

**HEBRON  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)**



**Church History**

**November 15, 2016**

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Historian



This edition of *"The History of the Hebron Christian Church"* was published in our Sesquicentennial Year to commemorate 150 years of service to God in the Hebron community.

Our Sesquicentennial Celebration will be held the weekend of April 7-9, 2017.

Friday, April 7

**Homecoming**

Dinner

Worship Service

Saturday, April 8

**Service**

Service Project

Workshops

Entertainment

Mt. Vernon Nazarene Jazz Quintet

Sunday, April 9

**Commitment**

Lenten Fair

Worship

Rev. Dr. Bill Edwards and Rev. Dr. Tamara Rodenberg

Dinner

Closing

Steering Committee: Lois Hideg, Theresa Ours, Chad Smathers, Chris Whitehead, David Dernberger, chair.

Sub-committee chairs: Martha Cable, worship; Rev. Chris Whitehead, guest preachers; Clifford Mason, service project; Angela Cornett, Lenten Fair; Sharon Scheidegger, workshops; Jessica Slater, meals; Dave Dernberger II, publicity; Will Harris, church directory; Kate Whitehead, invitations; Connie Wildermuth, treasurer; Marilyn Noris and Marianne Amspaugh, historical displays; David Dernberger, church history; Randy Fisher, trustees; Martha Cable, logo design.

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## History of Hebron Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

### The Disciples of Christ

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) traces its beginnings to the American frontier in the early nineteenth century. Like the nation in which it was founded, the movement valued freedom and individuality. An old adage guided its thinking: "In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, in all things charity."

Rejecting creeds and confessions, the bible was the source and norm for the movement. Where other Christian denominations required assent to one or more creeds or confessions, a simple biblical profession of faith was and remains the only test of fellowship. Baptism by immersion was practiced. Adherents were (and still are) expected to study the bible for themselves. Open communion remains a hallmark of Disciples worship.

The early leaders in our movement were Presbyterians. Thomas Campbell and his son, Alexander, were leaders of the Disciples in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and what is now West Virginia. Barton W. Stone was the leader of the Christians in Kentucky. They joined forces in 1832, hence the parenthetical name: The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

An important figure in the growth of the movement was Walter Scott, whose preaching spread the church throughout Ohio. Scott would go into a new town and talk to children, asking them to hold up their hand. He would point to each finger and say "faith, repentance, baptism, remission of sins, gift of the Holy Spirit." Then he would encourage the child to tell a parent that he would be preaching that gospel that very night.

Education was important to the movement, with colleges and universities founded across the country. Bethany College in West Virginia was founded by Alexander Campbell in 1840 for the education of ministers. Many other institutions of higher learning dot the landscape of America, of which Texas Christian University is the largest and best known.

### The Preamble to the Design of the Christian Church, 1986

As members of the Christian Church, we confess that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, and proclaim him Lord and Savior of the world.

In Christ's name and by his grace we accept our mission of witness and service to all people.

We rejoice in God, maker of heaven and earth, and in God's covenant of love which binds us to God and to one another.

Through baptism into Christ we enter into newness of life and are made one with the whole people of God.

In the communion of the Holy Spirit we are joined together in discipleship and obedience to Christ.

At the Table of the Lord we celebrate with thanksgiving the saving acts and presence of Christ.

Within the universal church we receive the gift of ministry and the light of scripture.

In the bonds of Christian faith we yield ourselves to God that we may serve the One whose kingdom has no end.

Blessing, glory, and honor be to God forever.

Amen

Three Disciples have served as Presidents of the United States. The first, James A Garfield, was a Disciples minister and President of Hiram College in Ohio. Lyndon Baines Johnson and Ronald Wilson Reagan were also Disciples.

In the early 2000's, an identity statement was developed that remains an important part of who we are: *"We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us."* Rev. Chris Whitehead

### Modest Beginnings

Our Disciple roots go back several years before our official founding. According to the *"Historical Sketches of Disciple Churches in Licking County"* dated 1869, "The first preaching here by a Disciple of Christ was by A.E. Myers in 1852, and by Dr. William Hayes in 1853 and 1854. Since that time by Andrew Burns, Asbury Gardner, William M. Taylor, T.J. Newcomb, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Hoffman, J.A. Walters, and James Grimm.... This is a young but energetic congregation whose numbers have increased rapidly until their present number has reached sixty. They have met with more than usual opposition from their Sectarian neighbors, but trusting in the justice of their cause, they are as firm as the rock upon which they are builded (sic), and have hitherto manfully and in the Christian spirit met all opposition successfully."

Elma Cass found earlier references to Hebron in "Memoirs of Elder Isaac Walter" published in 1857. "I arrived in Hebron, Ohio, the 24<sup>th</sup> having spoken at many points along the way...." "In Hebron, February 29<sup>th</sup>, 1832, (Elder Walter) constituted a church of which D.F. Ladley, then a deacon in the congregation, speaks 'Last spring, a Christian Church was planted here by Elder Isaac N. Walter, which consisted of only seven members. It has increased to thirty-three and the prospect is still flattering.'" "(Elder Walter) preached a sermon in Hebron on the sudden and unexpected death of President Harrison...." President Harrison died April 4, 1841.

Erma Jean Loveland in a paper on the life of George Alkire prepared at Abilene Christian University noted that "The *Christian Palladium* reported that the Ohio Central and Deer Creek Conferences met in Hebron, Ohio, on December 26, 1834. Derostus F. Ladley was elected president, William B. Harding was secretary. Others present included: George Alkire, James Hayes, Harry Ashley."

Officially, the Hebron Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Hebron, Ohio, formerly known as the Church of Christ (Disciples), was organized by the Reverend Timothy J. Newcomb, March 23, 1867. It was formed by several

The **York Street Church** or Campbellite Church was located east of York Street and north of Refugee Road in the "York Street Cemetery". The site is owned and maintained by the Harrison Township Trustees. The church was dedicated by Alexander Campbell in September 1855 and closed in September 1919. According to Donna Braig in "My Buckeye Lake Story" the York Street church bell was purchased by the Buckeye Lake Community Church in 1926 for \$50. The bell was moved to the bell tower along Walnut Road when their new church was built.

people who had attended the York Street Church, where Alexander Campbell had preached and dedicated the church. His influence was felt throughout this area, and here in Hebron a new church emerged through the efforts of some members from York Street uniting with some interested ones here in this locality. It was known in early days as the Disciple Church. We met in a small brick building located across from the Masonic Temple on the northeast corner of High and North Streets. It had been built by the Presbyterians. It was in use about ten years.

### A Permanent Home

Benjamin Franklin, an excellent preacher and writer whose views resembled closely those of Alexander Campbell, held an evangelistic meeting, which resulted in a large number of additions to the church. The brick building was no longer large enough for the congregation, so plans were made for a new church building. Three lots on West Main Street were obtained by the five trustees, Ira Kelsey, John Voorhees, Israel Rees, Abraham Swartz and Israel M. Long from Isabel Murch, for the price of two hundred dollars. On these lots the new building was erected and dedicated in 1878 by Timothy J. Newcomb, the minister who had organized the church. It is interesting to note that Rev. Newcomb had held a prolonged meeting at the York Street Church in the month of February before dedicating this one in March.

