

## The Churches of Greene County



*Photo credit: Sylvia Bright*

### Albright UMC

[Link to pictures of Albright UMC stained glass windows](#)

Old Stage Road near Limestone TN,  
 In 1926 the United Brethren Conference bought the brick buildings built in 1856 from the Presbyterians. Rev. J.A. Johnson organized the congregation. Conference evangelist,  
 Conducted several successive revivals as a result of many added many members.  
 Two pastors in Tennessee conference are pastors from this church, Rev, E.B. Jeffers and Rev. Dwight Kennedy.  
 In 1952 an educational unit was added to the back of the church.  
 On November 16, 1946 the United Brethren and Evangelical Churches were merged at General Conferences in Pennsylvania. On April, 1968 The E.U.B. Churches and the Methodist Churches were merged so now Albright United Methodist is of the Holston Methodist Conference.  
 In the Spring of 1972 the old brick sanctuary was demolished and present church was built with an educational unit. First services were held in the new sanctuary in 1972.  
 A dedication service was held when the whole church was complete in 1975. Sylvia Bright



*Photo by: Sylvia Bright*

### Antioch UMC

Marvin Road, Bulls Gap. Tennessee  
 Antioch Meeting House , Marvin, Greene County was first served by a minister in 1847  
 In 1856 land for the present church was deeded by Felix Wells to the trustees of the church. The deed stated that they should erect .....thereon a house or place of worship  
 For the use of members of the Methodist Episcopal Church South.  
 One Poplar log provided the weatherboarding and another the wainscoting and pews.  
 An innovation in the church building was the sloping floor which allowed better viewing of the pulpit by the congregation. A statement of the cost of the meeting house was made by Felix Wells : Bill for building the house.....\$118.00  
 Pulpit..... 5.50  
 Beam across the center of the house... 2.00  
 25 seats with backs..... 18.75  
 7 seats without backs..... 2.62 and half

146.87 and half  
 Payments by the people 144.30  
 Amount due: \$2.57 and half  
 Completion of the fellowship hall in 1991 with classrooms, kitchen and restrooms shows the continuence of the church to the people. Land for the old cemetery was given by Farmer Williams son of Benjamun Williams. At the foot of the old cemetery lay slaves. Sylvia Bright



*Photo by: Sylvia Bright*

**Asbury UMC**

Asbury United Methodist Church  
 Main Street

The Methodist Episcopal Church of Greeneville was organized in 1875. The members met in an upper room in the court house until a traditional frame church was built on the present site as now in on 1875. In 1911 a cornerstone for a large new church was laid. As the stately brick structure neared completion, visionary leaders planed that the church should be open for worship, dedicated to God and presented to the Holston Conference. All in the same day. So a congregation of 326 gathered on April 21, 1912 to carry out that plan. The church then received the name Asbury Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church, in honor of Frances Asbury who has in 1792 lodged in a hotel which stood on this same spot.

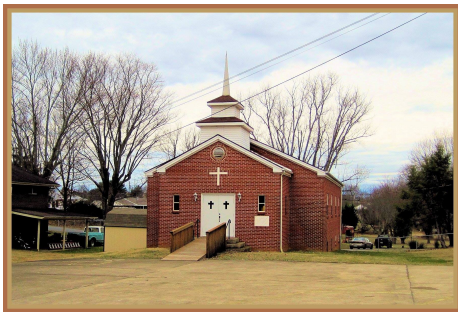
In 1939 the northern and southern churches merged forming the Methodist churches. In 1951 the Educational Building was completed. In 1955 the sanctuary was renovated. With the merger of the United Brethren Church and the Methodist Church the name was changed to Asbury United Methodist Church. In 1966 a major building expansion was completed. With the building of a new fellowship hall and chapel, new educational rooms, elevator, and renovation of existing structure. The present membership is 885. Sylvia Bright

**Ashway Pentecostal Holiness Church**

Ashville, Highway

In 1959 a group of people got together and wanted to worship God their way. They formed the church then and started building a church building to meet in. The Cutshall family were the founding fathers and instrumental in getting things moving. They bought some land with a white house on it. The white house would be the parsonage. The congregation grouped together to help build the church. It was started with one member bringing in a backhoe and starting on the basement. From then it moved on with real faith and determination.

The white house was replaced with a brick house. Later land on the other side of the church became available and another parsonage was built. The old parsonage next to the church would become a fellowship hall.



*Photo by: Sylvia Bright*

The church has grown steadily. They have about 60 active members now and are growing more. They will soon celebrate their 28th year of being a church. Sylvia Bright



### **Baileyton Baptist**

In 1902 The Nolachuckey Baptist Association in co-operation with the Baptist Mission Board sat about to build a church in Baileyton. Rev.PH.C. Hale missionary set about to secure land After securing funds for the land he set about appointing a building committee. The building was built and funds secured having a place for the First Baptist Church of Baileyton to meet. The Church was official in 1904 with 13 charter members. A parsonage was completed in 1959. In 1968 new classrooms and baptistery were added.

In 1970 the sanctuary was remolded.

First Baptist is a member of the Southern Baptist Association and continues to grow. Sylvia Bright



### **Baileyton UMC**

The Methodist Church of Baileyton was organized in 1905. The land upon which the church is standing was given by D. John Linebarger. Rev. George B. Cox was the first pastor. He was the leader in organizing and building the first church. Many changes were made to the church the 1st was interior of church painted and papered and a raised platform for the choir. In 1955 a basement was built and a furnace was installed. In 1967 an additional wing was built for Sunday School wings. Stained glass windows given by members of the church enhanced the beauty of the sanctuary. In 1991 Cushions for the pews and a Baldwin Organ were added. The outside of the building saw many improvements: aluminum Siding was added to the entire church, walks added and driveway around the church and a ramp was built. Everything was perfect How quickly life can change. On a lovely November morning they found their church building crumbling in fire and smoke. The sounds of choir and laughter were replaced by sirens and crumbling of stained glass windows. The church bell that had called the people to worship for over a 100 years fell into flames and embers. The people watched in disbelief. This was 2007 but it was not an end. It was a new beginning. The people gathered in the elementary school and began new plans to rebuild.

They began using their new building in 2010. There is still a lot of do but the Lord has led them a long way. Sylvia Bright [Link to Baileyton UMC stained glass windows before the fire](#)

### **Bales Chapel United Methodist Church**

Roaring Fork Road This road connects the Lonesome Pine Trail with the Balton (Baileyton) Highway In 1830 Isaac Harmon received a revolutionary land grant #1278 for 2 acres of land on the waters of Roaring Fork of Lick Creek and the land of John Armitage. The purpose of the land was to build a common school and a meeting house. Armitage build a nice weather board school house so his young son could attend, In 1907 a spot was dedeed



*Photo by: Sylvia Bright*

for the Reformed Church of America on the southwest side of Roaring Fork. This evolved into the present day Bales Chapel United Methodist Church. In 1960 the present day brick church was constructed on this site. The members have worked together to maintain this church, the ladies work on the landscaping and one of the ladies donated the nice ramp.



*Photo by: Sylvia Bright*

### **Bethany Freewill Baptist Church**

Bethany Road

Chuckey, Tennessee

The origin and organization of this church began in the early part of 1889, in the old Deatherage which had been entrusted to the community in early 1883 by Agnes Deatherage.

A called meeting consisting of a large group of people wishing to start a church in which to worship. A church covenant was worded and written by brothers William Woolsey and William Blazer, pioneers in the ministry and accepted by the group. The church was named Freewill Church of Bethany. The covenant still exists in the minutes of the old church book in its original handwritten state. On March 2, 1989 the first sermon was delivered in the new church.

The church was one of the first to belong to the first four churches in Greene County Church to unite with a group of churches in Western North Carolina and Tennessee to become known as Free Will Baptist Union Association. Today the Bethany Church remains active in the association. On Sunday June 4, 1989 the church celebrated its 100 year founding of the church. The Bethany Cemetery that was established the same time as the church on a beautiful hilltop setting. The church and cemetery is kept up well/ Sylvia Bright



*Photo by: Sylvia Bright*

**Bethesda Community Church**  
**302 Park St, Greeneville**



*Photo by: Sylvia Bright*

**Bethesda UMC**

Harrison Road off 107 cutoff

Bethesda United Methodist Church also known as Harrison's meeting house celebrated their bicentennial in 1992. This was one of the first Methodist churches established in the Holston Conference. The first services were held in Isaiah Harrison's home and the first building called Harrisons Meeting House built in 1792.

Rev. Stephen Brooks, who later helped write the constitution for the State of Tennessee formally established the church. Rev. George Wells was also active in the early church.

Documents reveal that the cemetery still called Harrisons had been established by 1813. The church was originally associated with the Methodist Episcopal Church but affiliated with the Methodist Episcopal Church South by the end of the war.

A new building to serve the church and school was built in 1872, known as both Bethesda and Harrisons. In 1886 another building was completed and dedicated as Bethesda Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1938 under the leadership of Pastor Clyde Rogers the present stone structure was completed and dedicated. All buildings have been within a stones throw of eachother. The name has continued to change due to denominational shuffling that has come since the turn of the century. The name change Methodist Episcopal to Methodist Protestant in 1930, then simply to Methodist in 1939. In 1968 reorganization made it Bethesda United Methodist Church.

Bishop Asbury was closely associated with with the church's early leaders especially Rev. Brooks and Rev. Wells. He visited in Isaiah Harrison's home when he traveled in this area which

seemed to have been an regular route. Sylvia Bright



*Photo by: Cheri Beck*

### **Blue Springs Lutheran**

This little Church on the Hill is a landmark in Mosheim. It was started sometime before 1811 because that year they were established and requested the Synod. to be Lutheran. The first church was a log structure and called Golden Springs Lutheran Church. The second building was brick and built several years before the Civil War. During the Civil War Mosheim was a little Medical Community. Shrieks and screams of agony could be heard throughout the community. The church carried for the wounded and buried the dead.

They built the framed church which now stands in 1893. Due to lack of interest the church was closed in 1964. The Synod. Ordered it torn down. In 1974 it was given a new lease by the Synod. A trust fund was set up for the cemeteries. The deed to the church was handed to the Cemetery Assoc. The building still stands as it has for generations. It is leased out to the Mennonites for their services. Sylvia Bright



### **Bewley's Chapel UMC**

Bewley's Chapel Road (Runs into Warrensburg Rd)  
The church was established in a log cabin on the banks of the Nolachuckey River in 1840. The congregation was growing and they built a white frame building next to the cemetery in 1878. Land was donated by Jacob M. Bewley  
In 1925 plans were made to build a bigger church. river rock was handy and beautiful so it was decided to use it. Work continued and 1929 the Bewley's Chapel Church had its grand opening. It quickly became a landmark in the area. In the next few years bathrooms and central heat- air conditioner was added. In 1985 plans were made to build a fellowship hall. By 1990 the fellowship hall was completed. Sylvia Bright



*Photo by Sylvia Bright*

### **Calvary Chapel**

Main Street--former Kiser Funeral Home  
Calvary Chapel of Greeneville has bought the Kiser Funeral Home building on West Main Street for \$375,000. The sale was finalized Jan. 28, 2009 by Pastor Gary Hall/  
Calvary Chapel was located on Snapps Ferry Road in a former tile and Carpet Store.  
They are happy with the 12,000 Square feet of finished space. a sanctuary and 90 parking spaces in downtown Greeneville. Their old location was 3,000 Square feet with few parking spaces. They

had outgrown the old place and gone to two services to service the congregation and they needed more space in all areas of the ministry.

They moved in as soon as possible, some minor remodeling , bringing its bathrooms up to code and other minor things. They were on Snapps Ferry Rd. Location for 11 years.

