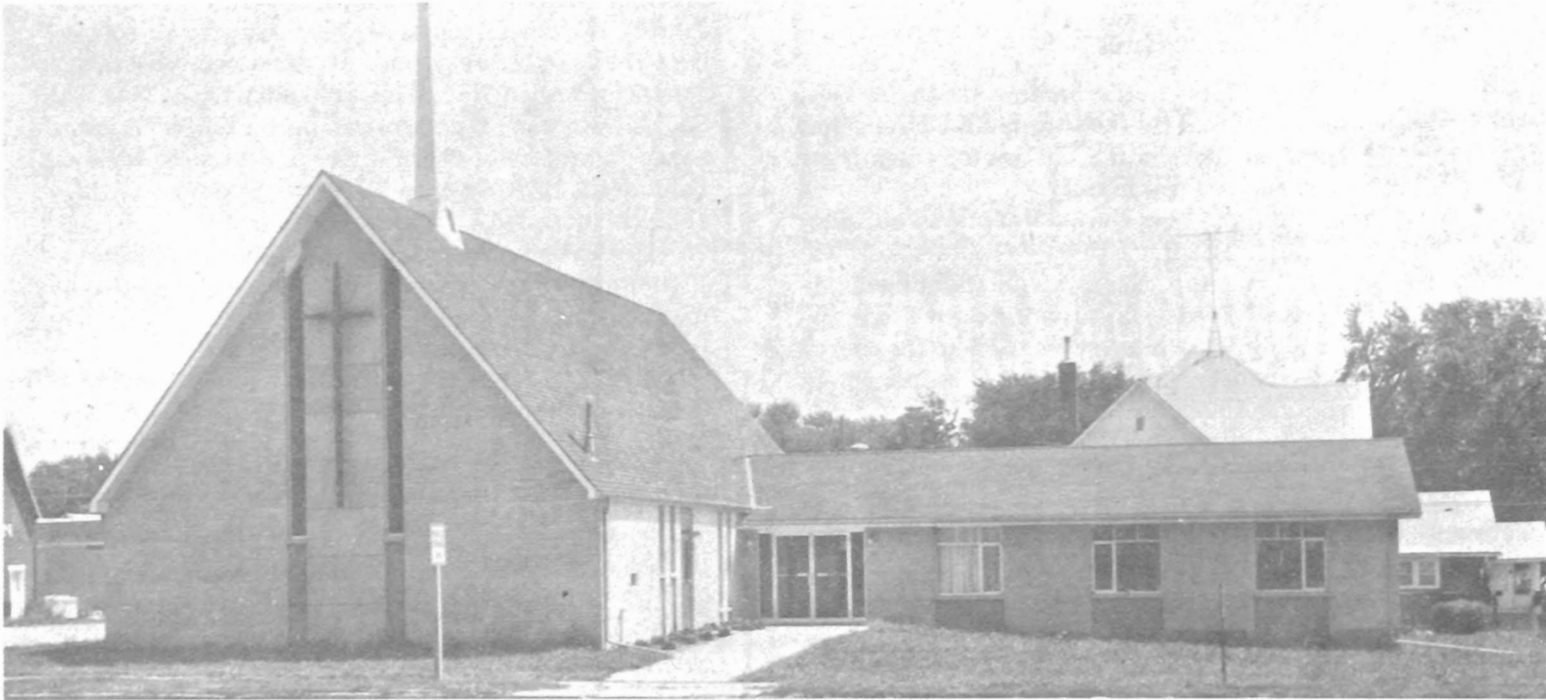


Church Of Christ In Corydon

by
Rev. Donald A. Eagle



Corydon's beautiful new Christian Church will be dedicated Sunday, August 9 at 3:00 p.m. Following the services, the cornerstone will be laid. The old church was destroyed by fire on January 7, 1968. Work on the new building began in June of 1969. The first services in the new church were held February 1, 1970. In the interim the congregation met in the Legion building on the south side of the square with various pastors supplying the pulpit. As the morning service is held August 9 Rev. Oscar Barrow, of Elkhart, Iowa will bring the message.

As early as 1856 or 1857 there were members of the Christian Church in the Corydon area. Soon after they purchased a building on the last one block south of the southeast corner of the square for \$200. Later some members moved away forcing the remaining people to sell the building to a Presbyterian group. In those early days a Rev. Parr was the preacher.

After the setback, little was done until 1898, though periodic evangelistic meetings were held. In that year H.B. Dyer, the Humeston pastor worked with B.S. Denny, the state secretary of the Christian missionary society until a Sunday school was started. This school met each Sunday in Hughes Hall on the south side of the square with the Allerton pastor helping out. Occasionally, church was held at 3:00 in the afternoon.

