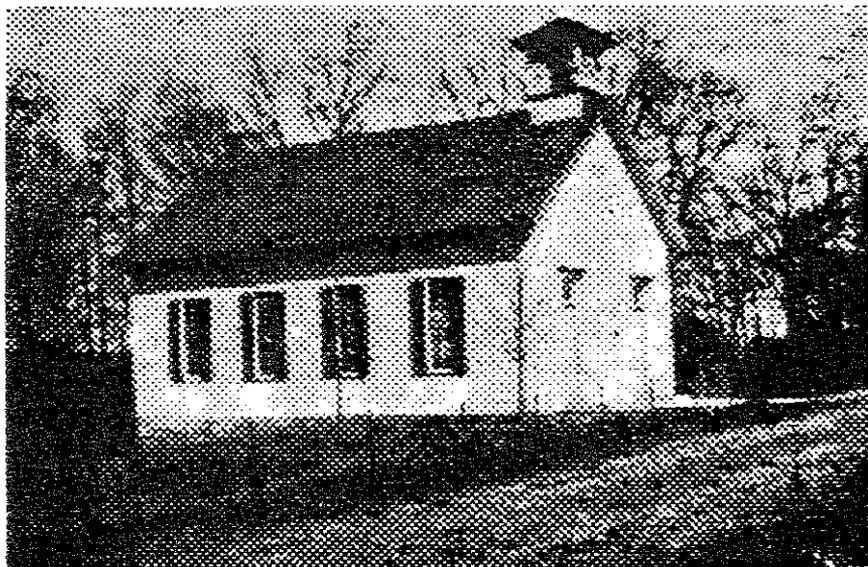


VF 035 B

Ind. C.C. Delphi Church History

Charles Hanna

please return to Helen Hanna



1875

There's a treasure trove at Hickory Grove
It's the Church by the Country Street;
Where friends join their Sweet Hour of Prayer
As friends and families meet.

Now right beside these acres wide
A Church was built one day;
And friends came here to help and cheer,
But they too passed away.

The history of the Hickory Grove church begins with the history of the church cemetery. This cemetery holds a great many of the early settlers of this community so it made a natural common interest, meeting place for the entire community.

The cemetery was fifty years old when the Hickory Grove Church was built. It was in 1825 that Amos Coble with his family left his home in Ohio to find and develop a new home in the "west". They had decided on Illinois as their new home state. However after crossing the Wabash river and making their way westward with only trails to follow, Margaret Coble, his wife, became ill. As was necessary with all pioneers they searched for a spring where they could make camp until Mrs. Coble improved. The spring they found and the spot where they camped was near the now Hickory Grove Church. It was then just a desirable camping place in a near wilderness. It became a very dear place to this family for Margaret Coble did not improve. When she died at the age of 33 years 11 months they buried her just at the break of the knoll east of the spring and a little to the south. Years later the family was buried in this plot.

This spring is the same spring that is mentioned several times later in this writing.

With sad and heavy hearts the family turned their steps back toward Ohio and their former home.

This Margaret Coble was the mother of Valentine Coble, who was the grandfather of Hazel Simons.

In a few years Amos Coble and family returned to Carroll County and entered land in Adams Township close to the burial place of his wife. When Jefferson Township was organized as a civil township it included a small strip of land that had formerly been in Adams Township. A part of this small strip of land was deeded to the cemetery by Valentine Coble in 1875 and 1900 as will be noted later.

The next burial in this burial ground was that of Sarah Mikesell, wife of Joseph Mikesell, in 1832. Marion Newman was buried in 1834, Elizabeth Bradshaw in 1835, and Uriah Warfel in 1836. There were more than 125 graves in this burial ground in 1875. (The year the church was built).

When we note that Carroll County was not organized as a county until May 1, 1828, we see that this cemetery is three years older than Carroll County and indeed a monument to the memory of those early pioneers who made a beautiful resting place for their dead in this new country.

Carroll County was officially organized on May 1, 1828 and given the name Carroll in honor of Charles Carroll of Carrollton Township, then the only survivor of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Before this time the pioneers had to travel to Crawfordsville to enter land. May 12th, eleven days after Carroll County was organized, the boundaries of Deer Creek Township were defined by a meeting of the county board.

In 1827 Sarah Robinson taught the first school, in Carroll County, in an old log cabin on her fathers farm in what became Deer Creek Township. This cabin had been occupied formerly by her father's family. In 1828 the first school house was erected in Delphi as a township school. This was prior to the incorporation of Delphi as a town. This building was made of logs and was a very respectable building. It became a general public building and was appropriated to almost every kind of service, meetings of all kinds for court sessions, religious purposes, etc., in addition to that for which it was built.

What has this to do with the history of Hickory Grove? It has a great deal to do with this history. For this schoolhouse established a pattern for all the pioneer communities. All meetings were held in homes at first, then the school house was built and used for community needs, prayer meetings, church services, funerals, and any other meetings for the good of the citizens.

Later school houses became the first voting places, which practice is still followed in many communities.

Delphi was incorporated as a city in 1866. On May 1st in 1828 the first marriage license was issued in Carroll County. The 6th marriage license was issued to John Swalls and Polly Marsh on December 31, 1828. The 4th, 5th and 6th couples issued license were married New Years Day in 1829. This same John Swalls bought land in Jefferson Township and was buried in Hickory Grove Cemetery in 1847. His stone still stands.

Some of the early settlers who entered land in Sec. 20 Township 26, range 2 west are;

David Lucas entered the N.E. quarter of Sec. 20 on the 4th of September 1830 and located on his land in the year 1832. The church now stands on part of this N.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 20. Mary Lucas, his daughter, was buried in our cemetery in 1844. Rachael, his wife, in 1866 and David Lucas, 1848. Another daughter married Phillip Mikesell. Phillip Mikesell was the son of John Mikesell. Phillip Mikesell deeded his land to Mark Newman. Mark Newman deeded the land for the Hickory Grove Church to the trustees of the church in 1875.

