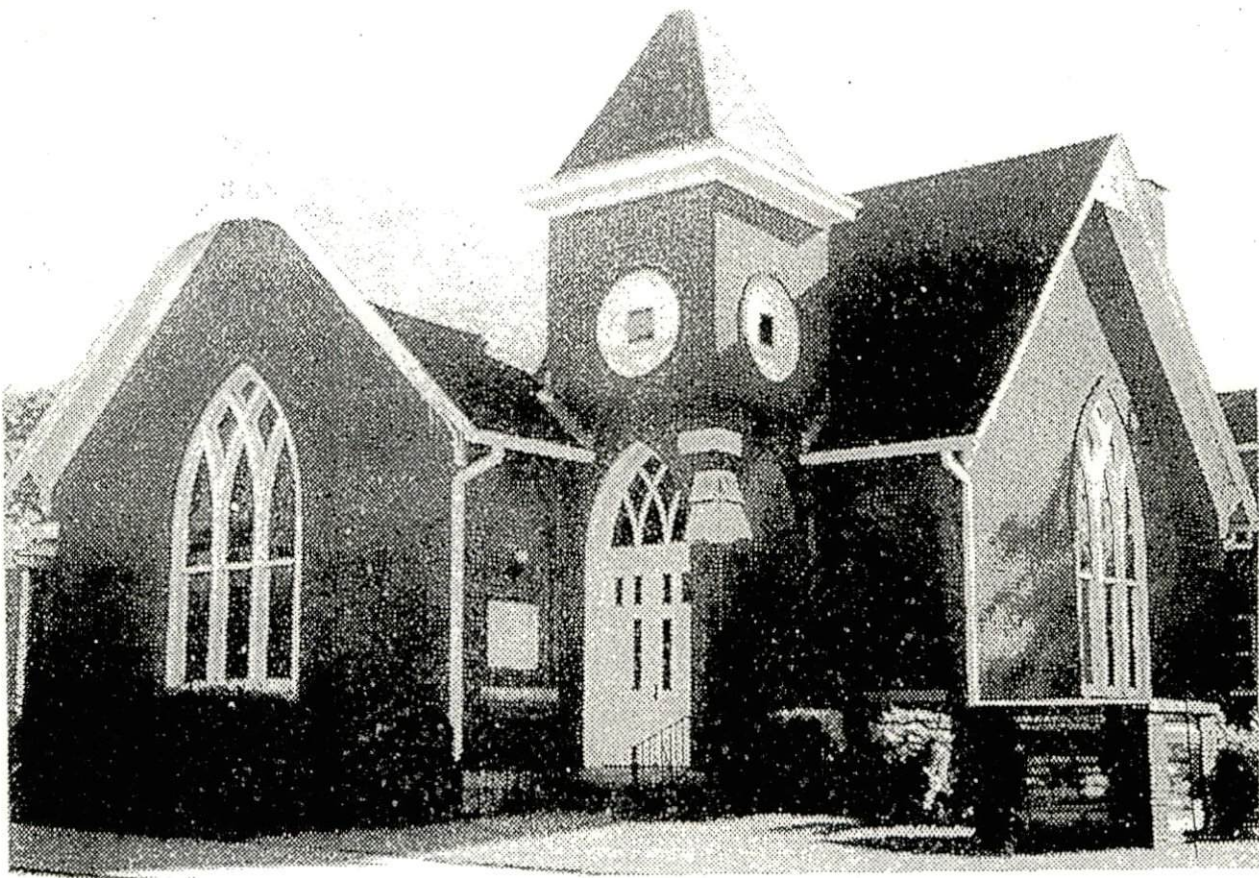


1995

# Kerr Memorial United Methodist Church



Botling Green,  
Kentucky

KERR MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
105TH ANNIVERSARY- OCTOBER 15, 1995  
DONALD E. DORRIS, MINISTER

