

# Goshen Methodist Church

## Ohio County, KY

By Jerry Long  
c.2025



Goshen Methodist Church, Goshen Church Road, Ohio County, KY



The first church of any denomination in Ohio County was the Beaver Dam Baptist Church, this church being founded March 10, 1798. The second church in Ohio County was the Goshen Methodist Church, established 1804 (two miles south of Hartford); and shortly afterwards, also in 1804, Methodist churches were started at the communities of No Creek (three miles northwest of Hartford) and Bethel (seven miles northeast of Hartford). These churches were called Methodist M. E. churches, with the M. E. standing for Methodist Episcopal, an organization officially formed on 28 February 1784 in Baltimore.



**The History of Methodism in Kentucky, Volume 1, by Rev. Albert Henry Redford, D.D., Nashville, TN, Southern Methodist Publishing Company, 1868, pp.456-457:**

The Livingston Circuit, which had been formed in 1803, under the indefatigable labors of Jesse Walker, had so extended its boundaries previous to the Conference of 1804 as to embrace the counties of Henderson and Ohio.

In the Minutes of 1804, the work in this department is recognized under the style of "Livingston and Hartford," to which Jesse Walker and Joshua Barnes were appointed.

Previous to the Conference of 1804, a quarterly meeting was held at Isham Browder's, in Hopkins (then Henderson) county, embracing the 17th and 18th days of August, at which the following official members were present: Lewis Garrett, Presiding Elder; Jesse Walker, Assistant Preacher; Miles Harper, Joshua Barnes, Thomas Taylor, James Axley, Wiley Ledbetter, Josiah Moors, John Travis, Benjamin Parker, Taylor White, Isham Browder, Pleasant Axley, Moses Shelby.

At this Quarterly Conference, James Axley and Joshua Barnes were "recommended to travel."

Before Mr. Walker had embraced Ohio county in the Livingston Circuit, under the efficient labors of a few local preachers, societies had been formed at Goshen, Bethel, and No Creek, in that county.

"The first Church organized in Ohio county was at Goshen, two miles south of Hartford, in the year 1804. Very shortly after this, in the same year, another Church was organized at Bethel, seven miles north-east of Hartford. Next, and about the same time, in the same year, No Creek Church was organized."

These Churches were established as the result of a great revival which took place in December, 1803, commenced by the Presbyterians, in connection with two or three local preachers, who had settled in this part of the country.

"The first and leading local preacher connected with this work was Thomas Taylor, a man of more than ordinary ability and decisive character; and, through his influence, the masses of the converts were led into the Methodist Episcopal Church.

" Associated with him was Lodwick Davis, also a man of good preaching ability; also Joshua Barnes, of ordinary talents.

"During the Conference-year commencing in the fall of 1804, this circuit was blessed with extensive revivals of religion. They swept, like fire in dry stubble, all over the country. The people went from far and near to attend them were awakened, and converted to God." [Letter from the Rev. H. C. McQuown, of Hartford, Kentucky.]

These early societies were a nucleus, from which went out a fine religious influence into all the surrounding country. From the time of their first organization to the present, they have prospered, being the scenes of many revivals of religion. The society at Goshen now worships in a neat and commodious frame church, numbers nearly eighty members, and enjoys an average degree of spirituality. The society at Bethel enjoyed a fine revival of religion last spring, in which thirty-five were converted, and thirty-eight added to the Church. Class-meetings are kept up by them. They have a neat frame house of worship... – Letter to the author from the Rev. H. C. McQuown, dated Hartford, Kentucky, January 23, 1867.



