the "Last Supper" was given while he was music director with the assistance of Doris LaBoone.

Rev. Sam Byrum, who came in 1987, is the present pastor. Source: History given to class by Sam Byrum, pastor. Alice Manufacturing Booklet. Abstracted by

Arial United Methodist

Feeling they needed another church in the Arial Community, the Rev. John D. Holler, pastor of the First Methodist and Alice Methodist churches in Easley, met on June 3, 1929, to organize the Arial Methodist Church with nineteen charter members present. Several of these charter members who signed their names to the roll book in the hall above the store building are still active in the church today.

In the same year, a handsome brick church was erected on the commanding and beautiful site it occupies today. This new church was erected and given by the McKissick family in memory of Mrs. Sarah Foster McKissick, mother 1840-1918, and daughter Sarah Foster McKissick II, 1902-1903. For the next twenty years, the church building was the home of the Arial Methodist and Baptist congregations; the two congregations worked harmoniously together over the years. In 1949, the Baptists occupied their new church building, and the original brick structure is known today as Arial United Methodist Church.

Shortly after the appointment in 1948, of the Rev. R. P. Hammond as full-time pastor, serving the Alice and Arial communities, a modern parsonage was erected, built in large part by volunteer labor.

In 1967, the sanctuary was remodeled, with new furnishings added, and highlighted with a huge lighted cross back of the pulpit.


Arial Wesleyan

The church was organized on November 18, 1933, with the Rev. O. B. Stewart serving as the first pastor. The small congregation of 23 members quickly increased to 123 by January. They held their first meetings in a room located above what was then the Arial Mill Store.

While the Rev. Stewart was pastor, construction of a church building was begun and completed at the church's present location on property donated by Mr. Ellison McKissick Sr. of Alice Manufacturing Company. A dedication service for the building was held on September 6, 1936, during the pastorate of the Rev. A. J. Tant, the church's first full-time pastor.

In 1946, a parsonage was built from plans designed by the Rev. L. W. Barbee. In the early 1950's, the members decided to enlarge and brick the building.

In 1967, while Rev. J. B. Hilson was serving as pastor, property was purchased on Cedar Rock Road, on the outskirts of the Arial community, for future construction of a new church complex. The fellowship hall was completed in 1972, under the leadership of Rev. Billy Ray Wilson. Source: Easley Progress, Oct. 15, 1980.

Brushy Creek Baptist

During the spring of 1962, construction of a church called Brushy Creek Baptist Church began on the corner of Clay Street and Pearson Road in Easley. Its first service was held on September 9, 1962, with 175 people present. On July 14, 1963, it was constituted as Brushy Creek Baptist Church. A new fellowship building was built and dedicated on October 3, 1971. The sanctuary, that has seating capacity of 788, was renovated and occupied on Dec. 19, 1976, the children and pre-school divisions used the new education facilities on the second of January 1977. Then additional land was bought for more places to park. The church has an educational facilities for approximately 900 people. Rev. Danny Gray is the pastor. Easley Progress, April 16, 1980.

Calvary Hill Baptist

The Calvary Hill Baptist Church was tentatively organized on September 2, 1962, and Dr. Norman Lewis was called as the pastor. The first meeting was held in the Northside auditorium on September 12, 1962, and was officially organized as a cooperating Southern Baptist Church with 119 charter members. The church was formally accepted into the Piedmont Baptist Association on September 30, 1962.

Property for the construction of the church building was purchased on Rampey Street. Construction on the building was completed and occupied Sunday, February 16, 1964. The church grew rapidly and an educational unit had begun in 1972. This new building was completed and occupied in the summer of 1973. Dr. Norman R. Lewis continued to serve as pastoral leader for the first 17 years of the church organization. He submitted his resignation in December, 1978, to be effective on April 1, 1979, when he officially entered retirement.

Rev. Ed Coker of Orangeburg succeeded Dr. Lewis as pastor of the Calvary Hill Baptist Church. During his tenure as pastor, the church became the fastest growing church in the state of South Carolina. The church indebtedness was liquidated, and the organizational, financial and educational programs were firmly established. Source: Easley Progress, no date. Letter from Calvary Hill Baptist Church. Abstracted by

Cedar Rock Baptist

Many years before Cedar Rock Baptist Church was formally organized, a few community residents met to worship in a nearby school known as Holly Bush School.
Holly Bush and Tabor schools eventually were consolidated and the new school was named Cedar Rock School. This consolidation, in effect, did away with the resident's place of worship. It was then that some of the people suggested building their own place of worship.

Mr. J. L. Williams donated the land not only for the building, but for the cemetery as well. On August 23, 1902, a meeting was held in a grove of trees beyond the cemetery for the purpose of formally organizing Cedar Rock Baptist Church. Rough wooden benches and a pulpit were placed in the grove and Church met there for about fourteen months while the contractor, L. F. Smith, completed the structure.

The building was completed on October 18, 1903, and on this date the Church joined the Pickens Association and called Reverend Lem Freeman as their first Pastor. This wooden frame construction served the congregation about fourteen months while the contractor, L. F. Smith, completed the structure.

As the congregation increased in number during the late 1970's, a completely new building was proposed. On January 11, 1981, the congregation dedicated and occupied a new sanctuary and educational facility at a cost of approximately $276,000.00. The building was totally destroyed by fire on December 4, 1985, and the Church once more in its history met in a school. Worship services continued uninterrupted at the McKissick Elementary School while the building was being rebuilt. A larger sanctuary and educational building, costing $585,000.00 was soon erected and the first service was held on August 24, 1986.


Christ Place Baptist

On October 15, 1974, a group of people assembled in the home of Brother and Sister Roosevelt Aiken to discuss the need for another Baptist church in Easley. From this meeting, Christ Place Baptist Church was given its name by Kenneth Aiken. Rev. R. D. Burke was pastor. Temporary officers were elected. Brother Roosevelt Aiken and Brother Perry Nesbitt were accepted as deacons under the ordination of Easley Union Baptist Church. Brother Perry Nesbitt served as deacon until April, 1977. The first meeting was held at Bethel Bible Mission, Dacusville. Rev. Clarence E. Aiken is presently serving as pastor.

