

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHERRY TREE – ORGANIZATION.

The first meeting was held in the house of Richard Bard, Esq., on the first day of September, A. D. 1837. The meeting was organized by selecting H. F. Camp, chairman. It was “*Resolved*, 1st. That we organize ourselves into an ecclesiastical society, under the name and title of the Cherry Tree Presbyterian congregation. 2d. That a committee of five, viz: Wm. Thompson, Esq., Wm. Moore, Matthias Bartlebaugh, John McDowell and David Somerville, be appointed to locate a site for a house of worship and report to an adjourned meeting, to be held on the 16th inst.” At which time the meeting again convened and the committee reported that they had chosen the site offered and given by H. F. Camp for that purpose. The report of the committee was accepted and approved and another committee consisting of John Armstrong, H. F. Camp and Peter Newman was appointed to take subscriptions and build a house and also to manage the temporal concerns of the congregation. The committee having received subscriptions during the remainder of the year 1837, proceeded in the spring of 1838 to the erectin of a house, and on the 29th day of May, 1838, it was so far completed that a meeting for the congregation of the church was held therein. The church was formed at that time by a committee consisting of Rev. John Kirkpatrick and Rev. Erastus Cole, appointed for that purpose by the Presbytery of Blairsville.

The original members were as follows: Matthias Bartlebaugh, Mrs. Betsy Bartlebaugh, Mrs. Elizabeth Cole, Heth. F. Camp, Mrs. Phebe Camp, John Eason, Mrs. Elizabeth Eason, Mrs. Phebe Hollister, Mrs. Catharine Hewett, John Lowman, Mrs. Mary Lowman. Wm. Moore, Mrs. Jane Moore – 13.

John Lowman and Heth. F. Camp were chosen and ordained as elders.

The Rev. E. Cole, who had commenced his labors in this congregation of the first of December, 1837, was then called to become their pastor, and on the first Tuesday of September, 1838, he was regularly installed into that office.

In September, 1839, Mr. Cole removed to the State of Ohio. From that time, for a period of thirteen years, the church was without a pastor.

During the years 1841 and 1842, the Rev. John William, of the Welsh Congregational church, was employed to preach a portion of his time. From 1845 to 1847, the Rev. D. M. Smith, preached as stated supply. After this time the Rev. David Mills, supplied the pulpit for a year or more.

In September, 1859, a call was made for the Rev. William Edgar. This call was not accepted, but Mr. Edgar served the congregation as stated supply for about eighteen months.

In September 1852, the Rev. John Moore, commenced preaching for the congregation, and on the 27th day of January, 1853, he was installed as their pastor, and continued in that office until April 1857. During his pastorate, a new house of worship was erected in the centre of the village. The cost of the building including the lot was about \$3,500.

In the spring of 1858, the Rev. J. P. Kennedy, became the pastor, and served the congregation very acceptably in that capacity, until October, 1868, a period of ten and a half years.

In the summer of 1869, the pulpit was supplied by Mr. T. D. Wallace, a student from the Western Theological Seminary; in 1870 by Mr. S. S. Wylie, also a student of the same seminary; in 1871 and 1872, by Mr. Thomas Parry, from the Theological Seminary at Princeton N. J.;* in 1874 by Mr. D. M. Hazlet, of the Western Theological Seminary, and late missionary to Rio Janeiro, in South America, and from January, 1875 to July, 1876, by Rev. I. N. Diamant.

December, 1879, Mr. Gordon MacKay, a young Evangelist, lately arrived from Scotland, visited the congregation by invitation, and is now, (January, 1880), preaching and doing pastoral work with a view to a permanent settlement.

The following are the names of the members who have served the church in the office of ruling elder, with the date of their ordination:

John Lowman, May 29, 1838; Heth. F. Camp, May 29, 1838; Thomas McKisick, July 11, 1847; William Herrett, July 11, 1847; Shepley Priestly, July 11, 1847; Charles Priestly, July 5, 1851; Robert A. Hamilton, July 5, 1851; John Martin, July 5, 1851; E. B. Camp, March, 1857; Benjamin Pittman, October 4, 1868; William Armstrong, October 4, 1868; James McEwen, October 4, 1868; Leonard A. Hollister, January 12, 1874; John E. Pittman, January, 12, 1874; John Eason, August 25, 1877; John E. Johnson, August 25, 1877.

The whole number of members received into the communion of the church from its organization to the present time is 234. Present membership, 72. On the 3d of September, A. D. 1854, “*The Court*” granted to

* For six months from October, 1873, Rev. John McKean.

this Society a charter of incorporation under the title of “The Presbyterian Church of Cherrytree.”

The first board of trustees under this charter consisted of George M. Gamble, M. D., Matthew M. McConaughy, E. R. Hollister, E. B. Camp, James Kelly and Gideon Kinports.

The present board of trustees consists of John Eason, Esq., Robert McCormick, E. Howard Camp, James Walker, Augustine Craver and B. F. Pitts.

The present ruling elders are: E. B. Camp, William Armstrong, James McEwen, John E. Pittman, John Eason and John E. Johnson.

Sabbath school members, 130; average attendance, 70.