

Franklin Church of Christ

700 South Main Street, Franklin, Kentucky 42134

270-586-4315 – www.franklinkycoc.org

In the 1831 issue of the Millennial Harbinger, a letter from Alexander Campbell states that he had spent the night at "McCreery's Inn, Simpson County, Kentucky, and two miles from the Tennessee line, on December 5, 1830." He does not indicate that he preached in Franklin, but it is possible that he did preach somewhere in the area.

A report filed by George W. Elley in Bowling Green, Kentucky, dated October 6, 1841, and published in the Millennial Harbinger in January, 1842, tells about he and J. T. Johnson preaching in Franklin and getting three to obey the gospel and when they left "many were solicitous for another visit". A later report also by George W. Elley dated August 8, 1842, and published in the October, 1842 issue of the Millennial Harbinger relates that since his last report in October, 1841, a church consisting of 57 members had been formed in Franklin.

Early records tell us that the Franklin Christians and the Baptists shared a meeting place which was a two-story frame building located at the north corner of South College Street and West Madison Street. The building was also used as a school. It has been reported that the lower floor was used for a schoolroom and the upper floor used for church meetings with the two groups alternating times for their services.

In a deed dated October 22, 1887, the trustees for the Christian Church purchased from S. D. Neely and his wife, a parcel of land on South Main Street for a sum of \$500. The Neelys had previously bought this lot, with a church building on it, on June 3, 1885, from the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

On January 28, 1948, it was decided to build classrooms onto the present building. In 1956, two Sunday morning Bible classes were being held in the Goodnight Memorial Library. With the growth of the membership, the elders began to make plans for a building program.

In August, 1957, the membership of the church, by a vote of 150 to 3, approved the plan for the elders and trustees to purchase from Harris Pepper and his wife 4.5 acres of land located on South Main Street near the city limits. Plans were made to construct a new facility on this property, and a loan from Franklin Bank and Trust was acquired. The bank loan was paid off on June 18, 1969. The contractor for construction of the new church building was Paden Construction Company of Texas. The new building

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contained 23 classrooms, a nursery, dressing rooms, a workroom, and an auditorium with a seating capacity of 550. The first service was held in the new building on September 27, 1959.

On April 8, 1967, a decision was made to build a new educational building for classrooms and a fellowship hall. A dedication service for the educational annex was held on March 17, 1968.

In 1992, with money left to the church by Pauline Dawson, the church purchased the Hickman house, which was located north of the church property. Two houses for the elderly were also built west of the Hickman home in 1994 as requested in Ms. Dawson's will. Four more homes have been built bringing the total number of homes to six in 2009. The property is called Dawson Homes, in memory of her. The occupants of the homes are church members who meet certain requirements.

In 2000, the leadership of the church began to explore ways to address the need for additional space. After examining several ideas, the elders made the decision to build a new sanctuary in front of and adjoining the present auditorium. Groundbreaking ceremonies were held for the new sanctuary on Sunday, May 6, 2001. Dedication services for the new building were held on Sunday, June 30, 2002. Total cost of the new sanctuary was \$1,330,208. The new auditorium has a seating capacity of 750 to 850.

In 2017, many building improvements and renovations were done. One major part of the renovations including the addition SONshine Street. It is an interactive area for children to learn about God's word in a variety of ways. The WEARhouse was completed in 2018 as the new teen youth room.

Here at the Franklin Church of Christ, we exist in order to whole-heartedly love God with the entirety of our being, to sacrificially love our neighbor as ourselves, and to be a family of disciples united in faith, hope, and love, who are dedicated to glorifying God in all things.