Corinth Baptist

On May 21, 1882, fourteen men and women united to form Corinth Baptist Church. Rev. D. W. Hiot, one of the charter members preached the first sermon. Since the beginning, Corinth Baptist Church has been served by these pastors: Hiott, Singleton, Durham, Foster, Weldon, Hiott, Childress, Howard, Hammet, McCoy, Hunter, Henson, Campbell, Long, League, Ayres, Simpson, Lankford, Sargent, Furguson, Trotter, Sipes, Stevens, Davis, Swentson, Clampitt, Cooper, Hayes, Ladd, and the pastor at the church now is Dean Reynolds. At first the church was just called Corinth. At times its name was listed as Corinth Baptist Church of Christ. In the year 1882, Corinth joined the Piedmont Baptist Association. When another church named Corinth also joined, the church was given the name Corinth No. 1.

In 1896, Corinth began plans for a new church building which was completed on March 20, 1899, at the cost of $261.00. It now serves as the fellowship building.

In February, 1924, Sunday School was first held. B. Y. P. U. the forerunner of Church training, was organized in October, 1929. W. M. U was begun in 1945.

In 1963, the parsonage was completed and in 1965, the present church building was constructed. The mortgage on the building was burned in September, 1973. Corinth No. 1 Baptist Church has served the Lord 104 years, and with the rapid growth of the community around the church, there is a great potential for the future. Source: Church Directory. Compiled by

Crossroad Baptist Church

The first known grant for the building of a "meeting house" was given by Needham Freeman to William Hunt and Jephtha Freeman, who were chosen commissioners for Cross Roads Baptist Church. The Meeting House was to be built on the three acres of land around one of the three head branches of Doddy's Creek. This information was recorded in the Pendleton District, October 24, 1814, and is on file in the South Carolina Department of Archives and History in Columbia S. C.

The church records reflect through a deed from John Fendley on August 1875, an acreage purchased for a total of $18.00 for 6 1/2 acres of land on which the church is located today. The deed reads in part: "A certain piece or parcel of land situated in the state and county aforesaid joining lands of Elvira Freeman and Polly Fendley, containing 6 1/2 acres be the same more or less. I also give and grant said church the privilege of using my spring." In May 1909, the first Sunday School Convention was held at Cross Roads. The Mission Union met regularly at various churches in the association, and delegates were sent from each church. In 1922, the small frame church stood in what is now the main parking area. From that year to 1943, interesting growth took place. In 1930, the first electric lights were installed for $120.00 and the old lights sold to Peter's Creek Church for $10.00. The first parsonage was built in 1947, for the cost of $3,845.87. Rev. A. D. Greg was the first full-time pastor, beginning in 1947 with a salary of $35.00 per week. The period 1960-1967, began with plans for a new parsonage to be built across Highway 139 from the church at an approximate cost of $20,000.00. Beginning the period of 1968-1975, major renovations for the church building began. Cross Roads has come a long way. Source: Material from Van Clayton. Written by
**Easley Christian Fellowship**

Easley Christian Fellowship was organized April 10, 1985, when a group of 30 adults and 11 children met at Joe and Mary Alice Phillips' home on Phillips Avenue, to discuss organizing a church. Rev. J. Mitchell Brewer, Sr. accepted the call to pastor this group and with the faithful and dedicated deacons and members began searching for a place to worship. Services were held in Tony and Brenda Price's home on Pearle Drive until June 13, at which time the congregation voted to purchase property at 209 Anderson Highway. This property had adequate parking and would serve as a place of worship until another building could be secured or built. Rev. and Mrs. Brewer lived in part of the house, so this property served as a church and also a parsonage.

In October of 1985, the congregation voted to purchase the church property from the Easley Bible Holiness Church located on 501 Old Liberty Road in Easley and October 20, 1985, held their first service there.

Rev. J. Mitchell Brewer, Sr. served as pastor until February, 1989, at which time he resigned because of his health. Rev. R. Mitchell Campbell accepted the call to pastor in February 1989. Source: Anthony J. Price, Church Secretary.

**Easley Church of Christ**

On August 6, 1960, the church was established through the efforts of W. C. Pruitt and John A. Avants with a membership of 12.

For the first three years, the congregation met in the home of a member. For the next two years, they met in the American Legion Hut. After three years, members purchased land on the Pickens Highway and built a church. Source: Easley Progress, September, 1968.

**Easley Church of God**

In 1922, Reverend Walter Stafford came to Easley, South Carolina for a tent revival. Reverend Stafford found a group of people that wanted to organize a Church of God in Easley, South Carolina. Reverend Ed Johnson, State Overseer of South Carolina, assisted with the organization of this new work. Sister Etha Browning, Sister Lena Harris, Brother and Sister R. P. Roach, and others attended the services. The work was small and could not support a full time pastor so sister Myrtle Whitehead of Hartwell, Georgia, came to preach in many services. These services continued for some five or six years and reluctantly they were discontinued.

About nine years later Reverend and Mrs. J. A. Hanvey came to Easley, South Carolina, for a revival. This revival was conducted in an old store building located a 107 East Main Street. From the results of this revival the Church of God was reorganized by Reverend Zeno C. Tharp, district overseer and pastor of Tremont Avenue Church of God. Ten people united with the church at this reorganization. These charter members are as follows: Mr. and Mrs. Roy Sloan, Mrs. Etha Browning, Mr. and Mrs. R. P. Roach, Mr. and Mrs. Charlton Shelnut, Mr. Will Ramey, Mrs. Louise Porter, and a Mr. Horton. Reverend J. D. Bright was appointed pastor of this newly reorganized Church of God. A few days later, the following united with this church: Mr. and Mrs. Earl Roach, Mr. and Mrs. Guy H. Sloan, Mr. Heyward Lollis, and Mrs. Myrtle Wolf.

