

**Franklin Presbyterian Church
Boonville Presbyterian Church
First Presbyterian Church**

*417 Vine Street
Boonville, Missouri 65233
Phone: (660) 882-6913
Office Hours: 1:30-3:30 p.m. on Fridays*

*Jeff Martin, Pastor
Phone: (660) 882-8288
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Worship Service*

Township:	T-49-N	Organized:	October 28, 1821
Range:	R-17-W	Disbanded:	No
Section:	35	Active:	Yes
Latitude:	38.973652	Longitude:	-92.743535
Map:		Updated:	March 8, 2020

Cemetery: There is no cemetery associated with this church.

Area: Boonville, Missouri

Records: A portion of these church records were given to the Western Historical Manuscript Collection, Columbia campus. They were later microfilmed. A portion of those records were later transcribed and placed on line.

[First Presbyterian Church Baptism Records](#)

[First Presbyterian Church Communicants Records](#)

[First Presbyterian Church Deacons Records](#)

[First Presbyterian Church Elders Records](#)

[First Presbyterian Church Pastors Records](#)

History:



Sketch From "Cooper County Church Sketches" by F. Chesnutt

Presbyterian Church at Boonville
From "History of Howard and Cooper Counties Missouri", 1883

Presbyterian Church at Boonville -On the 27th of August, 1876, Rev. O. W. Gauss delivered an historical sermon in Boonville, giving a history of the church above named. He said: "On the 28th of April, 1821, this church was organized under the name of the Franklin church, by the Rev. Edward Hollister, with twenty-three members. The year of its organization is, the same year in which Missouri was admitted into the Union as a state. The reason it bore the name of Franklin at the beginning, is that it was situated in Franklin, since known as Old Franklin, to distinguish it from the subsequently built New Franklin. Franklin was then the chief town west of St. Louis, but it was built on the sands, and the floods of the Missouri river have swept it away. As Franklin went down, Boonville, laid out and incorporated in 1817, directly opposite, on the other bank of the river, was built up, and, being founded on a rock, stands to-day, while scarcely a vestige of her predecessor remains. It was but natural in this state of things that all business and social interest should tend over to this side, and we find that the church soon moved in the same direction.

"In 1825 Rev. Augustus Pomeroy, who taught school in Franklin, preached regularly there and in Boonville. The same was true in Mr. Cochran's ministry, and probably also, at least, in the beginning of Mr. Chamberlain's (W. P. Cochran, Hiram Chamberlain). The fact that there seems to have been these two regular preaching points for the Franklin church, shows that the church was preparing for a complete removal to this side. Consequently, at a meeting of the presbytery in this place in 1830, nine years after the organization of the church, one year before the erection of the synod of Missouri, the name of Franklin church was changed to Boonville, and so entered on the roll.

"I have not been able to find any list of the names of the twenty-three original members, or of the officers with whom the organization was formed. The earliest list I have is one furnished me by Dr. Thomas Parks from memory, giving me the names of members and elders in 1828; these are all absent from us, most of them dead. The session at that time consisted of John Dickson, William C. Porter and Colonel Chambers, clerk of courts of Saline County; in 1829 the session was increased by the addition to it of Dr. Parks. In the fall of 1836 Dr. Parks left Boonville, and about the same time Mr. John Dickson also removed; previous to this Mr. Porter and Colonel Chambers had died, and so it came about the church was without any elders. It remained in this condition nearly two years from the fall of 1836 to the summer of 1838, when Rev. R. L. McAfee ordained and installed as elders of the church, Josiah Dickson and Joseph N. Laurie. Robert Brent was elected at the same time with these, but was not installed until later. From the year 1838, the time of her re-organization, the church steadily progressed up to the present time, under the almost unintermitted ministrations of the Gospel. Rev. W. P. Cochran, of Pennsylvania, succeeded the Rev. Pomeroy in 1827. Rev. Hiram Chamberlain came in 1828, and remained until 1834. There was no settled minister here then until 1840. During this interval there was a Mr. Rennie, a Scotchman, from South

Carolina, and Mr. Reynolds, a man of New School principles, each of whom remained here for a short time, preaching for the church.

On the 20th of August 1832 there was a meeting of the citizens of Boonville at the school house, for the purpose of taking measures to erect a Presbyterian church. At this meeting a board of five commissioners was appointed, consisting of Rev. H. Chamberlain, James Patton, David Adams, A. W. Pollard and Charles H. Smith, whose duty was to devise plans, to select a site and make all necessary arrangements in connection with the erection of a building. On the 23d of April 1833, the commissioners purchased the lot upon which the building now stands. The building was completed in 1841, at a cost of \$4,500.