The new church faced Main Street with an entrance of double doors. There was a central aisle with two rows of seats facing the pulpit which was in the north end. On either side of the pulpit were two short rows of seats also facing the pulpit. Those on the west side, where the elders and deacons sat, were known as the "Amen Corner."

Behind the pulpit stood a horse-hair sofa with matching chairs on either side. A mechanical clock, which hung for many years in the sanctuary, is now in the library. The sofa, pulpit and original communion table are still in use.

The church was heated by two coal stoves, one on each side with very long stovepipes. There was a seat facing each of the stoves, a convenient place to sit and warm up in very cold weather before going to the customary seats; the women sitting on the right side of the church and the men on the left side. There was a large central lighting fixture with kerosene lamps and wall lamps. Anderson Blade, a faithful member, took care of the church for many years. He knew just how to fire the stoves to get the best results. There was always the chore of filling the lamps and cleaning the chimneys. Later after gas wells were drilled around Hebron, we had gas heating and lighting, which was quite an innovation.

**Extra!** Read "Bell" in the appendix for a fictional account of the history of our church bell.

The earliest records have not been found so most our early history was compiled from memory and information shared in stories and recollections from the families of early members of the Hebron church. Some names in the early years of the church were Stoolfire,

Rees, Jones, Long, Swartz, Neel, Voorhees, Carmel, Zirkle, Madden, Embrey, Dunlap, Hutzell, Mowery, Bumgardner, White, Bebout, Myers, Seibert, Messick and Blade. The first elders were Charles Stoolfire and Ira Kelsey, then later William Bebout and Walter Andrews. Mrs. Nancy (Long) Tennant reported in a letter to her niece, Ethel Slater that the young people of the congregation purchased a communion set. These two plates and two chalices were used for many years until a new set with individual cups was purchased.

### Visiting Preachers and Evangelists

For the first 35 years we did not have a full-time preacher and the church was ministered by visiting preachers and evangelists, who would hold extended meetings and after staying a time, would leave to visit other congregations. They received their board and keep but very little money. We were fortunate in having some very able men as Hebron's location made it more accessible to travel in those days. Our first "Timothy" Rev. George Crites recalled in a letter in 1917 to the congregation on the golden anniversary of the church that "he remembered that as a boy of ten in 1867 seeing Timothy J. Newcomb and Uncle Josie Walters on the towpath of the Ohio canal just north of the pike bridge baptizing.... Then on February 22, 1873 during a meeting held by Benjamin Franklin, T.N. Madden baptized me in the canal near the old warehouse just at sundown, thermometer at three degrees below zero, eighteen inches of ice on the canal, people sleigh riding on its surface, we met then in the old brick church." He also "remembered how proud we all were in 1879, when we met for the first time in the new building along the pike, and Timothy J. Newcomb preached the dedicatory sermon, but did not have to raise money, for it was all paid for."

Some who visited us and held meetings were J.F. Rowe, J.A. Barr, W.E. Ellmore, F.D. Ferrell, Alanson Wilcox, Dr. James S. Cook and his son Walter Scott Cook who ministered to us in the late 1890's. W.E. Ellmore visited the church here at several different times. He wrote a book of poems, published in 1892, some of which were written here at Hebron. The book "Maple Valley Poems" has one entitled "The Old Brick on the Hill," which was about the old Israel Rees Homestead.

### Our First Resident Minister

The Reverend Thomas N. Madden was our first resident minister and many times he was called to serve other churches. It was common for

**Thomas Newton Madden** was born August 7, 1843 at Uniontown, Muskingum County, Ohio; died January 13, 1931 at Bartow, Florida (87 years, 5 months, 6 days). He served in the Civil War having fought at the battle of New Market, Virginia. For his service he received a hand-written letter granting him two years of free tuition to the Theological School in Granville. He married Nancy Virginia Zirkle, born July 8, 1848 in the Shenandoah Valley, Rockingham County, Virginia; died December 30, 1919 at Hebron (71 years, 5 months, 22 days). Both are buried in the Hebron Cemetery. They raised a large family. He preached at Hebron, Violet Chapel, Rocky Fork, Newark Central and York Street northwest of Kirkersville.



him to walk to Newark, or on winter occasions skate there on the Ohio Canal. He also helped get the Rocky Fork Church of Christ started. The elders then would serve as lay preachers. The scripture reading was more often taken from the New Testament, the central theme being the observance of communion on each Lord's Day. The music was congregational singing without a musical instrument. When Rev. Madden was present, he used his tuning fork and was a good singer. He really knew his Bible and could present the message very clearly. He based his sermons on the teaching of Christ and His apostles. The church minutes record that "Bro T.N. Madden began preaching for this congregation as per agreement" and would be paid \$250 per year "if it could be raised."

Rev. Harry H. Elwinger was the pastor from June 1, 1902 to June 1, 1905. Mrs. Elwinger was very active in all the church work and helped organize a women's missionary society. In June 1903 a roll call recorded "about 170 members." Rev. E.P. Kempfer succeeded Rev. Elwinger and entered into the work with the same zeal as did his predecessor.

Rev. S.C Pierce succeeded him but owing to his wife's health was with us less than a year. He accepted a pastorate in Texas. After giving up two good pastors in a short time, we were fortunate in securing the service of Rev. Frank A. Higgins in 1908. He was influential with the young people of the church. He had a large class of young men. He would go downtown and enter into their activities and then bring them along to the church. In this way he had a large increase in attendance and was able to guide them into wholesome recreation and into the Sunday School. Mrs. Higgins was a very capable and helpful pastor's wife. She had a Queen Esther circle for the girls. The centennial celebration of the founding of our church movement was held in Pittsburgh in 1909 and some from this church were privileged to attend. This made for enthusiasm in our own church. Rev. Higgins terminated his pastorate in 1911.



Rev. Henry Carter  
Mrs. Carter and  
Doris, circa 1915

Rev. Thomas B. Shearer became our new pastor in 1911, continuing the emphasis on young people. Succeeding Rev. Shearer was Rev. H.H. Carter in 1914. He and Mrs. Carter were from England and very conscientious in their work. They were becoming accustomed to our ways, which were somewhat different to theirs. Mr. Carter rode his bicycle as had been his custom and was faithful in calling on his church members and others whom he thought would be interested. Mrs. Carter was the teacher of the Loyal Women's Class while she was here.

On January 1, 1915, the Articles of Incorporation of the Hebron Church of Christ were signed by Ohio Secretary of State E.Q. Hillbrant and our five trustees: Ed Avery, A. Ewing Savage, Joseph H. Hutzell, Darl Sands and Robert Embrey.