Daniel Yount located in Sec. 20 in or before 1835. Davis yount, his son, was buried in 1860.

John Mikesell entered land October 5, 1830. He was buried here in 1852. The settlement grew rapidly after the year 1835. By the years 1836 there was a sufficient number of residents within the borders of Jefferson Township to warrant its citizens to express a desire for separate civil existence. So in May 1836 Jefferson Township was made a civil township and its boundaries defined.

Although there was still much to do in the matter of clearing lands for cultivation, building dwellings etc, the pioneer history of the township was practically at an end. However for years afterward the wilderness remained as dense in some localities as when first penetrated by the pioneers.

These forefathers of ours cleared the land of timber and transformed it into pleasant homes and fertile farms. They helped each other in the work of clearing building houses and barns and in short they were a fraternity molded and cemented together by a common cause and actuated by a common motive, sharing their homes and labor in times of joy and in time of sorrow.

The instinct of worship came with the first settlers and stayed as a prime factor in the building of the community. Prayer meetings and religious services by itinerant preachers was held in the different homes.

In 1834 citizens joined together and built a log cabin on ground donated by Moses Grandstaff. The log cabin was built primarily as a school house. School was held in it in that year. Sometimes these first cabins were later used as dwelling places.

In 1835 a school house was erected on the land of William Carson. It stood on the site of the now abandoned Carson school and was used until the first frame school house was built on the same spot.

On the farm owned by Alfred Briney a log building was erected in 1836 to be used for a school house and public building. Nathan Gilliam taught the first term of school here in 1836. He was identified with this school for several years. We feel that this school house was just across the road from the Harold Newman home. Only 4 of the original homes of 8 in Sec. 20 in 1850 are now standing. The people of this community used this school house for a church as well as a school.

For a number of years following the first settlement, the religious element in Jefferson Township remained unorganized. Occasionally a minister found his way hither and would conduct services in the cabins of settlers. He was uniformly greeted by a large audience representing all branches of the Christian Church. They had long been isolated from religious priveleges, and were glad to hear a sermon, whatever might be the creed of the man who delivered it.

Denominational points were scarcely touched upon by the ministers themselves. Their mission was to sow the seed of the Gospel in the wilderness, rather than to recruit the ranks of the denomination they represented. As the years roll on, however, the members of the Christian, or Campbellite, church naturally drifted together and a minister of their own denomination came regularly to preach for them. At first they met at the house of John Brocus, then at the houses of George Brocus and other members of that society. Their congregation grew and the society was quite prosperous and for a number of years they continued to meet in private houses. In later years they erected a house of worship in which for a while they held regular services. Barbara Scott and her brother Silas Scott, both great grandchildren of John Brocus, made inquiry of people who could remember this church. Among the people interviewed were Theana Edergly and Miles Dimmitt.

In 1927 Barbara wrote a short history of this church and later church history.

This log church was a part of our early church history because many of the first members of the "Union Church on Rattlesnake" were a part of this religious society which built the first church in Jefferson Township.

Following is a description of this first church as written by Barbara Scott Greenwalt in 1927 and given to her grandson Gerald Crowel.

This first log church was built north of the Robert Scott (Barbara's father) home about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile and just a few steps north of the Silas Scott home on the north side of the road that runs west to the range line. Ed Crowell and wife Ada now live in the Robert Scott home. Ada is the granddaughter of Robert Scott. The Silas Scott home was just recently owned by Robert Browne's father.

It was in 1841 or 1842 that the community cut logs, hewed them smoothly and erected this log building to be used as a religious worship center. Mortar was used to "chink" between the logs. The roof was made of clapboards. The township had a sawmill by this time so the ceiling and floor was of sawed lumber. There were two twelve pane windows. One in the north and one in the south side of the church. There was one door in the front or east end, facing the north and south road. The steps were made of smoothly hewn logs. The first fire place was made in the west end of the building of split sticks and mortar. Later this fireplace was replaced by one made of bricks with a brick chimney. The pulpit was on a raised platform in the corner of the west end. The pulpit and seats were made of black walnut planed smoothly. The church was lighted at night by tallow candles made by the women of the society. Water was brought in a wooden bucket from a spring just across the Rattlesnake Creek which ran just west of the church. A large hewn log was placed across the creek to walk on when going to the spring for water. The hymn books were small thick books with brown slick leather like books. For the children they used small story books of Bible Characters. The children took these home and returned them to exchange for another of different stories. The adults each had a testament with their names on the back in large black letters. Barbara remembers her Mother's Testament and how it was a cherished possession in the home.

John Mikesell donated ground for a camp meeting place. There was a good spring of water on this ground. This camp meeting ground was in the grove just back of the church which is now standing (1963). This spring is the spring that flowed from under the roots of a large tree just across the small stream back of the church. Many of the people living now can remember vividly of drinking from this spring and playing as children in the "branch". When the line fence was changed this spring water was piped across the branch and flowed continuously from this pipe. This camp meeting ground is the same ground deeded to the church trustees by Mark Newman in 1875.

People went to church in farm wagons and sleds, on horseback, and walked. They crossed the creeks on foot logs or forded as there were no bridges.

The first minister was Rev. Nicholas Mires, second Soloman Winters and third Rev. Adkins.

Owing to a variety of causes among which was demoni-nationalism the church suffered loss of members and was finally sold and used as a blacksmith shop by a Mr. Jones (Hoover Jones) father of Charles Jones, grandfather of Ruth Mills.

The Maumee School house then became the meeting place for awhile then the forefathers of Hickory Grove began to hold services in the Dimmitt school house.

Rev. Joshua Greer preached at the Dimmitt school house. Rev. Greer was a doctor as well as minister and lived just north of the sight of the first church for many years. Rev. Abe Sneathen helped sometimes in the Camp Meetings. He was known as the barefoot Preacher.

One of the favorite services were the "song fests" held on Sunday evenings and on week day evenings sometimes.

They were fortunate to have three very fine volunteer song directors, Mr. Dave Dilling, Mr. James Galloway (John Gallways Uncle) and Mr. John Ellis Jr.