Some months later the place of worship was changed to a new location at 203 North A Street. Services were held there for a short while and later, the place of worship was moved to another store building at approximately 601 Fleetwood Drive.

After moving to Fleetwood, Dr. Reverend and Mrs. J. A. Hanvey were appointed as pastor. Growth in number was realized, so a new church building was built at 700 West Main Street.

Reverend William Morrow succeeded Reverend J. A. Hanvey as pastor. The following served as pastor over a period of years: Reverend J. H. Hillhouse, Reverend Robert Barnes, Reverend J. H. Powell, and Reverend H. W. Watkins. The church was enlarged and brick veneered during the tenure of Reverend Watkins.

Reverend G. C. Timmerman succeeded Reverend Watkins and a new church parsonage was built during his time as pastor.

Reverend W. L. Edgar served as next pastor. Parsonage grounds were improved and church property expanded.

Reverend A. L. Hartgraves succeeded Reverend Edgar as pastor. During his tenure the church was repaired after fire destroyed part of the church building. Also a new piano was purchased.

Reverend L. R. Patterson succeeded Reverend Hartgraves and some new furniture was purchased for the parsonage.

Reverend J. T. Duckett succeeded Reverend Patterson as pastor.

Reverend Carl Cox again returned to Easley, South Carolina, to succeed Reverend Ray. Reverend Cox's return to Easley in 1968, proved a blessing to this city. Source: Directory of Church. Written by

**Easley Presbyterian**

The Easley Presbyterian Church was organized on May 9, 1886. The church met in the old Easley Academy and some in homes. There were 17 members. During 1887, the first Presbyterian Church was built on the lot where the present church now stands.

The first minister was John Riley (1886-1895). Rev. Wade followed Dr. Riley. Then came Rev. Fred Thomas and then Rev. J. E. James, a student in the seminary at Columbia. Rev. John F. Matheson was pastor from 1904 until 1907. He was followed by David L. Lander who served until 1911. He was followed by Charles D. Waller (1912-1918), Samuel DuBoise (1918-1921), and Frank D. Hunt (1922-1924).

By 1913, the membership was 169 and a new brick church was built. A few years later a two-story Sunday School area was added to the church. In 1940, Lynch Hall was built to house church suppers, scout meetings, and many church affairs. Lynch Hall was named after C. G. Lynch who was pastor from 1924 to 1943. The membership had grown to 230 in 1946. The minister
from 1943-1952 was I. M. Bagnal. The church had a Sunday School, a Woman's Auxiliary, and a Junior Pioneer Group for the youth. S. C. Smith was minister from (1953-1958). In 1955, a new church was built and the old one torn down. While the church was being finished, they met at East End School.

C. C. Callis was minister from (1959-1965). He was followed by J. E. Craig in (1966-1974), J. W. Eller (1975-1977) and R. J. Barner (1978-1988). In 1983, the sanctuary burned and they began building a new church in 1984. A new Sunday School wing was built. The new church was finished in November, 1985. The church services were held at Easley high school until the church was finished. In 1987, John Schneider came to be the first assistant minister.

The founders were: Thomas Alexander Archer (1856-1906), Ruth Acker Archer (1856-1931), James McDuffie Brace (1861-1976), William Walker Ford (1847-1932), Margaret Rogers Ford (1854-1941), Charles Thomas Martin (1852-1939), W. A. Mauldin, Alice Earle Russell (1845-1920), and Essie Russell (Folger)(1867-1948).


**Easley Union Baptist**

Easley Union Baptist Church first started in backyard get-togethers. In the late 1880s, the group had gathered up enough money to rent their own building where they had services. Rev. Elie Earl, who was associated with the railroad company, convinced the small group to organize Easley Union Baptist Church.

A building and lot was purchased from Mrs. Twenty Latham. Later, Mr. W. M. Hagood built Glenwood Mill behind the church and the employees began to settle around the church. In 1900, the church sold its property and purchased land on Runion from Mr. Hagood where the present parking area is today. The charter members of the church were King Williams, Gus Clark, Word Hendrix, Luke Evens, Bedd Orr, Berry Hunt, Jack Ellis, Henry Byrd, and Pink Mansell. In 1903, a new church was completed. The minister at that time was the Rev. John Washington. Some early ministers were Rev. Watkins, Rev. Madison, Rev. Anderson, Rev. Chancellor, Rev. Martin, and Rev. J. H. McKissick (1924-1939).

On April 20, 1920, a second parcel of land was acquired, and on May 27, 1964, the adjoining lot was purchased. In 1969, another lot was purchased.

The new brick sanctuary was erected on this parcel of land and dedication services were held August 27, 1978.


**Enon Baptist**

Enon Baptist Church was organized on June 21, 1851, by L. R. Jennings and Marvin Vandaver with 14 members, five men and nine women. They elected Rev. Jennings as their first pastor. Rev. John Arial was the church clerk. In a period of time, three deacons were elected. They were Rev. John Arial, Mr. J. R. Gary and Mr. Felix Rogers. Rev. John Arial donated four acres of land on which a brush arbor was built. Services were held in the arbor until a wooden structure was built of hand-hewed logs. This building served the congregation until about 1874 when a brick church was erected.

Enon Church was accepted into the Twelve Mile Association in August, 1851. Mrs. Amanda Craine was the first member to be baptized in the new church. Enon people helped form a new association called the Piedmont Association. They have been a member since 1878. In February 1955 the church voted to build a new sanctuary and educational building. Source: *A History of Enon Baptist Church* by Ethel Rogers Bracken. Written by.