THE PRELUDE	ORGANIST
THE CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION	MINISTER
THE CALL TO WORSHIP	CHOIR
"HOLY SPIRIT THOU ART WELCOME"	
*HYMN "AND ARE WE YET ALIVE"	553
THE CONSECRATION OF THE CROSS	
LYNDA DEARING: THE PEOPLE OF KERR MEMORIAL PRESENT	
THIS CROSS TO BE CONSECRATED TO THE GLORY OF ALMIGHTY	
GOD AND FOR SERVICE IN THIS CHURCH.	
FREEDA HUNT: WE ACCEPT THIS CROSS AS A SACRED TRUST	
AND WILL GUARD AND USE IT REVERENTLY.	
DONALD E. DORRIS: IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF	
THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WE CONSECRATE THIS	
CROSS TO THE GLORY OF GOD. LET US PRAY.	
MOST LOVING GOD, WITHOUT YOU NO WORDS OR WORKS OF OURS	
HAVE MEANING. ACCEPT THIS GIFT OF OUR HANDS AS A	
SYMBOL OF OUR DEVOTION. GRANT US YOUR BLESSING, AS WE	
HAVE CONSECRATED THIS GIFT TO YOUR GLORY, THAT IT MAY	
BE AN ENDURING WITNESS BEFORE ALL YOUR PEOPLE, AND THAT	
OUR LIVES MAY BE CONSECRATED IN YOUR SERVICE, THROUGH	
JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN.	
THE ANTHEM "HOW GREAT THOU ART"	CHOIR
*HYMN "THIS IS THE DAY"	557
*PRAYER	MINISTER
THE OFFERTORY	
*THE DOXOLOGY	IN UNISON
PRAYER OF DEDICATION	MINISTER
SOLD "MORE"	DIANE MARTIN
SCRIPTURE LESSON PSALM 34: 8-9	REV. CHRIS PATTERSON
THE MESSAGE "GOD IS GOOD"	REV. CHRIS PATTERSON
THE INVITATION TO A NEW BEGINNING	
*HYMN "BECAUSE HE LIVES"	364
*THE BENEDICTION "GOD BE WITH YOU"	IN UNISON
*THE POSTLUDE	ORGANIST

→ Presentation of quilt from  
Bro Russell Ireland by Pat  
Ireland Houston - names of 1944  
members made by Ken Ladies.

\*DENOTES CONGREGATION STANDING

WELCOME: WE WANT TO EXTEND A WARM AND FRIENDLY WELCOME  
TO ALL WHO ARE HERE TO WORSHIP WITH US ON THIS VERY SPECIAL  
DAY. IT IS OUR PRAYER THAT YOU WILL RECEIVE A BLESSING AS YOU  
WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP DURING ALL OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THIS  
DAY.

ALTAR FLOWERS GIVEN IN MEMORY OF:

REV. DANIEL F. AND MARGARET KERR BY LLOYD AND SARAH CORNWELL  
JAMES W. AND RUTH ALLEN BY FREDA AND RALPH HUNT AND FAMILY

AFTERNOON SERVICE

SPECIAL MUSIC

SPEAKER: PAST AND PRESENT MINISTERS OR THEIR FAMILIES



## BIOGRAPHY OF DANIEL FARMER KERR

Rev. Daniel Farmer Kerr was born in White County, Tennessee, March 1, 1847, to parents of scottish ancestry. He was reared on a farm and educated in the common schools. In July, 1863 (age 16) he joined the Federal Army, enlisting in Company E, Thirty-Fifth Kentucky Mounted Infantry. His command participated in many engagements, most notable of which were those of Saltworks and Gladesville, in Virginia. After receiving his military discharge in December, 1864, he returned home and engaged in the sawmill business for nine years.

Rev. Kerr was married on July 14, 1867 to Mary A. Davis of Grayson County, Kentucky. She died in 1872, leaving two children; one son Robert H., and a daughter who died in April, 1873. On August 10, 1873, he married Margaret E. Quisenberry, also of Grayson County. In 1874 he traveled in Kansas in the capacity of State lecturer of the I.O.G.T. In the same year he was licensed a local minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church. George B. Kerr was born to the marriage on August 13, 1874.

Rev. Kerr was ordained by Bishop Merrill at Callettsburg, Kentucky, in 1880. He served in the Bowling Green circuit from 1885 to 1890, when he was appointed to organize the First Methodist Episcopal Church in Bowling Green. He continued as pastor until 1894. He served as Presiding Elder of the Green River District of the Methodist Episcopal Church from 1894 to 1898. He was chaplain of the Eddyville Penitentiary for three years, later organized a church in Owensboro and in ill health, retired from his last pastorate in Graves County, in 1903.