Many members were taken into this society. Baptismal services were held with baptism in the Rattlesnake Creek. As their members grew a need was felt for an organization.

That same voice that said to the Israelites "I will be with thee and not forsake thee", brought much courage to these pioneer hearts. So according to the first record book and organization was formed in 1868. On the first church roll are 16 members including Rev. Joshua G. Greer and wife Nancy.

On the first page of this record book we find the following creed: 1868 We the members of the Union Christian Church on Rattlesnake do promise and agree to take the old and new testament for our rule of faith and practice, promising subjection there to and to one another in the Lord.

So not withstanding the obstacles of these faithful people, and under the guiding hand of Rev. Joshua Greer and the efforts of Valentine Coble and John Pearson (Charles Pearson's great-grandfather) the "Hickory Grove Church" was erected in 1875.

The story is told that the trees were so thick that men climbed the trees and sawed the limbs off before the tree was felled so it would not lodge in another tree.

Why was it called "Hickory Grove." Maybe because the hickory tree stands for uprightness and sturdiness. Also because in the woods, across the road from the church on the Valentine Coble farm, there were many hickory trees. This woods was where the people hitched their horses while attending camp meeting. It continued to be a parking space for wagons and buggies for several years. Then the first land was given for a parking space after the field had been cleared for farming.

This church was organized under the name of New Light Christian Church with John S. Pearson, Robert Million (Clay Maxwell's great-grandfather) and Nicholas Coble as its first trustees.

The church stands on the old camp meeting ground. This camp meeting ground including the spring and the cemetery which held more than one hundred graves was deeded to the church in 1875. Following is an exact copy of this deed as recorded in "Deeds" book 12 in the recorder's office in Delphi.

Mark A. Newman to the "Union" Christian Church

This intente witnesseth, that Mark A. Newman of Carroll Co. in the state of Indiana conveys and warrants to John S. Pearson, Robert Million, and Nicholas Coble trustees of Union Christian Church and their successors in office of Carroll County Indiana for the sum of \$7.00 dollars the following real estate in Carroll Co., Indiana, to wit; being a part of the East half of the North East quarter of section (20) twenty in township twenty-six (26) north of Range 2 west. Bounded as follows: commencing at a stake on the section line on the east side of said sec. (20) twenty, 51 fifty-one rods north of the quarter section corner on said line, thence west ten (10) rods, thence north westerly (20) twenty rods, thence north easterly ten (10) rods, thence east eleven (11) rods and 9 links to the section line, thence south with the section line to the place of beginning containing 2 acres and .27 of an acre. In testimony where of the said Mark A. Newman has hereunto set his hand and seal this 3rd day of May 1875.

Recorded May be
John Faucett
/June 5, 1875

First Cemetery Deed

This indenture witnesseth that Valentine Coble and Nancy M. Coble, his wife, of Carroll Co. in the state of Indiana, convey and warrant to the trustees and their successors in office, of the Union Christian Church of Hickory Grove, In Jeff. Twp. in Carroll Co. in the state of Indiana for the sume of fifty dollars, the following realestate in Carroll Co. in the state of Ind. to wit: commencing at the half ($\frac{1}{2}$) mile stake at the south east corner of the north east quarter ($\frac{1}{4}$) of section number twenty (20) in township twenty-six (26) north, of range two (2) west running thence south fourteen rods to a stone on the line dividing Adams and Jeff. Twp. in the county and state aforesaid, said line is to run thence due west across the entire width of a certain tract of land deeded by John and Hannah Sidenbender to Valentine Coble on the 28th

Rev. Charles Looker who was hired as full time minister and wife Leona moved into the new parsonage.

On September 8, 1950 the church lost a devoted and loyal worker in the person of Wilbur Crowell. When his will was read he showed his devotion by willing to the church trustees and their successors such property as is here described.

Item 4: "I give and devise to the Trustees of the Hickory Grove Congregational Christian Church or its successors, the following described Real Estate in Carroll County, Indiana, to-wit:
The South half ($\frac{1}{2}$) of the Southwest quarter ($\frac{1}{4}$) of Section 10, Township 26 North, Range 2 West, containing 80 acres, more or less.

And I direct that said Trustees shall pay my wife Adelia Crowell the sum of \$100.00 each year from the time of my death until the death of my said wife."

A new oil furnace was installed in the church in 1954 replacing the old coal furnace. The total cost of the furnace was \$1900.

The church and Sunday School attendance in the next few years made it necessary to make an addition to the church.

Where to make the addition was the major problem. After many called business meetings for opinions and planning it was decided to add to the west. The old wood house, that had been moved to the back of the church when it was remodeled in 1915, was removed. This was the same wood house that had stood just north of the church. The wood of course was carried in through the front doors to the two wood burning stoves. Tractors, trucks and loaders were used by the young adult men of the church to make a fill upon which to build. One hundred loads of dirt were hauled in. This fill covered the old cave, in the side of the hill, that had housed the light plant after the fire in 1912.

Electricity had been in use in the church since 1938.

A special business meeting was called June 15, 1955 to discuss plans for building. At this meeting Robert Wise and Robert Ward were appointed to assist the trustees in planning and overseeing the building of the addition.

The financial board was instructed to solicit for donations and pledges for the proposed \$15,000 needed for the project.

The Community was generous in its response and in May 1956 ground was broken for the building.

Owen Downham was hired to oversee and direct the volunteer labor.

Letha Crowell, Phyllis Wise and Margaret Pearson were appointed by the Womens Fellowship as a committee to help plan the kitchen.

The foundation was 22x 60 feet. The ground floor contains a stairway, four class rooms (separated by folding doors, so the room could be used as a single unit) furnace room for second furnace, two rest rooms, and a modern kitchen. Five class rooms and a full length hall comprise the second floor. Emerson Gaumer was hired to do the finish work. Classes moved into the class rooms upstairs in October 1956. Following the finish work women of the church painted the basement. A professional painter was hired to paint the church auditorium.