**Fairview United Methodist**

Fairview United Methodist Church was organized in the fall of 1832 as a Methodist Protestant Church. The organization followed a six weeks meeting held in a brush arbor near Three and Twenty Creek, in upper Anderson County. The church was built near that place early the next spring. The church was a small log building with shudders for windows. This was the only Methodist Protestant Church in the area. The first pastors were circuit riders. In 1856, one of the members Mr. Billy Wilson gave the land to build a new church on a hill where they could get a Fairer View. That was why it called Fairview. The building was used until 1912, when another building with six sunday school rooms was built. In 1939, they changed their name to Fairview United Methodist Church. In 1956, a recreation hall and four Sunday school rooms were added. Source: Article from *Easley Progress*. No date. Abstracted by.

**Faith Missionary Baptist**

Faith Missionary Baptist Church on Saco-Lowell Road was organized in May, 1963, with 27 charter members, who met in homes and built their church.

Attendance increased so rapidly that plans were soon under way for a larger church. When this was completed in July, 1965, the original building was converted to Sunday School rooms. The new sanctuary has a seating capacity of 500. Source: *Easley Progress*, September 21, 1968. Abstracted by.

**First Assembly of God**

The church was organized in June 1949, having 37 members, with the Rev. C. M. Smith serving as pastor. The church was located on Fleetwood Drive and Highway 8, until later when another site was chosen at 612 West Fourth Avenue in Easley. In May, 1980, the members decided to move to their present location at 566 Saco Lowell Road.

During the year 1975, two acres of land on Saco Lowell Road was purchased and digging began on the foundation in January, 1976. For the next four and one-half years, members and friends worked and donated labor for the construction. The auditorium has a seating
capacity of 300 with nine Sunday School rooms which includes a church office and mini-auditorium. Source: Easley Progress, August 6, 1980.

**First Baptist**

In the year 1873, the village of Easley was beginning to form around the newly laid railroad tracks connecting Charlotte and Atlanta. Some citizens realized the need for a Baptist church in the settlement, and 12 members organized a Baptist church of Easley.

In a few years the corner lot at East Main and North B Street was purchased. The first church building was completed in 1875. This building was one room without a ceiling. Thirty members were present at the first service in this building. This building was used for 34 years. The first pastor was Jason C. Hudson, who built his home on a lot beside the church. Mr. Hudson was replaced in 1878 by Rev. D. Weston Hiott.

A second building was occupied on May 1, 1910, and was a brick structure. On March 18, 1917, the Sunday service was interrupted by a fire alarm at eleven a.m. The fire destroyed the building, with only the pulpit furniture being saved. On December 11, 1921, a new building was occupied. This building is still standing and is now the Masonic Temple.

In 1942, some property was bought at the present site of First Baptist Church. In 1952, the first service was held in the new church building. The building cost $225,000. The church's seating capacity was 600. Charles Wyatt was in charge of construction.

From the original church, organized over 100 years ago, with a membership of 12, have come the Gee Memorial, Glenwood, Brushy Creek and Calvery Hill Baptist Churches. The membership is now over 1,400.

The most recent addition to the church is the Family Life Center which was dedicated in January, 1981. Written by

**First United Methodist**

First United Methodist was first named Mount Olivet church. It started in 1847. At first they only had a shelter.

Then the first building was built. It was made in 1878--four years after the town of Easley was formed. That building was Easley's first schoolhouse, also to be used in worship. They had to move because the church population kept growing. It used to be located in the crossroads of the Greenville-Pendleton Road. Now it is located at 101 West First Avenue, Easley, South Carolina. They built the new church in 1930. Then they had to expand the new church because their population was still growing.

Today we have a church that seats 600 people. Sources: Newspaper Articles; Mount Olivet Methodist Church by C. B. Kirkley; First United Methodist Church Directory, 1985. Written by

**First Wesleyan Methodist**

Eighty-four years ago the Easley First Wesleyan Church was organized on December 11, 1904. The church, born in the midst of a revival held by Rev. B. L. Padgett, began with services initially held at the Union Church in the Easley Mill community. On June 6, 1914, people met to discuss the possibility of building a new church. Easley Mill said they would give a lot and a dollar for every dollar the Church gave. The building committee appointed by the pastor Rev. D. O. Powers was Mr. J. W. Miller, Mr. W. M. Harris, W. L. Miller and Mr. Charlie Garret. The first addition was added in 1948. The church built four additional Sunday School rooms and two restrooms. The churches' remodeling program was finished in 1959. The total cost was about $10,000. In 1971 they installed new pews and wall to wall carpet. They also built a new parsonage in 1975. The church now feels they need to remodel the sanctuary. As you can see this church has had a history of remodeling. Source: "Days to Remember 1904-1988" sent by Rev. Lewis Edwards. Abstracted by

**Georges Creek Baptist**

The Georges Creek Baptist received its name from a stream (creek) which drains the major portion of the area. The Church was founded February 4, 1859, and officially constituted two weeks later.

According to historical information, the ministers were Jessie Dean, Ludwell Vaughn, W. B. Singleton and John C. Greene, who formed a presbytery for the purpose of constituting certain brethren and sisters into a Baptist church. They included William G. King, Kessiah King, Robert King, C. C. Young, Joshua Jameson, Mary B. Jameson, Andrew Hendricks, Jane Hendricks, and Sophronia Ellison who were constituted into a Baptist church at Georges Creek. The document was signed by Jessie Dean, Moderator; John C. Greene, Clerk; W. B. Singleton; and Ludwell Vaughn.

