

### **Wilhite Baptist Church Celebrating 80<sup>th</sup> Year on September 20, 2009**

**COOKEVILLE-** Wilhite Baptist Church will celebrate its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary Sunday, September 20, 2009, with a homecoming.

The church got its start in the home of John H. Price, with Mr. and Mrs. Price, Cleve Slagle, Edgar Harris, Mrs. and Mrs. John Ray, Lecham Messenger, and Mary Lou Phy.

In the church's early days, ministers from different denominations, such as Pete and Bill Bilyeu, W. R. Wittington, Robert Lee and Jeb Lee Walker, held revival and brush meetings. Pete Bilyeu later became the first pastor of the church when it moved to the community school building in 1928.

The church met once a month under pastor Bilyeu, who was later succeeded by Rev. Whittington in 1933.

The church built their first building on the corner of Davis road and Highway 42. Half of the land was purchased by the church and the other half of the land was donated by the Brock Brown family and the McClellan family. Oliver Lane was the pastor during this first building program.

In 1972, Wilhite Baptist Church voted to relocate to four acres of property they purchased for \$96,000 on the corner of Davis Road and Bunker Hill Road.

The old building was sold for \$52,000. Pastor C. E. Clay held the first church service in their new building on July 21, 1974. The not-burning service was held on April 2, 1989.

In 1994 the building underwent construction to add an 8,000 square foot, two-story educational building, which contained Sunday School rooms and restrooms on the top floor and a Fellowship Hall and office space on the bottom floor. Terry Geren was pastor at this time.

Currently the interim pastor is Troy Caudle.

At the homecoming on Sept. 20, Sunday School will begin at 9:45 a.m. while worship service will begin at 10:45 a.m., with preaching by former pastor, Bro. Shipley.

A pot luck dinner will be service after the service.

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\*Read more about Putnam Co., TN at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>