

Confidence Church Of Christ

by
Ortha Green, with facts by Mrs. Lela Green
and Mrs. L.G. Lewis



(Photo by John W. Green)

The Church of Christ worshipping at Hickory Ridge was organized April 2, 1867 by William Harvey, Samuel Taylor was appointed Elder, also E.D. Wright, February 16, 1873 in presence of a call meeting of the Church of Christ worshipping at Hickory Ridge. Elder Davis was called to the chair and Bro. C. Barker was appointed Secretary, protem.

Resolved, First; that place of worship be moved to Confidence, in Wayne county, Iowa.

Resolved, Second; that five trustees be appointed to procure a lot in Confidence on which to build a house to worship God in."

On May 9, 1873 the trustees of the Church of Christ bought of H.G. and Julia May, lots 1,2,11,12, in Mays first addition to Confidence for the sum of \$75.00. The trustees were, A.N. Robertson, S. Jenkins, Thomas Querry, E.D. Wright and C. Barker. The Justice of the Peace who witnessed the transaction was Wm. Taylor.

On this property was a two story building and the first floor was the church home (upper story was used for Lodge meetings). Two doors one on each side were at the front of the building. The men went in the right hand door and sat in that side of the house, while the women went in the other door and were seated on that side. It was several years before any of the members were permitted to be seated any place in the church.

The church had its periods of growth and depression. In 1880 the building was nicknamed the "Christian Chapel."

A few of the oldest members, as known with date of joining, are; Wm. Carpenter 1876, Merniva Owens, 1876, Minor Querry 1891, Frank Carpenter, 1892, Stephen Van Benthussen, Clara Moore, Eva Murrow, Minor and Kate Atwell, Sylvestor and Amanda Jenkins, Lucinda Carpenter, A.A. Jennings, Elzan Yocum, Thomas Owens and many others.

In 1889, Stephen Van Benthussen, one of the oldest members was superintendent of the Sunday School, and his granddaughter, Margaret Van Benthussen (now Mrs. L.G. Lewis) won a bible for learning the most Bible verses. She committed to memory 313 verses. Her prize was given to her by her grandfather.

During this period, Stephen VanBenthussen was Choister, Mrs. Emma Moore, organist, Minor Querry, assistant organist, and members of the choir were; Mrs. Zella Wright, Marvel Querry, Dora Owens, Emma Moore, Samuel Showalter, Albert Querry, Wm. Donahue, Mack Owen, Minor Querry and Stephen Van Benthussen.

Some of the Pastors; Rev. Bannabay, one of the first, then W.E. Jones, in 1891, E. Emmons, 1905, Leonard Doreen, 1910, D.G. Dungan, 1911, F.A. Heilman 1915, W.G. Friend, 1916, W.R. Matsler, 1918-19-21 and Jack Frost in 1920.

The church building was now getting in a run down condition, so the members wished to build a new church. They bought the one third interest of the I.O.O.F., Confidence Lodge No. 125 from the lodge officials, A. Lewis, A. Querry and E. VanBenthussen at a cost of \$150,00. This was March 21, 1917. The church trustees making this purchase were; Wm.A. Green, A.G. Duer and Lewis Frye.

Officials and committees were selected and the new church was built in 1917. Carpenters and builders, WM.E. Green and Jesse George. Building Committee, L.G. Lewis, A.K. Green, J.M. Barker and E.A. Atwell. The church was dedicated April 21, 1918, with W.P. Clark as Dedicator. Officers of 1918 were; Elders L.G. Lewis and E. VanBenthussen, Deacons, E.A. Atwell, A.K. Green, R.F. Carpenter, E.B. Carpenter, C. Putman, J.M. Barker and S.A. Van Benthussen. Trustees, E.M. Owen, Wm.A. Green, and C.M. Putman, Sect.,

E.A. Atwell.

In 1923 a minister of adverse opinion came into the community and caused a division in the church, in fact he divided the church so thoroughly that the name of the church was taken down one night and faithful members had hard work in saving their church.

Around 1940, a group of this adverse opinion proceeded to try and confiscate the Church of Christ as their own. It was only by quick thinking and action that articles of Re-organization were written and on Nov. 9, 1943 the Church of Christ elected new officers as follows;

Frank Carpenter and Frank Baker, Elders, - Elmer Carpenter, Torcie Green and Leonard Alexander, Deacons, - Frank Carpenter, Frank Baker and Gertie Brown, Trustees - and Ella Duer Jones as Secretary.

The first wedding in the new church was, Pauline

Barker and Howard Vincent, June 1936, 2nd, Martha Hudson and Gail Green, June 2, 1940, the 3rd, Vera Buttz and Dale Peterson, June 25, 194-, 4th was Jean Terrill and Billy Joe Carpenter Aug. 17, 1953.

Long may the Church of Christ continue in Wright township.

Around 1955 the attendance dropped and the church closed its doors 1962, having served the community for 95 years. In 1969 on Nov. 10 the church and lots were sold at public auction. Fred Rissler of the Assembly of God denomination bought the church and lots.

Fry's Chapel

by
Warren Burton

Fry's Chapel Church located in the N.E. corner of the N.E. S.E. of Sec. 19-70-21 Union township. About 100 ft. east of the Railroad underpass, and was built around 1870.

The organization was completed in 1874. Before the church was built, services were held in School Houses near by. The building was not large, but there was one big door leading into the entry (vestibule), where two doors led into the main part of the church, one on each side leading to the aisles. Evidently the seat arrangement was in the center, and on each side, thus the two doors. When I attended church services there, as a small boy, I remember a banner which stood in the entry with the words "Organized 1874" on it.

This church was a Union organization. The United Brethren, Methodist Episcopal and Congregational all

held services there.

The old church was torn down about 1916. It was thought that Samuel Fry donated the land for the church.

Note; This article appeared in "Bits of History" put out by the Wayne County Historical Society in 1948.

Research reveals that it was through the efforts of Samuel Fry that the Chapel was built. He gave \$600.00 and solicited the balance. The church cost \$1400.00. It was originally United Brethren. Horace E. Goodell assisted in the building of Fry's Chapel. F.R. Fry was one time Sunday School superintendent.

O.G.

United Presbyterian, Jefferson Twp.

by
Robert Duncan

The United Presbyterian church was organized in 1871 by the Rev. Proudfit who was serving a church in Corydon. Their first home was the Higley School House which was located in the S.W., N.W. of Sec. 11 in Jefferson township. In 1882 they built a church one and one half miles east of the Decatur county line between Clay and Jefferson Twps. in Wayne county. Rev. A.R. Mumford was pastor in 1882 serving until the church was vacated in 1886 for three years. Service was resumed three years later or in 1889. Rev. M.B. Brownlee was pastor in 1887-91, Rev. H.J. Ball, 1891-95. They separated from the Allerton church in 1901, Rev. Murchie was pastor at that time and he went to Allerton as full time minister.

later they became incorporated (Book 1, page 369), thus;

To all whom these presents come, - Greetings;

Know ye that the persons whose names are herein subscribed, citizens of the State of Iowa having associated themselves together as a church and congregation for the purpose of worshiping Almighty God, by the name of United Presbyterian Church of Jefferson in connection with the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church of North America.

dated May 22, 1903. signed, Elders; E.S. McKeeman, D. Acheson, B. Cunningham, H.E. Shields, J.M. Cunningham, S.L. Cox, H.L. Northrup, E.A. Wallace, W.R. Beattie, and E.E. Wade.

Notary, David D. Shirley.

The church did not prosper and soon went out of existence.

This left the church without a pastor. Two years