The first building served as constructed until the 1890's and was used as a school for a number of years. In the 1880's, a school building was constructed on the church site and was known as the Georges Creek Academy. The school was moved from the site in 1895. In the 1890's, the church building was rotated 90 degrees to have it face a new cut road. The year 1925 was a milestone of progress as the old church was provided with wire and draw drapes of green burlap to provide Sunday School classrooms. Classrooms were constructed in the aft sections of the church in the early 1930s. Formerly it was Sunday School each Sunday with preaching twice per month in the 1940s. Now it was preaching every Sunday. In 1943, a residence near Glenwood was purchased for a parsonage. Two years later the church building was veneered with brick and a modern entrance constructed. The parsonage on the church site was built in 1950. In 1955, the present sanctuary with twenty-three classrooms was constructed and in 1973-74 a major addition to the church was completed to provide the splendid facilities we cherish today. The parsonage was enlarged and improved in 1967. Source: Easley Progress, January 14, 1981; The History of Georges Creek Baptist Church. Abstracted by
**First Pentecostal Holiness**

This church is located on 303 West 6th Avenue, Easley, S. C. It was originated by Dr. Paul F. Beacham in 1911 of Holmes Bible College of Greenville. Their services were held in the old Mill Hall on 4th Street until 1915, when the church bought property of the Oates family and built the First Church on First Street and was called Tabernacle Pentecostal Holiness Church. The word Tabernacle was changed to First on January 26, 1917. In 1967, the church bought Geer Memorial Baptist Church. A new sanctuary seating 350 people was built in 1971. The educational building includes a social hall, 14 Sunday school rooms, pastor's study, a church office and a printing room. Source: Easley Progress, March 12, 1980. Abstracted by

**Geer Memorial Baptist**

Geer Memorial Baptist Church was organized on Sunday, November 2, 1902, with a total of 54 members received by letter. The church was named Second Baptist Church. Rev. D. W. Hiott was called as the first pastor. On August 17, 1919, the name of the church was changed to Geer Memorial Baptist Church honoring J. M. Geer, founder of Easley Cotton Mills. On May 1, 1960, the church voted to buy the Beecham property where the present building is located. The building was completed with a seating capacity of 650 in the sanctuary, and the first worship services were held on Easter Sunday, May 26, 1967. Source: Easley Progress, April 9, 1980.

**Glenwood Baptist**

Glenwood Baptist Church was organized on October 25, 1908, with 34 charter members. The first pastor was Rev. D. W. Hiott. The first church building was a white wood structure on Hagood Street. It was where the Mayfair Mills Office is now. This building was added to in 1923, and in 1950. The brick two-story educational building still stands on the mill site and is used by the mill.

In 1957, Rev. Charles Boling was called as pastor. The church was in need of larger facilities. After unsuccessful attempts to obtain a legal deed to the church property, in 1962, the church purchased seven acres on Saco Lowell Road. A new pastorium and church were built in 1965-66. The church is a large brick structure which includes a sanctuary seating 550, and educational wing. It was first used in August, 1966.

In 1980, during the pastorate of Rev. Kenneth Lawson, a Family Life Center was built. Mr. A. L. Martin was building committee chairman and drew the plans. It includes a gymnasium, dining room, and fully equipped kitchen.


**Glenwood United Methodist**

Glenwood United Methodist Church, located at the corner of East Main and Hagood Streets, was organized in 1908, with the Rev. D. D. Jones serving as pastor. Members met in a building which served as a union church until Glenwood Baptists decided to organize separately. They proceeded to build their first church at the site where part of Glenwood Mill is now located. Construction of the present church building was begun in 1916, when the Rev. J. P. Holler was pastor. The members held a special service when the building was dedicated in 1923 by Bishop Warren A. Candler. In 1952, the Rev. Peter Stokes oversaw the building of a educational plant. A major remodeling project of the sanctuary and present exterior of the church was undertaken during the pastorate of the Rev. D. H. Hawkins in 1965. Source: The Easley Progress, September 10, 1980. Abstracted by

**Glenwood Wesleyan**

Glenwood Wesleyan Church (formerly Glenwood Wesleyan Methodist Church) was first organized in 1907 and was discontinued in 1909. In July 1920, the church was reorganized with 30 members by the Rev. J. R. Davis at the close of a revival meeting conducted by the Rev. J. M. James. The new congregation worshiped in the schoolhouse until winter and then worshiped at the Glenwood Methodist church for a while. When it was necessary to find another place of worship, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Goodson offered one room of their home at 308 Barton Street as a place of worship.

In May 1924, a dwelling house on Barton Street was purchased where worship was conducted until 1930. The old church building was started on April 9, 1930, and completed on July 31, 1930. It was a brick building with four Sunday school rooms, and the congregation was free of indebtedness on the day of the first service, which was a dedication service. The church grew, and a new addition to the building was completed in October 1939.

This growth continued; therefore, some property on Hagood Street was purchased for expansion purposes in February 1964 from a Spearman family. The groundbreaking service for the new building was held on April 30, 1967, at which time Mr. C. V. Golightly, a charter member, moved the first shovel of dirt. The first service in the new sanctuary was held on Christmas Eve morning, 1967, but it was not fully occupied until January 2, 1968.

The present church is a lovely plant which includes nursery facilities, approximately 23 classrooms, a choir room, church and Sunday school offices, a pastor's study, a conference room, and a beautiful sanctuary. The congregation became free of indebtedness for the current building in 1981, and worshiped God with a mortgage-burning service on June 1, 1981. The current pastor is Rev. Paul L. Wilcox. Source: Glenwood Wesleyan Church letter. Abstracted by
Landmark Baptist

The church was organized on June 23, 1974 when 143 persons met in a house under construction in the Cedar Rock community. The building, located on Billy Gwinn property, became the meeting place for two and one-half weeks. The house soon became known to the people of the church as the "old cathedral." Grading and excavation on the building site was begun July 9, 1974, and official groundbreaking ceremonies were held July 21, 1974. The founding pastor of the church was the Rev. Russell Bell.

After organizing, the church moved to Arial Elementary School where members met for seven and one-half weeks. The building was constructed on six and one-half acres donated by Bill Gwinn from a tract of land known as Gwinn's Acres. The church currently owns approximately 13 acres allowing a campus for the ministry of Landmark Christian Academy. The dedication of the original facilities was observed Sunday, January 12, 1975. Source: Easley Progress, November 25, 1980.