On February 4, 1957 a dedication service was held at which time Gale Crowell, chairman of the board of trustees, presented the addition, debt free, to the church body for dedication as a part of the Hickory Grove Church, the whole of which is set apart for the worship of Almighty God and to the service of all men. The cost of the total project was \$12,000.

commencing at the south west corner of the foregoing described tract of land to wit: thence east 22 rods thence south 13.49 rods, thence west 27 rods thence in a northeasterly course to the place of beginning containing 2 acres more or less. In witness whereof the said Valentine Coble has here unto set his hand and seal this 5th day of May 1900.

Signed Valentine Coble

Recorded 5-15-1900 by Edward L. Beard.

In 1909 the trustees of the church felt that the two last parts of the cemetery should be plotted and arrangements made to care for the cemetery. Since there were many families outside the church interested in the cemetery a meeting was called by the trustees, W.H. Crook, Thomas Galloway and Daniel Coble to discuss such matters as concerned the cemetery. An Association was formed.

On October 2, 1909 a meeting was held to elect directors of said cemetery association. Following is a copy of the record of directors as recorded by Henry Crowel Sec. Copy of Action.

Cemetery Association Formed

In the matter of the election of directors of the Hickory Grove Cemetery Assoc. I hereby certify that at the meeting of those interested in the Hickory Grove Cemetery Assoc. Of Jeff. Twp. Carroll Co. Ind. held at the Hickory Grove Church in said twp. on the 2nd day of Oct. 1909 the following named persons were elected as directors of said assoc. for the ensuing year and until their successors are elected and qualified. John Million, Charles Coble, Charles Jones, Manford Gilliam and Henry Crowel.

I hereby further certify that the impression of the seal hereon is that of the seal of the Hickory Grove Cemetery Assn. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this 6th day of Nov. 1909.

Henry Crowel

Sec. of said meeting.

Notarized by John W. Cartwright.

In a business meeting December 22, 1910 a new constitution was adopted. This constitution provided for the first financial board.

In the annual business meeting June 1911 Rev. Jay moved, and the motion accepted, that the trustees be elected as follows: Wm. Crook or successor 3 years, Daniel Coble or successor 2 years, Thomas Galloway or successor 1 year. This method staggered the term of office of the trustees, one being elected each year since then.

Ota Briney was pianist. She had been organist for several years. The organ was sold and the amount received, \$4.50, was used to repair the belfray of the church.

The wood house stood just north of the church and many a freezer of ice cream was frozen in it each summer for an ice cream social. This was quite an event each year. Much time was spent in hanging Japanese lanterns, bunting and such for decorations. Tables were placed on the lawn for serving the ice cream.

In January of 1912 when Wm. Wakeland came to service the light plant he found it frozen. In attempting to thaw it an explosion occurred setting fire to the church. Mr. Wakeland was not seriously injured. The alarm was spread by telephone and the ringing of the church bell. Many responded to the alarm and, although water had to be carried from the spring, the fire was soon under control. Considerable damage was done to the building. The floor joice and flooring being damaged most. Smoke and water had caused damage to the interior. There was some discussion of remodeling the church right away.

In a business meeting February 10, 1912 George Sites made a motion "that the frame of the church be not changed, but that it be repaired and made as good as when new, and beautified and repaired inside to make it as nice and convenient as possible." Faye Simons seconded the motion. The motion carried.

June 7th, 1912 Wm. Wakeland reported on the insurance money received and money expended for repair of the church and light plant.

In a business meeting June 11, 1915 there was a unanimous vote to remodel the church building according to the plans and blue prints.

Clyde Julien was hired as carpenter. Working with him were Herman Myers of Sleeth and Ora Clawson of Yoeman. Orville Goslee of Yoeman helped to do some of the finishing work.

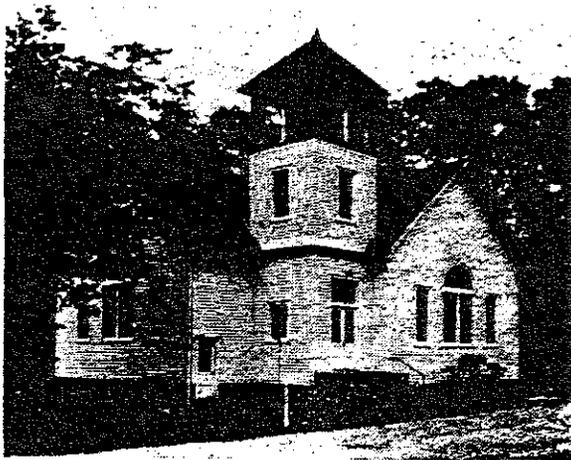
Many of the members of the church donated a great deal of time and labor. Hazel Simons remembers going with Pearl Galloway at Delphi in a big wagon drawn by horses to bring loads of lumber.

A Sunday school room was added on the south side of the old structure. The entire old frame was raised to allow laying a new foundation and making a basement under most of the building. The basement included a kitchen and Sunday school room on the south side. The rest being one large room.

A coal furnace was placed in the north east corner of the basement. One vent from this helped heat the basement. There was a large register in each isle in the upstairs. A stove in the corner next to the kitchen also helped heat the basement.

The kitchen was heated with a wood and coal range. A sink was placed in the south west corner of the kitchen. Water was piped from the spring to a hand pump in the kitchen.

The church was completed and ready for dedication on October 15, 1915. Rev. Samuels of Dayton, Ohio delivered the dedication sermon. Rev. Robert Wearly was pastor at this time serving as the first full time pastor.



1915

When Rev. Wearnly resigned in May 1921 effective Aug. 1, 1921 he had served the church seven years. We then went back to half time services.

Sometime in the 1920's a merger between the Newlight Christian Church and the Congregational Church was first discussed. After many meetings of officials and church delegates the merger was completed in 1931. The name of the church was changed to the Hickory Grove Congregational Christian Church.