The dedication followed and the building was open to the community. Sylvia Bright



*Photo by: Sylvia Bright*

### **Campground Church of God**

Ashville Highway

The Campground Church of God was built in 1958 on land donated by Earnest Parton. Worley Higgins was the first pastor and the present pastor is Larrie Pike. During the course of its history, The church purchased additional property to add more Sunday school rooms, a fellowship hall and a parsonage. The Campground Church has been serving its members for over 50 years. Sylvia Bright



*Photo by Sylvia Bright*

### **Carpenter's Chapel Missionary Baptist Church**

8705 Kinney St, Whitesburg

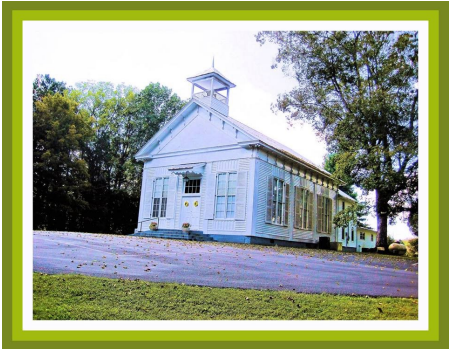


*Photo by: Sylvia Bright*

### **Carter's Chapel UMC**

Lonesome Pine Trail

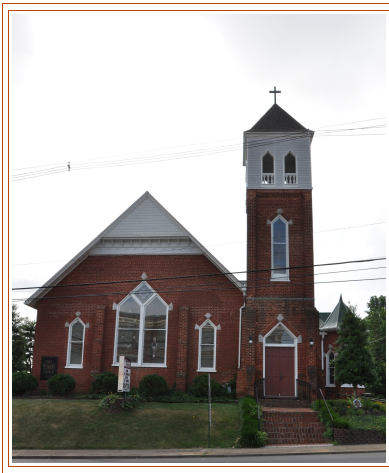
During the Civil war Carters Station Church went toward the South. The people sympatric to the North left the church and went up the road to set up a church of their own. They bought some land from a Miss. Briney AND were known as Briney's Chapel. The name was changed to Carters Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church North. Long after the war they petioned to change the Name to Carter's Chapel United Methodist Church. Sylvia Bright



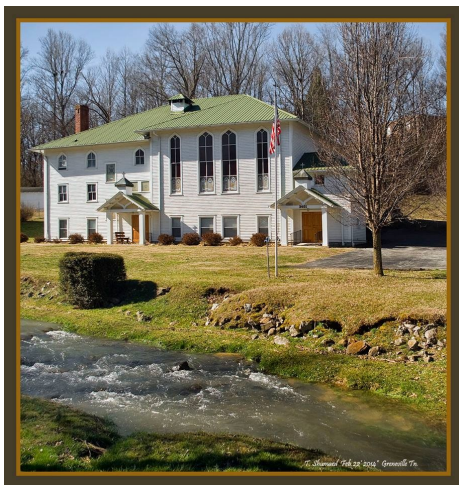
*Photo by: Sylvia Bright*

### **Carter's Station UMC**

The 3rd church built on the same lot with the second church. It is facing away from the present road. The original road "The Babbs Mill Road" ran in front of the church. When the road was rerouted for the Albany Road it went in back of the church.  
Sylvia Bright



### **Christ UMC**



*Photo by Tom Shumard*

### **Cedar Creek Presbyterian**





*Photo by: Sylvia Bright*

### **Cedar Hill Cumberland Presbyterian Church**

Newport Highway

Cedar Hill was founded in 1855 under the name of Union, later changed to Cedar Hill in 1890. The congregation met in the old Bacon Church on the J.M. Craddock farm, later in Ealey's School House about a half mile from the present location. Under the leadership of Jacob Hybarger, W.C. Harold and J.W. Dearstone the present sanctuary was erected in 1889 on land donated by Michael Hybarger.

At the time the church belonged to the Knoxville Presbytery in 1889. Two ministers have come from the congregation. On April 16, 1943 Frank Harmon Jr. and on April 20, 1957 Robert Dixon were ordained into the Cumberland Presbyterian Ministers. In 1949 a manse was built for the first full time preacher. In 1958 the church was honored by the General Assembly as the "Rural Church of the year" for the denomination.

In 1966 an annex was built which would include modern classrooms, fellowship hall, Kitchen, nursery and bathrooms. A beautiful cemetery surrounds the church and is maintained by a committee and financed thru a Trust Fund established in March of 1970. Sylvia Bright



*Photo by: Sylvia Bright*

### **Central Christian Church**

#### **Summer Street**

The Central Christian Church as the First Christian Church. They were an outgrowth of the First Christian Church in Johnson City. They began meeting in the Court House. A lot was purchased on Summer Street. When the basement was finished they began to meet there. In 1924 they moved upstairs in a beautiful Gothic Building with stained glass windows. They worshiped here for many years until they grew so big it was necessary for a bigger church and there wasn't room on Summer Street.

They began a new building on Temple Street and started services in 1964. There were some members that didn't want to leave town so they stayed in the old building and changed its name to Central Christian Church. Both churches are getting along very well. Sylvia Bright



*Photo by Sylvia Bright*

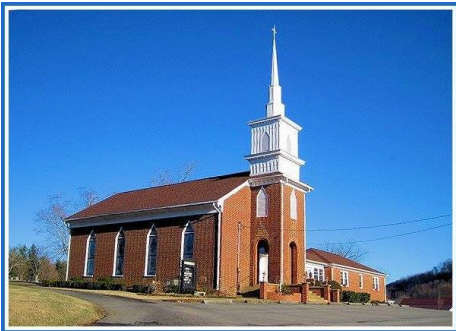
### **Chuckey Presbyterian**

Andrew Johnson Highway (11E)

Born in troubled times just presiding the War between the states. The Church was organized April 1861. The Holston Presbytery sent Revs. Mathes, Hodges and Campbell to organize a new church which would be in a substantial brick building of homemade brick made on location. The church was finished in 1856. During the Civil War Dr. J.R. Morley doctored on both Yankee and Rebel in this building. This building stood until 1972. Albright UMC now stands on it's site.

The present building was constructed in 1910 largely by volunteer labor and is noted by its unique architecture. The building was jointly owned by both Methodist and Presbyterian. The Presbyterians bought the Methodist out for \$100,100.

Over the years the Presbyterian Church has been the church home of many prominent people of the area. Over the years the church takes pride in its long years of service to the community. A new church was built on the four lane. They look forward to more growth. Sylvia Bright



*Photo by: Sylvia Bright*

### **Chuckey UMC**

Highland Street  
Chuckey, Tennessee

The Chuckey church was organized by Rev. J.B. Fitzgerald. He organized the Church and the school. He donated land for both institutions and the cemetery. The church was built in 1880 and called "Alice's Chapel" in memory on the Rev. Fitzgerald's daughter. Hers was the first buried in the cemetery.

Samuel H. Thompson was a brilliant and energetic young man, He became prescient of the school beside Chuckey UM Church, called Wesleyan Chapel, in honor of the great founder of Methodism. The influence of the Church was very evident in the school. The aim was to give every student in addition to practical knowledge, high and lasting principles. The school is gone. The church and cemetery stills stands. It is well kept.

Paving has been done for a large parking lot. The Church has been painted and the brick have been maintained. The road around the Cemetery is in good shape. Looks like one building of the school remains. It is a small building labeled the library. Sylvia Bright



*Photo by Tom Shumard*



*Photo by: Tom Shumard*

### **Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints**



*Photo by: Sylvia Bright*

### **Concord Baptist Church**

Concord Road  
Mohawk, Tennessee

The Concord Baptist Church southwest Greene County near Lick Creek, south of Mohawk and was organized in 1823.

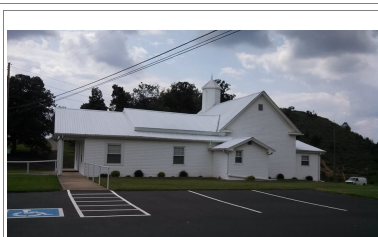
Lick Creek Baptist Church organized in 1793 later became Warrensburg Baptist Church. 32 members from Warrensburg Baptist Church organized Concord Baptist Church. It met on Saturdays until 1943 then the meetings were changed to Sundays.

The church shut down because of the Civil War and was closed from March 1862 - September 1965. When it reopened with a majority on pro-Union members. They insisted the Confederate Rebels get on their knees in the church and repent for rebelling against Jesus Christ and the Government. Many months past and church members were sent out to get the confederate members to come back to church. They would not until church policy was changed. All members were asked to lay hands on the bible and forget past differences. July 1912 eighty-two members left to build the Fairview Church.

In 1897 Concord purchased the graveyard. In 1912 they added more land to this lot.

The first building was made of logs. In 1913 a lovely frame church building was built.

Two additions have been constructed for classrooms. In 1960 a home for the pastor was built. Sylvia Bright



*Photo by Reta Reaves*

### **Doughty's Chapel**

Doughty's Chapel Rd corner Lonesome Pine Trail



*Photo by: Sylvia Bright*



*Photo by Sylvia Bright*

### **Eastside Baptist Church**

Old Stage Road--Behind Caraway Inn

When Rev. Jerry Mullendore started a new Baptist Church in a storefront off the by-pass

There was a small crowd. Soon the church grew into 30 members.. There was no stopping the growth is less than five years the membership had outgrown the little building. Plans were made to build a big building on Old Stage Road. In five years the congregation had grown to over 100.

They have made minor changes in their new building, mostly serving the church by drawing more members. Rev. Mullendore had served the church by planning events for all the membership from nursery to elderly. The church is now thirty-one years old and continues to grow. Sylvia Bright



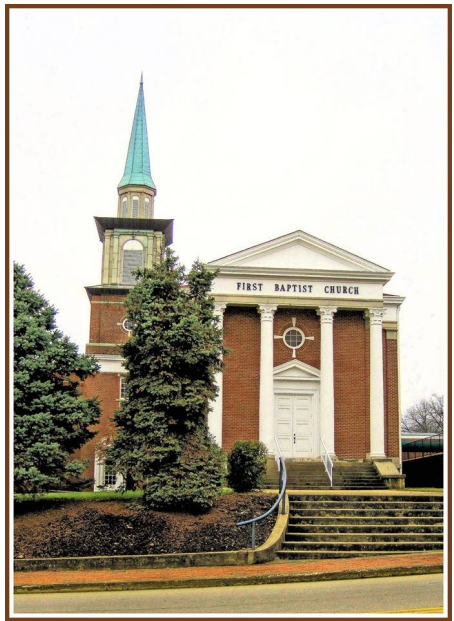
*Photo by: Sylvia Bright*

### **Faith Gospel Mission II**



*Photo by: Sylvia Bright*

## Fellowship Baptist Church



*Photo by: Sylvia Bright*

## First Baptist Church

### Main Street

The First Baptist Church had its beginnings in 1870 when one E.W, Hedrick to Greeneville. Mr. Hedrick and his wife were strong Baptist and missed other Baptist to confer with. Mr. Hedrick purchased a lot on Summer street and construction of the new church began. . The church was organized in 1872 and accepted into the in August of the same year. With a congregation of 8 members. First Baptist has always been a mission minded church . Two of these missions are Second Baptist and Calvary Baptist. During the administration of Rev. J.O. Carter the new church on Main Street was built. On May 1952 the congregation met for the first time in the new church. The church began starting more missions: They were Susong Memorial Church, Tusculum Chapel, and Greene Hills. The church began building an educational wing. .The church purchased 9 parcels of property In May 1996 the church voted to began a multi-phase building program. Groundbreaking was held on April 1997 to coincide with the 125th anniversary of the church. In March 2002 Phase II of the program was completed. Construction of the new sanctuary was started in 2004. The sanitary was completed in 2012. The building program was completed and the church has been growing.



*Photo by: Sylvia Bright*

### **First Church of Christ**

College Street between Roby Center & Walters State

The Church of Christ began in Greeneville in 1938. They had a boost in membership when others of the same faith moved into town. Early in the 1940s they began to build their own Church on College Street. The building was built in two stages first the basement level where they could worship while the street level was being worked on. The Church was finished in 1950. The Church began to outgrow this building and moved to Tusculum Blvd. in 1976.

