

## Greenfield Churches

*Perhaps the strongest segment of community life in Greenfield is its churches. It is difficult to find a person in town who does not belong to one church or another.. whether he attends regularly or not.*

*The churches are very cooperative and often hold joint meetings and services. The Methodist and U.S.A. Presbyterian Churches hold their vacation church school together each year. Also joint services at Easter.. Thanks- giving and Christmas are held by the Methodist.. both Presbyterian Churches and the Baptist Church.*

*A member of each church has written the following historical summaries.*

### **FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**

The First Baptist Church of Greenfield was organized in 1885. The first church built in 1887 burned in March 1918. The fire originated from a grass fire at the west side of the church. All the records and church books up to this date were destroyed by the fire. The present church was built in 1919 and dedication service was August 15, 1920. Rev. L. D. Summers preached the dedication sermon.

Charter members of the earlier church were: Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Nowlin, Mrs. Effie (Nowlin) Shannon, Mrs. Octavia (Cruise) Casten, Mrs. Elam Pence, Mrs. John Kirby, Mrs. Henry A. Coats, Mr. Jim White, Mrs. Mary (Nowlin) West, Mr. Tucker Moore, Mr. Tucker Moore preached the first sermon after the church was organized.

The pastors in the church since 1912 are: L. D. Summers, Rev. Bell, O. W. Taylor, Tucker Mbore, Lynn Claybrook, L. R. Riley, W. F. Carlton, Ralph Todd, I. E. Wood, G. T. Mayo, W. F. Carlton (second time), O. C. Cooper, A. B. Harrison, Jno. C. Hedrick, O. C. Cooper (second time) , Kester Cotton, Kermet Brann, Stephen Cobb, Melvin Howell.

Some of the early Deacons were: John West, Tom Earls, J. H. Keel, Dr. G. C. Thomas, Bob Ervin. Some others more recent that have served are: Brooks Wright, Clayton Caudle, Henry Elder, Glenwood Kirby, L. C. Miles, Sam Gill. The Deacons now serving are: T. G. Caldwell (

Chairman) , Clay Ervin, Elwood Gorman, Wesley Smith, Bill Hatcher, Ward Johnston, Kenneth Stafford, Norris Faust, Gilbert Williams, Ralph Galloway, Fred Clements, Jack Huggins, Ray Radford.

Members of the First Organized Ladies Aid were: Mrs. Mollie Ervin, Mrs. John West, Mrs. A. C. Perry, Mrs. Will Miller, Mrs. C. Lo Bray, Mrs. J. H. Keel, Mrs. Charlie King.

The Church was remodeled in 1958. A modern, fully equipped nursery was installed 1963-1964. The church was completely air-conditioned in 1964 and the entire area around the church was paved the same year.

The B. Y. P. U. was changed to Baptist Training Union and the present membership is 108.

The church has one of the finest audio visual aids available. The church is also very proud of the newly installed chimes that are heard throughout Greenfield on Sunday mornings.

The Greenfield Baptist Church has increased the mission offering from 10% to 20% in the past few years.

There is a highly successful Bible School each summer and the enrollment in 1964 was 133.

A new parsonage was erected in 1961 and the church property is now valued at \$95,000. The church budget at the present is \$25,000.

The present organists are Mrs. Eugene Caudle and Mrs. Fred Clements. The present Sunday School Superintendent is Mr. Ward Johnston.

### **THE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH**

The Primitive Baptist Church in Greenfield had its organization as a congregation in 1833 at Spring Creek, three miles northeast of here long before the town existed. As our city was being erected, the church was moved to town in 1875. Samuel Baker donated the lot.

Very little recorded history of this pioneer church prior to coming into town is available, only the charter members who were L. D. Cates, Margaret Gates, Inly Cates, Priscilla Mobly, Martin

Lowlin, and Meridith Williamson. At the time of the move to the city Elder J. B. Slate was pastor. He served many years. Other pastors, many of them serving very long pastorates, from 1870 to the middle of 1964 were W. A. Bowden, N. W. Little, W. J. Carnell, S. F. Cayce, K. M. Myatt, J. C. Ross, A. B. Ross, B. D. Bryant, Harvey Smith, E. D. McCutchere, and James Thetford. several others perhaps not ordained ministers are mentioned as fill-ins between pastorates.

During the 1870-1964 period the church had the following church clerks: J. B. M. Allen, J. J. Hillis, F. M. Campbell, W. J. Kimery, John Griffith, J. B. Campbell, Doyle Price, and Hollis Harrison. Most of these too served a long time each.

The first house of worship in town was a frame weather board building. In 1906 during a remodeling process it was turned half around to face the west.

The present stucco building, erected in 1920, was the first of its kind in Greenfield. The first discourse was delivered in it January 1, 1921, by the late Elder J. C. Ross. Records do not indicate who preached the first one in the frame house.

The close of 1963 completed 130 years as an organized congregation, 88 years of which has been in the town of Greenfield. The church record show that many of the pioneers of Greenfield and surrounding community belonged to this band of worshippers who practiced strict discipline.

