

New Bethel United Methodist Church Cemetery Ohio County, KY

At the foot of Hoover Hill on Highway 231 turn west onto the Belltown Road. Church & Cemetery is out about 3 miles on the left. Church was organized in 1860 by Rev. H. Thomas Stevens. The oldest death date found on the monuments in the cemetery was for Lewis Riley (1798-1861). Cemetery was copied by Jerry Long, Owensboro, KY, on 7 March 1987.

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Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY
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Closing service May 25 for Ohio County church

A closing service will be conducted by the Rev. Fred Goodwin at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, May 25, at New Bethel United Methodist Church on Belltown Road in Ohio County.

All former members are invited to return for this special service. The members of the church voted to close the church a year ago and the Kentucky Conference accepted their decision last fall.

The church was organized in 1860 with the donation of one acre of land by Lorenzo and Mary Cooper, Clement and Malissa Knott and Wesley and Delila Crowe.

In addition to Goodwin, all previous pastors of the church have been invited. The property was recently deeded to the New Bethel Cemetery Association Inc. for the preservation and maintenance of the cemetery. The cemetery has more than 300 graves, including that of a Civil War veteran.

► Ohio County



Will Chandler, Messenger-Inquirer

Mary Wright Mattingly of Masonville, right, and her daughter, Kim Cook, were two of about 50 people who gathered at New Bethel United Methodist Church near Pleasant Ridge in Ohio County for the church's closing ceremony. Mattingly attended the church from the time she was 12 years old until she was 21. Her father is buried in the church's graveyard. "To me this is home," she said.

'It has served well'

Members recall good times as church closes doors forever

By Tracy L. McQueen
Messenger-Inquirer

Sunday's services brought tears and laughter to the members and former members of New Bethel United Methodist Church.

The laughter was for the fond memories members have enjoyed over the country church's 137 years. There were tears because Sunday marked the last service for the church in the community of Heflin, near Pleasant Ridge in Ohio County.

More than 50 people crowded into the church with cracked plaster walls and tattered green window shades. Hand fans from years gone by were scattered about to help the members keep cool on warm days. Air conditioning is a luxury that never made it to this tiny church.

While the simple clapboard

structure doesn't have many of the amenities seen in larger churches today, it had plenty of love Sunday as members and former members shared memories.

"I do love everybody here," said Guy Troutman, who has missed just one Sunday service in the past 30 years.

Troutman is one of the church's few remaining members.

The church was never large enough to support a full-time pastor. Records show attendance had been nearly 50 on some Sundays in the earlier 1900s. During most of the church's life, the attendance was more like 20. In recent years, it was fewer than 10.

"It seemed like everybody just drifted away," said Hazel Jones of Heflin, who now belongs to another church. "But it was always a blessing to us."

The church provided a strong foundation to the spiritual lives of most of those attending Sunday's

ceremony.

"From the time I can remember being a small child, I've come to this church," said former member Yvonne Sloan of Owensboro.

She recalled a Sunday school class that Jones had taught many years ago, when she told the children to do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

As a child, Sloan summed the lesson up this way, "It means if somebody slaps you, you're supposed to slap them back."

Sloan said Jones helped her to learn that wasn't what the lesson meant.

The Rev. Fred Goodwin, pastor of the church, was joined by the Rev. Charles Rogers and the Rev. Norman O'Neal, both former pastors, in Sunday's closing services.

David A. Smith of Owensboro helped organize the ceremony to mark the church's final chapter. Church members voted a year

ago to close the church, and United Methodist leaders accepted the decision last fall.

"I don't think just letting something disappear is graceful," Smith said. "The church was sanctified. There needs to be a closure to it."

Community members organized the New Bethel Cemetery Association, which will continue to maintain the cemetery next to the church. The cemetery has more than 300 graves. At least one Civil War veteran is buried there.

Jerry Crowe of Hartford, one of the association's organizers, said the group would maintain the cemetery through donations. He said they didn't expect to be able to maintain the church building.

Although many were saddened by the closing, Goodwin told his congregation to remember all the good that has come from the church over the years since 1860.

"It has served well," he said.

Editor's note: Messenger-Inquirer reporter Karen Owen contributed to this report.