## Golden Anniversary

In 1917, we celebrated our fiftieth anniversary. Invitations were sent out, printed in gold, and a special program and dinner were prepared. Miss Clara Rees was the correspondent with the former ministers. Rev. and Mrs. Carter closed a six-year pastorate here to go to Millersburg, Ohio. Rev. R.M. Eby was our next pastor and resumed the same program as was being carried on. The church had a large young people's society, Christian Endeavor, at that time.

Rev. John A. Goddard followed. He was an excellent speaker and a good pastor. He and Mrs. Goddard and their boys had an interesting Christian home and were influential in church and community. Their youngest boy, Sammy, became superintendent of the Licking County Children's Home in his adulthood. J.A. closed his pastorate here in 1923. Rev. Goddard led a two-week revival meeting at our church in the late 1930's. He retired to Newark.



WILLIAM C. WORSTAL, Pastor

Rev. William C. Worstell became our pastor in 1923. This was a period in our church which was outstanding. The parsonage was remodeled and indoor plumbing was installed in both the parsonage and the church. Our Sunday School came into its own. Mrs. Worstell taught a class of high school girls known as the Lamda Sigma Bible Class. Mr. Worstell taught a large Loyal Men's Bible Class. In January 1933 the church hosted the County Convention. Rev. Eli Anthony was pastor of the Hebron Methodist Church at that time and they worked together closely. The young people often had union meetings, and the families were close, lifelong friends. Both ministers held long pastorates here and brought a spirit of ecumenicalism to the Hebron churches.

Rev. Dr. Walter Mansell was our pastor from 1936 to 1939. He was a graduate of Bethany College in the 1890's and had held several large pastorates and was nearing retirement. He was an able speaker and he and Mrs. Mansell carried on an active ministry. They retired to Florida.

## The War Years

Rev. Leonidas E. Evans came to us from the Akron area, a graduate of Drake University in Iowa. He and Mrs. Fay Evans worked closely together in all of their service. Mrs. Evans served in the pulpit when Rev. Evans was at conventions or unable to be present. She was active in the mission work of the church. In one year, fifty-four books were read by the members. We sent a donation toward the building of a new boys' dormitory at Southern Christian Institute, and received a gavel which the boys had made from wood on the campus. There were some teachers' training courses held. Mrs. George Mayer was an efficient teacher in one course. Rev. Evans had a mid-week Bible study and a Layman's League for men. He especially enjoyed music and often rendered solos in church service; "My Task" was his favorite song. He encouraged the choir. Rev. Evans and wife

Fay served our church efficiently and lovingly and moved on in August 1941 to take a pastorate in Nelsonville. Later they served at Wellsville, Ohio and Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania. They retired to the Lenoir Memorial Home in Columbia, Missouri, a facility operated by our national church organization.

Rev. Harry F. Hannum became our pastor in September 1941. He had been the assistant to Rev. P.H. Welsheimer in the Canton area. Rev. Hannum organized a volleyball league and coached the church team. He served as a deputy air-raid warden and the board minutes of February 8, 1943 record that the meeting was held "in a blackout."

In March 1942, we observed our seventy-fifth anniversary. Three former pastors joined us for the day: Rev. Goddard and Rev. Worstell were the guest speakers. Rev. Evans led the Song Service and rendered a vocal solo. Some of our former musicians were present: Mrs. Gladys (Stadden) Bell, Ewing Savage, and Margaret Slater. Each rendered special numbers. Mrs. Clarence Henry favored us with a solo. Our new organ was dedicated. The anniversary committee consisted of Philberta Hutzell, chairman, Mrs. Charles W. Slater, William Woolard, Frank Stadden, Nellie Hutzell, May Madden and Mrs.

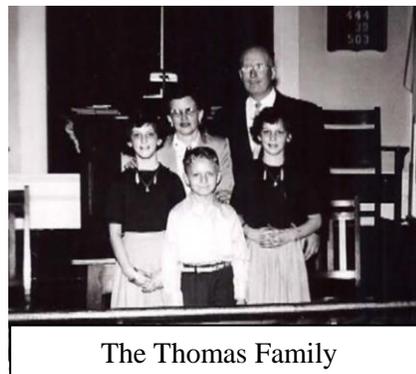
Charles Morrison. Rev. Hannum held a two-week evangelistic meeting following the celebration. Rev. Hannum resigned in March 1943 with the intention of furthering his education. He retired in Canton, Ohio.

Rev. Alvin B. Amos became our next pastor. He was with us less than a year as he left to go on with his college education. Lyle Scott Husan spent that summer here working along with Rev. Amos with the youth. He became a minister and retired from a pastorate in Peoria, Illinois.

## The Baby Boom

Rev. Lester Snell began his pastorate in May 1945. He stressed the youth program and there was a large Christian Youth Fellowship led by Jesse and Pauline Ours. The Vacation Bible School was most successful. There was a good choir with Miss Patti Hasson as organist. Rev. Snell was a very good pastor and the church grew even though he suffered a serious illness for a while. Mrs. Elizabeth Snell was capable and served in the pulpit part-time. He closed his service here in May 1951.

Rev. Robert Thomas followed Rev. Snell in July 1951. With the postwar baby boom the church was filled with young families with children. There was a large men's fellowship and a very active youth fellowship.



The Thomas Family

A popular activity was the occasional Sunday evening film...always on suitable themes. Several young people came into the church. Mrs. Thomas conducted Junior Church in the fellowship hall. The Junior Choir was formed for youth from grades 3 through 8. Rev. Thomas regularly presented messages over a local radio station, as did Rev. Smith.

Rev. Vanus Smith began his ministry in April 1955. He and Dorothy were well received into our church and community and were active in a number of community organizations. All departments of our church were engaged and Rev.



Smith encouraged classes and small groups to sponsor events and church needs with time and money. The attendance increased and many were added to the church roll. At the Easter service in 1959 there were thirty-one additions. A building fund was started with dreams of adding an educational wing to the church. The Smiths were with us ten years and left to take a pastorate in Florida.

Rev. Delbert Mills was secured as our interim pastor and although he was from another denomination his interesting sermons helped us appreciate that we are all one in Christ's Church. Rev. Ross Gonser of Newark served when Rev. Mills could not be here.

### Centennial

Rev. George E. Wright began his ministry in January 1966. The work went forward under his leadership with his sermons of Christian faith, his tireless energy and friendly spirit. His wife Esther was a blessing as his helper and a loving caretaker of children in the community. Her service as head cook at Camp Christian served the entire state.



As we were looking toward the centennial of the church (1967), much activity ensued. A directory of the church was published listing all officers and all families in the church. A week of special meetings included sermons by Dr. D.S. Mills; Dr. Harold Monroe, executive secretary of the Ohio Society of Christian Churches; Rev. Kenneth Johnston, pastor Hebron Methodist Church; Rev. Arthur Long, pastor of the Crooksville Christian Church; Dr. Floyd Faust, Broad Street Christian Church, Columbus; Mary Alice Flint, Ohio CWF director; Rev. Harry Hannum, Youngstown; Rev. Ray Bosh, Hiram College and Camp Christian director; and Dr. A. Dale Fiers, executive secretary of the International Convention of Christian Churches. Music, prayer, praise, skits, fellowship and a banquet on Sunday evening made the celebration one to be remembered and a tribute to our Lord God and His Son Jesus Christ in whose name we gather to worship.

