

NORTHERN KENTUCKY VIEWS PRESENTS:

The Elk Creek Baptist Church

by
Levi Kemper
Leon Young

From
**A History of Owen County Baptist
Association and Its Churches**

www.nkyviews.com



THE HISTORY OF ELK LICK BAPTIST CHURCH

The Elk Lick Baptist Church of Jesus Christ was organized June 11, 1871. Composed of christian people who were members of other baptist churches. Located on a beautiful stream of water where there were many bubbling springs and salt deposit to get a supply of this mineral; hence the name Elk Lick Creek, and the church also took the same name.

A council was invited from other baptist churches including Elder James E. Duvall and Elder J. A. Head to assist in the constitution of the church.

The christian people brought their letters of recommendation from their churches and entered into a covenant with the Lord and each other; pledging their devotion to the Lord, christian fellowship, and support to the church.

This region was a dense forest of fine timber. The first settlers built their houses from lumber obtained from the forest. Two other institutions were next to be considered after the homes were built, a church and a school. A place in the forest was selected by the people for the Minister to Preach the Gospel as they had no building in which to worship. The result of these outdoor services was the organization of the church.

The charter members were as follows: Laura Kemper, Willis Ellis, Mary Ellis, Billy Milton and wife, William Juett, Mary Agnes Juett, Richard New, Eliza New, John R. New and wife. Some of the following names might have been charter members, since there was some conflict in information gathered: C. H. Towles, Kate Towles, Ruben Green, Marguerity Green, Charlie Towles, and Kate Towles were added to the church later.

Mr. Alex (Bud) Williams donated one acre of land to the church where they selected to build a house in which to worship. This site for the building situated on the north side of Elk Creek about equal distance from the source and mouth of Elk Creek which as a tributary of Shortridge Creek, which flows into Cedar Creek, thence to the Kentucky River.

The building committee entered into a contract with Larkin Plunkett to build a one room auditorium about 40 x 50 on the plot of land donated by Mr. Williams. Mr. Plunkett failed to complete the building according to contract and another carpenter, Mr. Cole, completed it in the year 1878.

Mrs. Laura Kemper was the first clerk and Sunday School Teacher of the church.

Pastors were as follows:

1. Rev. John Peters—served a short term with services held one Sunday in each month.
2. Rev. John Burton—short term.
3. Rev. Joe Hensley—short term.
4. Rev. Buddy Johnson—short term.
5. Rev. J. A. Mahan—short term.
6. Rev. C. M. Riley—died in 1898 during his pastorate having served several years.
7. Rev. W. T. Ellis—served 2 years.
8. Rev. L. N. Thompson—served 3 years.
9. Rev. Henry Holbrook—served 13 years and he accepted the call in 1907 and during his pastorate the church increased its preaching services to two Sundays a month. During Rev. Holbrook's ministry four of the congregation accepted the call to preach the gospel and were ordained by the church. They were A. E. Gibson, Levi Kemper, W. B. Kemper, and Birchett Kemper.
10. Rev. T. M. Browning—served about 4 years and a new church house was built in 1924. The church appointed a building committee to contact a contractor and report their recommendations to the church. They entered into a contract with Tom Parker, a native of Owen County, to erect a new building 40 x 60 with two Sunday School rooms on each side of the auditorium and a bell tower over the front vestibule. The foundation was of rock

laid in concrete. The old building was evaluated and sold to Mr. Parker, which was to be deducted from the cost of the building.

11. Rev. Birchett Kemper—served 2 years.
12. Rev. George Baker—short term.
13. Rev. A. E. Sension—short term.
14. Rev. L. W. Manley—served 16 years. His picture now hangs on the wall as a memorial to Cyrus S. Green. His **pastorate** was longer than any other, and under his leadership the church moved up to full time services.
15. Rev. E. E. Poston—served about 4 years.
16. Rev. Grady Dukes—served about 3 years. During his pastorate the church entered into a contract with Mr. Cole, after appointing a committee to direct or supervise the work. The church house was raised several feet above the ground, and a wall of concrete block formed the wall for the basement. There are seven Sunday School rooms, a furnace room, and a kitchen in the basement.
17. Rev. Orlie Hale—served 2 years. The church installed a new oil furnace and laid a hardwood floor.
18. Rev. Franklin D. Conley served about 3 years. New seats, furniture and metal ceiling gives attraction and beauty to the entire church.
19. Rev. G. G. Summerfield—served 3 years.
20. Rev. Ralph Bourne—served 3 years, a tireless worker.
21. Rev. Larry Cunningham was called this year (1966).

Composed by the committee of
Levi Kemper and Leon Young