In 1840 Rev. William G. Bell was elected pastor, and installed in May of that year, and resigned the pastorate in October 1854. He preached the first and last sermon in the old church. Rev. H. M. Painter succeeded Mr. Bell. He remained until 1862, when he was succeeded by Rev. James Morton as stated supply for three years.

In 1867 Rev. B. H. Charles, of Chester, Illinois, filled the pulpit, and was succeeded by the present pastor, Rev O. W. Gauss, in August 1875.

The present building was erected and finished in 1871-72, at a cost of \$12,618.65. It is built of brick, and is the largest Protestant church in the city.

Boonville Presbyterian Church

From "History of Cooper County Missouri" by W. F. Johnson 1919

Boonville Presbyterian Church was organized April 28, 1821, by Rev. Edward Hollister with 23 members. The church was in the beginning known as the Franklin Church due to the fact that the parent church was located in Franklin prior to its being washed away. It continued to be called "Franklin" until 1830. Some of the early ministers of this church were Rev. Pomeroy, W. P. Cochran, Hiram Chamberlain. A building was erected in 1841 at a cost of \$4,500 on the site of the present building. A second building was erected in 1871-72 at a cost of \$12,618.65. A third building was erected in 1904 at a cost of \$40,000. The present pastor is Rev. J. E. Green.

First Presbyterian Church

From "Memorabilia of Cooper County", 1990

The Presbyterian Church was actually organized in Franklin, in 1821. Franklin was booming with river trade and served as an outfitting post for pioneers pushing westward. A number of Boonville citizens crossed the river to attend services. The first services were held April 28, 1821, by the Rev. Edward Hollister. Charter members numbered twenty three.

Until 1830 the church was known as the Franklin Church. After it was washed away from its site at Franklin during a Missouri River flood, the church was moved south across the river to Boonville. A building was erected in 1841 at a cost of \$4500.00, on the site of the present church at the northwest corner of the intersection of Main and Vine Streets. Because the large congregation could not be accommodated in the 1841 building, a new structure was erected in 1871-72, valued at \$12,000.00 Outgrowing the facilities again, the congregation erected another building in 1904, costing \$40,000.00. This building is still in use. Among early pastors were the Rev. Pomeroy, W.P. Cochran and Hiram Chamberlain.

First Presbyterian Church of Boonville

From "Cooper County Church Sketches" by F. Chesnutt, 1993

In general, the American Presbyterian Church dates from the religious wars between the Scots and (Bloody) Queen Mary of England. Large numbers of Scots left for the New World in the 1600's to avoid persecution. Arriving in Maryland, they moved into western Virginia. Fierce fighters, they

fought in the Revolution, and their descendants came into Missouri by way of Kentucky as land grants were given for military service.

During the years in Kentucky many separated to form the Cumberland Presbyterian denomination. Both groups settled Cooper County; the Cumberlands predominated in the county, the Presbyterians in Franklin. Early (paid) missionaries were: Salmon Giddings, Rev. Hiram Chamberlain arrived in 1828 to rename the Franklin Church as Boonville Church, the "Pioneer Church of the West." The present lot was purchased from a Mr. Hanna at Fourth and Vine where church and school were held.

It was 1841 before a new building was completed under Rev. William G. Bell... the second church built in Boonville. Dr. W.H. Trigg's activity needs mention here as a civic leader, physician, merchant and philanthropist.

In 1855, the Rev. H.M. Painter of Vicksburg was minister. He gave voice to the secessionist feelings of the parishioners and in 1862 was BANISHED by the Union authorities then in control of Boonville. As General Lyon's troops were threatening the city, Rev. Painter had advised the local men to support the Missouri State troops to protect Boonville from the invasion. As the banishment decree stayed enforced, a year later Rev. James Morton was called. However, the military government would not allow him to preach. He could only read sermons written before the conflict.

1872 saw a new church facing Vine Street, the old church remodeled for a parsonage. According to Rev. Gaus in 1876, it was built from pledges, "not from fund-raising entertainments such as frolics, fairs, and festivals."

The present Presbyterian Church was built on the site of the 1872 building using much of the decorative woodwork from the old one in 1904. The design is classic revival, built by W.J. Cochran Construction of Boonville at a cost of \$40,000. The fellowship hall was added in 1928 to connect the sanctuary, Sunday School and parsonage (the original church).

The Cumberland Presbyterians reunited with the parent denomination in 1906.

Information provided by *Mrs. Betty Bowen*.