Aldridge, Amen D. (KY Pvt Btry C 322 Field Arty World War I) Clara A. (married 8 Sep 1927)	30 Jul 1888 24 Aug 1906	12 Mar 1965
Aldridge, Tennie	8 Jun 1888	14 Apr 1963
Aldridge, Johnnie H. Beatrice B. (wed 3 Jul 1937)	30 Mar 1909 5 Dec 1918	28 Aug 1980
Basham, John J. Winnie (w/o J. J.)	11 Dec 1824 10 Aug 1825	16 Nov 1910 9 Aug 1908
Basham, John W. (s/o J. J. & W. A.)	26 Jun 1871	30 May 1893
Bashem, George R. Sallie (w/o G. R.)	1863 1871	1936
Bennett, John C. Margaret Ann	3 Nov 1861 20 Oct 1867	27 Nov 1953 24 Oct 1961
Bennett, Tina (d/o J. C. & M. A.)	14 Apr 1890	30 Jul 1895
Bennett, J. H. S. Casander (w/o J. H.)	25 Sep 1837 22 Jun 1843	5 Mar 1919 20 Feb 1913
Bennett, Martine S.	5 Aug 1914	
Best, Shelby, Jr. (father) Margaret F. (mother)	1926 1931	
Bolton, George W. Mary N. (d/o G. W. & E.)	1820 1 Sep 1862	15 Feb 1863 10 Sep 1868
Bradshaw, Lennap (d/o J. B. & C. A.)	5 Feb 1875	23 Aug 1888
Bradshaw, Callie A. (w/o J. B.; age 20y, 4m, 4d)		11 Oct 1878
Bradshaw, John Elizabeth (w/o J.)	9 May 1825 17 Jun 1830	7 Dec 1904 23 Jun 1898
Brown, Maggie Lee	1904	1969
Cooper, John D. (s/o L. D. & M. P.) [monument broken]	24 Aug 1846	3 ? 1863
Cooper, infant of L. D. & Mary P.)	born & died	3 Feb 1865
Cooper, Ruth A. (d/o L. D. & Mary P.)	14 Sep 1862	26 Aug 1864
Cooper, Lorenzo D. Elizabeth (w/o L. D.) Mary P. (w/o L. D.)	31 Mar 1819 28 May 1819 20 Sep 1821	27 Aug 1887 21 Mar 1899 24 Mar 1865
Cooper, Dewitt T. (s/o S. O. & L. B.)	8 Apr 1886	12 Apr 1886
Cooper, M. Earnestine (d/o S. O. & Belle)	18 May 1889	10 Jul 1889
Crow, Alice D. (d/o J. D. & M. A.)	4 Aug 1895	15 Jan 1896
Crow, Lucy E. (w/o W. V.)	1 Jul 1859	11 Sep 1885
Crow, Mary Delila (w/o W. V.)	25 Nov 1849	17 Mar 1873
Crow, Mary Cecilia (d/o W. V. & Mary D.)	13 Feb 1872	12 Aug 1872
Crow, Herschel D. (s/o W. V. & L. E.)	7 Oct 1880	13 Oct 1881
Crow, Lois E. (d/o W. V. & L. E.)	2 Oct 1882	19 Oct 1883
Crow, Preston T. (s/o J. A. & E.)	28 Apr 1889	13 Mar 1891
Crowe, Jesse D. Margaret A. (w/o J. D.)	21 Jan 1852 9 Aug 1859	23 Jun 1919 17 Sep 1915
Crowe, Ruth	12 Dec 1918	15 Jan 1919