In 1971, we participated in a Hebron area-wide "Crusade for Christ" held March 1-15 in the Hebron School gym. The evangelist team made preparations for a week of preaching by Dr. E.J. Daniels of Orlando, Florida. Many decisions were made to change lives and it was a stirring experience for all who took part. Many of our members joined with other Christians to sing in the choir and

otherwise take part in this worship experience. The total cost shared by the area churches was \$3,196.

In January 1976 our name was officially changed from the Hebron Church of Christ to the Hebron Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) according to the Provisional Design for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) adopted at the 1968 general assembly in Kansas City. A new lighted sign board soon proclaimed our new name to the community.

Rev. Wright was hired as a part-time pastor. It is hard to believe that he was able to serve us through the centennial and other special events while working a full-time job at Federal Glass in Columbus. There were many nights when the lights in George's study burned into the wee hours of the morning. Later in his ministry at Hebron he took a medical retirement from Federal Glass and became our full time pastor. Rev. Wright served our church for eleven years and left in October 1977 for a pastorate in Sylvania, Ohio. He later returned as a member and minister and elder emeritus until his death in June 1995. The 1995 Annual Report of the Hebron Christian Church was dedicated to his memory.

Rev. E.C. Traylor came to us in October 1977 from Zanesville as an interim minister. He and his wife Naomi served our church for 13 months. His strong sermons and lively personality were instructional and endearing. Our baptistry was out of commission for part of his ministry and so he baptized members of the Ray family in Buckeye Lake near their home.

In November 1978, Rev. Keith Hutchings began his ministry. During this time we completed the remodeling of the sanctuary and made a number of outside improvements to prolong the life and service of our church building. His wife Katherine was active in the Christian Women's Fellowship and with the Christian Education committee. Rev. Hutchings received his Honored Minister's Pin on July 27, 1986 along with a 72-square quilt commemorating their seven years of service at Hebron. Each square of the quilt was made by a group or family in the church. Irene Miller assembled the squares and turned the quilt into a finished masterpiece. Keith and Katherine retired to Peoria, Illinois, where he served in a number of interim assignments until his death in 2009.



### Stability

On August 1, 1986, Rev. Constance K. Strawn began her interim at Hebron and became our first woman pastor. Connie came to us from Marion, Ohio. She helped us focus on what we expected from a fulltime pastor. Once a month she presented a children's sermon in addition to the regular sermon. She worked closely with our elders to improve our spiritual shepherding techniques.



Rev. Charles Morgan Wickizer began his pastorate on August 16, 1987. Morgan was a graduate of the Methodist Theological School of Ohio in Delaware. He was ordained on September 13, 1987 in the Hocking Valley Parish where Rev.

Paul Johnson was his mentor. Pastor Morgan coached us in Christian ethics through his sermons and witness. He was active in all children's and youth activities and always played a key role in Junior Choir and Bible School productions. He created "Adventures in God," a summer camping and travel experience for 5<sup>th</sup> graders and served as a camp counselor at Camp Christian. His wife Lisa was a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine graduating from Ohio State University. He left Hebron after ten years having received a call to serve at St. Andrew Christian Church in Powell.

Rev. Jeffery B. Gill began his ministry at Hebron in September 1, 1999. He was a graduate of Purdue and received his Master of Divinity from Christian Theological Seminary. He was very involved in the community and was a student, writer and lecturer of local history. Jeff served on the Regional Restructure Committee helping the committee remain committed to their Disciple roots. He helped us focus on our long term vision, organization and role in the community and lead us in studies of *"The Purpose Driven Life"* and *"The Purpose Driven Church."* He also organized several couples weekend retreats for young married couples. Jeff's wife, Dr. Joyce Meredith, was active with the choir and music in the church. Jeff left full-time ministry at the end of his time in Hebron, then was called to be pastor of Central Christian Church in Newark in 2012. Rev. Larry Miracle served as our interim pastor.



Rev. Steven P. Brown accepted our call on June 1, 2006 from the First Christian Church of Athens, Ohio. He graduated from Hiram College and the Christian Theological Seminary. A few months after arriving in Hebron he married Dana Meadows from Steubenville. Dana worked in law enforcement and security. Pastor Steve accepted a call to be the Senior Minister at the Central Christian Church in Warren, Ohio in March 2011. While in Hebron he initiated an All Saints commemoration service and organized a living tableau communion service for Maundy Thursday.



Pastor John Romig served as a guest pastor from April to October 2011. Pastor John led an emotional worship service on September 11, 2011 to commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. The service included local first responders and concluded with the erection of a steel cross outside the church. Pastor John was called to serve the Gender Road Christian Church in Canal Winchester.

## Renewal

In November 2011, Rev. Nik Donges became our intentional interim minister and led us through a visioning process in preparation for calling a new pastor. Small groups, prayer triads and the elders developed our vision statement:

*“Hebron Christian Church is on a mission from God. He is calling us each day to grow our spiritual lives and be living examples of Jesus. Adapting to changes that occur around us, we prayerfully listen with open hearts and minds for what God is calling us to be. He instills in us a renewed energy to work together to serve each other, the community and beyond.”*

**Our Mission Statement**

**Praise God**

**Serve Christ**

**Grow in the Spirit**



In January 2013, Rev. Chris Whitehead answered the call to become our 22<sup>nd</sup> full time pastor. He and his wife, Kate, moved into the parsonage and immersed themselves into the life of the church. Rev. Chris began his ministry by meeting with small groups in private homes. One result of these in-home sessions was the launch of a series of book studies where contemporary Christian issues were explored and discussed. In 2014 the congregation participated in a stewardship campaign, “From

Bread & Wine to Faith and Giving: A Journey into the Spiritual Discipline of Generosity.” The campaign was undertaken to address declining attendance and giving. Rev. Chris presided over the congregation as we celebrated our sesquicentennial in April 2017.

**Timothy**

When a person answers God’s call and is sent forth from the home congregation to serve as a professional minister, that person is called a Timothy. Hebron Christian has been blessed over the years to send forth several Timothy’s.

**For this reason I am sending to you Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord. He will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 4:17**

Rev. George Crites helped establish Newark Central Christian served as their first pastor from 1884 to 1889. He grew up in Hebron and was ordained by Rev. John F. Rowe in 1886. In 1892 and 1893 he held a protracted meeting in Hebron that resulted in forty-seven additions to the church. In 1902 he was listed as an active evangelist for the Ohio Society.

Rev. O.G. (Ril) White and D.R. (Del) Bebout went from this church to Bethany College in 1894 to study for the ministry. Both graduated in 1898. Each had long and rewarding careers. Rev. White was pastor of churches in West Virginia and Ohio and served as the State Secretary of West Virginia Disciples. He also served as agent for his alma mater, Bethany College. He held a pastorate for many years in Sebring, Florida, where he and his wife, Lena Madden White,

retired. Rev. White later lived with his daughter Lois (White) Adams in Canton and died at age 100.

