

# Seymour Christian Church

by  
Enid (Mrs. Lawrence) Ruby



(Photo by Ortha Green)

The Christian Church of Seymour, Iowa, was the outgrowth of the disciples, who at intervals met for worship at the frame school building situated on the grounds as the present school building. Continuing to meet at such place until 1873 where the organization was effected and plans were made for the erection of a church building upon the grounds now occupied by the present church building. Located on Lot one block one of Rogers addition on Winston Street.

The church erected in 1874 was a frame one with a spire and bell. It was painted yellow with cream and brown trim, at a cost of \$2500.00. The church was dedicated in the fall of 1874 by George T. Carpenter of Oskaloosa, Iowa, who later became the first Chancellor of Drake University. The first pastor was Rev. F. Walden.

With the trend of time came the need of a larger and more modern edifice. The church was dismantled in the spring of 1912, during the ministry of Rev. W.E. Jones who thought that they should build new church. Due to his failing health he was forced to give up the work. With his passing several years later, the church was dealt a severe blow and the town lost an outstanding contributor to christianity. The building committee was composed of G.M. Ruby, Ezra Rockwell, Dr. J.T. Magers, Fred Johnson and Walter Boysal. C.O. Hawley became pastor and was pastor at the dedication. Much of the old material was used in building. The beautiful stained glass windows were placed and the church was dedicated November 17, 1912 by pastor McCash.

Pastors of the church were;

F. Walden, S.B. Dawning, J.H. Hickman, J.A. Carr, S.A. Hoover, Wm. Hartley, J.A. Shepherd, D.L. Ammons, J.H. Rice, J.N. Smith, A.B. Cornwell, Dan Hastings, S.B. Ross, Elder Leonard, Joseph McKenzie, W.E. Jones, Clarence O. Hawley, J.C. Duvall, G.C. Schurman, M.R. Pringle, J.A. Jeffrey, R.R. Keltch, Win. R. Matsler, H.F. York, Homer Colo, John Noland, Clark Utterback, John DePoister, J.H. Shar-da, Earnest Marsh 1951, Russell Cooper, Duane Hedges, Louis Schaffner, W.A. Purdy, 1962. Joseph Turek, 1963.

Early in the history of the church, the Christian Women's Board of Missions was organized. Among the charter members were; Mrs. Clum Michael, Mrs. Chas. Conger, Mrs. Sally Armstrong and Mrs. Cora Jones. The church has many other organized classes. They observe Homecoming in October and Easter Breakfast is an annual event. Each Sunday morning the Youth Choir furnishes the music for the morning worship service.

Mrs. Ruth Wilson, in one of her talks before the Alpha Class says "Destroy not the landmarks of thy Fathers". The Alpha class was named by M. Jane Reddick who also wrote the class song.

Rev. Louis Schaffner served the church from 1954 till 1962, when he resigned. W.A. Purdy, 1962, Allan McDiarmid, July 1966, Alva T. Browning, Sept. 1966, P.J. Busset, 1967-8-9, when he resigned. Wayne Johnson part time 1960. James Larson, 1970-1.