

United Presbyterian Church Timeline in Decades

Decade of 1780

1782 – Presbyterian, Rev. David Rice, came west, 8 years after James Harrod founded Harrodstown. Rice came to find land for his family, preached a sermon at Ft Harrod, but went back to VA. He was impressed with the land, but not the lawlessness of the area.

05/03/1793 – Hanover VA Presbytery received a petition with 300 Lincoln pioneer signatures requesting that Rev. Rice become their minister. He accepted the call.

1783 – Father Rice was called to start 3 Presbyterian congregations: Forks (Danville); Cane Run (Harrodsburg); Salt River (New Providence).

10/1783-Rice and family left VA; wintered in Danville where he preached in homes.

1784- 1st Presbyterian meeting house (small log cabin) erected near a Cane Run stream (3miles SE of Harrodsburg) on land donated by Capt. John Haggin.

1785 – Rice opened school for religious education that later became Transylvania College

1786 – A good frame building replaced the log cabin, Cane Run location was used until 1816

1786 – Rice organized Transylvania Presbytery

United Presbyterian Church Timeline in Decades

Decade of 1790

1792- Total KY population about 75,000; Total church population about 10,000;

1792 – David Rice served on 1st Constitution Convention; introduced emancipation proposal. It was voted down 26-16. David Rice resigned.

1796- An evangelistic young Presbyterian minister from NC moves to Logan Co. KY, named James McGready.

1797- Father Rice admonishes VA Synod: “Don’t send me anymore of the weak, mediocre missionaries that you expect me to mentor. Send the best you have to offer!”

1798 – Rice resigns as pastor from 3 churches due to ill health; has become increasingly concerned by lack of religious interest

1799 – KY had 26 Presbyterian ministers

1799 – 1st stirrings of a religious awakening started in Logan Co. KY by James McGready

1799 – Male killed by Indians and woman captured and later scalped while returning home from New Providence church.

United Presbyterian Church Timeline in Decades

Decade of 1800

1800 – Main religious denominations in KY were: Catholic, Methodist, Baptist, and Presbyterian. Only about 1 in 7 of population was a church member.

1800 – 2nd Great Awakening began at Rev. James McGready’s revival in Western KY produced 45 converts that weekend and 345 over the next year. This started camp meetings throughout the South jointly shared with other preachers, especially Methodist.

1801-Cane Ridge Camp Meeting held in Bourbon Co. This lively meeting was a high water mark for KY camp revivals; an estimated 20,000 people attended during the week which produced 800-1,100 communicants.

1802 – 1st Synod was formed in KY with Father Rice as moderator; much concerned about lack of discipline at camp meetings.

1805 – KY Synod suspended McGready and other evangelical Presbyterian ministers for supporting inadequately educated ministers.

1809 – McGready attended and was reinstated to Synod, but remained evangelical leader of Cumberland Presbyterian movement.

United Presbyterian Church Timeline in Decades

Decade of 1810

1813-Dr. Thomas Cleland became minister of Cane Run and New Providence; Cane Run had 50 members including 1 slave (Lizzie) at the time.

1813 - “towns people” wanted a town church; said Cane Run Church needed too much repair.

1816-Father Rice died (as poor as he was born); buried on grounds of First Presbyterian Church, Danville. He was referred to as “Apostle to KY”.

1817-Presbyterians met in Court House and changed name to Harrodsburg Presbyterian Church.

1818- Frame building was built on present church lot, but it became too small for the fast growing church. Upstairs was a school, downstairs a sanctuary. This church blew down during heavy winds; Rev. Celand said it was predestined.

1819 – Harrodsburg Presbyterian met in old stone Court House again.

United Presbyterian Church Timeline in Decades

Decade of 1820 and 1830

11/26/1820- large brick church (70'x45') built on present property.

1825- Harrodsburg Presbyterian Church Pew Assessment cost \$100, a major source of church support.

1828- Harrodsburg Presbyterian Congregation had grown to 200.

1828- 1st Sunday School in Harrodsburg jointly held by Presbyterians and Methodist; met in the old Court House. Children went to respective churches after Sunday School.

1839 – Beloved Dr. Thomas Cleland resigned. He is buried at New Providence Cemetery.

United Presbyterian Church Timeline in Decades

Decade of 1840 and 1850

1847- Princeton graduate, Rev. John Montgomery is ordained & installed on the same day; served only the Harrodsburg Presbyterian Church.

1845 – Church Trustees purchased land on South side of the church from Christopher Graham.

1847 – Rev. Montgomery oversaw construction of a Greek revival building and

1848 – the establishment of Harrodsburg Female College; he became Superintendent. This building is known today as The Academy.

1847-church women organized: “Presbyterian Association for Useful Purposes”. All women of the church were considered members.