He moved to Florida and engaged in private enterprise until 1914. He returned to Bowling Green in 1922 where he died at his residence on Clay Street on July 10, 1923.

KERR MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ROLL OF MINISTERS  
SPANING 105 YEARS OF SERVICE FOR GOD

D.F. KERR	1890-1893
W.H. SPYBY	1893-1894
J.S. COX	1894-1895
C.P. ADAMS	1895-1897
W.B. BURTON	1897-1899
C.P. ADAMS	1899-1902
W.T. DUNN	1902-1904
DAVID BELL	1904-1907
J.H. PRICE	1907-1908
BEN. HELM	1908-1912
T.M. DAVIS	1912-1913
T.B. ASHLEY	1913-1916
G.A. PARSONS	1916-1917
H.C. SIMS	1917-1918
G.G. MURRELL	1918-1920
C.A. BROMLEY	1920-1922
BOYD BROWNING	1922-1924
J.M. CARTER	1924-1926
G.M. HAGGARD	1926-1927
L.O. LOGDSON	1927-1929
E.N. EARLY	1929-1930
O.P. BAUGH	1930-1932*
B.M. WINTER	1932-1933*
GRANVILL JAGGERS	1933-1936*
J.C. LANDRUM	1936 *
A.S. GODBY	1936-1937*
T.M. PICKERILL	1937-1940
J.L. MCGEE	1940-1942
G.R. IRELAND	1942-1946
J.F. ROOHER	1946-1951
I.H. OWEN	1951-1956
T.D. EVERETT	1956-1960
W.C. WHITLEY	1960-1964
J.T. WALKER	1964-1968
J.M. HUMBLE	1968-1975
J.H. COOMER	1975-1979
KENNETH LOVELACE	1979-1983
CLIFFORD SPARKS	1983-1988
THOMAS MORRISON	1988-1990
ROBERT COOPER	1990-1995
DON DORRIS	1995-

\* DENOTES YEARS MAY NOT BE EXACT BUT THESE MINISTERS SERVED  
BETWEEN 1930- 1937

## HISTORY KERR MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The history of Kerr Memorial United Methodist Church begins on a September day in 1890 at the annual session of the Kentucky Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, held at Barbourville, Kentucky. Bishop W.F. Mallalieu assigned to Bowling Green the Rev. Daniel Farmer Kerr for the purpose of organizing a society of the church and erecting a suitable building for holding religious services.

One month later, in October, 1890, the society was organized with about twelve members who met in the Warren County Court House, and for some time thereafter, services were held regularly at this place each Sunday morning and evening. Later a vacant storeroom on lower Main Street was secured from Col. J. Will Wright, and preaching services were held there until the present sanctuary on the corner of Twelfth and Adams was completed in the fall of 1891.

On various occasions when Rev. Kerr attended church conferences and meetings in Louisville, he was a guest in the home of Mrs. Fannie Speed, widow of the late Joshua Speed, a member of President Abraham Lincoln's cabinet and an influential friend of the President. It was through the generosity of Mrs. Speed and her love of God that she gave \$1100.00 for the purchase of our lot from Col. B.F. Proctor. A missionary circle of the W.S.C.S. was named for Mrs. Speed.

Our three pulpit chairs were a gift of Amos M. Shinkle, a millionaire layman of Covington, Kentucky, who was also a very liberal contributor to the building of the church.

The first parsonage at 1302 Adams Street was bequeathed to the church by one of our faithful members, Mrs. Mary Cohron Belcher in 1929.

In 1935, during the ministry of Rev. Granvil Jagers, an addition, the present Nora Kerr room, was added to the church building.

The original name of the church was "First Methodist Episcopal Church". At the time of unification in 1937, during the ministry of Rev. I.M. Pickens, the name of the church was changed to "Kerr Memorial Methodist Church" in memory of the first organizer and first pastor.



The church experienced its most dramatic growth during the late 1930's and early 1940's. During a two-week revival conducted in November 1937 by Evangelist H.C. Sims, Rev. Pickeral received 71 persons into the church fellowship; 41 on profession of faith. The church membership grew from less than 200 in 1937 to over 500 in 1944. At this later date about 70% of the church school membership, which numbered over 500, were in regular attendance. Louisville conference records reveal that Kerr Memorial had one of the most active church school departments in the Conference. For several years the enrollment in the children's department was larger than any Methodist Church in Bowling Green. Enrollment in Vacation Bible School generally numbered over 200.

