

## THE BLAIRSVILLE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

This church was organized about 1824 or '25. Prior to this time there had been occasional preaching by Rev. J. Wakefield, a pioneer local preacher, and missionaries. Among the original members, which are said to have numbered twelve, were Jonathan and Elizabeth Kuntz, Stewart and Elizabeth Davis, John M. and Evaline Barber, Henry Keely and Mrs. Dr. Simmons.

The first church was erected at the south end of Liberty street in 1828. The second was built on the adjoining lot in 1847, and the third was constructed partly of the material of the second and used a portion of its foundation, at the expense of about five thousand dollars. The first church cost seven and the second seventeen hundred dollars.

The ministers having charge of the circuit and station were\* as follows: Connellsville circuit, 1, Robert Boyd; 2, John Connelly; 3, David Sharp; 4, Charles Thorn; Blairsville station, 5, Charles Thorn; Blairsville circuit, 6, James G. Sansom; Blairsville station, 7, Nathaniel Callender; 8, Moses Ticknell; 9, Wesley Smith; Blairsville circuit, 10, Gideon D. Kinear; 11, Simon Elliott; 12, John Coil; 13, John L. Williams; 14, Claeb Foster; 15, David S. Welling; 16, Charles Best; 17, William F. Lauck; 18, Abram I. Rich; 19, Samuel H. Nesbit; 20, James Beacom; 21, James Deens; 22, Thomas L. Higgins; 23, Robert Cunningham; 24, John W. Shirer; Blairsville station, 25, Thomas McCleary; 26, Samuel Kennedy; 27, Alexander Scott; 28, Henry C. Beacom; 29, John Grant; 30 William F. Lauck; 31, Franklin Core; and 32, S. Sp. Woolf, the present pastor.

The first trustees were: John Harrold, Daniel Steffy, John M. Barber, Stewart Davis, Henry Keely, Isaac Pierce and Jonathan Doty. Jonathan Kurtz was the first class leader, and it is said the church was organized at his home, and the second leader was Samuel Shearer. The first steward was Stewart Davis.

The present official board consists of Archibald Davis, Esq., John Graff, Samuel Dixon, Robert Johnston, David Davis, Daniel W. Artley, Charles Rugg, Phillip Steffey, S. D. Steffey, John Wynn, Tobias Hammer, William Davis, Chester C. Davis, John G. Long, W. Geer, A. P. Kirkland, Paul Graff and John Bruce.

The present membership is 375. The enrollment of the Sabbath school is 325. The average attendance is 275.

Fourteen young preachers have been sent out from this church. Bishop Wiley was at one time a member of the Blairsville church.

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\* This list does not include the names of their colleagues.