The house still stands on original site on Evergreen Street in southeast Greenfield.

## **THE CHURCH OF CHRIST**

The first Sunday of May in the year 1879 marked the beginning of the Church of Christ at Greenfield, Tennessee. On that date several people met and covenanted each with the other to keep the ordinances of God as outlined in His word to the best of each one's ability. This simple and yet august resolve was basic to succeeding historical data. It was determined that Brothers F. M. Kennedy and B. F. Bondurant should serve as elders and that Brothers W. M. Kennedy and W. J. Orrell should serve as deacons. These men were to be succeeded by numerous men who have commanded admiration not only from members of the church but also from Greenfield's

citizenry.

Among the many men who have served as elders for the congregation the following list, with apologies to the ones omitted, presents names familiar to Greenfield history: Brothers J. B. Jones, J. B. Overton, R. H. Kinney, Allen Sharp, J. H. Swinney, J. L. Holland, C. C. Cox, Hugh Williams, John D. Tosh, T. P. Priestley, W. H. Whitis, I. N. Overton, W. C. Overton, Robert Medling, J. V. Davidson and Buford Kee.

The congregation has been blessed by numerous men and ,vomen of outstanding teaching abilities. Prominent among those are: Brothers John D. Tosh, R. F. Beliew, W. C. Deuberry, J. H. Swinney, T. P. Priestley, Jesse Swindell; Sisters Mattie Etheridge, Cora Williamson, Stella Whitis, Betty Williams, and Bird Overton.

Of pointed significance were the efforts of Brother J. L. Holland, who served as an elder and teacher and minister at Greenfield. Brother Holland managed to travel over a very large portion of West Tennessee preaching the gospel by which work he was able to establish many congregations in a number of our counties. He was in constant demand for meetings, for funerals and for weddings. Both written and oral records testify that the inconvenience of travel and the distance from home were never forbidding factors in Brother Holland's answer to the many requests directed his way.

The congregation remembers with holy joy such good members as: Brother and Sister Hillary Moseley; Brother R. F. Beliew and his rare singing talent; Sister Aunt Sally Medling; Sister Jenny Swindell; the late Broher Buford Kee, an elder, for his liberalities and for his ability as a leader. These as well as many unnamed were stalwarts in the family of God.

The first building used by the brethren was a frame building located to the south of the present meeting house. In 1905 the present location replaced the former and a building was erected which in part forms the present auditorium. More recent improvements have granted classrooms, modern heating and air-conditioning, carpeting, a balcony, and a nursery .

The somewhat incomplete records of the congregation are embellished by names of illustrious gospel ministers who have conducted meetings at Greenfield and who were known throughout

the United States. Some of

these are: Brothers J. W. Dunn, N. B. Hardeman, G. C. Brewer, A. O. Colley, Ira Douthitt, Boone Douthitt, Charles Taylor, Hugo McCord, L. S. Thite, L. L. Brigance, Claude Hall, H. S. Copeland, and E. H. Smith.

Any account of days past minus a pointed reference to Brother Fred Chunn of Henry, Tennessee, would be most faulty. Few men have left a more indelible stamp upon the members than has Brother Chunn. The very mention of his name evokes words of praise and gratitude from many members.

Brother S. W. Baker was the first full time minister. The congregation purchased a home for the preacher when Brother Baker came. Since that time another home has been purchased and sold and the present home purchased. The present home is among the very best granted unto ministers by congregations in the State of Tennessee. Recent improvements on the home have been effected. Other ministers who have favored the church with excellent ministries are: Brothers E. L. Frieland, Ernest Boone, Eddie Coats) David Reeves, T. R. Jones, Charles Leonard and Robert McKenzie.

Through the efforts of these men and others the congregation has managed a stable growth featuring present average Bible study attendance of over 300 and a worship attendance frequently at the 400 mark. The congregation is free of any indebtedness and currently has several thousand dollars in a building fund to which money is being added for future building needs.

The activity of the present membership is indicated by: ( 1) Monthly support of orphan homes with special contributions swelling this figure; (2) monthly contribution to the nationally televised Herald of Truth program; (3) a daily radio program over Martin, Tennessee, radio station; ( 4) a weekly bulletin mailed to 300 families; ( 5) an annual vacation Bible School which features a daily average attendance in excess of 200; (6) a gospel meeting held in August of each year featuring some of America's greatest gospel preachers; ( 7) a very active benevolent program enabling the officers to answer all calls they receive for money, clothing or food; (8) special response to calls from congregations throughout the United States for help; (9) scheduled Bible study hours and worship assemblies; ( 10) congregational appearances at the Weakley County rest home for devotional services.

The current elders are: Brothers J. B. Mraness, W. C. Medling, Grover C. Day, Harley Medling. Brothers Raymond Adams, W. J. Deuberry, John Dunlap, Cecil James, Edward Maness, Lawrence Dunn, and Denton Davidson serve as the deacons. Brother Don W. Kester is the minister.