Crowe, Eddie Clifton	27 Apr 1888	13 May 1968
Pearl H.	8 Jun 1894	
Crowe, Olvid	1882	1964
Crowe, Rowland H.	19 Oct 1923	
Violet D.	1 Nov 1926	7 Dec 1965
Davis, Ethlene (do Walter & Robertie)	6 Dec 1900	4 Mar 1904
Ara Lee (d/o Walter & Robertie)	17 Feb 1903	4 Feb 1904
Dodson, John		no dates
Vonia (w/o John)		no dates
Drace, Mary F. (d/o J. C. & M. A.)	31 Jul 1881	14 Nov 1883
Burrell M. (s/o J. C. & M. A.)	24 Sep 1869	16 May 1883
Drace, J. C. (Co A 25th KY Inf)	17 Oct 1838	3 Aug 1894
M. A. (w/o J. C.)	27 Jun 1846	7 Dec 1911
Drace, Lossie V. (c/o W. V. & Ada)	13 Oct 1895	3 Jun 1896
infant son of W. V. & Ada)	born & died	1 Nov 1884
Drace, William V.	14 Mar 1868	9 Jul 1940
Delila Ada	27 Apr 1868	11 Jul 1937
Drace, Virgie L. (w/o C. R.)	22 Apr 1880	15 May 1908
Drace, Charles	6 Mar 1875	24 Apr 1951
Eva	15 Jul 1892	10 Jun 1977
Drace, William J. (s/o C. R. & E. M.)	21 Jun 1920	1 Jun 1941
Ficklin, Robert	22 Aug 1815	22 Jan 1893
Sarah A.	22 Oct 1819	
Ficklin, Florence (d/o R. & S. A.)	12 Jul 1854	5 Jan 1878
Fielden, Malindae M. [on monument with Henry B. Morgan; "brother & sister"]	5 Sep 1859	25 Nov 1934
Fireline, Willis E.	1907	1965
Dessie L.	1900	1974
Gilbert, Daphney Helen (d/o Mr. & Mrs. Lum)	21 Aug 1930	22 Aug 1930
Gorman, Ellen S. [on monument with John Wilford Smith]	3 Dec 1897	15 Jan 1971
Gray, Johnnie		10 Dec 1920
Mattie L.	16 Sep 1919	3 Oct 1919
Gray, John H.	18 Mar 1886	22 Mar 1969
Hettie	13 Oct 1895	30 Jun 1973
Greer, Arnold C.	8 Jan 1932	
Greer, Ace B.	18 Sep 1897	8 Jun 1977
Martine D.	3 Feb 1913	6 May 1986
Grossman, Nettie Drace	1906	1982
Hampton, John W.	5 Jan 1848	15 Sep 1926
Hinton, James M.	1 Jul 1845	
Mary D. (w/o J. M.)	17 Apr 1871	28 Nov 1924
Hinton, Cynthia (w/o J. M.)	14 Feb 1845	1 Jul 1901
Hinton, G. Thomas (s/o J. M. & C. S.)	29 Aug 1869	3 Nov 1886
Hinton, infant son of J. M. & C. S.	born & died	13 Feb 1884
Hinton, Byron W.	11 Dec 1885	

Lula S.	23 Jun 1896	7 Oct 1964
Hinton, Lucy A. (d/o W. M. & M. A.)	7 Apr 1859	21 Mar 1878
Hinton, [broken off] (d/o W. M. & M. A.)	12 Oct 185?	broken
Hinton, Irvn (s/o W. M. & E. A.)	20 Oct 1890	10 Apr 1891
Hinton, Ethel (d/o W. M. & E. A.)	2 Jun 1891	8 Jun 1891
Hinton, Thelma A. (d/o B. W. & L. B.)	24 Dec 1913	26 Jan 1914
Hinton, William M.	11 Jan 1828	15 Jul 1903
Eliza A.	20 Nov 1858	18 Jul 1945
Hinton, Edmond ("erected by B. W. Hinton")	28 Jul 1907	2 Dec 1945
Hinton, Mary H. (mother)		12 Jul 1917
Hinton, Emma Johnson (mother)	3 May 1884	1 Sep 1949
Hinton, Henry C.	1886	1964
Hipsley, Charles	6 Jan 1819	6 Jan 1892
Elvira (w/o C.)	19 Dec 1825	19 Jun 1891
Horton, James B.	9 Sep 1917	16 Nov 1985
Myrl (married 24 Apr 1941)	12 Jul 1924	
Howard, Matilda J. (w/o Henry)	3 Sep 1836	24 Aug 1892
Hudson, Robert F.	17 Feb 1870	26 Jul 1947
Stella	13 May 1873	25 Jul 1958
Hudson, M. S.	20 Apr 1840	13 Aug 1924
Mary Elizabeth (w/o M. S.)	6 May 1845	22 Apr 1918
Jackson, James	15 Sep 1861	6 Dec 1915
Jackson, Bessie	3 Oct 1898	4 Oct 1914
Jackson, Charlie	20 Aug 1892	6 May 1974
Dora Tucker	21 Aug 1892	21 Aug 1940
Jackson, Myrtle F.	born & died	13 Jul 1942
Jackson, Lewis H.	15 Dec 1977	21 Mar 1978
Jackson, Paul C.	1 Aug 1913	10 May 1972
Bertha P.	12 Sep 1913	8 Nov 1985
Jarnagin, Gethro	26 Oct 1878	
Harriett (w/o G.)	20 Feb 1894	5 Dec 1923
Jarnagin, Sarah A. (w/o J. A.)	17 Jan 1846	12 Dec 1897
Jarnagin, Mary M. (d/o J. A. & S. A.)	6 May 1871	8 May 1871
Jarnagin, Mary (w/o N.)	7 Jun 1815	27 Nov 1902
Jarnagin, Lizzie (age 69 y, 8 m)		30 Aug 1925
Jolley, Abe	1865	1917
Lydia	1882	1925
Jolley, A. B.	1862	1933
Ludie	1877	1967
Jolley, Noah	1868	1940
Rachael A.	1866	1901
Jolley, Ray (s/o N. & R. A.)	5 Aug 1895	26 Jun 1898
Jolley, M. G.	born & died	1 May 1915
J. C.	27 Dec 1916	4 Feb 1917
Johnson, Ellis	6 Jun 1888	8 Apr 1952
Myrtle	29 Nov 1893	21 Jan 1937