McKissick Memorial Methodist

The first move to establish a Methodist Church started in the fall of 1911, when a Preacher Yarborough set up a tent under the water tanks at the crest of Hill Street and held a lot of revival meetings. The converts from "Yarboroughs Meeting" organized Alice Methodist Church three months later, assembled at A. A. Meritt's at the end of Hill Street. This little house served as the meeting house for the Baptists and Methodist alike until the mill office building was erected. Then both denominations moved together to the two big upstairs rooms which was a school for the village for many years. In 1915 a white frame church building was to become the Methodists' permanent house in the community when the Baptist part of the congregation moved to Park Street in the 1930's.

The desire for a full-time preacher to serve Alice and Arial communities became a reality in 1948 with the appointment of the Rev. E. P. Hammonds as a pastor of the two churches. Soon afterwards a modern parsonage was erected, built in a large part, by volunteer labor from the two communities.

An increased interest in the church led to a movement to remodel and enlarge the church building. The building program was finished under the pastorate of Rev. Harold T. Reeves with the addition of an education building. As a token of appreciation to the McKissick family for a memorial to the late Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Foster McKissick, the membership of the church voted in 1956 to change the name of the church from Alice Methodist to McKissick Memorial Methodist Church. Source: Easley Progress, November 19, 1980. Abstracted by

Mt. Airy Baptist

In March 1895, the people of the community met together for the purpose of organizing a Baptist Church. The Baptists of the community already owned a four acre plot of ground with a small building on it. This was donated to the people by Mrs. William S. Murphy.

The service for organizing was moderated by Rev. D. I. Spearman. At this meeting eight persons presented themselves for membership. They constituted the charter members. They are as follows: Mr. J. T. Robinson from Cross Roads, Mr. W. H. Merritt from Siloam, Mr. and Mrs. R. F. Babb from Nine Forks, Miss Dice Rogers from Mountain Springs, Mrs. Louisia Durham from Siloam, and Miss Launah Babb from Piedmont. At the evening service on the day of organization, there were thirty others that came under the care of the church until their letters could be secured from their churches.

In January of 1896, the Cedar Wreath School building burned and the school was transferred to the Mount Airy Church building. After the old school building burned, the people of the church and community decided to build a new building for the church house and to turn the old church building over to the school.

The dedication of the new building was the third Sunday in June of 1898.

The church from the time of organization had two services each month. One service was on Saturday afternoon before the third Sunday. The second service was held on the third Sunday morning. In 1928, the church stopped the Saturday services and added a Sunday evening service. In 1940, the church began three services weekly.

In 1949 the church moved the pastor into the community. In 1950 the church began a full-time program with preaching twice each Sunday. In 1953, the pastor moved into the new pastorium. In 1958, the new auditorium was erected and all the old buildings were renovated and made into Sunday School space. In 1965, a new addition was built on the back of the church for the nursery, beginners, and primary departments. The building and the church auditorium were air-conditioned at this time.

On November 16, 1969, the church voted to build a new pastorium. A new sanctuary and educational building was built in 1981. The ground breaking for this new building was November 23, 1980, and the new building was used for the first time on February 21, 1982.

Mt. Pisgah Baptist

The Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church was organized in 1824. The first building was a wooden structure located about halfway between the present old brick building and the road. The present old brick building was erected in 1925, during the pastorate of Rev. E. C. Watson.

The first person buried in the cemetery was Agnes Wimpey, aged 59, who died October 13, 1814. Although the exact location of this grave was known, it did not have an adequate marker until July 1930, when a suitable marker was provided by the Sunday School. In September, 1929, the old brick church was remodeled and put into service for Sunday School rooms and a dining hall for the church. Source: *Easley Progress*, June 26, 1930.

Compiled by

Mt. Tabor United Methodist

On August 19, 1842, Harriet Duke gave three acres of land to the church. The deed was made to the following trustees: James Major, James Hughes, and James M. Spearman. It was witnessed by Reece Brown and Ruthford Grant. It was recorded February 28, 1843. Mt. Tabor was organized in 1842, over 100 years ago. Tradition says it was the child of Poplar Springs, out of which also came Olivet of Easley.

The first minister was in 1844. His name was Martin Eddy. Originally, there were two buildings. The first building was a frame structure and was not scaled. The church was remodeled in 1954.


New Foundation Baptist

In 1925, several members of the community felt the need for a church where they might educate and train their children in a Christian environment. At first the congregation met in the old Brights Station School off Lenhardt Road. Under the pastorate of the Rev. Ballard H. Hendricks, the church group continued to use the school until 1933.

At that time, the New Foundation Baptist Church erected a building near the school. In 1942, Rev. Willie Baker was appointed assistant pastor and served as such until the death of Rev. Hendricks, when he became a full-time pastor. Pastors serving since Rev. Baker have included Rev. F. H. Goldsmith, Rev. H. L. Sullivan, and the Rev. J. E. Dixon. The New Foundation Baptist Church is a member of the Oolenoy River Education and Missionary Baptist Association and continues a tradition of service to its people and this community. Source: "Oolenoy River Education and Missionary Baptist Association of Pickens County, South Carolina - Centennial Celebration - Souvenir Program", October 1982. Abstracted by

Open Door Baptist

The Open Door Baptist Church located on Cedar Rock Road was organized in September, 1967.

Members of the church gathered for their first worship services in a building which once also served as a doctor’s office and a nursing home.


In 1971, the members decided on a renovation project for their building and purchased additional property for future construction of additions to the building which was completed in 1975. Later, an open fellowship building was erected. Source: *Easley Progress*, September 24, 1980.

Park Street

Park Street is an Alice Mill Community Church that was founded in 1911. Rev. W. M. Walker was the first pastor. There were only 12 charter members. Worship services were held in a 4 room house. The church moved to the hall over Alice Mill Office. Later a building was built that was used jointly by Baptist and Methodists.

