

Wesley Chapel Methodist Church

Township: T-47-N
Range: R-18-W
Section: 6
Map: [Click Here](#)

Organized: April 1866
Disbanded: No
Active: Yes
Updated: July 19, 2005

Cemetery: There is a cemetery associated with this church. A fence is used to separate the white from colored sections.

Area: Pilot Grove, Missouri

Records: Elizabeth Haley may know where the church records are located.

History:



Wesley Chapel Methodist Church From "Pilot Grove Centennial Book, 1873-1973"

The original Methodist Society, which was to become the present Wesley Chapel Church, was organized in April 1866 by the Rev. J. B. Stout at the Mt. Vernon Schoolhouse, with the following charter members: C C. Rockwood, Anna Rockwood, Zadocks Phillips, Phebe Phillips, and William Phillips. At this time, Henry Schlotzhauer, Sr.; Henry Schlotzhauer, Jr.; and Rudolph Schlotzhauer, Sr. were received by transfer from the Clear Creek Methodist Church, which had been founded in 1850, when Henry Schlotzhauer, Sr., trustee, purchased for two dollars, a half acre of land for a place of worship. The land was sold in 1870 to the present United Church of Christ.

In March of 1873, this Methodist Society, with forty-eight members bought 2 1/2 acres of land from Henry, Jr. and Catherine nee' Kahrs Schlotzhauer for \$67.50. Soon a church was erected on this site. As the group outgrew the original building, an addition was made under the pastorate of Rev. Wheary. On the first Sunday that worship was held in the improved church, December 18, 1927, a fire destroyed the building; only the piano was saved, thanks to the quick action of Mr. John Haley, Jr.

A committee composed of Arthur Haley, Olan Dwyer, Oscar Stegner, Stanley Schlotzhauer, and Elmer Stegner was instrumental in building the present structure. The new building, at a cost of \$10,000 was dedicated on September 23, 1928 by the late Rev. G. Fred Gilbreath, district superintendent. Everything in the church has a known donor except the clock, for it was placed on the wall when no one was present.

Five ministers were sent out from this charge: Rev. Homer Babbitt, Rev. Chris Oswald, Rev. Herbert Ratje, Rev. William Dillon, Jr., and Rev. David Wendleton. The only boy from this church to have lost his life while serving in the armed forces was Cleo Ratje, son of Rev. and Mrs. William Ratje. The present pastor is Rev. Louis Odneal.

Wesley Chapel Methodist Church
From "Cooper County Church Sketches" by F. Chesnutt, 1993

The Civil War did not end in Missouri for several years after 1864. Pilot Grove was on the stage coach route and transient as well as home-grown violence were common. The Southern Methodist Churches (and many others) were closed. Methodist circuit riders held Bible classes and preached in the area under the Union flag but had little success founding churches.

The Methodist Society, which was to become the present Wesley Chapel, was organized in April, 1866, by Rev. J. B. Stout at Mount Vernon school house, with the following charter members: C.C. Rockwood, Anna Rockwood, Zadocks Phillips, Phebe Phillips, and William Phillips. At this time Henry Schlotzhauer, Sr., Henry Schlotzhauer, Jr., and Rudolph Schlotzhauer, Sr., were received by transfer from the Clear Creek Methodist Church, which had been founded in 1850, when Henry Schlotzhauer, trustee, purchased for two dollars a half acre of land for a place of worship and built a log building. This land was sold in 1870 to Saint Paul's Evangelical Church.

In March, 1873, the Mount Vernon Society, with 48 members bought two and a half acres of land from Henry and Catherine Schlotzhauer for \$67.50. Soon a church was erected on this site. As the group outgrew the original building an addition was made under the pastorate of Rev. Wheary. On December 18, 1927, the first Sunday worship was held in the improved church, but by that afternoon a fire had destroyed the building. Only the piano was saved thanks to the quick action of John Haley, Jr.

Despite the onset of the depression years, a new building, costing \$10,000 was dedicated September 23, 1928. Rev. G. Fred Gilbreath officiated and the building committee was composed of Arthur Haley, Olan Dwyer, Oscar Stegner, Stanley Schlotzhauer, and Elmer Stegner.

Everything in the Chapel has a known donor except the clock, which was placed on the wall with no one present. The art glass windows are memorials of various members of the Schlotzhauer, Connelly, Stegner, Dwyer, and Wheary families and the Wesley Girls' Sunday School Class.

In 1883 Frank Johnston, William Hawkins, and Anderson Miller purchased less than an acre adjoining the old burial ground for a negro cemetery for freed slaves.

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