Rev. Bebout held pastorates in Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. He was Field Secretary for Illinois churches and entered the Home Mission field as Bible Professor at South Christian Institute at Edwards, Mississippi. He and his wife, Margaret (Meneely) Bebout, retired in Jackson, Mississippi. They were active in the First Christian Church for several years where they endeared themselves to all who knew them. They went back frequently to S.C.I. while Rev. Long and his family were there. He also had a long life of Christian service and died in 1948 at age 85.

Miss Helen Stoolfire entered Hiram College with the intention of becoming a missionary. She belonged to a Social Settlement Board that established Hiram House in 1896 in Cleveland. Hiram House served as a neighborhood center for more than 50 years. She died at age 23 without realizing her dream of missionary service.

Rev. Daniel Mayer was the son of Elder George Mayer. He was asked to stand in as a guest preacher in the fall of 1941, however no other information has been found about Daniel or his ministry.

Miss Dorothy Edwards went from this church to take nurse's training and graduated from Ohio State University in 1954. She went to Florida with Rev. Updegraph and into Christian Service as a nurse in a hospital in Haiti (similar to Dr. Albert Schweitzer's hospital) and then to Hawaii instructing exchange students who were entering the nursing program.

Rev. Randy Clay, son of Sherman and Evelyn Clay, is president of Suran Systems, Inc. of Lexington, KY. Randy and his wife Sue founded the company, which produces computer software systems for churches worldwide and provides education and training in church administration. He was ordained in Hebron May 23, 1982 after graduating from Bethany College and Lexington Theological Seminary. Randy served as the pastor of churches in Ludlow, Hubbard and Versailles, KY.

Rev. Timothy Mason served as pastor of the St. Louisville Church of Christ. He is currently the natural resources manager for Dawes Arboretum in Jacksontown and served on the Board of Park District Commissioners for Licking County. He occasionally serves as a supply preacher. Tim is the son of Wilbur and Ila Mason. He and his wife Patsy have two children.

Rev. Kirk Bruce was ordained on January 10, 1993 as pastor of The Stone Creek United Church of Christ. Kirk received his divinity degree from the Methodist Theological Seminary in Delaware, Ohio. He has been the pastor of the Pilgrim UCC in Cuyahoga Falls since 2000. He and his wife Cheryl have three children.

In 1971 a scholarship fund was started with the purpose of encouraging and enabling young people to enter Christian service. Elizabeth Morgan chaired the first scholarship committee with Carrie B. Hutzell and David Dernberger, committee members. In July 1976 the fund was named The Carrie B. Hutzell Memorial Scholarship Fund in recognition of a gift from her estate honoring her many years as an educator, both in the Hebron School system and in the church.

Grants and interest-free loans are given to students who are studying for careers in Christian service including the ministry, education, health care and public service. Cheryl Clay Maslowski received the first grant from the committee and is currently teaching in the Lakewood school system. Over the years more than 40 people have received financial aid from the scholarship fund. Nearly all who have borrowed from the fund have repaid their loans in full. Carrie B. Hutzell was named to the Lakewood Wall of Fame in September 2007.

### Christian Education

Our first Sunday School was organized about 1890 with William Bebout as the superintendent followed by D.R. Bebout. As the younger people were anxious for an organ, D.R. was (after much persuasion) able to obtain the consent of the elders and deacons to allow them to have an organ to be used for Sunday School, but not in the church service. Mary (Vorhees) Kirk was the first organist. Miss Florence Neel, Lena (Madden) White, Dora (Millhouse) Culley and Mrs. O.G. White were some who played for Sunday School. Lida (White) Chism's Sunday School class bought the second organ. Many of those members served the church throughout their lives, later as members of the Loyal Women's Class. Indus (Madden) Marriot followed as the next superintendent. Some of the first officers and teachers were Emily Stoolfire, Helen Stoolfire, Clara (Rees) Vorhees, Myrtle (White) Bebout, John Cherry Neel, Philberta Hutzell, Edna (Fristoe) Walters and May Madden.

Philberta Hutzell was a Sunday School teacher in the 1890's and later became Sunday School Superintendent. She was especially interested in the Primary Department. She became an elementary supervisor in the county school system, and during all the years that she was in public school work, she always found time to devote to her church. She was an active member of the Hebron Church for 78 years and a member of the Missionary Society for 64 years. She was a Christian influence on many young women of the church who entered the teaching profession.

**Extra!** Read the "*Loyal Women's Bible Class History*" written by Dessie Justice, 1969, in the appendix.

In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century classes were still divided by gender. Various pastors started classes for boys, girls, young men and young women. Rev. Thomas B. Shearer organized The Young Married Women's Class in 1913. It later became The Loyal Women's Class. Mrs. Bernard Bevelhymmer was the first teacher. This class was very active for many years and helped in all projects of the church. They purchased our first individual communion cups about 1913.

In the 1920's Catherine (Justice) Cass became the faithful superintendent of the Primary Department and served in this capacity for many years. Gladys (Price) Oldaker served as pianist. Mildred (Price) Green taught the Primary Beginners class and later served as the Sunday School treasurer. Elma (Sellers) Cass was the primary assistant and taught the music. Later she taught at Chauncey, Newark Central and Southern Christian Institute, returning here later.

The young people presented Primary Department lessons at Sunday School conventions. They put on programs at Violet Chapel, Old Stone Church, and Newark Central. It is believed that the first Vacation Bible School was held during this era. Dean Stadden served as Sunday School superintendent for a most lengthy period, and was recognized by the editor of *The Lookout*.

The Friendly Class was organized in 1936 by Mrs. Myrtle Bebout as the Win-a-couple Class and became known for its good works. Teachers that followed were Philberta Hutzell, Virginia Artz, Dorothy Smith, Dale McFarland, Nora Lee Orr, John D. Slater, Charles E. Slater, Nancy Dunkel, Martha Cable and Dave Dernberger II. A number of other adults filled in from time to time. Many Christian Education leaders and teachers came out of this class. The Friendly Class celebrated 75 years in 2011.

In the 1960's our Sunday School enrollment peaked at 180 fueled by the post-war baby boom and the nationwide popularity of main-line Protestant churches. Sunday school records show that in May 1963, the average Sunday school attendance was 136 students spread across 16 classes. To accommodate the large numbers, the fellowship hall was divided into five classrooms by rolling partitions. Partitions were first mentioned in 1939 board minutes to solve "the problem of disturbances in the primary classes." A central area was left for the opening assembly. Benches were utilized for the opening. Other classes met in each of the downstairs classrooms, all six of the upstairs classrooms, the belfry room, the choir loft, and even in the parsonage living room. The church reverberated with children's voices singing "The B.I.B.L.E.," "Praise Ye the Lord," and "We're Building Up the Temple." Adult classes took on a number of church projects and served many dinners to raise money. Jesse Ours served as Sunday School Superintendent through this long period of growth.

