

# United Presbyterian Churches

of Allerton, Iowa  
by Ortha Green



(Photo by Ortha Green)

Information for these churches was taken from the writing of Fred and Robert Duncan, Wayne County Recorders office and the Iowa Synod of Presbyterian Church of America.

In the Recorders office in book 3, page 611 is a deed which reads, J.S.A. Swiggett, trustee to George S. Allen, trustee of Allerton United Presbyterian, Lot 5-6, Block 12, Original, for the sum of \$175.00

There were two Presbyterian Churches in Allerton.

The first one appeared in 1871, with eight Charter members. They built a place of worship in 1876 at a cost of \$1200. on Lot 3, block 15, Original. There was no pastor from day of appearance until 1876 when the first pastor Rev. D.R. Hindman came. Rev. S.T. McClure in 1880-81, G.H. Putman, 1883-85, E.M. Snook, 1887-88, F. Orr, 1890-91, J.W. Stark, 1892-93, W.E. Caldwell, 1894-96, C.L. McLeod, 1898, L. Colyn, 1899. The years not listed the church was vacant. They year of 1900 no listed pastors and their church was sold to the Nazarene people some time after this.

The second church was organized June 17, 1876, in the frame Christian church building by the people living in and near Allerton. There were 36 Charter members; Mrs. Martha Abel, James R. Acheson, Mrs. Lavina Acheson, Miss Mary Acheson, Andrew H. Duncan, Mrs. Elizabeth Duncan, Mrs. Eliza Duncan, Mrs. Catherine Duncan, James C. Duncan, Mrs. Mary S. Duncan, A. Samuel J. Duncan and Mrs. Mary Duncan.

John Bell, Miss Mary Bell, Arch W. Duncan, Mrs. Esther Duncan, George W. Duncan, Mrs. Josephine Duncan, Mrs. Ann Edmondson, William Elder, Elias Jenison, Mrs. Mary Jane Jenison, George B. Johnston, Mrs. Elizabeth Johnston.

Robert O. Johnston, William Johnston, Joseph G. McLane, Mrs. Janet Shaw, Mrs. Nancy Wright, Miss Esther Johnston, B. Frank Parsons, Mrs. Kizzie Parsons, Mrs. Ann Richie, J.C. Richie, and Mrs. Margaret Richie.

Rev. L.L. Proudfit was stated supply from 1876 to 1881. Services were held in the S.L. Vest Hall, the old Presbyterian church now owned by the Nazarene and in the frame Christian church, when these were not in use by their owners.

During the autumn of 1881 a frame church was built on Lot 6, in block 6 of the first addition of Allerton, at a cost of \$1240.00.

Rev. A.L. Mumford was pastor in 1882-86. The church was declared as vacant until 1889 when M.B. Brownlee was installed and he stayed two yrs. Then J.H. Bell in 1892-95, Rev. W.M. Murchie, 1897-1903. During his pastorate in 1902 the present site was acquired and the church building moved. Lot 6 in block 6 was sold and the proceeds applied on the purchase. In 1904-06 J.A. Shannon was pastor, Rev. Sham 1905, W.H. Anderson, 1906-10, E.H. Black, 1910-15, It was during Edgar H. Blacks pastorate that they built the present church home in 1913. Earl C. Coleman, 1918-22, J.E. McCall, 1923-25, when they completed the present parsonage. W.F.Graham, 1927-34, Peter Grooters, 1935-38, G.A. Forbes, 1939-44, D.M. Crawford, 1945-58, Richard Kiefers, 1958-60, John Stevenson, 1961-62. Vacant 1962. Fred R. Schoon, 1963. Bonnie C. Rateike, 1965-6-7-8-9-70-71. Richard Chambers, 71. Dr. Elizabeth Sykes, 1971. During the pastorate of D.M. Crawford the church was very active. The pastor and his wife completed a model of the ancient Tabernacle which was complete in every detail and was visited by many organizations. It was also during his pastorate that the church celebrated its 75th Anniversary.

We honor the memory of the consecrated men and women who through their faith in God and their fellowmen builded churches and homes in this place.  
So "Rejoice In the Lord Always."

Phil. 4:4.

Rev. Bonnie Rateike, first woman Presbyterian Pastor in Iowa.