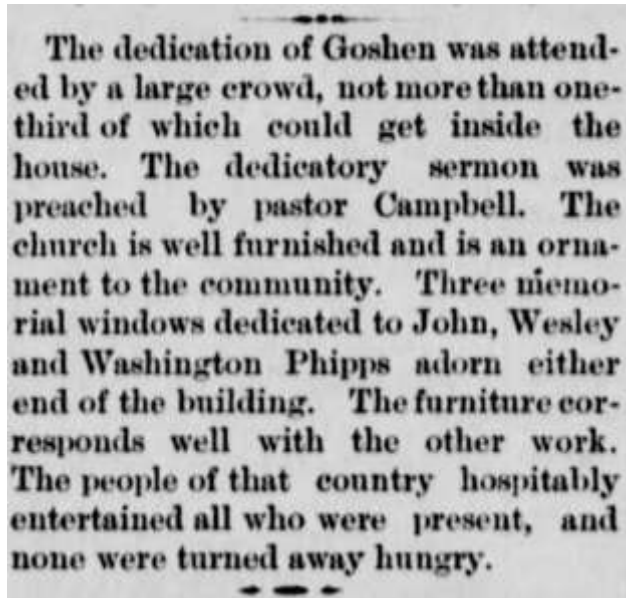
**“Fragments of the Early History of Ohio County”, by Harrison D. Taylor,  
Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 27 June 1877, p.1.  
Reprinted in the book, Ohio County, Kentucky, in the Olden Days,  
Harrison D. Taylor (Louisville, KY, 1926) p.70:**

... Although there were several Methodist preachers in the country at an early date, it seems that no itinerant formed a circuit of regular preaching until about the year 1804. The first camp-meeting was held near the present Paradise road, between the old Phipps and Johnson farms; and the second on that point of a ridge now so frequently covered with hay stacks, and near those wide spreading sugar trees in Milton Taylor's meadow. Camp-meeting for a number of years afterward were held alternately at Bethel, No Creek, and Anthony Thompson's, and at points on the Ohio river, and it will still astonish the preachers of the present day to learn that Hartford circuit included a part of Muhlenberg, McLean, Butler, Grayson, Breckinridge, and Hancock, and all of Ohio and Daviess counties, taking four weeks to go around it. Yet the people attended the regular appointments with utmost confidence that the preacher would be there regardless of weather, and were seldom, if ever, disappointed in their expectations. That old veteran pioneer of Methodism, Jesse Walker, was the first circuit rider – cold, hunger, fatigue, and danger, were so many incentives to further zeal and industry. The humble log cabin and the desert wilds were his favorite temples to worship in, and the glad tidings of salvation his constant theme, “whether in the city full or on the desert waste.”

That great ornament to the Christian religion, to his own church, to human nature, William McKendrick was the first presiding elder. Among the first classes of societies formed in this circuit were those at Goshen, Bethel, No Creek, Thompson's, Duncan's, and Lewis's, besides the labors of the traveling preachers, there was quite an array of zealous, local preachers, among them were Otho Williams, Daniel and John Pinkston, Lodowick Davis, John James, and Thomas Taylor.



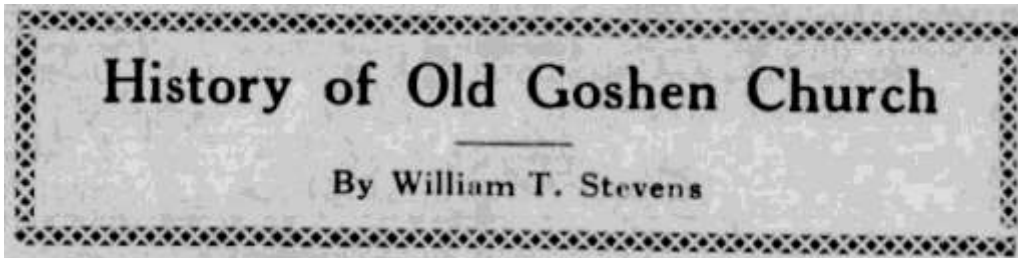
**Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 2 May 1888, p.3:**



The dedication of Goshen was attended by a large crowd, not more than one-third of which could get inside the house. The dedicatory sermon was preached by pastor Campbell. The church is well furnished and is an ornament to the community. Three memorial windows dedicated to John, Wesley and Washington Phipps adorn either end of the building. The furniture corresponds well with the other work. The people of that country hospitably entertained all who were present, and none were turned away hungry.



**Ohio County Messenger, Beaver Dam, KY, Friday, 11 October 1935, p.3:**



Goshen M. E. Church was established on land owned by William L. Barnard, a Revolutionary soldier, In 1804 or thereabouts I find the Rev. John Phipps, born June 28, 1792, joined the church at Goshen in 1809 and died July 20, 1876, age 84 At the age of seventeen he went to Mississippi as an itinerant minister in the Methodist Church, South, where several years was spent among the Mississippians. He returned and joined the church at Goshen and took an active part in the work of the community. He was buried in the church cemetery. I am giving a list of names that are in the grave yard. In early days many of them were the main upholders of Christianity and the leading citizens of the country in this settlement of the community. They have long since gone to their reward.

