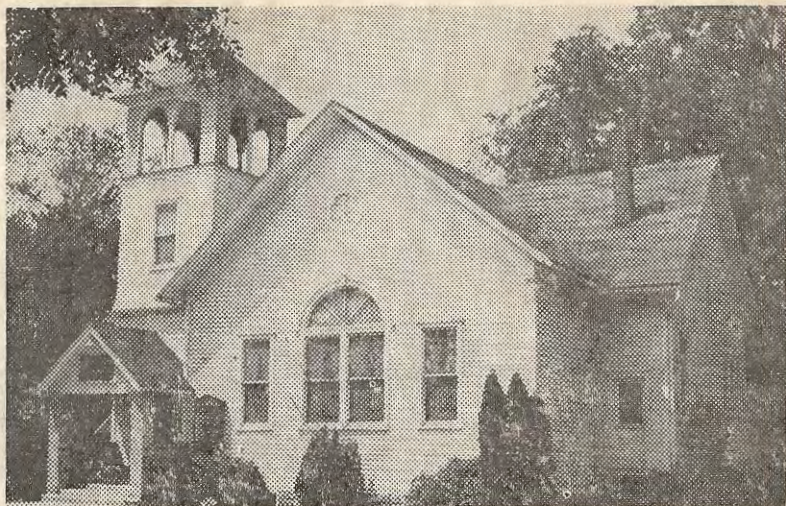


Dedication



HICKORY GROVE
CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH

March 3, 1957

HICKORY GROVE CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Sometime in the late sixties or early seventies a group of pioneers organized, in what is now known as the Hickory Grove Community, a New Light Christian Church. Worship services and prayer meetings were first held in homes and school houses. Abraham Sneethin, known as the 'Barefoot Preacher', preached for them, and each summer a Camp Meeting was held in the grove back of where the church now stands.

By 1875 the congregation had increased in numbers enough to construct a church building, so with a little help, a church was built and dedicated in October. Although the New Light Christian were the greatest in number, yet the church was dedicated as a 'Union Church' and the Methodists and Dunkards used it some for five or ten years. Dr. Greer preached the dedication sermon. At that time he was the community doctor, also the auctioneer. Among the first preachers were the Reverends Samuel McNeely, Gott, Mosteller, Francis, and Powell.

In February, 1913, an acetylene light plant blew up, setting the church on fire and caused some damage, and in 1915 it was remodeled, a basement being placed under most of the building and a large Sunday School room added, and again it was re-dedicated in October, with Rev. Samuels of Dayton, Ohio, preaching the dedication sermon. At that time Rev. Robert Wearly was pastor. He was the first full time pastor, and after serving six or seven years, he resigned, and for a number of years there was only half time preaching.

In 1931 the merger between the New Light Christian and Congregational Churches took place. It has since been known as the Hickory Grove Congregational Christian Church.

In 1947 a parsonage was built and the Rev. Charles E. Looker was engaged as full time pastor. Rev. Simon A. Bennett, State Superintendent of Congregational Christian Churches, delivered the dedication address.

By 1955 the attendance had increased so as to make the Sunday School crowded and no space was available for new classes. In the fall of the year a building committee was appointed. Ideas and suggestions were called for as to the most suitable type and place for the addition. Estimates were obtained on a suggested 22x60 ft. addition containing a kitchen, rest rooms, furnace and four class rooms on the ground floor and five class rooms on the second floor. The Financial Board was instructed to obtain donations and pledges for the proposed \$15,000 needed.

Following the hearty response of the church community, ground was broken in May of 1956. Under the capable leadership of Owen Downham, who directed relays of planned labor day by day, the construction was well on its way. The Gomers were hired to complete the finish work and the adult classes moved into the rooms upstairs in October. Following the finish work a number of the women painted the basement of the church and professional painters redecorated the auditorium.

On February 4, 1957 the Official Board of the church decided to put forth a special drive to clear the remaining debt and now the total cost of the \$12,500 addition is completely liquidated.

The new addition stands ready to serve the church and its religious education program, a memorial to the faith and determination of all who have worked together that God's work may go forward in this community.

Hickory Grove Congregational Christian Church

MARCH 3, 1957

Sunday School Superintendent
John Crowell

Choir Director
Paul Smith

MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

Prelude, "Spring Carol" Lucile Casad
Call To Worship Pastor
Invocation Pastor
Hymn No. 102 "O Worship The King"
Hymn No. 145 "Love Divine"
Responsive Reading No. 482 "A Call To Consecration"
Prayer Hymn No. 262 "Sweet Hour Of Prayer"
Morning Prayer
Response 'Amen' Choir
Announcements and Offering
Offertory, "Lord Of All Creation"
"Doxology" Congregation
Special Duet
Sermon Rev. D. U. Longenecker
Pastor
Closing Hymn No. 331 "O Jesus I Have Promised"
Benediction

CHURCH DEDICATION

SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 1957

2:00 P. M.

Rev. Donald Longenecker, Pastor, Presiding

Prelude, "At All Times Praise The Lord" Lucille Casad
Hymn No. 1, "The Church's One Foundation" Congregation
Call To Worship
Invocation Rev. Donald Longenecker
Solo, "Bless This House" Mary Jo Chamberlin
Service Of Rededication
Presentation Mr. Gale Crowell
Chr. Board of Trustees

Act Of Dedication

MINISTER: Beloved in the Lord, we rejoice that God put it into the hearts of his people to build this house to the glory of his name. I now accept this building to dedicate it and to set it apart for the worship of Almighty God and the service of all men. Let us therefore, as we are assembled, solemnly dedicate this place to its proper and sacred uses.

UNISON: We now, the people of this church and congregation, compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, grateful for our heritage, sensible of the sacrifice of our fathers in the faith, confessing that apart from us their work cannot be made perfect, do dedicate ourselves anew to the worship and service of Almighty God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MINISTER: Father, accept this service at our hands, and bless it to the end that this congregation may make manifest the church of the living God. May this house be a place where thy spirit dwelleth and may the whole earth be filled with thy glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Anthem, "My God And I" Choir
Sermon Rev. Andrew Craig,
State Supt. of Congregational
Christian Churches

Closing Hymn No. 19 "Faith Of Our Fathers"
Benediction Mr. Earl Wakeland
Chr. Board of Deacons

PASTOR

Rev. Donald U. Longenecker

TRUSTEES

Paul Mikesell, Chairman
Gale Crowell
Reuben Smith

DEACONS

Earl Wakeland, Chairman
Ray Hankins
Russell Pearson
Charles Hanna

FINANCE

Clay Maxwell, Secretary
Robert Wise
George Sites
Roy Slavens
Lucille Casad

BUILDING

Robert Ward
Robert Wise
Reuben Smith
Gale Crowell
Paul Mikesell

KITCHEN

Letha Crowell
Phyllis Wise
Margaret Pearson