

Historic communion table returns for museum opening

The Crittenden County Historical Museum will be opening for the season at 10 a.m., Wednesday April 1. Please take time and stop by and see all the interesting items on display that are part of our county's history. This year we have a unique item that has returned to its hometown. It is a beautiful communion table from the Main Street Presbyterian Church that was torn down in 1968.



Brenda Underdown
County Historian

Forgotten Passages

To give some history and meaning to this item, we'll start with the history of the church and see how it has returned to the community from which it came.

The First House of Worship

In September 1894 the Cumberland Presbyterian congregation of Marion had plans to build a handsome brick structure. They were looking forward to the time when they could worship in a house more in keeping with the progressive spirit of the town, than the neat but small building in which they were holding services.

This first house of worship, where they were holding services, was a little chapel built opposite the graded school building (about the location of the back parking lot of the post office) and it was dedicated in May of 1890 by Rev. B. T. Watson and Rev. James F. Price.

The leading families of this organization were those of John Lamb, Jane Crider, John Parr, Wm. A. Adams, Theodore F. Newcomb, Mrs. Mary E. Haynes, F. B. McMican, James F. Price and others. There were 39 charter members in the original organization.

Their first step towards this dream of a new house of worship was in the purchasing of the beautiful lot at the corner of Main and Depot streets. The lot was one of the prettiest in town and was centrally located, and the site in all respects was a splendid choice for their new church.

During the life of the late John Lamb, it was his hope to see a church on that spot and his heirs in deference to his well-known wishes about the matter proposed to the church to contribute \$500 towards the enterprise if steps would be taken at once. The church gladly accepted the conditions and the lot was purchased.

The Dedication, June 18, 1899

The dedication of a church to the worship of God is an important event in the history of any community. The little log churches that were built in this county early in

the century and on down have exerted an influence for good in our civilization that no man can estimate.

So the dedication of the more pretentious edifices of today are events that will color the thoughts and shape the destinies of many generations that come after us, hence the services at the new Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Marion Sunday may be termed a red letter day in the history of the community.

In 1889 the Cumberland Presbyterians, through the work of Rev. James F. Price, organized here with a membership to 23 and the little band has been gradually growing as God blessed its efforts.

Three years ago, they began an active effort to build a new house of worship, and Sunday their untiring energy culminated in the dedication of one of the handsomest, most substantial and conveniently arranged houses in the county; adding to the substantial appearance and the beauty of the town, and Marion people are naturally proud of the building.

The building is of brick and is 65x56 feet, divided into three rooms. The main auditorium, 40x40, the lecture room 25x40 feet, separated from auditorium by a folding partition, and the Sunday School room 16x32, separated from the other rooms by folding doors. When desired, the three rooms can be thrown together and they have a normal seating capacity of 600, and this can be readily increased to 800.

The floors in the main rooms rise as they receded from the pulpit and the whole is filled with handsome folding chairs with convenient aisles for ingress and egress; there are entrances on three sides of the building. The interior is handsomely finished in hardwood, and the inside view as well as arrangements are attractive.

Full House

Sunday the house was packed to its utmost capacity and many stood at the windows to hear the sermon. The congregation was composed of Crittenden, Livingston and Caldwell county people.

After the sermon by Dr. DeWitt of Hopkinsville, it was announced by Rev. B. T. Watson that \$1,500 must be raised to complete paying for the house. He made an appeal for the money, and within an hour several dollars over the required amount had been subscribed. The subscriptions ranging from \$100 hundred to \$1; a great many of the young folk

subscribed \$1 to pay for a chair.

The beautiful dedication ceremonies were then used and the house was formally dedicated. The pastor, Rev. James F. Price, and his elders and deacons, Messrs. W. A. Adams, A. L. Cruce, A. U. Lamb, A. F. Crider, O. F. Swansey, Ira Clark, Geo. H. Crider, Geo. F. Jennings, T. F. Newcom, Wm. H. Walker and Wm. E. Minner forming a semi-circle around the chancel making the pledge to have the Word preached in the house.