The first building was of huge logs the second and third was of frame. The present building was erected in 1888. The cemeteries for the white and colored people at the two first churches were on the north side of the Beaver Dam and Centertown road.

There has been four school buildings on these grounds in my time. The first one, a hued log building stood where the old Toll [? tall] Fippes' [sic] monument stands at the present time. The next was a frame building erected near the main entrance to the cemetery where aunt Martha Barnes, Henry S. Duke and Garner William Duke are buried. The other two are on the south side of. the road. The Fippes erected a brick house over the graves of some of the Fippes but has long since been torn away. I will give a list of the names from 25 to 94 years of age. William L. Barnard born 1759 war 81 years old in 1840. Richard Hocker born 1748 died in 1831, age 83. Nicholas Hocker born 1800, died August 3, 1885, 76. John Barnes born December 30. 1813, died Oct., 1895, age 82. Martha Ann Bean Ross born 1849, died 1932, age 83. Dr. S. J. Rhoads born July 23, 1834, died June 12, 1905, age 71 years, wife, Priscilla A. Rhoads born August 30 1845, died June 21, 1930, age 86. Robert B. Render born December 20, 1839, died 1913, age 74. Atella Render, born June 23, 1845, died September 8, 1925, age 80 years. John J. Engleby, a locomotive engineer and wife. She was cremated. Martha Ellen Barnes born 1826 died in 1900, Age 74. Harriet Garner Duke, born June 6, 1839, died June 1912 age 73. Amelia, wife of Thomas O. Austin, born November 11 1810 died March 19, 1891, age 81. J. Warren Baker born April 21, 1846, died February 17, 1920, age 74. George H. Barnes born September 23, 1839, died January 17, 1919, age 80. Elijah Hocker, born October 18, 1820 died December 26 1895, age 74 William Phipps born 1757, died 1845, age 88. Nancy, wife of Lloyd Barnard, born 1804 died February 19, 1881, age 77. David Miller, born 1763, died 1847, age 84. Darkus Miller, born 1762, died 1842, age 80. Harriet Phipps, born 1762 died 1845, age 83. Joseph Miller, born November 3, 1796, died July 24,



1875, age 79. Washington Phipps born Nov. 1, 1805, died August 1, 1885, age 80. Rev. John Phipps, born June 23, 1792, died July 20, 1876, age 84. Mary, wife of John Phipps born November 2, 1804, died July 12, 1889, age 85. Harriet Hocker. wife of Phillip Hocker born March 17, 1785, died January 24, 1879, age 94. Jeremiah Williams born February 19, 1810, died 1878. age 68. Cynthia Ann Williams born June 28, 1813, died February 11, 1895, age 82. Sallie W. Morton born June 17, 1818 died July 16, 1846. Jessie Morton born November 30, 1805, died 1847, Harriet Williams, born November 9, 1777, died November 9, 1837. Lloyd Barnard, departed this life in 1841. Pigman Phipps born January 26, 1825, died October 1. 1850. Emmaline Williams departed this life December 1, 1835 age 19 years, 3 months and 4 days.