Jones, B. A. ("Baby") marked by concrete block		
Kelley, Margaret Anne	1893	1975
Kirk, Mary Bell	born & died	25 Apr 1943
Knott, Oma S. (d/o W. & S. E.)	14 May 1876	29 Jul 1877
Knott, Effie J. (d/o W. & S. E.)	22 Jun 1872	6 Aug 1877
Kooch, Carrie E.	28 Feb 1908	14 Jul 1908
Kooch, Bessie L.	24 Oct 1907	21 Aug 1908
Kooch, Preston	7 Jul 1904	5 Sep 1907
Kooch, McElan	faded	19 May 1903
Kooch, Martha M. (w/o W. T.)	24 May 1886	17 Jul 1910
Lloyd, Lottie	11 Feb 1901	2 Sep 1975
Floretta (wed 29 Jul 1922)	10 Apr 1903	
Loyd, Jasper	11 Apr 1870	1 Apr 1953
Laura	18 Sep 1877	8 Sep 1955
Lyons, Lizzie B.	20 Jul 1902	2 Sep 1922
May, James	17 Jan 1807	25 Jan 1884
May, Alex'r (husband of Nancy A.)	26 Mar 1815	5 Oct 1875
May, Eldred	20 Jan 1839	31 Oct 1906
Nancy E.	10 Mar 1846	9 Aug 1905
May, Nelson T.	14 Feb 1837	18 Mar 1921
Julia (w/o N. T.)	14 Mar 1854	31 Dec 1946
May, Roy	15 Apr 1887	12 Dec 1896
Edward R.	3 Aug 1893	6 Dec 1896
May, Frances (w/o James)	28 Jan 1813	27 Mar 1883
May, John A.	12 Jul 1861	12 Nov 1895
May, Thomas N.	28 Aug 1862	23 Jan 1863
May, Sallie (w/o N. T.)	4 May 1860	23 Apr 1880
May, Walter (s/o C. A. & Louisa)	21 Jan 1867	13 Aug 1874
May, Christian A.	15 Feb 1843	23 Jun 1897
Louisa Hipsley (w/o C. A.)	5 Aug 1846	25 Jan 1924
May, America (w/o N. Y.)	10 Oct 1846	4 Feb 1877
May, George W. (s/o J. C. & E.)	26 Mar 1860	?4 Mar 186?
Miller, Charlie	marked by concrete block	
Roger	marked by concrete block	
Miller, Addison	marked by concrete block	
H. Alice	marked by concrete block	
Mitchell, William E.	13 Sep 1882	6 Jul 1962
Nellie M.	24 Aug 1891	6 Dec 1975
Morgan, James T.	25 Sep 1857	15 Sep 1921
Mollie	19 May 1859	17 Jan 1928
Morgan, James N. (s/o J. T. & M. B.)	23 Nov 1885	26 Nov 1885
Maggie B. (w/o J. T.)	1 Apr 1862	7 Dec 1885
Morgan, C. W.	9 Nov 1861	26 Feb 1943
Morgan, Henry B. [on monument with Malindae M. Fielden; "brother & sister"]	3 Apr 1864	11 Aug 1892
Morgan, Sallie M. (w/o W. S.)	3 Nov 1832	30 May 1892

