

1835

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Church History

CUTLER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

historical Sketch Of The Cutler Presbyterian Church

It was in the year 1835 that a few of our God fearing forefathers became convinced a church was necessary in order to hold that close and constant communion with our Lord Jesus that is essential to the happiness and prosperity of every peace loving community. Accordingly, through the Rev. Leonard G. Bell, at that time pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Frankfort, Indiana, he asked and obtained permission of the Crawfordsville Presbytery to organize a Presbyterian church in the neighborhood of Andrew Robinson near what is now Greetingsville.

Saturday, August 1st., 1835, was set apart as the day upon which to effect this organization. All in that vicinity who were holding membership with the Presbyterian church, together with those favorable to the measure, were invited to be present. As there was no public house wherein to hold such a meeting, Mr. Andrew Robinson kindly offered the use of his barn for this noble cause. Consequently the first church was organized in an old log barn situated on the Robinson Branch, a short distance from their present barn on that place. The organization took place under the direction of the Middle Fork Session, which was composed of Rev. L.G. Bell, Moderator, Archibald Chittick, Richard Wilson, John Smith and John Fisher, elders. It was determined that this church should be denominated the Bethesda Church- Bethesda meaning the "house of Mercy" or the place of flowing water. It was named in honor- it is supposed- of the Bethesda Pool at the sheep gate of Jerusalem.

At this time the charter members of this church were received into it by certificate. They were James McCrary and wife, John Fisher and wife, Andrew Robinson and wife, Samuel Guinn, Mary Robinson and Samuel McCrary. Following the reception of the above members into this church, an election was held for the purpose of selecting three elders. Those elected were

John Fisher, Andrew Robinson and Samuel Guinn. Only the last two were ordained, Mr. Fisher having been previously ordained as an elder of the Middle Fork Session. John Fisher was then appointed as clerk of the Session.

On Sunday, August 2nd, 1835, this church met for its first service. Rev. L. G. Bell had the honor of conducting the first service which consisted of a sermon and the administration of the Lord's Supper.

During the summer months the services of the Bethesda church were held in the private homes. However, when the weather admitted of larger congregations than the diminutive cabins could accommodate, they adjourned to the grove farm barn. From this on they held their church in the Robinson barn till the winter of 1836. It was at this time that the growing families of these early pioneers made them feel the necessity of a school. Accordingly, they built a little log school house near the site of the present church of Gettingsville. After its erection church services were held here - not regularly every Sunday, but whenever a preacher came along who could be prevailed upon to hold them. More often these services were held during the week than on Sunday. Many are the times when the routine of this little group was interrupted for the holding of church services by some passing preacher. When church was over, the parents returned to their work and the children to their books.

At this time the Bethesda church consisted of nine members, three of them women, and during the next 18 months it remained stationary in membership.

On Jan. 18, 1837, Joseph Robinson was received into the church and it is at this time that we have the first record of infant baptism, when John Milton and Mary (children of Joseph and Mary Robinson) and James Alexander son of John and Martha Fisher were baptised. In May of the same year

same year. Andrew Beck and wife, John S. Shanklin and wife, and Mrs. Agnes Young were received as members of the church. During all this time the church was in charge of Rev. Bell.

August 1838 Archibald Chittick came from the Middle Fork Church, and in May 1839. Mrs. Anna Long, Mrs. Isabella D. Young and Nancy Guinn became members. In August of the same year Mr. Davis united. As one member withdrew and another was suspended this left the church at the end of four years with a membership of only 17.

From April 1837 to August 1844 This church seems to have been supplied by visiting ministers with the exception of one year when the Rev. Jones gave it one-half of his time. During the year of 1841, five members John Young, Jane Guinn, Mary Jane McCrary, Margaret E. McCrary and John M. Vandike- were received into this church, and in 1842 three members, namely John Teel, David Long and Elizabeth Shaffer. For the next two years there seemed to have been no visible work done.

In August, 1844 great interest was manifested among its members. It was about this time they erected their first church building, which in order that it might be centrally located, was built at Lexington, Indiana, one mile west and three miles north of the place of organization, and on the site now occupied by the present home of Warren Tinkle. The Rev. T.M. Chestnut had come into this field the first of August, 1844, when the church consisted of only 25 members. On Sunday August 25, the following officers who had been elected the previous afternoon were installed in the Bethesda church: elders, Anthony Wilson, John S. Shanklin, J.W. Glasscock; deacons, Edward Quinn, John Young and Andrew Beck. Note that this is the first time deacons for this church are mentioned. It was at this time too that they thought proper to change the name from that of Bethesda to that of Lexington Presbyterian Church. Accordingly, when the Logansport Presbytery was in session in October 1844, this request together with a call for the ministerial labors of Rev. T. M. Chestnut were presented.