The congregation frankly expresses its gratitude and indebtedness to all the people of Greenfield for countless courtesies granted to it in past days and in present ones. It is truly believed by members of the congregation that godly lives are not only pleasing to God but that they prove a boon to any community. For the holy splendors from 1879 unto 1964 the church bows in a prayer of thanksgiving before the Almighty God and before countless friends current and past.

### **THE GREENFIELD METHODIST CHURCH**

The Greenfield Methodist Church, like so many other worthwhile societies and institutions, was organized to meet a need. As the community of Greenfield grew it brought together a group of people who dearly loved the Methodist Church and who, away from mother churches, were in need of a place to assemble themselves in worship" For several years this group of Methodists was most anxious to organize a church of their own.

In June of 1887, the group under the leadership of J. R. (Jimmie) Jones, his family and friends and Rev. Finley Bynum, who was then pastor of the Sharon Circuit which consisted of Sharon, Mt. Vernon, Beech Grove, Travis Chapel and Brock's Chapel Methodist churches, was able to organize a church with eleven charter members. These charter members were J. R. Jones, Mrs. Fannie Jones, Mary Lou Jones, Toler Jones, J. R. Heath, Mrs. M. J. Heath, Roger B. Brasfield, L. Coke Brasfield, Mary Carter, Lena Bowden and William Carter, who joined this church on profession of faith.

Soon after the organization of the local church seven more members united with the band of eleven. They were W. E. and Sallie Kirby, Mrs. B. A. Hummel, I. S. Simpson, Mrs. B. A. Simpson, J. W. Perkins and H. W. Perkins.

Bro. Bynum was able to report to the Annual Conference of 1887 the organization of a

Methodist Church at Greenfield which had eighteen members, who had moved their membership mostly from Brock's Chapel and Liberty Methodist Churches. Not only at the beginning of Greenfield Methodism, but down through the years these two Methodist Churches, Liberty and Brock's Chapel, have given Greenfield many of their finest members. Liberty was the home of the Jones and Brasfield families and Brock's Chapel the home of the Ben F. Brock family.

Since, at the time of the organization of the Greenfield Church, Brock's Chapel was located only one mile from Greenfield, there was a mutual agreement that when the Greenfield Church was built, Brock's Chapel would be moved farther from Greenfield. This was done as soon as the Brock's Chapel church could agree upon a location. In 1894 the present Brock's Chapel Church was erected where it now stands.

In the fall of 1888, Rev. R. W. Newsome was assigned to the Sharon Circuit, of which the new Greenfield organization was a part. There were no new additions to the church during this year; but we know that Bro. Jimmie Jones was ever active as the chairman of the Board of Stewards and as Sunday School Superintendent.

The new church held worship services in the Church of Christ building at the site where their present house of worship now stands until the fall of 1889. This year proved to be one of real growth, for thirty-two members were added to the roll.

The present church lot was bought from R. W. Barton for \$18.00 on July 9, 1889, with Roger B. Brasfield, who was a leader of the church from the time of organization until his death in 1932, acting as the purchasing agent. The first trustees were J. R. Jones, R. E. Kirksey, W. E. Kirby, J. R. Heath, W. R. Hawks, W. B. White and R. B. Brasfield.

The Building Committee for this first church was J. R. Jones, R. B. Brasfield, J. R. Heath and possibly others. Ben F. Brock and his sons, of Brock's Chapel helped much in the erecting of the church for they were carpenters. As has been ever characteristic of American Citizens, many people who were not members of the church donated money, labor and material toward the erection of the building, which was a straight, rectangular building.

Bro. Newsom left the three-year-old organization greatly increased in number and well housed for the advancing of the Kingdom of God.

In the fall of 1889 the annual conference sent to Greenfield the minister, who naturally loved the young church as none other of her ministers could. Bro. R. E. Brasfield, better known as Bro. Bob Brasfield, a brother of Roger B. Brasfield, was one of the finest pastor-evangelists in the conference. The church grew in numbers and strength as this great soul winner served as her minister for three years.

Greenfield became a station in 1894 with the salary for the pastor set at \$250.00 and for the Presiding Elder at \$15.00. But we are told that this small salary was supplemented through our benevolent offerings. By the year 1895 an Epworth League was active with a membership of about 50 which met once a week.

In 1898 Bro. Julian J. Thomas was sent to Greenfield to begin his ministry of four years, and then, after being absent for two years he was returned to serve two more years. At this time Greenfield was connected not only with Brock's Chapel, but also Mt. Herman and Shiloh. This arrangement lasted only a few years. This circuit had 279 members and paid the pastor \$575.00 and the Presiding Elder \$45.00. During the four years of Bro. Thomas's ministry, he received into the church 89 members, and all of the members grew in grace because of the spirit and the example of the pastor .