A "Fiftieth Anniversary" was observed in August, 1941 while Rev. I. Lester McGee was pastor. A pipe organ was installed and services were broadcast each Sunday evening over radio station WLBJ.

November 7, 1941, Pearl Harbor Day was a Sunday many of us remember. The church was open for prayer for those of us who were working at home and concerned for our loved ones that were called to serve our Country.

A substantial increase in attendance was experienced at this time, especially in the choir. This led to expansion of the choir loft.

In 1942, during the ministry of Rev. G. Russell Ireland, the house and lot on Adams street adjoining the church property were purchased and used as Sunday School classrooms. In 1950, a modern educational annex was erected while Rev. J.P. Booher was pastor. Mr. L.M. Bostick, Sr. drew the plans and supervised the erection of the \$22,000.00 structure. Various small improvements have been made since then.

About this time the property at 1245 Center Street was purchased for the parsonage family. In 1952 the house and lot at 102 East Twelfth Street was purchased.

Under the leadership of the Rev. I.H. Owen, the congregation established a new church, Westside Methodist, in February 1953.

Kerr Memorial's original sanctuary was renovated in the fall of 1955 and a Baldwin electric organ was installed. The Communion table was presented by the Kerr family in the same year in honor of George and Nora Kerr on their sixtieth wedding anniversary.

The chimes on the organ were given in memory of Mrs. Mollie Newton by her grandson, Harold Wiley, and were dedicated October 20, 1963 by Rev. Wilbur Whitley. The property adjacent to the church on Twelfth Street was purchased during the ministry of Rev. Whitley.

Rev. James Walker and wife, Anna Rachel, became our parsonage family in 1964. During this time the sunrise services were begun at the Berkley Farm and continue today. A memorial plaque was presented to Mr. Chester Duckett for long and faithful service to the church. Frances Farmer was our organist and Robert Hall was our Choir director. Later Rev. Walker united these two in holy matrimony. On May 13, 1966 a memorial service was held for the late George Bain Kerr, son of the founder, a charter member of the congregation and a faithful worker in the church for seventy-five years. A bronze plaque was presented in memory of the founder, Rev. Daniel Farmer Kerr by his grandchildren. Rev. Walker held this service.

The name of our church became "Kerr Memorial United Methodist Church" in April 1968 by the virtue of the unification of the Methodist Church and The Evangelical United Brethren Church.

From 1963 to 1969 mortgage payment and maintenance expenses were met from rental income of the house and apartments. In the spring of 1970, two of the buildings were raised to provide space for parking.

The parsonage family from 1968-1975 was Rev. Joseph Humble, wife Lucille and their three daughters.

Inaccurate records make it impossible to list certain figures such as the number of christenings, marriages, and funerals. It can be estimated however, that about 400 persons have been taken into the church by profession of faith since 1926. The membership in 1970 was 356.

Each year the Bowling Green District of the United Methodist Church has carried out the privilege of sharing the gift of eternal life with others and one way in particular has been through our Bowling Green Volunteers in Mission Program. One of our young men, Andy Sears, went to Belize, British Honduras representing our church in building a school for the natives of that region. This was in April 1975.

Remodeling was done at the parsonage at 102 Twelfth Street. Central heating and air-conditioning was installed in the present educational building. In 1973 a project was started to lay new carpet in the sanctuary, Nora Kerr room and the rear entrance.

A pair of brass seven-branched candelabra was given by the Kerr family in memory of George and Nora Kerr.

At conference in June 1975, Rev. Joe Humble ended his ministry at Kerr Memorial and Rev. J. Harold Coomer was appointed as the new pastor with his wife, Trudy.

During his ministry at Kerr Rev. Coomer started the church newsletter, "The Epistle to the Kerrinthians". New Methodist Hymnals were purchased for the sanctuary. The old Baldwin organ that was installed in 1955 was in need of repair and after much consideration the church voted to purchase a new Baldwin organ for the amount of \$9600.00. Money was raised by contributions and the organ was dedicated on December 2, 1979. New Methodist Hymnals were purchased for the sanctuary.

A memorial fund was established in memory of Mrs. Grace Cole, a faithful member for many years. Dr. B.C. Cole, her son, and one of the stockholders in the Pepsi Cola industry, gave Kerr Memorial a generous amount of stock in the company and thus the Memorial Fund was started.