Park Street opened their new doors in 1934 on July 1st. In April, 1944, Rev. Herman J. Lewis became pastor.

On Easter Sunday, March 25, 1951, the first church service was held in the new church building that was founded on February 2, 1950. The church had eight different departments with classrooms for each department, five restrooms, a modern kitchen, a storage closet and two dressing rooms. Many other improvements had been made. On April 8, 1956, after all debts were paid, a ceremony was held in one of the new building.

They're still holding services in this building today. Source: *Alice Manufacturing Booklet; Brief History of Park Street Baptist Church* provided by church. Abstracted by

Poplar Springs

"Poplar Spring, a small pole house, about six miles from Antioch, over George’s Creek was the next appointment. After some years it was abandoned and a better house was built near Pickensville and called Mt. Olivet. It is now within the corporation of the town of Easley's Station, on the R & D Railroad. The church is now a good structure with bell and steeple.” Source: An Historical Outline of Greenville Circuit, South Carolina Conference M. E. Church, South by Samuel M. Green At the Request of the 2nd Quarterly Conference 1884 George L.
Thomason of Mauldin, South Carolina has taken the materials of adjoining lands of Joel Miller and others. There is still an old Alex Robinson place, now owned by George Cox and Rev. Samuel M. Green and printed his circuit notes of 1884.

In the Tabor Methodist Church history, it tells about Poplar Springs. It reports that the "old church was on the old Alex Robinson place, now owned by George Cox and adjoining lands of Joel Miller and others. There is still an old cemetery there. It had a log seats, hand drawn, with slab for backs--a very crude structure. One of the members of church Mrs. Adeline Hitt, widow of George Hitt, remembers as a child in 1887 or 1888 attending a funeral service and burial at the old church and cemetery." Abstracted by Melanie Reagan.

Article in 1930. It was known as Poplar Springs, and was situated about one half mile northwest of Arial Mountain. It was a Methodist Episcopal church and was probably located there soon after the Revolutionary War. There is no sign at present to show the exact spot where the building stood but there are a number of graves, several of them marked with head and foot stones, showing that there was a cemetery connected with the church. There is a tradition that some of the citizens of Old Pickensville were members of this church, as were others who resided on the headwaters of Wolf Crook and in the vicinity of Cedar Rock.

It is also stated that sometime between the years 1835 and 1840, there was a division in this church and some of the members organized Mt. Olivet Church. Others organized Mt. Tabor near Cedar Rock.

It is also stated that the late Mrs. Scynthia Ellis, whose maiden name was Duncan, was a charter member of this church. Mr. Elias Day of this city had an uncle who was buried in the Poplar Springs graveyard, and his father, the late Baswell Day, was one of the moving spirits in the organization of Mt. Olivet Church on land donated by the late Joshua Mansell. Source: Easley Progress. 1930.

Rock Springs Baptist
In 1882, the Stegall children started to meet in the homes of one another to worship God once or twice a month. As the gatherings grew larger with more relatives joining in along with other friends in the community, it was obvious that a meeting spot was necessary. At first they met in an old store (across the road and in front of the old Dayton School, across from the Plez-U Mart), but they needed a permanent meeting place. They got nine-tenths of an acre from Jim Stegall below the cemetery and including the entrance to Chadwick Subdivision. Across the road from that location about 300 yards into the woods was a spring running over a rock. Mr. Wash Stegall owned it and allowed them to build a baptismal pool there. The church got its name from the "rock spring".

A brush arbor was built on their nine-tenths acre as a place to worship until a church was built. Plans were made in the spring and summer of 1883 to build a church. The church was recognized as "newly constituted" by the Piedmont Baptist Association in August of 1884.

There are eight known charter members of Rock Springs. They are Mr. George Washington Stegall, Mrs. Charity Murphy Stegall, Mr. James S. Stegall, Mrs. Amanda Orr Stegall, Mr. Harry Stegall, Mrs. Mary O. Hughes Stegall, Mrs. Matilda Hughes, and Ms. Janie Cargle. The first building was a one-room structure built in 1883 located at the present day entrance to Chadwick Subdivision which is adjacent to the church cemetery. The building was erected above the location of the old brush arbor. It was enclosed with walls and a ceiling in 1903, but it blew down in 1904. When the first church building was blown down by a wind storm, another building was erected in a few short months. The new building was further up the hill (north) from the first.

Construction began on the third building about 1920 and was completed in 1922. When the church made the move to the new site, half of the land that had been given by Mr. Jim Stegall went back to his estate. The rest remain as a cemetery. Source: Rock Springs Baptist Church. The First One Hundred Years 1883-1983. Abstracted by Ron Black.

St. Andrew Methodist
In 1904, a group of Methodists were holding a meeting in a Boy Scout Hall. Because of the inconvenience and condition of the facility, the decision was made to move. That group began to meet in a building that was a school and a union church. In 1914, a meeting at Easley Cotton Mills resulted in the raising of $1,400, which was matched by the mill. The conference donated $700. The church was built on the property of the Mill Company and completed in 1916. The furnishings for this church were bought by the Ladies Aid Society of the church. The total cost was $6,500 dollars.

As the membership of the church grew, a new facility was needed. Since the Mill Company owned the land, there could be no additions made to the building. So in 1970, 12 acres of land was bought on the Pelzer Highway. In 1981, the decision was made to begin construction on the new church. The building was completed in March of 1981. Source: Easley Progress, 1968. Information sent by Reggie Powell, Pastor. Abstracted by

St. Michael's Episcopal
St. Michael's Episcopal Church had its beginning on November 29, 1953, with a service in the Chapel of the Robinson Funeral Home. The first services was a Celebration of Holy Communion attended by 12 persons. The Celebrant was the Rev. Jack W. Cole, Priest, of St. Paul's in Pendleton, who also became the Vicar of St. Michael's.