Morgan, John	8 Nov 1878	16 Mar 1879
Morgan, W. S.	6 Apr 1825	24 Aug 1905
Frances (w/o W. S.)	15 Oct 1836	11 Nov 1878
Nantz, Ivan	1881	1985
Myrtle (w/o Ivan)	1889	1923
Nantz, Clyde (c/o R. A. & D. V.)	23 Jan 1897	1 Sep 1898
Hettie M. (c/o R. A. & D. V.)	18 Nov 1902	20 Sep 1903
Nantz, Blackburn D. (c/o R. A. & D. V.)	born & died	27 Sep 1894
Edgar W. (c/o R. A. & D. V.)	27 Nov 1895	14 Jun 1896
Nantz, Robert A.	18 Mar 1859	14 Feb 1929
Delila V. (w/o R. A.)	10 May 1863	2 Jul 1945
Nantz, Clem C.	27 Oct 1883	1 Sep 1963
Audra E.	29 Aug 1885	8 Feb 1968
Nantz, Arthur A.		unmarked
Harriet (Lindley) [w/o Arthur A.]		unmarked
two infants of Arthur A. & Harriet		unmarked
Neal, Lyman G.	27 Dec 1917	5 Jan 1972
Louise J.	4 May 1919	
Neal, J. B. 17 Nov 1911		
Georgia W. (married 16 Sep 1936)	23 Jun 1920	
Nicely, William C.	13 Jan 1864	13 May 1924
Frances C. (w/o W. C.)	13 Nov 1860	19 Aug 1935
Pate, Ada B. (d/o W. S. & E.)	13 Sep 1884	23 Oct 1901
Pirtle, Wayland E. (s/o J. R. & R. E.)	15 Jul 1895	24 Aug 1895
Reynolds, Irvin B. (Tec 4 US Army World War II)	8 Jun 1920	25 Dec 1970
Hazel M.	1 Mar 1926	
Larry Van	12 Jan 1966	
Riley, George W.	29 Aug 1844	
Provia H. (w/o G. W.)	6 Jul 1851	30 Jul 1908
Riley, Minnie H.	27 Jan 1874	3 May 1957
Riley, Lura Edna (d/o J. R. & M. O.)	26 Jul 1892	5 Feb 1899
Riley, Lewis	10 Nov 1798	11 Aug 1861
Simmons, Margareta (w/o H. C.)	1 Jul 1845	2 Dec 1892
Simmons, Mary (d/o H. C. & M. A.)	5 Sep 1871	4 Aug 1877
Simmons, Henry C.	12 Apr 1831	26 Feb 1869
Smiley, Autrey	26 Oct 1914	6 Sep 1942
Smiley, R. P. (s/o S. M. & M. A.)	8 Jan 1887	27 Jun 1908
Smiley, S. M.	12 Aug 1854	
Mary A. (w/o S. M.)	22 Dec 1856	17 Apr 1910
Smiley, Herman	1882	1973
Survillah	1892	1963
Smiley, B. M.	19 Jan 1885	12 Sep 1957
Virginia H.	6 Mar 1890	7 Feb 1979
Smiley, ? monument with initials M. M. S., next to B. M. & Virginia Smiley]		no dates
Smiley, Vernon Lee [funeral home marker]	1948	1985