In eighteen years the Greenfield Church had grown from a small church of eleven members to one of 200 members. It had outgrown her first house of worship and something had to be done about it to better meet the needs of the congregation. We might say that the Greenfield Methodist Church had become of age. Rev. J. H. Evans, D.D., was sent to this charge in 1906 and soon definite action was taken toward remodeling the church. Some wanted an entirely new building, but after much discussion it was decided that the congregation could not afford a new building. On Feb, 6, 1906, Thomas Allen, E. W. Jeter and Roger B. Brasfield were appointed to raise the necessary funds for remodeling the church. The building was changed to include two wings, which were used for Sunday School rooms. New pulpit furniture, windows, pews and carpets were bought and the building was nicely painted and covered with a good roof. The carpets were



purchased by the ladies at the cost of \$164.56. All of the expense of repairing and refurnishing the church was paid for during the year of 1906. The total amount of expenditures was \$1,487.54. Dr. J. H. Evans left at the end of his first year, having seen the church building put in a fine state of repair and well furnished and all obligations plaid for. He received into the church 29 members.

On Monday afternoon, October 26, 1908, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Baker burned, causing the next house, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Coats, to catch on fire, and from that fire the Methodist church and parsonage caught. The Ladies Aid Society, organized in 1896, had been responsible for the erection of this parsonage. From the church the pews and pulpit furniture, and other furnishings were saved. A good part of the parsonage furniture was also saved. There was carried \$2,200.00 insurance on both buildings, which was paid and used in the rebuilding of the church.

On the Sunday after the fire, the congregation met for services in the old opera house which was above what is now Bland's Grocery. The meeting of the congregation and the sermon by Bro. Armstrong was long to be remembered. At this time a large sum of money was raised for the building of the church. Later, until the new church was completed, the congregation worshipped in the Coats building now occupied by City Florist.

The building committee for the new church consisted of the pastor, W. W. Armstrong, Chairman; D. E. Brock, Secretary and Treasurer; Thomas Allen, E. W. Jeter, J. R. Fowlkes and R. B. Brasfield. Mr. Ruben A. Heaver of Jackson was employed to draw the plans for the new church.

He did so, building this church on a smaller but similar plan to that of the Union City Methodist Church.

The church was finished in plenty of time to entertain the Annual Conference of 1909. The delegates to the Annual Conference contributed some- thing like \$2,000.00 toward the debt on the church. This left the remaining debt of \$1,300.00 which the stewards assumed. From time to time the stewards paid on this note, but this debt and the matter of a parsonage long bothered and depressed the church. The church was dedicated at the conference of 1909 by Bishop E. R. Hendrix.

The difficulties of the church for the next ten years are a reflection of the conditions that every business and every person in Greenfield was experiencing. Because the timber business had greatly slackened and the Box Factory was changing hands and going out of business many of the best members of the church had to leave Greenfield to find employment.

The Conference of 1909 which Greenfield so royally entertained moved Bro. Armstrong and sent Bro. J. W. Waters, who labored faithfully for one year, receiving sixteen into the church. The next year Bro. C. H. Hilliard worked hard at his task and received thirteen members into the church. We find that only \$750.00 was paid to the pastor and that the Epworth Leagues were discontinued and the Sunday School fell off in attendance. The Conference of 1911 sent Bro. E. H. Steward as pastor. Progress was made toward paying off the church debt and a good revival was held which resulted in about thirty conversions though only fifteen joined the church during the year.

During the ministry of Bro. R. B. Freeman, we find a decided improvement in the church. The Epworth Leagues were reorganized and in 1914 the great revival was held at Brock's Chapel with 56 additions to the church. The matter of a parsonage was beginning to take definite form and the collection for the Benevolent interests of the church was greatly improved. It was during the years 1915 and 1916 that the parsonage was bought and almost paid for. Since fire had destroyed the first parsonage the preachers had lived around in various houses that were rented mostly by the church. Sometimes they had to pay the rent themselves. The house bought in the year 1915 for a parsonage was located on the highway north of town near the city limits. This was later sold and a frame building where the parsonage now stands was purchased in 1924. This building housed pastors and their families until 1956 when, weary with age, it had to be replaced. A new three bedroom brick parsonage was built at this time.

From the records we have we judge that the church work moved along in a rather quiet and steady manner from the years 1916 to 1930 when the Annual Conference sent to Greenfield Bro. K. G. Dunn for two years. It was in these years of 1931 and 1932 that the depression was the hardest. Brother Dunn worked hard at his task and did much good work. If the financial condition had been otherwise most likely his ministry would have been one of the very best in the history of the church. Because of the awful financial conditions of the time, the leaders of the church

thought it best to form a double station with either Sharon or Bradford. Both of the banks in town had to close or reorganize and the people were very much discouraged. This attempt at a double station was not successful for others realized that the financial conditions of 1932 would not last long.

In the fall of 1932 Bro. Wayne A. Lamb and his most capable wife came to minister to the needs of the Greenfield people. During his four years Bro" Lamb received into the church 113 members. Every department of the church received new strength and power as a result of the consecration and hard work of Bro. and Mrs. Lamb.