Prior to the first service the Rev. Mr. Cole had been requested by Bishop Gravatt to investigate the possibility of establishing an Episcopal Church in Easley. The Bishop's request was the result of a letter to him by Mr. A. G. Clarkson, Jr., an Episcopalian who had moved to Easley from Camden. Services have continued without interruption since that first Sunday.

In June of 1954, the congregation was accepted by the Bishop of Upper South Carolina, the Rt. Rev. C. Alfred Cole, as an unorganized mission. The request for acceptance was signed by 15 persons. St. Michael's was admitted into union with the Convention of the Diocese of Upper South Carolina as an Organized Mission in
1955. The first officers were: Warden, A. G. Clarkson Jr.; Secretary, Mrs. W. F. Reddaii; Treasurer, H. C. Milhous.

The first step toward securing a permanent building for the congregation was taken in August, 1955, when a lot was purchased on the corner of Southway and Andrew Streets. Funds for this purchase included gifts from the Woman’s Auxiliary of Grace Episcopal Church, Anderson, and the 1953 Advent Offering of the Diocese of Upper South Carolina.

The first building on this site was a result of a congregational meeting on August 19, 1956. At the meeting called for that date, the congregation voted to begin a campaign for funds to be raised by five-year pledges.

A building committee was appointed and a finance committee was also appointed. Pledges were made by the congregation and a number of gifts were received from individuals in the city, who were not members. In addition a number of gifts were received from interested church people in other cities, particularly from Greenville.

In October, 1956, approval for the final plans for the present building was given and construction began in November. The building was an all-purpose one containing a chapel. The basement contains three classrooms, a kitchen, social hall, and two restrooms. Construction was of brick.

The first service in the new building was on February 24, 1957. On that date the congregation, which had numbered 12 at its beginning, had grown to 40 communicants and 60 members. The first Sunday School classes were held on March 17, 1957, in the new building with 27 children present. An addition was added to the church building in the late 1960’s, which gave increased space for Sunday School and parish house functions.

St. Michael’s is presently considering moving the church facility to the growing Powdersville area of Easley where six acres of land has been purchased at the corner of Old Powdersville Road and Rock Springs Road.


**St. Paul United Methodist**

March 23, 1803, a hand-written deed to the land on Saint Paul Road (in Anderson County) was given to the people to start Saint Paul Methodist Church. This church was started with less than 50 members.

A two-room school Saint Paul School was started in 1901, adjacent to the church. The building was later sold. Just behind the church is a small one-room white-framed structure which was built in 1939. This building was believed to be the social hall. This building is a descendant of another building, but we have no records on what happened to it.

There is only one original piece of furniture left. It is a tailor-made bench originally made for the sanctuary. Source: The Greenville News and Piedmont, May 13, 1978. Abstracted by

**Siloam Baptist**

Until the end of the Revolutionary War in 1783, a large area of northwestern South Carolina belonged to the Cherokee Indians. Soon after the War, General Andrew Pickens arranged for the land to go to the State of South Carolina. This large amount of land was divided into Anderson and Pickens Counties. Already many white settlers had moved into this area with the numbers growing quickly.

During this settlement, young Moses Holland and his bride came from Virginia and settled near Williamston. Rev. Holland began spreading the gospel and got enough Baptists together to form the Big Creek Baptist Church. People traveled from the Brushy Creek area to take part in Rev. Holland revivals at Big Creek. Soon Brushy Creek had enough Baptists to form its own small church in 1791. Dr. Joe M. King in his book A History of South Carolina Baptists says, “The church was organized in 1791, when Carter Tarrant itinerated there and John Gladdies was a candidate for the ministry.”

The church was first known as Brushy Creek Baptist Church but soon changed its name to Brush Creek to avoid confusion with a church in Greenville County. In 1821, the name Siloam appeared in a list of churches and has since gone by that name.

There are no known records that state just where Siloam began. It probably met at three or four different places during the first years of its existence. In 1828, a log meeting house was finally built on a public road which is now SC Hwy. 81. With the movement in and out of several pastors and the difficult economic situation of the area, Siloam went through many decades of struggles.

Siloam’s turnaround came at the turn of the century. In 1896, the log building was torn down and a new building erected. Membership continued to grow and the church began to prosper financially. The building was used with several modifications until 1965. A new building was built and occupied in 1965. Additional buildings were constructed in 1975 to meet its needs.

Source: A History of Siloam Baptist Church 1791-1978 Compiled by the Historical Committee of the Church. Abstracted by

**West End Baptist**

West End Baptist Church, located on West 2nd Avenue, was established in 1964. The church started with only 15 members. It now has 125 members. The first pastor of the church was Rev. Franklin Lesley, followed by Rev. Dewey Lewis. Rev. Jack Connelly is the present pastor. He came from the pastorage of Flat Shoals Baptist Church in Salem. He became the pastor of West End Baptist less than a year ago. The church is making
plans for the erection of a fellowship building in the near future. West End Baptist Church has been involved in tent ministries to reach migrant workers. Source: Easley Progress, December 10, 1980. Abstracted by

Zion Methodist

Records show the beginning of Zion Church was in 1828. The first services were conducted by Travis Owens in the woods near where the first church was built. After the church was organized in 1830, services were held on the homesteads of John Lesley and Mattie Smith. The first church was built of logs on land given by John Lesley, and this building was used until 1857. Land for a cemetery was given by Lemuel Hamilton in 1830.

A more substantial church building was erected in 1857 and more land given for the cemetery. The first regular preacher was the Rev. A. B. McGilvray in 1849.

A third church building was built in 1905 under the pastorate of the Rev. R. M. DuBose. This was replaced in 1960 under the guidance of the Rev. J. O. Gilliam Jr.

Zion Church organized its first Ladies Aid Society in 1913, with five members. It is now called the Women's Society of Christian Service.


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