Both requests were granted, so in 1845 Rev. Chestnut was duly installed as pastor of Lexington Presbyterian church. He served five years or more during which time twenty eight additions were made.

In May, 1850 Rev. John Dale was called as stated supply giving one-time to this church. During the year he was here three members were added and one re-instated.

In the fall of 1851 Rev. Jos. Pratt came as a stated supply, staying two years, during which time twelve united with the church.

Early in the year 1854 the Rev. J. W. McClusky was called. When he took charge the church consisted of sixty-nine members. The officers were as follows: Elders, Anthony Wilson, Andrew Robinson, John S. Shanklin and J. W. Glasscock; deacons, John Young, Andrew Beck and Edward Quinn. For over ten years, if we accept an absence of six months when he was in Iowa, Rev. McCluskey labored successfully here. He was with this church at the dedication of two new houses of worship. At this time the congregation came from a territory extending from the John Shanklin place (now Andrew Shanklin place) to the old Andrew Robinson farm south of Greetingsville and east almost to Koro. So since, too, the congregation was large enough to divide, the Lexington church voted to separate into a north and south congregation each to have a church building within its environs. Accordingly two churches were built. The first was the Hyde Park church located one mile north of Greetingsville. It was dedicated January 28 1854. On that day Mrs. Pheobe Jane Robinson was accepted as a member of the Lexington church. She was the first person baptised in the Hyde Park church. The second church was known as the North Fork Church, was built one and one-fourth miles east of Cutler. It was completed in the fall of 1860. About this time a parsonage was erected just west of the church. The parsonage is now occupied by Samuel Nice. After the completion of the second church, the old building at Lexington was abandoned.

Rev. McClusky gathered while laboring here forty members, besides eleven who came from other churches. One member was suspended and six granted letters of dismissal, leaving a total of forty-four members. It was about this time that Mrs. William Weaver, who is the oldest living member of our church, united with the North Fork division of the Lexington church.

Following the Rev. McClusky, came the Rev. W. G. Thomas, who remained with the church one year during which time a total of nine additions were made. Early in the year of 1865. Rev. W. G. Thomas installed Dr. R. O. Young and John Cook as elders. Dr. Young was then appointed clerk of the session in which capacity he served until 1880, when G. W. Shanklin, who served till his death, was appointed.

During the later part of the year 1866 and the first half of 1867 Rev. C. R. Van Emmen served this church. Three members were added during his stay.

During the fall of 1867, Rev. W. P. Koutz came as stated supply. After one and one-half years of service as such the church put in a call to Presbytery for him as pastor. The call was accepted and he was installed as pastor remaining with the church till 1874, when, at his own request Presbytery released him. During the seven years of his pastorate no less than 142 new members united with the church.

In 1869 Rev. Koutz installed the following officers: Ruling elders John Young, Warren Adams, G. W. Shanklin. T. P. Robinson and Robert Geffin; Deacons William Beck, William B. Wilson. John Stevenson, B. J. Wilson, James Wharton and Isaac T. Tinkle. During the year of 1874 and 75 Rev. R. C. Colmery served the church as stated supply. No increase in membership was made during his service here. This seems to have been a season of discouragement for this church

In June 1875, the Rev. W. M. Stryker received a call from this church as stated supply in which capacity he served for the succeeding 18 months. During this time seven members were added, five given letters of dismissal and fifteen names erased from the membership roll in consequence of the organization of a Presbyterian church near Sadalia. William Benton Adams was installed as a deacon also.

In February of 1877, Rev. John Hawks came as stated supply. Seventy-two members united with the church during his stay. At the beginning of the year 1880 W. P. Kautz was again called as stated supply and continued as such for two years giving this church one-half his time. Eleven came in during his second period of service

For the next two years (with the exception of a short time when Rev. John Campbell preached) this church was supplied by visiting ministers. In December, 1883 the Rev. Ambrose Y. More was called as pastor. He remained for a period of six months during which time 18 members were united with the church. On January 13, 1884 Rev. More installed the following officers: Ruling elders, J. I. Clark, Bilton J. Wilson, William Beck and James M. Wharton; deacons: G. W. Mabbitt, W. H. Wilson and John Woodrum. Of these officers only James M. Wharton is living. Upon next January 13, he will have served as an elder of this church for forty yrs.