Practically no repair had been done on the church building since it was built. During Bro. Lamb's ministry, a furnace was installed, a new roof put on the church and the interior redecorated at the cost of \$2,000.00,

During the years 1938-46 one of the best loved ministers to ever serve Greenfield Charge was W. T. Barnes. He and his wife, Frances, worked faithfully with the Epworth League. The next few years average progress was made under T. Stacey Reddick, W. C. Moore, and V. C. Banks.

In 1948 a beautiful electric Hammond Organ was presented to the church by Mrs. Lyndell Harris in memory ,of her father, G. J. Brasfield, and her son George Doran Harris. In 1951 when T. C. Brown was pastor a much needed carpet was laid in the sanctuary at the cost of about \$1,800.00.

Our Educational building was started during the ministry of Bro. Joe C. Humes, which consists of seven church school rooms, two rest rooms, a large dining hall and nicely equipped kitchen. During our revivals breakfast is served to around one hundred people each morning that the weather is nice. This dining area can accommodate 125 people comfortably.

Bro. W. T. Wren came at a time when leadership was greatly needed, as the debt of the educational building was a great burden for our congregation.

June 1956 brought many changes and much progress under the W. H. Granberry guidance. This was the beginning of a new era. In the fall of 1956 (with the money in the bank) a lovely three bedroom brick parsonage was built. Heat throughout the church was changed from electric to gas, air conditioning installed, sanctuary redecorated, all stained glass windows were cleaned and re-

led. Also during the years 1956-63 a most worthwhile group, Methodist Men, was organized. The first president of this organization was M. H. Rourke, eighteen charter members were added to the roll.

The year 1963 found new chandeliers hanging in the sanctuary, the pastor's study was moved to a freshly decorated room with new furniture, a men's lounge was donated in memory of Mrs. Ola Brasfield, Mamie DeShong, Alice Brasfield and Minnie Overton, new concrete steps and walk poured in front of the building. These things and much more were done by means of special donations.

It might be interesting to note that during the 78 years our church has been in existence only nine men have served as Church School Superintendent. The first was Bro. Jimmy Jones, who served from 1887 until W. B. White was appointed and served until 1898. T. G. Hummel was next elected and held this position until the middle of the year 1902 and D. F. Wren was appointed in his place. B. T. Allen was to follow next and served until his death in 1911. The next forty-eight years, G. J. Brasfield devoted faithful service to this task. Mike Elam served the next six years. Then in 1952 R. L. Milligan was appointed. He gave eleven years of hard work to this rewarding job. For one and one half years James Clark gave of his time and talents. Then again in January of 1965 R. L. Milligan resumed the Church School Superintendent's position.

Down through these past seventy-eight years our women's organization has been blessed with good leadership, time, and talents to use in the progress that has been made. The Woman's Society of Christian Service and Wesleyan Service Guild is continuing the heritage passed on by their founders of contributing to the needs of the world. Through their contribution missions have been supported throughout the world. The Woman's Society of Christian Service is a fellowship of women, the largest organization of women in the world. One of the most important functions of these groups is the spiritual nurture of our membership.

The church has grown steadily through the years until the present, now having a membership of 275.

#### **THE MINISTERS WHO HAVE SERVED THE GREENFIELD METHODIST CHURCH**

Finley Bynum 1887 Wellborn Mooney 1902 R. W. Newsome. 1888-1889 E. B. Graham. 1903 R.

E. Brasfield. 1890-1892 Julian J. Thomas. 1904-1905 Job R. Bell 1893 J. H. Evans 1906 J. T. C. Collins 1894-1895 W. W. Armstrong 1907-1909 J. B. Pearson 1896 J. W. Waters 1910 Henry C. Johnson 1897 C. H. Hilliard 1911 Julian J. Thomas. 1898-1901 E. H. Steward. 1912 R. B. Freeman. 1913-1914 James T. Walker. 1938 S. M. Criffin 1915-1916 W. T. Barnes 1939-1946 Ben F. Fuzzell. 1917-1918 T. Stacy Riddick. 1946-1947 W. C. Nall. 1919-1920 William C. Moore. 1947-1948 J. W. Carnell. 1921-1923 E. C. McCaslin. 1949 O.C. Wrather 1924 Vernon C. Banks 1950 E.F. McDaniel 1925 T.C. Brown 1950-1953 T. C. McKelvey. 1926 Joe C. Hulmes. 1953-1954 A. C. Melton. 1927-1930 W. T. Wren. 1954-1956 Knox G. Dunnl. 1931-1932 W. H. Cranberry. 1956-1962 Wayne A. Lamb. 1932-1936 W. L. Stephenson. 1963-1965 B.J. Russell 1937 R. F. Blankenship 1965

### **UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH**

The United Pentecostal Church had its beginning in 1950 when Kenneth V. Reeves held a tent revival in Greenfield. Donations of \$200.00 by W. M. Creer, \$100.00 each by H. A. Raines and Kenneth Reeves were made. Land was purchased from Tom Crooms and wife. The property is 150 by 200 ft. The lumber was bought from the Milan Arsenal and the work was contributed by different men of the church.