Our church had some of the same pastors part of the time as the Congregational Christian Church of Burrows. Rev. Thomas lived in the Burrows parsonage and preached half time at Hickory Grove. Rev. Stover had the same mode of service. In this way the pastor was able to be in our community some through the week. This was a much more satisfactory arrangement than having the pastor only on two weekends each month.

At the quarterly business meeting March 3rd, 1947 Rev. Stover pastor, announced that Paul Mikesell would donate ground for a parsonage if the church would offlow up with donations and other effort needed to build a parsonage. A motion was made by Lucille Casad that a committee be appointed to canvas for promise of funds. The financial board was appointed as this committee. At a special meeting April 7, 1947 the amount of \$7,500 was decided upon as the necessary amount needed.

The trustees to oversee the building.

Following are copies of the Deeds for the parking lot and the ground donated for the parsonage.

QUICK-CLAIM DEED

THIS INDENTURE WITNESSETH, That Paul C. Mikesell and Elizabeth J. Mikesell, his wife, Hazel Simons and Edward Simons, her husband of Carroll County, in the State of Indiana Release and Quiet-Claim to Trustees of the Hickory Grove Congregational Christian Church and Trustees as Directors of the Hickory Grove Cemetery Association and their successors in interest, of Carroll County, in the State of Indiana for the sum of One Dollar and Other Valuable Consideration the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, the following described Real Estate situated in Carroll County, in the State of Indiana, to wit:

A tract of land Fifty (50) feet wide and Nine Hundred (900) feet long off of the West side of the Northwest Quarter (¼) of Section Twenty-one (21), Township Twenty-six (26) North, Range Two (2) West, containing one (1) acre, more or less.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, The Said Paul C. Mikesell and Elizabeth J. Mikesell, his wife, Hazel and Edward Simons, her husband, have hereunto set their hands and seal this 15 day of June A.D. 1945.

Paul C. Mikesell (Seal) Elizabeth J. Mikesell (Seal)
Hazel Simons (Seal) Edward Simons (Seal)

STATE OF INDIANA, Carroll County, ss:

Before me Watson C. McCormick a Prosecuting Attorney in and for said County and State, this day personally appeared Paul C. Mikesell and Elizabeth J. Mikesell, his wife, Hazel Simons and Edward Simons, her husband, and acknowledge the execution of within Quick-claim Deed to be their voluntary act and Deed.

WITNESS my hand Prosecuting Attorney this 15 day of June 1945

Watson C. McCormick, Prosecuting Attorney (Seal)
My commission expires December 31, 1946.

WARRANTY DEED

THIS INDENTURE WITNESSETE, That Paul C. Mikesell and Elizabeth J. Mikesell, his wife, and Hazel Simons and Edward Simons, her husband, of Carroll County, in the State of Indiana CONVEY AND WARRANT to Trustees of the Hickory Grove Congregational Christian Church, and their successors in interest, of Carroll County, in the State of Indiana, for the sum of one Dollar (\$1.00) and other valuable considerations***Dollars, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, the following described Real Estate situated in Carroll County, in the State of Indiana, to-wit: A tract of land beginning on the west line of Section 21, township 26 North, Range 2 West, distant 80 rods South of the Northwest corner of said Section, thence East Fifty (50) feet, thence South Seventy-five (75) feet, thence East one hundred (100) feet; thence North Seventy-five (75) feet; thence West one hundred (100) feet, containing 7,500 square feet.

This conveyance is made on the express condition that in the event grantees or their successors in interest shall abandon said real estate or shall cease to use the same as a site for a parsonage, then said real estate shall revert to grantors, their heirs or assigns, together with all improvements made thereon.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, The said Paul C. Mikesell and Elizabeth J. Mikesell, his wife, and Hazel Simons and Edward Simons, her husband, have hereunto set their hands and seals this 2nd day of June A.D., 1947

Paul C. Mikesell (Seal)
Elizabeth J. Mikesell (Seal)
Hazel Simons (Seal)
Ed Simons (Seal)

STATE OF INDIANA, Carroll County, ss:

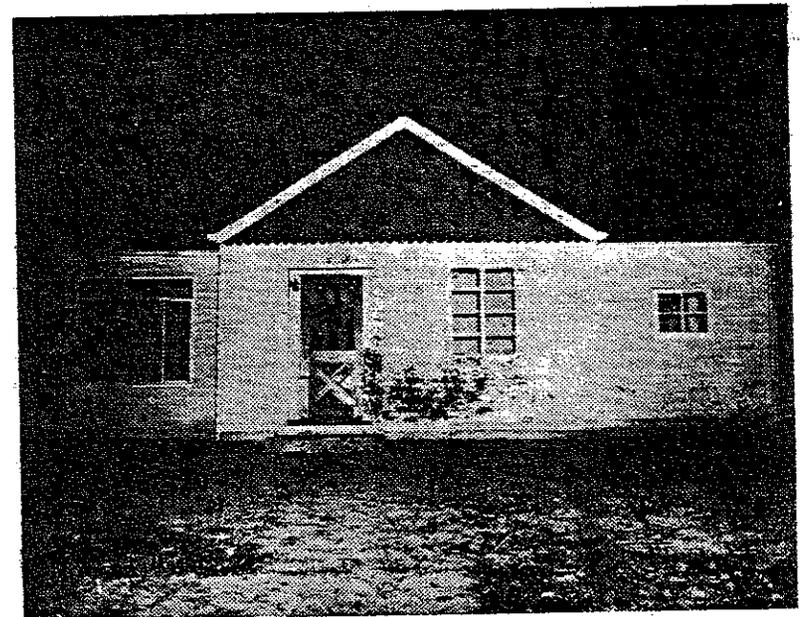
Before me Watson C. McCormick a Notary Public in and for County and State, this day personally appeared Paul C. Mikesell and Elizabeth J. Mikesell, his wife, and Hazel Simons and Edward Simons, her husband, and acknowledged the execution of the within Warranty Deed to be their voluntary act and Deed.

WITNESS my hand and notarial seal this 2nd day of June 1947.

Watson C. McCormick, Notary Public
My commission expires January 1, 1951.

