



DELPHI CHRISTIAN CHURCH

HISTORY

1880 - 1988

FROM AN EARLIER HISTORY

Generation after generation enter the stage of life - each lives and moves on merging into the ever flowing stream of the past, fading from the memory of man except as names recorded in the records of life left behind to be scanned and written into pages of history such as this. Untold numbers of others shared in these events, were a vital part of it. What they did does not die nor fade away; it becomes a living, vital part of today. Because of what they did we have being as a congregation, are inheritors of the fruits of their labors. As we labor and serve, we add to or detract from the inheritance that is ours. May we dedicate our lives to so serve in His name that we shall add worthily to their labors and pass on an enriched and more fruitful heritage to those that shall assume our places and take over the unfinished work that we shall leave behind.

HISTORY
OF
THE DELPHI CHRISTIAN CHURCH
1880 - 1987

The first Christian Church was organized in April 1880, by Rev. William Kraft. His wife was Alice Haughey, charter member and sister of Haughey Mount's grandmother, Mrs. Daniel Mount.

Member first met in a third story room of the Citizens Bank Building, now an antique store at the corner of Washington and Main Streets.

Charter members were John and Mary Faucett, Mary and Kate Brough, Mrs. James Casad, Williams and Margaret Dixon, A. and Mary Dowden, Samuel and Laura Elstroth, E. W. and Maria Embree, Lizzie and Alice Haughey, Daniel and Anna J. Mount, John, Anna, and Lillie Lyon, Mary Moore and Emma Lytle.

In 1882, the church house belonging to the Presbyterian Church, on the present Christian Church site was purchased.

A year later an evangelist, Rev. T.A. Boyer, held a six week meeting and a hundred and thirty new members were added to the membership; the hundred were baptized.

Due to the pressing need for more room, plans were dicussed to build a new church. On Oct. 18, 1908, the present church was dedicated.

In 1922, a parsonage was purchased on Front Street where the Benker Apartments are now, but was sold during Howard Jenkins' pastorate.

In 1950, a house on west Main Street was given by Harve Lynch for a parsonage as a memorial to his wife, Mary. It was sold in 1964, and in 1965, the present parsonage on Summit Street was purchased.

Since December 1984, the congregation has been involved in the Faith Promise program. The missions supported through this include Extended Hand, Rainbow Christian Camp, Johnson Bible College, Norman Ward; agent for Burma Christian Services, FAME (Fellowship of Associates of Medical Evangelism) and Central African Mission. This year Faith Promise is \$8,348.00.

The Christian Women's Fellowship (CWF) was organized in 1951, combining the United Christian Missionary Society and the Ladies Aide.

The first president of the Christian Women's Fellowship was Mossie Melson.

The concern of the Fellowship is to help all women in Christian living and Christian service. These goals are met with a program of study, worship and service.

Throughout the years the women of the church have faithfully supported home and foreign missions and local church and parsonage projects.

The present president of CWF is Letha Isaacs.

The present church board, meeting on the second Tuesday of each month, includes: Minister, David Futrell, Secretary, Letha Isaacs; Treasurer, Herbert Isaacs. Elders: Robert Scott, Robert Smith, Jack Stoner, and Robert Pearson, Elder Emeritus. Deacons: Russell Williams, Dick Sheldon, Ralph Cree, Lloyd Cripe, Joe Felix, Steve Blickenstaff -Chairman, and Herbert Isaacs. Robert Dunlap, Deacon Emeritus. Trustees: Jack Stoner, Robert Smith, Herbert Isaacs, Dick Sheldon, and Russell Williams. Financial Secretary is Helen Lamb. Church Clerk is Marcia Stoner. Betty Goode is Sunday School Superintendent.

The total budget for the year 1987-1988 was \$33,715.00.

In the parsonage in 1980, new kitchen cabinets were installed. It has been carpeted twice, both bathrooms renovated, new siding over all and in 1984, a new furnace and air conditioning added.

In 1942, thirty-four years after the church was built, it was redecorated. New lights were installed and new gutters placed at the cost of \$900.00.

In 1946, the old furnace was replaced by an oil furnace. The basement was cleaned out and made into a kitchen and dining room. The oil furnace was replaced in 1971.

An \$8,000.00 extention was built on the back in 1950, giving three class rooms and an office.

An electric organ was purchased in 1956 and replaced in Novenber, 1985.

In 1976, the youth with the help of the church, installed new cabinets, stove and refrigerator and painted the kitchen and dining room in the basement; approximate cost \$1200.00.

Other projects completed in recent years are: the finishing of a classroom in 1977, and upstairs, remodeling restrooms, lowering ceilings and carpeting the middle room and the sanctuary, new steel front and side doors, new steps now carpeted and a public address system in 1978. In 1987 hymnals were purchased, many given in memoriam.

Painting inside and out of the parsonage and church have been on going projects throughout the years.

Office equipment has been updated with an electric typewriter and copy machine. In addition to the Sunday bulletins and the monthly newsletter, other church related materials are printed here.

On November 18, 1982, the Delphi Christian Church withdrew from the Disciples of Christ and became an Independent Christian Church.

There are seven Sunday School classes. The teacher who has taught the longest is Ruby Wagoner with Evelyn Cripe in the Primary Department.

Past pianists and organists were Naomi Theophile, Bess Carey, Mrs. Howard Benker, Mrs. Ross Tipton and Charlotte Wallace.

Present organist is Faye Gerbens. Pianists are Helen Roth and Pat Mulbarger.

Ministers from 1889-1988

Elder Grisse	1889
J.H. Lacey	1892
J.A. Roberts	1893
G.M. Guy	1894
Lee Tinsley	1895
W.H. Applegate	1898
William Grant Smith.....	1899
E.C. Wells	1902
Roscoe Smith	1906
A.A. Honeywell	1907
Theodore Freed	1909
W.H. Milner	1910
Claris Yeuell.....	1912
J. L. Tyner	1913
R. R. Ohaver.....	1916
F. A. Shape.....	1917
William A. Dawson.....	1918
Ethelbert Lester.....	1921
John Love.....	1923
Lee Jacobs.....	1925
L. E. Knox.....	1926
Howard Jenkins.....	1934-1949
Chester Parker.....	1949-1950
William McLean.....	1950-1953
Arnold O. Guy.....	1953-1956
F. A. Chandler.....	1956-1960
Milton Mikesell.....	1960-1963
Ronald Hurst.....	1964-1967
Steve Winters.....	1967-1971
Odin Memering.....	1972-1974
Ray Nelson.....	1974-1981
Paul Davis.....	1981-1987
David Futrell.....	1988- 1992
Paul Mullikin	1992 -

The history of the church has been written three times before: for the Homecoming in 1931, by Mrs. Yantis Wells; in 1957, by Yantis Wells; and in 1964, by Eve Davidson.

The following is quoted from an earlier church history.

THE MINISTRY offered through these years has been one which has consistently endeavored to reach out into the community and futher afield, all the while seeking to manifest the love and concern of our Lord Jesus Christ for all presons. It is our belief that through the Church, homes are strengthened with Christian principles and Christian truth. It is our belief that this congregation must daily witness to the redeeming love of our Lord and Master Jesus Christ. In an age when men are striving after a multitude of things, Christians must relate thenselves to Him through WORSHIP, SERVICE, STUDY, FELLOWSHIP in their daily lives, and in the PROGRAM OF THE CHURCH.

Those who have gone out from this church as ministers are: H. A. Wingard, Jesse Wilenson, John Love and in 1951 Freeman Redding, to build churches in Jamaica.

Compiled by Letha Isaacs