Elijah Williams died June 4, 1835 age 66 years 7 months six days. Sallie Hocker born Oct. 1782 died 1805, wife of Weaver Hocker. Sarah A. Phipps, born January 4, 1843. died in forty-eighth year of her life. Lucinde Austin, wife of Weaver H. Austin was born December 29, 1842, died in Arizona brought home and buried. Betty wife of J. P. Barnard born March 25, 1840 died August 9, 1895. H. Hocker no date on a huge rock some five feet long by 30 inches broad. Louisa Hocker, wife of J. Ham Miller born Sept. 26, 1849 died June 4, 1868, married July 4, 1872. Emma Lee Austin, wife of Dr. O. T. Rhoads, born January 27, died April 7, 1895. Elizabeth A. Hatcher, died May 26, 1857, age 37 year 8 months and 5 days. Darkus J. Barnard wife of Joe Hamilton Barnard born Nov. 2, 1821 died March 1872. Garrett W. Barnard son of Lloyd and Nancy Barnard born November 29, 1827, died December 29, 1847. Kitty A. Midkiff wife of Geo. H. Barnes, born June 14, 1841. died August 18, 1901. Cynthia Ann Barnard Stevens born November 23, 1837, died January 23, 1872, Henry Jahn born 1801 died February 4, 1903. He was found in an old well by his father whether accidentally or otherwise will never be known. David Gentry born September 2, 1837, died April 1899. Dr. John Harvy Baker, son of J. Warren Baker born October 24, 1867 died April 25, 1893. Harriet G. wife of Timothy C. Froggie born July 5, 1825, died September 6, 1854. Brother Froggie was the pastor of Goshen church 1854-65. R. H. Barnes born June 2, 1847 died April 3. 1927. His wife Sallie Garner Barnard born June 3, 1847 is living yet 88 years of age a life long member of the Goshen Church. She is living on land she was born on with her foster son, James H. Barnes.

There are some twenty graves without any markers probably the first buried in the beginning of the cemetery. There are some nine or ten large sandstones some six or seven feet in length some 30 inches broad and six inches thick laid over the graves. Names and dates cut on them and by the erosion of the stone and moss they cannot be deciphered. Some of the people were buried in the cemetery at the last of the 17th century. I hope this will be of interest in a historical way and will be laid away for future generations to muse over.

[Note: See listings of gravestones in the Goshen Cemetery in – Ohio County, Kentucky Cemeteries, Volume II, West-Central Kentucky Research Association (Hartford, KY: McDowell Publications, 1977) pp.53-54 ; Ohio County, Kentucky Cemetery Records Volume IV, Ohio County Historical Society (Utica, KY: McDowell Publications, 1986) pp.52-56; Find A Grave Internet website.]



**Fogle's Papers: A History of Ohio County, Kentucky,**  
**McDowell A. Fogle (Hartford, KY: Ohio County**  
**Historical Society, Inc., 1981), pp.301-305:**

## Goshen Methodist Church Dates from 1804

The settlement center of the western segment of "The Beaver Trail" area was the Methodist Church which the pioneers who founded it in 1804 named Goshen. Most of the settlers in that community came from Maryland within a few years before and after 1800, Goshen Church records show that during the first quarter of the 19th century, its membership included persons bearing the following family names: Barnes, Addington, Hocker, Phipps, Miller, Barnard Cox, Davis, Williams, Gray, and Atherton. Other Maryland families settling in Ohio County during the same period, but not belonging to this congregation were the Leaches, Crows, Ambroses, Griffiths, Bennetts Stevens, Moseleys, and Pigmans, the last two having already been mentioned herein.

Most of these Marylanders came from Montgomery County or some adjoining county of that state. They had been neighbors and friends before they came to Kentucky and many of them were related by blood or marriage. In their new homes in pioneer Ohio County, their close relationship continued.

## Marylanders Were "Good Fortune" to Count

Again quoting from Judge A. D. Kirk's "Weaver and Elizabeth Barnes and Their Folks", Maryland was a great province. It was probably the first and for many years the only colony to practice a really liberal degree of religious freedom. When Puritans found they could not live peacefully in Virginia, they moved to Maryland. It was the province of the Catholics in early America. At the same time all Protestant denominations could live in Maryland in religious freedom. The citizens of that colony moved further along the long road to religious freedom than those of any other colony.

"We should understand, however, that religious freedom, as we have today that great freedom did not grow upon a tree. Neither was it sprinkled over us all of a sudden, like a morning dew. It was earned through long years of hard struggle, fervent praying, and all that goes with much effort, hardship, and privation. Maryland was a great colonial leader in that long, great fight.

"When the Addingtons, Leaches, Crows, Ambroses, Bennetts, Griffiths, Stevens,, Miller, Phippses, and Barnes from Maryland came trekking into Ohio County, they came not merely as pioneers, seeking good fortune; they were, themselves, Good Fortune, come to enrich, to settle, and to bless a goodly land. Ignatius Pigman and his wife, Susannah Lamar, were among them. Admitted to the ministry at the first Methodist conference in America, held at Baltimore in 1782, he was probably the first Methodist preacher in Ohio County.

