

Under the ministration of Dr. Viehe, the church has grown and is now one of the largest congregations in the city. The Doctor is a man of comprehensive views and an active worker, and so far as our limited knowledge extends, greatly beloved by his flock.

N. B.—Since the foregoing was written Dr. Viehe has resigned the pastorate, and is succeeded by Rev. F. W. Adomeit.

THE METHODIST CHURCH

Was pioneer in Henderson County. As far back as 1805 the records are distinct. In that year there was a small Methodist society found in what is now the City of Henderson. They worshiped in a brick church, which was situated on the present vacant lot (Public Square) just south of the Court House, and was used as a Union Church.

The Rev. Thomas Taylor was the first Methodist preacher of whom any record can be had as connected with the church in Henderson. The work was then called Red Bank Circuit.

The records are missing from this period to 1831 and 1832, when the Rev. Abram Long was the preacher in charge in 1833-4.

J. D. Bennett, who is now living, and a member of the Louisville Conference, was the pastor in 1835-6. A. L. Alderson was the preacher. About this time the name was changed to that of Henderson Circuit; it was in the Paris District Tennessee Conference. Mr. Alderson was succeeded by the Rev. Joseph P. Stanfield in 1837-8. Mr. Stanfield was very successful as a revivalist and a large number of souls were converted under his ministry. He was followed by the Rev. Robert Gardner, and the membership at this time did not exceed 20 or 30. It was during his pastorate that the first great revival in Henderson is to be recorded. It is worthy of remark that while Mr. Gardner was the pastor, this revival was the result of the joint labors of the sweet-spirited Edwin Roberts and the preacher in charge.

In 1839 another revival followed of still larger proportions than the one in 1838. It was during this meeting that the Rev. W. H. Sandefur ("Uncle Billy," as we call him) was connected with the church. He is now superannuated, but was for many years an active and very useful local preacher. He is still living, but is unable to preach on account of age and feebleness. His name stands on the Quarterly Conference Journal as a local elder.

In 1840 we find the Methodists worshiping in a little frame church which stood right where the First Colored Baptist Church now stands, and was built during this year, and was the result doubtless of the revivals that preceded it.