Work soon began and the church men dug the basement with tractors and hand work, laid the cement block foundation and poured the basement floor.

October 3, 1947 in the annual business meeting, Robert Ward Trustee reported that a load of lumber had arrived and carpenters would begin work on Monday morning.



The new parsonage, a six room and bath cottage, was started a year ago and much of the work has been by volunteer labor of the various church members. Members of the church also donated all funds which were used to construct the house and the new building is entirely debt free. The cottage contains a large living room with picture windows, dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms with roomy closets and bath. (Photos by Rabess.)



The new \$81.00 parsonage for the minister of the Hickory Grove church was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies at the church last Friday evening. Pictured above are the representatives of the church who were responsible for the building. First row, left to right: Charles Wise, trustee; Lewis Crowell, treasurer; Carl Hanna, deacon; Mrs. Looker; Rev. Charles Looker, who with his wife and son will move into the parsonage on September 1; Rev. Simon A. Bennett, state superintendent of Congregational Christian churches who delivered the address at the dedication service; Howard Smith, member of the financial board. Back row, left to right: Wilbur Crowell, trustee; Russell Pearsall, chairman of financial board; Bob Ward, trustee; Walter Casad, clerk; Earl Wakeland, deacon and chairman of the official board; John Galloway, deacon.

day of April in 1855 by quiet claim deed as shown by county record, said line thence follows the west line of said tract of land which runs a little east of north until it arrives at a point due west of the south east corner of the north east (1/4) quarter of sec. (20) twp. 26 north range 2 west, then said line is to run due east 13 rods and (22) twenty two links, to the place of beginning containing two (2) acres more or less.

It is hereby expressly understood by all parties concerned in this deed that the above described tract of land is for a burying ground for the neighborhood, and shall be known as an addition to the original graveyard there.

In witness where of the said Valentine Coble and Nancy M. Coble his wife have hereunto set their hands and seals this 29th day of December 1875.

Valentine Coble
Nancy M. Coble

Recorded 3-14-1876 by John W. Fawcett.

Contributions of money for the church erection came largely from persons who were not church members, thus precluding the possibility of a claim upon it by any particular denomination. The name Union Church hung over the door many years.

On the day of dedication there remained a debt of \$1200.00. Contributions were called for to relieve the debt and in response \$1400.00 was received. The church was a neat frame deifice and was open for religious services whenever its use was desired.

The dedicating sermon was preached in October 1875 by Rev. Joshua Greer. It was dedicated as a Union Christian Church. It was also used by the Dunkards and Methodist on the Sundays not used by the Christian denomination. In a few years they had built churches of their own.

This new church at Hickory Grove faced the east with two front doors. The pulpit stood in the center front between the doors.

There were windows on the south side and on the north side. On each side of the church was a row of short seats. One end of each of these seats was against the wall. An isle led from each front door to the back of the room. Long seats were placed between the isles. On each side of the room about midway from front to back was a wood burning stove. The choir seats and organ were just inside the door on the north side. The Church was lighted first with hanging kerosene lamps. Later gasoline hanging lamps were used. In a business meeting May 20, 1910 the following committee was appointed to buy acetylene light plant for the church: Wm. Wakeland, Samuel Maxwell and Feliz Million (Doc).

At this same meeting it was also voted to buy a piano with Robert (Bob) Richardson and Henry Crowel to raise the money and buy same.

On July 23, 1910 a short business meeting was held. Bob Richardson reported on the purchase of a piano. Two dollars were left in the piano fund. Fifty cents was left from purchase of light plant. It was voted to give the \$2.50 to foreign missions.

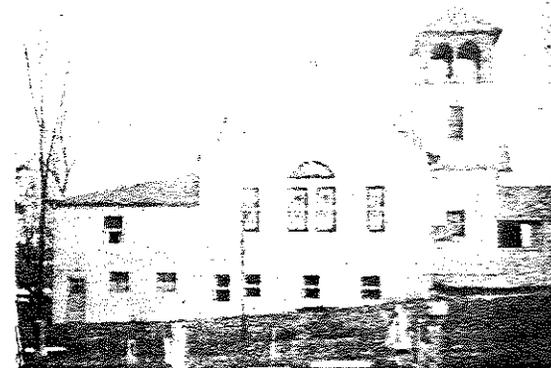
The light plant was placed in the small "cellar" room under the church. This system was a great improvement in lighting.

In 1900 an additional plot of ground was bought for the Cemetery. Copy of the Deed follows:

Valentine Coble, an unmarried man, to trustees of Union Christian Church:

This indenture witnesseth that Valentine Coble an unmarried man of Carroll Co. and state of Ind. convey and warrant to the trustees and their successors in office of the Union Christian Church of Hickory Grove in Jeff. Twp. of Carroll Co. in the state of Ind. for the sum of \$100.00. The following real estate in Carroll Co. Ind. to-wit:

Rev. Andrew Craig, State Superintendent of Congregational Christian Churches delivered the sermon of dedication. Rev. Donald Longnecker lead in the act of dedication. This was the 4th dedication witnessed by John Galloway. The first dedication was when he was 4 months old in October, 1875.



The Womens Fellowship had been discussing, in their meetings, for several months the idea of art glass windows in the church auditorium. The drapes that had been in use for several years were not in a fit condition to stand cleaning again.