## Barnes Predominated in Goshen

Most numerous and predominant as landowners in the pioneer Goshen community was the Barnes family. And, its members of that far off day share with the contemporary Taylors the distinction of having been the forebearers of the great majority of the Ohio countians of today residing in the purlieus of "The Beaver Trail."

Progenitor of all indigenous Ohio County Barneses of today was Weaver Barnes, "a sergeant in Captain Thomas Sappington's Company, Prince George County, Maryland", according to the Archives of Maryland, under date of November 15, 1749. It seems certain that company took part in the French and Indian Wars. Among the Maryland Barneses who were soldiers in the Revolutionary War was Sergeant Barnes' son Richard Weaver Barnes, who enlisted July 11, 1776, in Captain Edward Burgess' militia company which was a component part of the Continental troops known as "The Flying Camp" and which was given credit for saving Washington's army from

annihilation in the Battle of Long Island. Also listed as a discharged soldier in St. Mary's county, Maryland, near the end of the Revolution was Thomas Barnes, presumably a brother of Richard Weaver. Also listed as taking the state oath signifying willingness to defend the Revolutionary cause was Joseph Barnes, undoubtedly a brother of Richard Weaver and Thomas, sons of Weaver Barnes. Joseph and Richard Weaver took this oath in 1778. And, the will of Weaver Barnes probated February 27, 1781, in Montgomery county, Maryland, confirms that he had three sons named Richard Weaver, Joseph, and Thomas.

#### Goshen church Observes Sesqui-Centennial

The second oldest Ohio County church and the oldest of the Methodist faith observed its sesqui-centennial the fourth Sunday in June. This honor came to Goshen, the veritable prototype of its Biblical namesake, "a land flowing with milk and honey", which today almost a suburb of Beaver Dam, has even since its settlement around 1800 been closely linked to the metropolis of "The Land of the Beaver Trail". As the Beaver Dam Baptist church, the county's oldest, was the nucleus not only of its congregation, but of the secular settlement around it as well, so was the Goshen Methodist church, established in the summer or fall of 1804, both the religious and secular center of its community, then and now, as it were, practically the western gateway to "The Trail" territory. The Goshen church was, in actuality, the church home of most of the Methodist settlers of the Beaver Dam section of the county, since a large proportion of them came from the Goshen neighborhood and retained their membership in the Goshen church for years even after moving to the burgeoning railroad town contiguous to the rich farming land of Goshen. In fact, a Methodist congregation was not officially organized in Beaver Dam until around 1890.

#### Ceremonies at Church on June 27

All-day services were held at the church on the 150th anniversary of Goshen's founding with "dinner on the ground" and appropriate ceremonies and services throughout the day. The Sesqui-Centennial Celebration Committee in charge of the occasion was composed of Mr. and Mrs. Chester Ward, Mrs. Glenn Belcher, Misses Mabelle and Martha Rhoads. The observance of 150 years of faithful service "in the vineyard of the Master" was under the general supervision of the pastor, the Reverend Lewis C. Ricketts.

#### Mrs. Elmer Barnes Writes Church History

Preparation of a historical sketch of the Goshen church was entrusted to Mrs. Elmer Barnes, nee Maye Shown, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hollon Shown, of the Goshen community. This co-conductor of the "Ripple" column, having collected and, at various times, had published in his columns much data in regard to the founding and history of the Goshen church, of which his own ancestors were members, gladly made this information available to Mrs. Barnes and helped her in any other way possible in the preparation of her church's history, which she read at the sesquicentennial. She did an excellent job in sketching the church's hallowed past, and I am sure her fellow church members fully appreciate her services as do all of us others interested in Ohio County history. I am sure a perusal of the following excerpts from it will prove both interesting and instructive to all students of Ohio countiana. Here is Mrs. Barnes' history of her church, quoted or paraphrased:

#### First Goshen Church Edifice of Hewed Log

"The first church building at Goshen was built on land owned by William L. Barnard and was of hewed logs. The second and third buildings were of frame. The cemeteries for both white and colored people, at the first and second churches, were on the north side of the Beaver Dam and Centertown road, probably the present site, as some of the markers now in the cemetery date back to the last of the 1700's, and some twenty-odd graves are without markers, which would indicate that there was a "class", as the Methodists called their early congregations, even before the official founding of the first church there in 1804, which is the first record we have available.