This building was sold to a medical group who did testing in the basement lab. Now it is just being used for storage. The little Church sets empty. Sylvia Bright



*Photo by: Sylvia Bright*

### **First Church of God**

West Main Street

During the year 1906, the Revs. W.A. Southerland and W.P. Long came to Greeneville, Tennessee preaching the message of the Church of God. This was the first congregation of the Church of God in the State of Tennessee. The first meeting place was a small building erected in the 700 block of West Main Street, later converted into a grocery store owned and operated by T.O. Luttrell. Sr. This building is still standing in that location. Sometime later, the tabernacle, which had been built as a place for camp meetings, was purchased by the local congregation and remodeled the sanctuary. Sunday School facilities were added.

During the year 1966 eleven acres of land were purchased and negotiations started for the building of new worship and educational facilities. The target date for construction was Spring of 1967. During August 1967 construction was completed with the addition of a new baby grand piano and a new Hammond Organ. Service in the new facilities began September 17, 1967. In 1974, a family life center was constructed. This building houses a full court gymnasium, various rooms for Sunday school classes and other church activities. Another major addition was a choir room in 1990. On January 5, 2003 in an overwhelming display of support and unity 96% Of the members of this church voted in favor of adding a new sanctuary to the front property at 1505 West Main Street. And the "Fulfilling of the Dream" campaign was launched. Ground was broken in March 2003, and the new sanctuary was completed in the Summer of 2004. Through additional land purchase the church now owns 22 acres. They are currently the oldest and largest Church of God in the State of Tennessee. These are our American roots but they can actually trace

their heritage as a church back to the time of Christ. He began God's Church and we are attempting to continue what he began.

Among senior pastors who have served this congregation are: Rev. W.A. Southerland, Rev. W.P. Long, Rev. J.H. Harold, Rev. Lezzie Roberts, Rev. James Turner, Rev. J.F. Selvidge, Rev. Paul. Hartzell., Rev. B.B. Sellers, Rev. E.G. Cutshaw, Rev. Paul Jenkins, Rev. Truman Harris, Dr. Darrell Sovine, Dr. Willard Wilcox, Dr. LeRoy Oesch, Rev. Charles Heater, Jr. and the current pastor H. Gerald Rudd. Sylvia Bright



*Photo by: Sylvia Bright*

### **First Christian Church**

Temple Street

The church in Greeneville was an outgrowth of the First Christian in Johnson City. They began worship services in the courthouse. A lot was purchased on Summer Street where the dug out and finished the basement and began services there. The church was completed on 1924. The building was a beautiful Gothic Structure with stained glassed windows.

The church began to grow and they began a bigger structure on Temple Street. The first services in the new building was 1964. There was a group that wanted to remain in the original Church building and called it Central Christian Church. The first supported them in anyway possible.

The first Christian completed more additions on their church. In 1992 a call came from Loudon County. The First Christian donated \$52,500 to this group to purchase land. They made several other large donations to help other small churches.

In 2000 a fire gutted the inside of First Christian Church. The Lord used this to draw the people together. They worked hard by the year 2001 the congregation moved back into a newly renovated church. Sylvia Bright



*Photo by: Sylvia Bright*

### **First Church of the Nazarene**

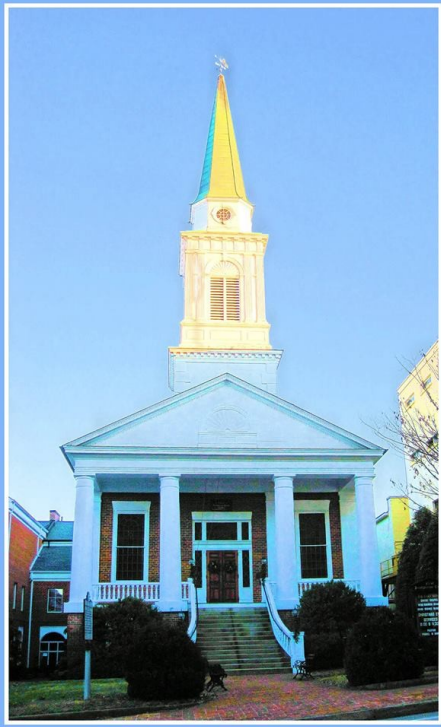
Unaka Street

The history of the church begins in 1939 in what was known as Old Tabernacle at

The corner of Church and Irish Streets. The present building was erected in 1949.

It was bricked in 1954. In its fifty years nine men have served as pastor. Since 1980 morning worship attendance has grown from 28 to 116. Land has been purchased surrounding the church and a fellowship hall and youth hall

have been built. A front foyer was added along with a ramp.  
Sylvia Bright



*Photo by: Sylvia Bright*

### **First Presbyterian Church of Greeneville**

Main Street

The First Presbyterian Church in Greeneville, Tennessee is a historic congregation of the Presbyterian Church located in downtown Greeneville. It is the first church established in Greeneville and is one of the oldest churches in the state of Tennessee. The church was first gathered at the big springs in 1780. The first services preached by Samuel Doak in 1783 regular services began with Hezekiah Balch as minister.

A log church was built near the present church and the church was renamed Harmony Church. In 1847 the name was changed to Greeneville Presbyterian Church. The present brick building was erected in 1847. During that time the church was the only one between Knoxville and Washington College. In 1928 fire destroyed the interior of the church but the brick walls were still in good shape. In 1923, a 3 story education wing was built. Christ Chapel was built and dedicated in 1999. A 3-Manual Shartz pipe organ was located in the sanctuary.

The Presbyterian Church is the parent church of Tusculum College. It is listed as a historic place with the Tennessee Historic Commission and is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places of part of the Greeneville Historic District. Sylvia Bright



*Photo by: Sylvia Bright*

### **Friendship Baptist Church**

In 1894 a small group of Baptist believers met in the warehouse of Doughty-Stephens on Depot Street. They called themselves the Friendship Baptist Church. They had services here for some time until they found a house on Railroad Street to meet in. In 1925 a Rev. W.H. Stokley led the group. He labored long and hard to build a beautiful church on Davis Street. They moved in the present church in 1934. In 1958 there was a fire that heavily damaged the church. The pastor and members began working to restore the church.

In 1963 a parsonage was constructed. In 1980 the education department was built, the sanctuary was enlarged, a new baptistery was installed, parking lot paved and a ramp built. It has been a long struggle from a dark warehouse to this church but worth it. Sylvia Bright





*Photo by: Sylvia Bright*

## **Gethsemane**

Water Ford Road near Greystone

The church is located in a beautiful valley with Greystone Mountains overlooking its beauty.

Waterford creek flows nearby. From Greeneville it is in the southern part of the County, approximately 14 miles from the City with the city limits on Jones Bridge Road,, Church history began in early 1850s.

Squire Billy McCoy an outstanding citizen who owned a saw mill, flour mill, general store, made coffins and was justice of the peace. Decided the community needed a church to worship in. He was a man who believed in God and country. He had two sons who served in the Union Troops during the civil war. He was a Union supporter.. Squire Billy had built a county school on his property as McCoy School at the time.

In Sept 1857 Squire Billy donated this building to the citizens. It was used for church services on Sundays and at night. Twenty years later the school was no longer used and the church had outgrown the little building. Squire Billy gave another parcel of land for a church but he died before the church was completed.

Wood slabs were brought in for seats, because his funeral was the first in the new church. He was also the first man buried in the cemetery.

They are unable to find why the name was changed from McCoy to Gethsemane, but it happened when a new church was built.

The new church was built with trees that grew near the location. The church had two front doors, and was heated by a pot bellied stove. kerosene lamps hung on the walls. The alter was a circle with a banister around the pulpit. As you entered the church the Amen corner was on the left and the alter and choir was on the right. Men would set on the right and women on the left.

In the 1940s high winds had begun to shift the church and members thought it unsafe. An effort was made to collect money to build a new church. In 1957 the brick building used today was built. The old church was torn down and the yard was sown with grass.

At the present the church is raising money for additional classroom. Sylvia Bright



*Photo by: Reta Reaves*

### **Green Ridge Free Will Baptist**



*Photo by: Sylvia Bright*

### **Greenville Cumberland Presbyterian Church**

Greenville Cumberland Presbyterian Church

Known as the "Cannonball Church"

Corner of Main and Church

Organized in 1842 with 30 charter members. Building on a lot purchased from Senator Andrew Johnson for \$1,200. This spot had been occupied by Cumberland Presbyterian Newspaper.. In the war between the states this church saw military duty as a stable, hospital and was wounded with a cannon ball in its side. This happened on the same day Gen. John H. Morgan was killed in the Williams garden across the street.

The building was completed in 1875 . It is done in the style of Greek Revival , the church is on the National Register of Historic Places. The spire is surmounted by a figure of the Angel Gabriel blowing his horn.

After the war the congregation was small. By 1900 grew to more than 100. A very large Men's Bible Class came into being and they worked for an educational wing. It was completed in 1926. A large continual growth continued which required more space. Adjacent property was purchased in 1947. Starting in 1947 a restoration of the church spire was necessary. Many new facilities were added in a `10 year period. This included remodeling of the old units, including the chapel, sanctuary, construction of 2 new educational units fellowship hall, kitchen, class rooms, parlor and church offices. In the 1980s the church bought the lot west and incorporated it into the present church.

Sylvia Bright



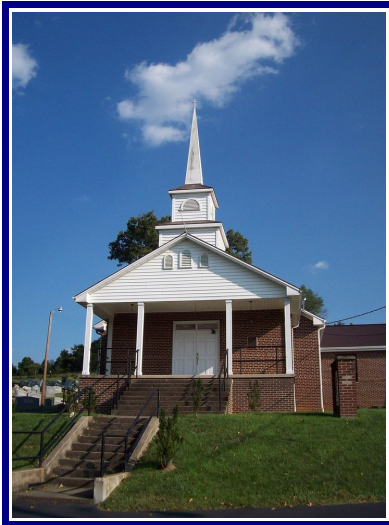
*Photo by: Sylvia Bright*

### **Greenlawn Baptist**



*Photo credit: Tom Shumard*

### **Greeneville Church of Christ**



*Photo by Doug Cogburn*

### **Hardins Chapel United Methodist Church**

3320 Baileyton Rd

The church was started by the settlers in the area who got by and large were there when they got land grants from North Carolina for their Revolutionary War service. The first church was on Old Cemetery Road and was a large log cabin that was built sometime in the late 1780's or 90's. The first mention of it is in a deed from 1800 that mentioned the Old Indian Campgrounds and the Meetinghouse. The church moved to its present site in 1860 and overlooks the old Cherokee campgrounds. The original cabin was used as a school and voting precinct until it burned down in 1890. That school was replaced by the old Kidwell's School that was used until the 1950's. The original brick church was replaced by the current structure in the 1950's. It has undergone several **renovations**, especially after a fire in the late 1970's. Since we're not sure when the meetinghouse was first built, we usually use 1800 as our anniversary year. The old cemetery (not pictured) is maintained by the same cemetery association that maintains the current cemetery. Sylvia Bright



*Photo by: Sylvia Bright*

### **Harmon Valley United Methodist Church**

11E meets the Blue Springs Parkway  
Harmon Valley originally stood in downtown Mohawk. In the early thirties the church congregation dwindled to one or two families. Zella Pennington Hawkins had learned of a religious group across lick creek who were meeting in a school building. She thought why not move the building to the people. That summer the church was taken apart loaded On a flat bed truck and rebuilt on the new site. The new church took off. Later it was covered with brick. A building for covered dish dinners and Vacation Bible School was added. In 1984 the church celebrated being there 50 years. Sylvia Bright



*Photo by Ty Fillers*

### **Harris Memorial Church, Camp Creek**



*Photo by: Sylvia Bright*

### **Hermon UMC**

107 Hermon Circle  
Afton, TN  
The history of Hermon Methodist Church goes way back before the building of a church. It began after John Wesley failure to convert the Indians. After he returned home he formed circuit-riders, one John Wesley was sent to America in 1771. His coming was the beginning of Methodism in America. The circuits took the names of the rivers Nolichucky, Holston, Clinch, French Broad etc. In 1799 the state of Tennessee had deeded Washington Henshaw 100 acres of land on the south side of the Nolichucky River on Middle Creek. In April 1821 Washington Henshaw deeded to the trustees for a Methodist Episcopal Church. The church was known as Henshaw and ministered by circuit-riders of the Nolichucky Region. The Civil War was a hard time. Church rights were questioned. In 1880 the church burned down and a new church was started. The bricks were made on site, It was near a store and post office named Hermon. The name was changed to Hermon then. In 1888 the church purchased 1 acre or land for a cemetery. Early churches of Greeneville were on the Jonesboro