After this Rev. James F. Price briefly addressed the congregation and impressively tendered his thanks to the people for their aid. This tireless man of God and indefatigable worker in the great cause was the happiest man in Marion that day. It was through his efforts, his zeal, his prayers, his managing, and his words of encouragement that the work was undertaken and carried to completion.

The dedicatory sermon was preached by Dr. DeWitt of Hopkinsville. His

text was: "But the word of the Lord shall endure forever."

All the other churches in town called in their appointments for the day, and Revs. W. H. Miley, B. A. Cundiff and J. W. Thompson occupied seats in the pulpit.

The plans of the house were drawn by George F. Jennings, and he superintended the construction throughout and it certainly is a credit to his skill and genius as a workman.

Church Closes

This church had services and served the community as a house of worship for over 67 years. In 1966 the membership had fallen low and the small congregation united with the First United Presbyterian Church located on Bellville and College streets.

The historic old church sat empty until 1968 when the lot was sold to Otha Smith who tore down the old landmark church in preparation of locating a used car lot on the site. It was located where the parking lot

is on the corner of Main Street and East Depot Street.

Items Saved

When the church closed in 1966, members of the congregation were given permission to take items that were in the church so they would be saved.

Bill and Birdie Farmer, members of the church, saved the beautiful antique communion table that was used in the church. It was eventually passed down to their son, Mike Farmer, who now lives in Henderson.

Mike, wanting the table returned to its original hometown, has donated the table to the museum, so its history and beauty

can be seen and enjoyed by all.

This is what the museum is all about, saving and preserving items that were once a part of our history, and carrying on some of that history for future generations to see and learn about. Also many items just bring back good memories from times past that we remember from our childhood and the way things used to be in Marion.

(Brenda Underdown is chair of Crittenden County Historical Society and a member of Crittenden County Genealogical Society. Much more local history can be found at OurForgottenPassages.blogspot.com).

Real Estate LISTINGS

HOMES

506 N College St. - \$77,900
2 BR, 1 Bath

247 Guess Dr. - \$249,000
4 BR, 2 Bath

117 Broadway St. - \$299,000
3 BR, 1 Bath

122 West Lake St., Madisonville - \$239,900
3 BR, 3 Bath

4025 Aunt Jane Tabernacle Rd. - \$595,000
5 BR, 3 Bath on 101 AC

ACREAGE

54 AC- S.R. 91 N. corner of Aunt Jane Tabernacle Rd.
\$272,900

COMMERCIAL

433 S. MAIN - known as DUNCAN'S SERVICE CENTER
\$625,000

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NEW! Crittenden County, KY - 0.31 Acre - \$299,000
Brick 3-bedroom, 2-bath home in Marion, Kentucky with attached 2-car garage, formal living and dining rooms, kitchen island, utility room, and large detached shop. Utilities onsite.

Crittenden County, KY - 5.10 Acres - \$310,000
This 3BR/2BA country home with finished basement, shop, timber, open ground, and hunting sits on 5.10+/- acres.

Crittenden County, KY - 8.51 Acres - \$199,900
This 8.51+/- acre property with shop, utilities, and open ground in Crittenden County, Kentucky is a great investment or business location with plenty of space for expansion and equipment.

Crittenden County, KY - 12.42 Acres - \$347,500
This 12.42+/- acre tract features a brick 3 bed/2 bath one-level home with stainless steel appliances, island kitchen, covered porch and back patio. Also includes a barn, fenced pasture, workshop, and mixed use opportunities.

Crittenden County, KY - 20.50 Acres - \$100,450
This 20.5+/- acre tract in Crittenden County, Kentucky offers diverse timber, food plot potential, established trails, and excellent deer and turkey hunting habitat with build site opportunities.

Crittenden County, KY - 30.91 Acres - \$151,459
This 30.91+/- acres in Crittenden County, Kentucky offers prime deer and turkey hunting with food plot potential, diverse timber, trail system, and build site opportunities.

Crittenden County, KY - 70 Acres - \$244,900
Located less than a mile from the Ohio River, this exceptional hunting property offers a diverse blend of habitat types, making it ideal for deer, turkey, and waterfowl hunting.