Church men viewed with alarm the growth of organizations run by women.

1852 –Mt Pleasant church organized – an outreach mission for Harrodsburg Presbyterian Church until 1952

1853 – Church building outgrown. Old brick church was torn down to build a larger one (90’x50’). These make up the walls of our present church sanctuary.

1857 – Rev. Montgomery resigned and moved to Missouri.

1857 – Rev. Sherrill from Tennessee served as supply until moving to Mississippi in 1859.

United Presbyterian Church Timeline in Decades

Decade of 1860

1860 – Pastor number 5, Rev. James V. Logan was installed at a difficult time in KY and our country. Mercer County born, Gov. Beriah McGoffin, tried to keep KY neutral, but the loyalty of a nation of people was intensely tried.

10/1862 – one of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War was fought a few miles away: The Battle of Perryville.

10/1862 – Harrodsburg Presbyterian and its Female College were used as hospitals for Perryville casualties. Church women served as nurses to both sides, ministering to the suffering both day and night.

1865 – The General Assembly demanded that all Presbyterian Churches take an oath of Allegiance to the Union.

1866 - KY Synod split: U.S.A. (North) loyal to General Assembly and U.S. (South) who refused to adhere to demand.

1866 – Harrodsburg Presbyterian members were equally split and agreed to each side using building every other Sunday. That worked for a while until feelings intensified.

1868 – The church splits; negotiations of property settlement between opposing sides begin.

United Presbyterian Church Timeline in Decades

Decade of 1870 and 1880

01/01/1872- Property settlement completed by public sale; the existing church was purchased by U.S. and renamed 1st Presbyterian Church. The U.S.A. purchased and continued to operate the Female College. The North (U.S.A.) also built a church at 113 E.

Popular St. called it Assembly Presbyterian Church. Both churches continued to grow in membership and community influence.

1882 - 1st Presbyterian held revival services; gained 92 new members that year.

1883- There was a block-wide fire on Popular St. and Assembly Church was affected. The congregation accepted an invitation from 1st Presbyterian to worship with them until their building was restored. Members sat on opposite sides of the church.

1883-Assembly Church sold College, and it became known as the Academy, operating as a school until public high school started.

1883- 1st Presbyterian Church hosted a Centennial Celebration which both Synods (US/USA) were in attendance. A manual was published recording the church's 1st 100 years of its history, which has been a resource of information over the years. Rev. Rice's grandson attended and spoke.

1888 – Dr. J. G. Hunter was called to First Presbyterian church where he remained 25 years, the longest tenure of the church. Dr. Hunter's daughter, "Miss Lily", loved and taught children at the Academy. She died in Harrodsburg in 1973. The present Baptismal font is given in remembrance of the Hunter family.

United Presbyterian Church Timeline in Decades

Decade of 1890 and 1900

1890 – "Miss Sophie" Grimes at age 16 becomes church organist for 1st church. She later became choir director, and was very involved in community music programs. She gave numerous concerts. She resigned this position in 1960 -missing less than a dozen times throughout years.

1894-Assembly Church purchased 1st pipe organ in town due to persuasion of organist John Norman (teacher at Beaumont College), this organ was sold to Baptist when the two churches unified again.

1901 – First Presbyterian installed its 1st pipe organ given by Moore family in memory of Mary S. Moore.

1904 – The First Presbyterian Manse got electricity. The Hunter's were very grateful.

1933-United Presbyterian Church hosted 150th Birthday Celebration. Planned and led by both Synods who remained split. Dr. John W. Carpenter was Pastor. UPC was crowded to capacity during 3 services, with the largest number of Presbyterians ever assembled in KY.

11/16/1934- President Roosevelt visited Harrodsburg to dedicate a memorial to pioneers. Churches opened their doors to an estimated 50,000, mainly out of town visitors, to use their facilities.

1937- UPC minister, Dr. Carpenter and wife, visited the Holy Land and brought back water from the River Jordan to baptize new members.

1930's – UPC was known for its beautiful Christmas and Easter Cantatas under direction of “Miss Sophie” Hardin Grimes. Overflow crowds attended.

United Presbyterian Church Timeline in Decades

Decade of 1940

1940's – UPC membership was at its highest peak, 550. There was also a far-reaching mission effort, both home and abroad.

1943 – A plaque containing names of all church members serving in WWII was placed in the rear of the UPC sanctuary.

1940's – UPC sponsored the first woman evangelist, Victoria Booth Demarest, for a week long revival. She was the granddaughter of Salvation Army founder and step-mother of church member, Cornelius Demarest.

Late 1940's – “Corny” Demarest organized the JR Choral Club and the youth presented special Cantatas at UPC.