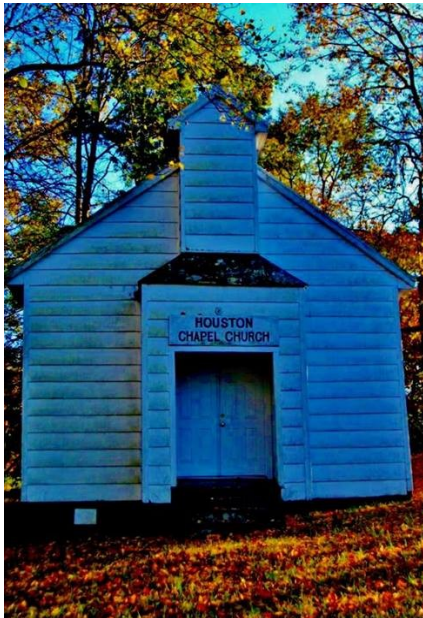
*Photo by: Reta Reaves*

District., Hermans remained there from 1874-1911. It was moved to the Johnson City district in 1939. Circuit riders have long been serving the little churches. J.W. Warthan was the first appointed circuit-rider in the Greeneville Circuit when it was placed under the reorganized Holston Conference. In 1953 Winnie Shelton sold for a total of \$800 to Hermon Methodist Chutch a piece of land about one and a half acres. Sylvia Bright



*Photo by: Reta Reaves*

**Horse Creek Mission Church  
Horse Creek Park Rd**



*Lynne Beaver-Pryor*

**Houston Chapel  
South Mohawk in the Warrenton Community**



*Photo credit: Brenda Kay Pickering*

## **Jackson's Chapel**



*Photo by: Sylvia Bright*

## **Jones Memorial A.M.E. Zion**



*Photo by Sylvia Bright*

## **Kingsley Free Will Baptist Church**



*Photo by: Lisa Morelock Gosnell*

### **Liberty Hill UMC**

The Liberty Hill United Methodist Church, circa 1894, is located on the Old Snapps Ferry Road, approximately 12 miles from Greeneville, Tennessee in the Graysburg Hills Community. The original church, established in the 1870's, was affiliated with the Methodist Episcopal Church in the Holston Conference.

The land on which the church stands was given by LaFayette and Dacey Williams on April 14, 1889 and was recorded in the Greene County Register's office in Greeneville, Tennessee on May 1, 1893. Deed Book #59, page 9 and noted in book # 4 page 73. No record of the first charter members is known. The first known services were held in the log school building beside the present church.

The first known trustees were James H. Bright, Michael Morelock, J.C. Powell, Milburn Shanks, George W. Bright, Jr. and Charles Morelock.

The church was on the Chuckey Circuit from 1894-1908 (names of the churches on the circuit are unknown at this time).

The church was then on the Limestone Circuit from 1908-1939 which included Limestone, Clear Springs, Liberty Hill, Milburnton and later Asbury.

In 1939, Limestone and Asbury churches went to two point circuit - a new charge was formed taking the name Clear Springs Circuit, which was made up of Clear Springs, Liberty Hill, Milburnton, Pleasant Grove and Rheatown.

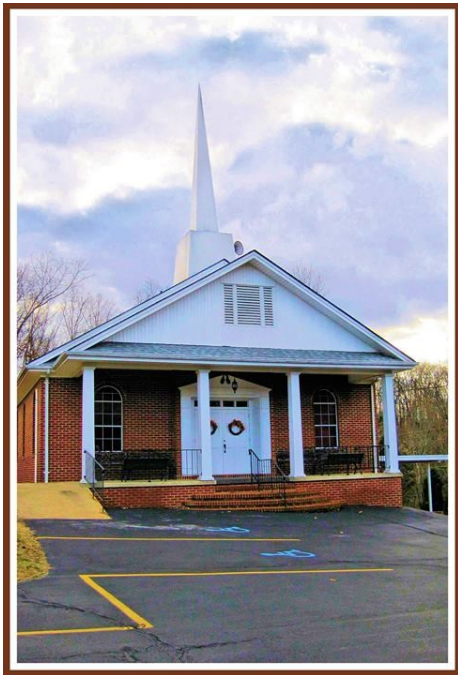
In June of 1979, the Clear Springs Circuit was divided with Clear Springs and Pleasant Grove going to two point and Liberty Hill and Milburnton going to two point circuit.

Liberty Hill U.M. is currently on a three point circuit with Clear Springs and Albright U.M. churches within the Holston United Methodist Conference - Johnson City District. Lisa Morelock Gosnell



*Photo by: Sylvia Bright*

## **Liberty Worship Center**



*Photo Credit: Sylvia Bright*

## **Lovelace Baptist Church**

Ryan Road, Chuckey, Tennessee

Lovelace Baptist had its beginnings as an organization of Cave Springs Sabbath School. On Sunday evening March 32, 1878 Organized a Sabbath School and elected a Superintendent. One month later a revival was held by E.F. Jones. Several united with the Fall Branch Baptist Church but later met in the Cave Springs School House.

The Cave Springs Baptist Church was organized June 21, 1879. They elected deacons and ordained E.F. Jones as preacher.

The name was changed to Lovelace Baptist Church in 1880. The original church was built in 1887 upon land deeded and given by A.H. Pierce. On November 1967 the church Building burned. Only the badly damaged bell rolled out of the smothering ashes.

With the help of other churches plans were made to build a new church on the same site.

On Sunday, October 2, 1977 the people celebrated the dedication of the new building and homecoming.

The Lovelace people continue to work: the restoration of the bell and outside bulletin board was established.

Cornerstone was set containing mementos for future generations.

Carillons were added to play hymns twice a day to remind people of their faith. A perpetual Fund Account was established for the cemetery. Additional property was purchased in 1989. Sylvia Bright





*Photo by: Reta Reaves*

### **Lower Light House of Prayer**

Lower Light House on Bishop Loop in the Rock Batter Community. Pastor Jay Hugh Jennings. This church has been here around 15 years maybe more.



*Photo By: Debbie Robbins May*

### **Meadow Creek Presbyterian Church**

West Allen Bridge

W. Allen's Bridge Road. Off Ashville Hwy.

The date of organization was set at 1812, although there is some uncertainty regarding the exact year. At about that time Meadow Creek was organized as a branch from the older Timber Ridge north of the river. Timber Ridge records which were compiled in 1854 said that in 1937 the Elder John Gregg and others living south of the river withdrew and organized Meadow Creek. It is quite probable that they might have joined the Meadow Creek Origination which had been established earlier. The new church was taken under the care of the French Broad Presbyter nary. The first building was a two story log house near the home of Mrs. Eula Ward. Here the church was organized and remained 25 years.

In 1837 a new church was erected near the present day church. This new church which served as both church and school was know a Meadow Creek Academy. This quant old building was made of dried brick held together with straw. The brick were then covered with framing and weather boarding. At the front was a large open shed where the congregation worshiped in the summer.

In 1860 the old building was replaced with a larger brick building built by John Shakeford. Who lived in the old church while working on the new one. For most of its life this church had no belfry until 1910 at which time Mrs. Bill Houston encouraged the women of the church to save their "Sunday eggs" to buy a Bell for the Church. The following congregation built a belfry for the new bell.

This building had three windows on each side and one on each side of the pulpit. The windows square at the top with clear glass and green shutters. There was one front door.

Completed and dedicated in 1929 the present building is one of one of the most beautiful sanctuaries. Furnished with new pews, maroon carpeting, red velvet curtain around the pulpit furnishings, this truly was a beautiful rural church. In the



*Photo credit: Sylvia Bright*

basement are modern Sunday school rooms, an assembly room, kitchen, furnace.  
 One of the preachers John A. Wood was living in the manse when his daughter Katherine was born. She grew up to marry a young minister Peter Marshall. A famous movie and biography was made about them called “A Man Called Peter” Sylvia Bright



*Photo by: Reta Reaves*

**Middle Creek Community Church of God**



*Photo by: Sylvia Bright*

**Midway United Methodist**



**Milburnton UMC**

**Old Milburton Rd. --Out from Rheatown**

The origin of the United Methodist Church, one of the oldest churches in Greene County  
 Dates back to the pioneer days so Bishop Frances Asbury. According to accounts handed down on his way from Greeneville to Jonesboro, he lost his way at Rheatown and continued to the home of Mrs. Jane Guinn Roberts at the back of the present store of W.H. Moles. He stopped to stay for the night and conduct prayer meeting in her house.  
 This resulted in a revival that was so successful it hwd to be moved to Mars Hill Schoolhouse at the top of the hill. The outgrowth of this meeting was the organization of The Milurtnon Church. Eight men at Mars Hill School. To form a building committee to build the church. They with the help of the community built a log church. Heated by a large



*New addition photo by: Sylvia Bright*

fireplace just west of the present church, The second church was was built on this site in 1870. The history of this building is very interesting as all the material was furnished in the community. The foundation were gathered from nearby fields and hand dressed by the men of the congregation who also did all the work on the building. Lumber including window frames and doors were logged, sawed and planed at Roberts mill, located near the bridge. Of the entire building nothing was bought from the outside except for nails (square ones). The sturdy pews wee handmade, All the weatherboarding was sawed from one poplar tree. Donated by William Faulker and logged with Kelly Shanks oxen.

During the long history of the church a record has been set for sending sending out ministers in the field.: William Milburn, Joseph Milburn, J.P. Milburn, Frank Basket, Jim Austin, Nabe Irwin, Joe Daughtery, Earl Milburn, Tom Brumley, Leo Brumley, James Basket, Otto Linebarger, James Basket, Oto Linebarger, Carl Malhoney, Ulahant Mahoney, Tommy Franker, John Good and Kelly Milburn. Also, a very dedicated family doctor, J.J. Milburn who went along treating the sick of the community day or night. He was married to the former Matti Baskett.

The Milburnton church which is so closely knit unto this character, of the lives of the present generation. Representing a people testifying to the roots of their ancestors. Sylvia Bright



*Photo by Sylvia Bright*

### **Mohawk Cumberland Presbyterian Church**



*Photo by: Sylvia Bright*

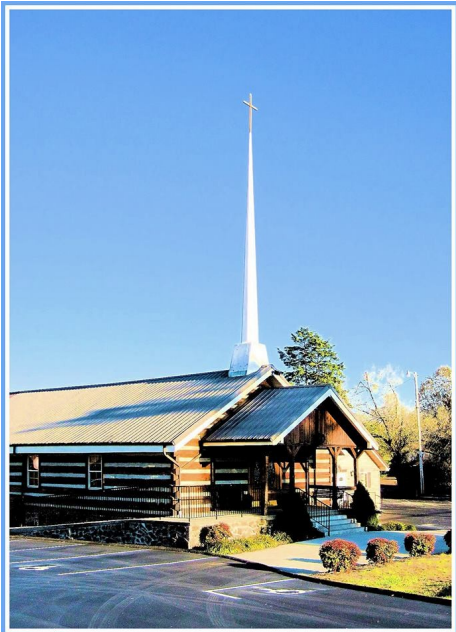
### **Mosheim Central United Methodist Church**

Main Street Mosheim

In 1877 a lot was donated to both the Presbyterian and Methodist for a Church. A little one room white church was built. Both denominations used it. It was the first church in The Blue Springs Settlement. They got along fine until the Methodist grew so much bigger than the Presbyterian. The Presbyterian turned the Little White Church over to the Methodist.

In 1954 the membership had dropped off so small, The Holston Conference ordered the church closed and the members go to the brick church organized in 1910. They also ordered that the little White Church be torn down and the land sold.