In the 70's and 80's the Christian Education committee was very active working to sponsor a church-wide event nearly every month. They carried on an exceptional program, which included teacher appreciation dinners, Lenten Fairs, Everybody's Birthday Party, picnics, caroling, harvest parties, New Year's Eve celebrations, Fireman's Sunday, outdoor worship and the annual camporee in the backyard...all made for our awareness of God's love working in the congregation and an appreciation for His blessings. Christian Ed chairmen included Charles E. Slater, Shirley Curran, David Dernberger, Shirley Neel, Vivian Dernberger, Debbie Bixler, Mark Slater, Mike Halter, Kim Halter, Martha Cable and Angela Cornett.

**Sunday School Classes  
May 1963  
Average attendance, 136**

**Cradle Roll**

60 - Primary in basement  
5 - Primary 3<sup>rd</sup> grade  
9 - Juniors 4<sup>th</sup> grade  
11 - Juniors 5<sup>th</sup> grade  
10 - Intermediate 5-6  
4 - Junior High 7-8  
3 - Senior High 9-12  
10 - Friendly Class  
12 - Men's Class  
12 - Loyal Women

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Where have they all gone?

## Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School is mentioned in 1920 board minutes when Rev. Elby was pastor. It is unknown whether or not there were summer Bible schools before that date. Over the years VBS has followed a number of formats from mornings to evenings, with and without adult classes and with and without cooperation with other churches. The elements have remained constant: singing, Bible Study, crafts, games and a snack. In the 1940's VBS was expanded to 3 weeks. In the 1950's our church worked with the Methodist and Community churches and in 1953 VBS was moved to Hebron School to accommodate 160 students and over 40 teachers and helpers. In 1954 the registration exceeded 250 students. Catherine Cass and Becky Ours were two from our congregation who provided leadership for this community effort. Often Bible School ended with a picnic and program.

More recently VBS has been condensed to five evening sessions of two hours each. Some years commercially prepared material with elaborate themes was used and in other years the director took a more traditional approach, even preparing all material in-house. Recent Bible Schools have focused on one or more service projects that aligned with the week's theme. Angela Cornett has directed VBS since 2007.

In February 2007, the Christian Education committee held a Winter Bible School. In 2008 WBS students knitted over 300 hats and blankets for newborns. The idea for WBS grew from an evening study group called Soup and Scripture headed by Kim Halter with the purpose to warm your spirit and body on cold winter evenings. From 2010 WBS sessions featured topics from party planning to home elder care, often inviting guest speakers to share specific knowledge and skill.

## Renovation and Expansion

In January 1915 the membership decided to remodel and build an addition to the church and a building committee Dudley Avery, Thomas Duffel, Ray Walters, Jacob Mowry and Thomas N. Madden was named. Dudley Avery served as the chairman and Thomas Madden was secretary. Later Miss Clara Rees and Mrs. Bevelhimer were added to the committee. Ground was broken on February 26<sup>th</sup> and over the next nine months, Dudley Avery, a carpenter, and Thomas Duffel, a mason, devoted most of their time to the project. Thomas Madden kept a written record of the hours worked in a school tablet. Nearly 60 men invested over 2500 hours to complete the construction. Several farmers brought their teams to handle excavation and heavier work. Miss Rees and Mrs. Bevelhimer were in charge of furnishing and decorating. The work was done at a cost of \$7,397 which was paid in full after three years and nine months. The newly remodeled church was rededicated on December 20, 1915 by Dr. Miner Lee Bates, president of Hiram College.

Learn more about the church expansion in the Appendices.

The expansion was based on the Akron plan which “integrated the worship space and Sunday school space...so that the two functions are in closer communication.” The Akron plan became popular following the Civil War and was used by many Methodist, Presbyterian and Disciples churches built or remodeled in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The building was expanded to the east with the addition of six classrooms, three on the main floor and three on the balcony level. At the same time the pulpit was moved from the north end of the church to the west side on a raised platform which included a choir loft. A baptistery and changing rooms were added. The building was raised several feet to accommodate a fellowship hall and the installation of central heating (a coal-fired furnace). The sanctuary floor was sloped toward the platform and pews were installed in the current curved configuration. The classrooms on the main floor were separated from the sanctuary by folding doors which could be opened to expand worship space and accommodate larger crowds. As the years passed one classroom was converted to the nursery and another to the library. The third serves as a classroom, the choir room and the entrance from the elevator to the sanctuary. While some of the original flexibility has been lost, the balcony classrooms can still be converted to worship space when needed.

Rest rooms with flush toilets were added under the bell tower in 1929. Charles W. Slater, Dean Stadden, Darl Sands, Jesse Walters, Gleason Enterline and Rev. Worstall did the construction. Because the toilets had to be higher than the septic tank, the floors of both restrooms were elevated above the basement floor level. The outhouse was sold and the proceeds helped offset the cost of indoor plumbing.

During this period of renovation of church and parsonage, Nell Hutzell was the financial secretary and Thomas Duffel and I.D. Avery served as treasurer. Other treasurers were William Woolard, Ralph Peters, Forest Sands and Robert Ford. Trustees included Jacob Mowery, Jesse Walters, Frank Stadden, Leroy Walters and Susan Neel.

The Friendly Class paid to have the baptistery rebuilt in 1946. In 1947 termites were working on the wooden posts that supported the sanctuary floor. The posts were replaced with the round metal columns that four generations of kids have gone around and around. The Loyal Women’s class paid for the pipe.

In the 1950’s and 60’s Hebron Christian Church enjoyed a period of growth experienced by most main-line Protestant churches and like so many other churches we started a building fund with hopes and dreams that a Sunday



School wing or annex could be built to accommodate the more than 100 students and 15 classes that made up the Sunday School. Many fund raising events and dinners were held to raise money and the building fund grew at a modest rate.

By the mid 70’s the fund had grown to nearly \$40,000, but

shrinking attendance reduced the need for a larger facility. After much discussion, we decided to invest the building fund money to preserve the existing facility. By April 1981 major projects of a new roof and aluminum siding had been completed and the sanctuary had been redecorated inside. Rev. Keith Hutchings aptly stated: "Because we care, we have sought to enhance the beauty and to enrich the setting of worship here provided by past generations. This is a mountain peak experience for this congregation and day of thanksgiving and spiritual renewal...and it is dedicated in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ." The redecorating committee was Margaret Slater, chairman; Jim Neel, chairman of the trustees; David Dernberger, chairman of the board; Carol Eppley, Patty Mason, Russ Parker and Charles Cordray. Rev. Howard Ratcliff, Ohio Regional pastor, brought the message for the rededication. The total cost of these improvements was around \$47,000. The sanctuary was repainted in 1995. Martha Cable painted a stenciled border around the sanctuary and baptistery portal.

