

Northern Kentucky Views Presents:

A Brief Historical Sketch of the Middle
Creek Baptist Church

By

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A BRIEF HISTORICAL SKETCH OF
MIDDLE CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

A number of the members of the Bullittsburg Church living mainly south of Woolper Creek, having decided on the advisability of organizing a Baptist Church in their own neighborhood, and this movement having the endorsement of the mother church accordingly a council of members from Bullittsburg was convened in a little log hut near Middle Creek on the twelfth day of March 1803. After due consideration the church was duly constituted and declared to be a regular gospel church of Jesus Christ. The following brethren and sisters composed the body, viz., Christopher Wilson, William Brady, Urial Seebra, Jamison Hawkins, William Rogers, Elihah Hogan, Isaac Carlton, John Ryle, Thomas Carter, James Ryle, Lucy Wilson, Hetha Brady, Fanny Seebra, Ruth Hawkins, Sarah Rogers, Lucy Hogan, Nancy Carter, Elizabeth Ryle, Sarah Ryle, Mildred Seebra, Dorcas Carlton, Whites; and Anthony and Alice, colored.

At their first meeting Christopher Wilson was chosen moderator and Moses Scott clerk. For six years the church had no regular pastor and was ministered unto by visiting preachers and by brethren of their own number who possessed gifts of exposition and exhortation. At the following June meeting 1803, William Rogers and James Ryle were ordained the first deacons of the church. On February 1804 Christopher Wilson who had previously been dismissed by letter and later had been ordained to preach was invited with Lewis Dewese and Chichester Matthews to regularly serve the church in a joint pastorate preaching service to be conducted by them on the second and fourth Sundays as might best suit their convenience. These brethren served the church acceptably for a few years, having baptized into the fellowship of the church (1811) eighteen persons. In 1812, Robert Garnet and John Watts were ordained by the church to the gospel ministry, subsequently Robert Garnet was called as pastor and labored effeciently until 1825. In 1818 a great revival was experienced among the church and vicinity during which 103 members were admitted to the church, 93 by baptism and 10 by letter. In 1819 the church dismissed 14 of her members by letters who were afterward constituted into a Baptist church at East Bend. In 1820 John Brady was elected clerk. In 1825 Robert Kirtley who had previously preached his first sermon at Middle Creek was called to the pastorate. During his long pastorate of nearly 40 years some wonderful revivals were experienced in the church. In 1840 31 were added to the church, and on the 13th day of December in 1840 twenty-one members, who had been given letters of dismission from Middle Creek church were organized into a Baptist church at Burlington. On the 25th day of May, 1842 forty-four of Middle Creek's members were orgainized into a regular Gospel church at Big Bone. During this last year from August 1842 to 1843, though they had so greatly reduced their number in planting these other churches the Lord more than made up the deficit by adding unto them 131 by experience and baptism. In 1843 S. P. Brady was elected Church clerk, and continued in that capacity until near his death, covering a period of more than fifty years.

R. E. Kirtley was called to succeed his father as pastor in June,

1865. During his ministry he preached but once a month and a member or other brethren often supplied the pulpit on other Sundays. Brother Kirtley administered to the church with great acceptance for about ten years. Before he discontinued his labors, there he began moving from the cliffs to the town of Bellevue. This did not meet with the approval of the majority of the brethren and finally Brother Kirtley resigned without accomplishing his desired end. Soon after his departure from them the Lord emphasized the necessity of removal by causing a little storm to knock the old house down.

In 1877 Brother A. M. Vardiman was called as pastor and it was during his ministry that a new parsonage and meeting house were built in the town of Bellevue. Brother Vardiman ministered effeciently for about 4 years when he was called to the pastorate of the Madison Ave., Church of Covington. About this time Brother E. N. Dicken was called to Bellevue, and proved himself, not only a successful pastor but the ablest evangelist of all the pastors of the churches of the North Bend Association. Bellevue could not retain him long, however, as Brother Vardiman resigned at Covington and Brother Dicken was called there to succeed him. Brother Carney was then called as pastor to Bellevue and served one year. He was succeeded by the late J. H. Fullilove, one of the most profound preachers and best business men in the Association. He continued successfully in the work until 1891 when he was called home to his reward. It was during this year the church called T. L. Utz who served them for about 8 years. During this period the church had a net growth of 100 members. The most notable meeting held during this time was in 1898, when he had the assistance of M. J. Hoover at that time pastor of the Church at Burlington. Fifty-eight were baptised at the close of the meeting. Soon after this great revival when the prospects were so bright and the possibilities so great, the pastor's health failed and after months had elapsed he was obliged to resign the work into stronger hands. Brother E. B. Atwood was then called and is now the effecient and much beloved pastor.

One of the saddest features of the recent history of the church is the ravage of death among us. Among the many who have passed away during the last decade were three of the most honored deacons, S. P. Brady, J. S. Huey and J. H. Walton. The present officers of the church are E. B. Atwood, pastor and moderator; D. M. Snyder, clerk; Robert Aylor, R. B. Huey, M. J. Corbin and James Spotts, deacons.

For a number of years past a serious detriment to the pleasure and success of the church has been that the congregation has outgrown the dimensions of the house of worship but this difficulty has been obviated this year by the erection of the handsome and comodious edifice as seen in the above picture. So closes the history of the first hundred years of this grand old church.

The first building occupied by the Middle Creek Church, of which we have any account, was a frame building and occupying a site about half way up the Middle Creek hill on the Garnett's Mill and Big Bone road. The building was erected shortly after the organization of the church. Its location was a compromise between the members who resided

north and those living south of Middle Creek. This building was used until about 1829, when the brick building that was destroyed by a storm many years ago, was built. The present new building is the fourth house of worship that the Middle Creek (now Belleview) Baptist church has occupied.

NOTE: This history was written by Brother T. L. Utz and read at the 100th anniversary of the church. Brother Utz served as a pastor two different periods. This was copied from the Boone County Recorder published October 7th, 1903.

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