In 1959 A building and expansion program began for the brick church. More Sunday school rooms were added, a kitchen, church steeple, furnace and enclosed vestibule. The white and Brick Church became know as Mosheim Central Methodist Church. In 1968 they became known as United Methodist. Sylvia Bright

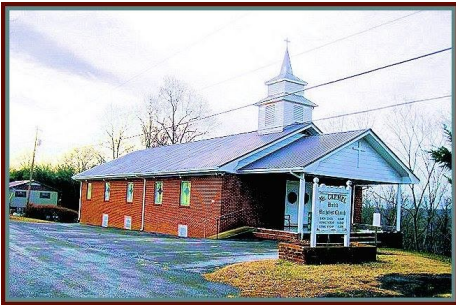


*Illustration 1: Photo by: Sylvia Bright*

### **Mount Bethel Freewill Baptist**



### Mount Carmel UMC



*Photo by: Sylvia Bright*

### Mount Carmel UMC

Two Mt .Carmel United Methodist Churches in Greene County

This Mt. Carmel U.M.C. is in Sunnyside on Carmel Hill Rd. It was an old southern Methodist church called the Antioch Class which decided to branch out and start a new church. The Southern Methodist Church was an old log building back of the Pisgah U.M.C.

In October 1883, S.K. Brooks and wife dedicated land for the church and cemetery to the trustees. Just how long it was before work was begun on the church is unknown. The first buried in the cemetery was Sarah Babb and the date on her tombstone was death 1-25-1886. It was told Rebecca Parks did the cooking for the workers building the church. Her old stove never went out she was so busy cooking. The bell placed in the old church was donated by Charlie and Chad Parks.

The Methodist Protestant Church was part of the E. Tennessee- Virginia Conference until 1932 when they joined the United Methodist. And are now part of the Holston Conference, Morristown District.

Land for the new Church was purchased across the road from the old church. They broke ground for the new church 6-13-1967. The bell from the old church was moved to the new church and is still in use. Dedication of the new church 4-7-1968. In the spring of 1974 the note for the new church was burned.

Mt. Carmel still stands overlooking the beauty of Greene County. Sylvia Bright



*Photo credit: Sylvia Bright*

### **Mount Hebron UMC**

Mr. Hebron Rd.----Near Sunnyside

The United Brethren Church of which Mt. Hebron was formally a part dates back to 1789, when the first formal conference met. The United Brethren came to Tennessee in 1865 when the Rev. John Rubush came as a missionary to Upper East Tennessee. In 1865 the Upper Wabash Conference of Indiana sent Rev. Daniel A. Beauchamp and others to aid the mission work in Tennessee.

Rev. Beauchamp is credited with the organization of the "Mt. Hebron" class on February 22, 1867, in what the church records call "Cavendar's School House". There were 49 charter members.

In 1869 a half acre lot was purchased from Thomas Alexander on which a church was built. The church was dedicated that same year by Bishop Jonathan Weaver and named Mt. Hebron. The structure was replaced by a second church building which was completely dedicated in 1906 when Richard Owens was preacher.

In 1946 Mt. Hebron United Brethren In Christ became Mt. Hebron Evangelical and United Brethren in Christ Churches.

Mt. Hebron which began as an eight point charge became a station church when Rev. Glen Cox became pastor. In 1968 The E.U.B. and the Methodist Churches merged to form the United Methodist Church.

The four and half acres on which our present church and parsonage stand was purchased on June 20, 1971. It is adjacent to but directly across the road from where the earlier church buildings stood and the cemetery also.

The first services to be held in the new church was June 30, `1974. The present Parsonage is thought to be the third in church history was completed in 1978. Sylvia Bright



*Photo by: Sylvia Bright*

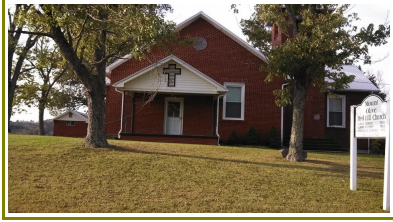
### **Mount Hope UMC**

Mt. Hope Road  
Mohawk, Tennessee

According to folklore a church built before the Civil War called Mt. Hope stood a quarter a mile from the present church. It was destroyed by fire. The members of the present church have the original leather bound register of their church dating back to 1881. The early church history are handwritten by the first preacher. In 1886 a small congregation of Methodist who had organized a church at the Phillips School House were transferred to Mt Hope.

The original church house burned and was replaced by a frame church. Church was held at the Glades School House until the new church could be built.. The frame church was brick covered and many additions were added.

The church has grown and continues to grow. Sylvia Bright



*Photo by Reta Reaves*

### **Mount Olive Red Hill Church**

### **Mount Olivet Church of Christ in the Cedar Creek Community**



*Photo by: Reta Reaves*

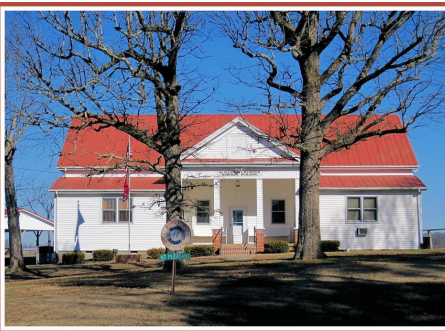
### **Mount Pisgah UMC**

**This church was one of the Churches Stephen Brooks helped to establish. He also owned property and lived not far from the church, he donated the property for the cemetery, and also may the church. When he passed away my grandmother said she was told, his body was carried to the church from his home, and a fiddler played all the way. He is buried in this cemetery.**

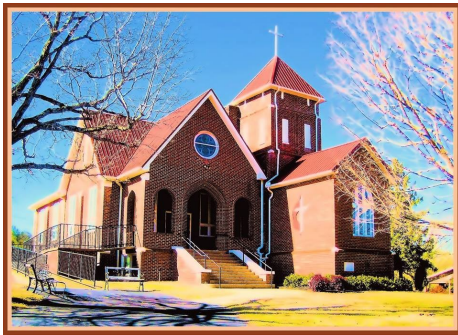


### **Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church and School Building.**

**Mt. Pleasant Road off Hwy. 11E near Mosheim  
In 1837 This building was built to serve as a Church. It would serve as a church on Sunday and school during the week. The church built a building across the street. This building continued as a school until 1913. I still belonged to the United Methodist. The Mt. Pleasant U.M. Church Memorial Building. The Mt. Pleasant Raritan Club began holding their meetings here.**



*Photo by: Sylvia Bright*



**Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church**  
**Mt. Pleasant Rd. off 11E near Mosheim**  
 In 1836 a group of loyal Methodist gathered at a place called Mt. Pleasant and started a church. Conditions in East Tennessee were harsh and primitive with sturdy settlers still moving into western Greene County. Despite hardship and danger these pioneers desired a community house of worship These people met first in a log barn not far from the present day church. As the congregation grew and winter approached, they began meeting in people's houses.  
 In 1837 a parcel of land was deeded by Daniel Britton & William Evans to the Methodist Episcopal Church. The land lay 450' from the present day church. A well constructed frame church was built. It served the congregation for 41 years. In addition it served as a school during the week. Even after the building of the present building this continued to serve as a school until 1913.  
 The second church was begun in 1878. Growth was steady so a larger brick building was constructed on the very same site. It was dedicated in 1927 and still serving as the church. Sylvia Bright



*Photo by Ty Fillers*

*Mt Tabor before the tornado*



*by Reta Reaves*

**Mount Tabor**





*Photo credit: Sylvia Bright*

### **Mount Zion United Methodist Church**

Mt. Zion Rd., Afton, Tennessee

In the foothills of the Mt. Zion Community sets an old Country Church, called Mt. Zion.

Its existence dates back over 128 years old, It is the oldest church of the former United Brethern Denomination in the Tennessee Conference. The date of the first building is uncertain but it is known that the first log structure was built during the Civil War.,The first record of a church is 1866. In 1945 the members began to plan to raise funds to replace the existing weather boarded Log building. Groundbreaking for the present building was April 1946, the same year Mt. Zion became known as Evangelical United Brethern Church. May 1947 was the last service in the old building and Sept. 1947 the new building was dedicated.

Some of the improvements to the present building include: a Hammond Organ(1957, an Educational Unit with Baptistry(1967), a sound system(1982), a steeple(1990), a portico and a ramp entrance(1991). In April 1968 Mt. Zion E.U.B. became known as Mt. Zion United Methodist Church. Sylvia Bright



*Photo by: Sylvia Bright*

### **Mountain Valley Church of Brethern**

Ottway Road

The Mountain Valley Church of the Brethren was organized between 1855 and 1859

With a membership of sixteen. Henry Brubaker, an organizer and charter member of the church served as one of the first ministers along with A.J. Correll, Brubaker was born in Roanake County, Virginia in 1806 and migrated to Greene County in 1836.

The first meeting house was built of logs. This structure was added to and served the congregation until 1907. At that time a white frame building was constructed and was the meeting house until 1949. Then the congregation under the leadership of Glennon Brown remolded the existing building.

A bi-annual Love Feast is one of the most noticed celebration of the church. The first of these Love Feast recorded was held in Henry Brubaker's barn. This service continues to be an integral part of the worship services. Mountain Valley is the only Church of the Brethren in Greene County and one of the few in East Tennessee. Sylvia Bright



*Photo by: Sylvia Bright*

### **Mountain View Disciples of Christ Church of God**

Greystone Community

Mountain View was organized in 1892. Religious services in a shop about a half mile south of the present church by Rev. William Kent who came from Virginia in 1878.

In 1892 a log structure was built complete with a pot belly stove and peg leg log benches.

In this building school was held during the week. The students were later moved to the Greystone School.

Elija and Catherine Bowman Jennings donated one acre of land for the church and cemetery. When the log building on the present site was completed. The congregation marched and sang to the old church. Last funeral held in the log church was Elbert Hensley in 1959, The present building was constructed in 1960.

Several families are buried in the cemetery the majority being Jennings, Hensleys, and Metcalfs. The infant son of William Jennings was the first to be buried in the old cemetery. Sylvia Bright



*Photo by: Sylvia Bright*

### **New Bethel Cumberland Presbyterian Church**

On Cox Rd. off The Blue Springs Parkway

Pryor to 1839 The New Bethel Evangelistic Camp was held around a very large yellow poplar tree. This tree furnished shade and shelter from rain. Benches of crude hewn lumber were made to set on. The tree was cut to prepare the site for a building, the present Church structure. Proof of the early beginnings can be found under the church floor is the tree stump.

In 1839 a petition was signed and presented to the Knoxville Presbytery and accepted as a newly formed Presbyterian Church.

This church includes a gallery at the rear of the sanctuary used by slaves until the end of the Civil War. The original chandeliers were kerosene lamps converted to electric lights when power became available. The pews were handmade. The building has 8 large double windows with a total of 450 small window frames.

Simp Reed a colored man joined the church January 7, 1860.

New Bethel was designated a historic landmark and is on the National Register. Sylvia Bright



*Photo by: Brenda Johnson-Newton Stevens*



*Illustration 2: Photo by Tom Shumbard*

## New Ebenezer Presbyterian Church



*Photo by: Cyndy Cox*

## New Hope Meeting

### Quaker Knob Road near Rheatown

New Hope Monthly Meeting was established in Greene County on the 28th of the second month, 1795 under the direction of New Garden Monthly Meeting and Westfield Monthly Meeting. Samuel Ellis was appointed to serve as clerk, Samuel Frazier as recorder, Benjamin Iddingd, Ellis Ellis, Elihu Swain and Joseph Thornburgh as overseers and Daniel Bonine and George Haworth as overseers of the poor.

"Quakers came into this area which is now known as Quaker Knobs in the 1790s. A preparative was settled(at Nolachuckey) on the 4th day the 12th of the 8th month , 1793 the name of New Hope was given to it shortly after. The 1st log church built in 1793 was located on which was granted to Samuel Frazier for the sum of 50 shillings. (abt. \$12.50)

New Hope monthly meetings were started by the direction of New Garden Quarterly Meeting. The log structure was replaced by Samuel Frazier in 1795 for the purpose of a cemetery foe the New Hope Meeting House. The building served the congregation until the big snow of 1886 (4 feet deep) caved in the roof. The building was never restored (the scar of this location is visible today) and meetings were held in the adjacent school house. In 1868 John Hoover (an elder of the Quaker school in Iowa) came and started a school. John Milton an uncle of Herbert Hoover came and were teaching in 1879.

