

# Christian Church Promise City

by  
Ortha Green



The Christian Church of Promise City was organized in the spring of 1885. They held services in the Presbyterian church until they bought a lot and built a modest structure. This building was sold to J.C. (Polly) Jones 1910 and it was made into a garage. It is still being used as such by the present owner, Bob Lockridge.

In the Recorders office in book 13, page 556, we find that on Sept. 4, 1891, Jacob Babbitt and wife Mary F. deeded to the trustees of the Christian Church of Promise City, Iowa, for \$100.00, 60 feet off of the east side of Lot 1, Block 10 Original, according to the new town plat. H.J. Sharp, Notary.

Only a few Charter members are known, so list Mr. and Mrs. Michael (Mike) Kinser, Mrs. Cuan Heckethorn, and Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Kinser.

In 1911 the Christian Church (Disciples) built the beautiful frame building with full basement, vestibule and belfry and bell. The new church was made possible through the efforts and generosity of town and country people nearby.

Dedicatory services were held Jan. 1912. Rev. Win. R. Matsler was pastor at that time and served the church for many years.

Rev. Hickman was an early day pastor. Rev. Grover C. Schurman 1910 and Rev. Emmons also served the church as pastors.

One time a controversial group undertook to take possession of the church. It was saved to the Disciples by Rev. Loren Lair, executive Secy, of Christian Churches of Iowa, who defended the property rights of the organization.

The church was very active until 1941 when services were discontinued.

Around 1949 the Church of Christ from Ottumwa, Iowa took over the church and have lowered the height of the building to a one story structure of more modern appearance. The lumber salvaged will help to build a Sharon Bluffs Bible Camp near the park east of Centerville, Ia. The bell will be retained.

At present they still have a congregation of about thirty persons, and Rev. Albert Schwartzkoph is the minister in 1962. Rev. Darrel Bridgewater, 1963-4, - Schwartzop, 1962, - Wayne Johnson, 1959-60. Ronald Carlson, 1958.

Information was obtained from the Recorders Office different newspapers and other sources.



(Photo courtesy of Centerville Iowegian)