

# Christian Church of Allerton, Iowa

by  
Mrs. W.L. Dougherty



(Picture of Church given by Mrs. L.A. Johnson)

In September 1867 a few disciples in Warren township, Wayne county, Iowa secured the pioneer preacher Levi Fleming, to hold a meeting. The meeting was held at the Rankin School House, four miles southeast of where Allerton is now located. At this meeting twelve members were collected and on September 27, 1867, a Church was organized known as the MT. HOPE CHURCH and Brother Fleming was called to preach once a month. John Hays and J.W. McFarland were elected elders and John Ferrel and S.T. Harding deacons. These were ordained the first Lord's Day in December of 1867.

Brother Harvey, one of the early preachers, received for his second year's quarter time service \$150.00. Prayer meetings were held each Thursday night. The church held frequent revivals, often with a helper who received from seven to eight dollars a week for his services.

In 1871 the Rock Island Railroad was built and the town of Allerton came into existence. Steps were taken to move the organization into Allerton. "On February 18, 1874, for the sum of \$1.00, J.A. Swiggett, trustee, deeded Lot 12 in block 12 in Allerton, Iowa, to John Ferrell, Elijah Ferrell and L.H. Rankin, trustees of the Allerton Christian Church. "This location is at the corner of Buffalo and Elm Avenue. Records Book 3, page 473. Funds were raised and a chapel was built, the first one in Allerton. Built in 1872 and completed in 1873 at a cost of over 1,200.00. In the latter part of the year 1873, Brother Lockhart held the first meeting in the new building.

The church now had a hard struggle. Even Sunday School died out. In 1880 the church was revived and in 1882 Rev. S.H. Hedrix was called for half time preaching at a salary of \$425.00 Brother Hedrix stayed with the church ten years. In 1900 full time services were resumed, and the little frame chapel was so crowded that it was thought wise to try and build a new brick building. Under the ministerial guidance of Bro. W.S. Johnson, funds were secured and a brick church was erected and it was dedicated June 14, 1903, at a

cost of \$8,200.00 and all the debts were paid. A few years later a parsonage was built at a cost of \$2000.00 Dr. W.O. Breeden preached the dedication sermon. The membership at this time was 150.

Mrs. W.L. Dougherty has the long time record for Sunday School and church attendance, having been taken as an infant and missing only a few times in the seventy years. Little Errol Beavers, aged five (in 1957) has attended for three years without missing, so he is also making a record.

During its existence the church has been served by several loyal, and consecrated men. Among them were; Levi Fleming, S.H. Hedrix, E.E. Harvey, Benjamin Lockhart, D.C. Morris, E. J. Stanley, C.P. Hollos, A.B. Cornwell, H.G. Waggoner, W.S. Johnson, Chauncy R. Piety, R.E. Cook, 1928, L.A. Johnson, R.F. Allen and F.C. Carter, H.F. Welch, 1924.

In 1942 Rev. L.A. Johnson returned to the church and was much loved by the church and townsfolk alike. Upon his retirement in 1950 the work was taken over by Rev. Syd G. Austin. (The Rev Syd Austin tried to change the name of the church. The following year he was ousted by the good people of the community, and on June 3, 1951 the church was incorporated.) Ministers since then are; Rev. Paul Rogers, 1952-53, Rev James C. Beahan 1954-56, Rev. Darrell Huffman 1956-58, Milan Hamilton, 1960-61, and Rev. Joseph Turek, 1962-63.

Allerton Christian  
by Ortha Green

## Pastors

Roy H. Polly 1912	H.F. Welch 1924
E.C. Cook 1928	Sackville M. Smith 1913
Thomas P. Slavens 1952	James G. Beakan 1956

LeRoy Lunsford 1964-5-6-7-8-9-70-1