In 1928 Herbert Hoover sent a \$25.00 check for repairing the building.

Regular meetings were discontinued shortly after 1896 due to the fact that many of the Friends

The old meeting house and graveyard were restored in 1974 by the joint effort of the Greene County Heritage trust and the Chuckey Raritan Club." Sylvia Bright



*Photo by: Sylvia Bright*



*Photo by: Sylvia Bright*

### **Notre Dame Catholic Church**

Greeneville Parrish

Mt. Bethel Rd.

When the Irish railway workers settled here there was no Catholic Parish. Many of the Catholic without a church of their own drifted to another Christian church. The Catholics far from home longed to have their own parish where they could be one family and worship as they saw fit. They worked hard and sacrificed to raise money to build the church. President Andrew Johnson donated \$500.00.

On October 16, 1870 the dream of a church came true. They called it Saint Patrick's Church and it was nestled in a grove of Magnificent oaks on College St.. President Johnson was seated on the front row.

A Priest was sent from Knoxville to serve the church. In 1916 Bishop Byrne placed the Johnson City parish and 13 surrounding counties including Greeneville as a Dominican Mission. After the railroad was completed many of the Irish moved away.

In 1934 it was too cold to meet in the old church. Mr. Beekner offered the Capitol Theatre. In 1950 the old Church building was torn down. They worshiped in the Capital until 1955. That year a new church was built.

As industry moved into town the Catholics began to grow. A new rectory was built. In 1974 a bell was installed in the bell tower. In 1976 the parish hall was added . Sylvia Bright



*Photo by: Sylvia Bright*

### **Oak Grove Freewill Baptist Church**

Old Tusculum Road just before the city line

Looking across the rolling fields from the drive thru at Oak Grove, one can see the steeple of a red brick church building. That is the old Oak Grove Church. The congregation moved from there to the present church in 1'976- the year our nation celebrated its 200 birthday. A lot has happened in and through the church since its beginning in 1934. If we could look back before the red brick church we could see a barn and a Oak tree standing close.

The barn was used as a place of worship. Plank pews and sawdust carpet suited everyone. The homemade platform from which the song leader led songs and the preacher preached was not fancy, but no one cared. The barn was drafty and it became necessary to build a building. On the land the barn stood was donated and a structure was built. The name the church chose was "Oak Grove" although it was only a lone oak.

Over the years the church grew and the present church was built. The rest is to be lived out. and one day it will finally be written. Sylvia Bright



*Photo by: Sylvia Bright*

### **First Oak Grove Freewill Baptist**

Oak Grove Road off Old Tusculum Road

At the beginning a barn was used as a place of worship. Plank pews and sawdust carpet suited everyone. A homemade platform was made for the pastor and song leader. It wasn't fancy but no one cared. In the winter the barn was drafty so it became necessary to build a church building. On the land the barn stood, was donated to the church. A church was built where the barn was and it was called Oak Grove.

The church has moved to a new building on Old Tusculum Road. The old church is left empty. The steeple of the old church can be seen from the present church as a reminder of their beginnings. Sylvia Bright



*Photo by: Sylvia Bright*

### **Ottway UMC**

Ottway Road across from Ottway Elementary School

The Ottway United Methodist Church celebrated its 100th birthday Nov. 1993. According to information from Bruce Graham, whose Ancestors were from the early settlers of the Ottway community, the first church services were in a cleaned out sheep barn. Before long a nice log building was built to serve as church and school. This log cabin was called "Ruthamey". It served the community as a place of learning and a place to worship during the Civil War. And during the trying days of reconstruction.

To keep in step with the progressive image of the community, plans for a new church building began to take place. Land was bought from Dr. J.J. Rankin. The logs and labor were donated. This church was called Carters Memorial Methodist Church. It was dedicated the second Sunday in Nov. 1893.

The church served the community well until Dec. 1957. Plans for a new church were set in motion. Ground breaking took place Oct. 1958. The first service was held in the basement of the new church. In April 1963 the dedication service was conducted. The first picture is called Carter's Memorial, second picture is present day Ottway United Methodist Church



*Illustration 3: Photo by:  
Sylvia Bright*

### **Pilot Knob Cumberland Presbyterian Church**

Gap Creek Road, Bulls Gap

This church has a Bulls Gap address but is in Greene County Pilot Knob was the first organized Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Greene County. The first services dated back to 1884. The church was organized in 1837. The church was reorganized under the direction of Rev. William B. Dobson in 1845.

The church used the school building as a meeting place 1867. Members dismantled the log structure and rebuilt on a site on the Horton Highway. Later Weather boarding was added to the outside and the inside with finished and dressed lumber. Logs from the original building remain today in the church which was built on the farm of Billy Day in 1868. He and his wife donated 2 acres of land to the church.

The interior of this church has been refurbished in recent years. The church is continuing worship with the decedents of the original founders. Sylvia Bright



*Photo by Pam Schombs  
Schuyler*

### **Pine Grove UMC**



*Photo by: Sylvia Bright*

### **Pleasant Vale Cumberland Presbyterian**

Pleasant Vale Road, Chuckey, Tennessee

The history of the church goes back before the Civil War. Like so many of that time, a log meeting house was constructed. It also served as a school when necessary. Three large openings with shutters on each side served as windows. It was heated by a fireplace. The fact it was a very early building was the fact it had notches on the logs for firing on Indians. Split logs with pegs driven in the underside served as seats. The church was available for any denomination that needed a place to worship.

In this meeting house the Pleasant Vale Church was organized in 1842 with 66 charter members and taken under the Presbytery of Knoxville. Sept. of the following year William Russell was appointed pastor.

Remarkable growth characterized the early history, by 1850 there was 244 members on roll. In December 1956 the land the old

meeting house was purchased at public auction for the sum of \$12.00 and given to the Trustees of the church. They were very strict about moral deportment. Church trials which the erring member was brought before the pastor and elders to answer the complaint. Some of the charges listed in old records were drunkenness. Sylvia Bright



*Photo By Sylvia Bright*

### **Providence Missionary Baptist**

Lonesome Pine Trail (former Rogersville Highway)

This church is located on the Hawkins-Greene Counties Line. In the picture if you look to the right on the other side of the road from the church, you will see the green and white county line marker. The church is commonly called County Line Church, was originally known as the Baptist Church of Christ at Providence. The records of their early meetings with their quaint language and strictly phonetic spelling form an interesting and complete account of early days at this church.

The Picturesque account of the original organization as found in the church records follows: "State of Tennessee, Hawkins County May, 23 1969. A list of names of members which appears on the reverse side of the first page of the Baptist Church at Providence whereas these being a number of Baptist in the vicinity and some distance from any other church we called the Presbytery to wit, elders Joseph Flora, R.C. Horner and William Thrope and did then and there organize the church called Providence Baptist Church by calling Elder Joseph Flora to the chair as moderator and Thommas Morrison as church clerk. The moderator preceded to read some scripture, seal questions, and to ask scriptural questions of the members and then presented the new testament as the only rule of faith and practice which they accepted rising to their feet.

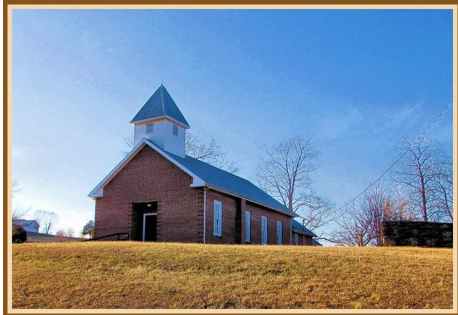
The first services of this organization were held in a barn belonging to Samuel Lee. The first church a small cabin was erected. The second general meeting recorded in the book was June 1969 . The business to first attend to was the election of delegates to attend to the meeting of the Nolachuckey Association and second was the agreement to join it.

On the 3rd Sat. of May 1870 J.B. Morrison and J.B. Carter were elected deacons. The case of a sister who joined a Methodist church was taken up and held over till the next meeting. At the next meeting this member was removed from the roll.

Approved conduct and church attendance were usually rigid requirements of many early church goers. The usual punishment for such transgressors was exclusion from membership, at Providence at least 7 of the original members were excluded from membership for various reasons.

In 1989 the building committee announced that a new building was completed. At the cost of \$52.89 leaving a balance in the

treasury of 15 cense. The men of the church had done all of the work of themselves. July it was moved and seconded that the church move to the Holston Valley Association. Evidence that Providence has progressed is the well kept house of worship setting on the county line and the large and progressive Sunday School. The Association met with Providence in 1889, 1903, and 1926. The fact that this church was so strict to enforce moral dicipline is unusual and interesting . It was wide spread in earlier times but had passed away. Sylvia Bright



*Illustration 4: Photo by: Sylvia Bright*

### **Providence Presbyterian**

Happy Valley Rd., Limestone, Tennessee

In the northern edge of Greene County on the headwaters of what was called Little Limestone, Mill and now Carson Creek, a stones throw from the Greene/Washington county line is Providence which was set in Church Order by Rev. Samuel Doak in 1780.

They already had about 100 members so the church was older than the organizing date. Mr. Doak also founded the church at Salem at the same date.

In 1783 the church called it's first pastor Rev. Samuel Houston of Tinkling Springs, Virginia. He remained on the circuit field six years during which his wife died of childbirth. The cemetery was probably not established because she was buried on her uncle's farm. A deed for the cemetery and church lot was registered in 1790. The church still has the original handwritten deed in its position.

During this time Rev. Houston became engaged in forming the State of Franklin. He was chairman of the committee to draft a constitution which was bitterly opposed by Rev. Hezekiah Balch. The state was defeated which led to bitter feelings between Rev. Houston and Rev. Balch.

Sometime during the Civil War the church became affiliated with the Presbyterians. South which it remained until 1928 when it was voted overwhelmingly to associate with the Presbyterian Church of America.

In 1836 the church had over 100 members, by 1927 the church was so small it was defunct. In 1928 a money bequest was left to the church which led to the reorganizing of the church. It led to the keeping of better records and had functioned as an organized church ever since. The neat Structure which now exists was the third building to stand on this land. A frame building was built in 1890 and the exterior was brick veneered in 1983. Sylvia Bright





*Photo Credit: Sylvia Bright*

### **Rader's Union Church**

Rader's Sidetrack- off 1E toward Mosheim

Prior to 1914 the people of Rader' Community worshiped at the Pt. Pleasant Methodist Church and other surrounding churches. At that time partly because of a disagreement of a location of a proposed school which was to serve Rader and Mt. Pleasant communities, but more important, because a church was needed in the village, a meeting was called by local church leaders. A committee to make further study was appointed, with F.M. Bible as chairman and W.N. McFarland as secretary. Unfortunately the minutes of the first meeting have been lost.

As there were many denotations represented in the population at Rader's, it was decided to organize a non-denominational Union Church. The followings denotations were declared equal in the new organization Methodist Episcopal, M.E. South, Lutheran, Cumberland Presbyterian, Missionary Baptist, United Brethren, Church of God and Dunkards, as these were affiliated with different families who expected to worship in the church when it was built.

The following Trustees were elected, one from each denotation:

J.R. Smelcer-Methodist Episcopal, R.W. Pennington: M.E. South, F.M. Bible-Lutheran, W.M. Mc Farland -Cumberland Presbyterian, Jacob Baughard-Baptist, I.C. Cocharn-United Brethren,

S.C. Swecker-Church of God, W.H. Bryant-Dunkard.

A building committee was set with a building fund of \$800, construction of a sanctuary was begun. In 1914 on a lot donated by Mr. and Mrs. F.M. Bible with free labor and materials donated by members of the new congregation the building preceded rapidly and the church was completed by September 1914. The bell for the new sanctuary was donated by J. Minnis Bible. The first Sunday School was held October 1st with J.R. Smelcer as Superintendent. There was about 100 in attendance from the beginning.

The duty of the appointment committee is to provide preaching service and to see there is no conflict of appointments. Any minister of the gospel is welcome to preach here and given the offering collected at the service.

