

Penn Forest Worship Center History

Shafers Crossing Gospel Mission was organized on February 1, 1938 with Rev. J.D. West as the founding pastor. He pastored the church until October of 1961. While serving as pastor, property was purchased at 2532 Shenandoah Avenue, Roanoke, Virginia for \$1200 making a down payment of \$100 with 73 notes at \$15 each and a final note of \$5 plus 6% interest.

The local church board voted on January 9, 1963 to change the name of the church to Shenandoah Chapel with the congregation approving this on January 20, 1963. ON May 29, 1968, the congregation voted to join the Pilgrim Holiness Church, which merged with The Wesleyan Church. Subsequently, in August 1968 the name of the church was changed to Shenandoah Wesleyan Chapel.

The church purchased property at 3735 Chaparral Drive, SW, Roanoke, Virginia in January 1986 and sold the property on Shenandoah Avenue in October 1986. On June 22, 1986, the congregation voted to change the name of the church to Penn Forest Wesleyan Church. The body of believers rented the use of the Seven-Day Adventist Church from October 1986 until September 1988 when construction of the educational and fellowship unity on the property was completed. The first service was held on September 11, 1988. An additional wing was completed February 13, 1994 in order to provide additional space for worship services and educational purposes. In November 1994, a new fellowship hall and educational rooms was added to the complex in order to meet the needs of additional families. In November 1998 a gym was completed which allow the church body to have more fellowship and provide further outreach in the community.

In the fall of 2003 the church board decided to update the sign out front. After much prayer and discussion they voted to change the name on the sign to Penn Forest Worship Center – A Ministry of the Wesleyan Church. The church board wanted the sign to reflect what took place on the property whether it was in the gym, playground or sanctuary. PFWC has been engaged in expansion through its history and we will continue to do so as we relentlessly pursue God and the people He loves.