There have been six pastors, the first being Bro. B. L. Hollis. The other five are Brown Turner, Cene Hankins, Cecil Spears, Jesse Coff; the present pastor is Rollin Torrance.

The first trustees were Lee Carl Williams, Hollis Raines, Kenneth V. Reeves.

### **THE CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

The Cumberland Presbyterian Church was organized near Dickson in 1810. The First Cumberland Presbyterian Church of Greenfield was organized in the early 1800's. In 1906 there was a division of this church. One group is now U .S. A. Presbyterian and the other Cumberland Presbyterian.

The first pastor of the Cumberland group (after 1906) was Rev. P. F. Johnson, Dean of Bethel College at that time. He served this church as pastor from 1906 until 1925. Between 1906-1918 this group was without a place to worship and the meetings were held in homes, the Masonic Hall and sometimes in the Primitive Baptist Church.

The church they are now in was built in 1918. Since Rev. Johnson left in 1925 other ministers that have served the church are: Rev. B. F. Guinn, R. S. Jackson, O. A. Gardner, Howard Herndon, Edd Clover, The Rev. Klahr Raney, Donald Danner, Jimmy Cooper, J. B. Burnes and at the present the Rev. Tommy Jobe. This church held church services only once a month until about 1930 and since then it has been twice a month.

There has been a Women's Auxiliary since 1918, at the present Mrs. James Jobe is president. Harold Faust is the present Supt. of Sunday School. Jack Hornbeak is the church clerk and Ray O'Guinn is the treasurer. The present membership is 60, and the organist is Mrs. W. E. Hornbeak with Kay O'Guinn and Evelyn McAdams assisting.

The present minister, Rev. Tommy Jobe, has recently acquired a bride, Miss Gloria Dancer. They were married in November 1964.

The charter members of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in 1906 are as follows: Mr. and Mrs. Joe Dudley, Mr. and Mrs. M. Foust, Mr. and Mrs. Jessee Foust, Mr. and Mrs. Cullen B. Foust, Dr. W. W. Mitchell, Mr. and Mrs. George Mitchell, Mr. and Mrs. Well Mooney, Mr. and Mrs. Ned Hatcher, Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Hornbeak, Mr. Tommy Hornbelak, Mr. and Mrs. Will Womble, Mr. Edd Womble, Mrs. Bell Argo, Mrs. Tela Barton, Mr. and Mrs. Nell Johnson, Mrs. Lela Grooms, Mrs. Martha Baker, Mrs. Doron, Mr. and Mrs. E. Knight, Mr. and Mrs. Billy Hornbuckle, Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Needham, Mrs. Billy Overton, Mrs. E. Sims, Mrs. Henry Cochran, Mrs. C. J. Dudley.

#### **THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U.S.A.**

The first church organized in the community that is now the City of Greenfield was the Presbyterian. In 1837 a group of people built a small log cabin and used it for a church, school, and community center. This was called The Church of Ebenezer, meaning "stone of help." The first elder of the Ebenezer church was Jessie Foust, Sr. A roving preacher conducted services in this church for many years.

In 1868 a minister by the name of Rev. E. W. Edwards served the church for one year and three months, An acre of land was given to the Ebenezer church by Mr. Joe H. Ward and on this piece of property a larger building was built of hand made boards, with cypress timber roof. Most of the lumber, and labor was donated and the outlay of money was only three hundred dollars. This building was located on the site of the present Presbyterian Cemetery .

In 1870 the Ebenezer church joined the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in the Hopewell Presbytery. All the people of the community attended this church as it was approximately ten years before any other churches were organized.

About twelve preachers served this church before Dr. Bruce W. Mitchell came in 1893. He remained for one year and six months. Dr. Mitchell, with daughters Ruby, Wilma and Mable returned to Greenfield in 1922, when he retired. He is remembered, during this period of time, for his talks to God in prayer, and for his great spiritual influence and guidance, until his death in 1933.

By 1897 the church had grown so Large that a new two story brick building was constructed on the same site. The old frame building was sold, torn down, and a house, now owned by Mrs. Henry Cochran, just east of Highway 45E was built of the material. Rev. J. D. Lewis was pastor, and was serving the church for the second time. Mrs. H. S. Ward had organized a Women's Missionary Society with about forty women as members.

In 1902 Rev. T. W. Cannon with his wife and children, Bruce, Emma, Ruby, and Tom, came to the Greenfield church. Rev. Cannon was pastor for two and one half years before he died of a heart attack here. At this time Joe Hatcher was Clerk of the Session and Andrew Coats was church Treasurer. The Missionary Society with Mrs. Ann Ward as President had forty-four members. A large pump organ had been bought and Mrs. Essie Swearingen Barton served as organist. Mrs. Claude Moseley taught a Sunday School Class of twenty-seven young women. Miss Hattie Ward had the Christian Endeavor with fifty-eight young members. Dr. H. F. Hudson was Sunday School Superintendent.