Three classrooms were added to the sanctuary in 1950, with an enrollment of 138. The church is approaching its 100th anniversary this year and would like anyone to attend. Sylvia Bright



**Reformation Lutheran**  
**West Main St, Greeneville**



**Rheatown UMC**

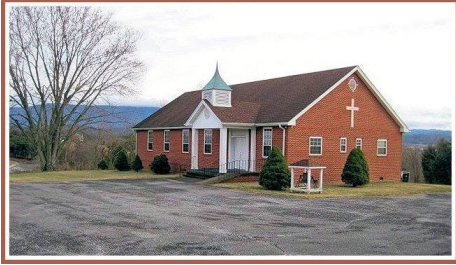
Rheatown Road, Chuckey, Tennessee

In 1844 a Methodist congregation was organized in Rheatown. A log Church was erected on the Stage Road in the east end of the town on the Earnest farm near the entrance to the Rheatown Cemetery. We know this church existed because a copy of the deed and the first ledger exists dated the 8th of February 1844. This church stood behind the old freight depot across the creek from the present Rheatown Church. Soon after the Civil War the church was closed. The congregation was equally divided between the North and South.

The Methodist Episcopal Church South was formed. The foundation of the church was rock. The logs for the building were donated by Thomas Doyle. The church was well built with 6 large windows and 2 entrance doors. One large stove in the center heated the building. Light was furnished by kerosene lamps hung on the walls by brackets. Although the church was built in 1871, the deed wasn't written until 1880 and wasn't recorded until 1886. Dr. Morley released all claims to the land to the Trustees of the Church. The parsonage was the Shoun house, one of the oldest in the community. The church grew rapidly and by 1886 the membership was 188. They remained on the Limestone Circuit until 1939.

In 1939 the Methodist Churches merged and they went on the Clear Springs Charge. The parsonage was an old house and a brick parsonage was built. Although the church retains its original structure but over the years many changes were made. The old heater was removed and replaced by a modern gas furnace. The ceiling, walls and floor were removed and insulation was added. The two isles were made into a center isle. The 2 doors were made into one double door. In 1969 a new roof was added.

In 1989 they joined Albright and became a 2 point charge. It is still a small country church but the membership cares about their church. Liberal contributions and memorial gifts are made. The church continues to thrive and is a good influence on the community.



*Photo by: Sylvia Bright*

### **River Hill UMC**

#### **Old Ashville Highway**

River Hill UMC was established as a United Brethren Church in 1883 in the Flag Branch Community and was known as the Flag Branch Church. This was on land donated by Thomas Farnsworth on "Warm Springs Road". The bell purchased by Aden Gray and placed in the church was the first bell in a church south of the river. The church was relocated south of Greeneville in 1902 overlooking the Nolichucky River on land donated by Thomas and Sarah Holley. It was renamed Pleasant View and part of the Mosheim Circuit. It became Evangelical United Brethren with the merger of Evangelical and United Brethren Churches. In 1960 the annual conference changed the name to River Hill United Methodist which was the community name. The Towering Belfry was struck by lightning and destroyed in 1964. Members saw the fire almost instantly from their homes and alerted others by sounding car horns. The fire spread fast with all the gusty winds but neighbors saved all the furniture and pictures. They are used now in the brick structure built in the same location. And dedicated February 1965. The adjoining cemetery established in 1902 has about 1,400 graves in it. Sylvia Bright



*Photo by: Sylvia Bright*

### **Saint James Episcopal**

#### **Church Street**

In 1842 a small group of faithful Episcopalians gathered and worshiped in the Greene County Courthouse. They organized as the "Greeneville Parish, Greene County" and gained admission to the 1848 convention of Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee. With the support of several traveling clergy they began a formal parish at the dioceses at the convention in 1845.

The parish constructed the present Church Building in 1850 and modified it in 1894. They further enlarged it in 1951. It is one of Tennessee's oldest unaltered churches. In 1852 to 1901, St. James experienced a great turmoil, having to close its doors 1873-1875. Throughout this difficult time St. James lapsed into a mission status. While World Wars, financial Panic, consumed the nation St. James made Great Efforts to get

its status back .In time adding St. Luke Chapel, McMillian Hall, and the rectory,  
We cherish our historic church as it embodies the dedicated spirit of dedicated parishioners. They build the real future of St. James. St. James receives is status as a parish in 1957. Sylvia Bright



*Photo by: Scarlett (Jarrett)  
Coapstick*

### **Saint James Lutheran**

3285 St James Rd

In 2011, St. James Lutheran Church celebrated 200 years.

The church was founded in 1811 by descendants of early immigrants to the New World from the Alsace Lorraine Region of what is now Germany. In the beginning a circuit riding preacher would come once a year to perform Baptisms, weddings, and communion. This once a year visit was called the “Big Meeting”. When roads began to improve he came twice a year. Later St James and Solomon Lutheran went together and called a preacher to serve both churches. Recently the two churches called two preacher to serve each separately .Over the past 200 years there have been many changes. They started out in a small log church and grew to the fine brick building they are in now. With all the changes, St. James has maintained the basic premise of Martin Luther. Sylvia Bright



*Photo by Sylvia Bright*

### **Saint Joseph's**

Midway Road

The founders in 1871 had no building to begin with. They borrowed the old Cobble School house to conduct their services. Then they called it Midway Freewill Baptist Church of Christ. The present name St. Joseph came in the year 1889. Preachers had to work also because there was not enough money made in preaching. Early collection figures indicate money was scarce. 27 cents was the amount collected a Sunday in April 1889, not exactly a livable income for the pastor so he had to farm. After the turn of the century things began to pick up. The attendance increased, Collections multiplied, more deacons were added and the people were optimistic about their church. George Rader and Corbin Cobble were around before the present church was built. They can remember many good people come and go. The property for the new church site was purchased from Will Justice for \$30.00. A building committee was elected in 1927. The women of the church purchased the windows. The church had several carpenters in the church members. All the work was done by the members. The old church was sold and torn down to be used for something else. The new church

was dedicated in July 1929. In 1971 they had a 100 year celebration. Sylvia Bright



*Photo by: Sylvia Bright*

### **Seventh Day Adventist**

Ashville Highway

In June, 1912, Elders P.G. Stanley and J.B. Locken came to Greeneville and conducted a series of lectures on Bible Prophecies. Meetings were held on Summer Street adjacent to the old post office building. At that time the only Adventists in this area were Mr. and Mrs. W.M. Woolsey and their children, Ada and Arthur. As a result of continuing meetings by Elder Locken 14 people became Sabbath Keepers. On 3-16-1913, the company was organized into a church with 14 charter members.

In the summer of 1913, Mr. Sam Lamons. One of the first converts, gave a corner lot on West Main Street across from the Cresnet School building for the erection of a small frame church. It was dedicated in the Fall of that year. In 1935 larger facilities were needed for the growing membership .Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Reaves donated land on Tacoma Ave. for the building of a newer and larger church. Dedication services were held 8-25-1935.

For nearly 50 years this facility severed the congregation well however in 1981 land was purchased on the Ashville Highway for yet a newer and larger church. Dedication services were held 10-26-1991. The membership is now 450 members and growing. Sylvia Bright



*Photo by Sylvia Bright*

### **Shiloh Cumberland Presbyterian**

Shiloh Cumberland Presbyterian Church had it's beginnings as a result of a religious fervor of the 1800s which would become know as the "Great Revival". During this time "Camp Meetings" were held in the Tusculum Area. The exact date this group would become know as Shiloh is unknown. The church could have begun as early as 1832 but records show the church existed in 1844.

For the first twenty-five years the church met in the Holly Creek School. In 1855 land was purchased at the present site for a building. Construction began on a white frame building began in 1858 and was completed in 1859. It was described as "on a lovely hill top behind Tusculum College".

Shiloh like most churches suffered during the Civil War. No records were kept then. So there is no way to know if services were held. After the Civil War records show many souls were added to the church rolls. In 1880 Shiloh formed a mission society to support work done in foreign missions.

In 1952-53 a basement was dug and classrooms, a study and a library were added. In later years a porch and a ramp were added. Shiloh continued to grow in the 1900s a fellowship hall with a kitchen, additional bathrooms and the basement was expanded.

They celebrated their 150 years in October 2009. Sylvia Bright



*Photo by: Sylvia Bright*

### **Sinking Springs Lutheran**

Before 1801 an interesting trend in population happened around Sinking Springs Lutheran and Timber Ridge Presbyterian Churches. It seemed the area around Sinking Springs where the Presbyterians had a meeting house had a big growth of Lutherans. Meanwhile where the Lutheran Church at Timber Ridge were surrounded by Presbyterians. The only logical thing to do was to swap names of the churches. So the Lutherans took over Sinking Springs and the Presbyterian took over Timber Ridge. The first mention of Sinking Springs was September 1811 when the North Carolina Synod accepted them. The Lutherans liked the church that was erected in 1819 so they decided to build another structure like it of brick in 1850. The Civil War caused the building of the new church to be delayed until 1870. This building served the congregation until 1923. A new one was built behind it. In 1941 a basement was dug out for Sunday school rooms and in 1963 the outside was bricked and the inside was redone. Four-fifths of the money needed to improve the building in 1962 was furnished by Solon Keiker in memory of his father Rubin A. Keiker. Sylvia Bright

### **Solomon Lutheran Church**



*Illustration 5: Photo by Tim Shumbard*



*Photo by: Sylvia Bright*

## **Stone Dam United Methodist Church**

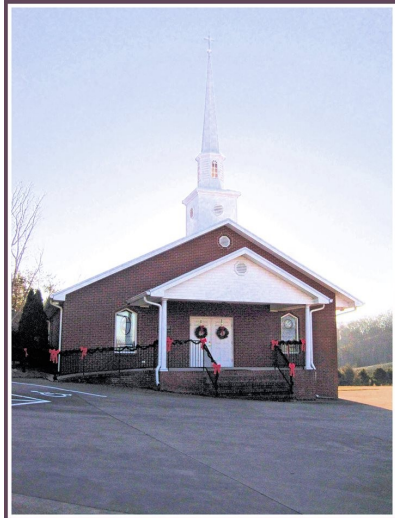
### **Stone Dam Road**

Chuckey, Tennessee

Although the oldest deed of Stone Dam Church bears the date February 1820. History tells the camp meetings at Stone Dame existed when Ebenezer Church was organized in 1790. The place of worship was first known as Salem Congregation of the Methodist Episcopal Society or Church of Salem Camp Grounds. The deed was for a tract of land containing 1 acre and 22 poles. And the only consideration asked by Mr. Hice was the trustees of Methodist Episcopal Church and Salem Camp Ground keep settlers that might settle on the campground from cutting timber around the campground, the Trustees agreed to be liable for such a happening. The other provision was if they were not hold camp meetings on the campgrounds for three years the property would go back to Mr. Hice. The campground was later called Stone Dam Campground.

The Civil War caused a division in the Methodist Churches, Stone Dam was operated by the southern Methodist. The trustees decided to deed to David Ellis the land known as Stone Dam Campground. Then on July 1891, Ellis gave to the Trustees to have and hold forever the lot called Stone Dam. Around the year 1900 a church was built and a cemetery was established. Their membership began to grow. In 1930 an acre of land was purchased to be used for cemetery and parking ground.

In 1948 an new addition was added to be used for classrooms and an oil furnace was installed, in 1953 the sanctuary was redecorated an new floor was laid. The Women's Society started a drive for new pews which were placed in August of 1953. In 1963 stained glass windows were installed in the sanctuary. Further improvements are being planned. Sylvia Bright



*Photo by Sylvia Bright*

### **Sulfur Springs UMC**

#### **Sulphur Springs Loop off Baileyton Hwy.**

Until 1820 the early settlers met in homes to worship together. Some traveling preachers would come by and preach for them. In 1820 The Big Lick Creek United Methodist was organized. The location was south-west of the present church. It was dedicated in May 1826. The second building was moved several yards between the black and tallow Sulphur Springs probably the origin of the present church name.

There is no record of having services during the Civil War. There is no record of why these two log structures were replaced.