From these meetings a building plan originated and in accord with that plan a lot was purchased one block north of the northeast side of the square. Later this lot was sold and the ground upon which the church stands today was purchased for \$800. In August 1899 the children of C.A. Niday donated a corner stone and work on the new church began.

Such was the progress of the group of five, who incorporated on June 10, 1898, as the First Church of Christ. Those five were; C.A. Niday, Bertha E. Shipley, Bessie Brewer, Vista Ratliff, and S.C. Trogden, and in

At the service of dedication the Rev. Stanley Mahamah, of Des Moines, will speak. The 170 member church is a vital asset to Corydon and the official family of the church rejoices in the new building. The official group back of the new church are as follows: Wilbur Thatcher, overall chairman; Cleo Boltinghouse, building chairman; Melvin Nickel, Guy Jack, Clifford Norman, Mary Thatcher, Martha Michael, Harry Miller, Harold Bishop, Ver Kelly, Helen Hillyard, Bob Stöffer, Arthur Thomas and Don Hillyard. 1970.

one year they were leaders of a group building a church. The building cost \$4000. and the fixtures another \$2500. Later the rest of the ground in this block was purchased for \$500.

Dedication services were a union meeting, November 19, 1899. The final formal dedication services were held Sunday evening Nov. 26, 1899 when the funds were complete.

Perhaps of interest will be this list of men who have served this church as ministers. The dates of service are only approximate until later years:

J.T. Shreve, 1900, G.W. Kitchen 1901-02, F.D. Macy 1903, R.W. Lilley 1904-08, C.H. Strawn 1908-10, Paul Preston 1910-13, Carl C. Davis 1913-1916, Lloyd Ellis 1916-18, John F. Stubbs 1918-21, F.J. Sanborn 1921-23, Max Deweese 1923-24, J. Newton Sours 1924-28, J.D. Pontius 1928-29, Clifford I. Cecil 1930-32, Will A. Sessions Jr. 1932-35, Loren E. Lair 1935-39, Phillip Nystrand 1939-40, Rev. Leslie 1940-41, C.V. Pence 1941-43, John L. McCurdy 1943-46, Donald A. Eagle 1946.

Note: (the above sketch was prepared by Donald Eagle from the Secy. W.W. Orsbaugh report of 1901, and was read at the fifty year celebration of the church in 1949. (Printed in the Times Republican)

Following History
by Ortha Green

The Rev. Donald Eagle stayed with the church until 1950. Then Rev. Morris L. Bailey came the early part of the year 1951. Rev. Kenneth Hayden served from 1951 till 1955.

When Rev. Clyde Leeds became pastor in Dec. 1955 he was so pleased by the Cathedral Chimes that were a part of his new church, he wanted them to be enjoyed by the entire community. In 1956 the church voted unanimously to have the chimes played at 5 p.m. daily, for 15 min. The Rev's three daughters Jo Ellen, Carla Jean and Sue Ann soon mastered the chime playing and the Rev. Leeds played when duties took the girls from playing. The chimes were a gift to the church in April 1949 from Mr. and Mrs. S.E. Gibbs in memory of their daughter Helen Louise, who died Dec. 23, 1936 at the age of fourteen. Rev. Leeds stayed until Nov., 1962. James Clark, 1963. Rev. Don Eagle, 1946-7-8-9, Kenneth Hayden 1950 to 55. J.W. Gardner, 1964-5-6-7-8, Stanley Mahannah, 1969. James E. Larson 1970-1-2.

Pastor was J.W. Gardner. The Church burned January 7, 1968 at 1:45 a.m. Sunday morning. The

Church was damaged by a fire several years back. "The strength that has bound the members through almost a century sustained them now. They rallied unflinchingly to the task before them." Services were held in the American Legion Hall. They sold a lot to the D.X. Oil Co. All working together the new Church building began June 1969 and the first services were held on February 1, 1970. An open house was held Nov. 29, 1970 and was attended by a crowd of over 200.

Dedication Services were held Sunday August 9, 1970. Rev. Oscar Barrow of Elkhart, Iowa, brought the message and led the dedication Litany. There were represented seventeen different churches.

The FIRST wedding in the new church was that of JoEllen Green, daughter of AFSgt. and Mrs. Billy D. Green and John Christy. Officiating was Gail Green of the Assembly of God church at Clarion, Ia. an uncle of the bride.

The bride is Presbyterian and the groom a Catholic. The wedding was held Saturday p.m. Aug. 29, 1970.



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