

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Blue Licks church witnesses cooperation of four faiths as one

By Heather Mathes
The Carlisle Christian Church, in Robertson County, is the first multi-denominational church built in a portion of Kentucky known for its Revolutionary War history.

The church's history steps alive the dramatic files of a long-standing member, Mrs. Thelma Standiford.

The first structure, completed in the mid-1890s, is a symbol of cooperation of four Protestant faiths coming together for the common good of the residents of that area.

There were residents that were of the Christian, Baptist, Presbyterian and Methodist faiths, Standiford said.

Role model speaks to youths

By Heather Mathes
The Carlisle Christian Church found an effective role model for local youth January 10.

The message presented—the only road to success involves following your own values, setting goals, using self-discipline and accepting defeat in a positive manner.

Roger Harden, former University of Kentucky basketball player, assistant to Head Coach Eddie Sutton and member of the Southeast Christian Church, spoke to the Carlisle Christian Church Sunday night before last.

Harden spoke to 82 members of local youth groups, and church members after coming from an all day UK basketball presentation on the subject of the struggle youth have today with peer pressure and drugs.

"Growing up in the church many of you will know the feeling the athletes have that offend you," Harden said.

"Many of you will be confused, however, when it comes to another threatening drug... alcohol." Although alcohol is promoted by some famous basketball players on beer commercials it is still a drug.

"This is when you have got to follow your own values and say no again," said Harden.

"Cocaine is a new drug out there readily available to younger children. This drug has killed more people than most realize and Christians will have to deal with the problem just like anyone else. Tem values will be tested and tempted but if they can learn to say no to other drugs then they can also say no in this case," said Harden on the subject of drug abuse.

Harden also spoke to the group about setting goals early.

"All of us want to do great things but all of us want to pay the price to achieve success. Some laughed when I said I was going to play ball at a major college, but that is the goal," said Harden.

He also stressed the factor of self-discipline as a way to better yourself in any way.

"I did give up many things that teens enjoy like going to every party and every extracurricular function."

"We practiced about five or six hours a day even then and I had to schedule and plan."

"But we looked at practice not as a punishment but as a way to be better and that is what self-discipline is about," said Harden.

Harden also stressed that people often fail and must accept defeat as well as success as another way to self-improvement.

"In the last few seconds of my last game as a graduating senior, University of Kentucky was ranked near the end of the list."

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"All were financially unable to build a church or school and so they joined to build a structure that could serve all faiths equally," she explained.

Each faith took turns, a Sunday a month for each and all the services were different.

They all attended Sunday School together, she said.

Major Michael George Bainger, senior in the Battle at Blue Licks, donated the land for the structure and James H. Pumphrey was employed for four equal payments of \$300 each as a contractor.

The building was to be a 27 by 51 structure with two front doors, six windows with shutters and the walls were to be plaster within and

weather boarding without," she said.

The contractor did the best he could and finally finished the structure in 1864," said Standiford.

"Also during the Civil War a large fall of saved stone captured and was brought up to use as a wall that was originally in front of the church before the mud was built," added Standiford.

The church was constituted September 8, 1864 by James C. Arranger and the first minister, Robert McCormick, served only one year.

During H. A. Hager's term a revival was held with Arranger and William Jarrett as evangelists.

The membership was again built as Henry Rayburn held another revival.

John Hughes, the next minister, established a Sunday School with 70 to 80 students in regular attendance.

Other ministers at the Blue Licks Church include: J.M. Reynolds, J.M. East, Jesse Hughes, second term, Basie Metcalf, Joseph Graves, Humphrey Patigrove, F.T. Davis, George Manfield, Milton Pyles, E.G. Eddard, Brother Bass, Joseph McCannell, William Sparks, J. James McDonald, Brother Bell, P.M. Timmer, Wallace V. Wilkerson, Price T. Christian, Herbert Young, and James Alexander.

In 1954 the Blue Licks Union Church, often called the battle ground church, burned to the ground.

"The church burned on February 11, 1954," Standiford said.

"The cause of the fire was never found out but it was reported completely undetected in the same year."

Those ministers after the fire of 1954 are: Robert Pabbly, Vernon Odomore, Garrel Babba, Kenneth Swerney, Henry Carpenter, W.A. Wolf, Rhodes Thompson, J.J. Whitehouse, Wandus Orkeley, Emory McConnell, Harry Owens and Hughie Kani Turpin and Brandon Jones.

Baptists were held in the Licking River, but were not held at the battle ground church in Carlisle.

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The church was originally located in Nicholas County, but because of the redaction of counties, Blue Licks Church is now in Robertson County.

The contractor agreed to lay a stone foundation and Reverend Elright, the Methodist minister, agreed to assist the contractor in collecting money for the church.

The covered bridge, located where the modern Blue Licks Bridge is now, was burned during the Civil War as supplies could not

be delivered.

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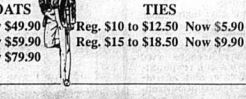
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Thelma Standiford, member of the church, stands with a portrait of her late husband. She recalls many memories of the church's history, a lot of which is provided in her book of the restored church. (Photo: Heather Mathes)

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