The third building was on higher ground, a few feet south of the present Church. It was made of huge logs. Dedicated in 1979. In 1910 a decision was made to build a frame church. The new church was built with no back door so the members had no need to turn around and see who came in late. Electricity was added in 1930. Sunday Schol rooms as well as a back door were added in 1953. The kitchen and bathrooms were completed in 1972. Vinyl siding added in 1987. Central heat and air in 1992.

In 2012 this church was destroyed by arson. Everything was lost. 300 volunteers from 30 area churches worked together at a day long fund raiser to earn money to help replace the church. Many suppliers gave the church good discounts in the rebuilding. Bolton Block donated half the block. Loven Concrete donated concrete needed for the footers.

The First Church of God in Greeneville donated the pews. They are in their new church now. Sylvia Bright



*Photo by Sylvia Bright*

### **Tabernacle Presbyterian Church**

### **Tate's Chapel**

#### **Wesley Avenue, Greeneville**

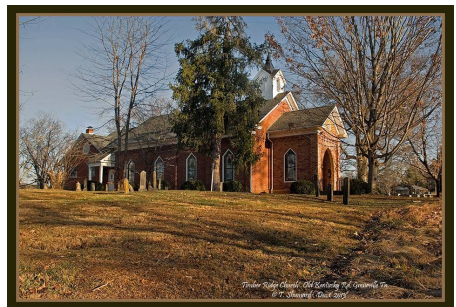
Before the organization of the East Tennessee Conference, the blacks of East Tennessee belonged to the Holston Conference. It was quite apparent that the black ministers





*Photo by: Sylvia Bright*

would develop into leadership very slowly under the arrangement. They wanted a chance to exercise their ability in leadership and to do the job in a way as to give their people the best possible service. So organizing a separate conference for the blacks was not objected to. The general conference in May 1880 passed on enabling act which read "The Holston Conference divide within the ensuing four years when a majority of the members of both classes of an annual session shall ask for such separate conference provided the Bishop presiding shall concur". One of the first black churches in the Greeneville area was Tate's Chapel. The ground for the church was purchased on September 18, 1875 by deed of Edwin S. Rising. There were twenty-six members when the church was organized and by 1871 this congregation had grown into seventy-one. Some of the early names were Easterly, Henderson, Gass, Twittles, Montgomerys, Ripleys, Brookins, Staples, Woolfords, Ryles and Connors. The structure of the church is original and has been well preserved through the years. In 1917 double windows were added to the front of the church. In 1922 the church was renovated and basement was added to accommodate the needs of a growing membership. Sylvia Bright



*Photo by: Tom Shumbard*

**Timber Ridge Presbyterian Church**  
**Timber Ridge Rd just off Warrensburg Hwy.**  
[Link to Church History](#)

Timber Ridge was formed 11 years before Tennessee became a state. It was a part of 3 states, North Carolina, State of Franklyn and Tennessee. The story goes as recorded in both church records. There were more Presbyterians in the Timber Ridge area and there were more Lutherans in the Sinking Springs area. So the churches just switched denominations. Timber Ridge ended up Presbyterian, the congregation secured Rev. James Witherspoon as their first leader. He led them thru a series of camp meetings and revivals. The church grew and prospered. In 1810 the church divided over "Devine Sovereignty". In 1813 the church was reorganized by Dr. Rankin. An elder who remained faithful to the old church. The Civil war began and Timber Ridge became divided like so many churches. The church slowly reorganized and put the past behind them. The large brick church which had become a land mark became on the verge of ruin. Plans were made to build the present day church on the very site. The church and its story are still going today.



*Photo credit: Sylvia Bright*



*Photo by: Sylvia Bright*

### **Trinity UMC**

#### **Trinity United Methodist Church (formerly known as “Reaves Memorial United Brethren Church”**

Tusculum Blvd.

In 1920 Rev. Scaly was appointed to start an United Brethren Church in Greeneville Tennessee. The church was started with 20 charter members. Services were held in the Lutheran Church on Depot St. Land was purchased on the corner of Depot and Summer.

Rev. Scalf was active in conducting fund raisers to raise money to build a church building. In 1923 Dr. Sidwell gave the dedication address for the new Church. They named it after his wife, Reaves Memorial United Brethren Church. In 1945 the church merged with the Evangelical Church and became “The Evangelical United Brethren Church”.

In the 1950s the congregation began to overthrow the sanctuary. 1 and ¾ acres were purchased on Tusculum Blvd. They moved into the new church in 1955. More land was bought next to the church. In 1972 the Holston Conference and the members of the church agreed that the name be change to “Trinity United Methodist Church” .In 1993 a new Education Building was completed. Sylvia Bright



*Photo credit: Sylvia Bright*

### **Upper Room**

Downtown Chuckey

This building was constructed in 1910 largely by volunteer labor and noted for its unique architecture, The blocks were made in such a manner to look like stones. It resembled an old fort. Sundays were rotated by Methodist and Presbyterian for many years. The sign out front calls it “The Upper Room”. The Presbyterian bought the Methodist out for

\$100,000. Over the years many prominent people worshiped with the Presbyterian here. The Presbyterian Church has built another church on 11E. Now this church sets vacant. It is one of the famous landmarks in Chuckey. Sylvia Bright

### **Warrensburg Baptist**

#### **Kirk Hill Road near where Warrensburg turns to Fish Hatchery Road**

The first reference to the members that would become the Warrensburg Baptist Church was found in the 1789 records of the Bent Creek Baptist Church. Was meeting at William



Lowell's at Lick Creek. The second record was 1791 when William Lowell became a Deccan. In 1793 twenty members were released from Lick Creek Baptist.

Rev. Isaac Barton became the first pastor and served 25 years. Originally the church was a member of the Holston Assoc. But it was Too large and they divided it up thus they became Nolachuckey assoc. In the early 1800s the church was moved across the hill to the little town of Warrensburg. The first site was next to the Mason Hall. Sometime later the church building was moved across where it stands now. The church building has been remolded with 10 Sunday school rooms, a nursery and a kitchen. In 1978 a baptistry was added. In 1952 the Dr. Everhart home adjoining the property was bought and remolded for a parsonage. A new brick home was built and in 1976 the members burned the note at the homecoming celebration. Sylvia Bright

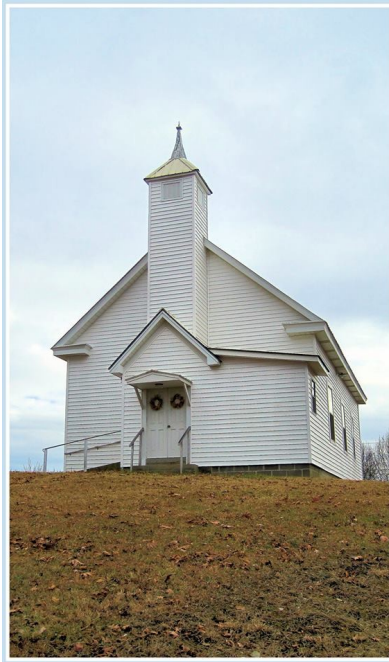


### **Warrensburg UMC**

Warrensburg is one of the earliest settlements in Greene County. It is thought they were formed about 1810. It is certain they had already been formed some time when they attended the big camp meeting at Carters Station. When Rocky Point School was built in 1854 it became the place to meet. When a bigger school and a Masonic Hall were built.

The people wanted their own church building. J.C. Ayers sold half acre land for the church for \$1.00. Lumber was donated by the Lotspeich family. The people donated their labor. The church aquired more land at a latter date.

Improvements were made. It was late in the evening when this picture was made the sun cast deep shadows against the church. Sylvia Bright



*Photo by Sylvia Bright*

### **Weems Chapel**

In February 1885 George J. Weems and Mattie Ross Weems deeded land for a church and a school to trustees Benjamin Carter, G.J. Weems, Lewis Carter, W.K. Johnson and J.C. Cox. Weems gave the lumber and paid for some of the hired labor. George and Sabina Rednour gave an additional one-half acre of land to the trustees. The school ceased to exist about 1910. Some of the earliest members were Johnson, Carter, Poe, Weems, Moore, Self, Ridley, Luttrell, Craft, Long, Ayers, Bullington, Cox, Foshie, Redinhour and Gass.

In 1930 attendance was 77 with a collection of 41 cents, Insurance expense was 50 cents.

The building was remodeled in 1960. Sylvia Bright



*Photo by Sylvia Bright*

### **Wesley's Chapel United Methodist Church**

N. Wesley Chapel Road

3 miles from Interstate 81, exit 36

The church is located on land that was a North Carolina land Grant to Andrew Simpson in 1787, and owned by John Weems in 1792. It is stand on a hill overlooking several miles of Lick Creek valley it was known as the church on the waters of Lick Creek.

The church dates back to when the deed by Robert Irvine for a consideration of one shilling, one acre and nine perches of land was handed over to the trustees. A church building of brick fired on the site was erected and stood on this site 500 feet west of the present church. It burned down in 1880.

After the destruction the people met at Melody School on Sundays. In Feb. 1887 George and Andrew Weems donated two acres of land to Wealeys Methodist Episcopal Church South and a new house of worship began. Today this same white building is being used. In the late 40s a 10' X 18' painting of the ascension was placed behind the pulpit. In 1956 a basement was dug for Sunday school rums was added, a vestibule was added.

Restrooms were installed in 1980, a new roof, vinyl siding, steeple were added in 1984-85. Sylvia Bright



*Photo credit: Sylvia Bright*

### **Whittenburg**

#### **Whittenburg Road (Between the Warrensburg Rd. and Newport Hwy.)**

The church began as a log building located near the present site. It was first established as a Northern Methodist Church. There was not a minister for the congregation at this time. Anyone who felt the lord had called them to spear or read the bible was allowed to do so at the time.

The first preacher chosen was one of the members attending the church. He was not paid for his service. White and black members worshiped together however they did not set together. Many improvements have been made over the years. A basement with classrooms. A kitchen and bathrooms have been added. The church has been blessed with several excellent pastors. Rev. Jake Reed served the church longer than any other, 12 years.

The Rev. Richard Walker served for 11 years.

The average church-Sunday school attendance is 65. They are one of the charges of the Bright Hope Circuit in the Morristown District of the Holston Conference. Sylvia Bright



*Illustration 6: Photo by Tom Shumbard*

### **Zion Presbyterian Church**

#### **295 Sentelle Rd**

#### **Sentell Road near the 107 cut-off**

Zion is located on the south side of Greeneville on Camp Creek. Was formally known as Mt. Zion at one time then simply Zion Mission. The church is believed to date back to the 1700s. Bill Kennedy in his book "The Scotch-Irish in the hills of East Tennessee" states that Colonel Daniel Kennedy (1759-1802) was one of the founders of the church. Ant that he and Sparling Bowman donated land for the church and cemetery. The first building was a log structure but the frame building was erected before the Civil War.

The present building was erected and dedicated in the 1950s. In 1950 the United Presbyterian Churches put the church under the care of its board of missions. This relationship of it's Board of Missions. This relationship lasted until the early 1950s. A mission school was operated on the site and some of the woman teachers married locally and remained as members of the church. There is an active Sunday school and the congregation supports the Greeneville Food Bank. Sylvia Bright



*Photo by Sylvia Bright*

## **Zion M.E. Church**

Horton Highway

The first settlers near Laurel Gap, now Baileyton, settled on the rich bottom land near Lick Creek. John Westley and George Whitfield as well as other noted speakers passed through this area occasionally and preached. The people strongly desired an established place to worship. The Baileyton Community met about 1830 and built a log cabin on the south side of Snapp Ferry Road (now Horton Hwy). south and west of the present brick church. The people met in it until 1858 when the present church was built.

In Jan. 1860 Thomas Bailey deeded the land for the Zion ME church to the Trustees. The church was a blessing to the community.

Great religious revivals were held in the church, by local preachers and traveling ministers. Zion Church organized a Sunday School in connection with her work. The young people were taught Catechism, temperance and memorized bible verses. In 1972 Sunday school rooms were added to the Zion Church.  
Sylvia Bright