Rev. G. D. Parker followed A. Y. Moore. beginning his ministry here September 1, 1884 and continuing until 1892 . serving the church eight and one-half years. At the beginning of his ministry the church consisted of one hundred and twenty-four members. He received one hundred and fifty new members. In August 1892 he installed John Woodrum as ruling elder, and John H. Teavebaugh and John H. Winkle as deacons. It was during his pastorate, too, that the present church(in which he was very instrumental in securing) was built.

This church was dedicated February 8, 1891 . Rev. Parker continued as pastor until he accepted a call to Largo, Indiana in January 1893.

On January 1, 1893 Rev. John Hal was called as stated supply and continued as such until January 1, 1895. It was during his ministry that the present parsonage (for which he helped to solicit funds) was built. he took in 72 new members.

On May 1, 1895 Rev. O. L. Prentice was called as stated supply for this church, and served as such until October 13, 1904,(9 years,)when he was installed as pastor of the Lexington church in which capacity he continued to serve until May 1, 1907 when he went to Flora, Indiana as pastor of the Presbyterian church. During his twelve years of service Daniel L. Hostler and William H. Hinkle were installed as deacons and on March 22, 1906, John H. Brookie was installed as an elder. In this period of service there were received 296 persons, three suspended and 41 granted letters of dismissal.

On May 1, 1907 Rev. J.K. Bliss from Schuyler Presbytery, Illinois , was called as stated supply and served us until his resignation in the spring of 1919. when he went to Bright, Indiana. It was during his ministry, in the spring of 1908, that a petition was sent to Presbytery to divide the Lexington church into two churches, one to be known as the Presbyterian church of Greetingsville, and the other as the Lexington church. Presbytery appointed a commission which met with all the elders and deacons of the Hyde Park and North Fork divisions of the Lexington church, at the Cutler church building. In this meeting it was decided to separate into two churches. Accordingly, in the morning of June 30, 1908, a congregational meeting of the Lexington church was convened. In this meeting details concerning the division of the above church were settled. The two divisions were to be known as the greetingsville Presbyterian Church and the Cutler Presbyterian Church thus recognizing both as successors of the Lexington Church.

In the afternoon following the above meeting a congregational meeting was held in this building for the purpose of completing the organization of the present Cutler Presbyterian Church. In this meeting it was voted to elect four leders and two deacons for life. In accordance with this vote, James M. Wharton, John Woodrum, John Brookie and G.W. Shanklin were elected ruling elders, and Daniel L. Hostler and William H. Hinkle as deacons. It was also voted to elect three trustees and a treasurer. Samuel M. Kirkpatrick, Orth Quinn and Charles N. Lung were elected trustees and John Woodrum as treasurer. It was further determined that the legal name of this church should be "The Presbyterian Church of Cutler." After the separation of the Lexington church the Rev. Bliss was called as pastor of the Cutler church. In April, 1916, he installed Daniel L. Hostler, William E. Hinkle, William H. Fordner and Walter Wharton as ruling elders. About this time Jessie Johnson and Septimu Miller were elected trustees. During the twelve years of Rev. Bliss' faithful and self sacrificing ministry, 175 united with this church.

During the spring of 1919, Rev. H.C. Johnson came and served until his resignation became effective on October 15, 1921. Forty-six united with the church during his stay.

In December 1921 Rev. J. L. Milling took up his pastorate here. Rev. Milling remained with the church until June, 1924. On January 2, 1924 J.L. Clauser, Frank A. Mitchell, C. N. Lung and Frank M. Moss were ordained and installed as ruling elders. Philip R. Miller, R. W. Gross, R.W. Whetzel and L. M. Chittick were installed as deacons and Chester Landis was elected trustee. Forty-five members were added to the church during his ministry.

Rev. A.W. Carter came as pastor in 1924 in November, and his stay was terminated in June 1927. During that period 27 members were received into the church.

Rev. Cecil Atkinson was called to this field in October, 1927 and left in December 1934 to become the pastor of the Stidham Memorial Church, Lafayette, Indiana. In the spring of 1928, John Tingley, Lloyd Beard and Charles Pullen were elected deacons and were installed April 8th. On May 31, 1930 the rotary system of electing officers was adopted. Ortn Quinn, John Tingley and Charles Sandifer were ordained and installed as ruling elders. Stanley Anderson was installed a deacon and William W. Cook was elected a trustee. At this time William W. Hinkle, Frank A. Mitchell and Charles N. Lung were elected to serve as ruling elders for life. In 1932 Chester Landis was ordained and installed as ruling elder and Artis Rodenbarger and Clyde Bonebrake were installed as deacons. Charles L. Pullen, Lloyd Beard and C.V. Quinn were ordained and installed as ruling elders. J. C. Humes, Bert S. Pullen, Robert Sheagley, Larry Stong and Lloyd Unger were installed as deacons. Arthur Kingery and Chalmer Trobaugh were elected trustees. In 1934 John Tingley and Charles Sandifer were reinstalled as ruling elders. Carl Lowery, Chalmer Loman and Arthur Kingery were installed as deacons and Tillman Snipes was elected trustee. There were 77 new members added to the church during the time of his stay here.