#### Reverends Jesse Walker, Joshua Barnes First Pastors

"The pastors assigned to this circuit, during its first and only year as the Livingston and Hartford Circuit, were the Reverends Jesse Walker and Joshua Barnes. The next year, 1805, Reverend Walker alone was assigned to the Ohio County Circuit, which included 1,500 square miles, comprising not only today's Ohio County but also all of the present Daviess County as well as parts of six other adjoining counties, as they are now. Reverend Walker was one of the most outstanding pioneer evangelistic trail-blazers and was very instrumental in founding the Methodist denomination in this county.

#### Pastors from 1806 to 1826 Listed

After the close of Reverend Walker's incumbency in 1806, until 1826, in approximately the order in which they served, the pastors serving the Goshen Church were Benjamin Edge, John Craig, William Lewis, Samuel Sellers, Jacob Thurman, Marcus Lindsey, Francis Travis, James Porter, John Allen, Benjamin Malone, George McNelly, William F. King, William Allison, and John Smith.

"The earliest membership roll of the Goshen Church, which, so far, has been located, is dated 1823. It lists the following members: William Phipps, Henry Phipps, David Miller, Dorcas Miller, Helm Miller, Philip Hooker, Harriett Hooker, Sally Hocker, Nancy Hocker, William Barnard; (it is not known whether or not this is the same William Barnard on whose land the first church was built, but as this list was made only nineteen years later, it is believed that it is); Sarah Barnard, Sally Barnard, Dorcas Barnard, Betsy Barns, Nelly Cox, James Cox, Betsy Cox, Nelly Cox; (we do not know if this is a repetition of her name or if there were two persons of the same name at that time); Jeremiah Cox, Margaret Cox, Philena Cox, Hannah Davis, Nelson Davis, Henry Addington, Polly Addington, Jane Davis, Jonathan Gray, Ignatius Barnard, Garrett Davis, Anna Phipps, William Gray, Martin Hocker, Jefferson Cox, Nancy Cox, Ann Gray, Miranda Barnard, Betsy Sanson, Sally Addington, Melinda Davis, Joshua Gray, Wesley Davis, Maria Williams, Leonard Cox, Nelly Davis, Amelia Atherton; five persons of colour, Sarah, Hannah, Joseph, Chloe, and Samuel.

#### Church Built with Phipps Bequest

Continuing to quote Mrs. Elmer Barnes:

"In his last will and testament, Washington Phipps bequeathed to the Goshen Church the sum of \$2, 000 with which the building was constructed with its stained glass windows in memory of his generosity and his brother's Christian thoughtfulness. At about the time of the death of Washington Phipps, the Goshen Church membership numbered eighty, and it is quoted in Dr. Redford's History of Methodism that at that time the membership was worshipping in a frame building, but it is not known whether this reference is to the present building, which was erected



in 1888, according to our sources of information, or a frame building heretofore mentioned as being either church number two or three, which were also frame buildings, and which would make the present building either number three or four to be erected on this site.

#### Names of 1826-1844 Pastors not Located

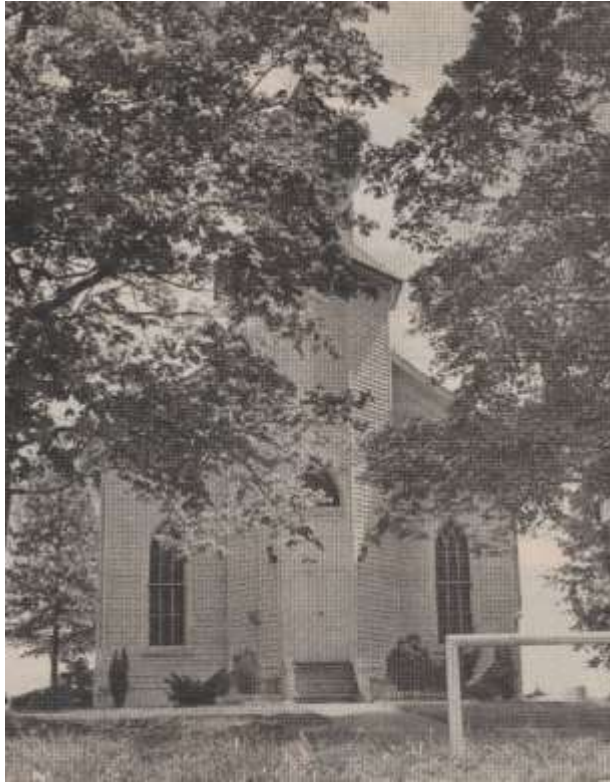
"We have been unable to find a complete list of the Goshen pastors from 1826 to 1844. However, beginning with the latter date, we have the list to date, but we have no record of the given names of the first three listed, Reverends Gardiner, Sutton, and Fisk, who were pastors from 1845 to 1848. Beginning then with 1848, we have the following roll of Goshen pastors:

