

New Zion Methodist Church

from
Church History 1928 by Mrs. Nellie Holder and
Centennial History by Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Holder,
Chairmen. 1955.



This is a drawing of New Zion Church as built in 1875.

New Zion Church stands in the north east corner of Sec. 30-69-20, Benton township along the south side of highway No. 3. Six years before the outbreak of the Civil War a Methodist class was organized in a log school house near the Hazel Dell Cemetery.

Names on the charter class roll were; Garrett, Allen, King, Rodgers, Dean, Thomas and Hill.

The first meeting place was log throughout, including the seats. It was here people for miles around came to worship God once each month. A large family riding behind an ox team was a regular sight.

Rev. Swim, Spooner of Chariton, Hartley Bracewell of Allerton, and Bennett of Corydon, Welsh, Baker, Watson, Patterson, were early day preachers. These were "traveling" or "Circuit Rider" pastors, who usually made their appearance two or three days before preaching on Sunday, staying in the homes. Uncle Billy Troster always gave sincere testimonials "fresh from the Lord."

Several years after class organization a modern School house was erected one mile east and a little south of present New Zion, and the place of worship was changed. The school house burned and services then were held in the McConnell barn or the grove as weather permitted.

From these humble beginnings a vision of a Church of their own developed and they celebrated

July 4, 1875 by letting the contract for building, and the church was dedicated in October of 1875. A deed to the land was received from Amos Feigh and wife Annie, for \$1.00 and contained a revertable clause.

In 1904 Nannie Boise was instrumental in organizing the first Epworth League and became its first president.

The first Daily Bible School was held during the pastorate of the Rev. H.A. Cottrill in 1926-28.

The church has sent out a very creditable band of Christian workers. They are; Lon Barthelow, Walter Edie and Mr. and Mrs. Fran Wolfe as pastors, - Hannah Binau, Deaconess and Earl Bellon, preparing for Christian service.

In 1905, fifty years since dedication a letter sent to Mrs. Frank Lohr contained a testimonial from Dr. Wm E. Flesher, Oklahoma City, Okla., as follows; "Those were days of character building for me, I did not realize it at the time, but now I see it was a glorious privilege to grow up in a christian community of such high standards of living. During that time my ideals of living were crystallized and it has been a great help to me in meeting temptations as the years have passed."

Thus the families of this church have played a vital part in the spiritual life of the county and they can truly say "God is with us."

Pastors who have served New Zion Church;

No record for 1855-1860	E.T. Coiner 1860-1861	H.E. Copeland 1912-1914	O.R. Jones 1914-1915
Jesse Sherwood 1861-1863	J.R. Cary 1863-1864	E.A. Place 1915-1917	L.H. Smith 1917-1918
J.M. Baker 1864-1865	M.M. Glanville 1865-1867	F.H. Perkins 1918-1919	L.C. Duncan 1919-1920
D.O. Stewart 1867-1868	H.H. Martin 1868-1871	Mrs. A.E. Porter 1921-1922	R.W. Meeker 1922-1925
J.W. Prince 1871-1872	W.M. Hiech 1872-1873	W.L. Cunningham 1925-1926	H.A. Cottrill 1926-1928
Thomas McIntire 1873-1874	W.R. Wood 1874-1875	G.L. Hufstader 1928-1929	Clinton Belknap 1929-1930
M. Allen 1875-1876	M.R. Harned 1876-1878	O.A. Dillon 1930-1932	O.L. Jones 1932-1935
C.W. Brewer 1878-1880	D.C. Mortz 1880-1883	J.W. Holliday 1935-1936	W.J. Hamilton 1936-1937
B. Shinn 1883-1885	Samuel Farlow 1885-1886	Gerald Rogers 1937-1940	Roger Crabtree 1940-1943
D.J.M. Wood 1886-1888	W.L. Douglas 1888-1889	Willard Peterson 1943-1945	Richard DeFever 1945-1946
L.B. Carpenter 1889-1890	H.A. Carlton 1890-1891	V.S. Bowers 1946-1947	M.J. Nash 1947-1950
D.S. Main 1891-1892	A.L. Bates 1892-1893	Leo Van Etten 1950-1951	Harvey E. Butten 1951-1952
Thomas G. Aten 1893-1895	M.S. Burns 1895-1896	Robert A. Ropp 1952-1954	H. Eugene Gardiner 1954-1955
C.C. Culmer 1896-1897	J.H. McCurdy 1897-1899	William G. Rieckhoff 1955-19	
W.C. Smith 1899-1900	John Harned 1900-1901	Earl D. Kelley 1958-	Charles Orcutt 1960-1961
R.J. Tennant 1901-1902	W.E. Harvey 1902-1903	Raymond G. Walker 1961-62-63	B. Gordon Packard 1964-5
G.T. Roberts 1903-1905	Edward L. Stone 1905-1907	Sydney E. Sterrett 1968-9	
O.W. Brown 1907-1908	W.B. Cox 1908-1910	Rev. Sterrett died while he was still pastor in 1969.	
Fred A. Mead 1910-1911	none 1911-1912		

By Ortha Green

New Zion Church observed its 100 year Centennial, Sept. 18, 1955. The dedication centennial sermon was preached by a former pastor Rev. H.A. Cottrill who was there in 1926 to 28.

A crowd of over 200 attended the Centennial. In 1967 the Church gave the Bell to the Wayne County Historical Societies Museum.