Crittenden & Union Counties, KY - 903 Acres - OFFERED IN MULTIPLE TRACTS - CONTACT AGENT!
With various landscapes, fantastic habitat variations, proven history, and lodge with various improvements, this is your chance at a once in a lifetime opportunity!

Livingston County, KY - 53 Acres - \$485,000
Quiet country living with this updated 4BR home on 53 acres of hardwood timber, brushy fields, and a small creek. The property adjoins a 367-acre protected nature preserve for added privacy and views.

Livingston County, KY - 147.7043 Acres - \$565,000
This exceptional hunting tract serves as a main travel hub for wildlife, featuring an extensive creek network that enhances its habitat diversity. Features an established trail system throughout!

Livingston County, KY - 77 Acres - \$252,175
Livingston County, KY - 88 Acres - \$288,200
Livingston County, KY - 102 Acres - \$334,050
Livingston County, KY - 105 Acres - \$337,000
Livingston County, KY - 129 Acres - \$422,475
Livingston County, KY - 139 Acres - \$472,600
Livingston County, KY - 159 Acres - \$520,725
Livingston County, KY - 161 Acres - \$547,400
Livingston County, KY - 353 Acres - \$1,129,600
Livingston County, KY - 718 Acres - \$2,243,750
Livingston County, KY - 989 Acres - \$3,016,450
These tracts are part of a trophy-managed hunting community designed for like-minded hunters dedicated to growing and hunting mature deer.

PENDING! Crittenden County, KY - 16.41 Acres - \$335,000
This 16.41+/- acres near Marion features a 3 bed/2 bath, 1,760 sq. ft. home with new metal roof, open concept, stainless steel appliances, partial covered deck, 3-car garage, two ponds, and pasture and woods mix.

PENDING! Crittenden County, KY - 108.82 Acres - \$449,000
This 108.82± acre all-timber hunting tract includes a cabin, food plots, blinds, trail system, rock-bottom creek, and proven big buck history.

PENDING! Crittenden County, KY - 149.90 Acres - \$592,000
This 149± acre tract in Crittenden County, Kentucky offers a diverse blend of open ground, timber, and live water, creating an ideal layout for both deer and turkey hunting. Includes build-site potential!

PENDING! Crittenden County, KY - 300.15 Acres - \$1,750,000
Turn-key 300.15± acre hunting property with a fully furnished custom log cabin, stocked lake, creek frontage, established food plots, wetlands, and premier deer, turkey, and waterfowl habitat.

SOLD! Crittenden County, KY - 13.42 Acres - \$649,900
This stunning hobby farm offers the perfect blend of comfort, space, and functionality in a quiet rural setting. Includes a 6-bedroom, 4-bathroom home, two-car attached garage, two shops and a barn.

SOLD! Crittenden County, KY 125 - \$530,000
This 125±-acre tract offers a strong blend of income, habitat diversity, and hunting potential, creating a well-rounded property that appeals to both recreational buyers and long-term land investors.

SOLD! Crittenden County, KY 134 - \$562,900.00
This 134± acre tract in Crittenden County, Kentucky, offers the perfect blend of hunting performance and passive income, combining CRP acreage with quality timber and exceptional habitat diversity.

SOLD! Crittenden Co. & Webster Co. KY 159.913 Acres - \$499,000
This 159+/- acre property in Crittenden and Webster Counties includes a 2BR home, garage, 2.35 miles of Tradewater River frontage, WRP habitat, blinds, food plot sites and proven hunting history.

SOLD! Crittenden Co. KY 175 Acres - \$774,900
This 175+/- acres in Crittenden County includes a rustic 2BR, 1BA cabin, food plots, blinds, ponds, Coefield Creek, and diverse habitat. Prime layout for whitetail and turkey hunting with multiple access points.

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MEETING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the City of Marion, Kentucky, will conduct a listening session on Thursday, April 9, 2026, at 6 p.m. on the following topic:

1) Open forum to hear from parties interested in proposing funding policy or expenditures for the 2026-2027 fiscal year budget

The listening session will be hosted by the City Administrator and held at Marion City Hall, 217 South Main Street, Marion, Kentucky.

Please contact the City of Marion for more information at (270) 965-2266. Charles Adam Ledford City Administrator