#### Pastoral Roll, 1826 to Date, Given

George W. Crumbaugh	James A. Lewis and
J. W. Rhoads	J. Frank Baker
H. L. Burge	Virgil Elgin
Matthew N. Lasley	T. V. Joiner, died during
Timothy C. Frogge	his pastorate,
William M. Kirk	succeeded by
Schuyler L. Murrell	W. Saville
Enoch M. Crowe	Baxter W. Napier
J. M. Lawson	A. D. Litchfield
Robert B. McCown	E. W. Smith
George H. Hayes	T. T. Frazier
Enoch M. Crowe	R. L. Sleamaker
Charles Y. Bogges	V. B. D. Wheatley
T. D. Lewis	H. H. Jones
J. R. Dempsey	W. W. Buckner
Bryant A. Cundiff	K. K. Anderson
W. W. Cook	Robert B. Prentiss
T. J. Randolph	Harry A. Pullen
Joseph R. McDaniel	Charles Hall
R. C. Alexander	A. D. Litchfield
W. C. Hayes and	James W. Averitt
C. R. Crowe	W. B. Perkins
P. A. Edwards	Edward Prentiss
E. Campbell	J. Lester McGee
Enoch M. Crowe	H. W. Landreth
Eldred E. Pate	Elza Morgan
James S. Chandler	C. R. Hodges
Silas Newton	Robert C. Griggs
James C. Petrie	Lewis C. Ricketts."
W. T. Miller	



**Ohio County Times-News, Hartford, KY, Thursday, 2 March 2000:**



Goshen Methodist Church – 1967



**Ohio County Times-News, Hartford, KY, Thursday, 18 September 2003, p.11B:**

Goshen Church celebrates 200 years



## Goshen Church history

The beginning of the history of Goshen Church dates back to 1786, the year in which Bishop Francis Asbury first assigned ministers to the district of Kentucky. In the fall of 1803, Peter Cartwright established the Livingston Circuit of which Goshen Church was listed as the first Methodist Church organization in Ohio County.

The first church building was located on land owned by William L. Barnard and constructed of rough logs held together by pegs and faith. Two other buildings that took the place of the first were destroyed by fire. The cemeteries for the white and colored people at the first two churches were on the north side of the road (now State Road 273). Some of the markers in the cemetery now date back as far as the last of the 17th century, indicating that there was a "class" organized and in effect before the founding of the church in 1803.

Among the membership-rolls of the Goshen Church in 1823 were the forefathers of Washington Phipps, who was born in the Goshen neighborhood. His parents, William and Henrietta (Addington) Phipps, came to the Goshen section of Ohio County around 1800.

It is to Washington Phipps that the Goshen community is indebted for the present Goshen church edifice, with its stained-glass windows, memorializing his brother, Wesley, to whom he gave the credit for proposing this permanent memorial in honor of their beloved mother. In his last will and testament, Washington Phipps bequeathed to the Goshen church the sum of \$2,000, with which this building was constructed in 1888.

The stained-glass windows have been preserved and are now protected by plexiglass coverings. Other windows are of etched, colored glass. Some have been broken and replaced with other panes but the building committee plans to be able to replace them with etched glass as originally constructed.

The present structure was heated by a "pot-bellied" coal-fired stove in the sanctuary. In the mid-fifties, a basement with a coal-fired furnace was added with a central duct system. Around 1990, the present central air and heat system presently used was completed. Except for the basement, the over-all architectural structure is the same as when it was built in 1888 with hewed logs and square nails.