Rev. O. E. Gardner, one of the most beloved pastors, came in 1904. The church now was very

strong in membership and in spiritual leadership. Prof. J. B. Reed was church Treasurer, and served faithfully until his death in 1933. Mrs. W. T. Smith and Mrs. S. L. Maiden were church organists.

About this time Presbyterian Churches were splitting over church doctrine. In the local church, a part of the members stayed with the Cumberland Presbyterian, and others joined the Presbyterian U .S. A. In the spring of 1912 the church building was given by court decision to the Presbyterian U.S.A. Church. The new Presbyterian U.S.A. church joined the West Tennessee Presbytery in April 1912.

In 1916 Mrs. J. B. Reed organized the Guild. Almost all the women of the church belonged to this organization until it disbanded in 1945. Mrs. Sam D. Baker was President ,of this group for over twenty years.

One Sunday morning in February, 1917, the brick church, constructed twenty years before, was completely destroyed by fire. All church books, records, etc., were lost. Rev. G. D. Robinson was pastor at this time and helped in starting the new church building. The first service was held in the present building in February, 1920, preached by Rev. J. D. Martin, pastor. Prof. J. B. Reed offered the first prayer. The building was dedicated on June 24, 1923, with Rev. Robert McInturff., pastor. The building committee consisted of A. J. Barton, E. M. Shannon, W. E. McAdams, P. D. Harris, E. N. J. Brock, and J. W. Perry. One of the outstanding features of the church is the series of memorial stained glass windows. P. D. Harris was clerk of the Session and served for twenty-two years. Prof. J. B. Reed was church Treasurer. The Sunday School Superintendent was Dr. H. T. Hudson, the Secretary and Treasurer of the Sunday School was E. M. Shannon. Mrs. Essie Barton was church Organist. Mrs. S. L. Maiden was Secretary of the Missionary Society and continued to be Secretary and Treasurer until that Society disbanded in 1960.

During the four years 1925-1929, with Rev. Carl V. Brown as pastor, the church membership increased and the Sunday School attendance was the largest in the church history. Mr. Joe Hatcher was teacher of the Men's Bible Class with approximately seventy-five on roll. Mrs. Frank Edmundson was the teacher of the Adult Women's Class with forty on roll. Mrs. Horace



Drewry was teacher of the Beginners Class and remained so for over forty years. Mrs. J. B. Reed and Miss Brooxie Hatcher were teachers for several years. The Christian Endeavor was led by Mrs. Carl V. Brown. Mrs. Thomas Lloyd Grooms was church organist.

Beginning in 1935, Rev. L. M. Real was pastor for five years. Rev. and Mrs. Real were social workers and helped the town in many ways. Rev. Real was a favorite with the young people. C. A. Huffstettler was Sunday School Superintendent, Horace G. Drewry was Sunday School Treasurer and T. W. Cannon was clerk of the Session. The Christian Endeavor under the leadership of Mrs. Will Barton, had grown until about seventy-five youths met at the church every Sunday evening. Mrs. Steve Lett was President of the Missionary Society and remained so for about sixteen years. In April of 1941 a young Women's Missionary Society was organized by Mrs. Will Barton. The seven charter members were Mrs. Richard Barton, President, Mrs. Robert Elam, Mrs. W. J. Coats, Mrs. Jack McAdams, Mrs. George McAdams, Mrs. W. B. Liggett, and Mrs. Edward Smith. This organization is now known as the United Presbyterian Women's Association and has grown to a membership of twenty-five.

In 1942 Rev. S. O. Payne came as pastor of the church, with his wife and son, James Franklin, and served for sixteen years. In addition to his spiritual leadership of the church, he was a leader in Community activities, serving as President of the Rotary Club and as Scout Master of the Boy Scout Troop.

In 1957, the church lost its oldest member, Mr. H. O. Elam, at ninety- eight and one half years. He had served the church as elder for seventy-seven years.

In 1958 at the General Assembly The United Church of North America and The Presbyterian Church U .S. A. were united into one church body known as The United Presbyterian Church of the U .S. A. At that time the Greenfield churchll became The United Presbyterian Church.

Rev. Paul C. Dickenson, with his wife and daughter Maryelda, came to the church as pastor in 1962. Rev. Dickenson has proven to be a true Christian and a citizen of whom the town is proud. In 1964, Will Edd Akin was clerk of the Session and Treasurer of the church. Ben Hatcher was Sunday School Superintendent, W. Richard Barton was Sunday School Treasurer, and Mrs.

George McAdams church organist. The board of Elders was as follows: P. D. Harris, R. R. McUmbler, C. A. Huffstetler, Will Edd Akin (clerk), Horace G. Drewry, Legal C. Thorn, T. W. Cannon, Maurice E. Belew, Harold Moseley, W. Richard Barton, Phil B. Harris, Roy E. Barton, Conyer T. Rawls, Donald Cannon, Walter R. Pope.

This church has had a prominent place in the growth of the community from its beginning and the names of its members are names that are found throughout the pages of this book in the leadership and development of Greenfield.