Smith, infant son of Peter & Sallie	born & died	26 Aug1879
Smith, infant son of P. & S.		10 Oct 1875
Smith, Peter	18 Mar1832	16 Mar1924
Sallie (w/o Peter)	19 Sep 1839	26 Nov1903
Smith, Mattie B. (d/o J. W. & H. V.)	2 Feb 1899	18 Feb 1901
Smith, J. W.	18 Oct 1872	
Hester V. (w/o J. W.)	28 Feb 1878	21 Jul 1925
Smith, William	11 Nov1838	14 Aug1912
Nancy (w/o Wm.)	11 Dec 1845	30 Aug1883
Smith, infant son of Wm. & N.		no dates
Smith, G. Edward (s/o Wm. & N.)		no dates
Smith, Minnie L. (d/o Wm. & N.)		no dates
Smith, William P.	15 May1869	3 Feb 1931
Mary M.	24 Apr 1869	13 Apr 1908
Smith, Savilla (w/o Wm.)	3 Aug 1870	18 Dec 1940
Smith, Alexander "Alex"	20 Feb 1895	20 Nov1985
(Pfc US Army World War I)		
Smith, Goldia Mae (d/o L. C. & Greek)	30 Sep 1935	5 Oct 1935
Smith, Lee C.	1899	1976
Greek (married 5 Dec 1920)	1902	1982
Smith, John Wilford	30 Mar1902	3 Nov 1971
Stewart, Gyndolyn W.	24 May1942	30 Aug1942
Stewart, Sandra E. [on momument with Shelby & Margaret Best, Father & Mother]	1951	1972
Sutherlin, J. M.	9 Nov 1868	
Earnest T. (w/o J. N.)	27 Dec 1869	18 Mar1930
Taylor, Maria (w/o A. B.)	23 Aug1861	21 Oct 1895
Tichenor, Harlan	6 Feb 1876	10 Dec 1957
Ella (w/o H.)	18 Mar1878	9 Mar 1903
Tinsley, Effee Lee (d/o M. & F. M.)	9 Mar 1870	29 Jun 1871
Tinsley, Frances M. (w/o M.)	23 Mar1845	13 Dec 1871
Tipmore, Rowan T. (s/o Wm. H. & G.)	18 Jan 1902	15 Nov1904
Tucker, William D.	1876	1950
Anna L.	1877	1962
Tucker, Eugene H.	20 Dec 1903	13 Feb 1972
(KY Pfc US Army World War II)		
Tucker, George	1904	
Julia Belle (w/o G.)	1906	1928
Tucker, A. Rowan	3 Nov 1885	22 Jul 1967
Hallie D.	17 Oct 1891	12 Jun 1920
Tucker, Austin	14 Jan 1881	12 Apr 1951
Valva Mae	20 Jan 1892	3 Nov 1951
Tucker, George A.	3 Nov 1845	18 Oct 1903
Rhodia J. (w/o G. A.)	15 Oct 1846	17 Mar1933
Tucker, Ola (s/o W. C. &L. F.)	14 Jul 1890	17 May1911
Tucker, W. C.	13 Aug1864	25 Aug1906

Lillia F. (w/o W. C.)	9 Nov 1869	
Tucker, Henry F.	10 Sep 1873	6 Jun 1949
Oda May (w/o H. F.)	10 Jun 1882	24 Sep 1906
Tucker, W. G.	25 Aug 1879	5 Nov 1922
Sarah F. (w/o W. G.)	30 Dec 1882	
Tucker, Joseph Calvin	10 Apr 1891	15 Jun 1966
Turner, Samuel E. (s/o L. P. & Ruth; "Entered the Ministry 1908. The Lord saw fit to call him from labor to rest.")	6 Sep 1881	24 Jul 1908
Turner, L. P.	4 May 1849	27 Oct 1924
Ruth (w/o L. P.)	3 Jun 1856	3 Apr 1910
Turner, Mary (w/o G. W.)	25 Oct 1809	12 Oct 1883
Turner, Eddie Carroll	21 May 1957	21 Aug 1982
Watson, Clyde (w/o E.)	30 May 1894	3 Mar 1923
Welch, two fieldstones with "Welch"		no dates
Whitaker, John C.	31 Dec 1910	12 Oct 1983
Alma D. (wed 3 Sep 1937)	13 Jun 1921	
Wimp, Mary J. (c/o Randolph & Elmina E.)	7 Aug 1869	9 Aug 1869
James M. (c/o Randolph & Elmina E.)	22 Oct 1872	17 Feb 1874
Young, Grace L.	3 May 1921	9 Jun 1976

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