The fellowship hall was renovated in late 1991 and early 1992 in preparation for the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Total cost was \$17,000 and included removal of heavy ductwork, installation of a drop ceiling, recessed lighting, tile floor, a moisture barrier and wood paneling. The design was done by David Dernberger and work was done by Wayne Bixler, Ron Folden, Wilbur Mason, Dick Norris, Richard Orr, Homer Pierce, Forest Sands and David Dernberger. Over the next several years the kitchen, restrooms and remaining classrooms were also remodeled. Nick Wildermuth did much of this work. New windows were installed in the basement in 2000.

The elevated lift was dedicated on February 7, 1999 improving access to the sanctuary and fellowship hall from the parking level. The lift and lift addition was constructed by McNally Construction at a cost of \$82,755. Clifford Mason chaired the elevator committee. The project was paid for by many memorial and honorarium gifts.

In September 2002, central cooling was installed with separate units bringing cool summers to the sanctuary and the fellowship hall. In 2011 the church roof was replaced by an ash gray standing-seam steel roof. This steel roof is expected to last 75 years or more.

Our church building was designated a "Historic Site" by the Greater Buckeye Lake Historical Society. A plaque is attached to the sign in front of the building.

### A Home for the Pastor



In March 1907 the congregation decided to build a parsonage so a cottage-style house was constructed on the west side of the lot adjacent to the church. Rev. E.P. Kempher was the pastor but resigned to take another pastorate before the work was completed.

A new parsonage was built 1924 at a cost of \$7,533. Thomas Duffill did the masonry and Dudley Avery was head carpenter directing the efforts of the men of the church. Indoor plumbing was installed in the parsonage. The cottage was relocated to the northeast corner of W. Main and 8<sup>th</sup> Street where Ralph and Clara Belle Vorhees lived for many years.

Over the years the parsonage has undergone numerous renovations, usually during the interim between pastors including modern kitchen and bath, lavatory on the main floor, enlarging the basement, painting, papering, carpeting, an outside entrance to the minister's study and a new front porch floor. In 1985 a three-car garage was constructed on the northwest corner of the property at a cost of \$6862. In 2016 the fifty-year-old circulating hot water heating system was replaced by a forced air system that included both winter heating and summer cooling. Much of the work in the parsonage was done by the loving hands of volunteers who wanted our pastor and family to have a place to live that met the standards of the community.

In September 2001 Pastor Jeff Gill and family became our first pastor to move out of the parsonage and purchase his own home. During this period and the subsequent interim, the parsonage served as a Sunday School Annex. The Youth Fellowship often met there as did the official board. When Pastor Steve Brown arrived, the parsonage again became a residence for the minister and his wife.

The house east of the church at 604 West Main Street was the residence of Clarence Henry and family. For several years it served as the parsonage for the Hebron Methodist Church. In August 2000 we purchased the property for \$113,000 with the long-term intention of developing a Family Life Center, a community center or enabling us to expand without leaving the village. The mortgage was paid in full by the end of 2006 and a mortgage shredding ceremony held at the January 2007 annual meeting. The house is currently rented.

## Music

The Hebron Christian Church has enjoyed a rich musical tradition with many people using God-given talents to enhance worship and facilitate celebration.

Early congregational singing was without instrumental accompaniment. Rev. Madden or Bernard Seibert led the singing using a tuning fork to get the pitch. Both were good singers. In the beginning there was no organized choir. Most of the young people sat in the short front pews near the piano and helped lead the singing. Lida (White) Chism was one of the pianists. Blanche (Madden) Kapp played as well as sang. Later when a choir was organized, Ewing Savage was the director and Mrs. Frank Robinson was the pianist.

The first organ was purchased in the late 1890's to be used only for Sunday School. Mary Vorhees Kirk was the first organist. Florence Neel, Lena Madden White, and Dora Millhouse Culley were some who played the organ for Sunday School. There is no record of when the elders allowed the organ to be used in

worship, however the board minutes record that in April 1913 Mrs. Justice was appointed as organist with Florence Madden as her assistant.

The second organ was purchased by Lida White Chism's Sunday School class. Lida Chism was one of the Sunday School pianists.

A Hammond electric organ purchased in early 1942 and dedicated during our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in March of that year with Mr. Robert Bingman as the guest organist. Charles W. Slater chaired the organ committee. Mrs. Juanita Deenis was our organist. Mrs. Elizabeth Fitch's Loyal Daughter's class sold a large amount of popcorn balls as one of their projects to raise money to purchase the organ. Doris Cordray played this organ for many years. In 1975 a Hammond model H-252 replaced the old Hammond.

Other organists and assistants included Kate Cooperrider, Ocie Keller, Edna Shaw, Patti Hasson, Virginia Byrd and Gladys Oldaker.

Our current organ, an Allen Renaissance Model II, was dedicated September 23, 2001 as a memorial honoring Sarah Elizabeth Neel Brockman. The \$40,000 cost of the organ was covered by a very generous donation from the Brockman and Neel families plus gifts from more than 60 families and individuals. Nick Wildermuth installed new speakers in the northwest corner of the sanctuary above the choir loft.

Paul David Ford began as our organist June 16, 1963 at the age of 17. For the first few years he served along with Doris Cordray and accepted the position full-time in February 1965. During his more than fifty years of faithful service he has worn out two organs and is on his third. Using the electronic capabilities of the Allen organ, David played piano/organ duets with himself and programmed the organ to accompany him while he sang solos.

Our sanctuary piano was purchased in February 1972 by the Youth Fellowship for the Junior Choir and to enhance our worship experience. Ron and Laura Folden were youth advisors and organized myriad fundraisers for the piano and other projects.

In September 1957 Forest Sands installed a public address system in the sanctuary with a speaker in the nursery and ear phones in two places for the hearing impaired. Speakers were installed in the bell tower so phonograph records could be played to call everyone to church. A line was run to the nursing home west of the church and morning worship services were "piped in" to the residents. Components of the system were updated and replaced as technology improved. As years passed, the nursing home closed and the speakers were removed from the bell tower. In 2009 the entire PA system was replaced including wireless microphones for the pastor and elders and wireless receivers for the hearing impaired.

Over the years we have worn out several hymnals. New hymnals were purchased after careful evaluation by a Hymnal Committee looking for a mix of new songs and old favorites, responsive readings and indexes. The brown hymnals cost 40 cents each in the 1930's contrasting with *Chalice Praise* at \$10 each. We have kept 20 copies or so of each hymnal and the senior choir occasionally offers a special number from one of them. Many hymnals over the years were purchased in memory of loved ones or donated by the Youth Fellowship and book plates inside the front cover bear witness to these memorials.