### **LIST OF PASTORS**

Edwards, E. W. 1868 1 year, 3 months Dunlap, J.B.M. 1870 1 year  
Liles, M. 1872 2 months Davidson, W.L. 1872 1 year, 3 months Zarico, W. M. 1873 1 year, 10 months Edwards, E. W. 1876 6 months Zarico, W. M. 1876 11 months McLeskey, Joe 1877 1 year, 6 months Cooper, Abner 1879 2 years, 6 months Flannikin, F. P. 1881 1 year Lewis, J.D 1882 1 year Hendrix, W.W. 1884 11 months McLeskey, Joe 1885 7 years, 7 months Mitchell, Bruce G. 1893 1 year, 6 months Smith, J. Frank 1895 8 months VVebe, B. Wren 1895 1 year Lewis, J. D. 1897 1 year, 11 months Anthony, R. H. 1899 1 year, 7 months Obounow, S. L. 1901 1 year, 2 months Cannon, T. W. 1902 2 years, 5 months Gardner, O.E. 1904 (died) Crafton, C.E. 1911 6 years, 11 months Ostles, W.W. 1914 1 year, 11 months Robinson, G.D. 1916 1 year, 9 months Martin, J. D. 1920 3 years, 8 months McInturff, Robert. 1923 3 years, 7 months Brown, Carl Victor. 1925 2 years, 1 month Shelby, C. Levi 1930 4 years, 2 months Real, L.M. 1935 4 years, 5 months Davidson, P. O. 1940 5 years Payne, S.O. 1942 1 year, 5 months Pritchard, Thos. 1960 16 years, 3 months Dickenson, Paul C. 1962 1 year, 10 months

### **FOUR COLORED CHURCHES**

#### **AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

The Allens Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church was established and built by the late Ellis Allen, Sr., in 1897 with around 100 members.

It burned and was rebuilt in 1921 with Reverend Chalmers pastor at that time. Stewards at this time were Bob Hornbeak and Cades Hornbeak.

The A.M.E. Church was torn down and rebuilt at the present location on Walnut Street in the mid 1940's. The membership at that time was 35. It now has only 18 members.

The present Stewards are Early Allen and Edgar Brasfield. Mrs. Niannie Allen is Trustee and Mrs. Emily Jones, recorder. The present pastor is Reverend Robert Washum.

### **METHODIST CHURCH**

The Johnson Tabernacle Christian Methodist Episcopal Church ( colored) was established and built by the late Lem Ransom and Reverend H. H. Edmons. At that time the church was named Edmons Chapel. It was then located south of the city by the railroad with a membership of approximately 75.

It was torn down and rebuilt in 1939 at the present location. It was also renamed for the minister, Reverend R. V. Johnson. The present membership is about 50. The present Stewards are N. T. Tyler, Laconia Higgs, James C. Wright and Will Tyler. Stewardess in the Ladies Division are Mrs. Viola Allen, President; Mrs. Alice Duncan, President Missionary Society; Mrs. James Wright, Chairman; Mrs. Eunice Higgs) Recording Secretary.

The present minister is Reverend S. Marman of Memphis. He preaches every other Sunday.

### **THE WALNUT STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST**

This colored congregation was established in the year 1950 under the preaching of evangelist A. C. Holt of Detroit, Michigan.

This congregation had a membership of thirty, there have been several additions since that time; although some have gone to other cities in search of employment.

This church was made possible by the efforts of the Front Street Church of Christ and the people of the Kimery Store Community, both of Greenfield, Tennessee. Brother Brents Priestley was the chief architect.

At this writing the church has as its minister John Harris of Milan. Claudean Tansil is the Bible School instructor. Teawillie Tansil is the acting secretary and Alphens Hombeak the treasurer.

## **ST. LUKE'S BAPTIST CHURCH**

The St. Luke Church was established in 1884. This colored church was erected in 1901 with the first pastor being Reverend Norman.

The early deacons of this church were Bill Ward, Zike Watt and Ike Seward.

The church is still located at the same address on East Main. The church originally had 75 members, and at the present has a membership of 64.

There are 16 choir members, and the present deacons are Oscar Tyler, James McMullins, Bethel Witherspoon, Odis Woodward, Charles (Pete) Jones, Leroy Simmons and Robert Jeter. Mrs. Emma Jane Bell is Missionary President, Leroy Simmons is the Clerk and the pastor is Reverend A. E. Willoughly.

**Bennie M alone**

Bennie Malone, son of Rufus and Dora Haggs Malone, was born in Weakley County in 1886. As a young man he worked for the railroad. He also worked for Keel and Drewry Company for 35 years. Even after retirement he worked part time as a carpenter .

He was a member of St. Luke Baptist Church and was superintendent of the Sunday School class for 55 years. He also taught Sunday School for 40 years.

Bennie Malone was one of the most important and influential leaders in the colored community of Greenfield. He is sadly missed since his death on February 9, 1964.