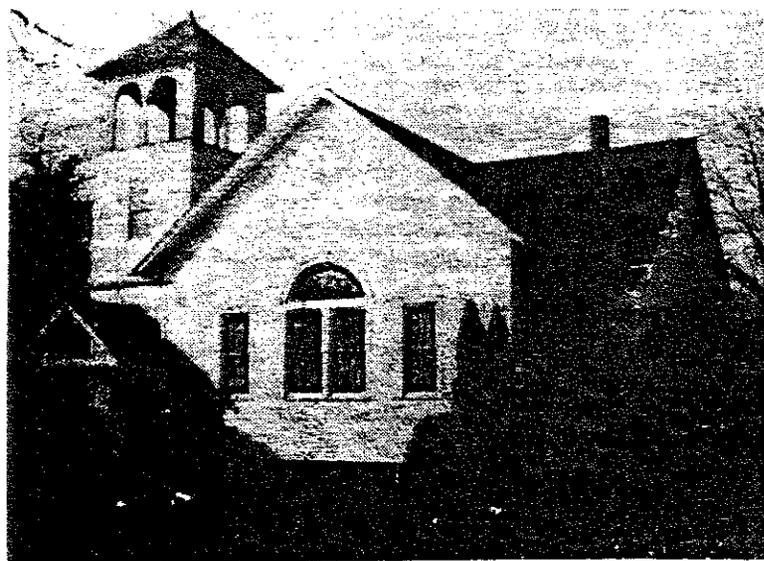
Some objected to drapes because of dust gathering on them, some objected to the plainness of the windows without drapes. Letha Crowell and Hazel Simons were appointed to explore the possibility of art glass windows.

In the regular business meeting October 2, 1945, the window committee asked for a ballot vote on proceeding further with the windows. Balloting resulted in 24 for art glass and 13 voted to leave windows as they are. The committee asked for two members to be appointed by the church. Pearl Crowell and Bernice Greenwalt were named to the committee. The Windows were installed January 8th and 9th, 1960 by Breunmyer Glass Co, of Fort Wayne, Indiana.

On Sunday, February 28th, the church members enjoyed a fellowship basket dinner in the church parlors and at 2 o'clock P.M. a formal dedication of the windows was held in the church auditorium. The windows, with their Christian symbols and beautiful colors contribute greatly to the devotional atmosphere of the church and will stand as a lasting memorial to the loved ones whose memory they honor.

Window Fund received \$1360.55. Cost of windows \$1291.00.
Balance \$69.55

Hickory Grove Dedicatory Service Sunday



The United Church of Christ formed June 25, 1957 by the union of the Evangelical and Reformed church and the General Council of the Congregational Christian Churches of the United States in order to express more fully the oneness in Christ of the churches composing it, to make more effective their common witness in Him, and to serve His Kingdom in the world, hereby adopts this Constitution.

This constitution was approved by the General Synod for submission to all Congregational Christian and Evmngelical Reform Synods for their approval or ratification before midnight June 1, 1961.

In the Annual Business meeting December 30, 1960 Rev. King expressed the desirability of having meetings to study the United Church Constitution. The ides was approved. Four meetings were held in the later part of January and early February. Rev. King very ably led the discussions. A meeting was then announced, from the pulpit twice, for February 22, 1961. The only purpose of the meeting being to vote to accept or reject the constitution. The constitution was accepted by a majority vote.

In the spring of 1960 the "Chums" Sunday School Class (Young People) began earning money to carpet the isles and Pulpit of the church. With the help of their teacher Hazel Slaven they earned enough to start the project. Letha Crowell was selected to help choose a carpet. Eikenberry Furniture at Delphi installed the carpet in the fall of 1960. The carpet added much to the appearance of the church as well as diminishing the sounds of walking. With help of individual contributions and the help of the financial board of the church the total payment of \$1059.42 was raised. The \$69.55 balance from the Window Fund was used for this carpet project.

The two young people classes had long wanted the recreation area back of the church enlarged. So in the summer of 1963 members of the Chum's Class and I.A.E Class held a home made ice cream social, and a bake

sale among other activities, such as paper drives, scrap iron drives and selling Christmas cards to raise money for a basketball and shuffle board court.

After getting permission of the church trustees they enlisted the help of fathers, uncles, friends and their pastor, Rev. Friar, who is a mason as well as pastor, to help construct a new 30 x 40 foot court.

They thank all who helped with finances or with labor and equipment. Especially do they thank their teachers Mrs. Charles Guthrie and Paul Smith. The court was finished October 1963 at a cost of \$250.66.



January 15, 1962 Martha Ward passed away. She remembered Hickory Grove, her church home, in her will. In the regular Business Meeting October 4, 1963 Bob Ward announced that \$3500.00 was received from the Martha Ward estate. He also stated that the trustees had told Paul Smith that money was available for a piano.

The music committee Paul Smith, Letha Crowel, Joyce Hanna and Rev. & Mrs. Friar selected one they liked and it was set in the church. At this business meeting, October 4, a vote was taken as to buying this piano.

The piano was accepted by the church at a cost of \$750.00. The money used to pay for it was from the Martha Ward gift.

In the business meeting on October 4, 1963 a vote was taken on the amendment to change the name of the church to: The United Church of Christ. Vote was favorable to the change.

A new roof was placed on the parsonage in Oct. 1963 by Loy Roofing at a cost of \$1000.00.

The womens group of the church has been a very active part of the church. For many years it was called the "Ladies Aid." In the early 1920's it was reorganized and changed its name to "Busy Bee". And busy bees we were. At one time it borrowed \$1000.00 from the Idaville bank to have a partition removed between a S.S. room and the basement proper and the laying of a wooden floor over the concrete floor in all of the basement floor except the kitchen and furnace room.

The ladies held "Jitney" suppers, "fish fries", ice cream socials and cooked for threshing rings. They cooked for as many as four rings a day which would be from 70 to 80 men. Most of this cooking was done on a coal and wood range and on an oil stove. We had no refrigeration and pumped the water by hand, heating it on the stove for dishwashing.

There was also a mission study group.

Now we have, since 1955, our group call Women's Fellowship. It concerns itself mostly with missions and study. However they have contributed \$100.00 per year to the church budget and keep up many of the house-keeping supplies of the church and parsonage.

Women's Fellowship meetings are held in the church basement the first Wed. of each month, Mar. through Aug. at 7:30 P.M.; Sept. through Mar. at 1:30 P.M.

The Sunday School is very active with senior, young adult, junior and primary department.

A daily vacation bible school is held two weeks each summer with an attendance of about 100. All children in the community are welcome to attend.

In 1940 a motion was made by Wilbur Crowell to set a regular time to clean and beautify the church grounds. With rakes, lawn mowers, sythes, etc. we began meeting on Fri. evening of each summer week as a church family to clean and fellowship together.

