

Christian Church Was Organized in 1868

Organization Meeting Was Held In Capps Hall, West Side Square

Had 30 Charter Members When Church Was Formed

The Church of Christ, also called the Christian Church, was organized in the spring of 1868 as the result of the preaching and labors of D. D. Miller of Michigan, who held a meeting in the Old Town Hall, on the west side of the square, known as Capps Hall.

There were several people in the town and country nearby, who had been members of the church for a number of years, and were anxious for a church organization in Mount Pulaski. These, with several new accessions by confession and baptism, were organized into a congregation and began at once the agitation of the proposition to erect a house of worship.

A church building was completed and dedicated in 1869 or 1870, costing about \$2,000. There were 30 charter members in this first organization. The first elders chosen to serve the church were Alfred Sams and Samuel Turley.

After a few years of service the work declined and worship almost ceased, but Aug. 15, 1887, the church was re-organized with 50 members and has continued with a steady growth since. The old church building being inadequate to the congregation's growth, it was decided to erect a new church building in 1906-07, during the ministry of D. A. Lindsay. The old building was moved back and the new structure was erected, costing about \$9,500.00. The new church house was dedicated April 14, 1907 by L. L. Carpenter.

Shortly after the old church was built, a Bible School was started which, through years of discouragement and encouragement has continued to grow.

The need for expanding the facilities of the church has been apparent for several years and on Nov. 13, 1958, ground was broken for the new addition. This new addition is another milestone in the history of the congregation.

Mrs. Harry Downing and Miss Sciota Horn turned the first shovel full of dirt; Harry Downing and Oran Scroggin turned the second shovel of dirt, and Sidney Lee, Eugene Downing, and Rev. Paul Burdick, the third shovel full. This service was a memorable one in the life of the church.

Construction started Nov. 14, 1958, and the building was used for the first time on Jan. 10, 1960. Serving on the building committee were the following: Eugene Downing, chairman; John Scroggin, Dean Cullen, Dale Boyd, and Lee McCain.

The finance committee was composed of Henry Stolz and Sidney Lee as co-chairmen; Merle Key, Virgil Wilham and Paul Burdick. The equipment and decorating committee was co-chaired by Don Baker, Merle Key and Wally Kautz, with Mrs. Lee McCain and Mrs. Elmer Durchholz, working with them.

The new addition which is approximately 34'x54', provides overflow room for the auditorium that will comfortably seat up to 300 persons. In the basement are seven classrooms, rest rooms, storage space and the heating plant. A modern office has also been provided for the minister on the main floor.

Members of the Church Board

Elders: Oliver Diez, Sidney Lee, Dean Cullen, Virgil Wilham, Don Baker, Ernie Billington.

Trustees: Henry Stolz, Sidney Lee, Keith Rothwell.

Deacons: Lee McCain, Merle Key, Wally Kautz, Dale Boyd, George Savage, John Scroggin, Richard Edwards, Tom Havener, Robert Faith, Larry Ball, Harold Mullins, Scott Fellows.

Deaconesses: Thelma Downing, Pauline Ey and June Boyd.

Ministers serving the church,

PRESENT PASTOR



Paul Burdick

included: J. E. Diehl, L. C. Goodrich, M. R. Elder, J. R. Speck, L. M. Robinson, C. B. Dabney, S. E. Fisher, G. H. Cline, D. A. Lindsay, W. H. Applegate, Gilbert Jones, J. Newton Cloe, J. H. Wright, D. H. Lovejoy, G. H. Zink, W. B. Morris, S. R. Reynolds, J. Wayne Staley, Carrol Langston, Robert Wilkes, Richard Hurley, John M. Webb, Paul P. Burdick.

NEW EDUCATION UNIT ADDED PAST YEAR



THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH...

The religious unrest that was being felt in America in the early 1800's brought about one of the fastest moving religious movements the world has ever known. This movement was known as the Restoration Movement. In the beginning it was unorganized and spontaneous, finding followers among every group of religious people of that day. Finally this movement began to be spearheaded by two men who were father and son. Thomas Campbell and his son, Alexander Campbell, were members of the Seceders branch of the Presbyterian Church, and they, along with many others, realized that the Church had departed from the pattern set in the New Testament. Their life was then devoted to restoring the Church to what the Church was in the days of the Apostles.

The Mount Pulaski Christian Church came into being as an indirect result of the westward movement of the Restoration movement, and to this day this church is dedicated to the same principles: those of restoring the Church to what she was in the days of the Apostles.

There are two slogans that have come out of the Restoration movement, both of which contain much truth and winsomeness. "Where the Scriptures speak, we speak," is the first of these slogans, and states very clearly the position we take concerning the teachings of the Word of God. "In essentials unity, in opinions liberty, and in all things charity," is the second slogan. This indicates the democratic nature of the Christian Church. It is not our aim to "reform" nor to "protest" but merely to "restore." Another slogan we have is: "Not the only Christians, but Christians only." In this we try to express to all other people our feeling on their religious convictions.

The Mount Pulaski Christian Church is evangelical in nature because we believe that men are lost until they come into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. We also firmly believe in Gospel preaching, because we believe that the Gospel is God's power unto salvation to everyone that believeth. We have no creed but Christ, for in Him, and Him only, do we believe. Our church government is autocratic in that Christ is the head of the Church. Our rule of faith and practice is the New Testament, and by it every person is judged, and God is the judge.

We believe that the future of the Mount Pulaski Christian Church is in the hands of God, and as long as there is a need for Christ's Church on earth, His Church will stand and proclaim to all the Gospel of salvation. The life of any community is raised or lowered according to the Spiritual conviction of the people of God. Therefore, we believe that the people of God must show forth to the world the Christ-centered life, and to that end we hold forth the Word of life that is able to save the souls of men.

Paul P. Burdick

Mount Pulaski Christian Church