

A HISTORY OF THE YEOMAN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Methodism came to Indiana with the earliest pioneers who settled this part of Indiana and dates as far back as the Wabash Missionary District in the early 1800's and before the counties were all planned and named. The beginning of work in this area was in Delphi. At that time preaching (as it was called then, rather than worship) happened whenever the circuit rider got around, generally once a quarter.

Carroll County was named on January 7, 1828. The Indiana General Assembly passed an act providing for the organization and naming. It was named for the only surviving signer of the Declaration of Independence. Samuel Goslee was among the first of the pioneers to come to what is now Jefferson Township. He came in 1832 to settle on Section 26. He cleared and improved his land.

Then in 1836 the Board of Commissioners of Carroll County at its May meeting passed an order for the creation of Jefferson Township.

A year prior to this Methodism came to this community with preaching at the school. At this point in time it was The Methodist Episcopal Church. The church was the fruit of the labors of John Wesley and the leaders established by him and his fellow ministers. The history of Methodism had two major divisions. One occurred in the same year Carroll County was established. In 1828 a group of people who were concerned about and insisted upon lay representation in the governing of the church separated and the Methodist Protestant Church came into being. In 1844 there was another division which was supposedly over the slavery question which brought into being The Methodist Episcopal Church, South. After many years of conversation and the eventual changes with time, in 1939 the three above became The Methodist Church. Other conversations had been taking place and other church unions had come about and what was in 1968 the Evangelical United Brethren Church and The Methodist Church came together to be called The United Methodist Church. There is a long and interesting story back of all of this but this gives us a glimmer of the background for us to start our history.

This community is listed as a preaching point at the school and is not called Yeoman; the name is given later in 1878 when the railroad arrived. A building had not been erected at this time and the preaching was in an old log schoolhouse about one mile from the present town of Yeoman. This was at the corner of present day 421 and Sandy Beach Road. In 1841 it was the Pittsburg Circuit and remained that until 1849. The Lockport Circuit appears at this time and the "preaching services" were held at the Cullum School.

The Rev. Walter Wilson, in his historical sketch of the church in 1935, reports that on June 21, 1855, a deed was made to the township trustee for a lot for a school building to be used for school and church purposes. It was called the Cullum School and was the first frame schoolhouse in the township.

From 1863 to 1871 Yeoman was again a part of what was called the Pittsburg Circuit. Then in 1871 Trancitville was added as a preaching point. The first

church building to be erected in Yeoman was in 1878 and completed and dedicated in 1880. For a church to be dedicated in Methodism it must be paid for. Thus a house to house canvass was made and it was paid off. The first church building stood where the present old bank building now stands.

It was at this time that the first train was to go through Yeoman. The town was named for the builders of the railroad. The west side of the town from the railroad was called Lennox and the east side was Yeoman (the names of the men who were in charge). It continued this way until 1924 when the Oakdale Dam was built. The post office was established in 1878 and since it was on the east side it was called Yeoman. The depot was on the west side and was called Lennox.

So 1878 was a big year with a church, train service and mail service. With the church being located east of the railroad it was therefore called the Yeoman Methodist Episcopal Church in 1878. It was a part of the Burnettsville Circuit in 1883 until 1894. At this time Yeoman again was on the Pittsburg Circuit with the Benham and Shaffer Schools as preaching points.

The church then burned in 1901, and a new building was erected in 1902. Mr. Joseph Cullum lived on the east corner across from where the old church had stood and he gave the ground for the new building which was then built east of his house, between there and the present day schoolhouse.

With the early 1900's and the new building the Yeoman Church flourished and became a station so that the Benham and Shaffer Schools were abandoned as preaching points. But by 1919 the church was again back to part of a circuit with Pittsburg. In 1923 Yeoman was made a part of a circuit with Brookston for two years. Then Yeoman became a part of a circuit with Reynolds. In 1931 it again became a station but 1933 brought hard times and Yeoman became a part of a circuit with Brookston and Reynolds again. It continued a part of a circuit with either Brookston or Reynolds until 1942 when it was made a part of a circuit with Clymers and Webb Chapel. The 40's and into the 50's were days of circuit and part time or student ministry. The late 40's saw the building of the present parsonage which was first lived in in 1950.

In the 60's it became necessary to decide on the church in terms of renovation and addition or building a new building. In 1964 it was decided that ground would be purchased where there would be room for present needs as well as future expansion. Property was purchased at the intersection of 421 and County Road 875 North in February, 1965, and ground breaking was held on May 23, 1965. Construction began in June and the cornerstone ceremonies were held on Sunday, October 10, 1965. The first Sunday in the new building was April 24, 1966. It was consecrated by Bishop Richard C. Raines on Sunday, May 15, 1966. With years of hard work and giving of time, talents and tithes the church was paid for and completed in 1978. The dedication worship was on Sunday, June 4, 1978, with Bishop Ralph T. Alton in charge and preaching the dedication sermon.

This history was researched by the Historical Committee composed of:

Mrs. Emerald Mummert,

Mrs. Ruth Overley,

Mr. Orville Goslee.

Mrs. Mummert has penned the following:

THE THREE CHURCHES

There was a little church in a little town
Where many people gathered 'round.
This church was small but best of all
The people came through spring and fall.
The old reed organ , though twas small
Was triumphant with its call,
Where the people weren't too proud to pray
And 'say alleluia, bless the Lord today.
Then one sad day so they say
A spark came flying through the air
This little church was memories fair,
But people strong said don't stop there
Took up the Cross and with new sight
A new church soon was their delight
With a bell that called with all its might
For the people to come and do what's right
To answer the call of that clear ringing bell
To come to the church that we loved so well.
This Church had its ups and downs
But best of all its purpose sound
Where people prayed bless the Lord
And the quartette sang all in accord.
Now this quartette I am blessed to say
Has one dear member left today
And his nephew we will hear
Present their favorite soft and clear.
As time marches on and churches change
As did the church in this domain,
A new sight was selected for us all
To start again before we fall
And here we are, one and all
With God's help we can not fall
So come ye all and help carry the load
To "The Church by the side of the road."