Lights were added to the park back of the church. Soon an outdoor furnace was built to use at these clean-ups, and many a wainer and marshmallow has been roasted over this furnace grill by the youngsters.

Now the adult and young adult classes meet alternately each Friday evening for "clean-up" and fellowship.

RECORDS OF TRUSTEES ACCORDING TO EXISTING RECORDS ELECTED TO SERVE 3 YEARS.

Daniel Coble	1910
Wm. Crooks	1910
Thomas Galloway	1910
Wm. Wakeland	1911
Oliver Pearson	1911
Thomas Galloway	1911
Geo. Sites	1912
Oliver Pearson	1913
W. J. Wakeland	1914
Geo. Sites	1915
Wm. Wakeland	1917
Geo. Sites	1918
Oliver Pearson	1916
Oliver Pearson	1919
Sam Maxwell	1920
Wm. Wakeland	1920
Geo. Sites	1921
Sam Maxwell	1922
Wm. Wakeland	1923

Geo. Sites	1924
Allen Blickenstaff	1925
Wm. Wakeland	1926
Geo. Sites	1927
Wilbur Crowell	1928
Wm. Wakeland	1929
Geo. Sites	1930
Wilbur Crowell	1931
Sam Maxwell	1932
Geo. Sites	1933
Wilbur Crowell	1934
Sam Maxwell	1935
Chas. Wise	1936
Wilbur Crowell	1937
Sam Maxwell	1938
Chas. Wise	1939
Wilbur Crowell	1940
Sam Maxwell	1941
Robert Ward	1942
Chas. Wise	1943
Robert Ward	1944
Chas. Wise	1946
Wilbur Crowell	1947
Robert Ward	1948
Chas. Wise	1949
Wilbur Crowell	1950
Gale Crowell	1951
Reuben Smith	1952
Paul Mikesell	1953
Gale Crowell	1954
Reuben Smith	1955
Paul Mikesell	1956
Gale Crowell	1957
Gerald Crowell	1958
James White	1959
Gale Crowell	1960
Gerald Crowell	1961
James White	1962
Bob Ward	1963
Charles Hanna	1964

MINISTERS

R. H. Gott - 1895
 S. McNeely - 1897-98
 R.H. Gott - 1898-99
 Silas Mosteller - 1900-1901-1902-1903 Twice a mo.
 Conference held at Hickory Grove Aug. 6-10, 1902.
 Joseph Francis once a mo. 1904-05 \$200.00 salary
 Dallas Powell Half time 1906-1907-1908 \$400. salary
 William Jay 1910-1912
 McNeely 1912-1913 half time \$12. per trip
 J. T. Agema part of 1914 half time
 Robert E. Wearly 1914-15-16-17-18-19-20-21 \$450. salary
 1918 full time \$1000. & \$100. in provisions
 1921 \$1500 resigned in 1921.
 A. W. Sparks 1921-22
 Lester T. Proctor 1924-25-26 half time \$650.
 Robert Karns 1927-28
 A.M. Thomas 1929-30 resigned
 Frantz 1931-32 (Aug.) resigned half time.
 Howard Warner 1932-33-34 resigned Dec. 1934
 Beisiegel 1935-36 resigned Aug. 1936
 J.K. Arnott 1937-38-39
 David Nelson 1940-41-42-43
 Leon Willhite Sept. 1943-44
 John Stover Sept. 1944-45-46-47
 Charles E. Locker Sept. 1948-49-50-51 full time \$2000
 A.E. Cortner 1952-53-54-55-July 1956
 D. U. Longenecker July 1956-57 Mar. 1, 1958 Mar. 1959
 Virgil King March 1959 to October 1962
 Glenn Friar December 1962-1965
 Boyer 1965 1967 Jan 1969 Dec 1968
 Friar Jan 1969 - May 1972 CLERKS-3 yrs
 Seagraves 1971 -
 Fay Simons 1911-1916 inc.
 W. H. Casad 1917-1947 inc.
 Iva Holloway 1948-1957 inc.
 Dorothy Smith 1959-59
 Martha Hanna 1960

Flaming
Fisher May 1979 Sept 1984
Lewis July 1985 -

RECORDS OF DEACONS VERY INCOMPLETE

Daniel Coble
 Thomas Galloway
 Oliver Pearson
 L.T. Landes 1920
 W.E. Wakeland 1917
 O.E. Dimmitt 1920
 Clifford Bitler 1920
 Henry Crowel 1924
 John Galloway 1933 to 1954 inc.
 Earl Newman 1933 to 1940
 Carl Hanna 1933 to 1951
 Ray Hankins 1940
 Russell Pearson succeeded Carl Hanna 1952
 Chas. Hanna succeeded John Galloway 1955-56-57-58
 Francis Dimmitt 1959-60-61-62-63
 Wilbur Jones 1964-65-66-67-68
 Ralph Hankins 1964-65-66-67-68

 Hankins and Jones were elected in Sept. 1963 to fill
 vacancies of Russell Pearson who died and Earl
 Wakeland who resigned.
 Reuben Smith 1964-65-66-67-68 succeed Francis Dimmitt.

CLOSING

Hundreds of people have toiled, sacrificed, prayed and studied together to promote Christ's kingdom in this community. They have sustained public worship for the inspiration of believers. They have provided bible study for the instruction of children, youth and adults in spiritual things. They have co-operated with other churches of the community to provide evangelistic outreach to the unchurched. They have joined with the forces of our denomination throughout the world to provide missionaries to carry the gospel to needy fields. They have ministered to the hungry and the homeless of this neighborhood and those of far places through their benevolences.

REFERENCES

Carroll County Atlas of 1850
" " " 1874
Carroll County Court Records
Delphi Public Library Cemetery Records
Faye Wise History Contributions

The "History" committee John Galloway, Earl Wake-land, Orris Dimmitt, Hazel Simons, Lora Wise and Martha Hanna wish to thank all who so graciously helped in gathering information and pictures for this history.