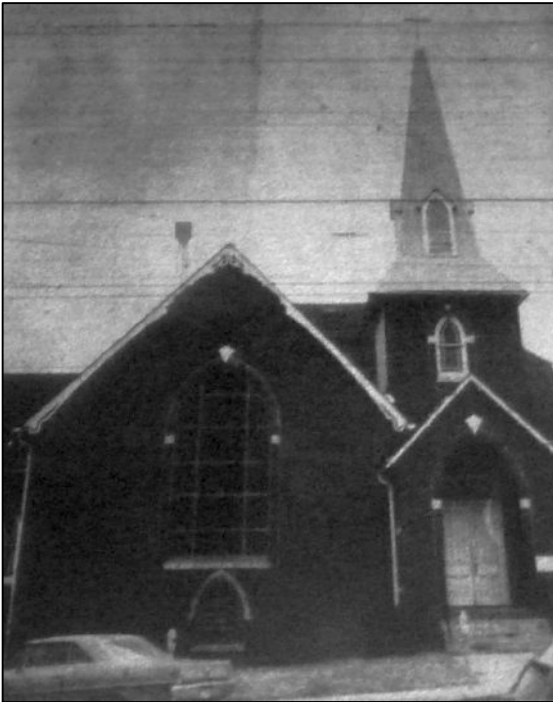


By Linda Martin
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The Cumberland Presbyterian Church, now under the ministry of the Rev. Logan Tilghman, was the first church to be established in Cookeville.

Records show that the first services were held in 1854 in the home of Dr. J. M. Goodpasture, an instrumental figure in the formation of the early Cumberland Presbyterian Church. The home of Dr. Goodpasture is today the home of Eugene Jared, 114 N. Washington.



Later services were held in the Washington Academy, now the City Hall lot. Then with the Baptist, Methodist and Christian leaders, Cumberland Presbyterian shared a Union Church that had been provided for in the state community charter. Each denomination had one Sunday per month for services.

In 1861 the Cumberland Presbyterian, as a united denomination, built the first church on the same grounds where their building now stands. The lot was previously the site of the first house built in Cookeville - - a log store. On August 26, 1887, following a noted revival led by the Rev. Jessee E. Hickman and Stephen Davis in the Washington Academy, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church was duly organized in Cookeville.

Early leaders in the church were Dr. J. M. Goodpasture, Jessee Pendergrass, S. K. Phillips, John T. Pendergrass, Henry P. Davis, J. W. Carr, C. J. Davis, J. C. Freeze, J. F. Dyer, Jessee Arnold, C. N. Wheeler, Holland Denton, Walton Smith, E. D.

Staley, J. H. Barbee, Thomas Finely, N. J. Finney, D. L. Lansden, S. S. Webb, A. D. Smith, H. D. Whitson, J. H. McCawley, Henry J. Brown, A. W. Boyd, Z. T. Hinds, W. D. Sloan, J. W. Wright, W. D. Ferrell, E. H. Boyd, Quimby Dyer, and Whitley Hyder.

Tragedy and crisis marked the Cumberland Presbyterian in those early days of formation. In 1891 the building was totally destroyed by fire, despite the efforts of the bucket brigade from the town spring. They rebuilt only to have it destroyed again, but this time by windstorm. In 1894 a frame structure, basically the same building as now stands, was completed and dedicated.

By the 1890's there were approximately 80 members of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and by 1906 there were 96 members. At this time, leaving only 6 members to carry on the Cumberland Presbyterian church, 90 members broke away and started a new church, the Presbyterian Church USA on Dixie Ave.

The members of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church are very proud of the fact that, as of last August 19-20, 1967, they are currently in their Centennial Year. Three years ago they voted to re-locate their church on the Algood Highway at Maple St., and it is very likely they will begin construction in the near future.

The Rev. Tilghman, who became pastor of the church on March 1, 1964, spoke very highly of the congregation of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church when he said, "The Lord has very graciously given me wonderful pastoral experience in Humbolt and Clarksville, but the four years experience I have had with the Cookeville congregation stands as most memorable and rewarding."

*Red more about Putnam County History at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>