

HISTORY OF GREATER PINEY GROVE UMC

Greater Piney Grove UMC, the former Piney Grove UMC is under the leadership of its first female senior pastor, Rev. Gypsy Murdaugh. The church was founded in 1887 and the earliest deed dates back to October 31, 1889 for one acre of land for \$20.00. The current sanctuary was consecrated in 2006 and can seat more than 500 persons and is one of the largest in the area.

There are few written records that account for the history of the church, but verbal accounts and the memories of those who have served for decades detail the life of a church that has been a place of refuge, sanctuary and beacon of hope and light in the Piney Grove Community of Robeson County. This impact has spread throughout Robeson County and crossed the borders into Scotland and other surrounding counties. Greater Piney Grove has received recognition on the district and conference levels of the United Methodist Church.

Many have learned how to love like God, live like God and treat others in a Godly fashion as a result of being members and friends of this great ministry. The best is yet to come.

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1886 - Rev. J.H. Hunter | 1920 - Rev. N.M. Black |
| 1887 - Rev. T.M. Joiner | 1922 - Rev. R.D. Bethea |
| 1888 - Rev. O. Letterlough | 1926 - Rev. J.C. Rush |
| 1889 - Rev. W.P. Hayes | 1931 - Rev. P.I. Wells |
| 1890 - Rev. W.H. Harriston | 1936 - Rev. F.D. Caldwell |
| 1891 - Rev. C.W. Blaylock | 1938 - Rev. H.C. Gannaway |
| 1892 - Rev. A.H. Newsome | 1945 - Rev. W.T. Brown |
| 1894 - Rev. M.M. Jones | 1947 - Rev. J.H. McCallum |
| 1895 - Rev. G.W. Byers | 1949 - Rev. E.M. McLeod |
| 1897 - Rev. J.P. Franklin | 1956 - Rev. J.H. McCallum |
| 1898 - Rev. J.D. Diggs | 1963 - Rev. L. Gun |
| 1900 - Rev. W.P. Hayes | 1964 - Rev. C.G. Bynum |
| 1903 - Rev. N.D. Shambuger | 1965 - Rev. W.P. Cole |
| 1904 - Rev. W.P. Hayes | 1968 - Rev. I.A. Friend |
| 1905 - Rev. W.R. Ziegler | 1970 - Rev. O.M. Graham |
| 1906 - Rev. G.S. Morehead | Rev. Emma R. McLean |
| 1908 - Rev. W.M. Wells | 1983 - Rev. J.H. McCallum |
| 1916 - Rev. R.N. Brooks | Rev. Emma R. McLean |
| 1917 - Rev. J.W. Simpson | 1984 - Rev. Robert A. Fairley, Sr. |
| 1918 - Rev. R.D. Bethea | Rev. Emma R. McLean |
| 1919 - Rev. J.W. Simpson | 1990 - Rev. Robert A. Fairley, Sr. |
| | Rev. Emma R. McLean (Ret.) |
| | 1991 - Rev. Robert A. Fairley, Sr. |
| | 2016 - Rev. Gypsy Murdaugh |