



1812-2012
Murfreesboro, Tenn.

BICENTENNIAL MOMENT

THE FURNACE After the Civil War when the church was built at its present location, a furnace or furnaces seem to have been the source of heat for the congregation during the winter months. In September 1870 a Committee on Fuel & Lights was ordered to investigate “at an early day,” the probable expense of so arranging the cellar of the Church, as to accommodate a car load of coal and if \$1,000 will defray said expense, the committee is hereby authorized. On July 6, 1871 Charles Ready was repaid \$21.92 for paying the coal bill. In November 1872 a special committee was appointed to meet with those from the other churches, and “consult relative to the inferiority of the Gas; with a view of making complaint to the Company; hoping thereby to stir them up to the manufacturing of a better article than that furnished for some time past.” In September 1877 improvements and repairs were in progress and would be completed by early December, “thereby rendering the Church Building much more economically, pleasantly and easily heated and that the furnaces would be fully capacitated to render the building comfortable.” Repairing the furnaces cost \$42.40 and work on the flues, etc. cost \$15. By 1885 the old furnaces had burned out and were worthless. The committee on Fuel & Lights reported that they had made sufficient excavation in the cellar for the accommodation of a car load of coal. In July 1885 the committee on Furnaces reported it would require \$300-350 for new furnaces, or for repairs on old furnaces not less than \$50. The committee recommended new furnaces entirely as the old ones, after repairs, would probably be useless and had always been unsatisfactory. New furnaces were ordered. The new furnaces would be coal-fired. At some point in the mid-20th century a new boiler was purchased. In 2009 that 50-year-old boiler made its last gasp and had to be replaced. The old flues and conduits of forced air are still in use, and although they sometimes can be heard rattling away, seem to be functioning as they should. [Information researched by Susan Daniel and the late Ernest Hooper.]