Mrs. Robert (Frances) Hall resigned as our organist and Mrs. Charles (Mary Evelyn Kerr) Banks was hired to fill the position on a temporary basis. In 1979, Mr. Kevin Bailey was hired as organist-choir director.

The church regretfully accepted the transfer of Rev. Coomer in May 1979. As Rev. Coomer moved to the Hodgenville United Methodist Church we welcomed our new parsonage family Rev. and Mrs. Kenneth Lovelace on June 3, 1979.

During the ministry of Rev. Lovelace, a memorial baptismal font was given in memory of Sara Perkins Mitchell by her mother, Mrs. Ruth Thurston.

We had at this time a parsonage indebtedness of several thousand dollars. A penny drive was started to raise the funds to pay on this note and in very little time the money was raised and the note was paid in full and the church was again debt free.



In May 1983 the Annual Conference appointed to our church the Rev. Clifford Sparks, wife Betty Allen and daughter Martha Louise. A new baby girl, Mary Linda, arrived at the parsonage in March 1986.

During the ministry of Rev. Sparks the parsonage at 102 Twelfth Street was sold and a new brick parsonage was purchased on Gardenside Way. New carpet and pew pads were purchased and installed. New pews for the choir were purchased.

A memorial service for Willard Jagers was held in June 1984 and Rev. Harold Coomer gave the message. Later, a bronze plaque was placed in the educational building as a memorial to a faithful steward.

The Young @ Heart group was formed in the spring of 1985. A fellowship of over "50" years church family. This very active senior group with a membership of approximately 50 including some of our Christian friends of Westside United Methodist Church redecorated the fellowship dining room and kitchen. New sinks and cabinet tops were installed.

The electronic carillon atop our church was given in memory of Mrs. Mary Hall in 1985 by her children, of which Tracine and Virgil Owens are a part. A memorial service was held that same year for Mrs. Hall.

Rev. Thomas Morrison, wife Dee and Son Mike came to us in May 1988. Every Sunday morning Rev. Morrison had a time for "Kid Power", an informative, inspirational time for the children with a very impressive lesson for Christian living and growth.

We are very proud that one of our youth, Christopher Patterson, has accepted the call to the ministry and was presented to the annual charge conference in 1988 with the blessing and sponsorship of the congregation.

The annual conference in May 1990 transferred Rev. Morrison and family to the Edmonton, Kentucky United Methodist Church.

Rev. Robert Cooper and family came to Kerr in May 1990. A dedicated young minister making daily visits to members and hospitals, and very busy making preparations and plans for the one hundredth anniversary celebration.

The 1990 project for the Volunteers in Missions program was the task to rebuild a Methodist Church in Monsarrat, a small island in the West Indies. This church was destroyed by hurricane Hugo. We are happy to say that our own Carl Ezell went on this mission in June 1990.

The annual conference of 1995 moved Rev. Robert Cooper and family to the Louisville area.

Kerr welcomed Rev. Don Dorris and wife Polly as our parsonage family. They arrived just in time for Vacation Bible School and the planning of the 105th celebration.

In the years 1990 thru present day, we have installed new heat and air systems, paid off the parsonage and enjoyed the note burning. Few bibles and Heavenly Highway Hymnals were given by various people in memory and in honor of past and present members and loved ones. Painted the sanctuary, Nora Kerr room and foyers. Replaced the ceiling in the Library and installed new carpet in the Nora Kerr room and foyers. Covered the outside wood trim with vinyl siding as well as other general up-keep of the church property too numerous to list.

We have just bought new oil candles and a Brass Cross for the sanctuary, to be dedicated today our 105th.

In 1994 Kerr became prayer partners with Greenhill United Methodist Church. These two congregations have enjoyed fellowship together several times and we continue to keep our partners in our Prayers for vision and direction.

For the past four years we have invited 30-40 girls from Girls Inc. (Girls Club) to participate in Vacation Bible School. This is a work filled, fun filled and inspirational time for those working. Having the sound of much laughter from small voices as well as the big voices bring past memories rushing back for all of us.

The Youth have a monthly gathering to fellowship, eat and generally get to know others better, this is being sponsored by various groups in the church.

Gods work goes on at Kerr and we pray that God will lead us and bless us as we strive to serve Him.