

Zion Hill Methodist Church

by
D.R. Bettis

Photo loaned by Mrs. Will Kelly.



Zion Hill Methodist Protestant
Children's Day Program

From records loaned by Miles Bettis in March 1963, the Records Office and other information by Mrs. Ina Harr and Mr. and Mrs. Will Kelly.

The Zion Hill Methodist Church is located in Clinton township, one mile north of the Missouri line and seven miles south of the town of Allerton, Iowa, in Wayne County.

In the year of 1883 Rev. John Jellison, assisted by J.M. Bennett, on Nov. 30th began a series of meetings which lasted until Feb. 1884.

This work was first known as the Wayne Mission and remained for one year, then it was united to the North Missouri Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church and was called the "Warsaw Circuit". The first services were held in the Hornocker Schoolhouse with the following Charter members; Frank and Sarah Seward, H.D. Ockerman, D.B. Bettis, J.T. Shepherd, Samuel Points, T.J. Phillips, Sarah Moore, J.A. Hollett, Laura McDaniel, Nancy McDaniel, Anna Ockerman, B.E. Shane, Nancy Scott, Matilda McDaniel, W.H. Shane, Winnie Bettis, Calvin and Rhoda Gleason, Abraham Points, Minnie and Elzora Moreland, J. and Permilia Horberson, J.S. McDaniel, Josie McMealey, W.N. Moore, James Manley, Ollie Hornocker, Allie Hornocker, W.N. Moreland, William Ockerman, Debora M. Parker, Eldoia Edmondson, Mariah J. Kirager, J.S. and N.A. Riddle, Daniel Ockerman, Henry Bettis, M.M. Bettie, A. Rogers, Schuyler Amack, Wm.J. Briggs, Annie Codington, Meah Amack, Marcus and Rosana Cool, Susan Amack, Sherman and Flora Bettis, Jacob Ackley, Riley Bennett, Wm. and Josie Clow, Sarah Points, Martha Ockerman, Eliza J. Wilson, Rachel S. Ackley, James Bettis, Eliza Ackley, Julia, Phebe, D.F.

and G.M. Ockerman, Della Hornocker, Minerva Warren, Ella Warren, John Colins, Lizzie E. Ottoe, Alice Hollet, Charles S. Neal, Prudent Bettie, Nick Wilson, Charlie Shane, Carnelia Warren, Clara Timmons, Owney Mace, Lewis and Anna Kelly, Moses and Martha Leazer, Thomas and Sarah Pring, John and Sadie Cool, Robert and Martha Varner, John Emrick, Eddie Edmonds, C.C. Codington, Daniel Bettie, E.S. Ockerman, Lincoln Clow, Wright and Sylvia Knapp, and Wm. Ruddle.

They continued to hold services at the schoolhouse until 1898. Pastors at the schoolhouse were; Rev. Jeffries 1884, Matthew Sexsmith 1885-86, J.A. Willis 1887-1892, Thomas C. Puckett 1893, C.N. Leonard 1894-95, M.B. Kious 1896,97, Robert E. Tate 1897-98.

The pastor of 1898, the members of the church and with the help of the whole community decided to build a new church, so they elected three trustees as a building committee which were; H.D. Ockerman, D.B. Porter and Ame A. Bettis.

They started out to pick a site for the church. One was a quarter mile south of the church, another north-east in the timber, and some wanted to build it at the Greer graveyard. They decided to see Brother Andrew (Andy) Clow and see if they could get a half acre on the corner.

(In the Records office in book 43, page 545, we find that one Andrew J. Clow and Alice B. Clow his wife to the trustees, H.D. Ockerman, D.B. Porter and A.A. Bettis for the purpose of erecting a church, a strip of land 8 x 10 rods in the N.W., S.E.S.E. of Sec.15-67-22, Clinton Twp.

Dated January 6, 1898)

They went to Sewal and bought the lumber and

hired Burl Webber of Warsaw as head carpenter with David Ockerman as assistant. Everybody that wanted to helped. Several men took their teams and wagons to get the lumber. Millard Hornocker was driving the lead team, thus he drove the first load of lumber on the ground.

The church was finished in the fall of 1898 and it was dedicated to the Methodist Protestant Conference and given the name of "Zion Hill Methodist Protestant Church".

It was that way until the church union in 1940, then it was called "Zion Hill Methodist Church". Pastors here were; Rev. Robert E. Tate who was pastor when the church was built in 1898. Rev. C.A. McCampbell 1899-1900, J.C. Porter 1903, Thomas Rhoden 1904, H.C. Dameron, W.D. Lukins, Rev. Tague, Rev. Whitney, Sam. Bullars, Fay, Cooper, Calison, C.H. Murphey 1913-1924 eleven years, C.W.

Wimple 1926, Wesley Y. Cole was taken into the church and baptized July 26, 1931, S.P. Trostle was pastor in 1941 and one Sunday in August spoke on the subject "God's Challenge to the Zion Hill Church and Community".

Most all of the charter members at the school house along with many others became charter members of Zion Hill whose membership in 1899 was 130. The membership began to drop, 1904-121 members, 1913 77, 1918-52, 1924 47 and 1933 46 members.

They had a very active Young Peoples Christian Endeavor Society. A few of the long time organists were; Ethel Allen, Marie Clow, Elva Bettis, Mattie Byers Rick, Carrie Clow Parrott, Nira and Bessie Bettis, and others.

The church was sold to Carl Richardson who lived north of Clio, in 1956.

ZION HILL

by
Mrs. D.B. Bettis

There is a little white church on the hill,
Where we enter each Sunday quiet and still.
The choir and scholars are singing
To welcome each one still.
It is the pride of Clinton township,
God bless the givers,
That sponser the church on the hill.

Come to this church on the hill.
It is the Father's wish and will.
There the scripture is told and God's mercy unfold
In the little white church on the hill.
Forget the old auto for the long Sunday ride,
Just step in and safely glide
To the little old church on Clinton's best known hill.

Look out for temptations that are around us, I say.
There are more every week and more every day.
Come to our church with us and pray
That this nation be saved from sin and dismay.
And pray to the Father that peace be the will,
And come to the little white church on the hill.

There is Rev. J.L. Whitney, the merry old scout,
With a hearty hand shake when he is about
To guide us safely to God's golden shore.
If you will only enter our little church door.
A door with a welcome to all that will come,
To our little white church on the hill.

We grieve for our loved ones, they have gone before.
And wonder if we will be with them once more.
We must work for the Master and strive for the best,
And enter God's kingdom, when laid to rest.
Remember this poem, it is not very long,
It is neither in prose, nor yet in song.
Study the scripture and do God's will
And come to the little church on ZION HILL.

This poem appeared in the Times Republican, 1934.