1940's, - Much support for many home missions including \$1,000 donated to Morris Fork Church Jackson, KY to purchase an organ. Rev. Woodard and 50 members attended the dedication. Lee's College was also supported.

1940's - Buckhorn, and especially Bellwood, Children Homes were supported.

1948-UPC's Rev Woodard was the son of Philippine missionaries imprisoned during war; his mother dying soon after release. He also had 3 brothers, who were missionaries. Rev. Woodard felt close to Mercer families and survivors of the Bataan Death March which took place in the Philippines.

United Presbyterian Church Timeline in Decades

Decade of 1950

1957 – A reunion after 12 years of separation was held by the 4 Woodard brothers and they all shared the pulpit at UPC's Sunday morning worship.

1958- In October, the 175th anniversary of the church was celebrated by the presentation of a pageant depicting the history of the church.

1958 – Presbyterian Church Foundation was organized for the purpose of collecting, investing, and dispersing funds for charitable/educational service.

1958 – Newly hired Pastor, Rev. James Gilbert organized a JR Fellowship which met on Sunday Nights.

1958 – Jim Erwin became student Youth Director, the first of 3 Christian Education student personnel who contributed in many ways. Ed Mesta and Herbert Bates succeeded Jim.

1959 - Bill and Louise Dean were Co-Directors of a week- long primitive camp program for local youth, held on local farms. It rained every day the first year, but the kids begged for it to continue. It lasted 13 years until 1971 when 20 girls and boys (some from other churches) enjoyed their Christian Education in the outdoors. Older church youth served as counselors.

1959 – The rotary system for UPC elders and deacons was adopted.

1959 – UPC congregation voted to go exclusively with U.S. Church because of growing complexities involved in a relationship with both. Local members always encouraged the uniting of the two governing bodies. We felt that we had shown the way by being the first local church to unite after the Civil War.

United Presbyterian Church Timeline in Decades

Decade of 1960 & 1970

1960's-UPC began program to benefit senior citizens of the community, which continued until a federally funded program began in 1974. Baptist, Methodist, and Christians joined the effort to provide transportation and fellowship for seniors.

1965-dedication of a new educational wing of church and enlarged parking lot

1965-Carolyn Grimes ordained as 1st woman UPC elder

1967-Mary Helen Baumgarth and Gertrude Reed ordained as 1st women deacons

1970-UPC trustees sold Diamond Point for \$32,000. This was left to church by member Mrs. Alfred Curry, and investment income went to Presbyterian church missions in the United States.

1974-UPC Pastor, William Allen appointed chairperson for worship service at city's Bicentennial Celebration, at Ft Harrod State Park.

1974-1st computer organ in Harrodsburg was installed at UPC and choir loft enlarged. Member Aaron Mobley designed and executed wood fretwork insets for side walls. Howard Howells was committee chair for project.

1974-new community outreach to provide bi-weekly service to Comprehensive Care patients

1975-Session member Alex Alexander was representative to US & USA General Assemblies. He invited both moderators to Harrodsburg UPC for a special service. UPC encouraged the two factions to unite.

United Presbyterian Church Timeline in Decades

Decade of 1980 and 1990

1982- Dr. Douglas G. Slagle began pastorate on September 1st

1983- Southern and Northern General Assemblies finally unite and become Presbyterian Church U.S.A. This was 120 years after Civil War ended, 70 years after United Presbyterian Church of Harrodsburg KY began. We led the way!

10/09/1983 – Harrodsburg United Presbyterian Church celebrated 200 years. Its roots are deep and it has nurtured many.

1989 – The seed for local Habitat for Humanity was laid by UPC minister and several church members were active in starting this community outreach effort.

1990's - Doug Slagle led workshops on Parenting and Grief. Pastor Les Rust led the Alpha Series Bible Study. A Mission Group went to Cynthiana to help clean up after the flood.

Many church members drove patients in the “Road to Recovery” Program.

White Gift program continues as part of Christmas celebration.

United Presbyterian Church Timeline in Decades

Decade of the 2000's

Lad and Lassie Kindergarten closes after 36 years of operation in UPC basement.

Joe Tarry called as Pastor to UPC

Congregation mourns death of beloved pastor Joe Tarry.

Academy is restored and 5 apartments are available for rent.

Tornado damages parts of both the Academy and the Church.

2005 Necklace Project for Living Waters for the World started.

2006 Work groups make Little Dresses for Africa, Appalachia and other areas of need

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Decade of the 2010's

Craft fairs held to support 3rd world artisans in the SERRV program.

Second Wind Dreams program grants wishes to residents of Haggin Hospital Extended Care.

Showers of Blessings support school children, Isiah House, veterans, and Christian Life Center.

Bert and Patty Eyster arrive to lead congregation of UPC

Celebration of 230 years of our church history. October 27, 2013