Our present pastor, Rev. Geo. J. Goris, of Galena, Illinois, began his pastorate in April 1935 and was duly installed by Presbytery on May 29, 1935. On May 12 Phillip Miller was ordained and installed to the office of ruling elder. William H. Bordner was reinstalled as ruling elder. William Quinn was installed to the office of deacon and Stanley Anderson and Lloyd Unger were reinstalled to the office of deacon, and Robert Reef was elected to the office of trustee. During this time seven members have been added to the church roll.

On this the One hundredth Anniversary of the Cutler Presbyterian Church, we stand with nine leders, nine deacons and three trustees. There are now 182 communicant members.

On Sunday, October 13, 1935 the Cutler Presbyterian Church fittingly observed the day. The Centennial Committee members were as follows:

1. Mr. and Mrs. C. N. Lung (historians)
2. Mr. and Mrs. William n. Bordner
3. Mrs. Daniel Hostler
4. Mrs. Anna Wingard
5. Stanley Anderson
6. Rev. Geo. J. Goris

Contribution of the Cutler Presbyterian
Church to the Kingdom of God.

The first one to enter the ministry from the Cutler Presbyterian Church is Walter Parker who graduated from McCormick Seminary and after two years of service died of typhoid fever. He was buried at Converse, Indiana.

The second one was James Adams who was taken under care of Crawfordsville Presbytery while a student at Wabash College, but before his course was completed he died and was buried at Ball Mill.

The third contribution was Elie Dee Quinn, who after one year at McCormick died. He too was buried at Ball Mill.

The fourth to enter the ministry was George Prentice who is now serving a church in Adrian Michigan.

The fifth was John Prentice who is now a pastor at Benford Indiana.

The sixth is Chester Wharton who is now pastor of the First ^{Prentice} Presbyterian Church of Valpariso, Indiana. *Indianapolis, Ind*

Last but not least, although not an ordained minister, yet is engaged in full time Christian Service, is Mr. Ernest Herron connected with the staff of the Moody Bible Institute.

Robert Shepley
Gazing through the records of the church there are certain remarkable facts that I wish to give special emphasis. A number of faithful members have obtained distinction through years of service for Christ and His Church. I recognize the following publicly:

1. Mrs. Daniel Hostler - uniting with the church 1977
2. Frank A. Mitchell - active member and elder in spite years.
3. Mr. Wm. Hinkle - oldest elder in the Cutler Church.
4. Charles L. Pullen - youngest elder ordained in 1933.
5. Mrs. Trobough - in spite years active member.
6. William W. Cook - member since 1878.
7. Virginia Ann Pullen - youngest baptised member, born Oct. 15, 1934.
8. Mr. and Mrs. C. N. Lung- Mr. Lung has been an elder since 1924, and joined the church in 1878. In May, 1930, Mr. Lung as well as Mr. Mitchell and Wm.E. Hinkle were elected elders for life. Mrs. Lung has been a radiand member of this church since 1898. I make mention of one outstanding gift made to the Cutler Church by Mr. and Mrs. Lung, namely, the electric lights in the church given in memory of their only child Grace who at the tender age of twenty-three was called to realms of higher service.

In the name of the Cutler Church. I extend to you all a word of appreciation, congratulations and best wishes for continued years of service to Christ and his Church. " Be ye faithful unto death and I will give you a crown of Life."

In Memorium-

Shall we for a brief period think of those who are not with us in bodily presence, who have now joined the Church Triumphant. These flowers are in memory of those whom we have loved and lost a while.

It is not death to die,
To leave this weary road,
And midst the brotherhood on high,
To be at home with God.

It is not death to close
The eye long dimmed with tears,
And wake in glorious repose
To spend eternal years.

It is not death to bear
The wrench that sets us free
From dungeon chain to breathe the air,
Of boundless liberty.

It is not death to fling
Aside this sinful dust,
And rise on strong exulting wing,
To live among the Just.

Jesus, thou Prince of Life,
Thy chosen cannot die,
With thee they conquer in the strife,
and reign with thee on high.