In August, 1996 the wooden exterior of the building was completely renovated through the helping hands of the Ohio County inmates voluntary work program. The latest restoration preserved the original architectural design, the curved dome ceiling. This interior work was performed by Wade Rowe and his construction crew.

While the interior was being brought to its present beauty, the original wooden pews were lovingly restored by Marvin and Margaret Johnson Allen, assisted by Bill and Barbara Johnson. The aged floors were refinished by Patrick Patterson.

The present spire on the building replaced a very impressive bell tower, which was destroyed by a windstorm. During the last stages of the work by Mr. Rowe, the spire was covered with copper and a new point installed similar to the original.

The community and the people who enjoy worship in this historic church are indebted to many people for the establishment of the building fund that enabled them to preserve this church building and restore it as it is today. The restroom and hot and cold water installed during the final work on the interior have enabled the congregation to have family reunions, weddings and receptions at the church. It is truly a community facility as well as the Goshen Methodist Church.

The "seed" for the building fund was established by contributions designated for this purpose in bequests from the estates of some of the church's earliest members. It has been added

to by contributions from former members and from local people who have shown a deep interest in this beloved church.

The largest contribution was from a wonderful person who remembered attending the church when in her teens. It is deeply regretted that she did not live to see what her generosity helped to accomplish. Without all these people – many not even having ever been members – the church would not be enjoying its 200-year celebration, September 21, 2003, in the beautiful old historic building that was bequeathed to the Goshen community originally by founding members and, lastly, by the generosity of Christian friends.

The regular congregation is made up of Christian friends (not all Methodist or members of Goshen Methodist). Margaret and Marvin Allen, Maye S. Barnes, George Duvall, Rev. Hugh Michael Taylor and Paula, Larry and Shirley Ferguson, Bill and Barbara Johnson, Rev. Walter Mitchell, Michael and Marsha Newman and son, Michael; Richie and Melissa Reynolds and son, Ty Daugherty. Without those regular, ongoing supporters, the church operation would not be able to continue.

This renovation project is still on-going. Plans in the near future include: window panes repaired and replaced and two new stained-glass windows for the front of the building. A special landscaping project is being planned as a memorial to Donald "Cracker" Johnson. A handicap chair-lift for the basement stairs is also included in this project.

All who helped with The restoration are sincerely appreciated. The church apologizes if any names were left out.

There will be a dedication and reunion Sunday at 1 p.m. Everyone is invited.



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Saturday, 20 September 2003, p.6B:**

**Goshen United Methodist  
Church celebrates 200 years**



Goshen United Methodist Church

An Ohio County church is celebrating its 200th anniversary Sunday. Goshen United Methodist Church on Kentucky 273 about a mile west of Beaver Dam was established in 1803 by Peter Cartwright. It was the first Methodist church in Ohio County.

The first structure was on land owned by William L Bernard and made of huge logs. Two other frame buildings followed but were each destroyed by fire.

Blacks and whites had separate cemeteries nearby.

The current building was erected in 1888 for \$2,000 on land donated by Washington Phipps, and a basement was added in the 1950s.

Six inmates from the Ohio County jail helped repair, scrape and paint the building in 1996.

The interior of the church has been completely remodeled and a restroom and hot water installed in the basement. The 100-year-old benches also have been repaired and refinished.

Goshen is on a preaching circuit with Cromwell United Methodist Church. Services are normally held each Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

The anniversary celebration begins at 11 a.m. Sunday with Mike Taylor, the pastor, preaching. At 1 p.m. Shirley Ferguson will speak on the church history. Music will be provided by New Heart, the Palmer Sisters from Frankfort, Barnes Chapel Singers, Goshen Trio and Janice Flener Hines, Karen and Megan.

The public is invited.



**Ohio County Times-News, Hartford, KY, Thursday, 19 July 2001, p.7A:**





Goshen Methodist Church, with its stained-glass windows and dome, built in the mid-eighties, has been completely restored. Across the highway is the historic Goshen Cemetery where the early-day settlers are buried and marked with impressive monuments.



Interior of the renovated Goshen Methodist Church, showing the carpeting, beautiful oak pews, chandeliers and other improvements.