**Our Hymnals with date published**  
 We purchased them within a few years of the date published.  
*Christian Melodies* (1905)  
*Favorite Hymns* (brown, 1933)  
*Great Songs of the Church* (blue, 1937)  
*Worship and Service Hymnal* (red, 1958)  
 Rebound and trimmed in 1970  
*The Hymnal for Worship and Celebration* (red, 1986)  
*Chalice Praise* (purple, 2003)

The Senior Choir has enhanced our worship experience with songs of adoration and praise. While the choir has existed since the early twentieth century, there is strong indication that it really solidified during the ministry of L.E. Evans. Margaret Slater was director at that time. She later returned in the 90's to direct the choir after retiring from her career as an educator. Over the years the choir has presented a number of cantatas at Christmas and Easter and provided anthems for special services including community choir festivals and the bicentennial celebration. Directors through the years include: Verna Barnett, Glenroi McQueen, Rev. Thomas, Lon Cass, Mary Evanoff, Charles Tewksbury, William Fischer, Liz Morgan, Doris Ann Sunkle, Becky Ours, David Dernberger, Dory Smathers, David Dernberger II, Joyce Meridith, David Ford and Vivian Dernberger.

In 1952 Hebron school music teacher, Vic Batterson and Robert Floyd of the



Senior Choir, October 1974: front row l to r: Martha Slater, Mary Alice Dernberger, Joan Wadley, Tracy Douglass, Nora Lee Kitchen, Viola Bauman; middle row: Penny Clay, Jeannie Koehler, Nancy Slater, Vivian Dernberger, Anne Slater; back row: John D. Slater, Randy Clay, Buddy Dernberger, Steve Douglass, David Ford (organist), David Dernberger (director)

Community Church, organized a community choir with the purpose of presenting "better music than any of our choirs can individually." Doris Cordray played the organ and Protea Dickey, the piano. The choir gave at least one Christmas concert and presented an Easter cantata. Each performance was augmented by soloists and ensembles from the

participating churches.

In the fall of 1945, Rev. Snell helped organize a "little folks' choir." Our current Junior Choir was organized in 1955 with Becky Ours as director and

Protea Dickey as pianist. Singers included Susan Neel, Cease and Chumsey Bauman, Mary Faith Bauman, Diane Kitchen, Barbara Dupler, David Ford, David Dernberger, Tom Thornton, Mike McFarland and Larry Cass. Their best number was “We Will Win Them One by One.”

In the late 50’s and early 60’s the choir could count on as many as 30 to 35 singers on any Sunday. Protea had special “songs” that she pounded out on the



Junior Choir, 1965-1966, back row l to r: Marjorie Homman (assistant), Becky Ours (director) and Protea Dickey (pianist)

piano when the kids became rowdy. Marjorie Hommon helped with the choir and made white choir capes with black bows for each member. Becky and Protea served for nearly 20 years before handing the choir off to the next generation. Directors over the years included: Theresa Ours, Millie McFarland, Lillian Bowen, John Dernberger, Debbie Bagent and Martha Cable. Glenna Clay and Cheryl Clay accompanied the choir by guitar and David Ford played piano for

many years. In May 1988 thirty Junior Choir alumni reunited for a final performance under the direction of Becky Ours.

The Junior Choir has presented a number of special programs and musicals over the years usually with much pageantry and professionalism. From blue bird suits complete with crepe paper wings to Hans Bronson the choir faithfully delivered a Christian message to the congregation through song and verse. The Junior Choir was suspended in 2008 because there were simply not enough children in the congregation to support a choir.

The choirs usually recess in the summer. For many years David Ford has arranged for special music each Sunday during the summer. This has allowed others in the church to share their talents to enrich our worship experience through solos and ensembles.

In October 1988 a two-octave set of hand bells was purchased with gifts from the congregation. The bells were manufactured by Schulmerich Hand Bells of Pennsylvania and cost an average of \$130 per bell. Martha Cable was the first director and their first worship presentation was Christmas Eve 1988. She designed a logo for our hand bell choir based on hand-bells depicted in our stained-glass windows. A third octave was added in memory of Louise Darling. Later bell chimes were purchased to further enhance the contribution of the bells to our worship experience. Janice Harris is the current director.

**Extra!** Read about the symbolism in our stained-glass windows in the appendix.

Other groups have provided music for Sunday worship or for special services and events. Cotton’s Pickers, a bluegrass and gospel group led by Leslie P. “Cotton” Sites was one such group. Martha Cable, Cheryl Maslowski, Glenna

Jones, David Dernberger, John Dernberger and several others have played guitars for worship services. Several of the youth have formed wind ensembles and played for youth Sunday services over the years. The Dernberger Family Quartet has offered a number or two each year.



Cast of *Godspell*, May 1982: 1st row l to r: Martha Slater, Glenna Clay, Mark Slater, John Slater; 2<sup>nd</sup> row: unidentified, John Dernberger, Steve Douglass, Mark Kovach, unidentified; 3<sup>rd</sup> row: Cheryl Clay, Paula Shelly, Theresa Ours

In May 1982, Cheryl Babcock organized a production of the Broadway musical, *Godspell*. Nearly a dozen young people presented two performances of the musical in the sanctuary.

Women's Missionary Society/Christian Women's Fellowship

Around 1902 women's missionary society was organized under the leadership of Rev. and Mrs. Elwinger. Mrs. Emily Stoolfire served as

president and Mrs. Clara (Rees) Vorhees as secretary and treasurer. They were a part of the Christian Women's Board of Missions or C.W.B.M. Mrs. Dora Millhouse was an early president and served many years. The society was small in numbers, but very active in the missionary work of the church. Mrs. Emma (Tygart) Heimerl was secretary-treasurer.

During World War II Rev. Hannum's wife Katherine organized a young women's missionary society, which was known as the Dorcas Society. The society sent books to our boys in the service. There was a banner placed in the church with the names of the boys. Letters of thanks were received from Ronald Folden and John McKinley.

In 1950 the Dorcas Missionary Society compiled a cookbook, which included pictures of the "cooks" who contributed the recipes as well as a picture of the group on the front steps of the church. These cookbooks became keepsakes and several are still being used.

**Extra!** Try out selected recipes from the Dorcas' Cook Book in the appendix.

In 1960 the Christian Women's Board of Missions became the Christian Women's Fellowship. Hazel Thornton was the first president and Clara Belle Vorhees was secretary of C.W.F. The group was very active and able to form two Circles, the Dorcas Circle which met in the evenings and the Ruth Circle which met during the afternoon. Edna Shaw and Dorothy Smith presided over each group respectively. These busy groups embraced benevolences and higher education as well as missions.



100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Christian Women's Fellowship, October 27, 1974: skit by our CWF: Evelyn Clay (1900), Ethel Blackburn, Viola Bauman, Nora Lee Kitchen (1974), Mary Alice Dernberger (1940), Maribel Neel (1874)

CWF presidents have been Katherine Hutchings, Vivian Dernberger, Marilyn Norris, Mary Alice Dernberger, Nora Lee Orr, Ila Mason and Helen Parker. The women celebrated 100 years of "Woman's Work" in 1974. Their annual Christmas Potluck is open to the entire church. Some members have attended CWF retreats, rallies, and CWF Quadrennials at Purdue University. Their focus continues to be the mission work of the church locally, regionally, nationally and globally through blessing boxes, LEADS food collections and Blanket Sunday.

In 2011 the Women's Breakfast Club began meeting one Saturday morning each month for fellowship and of course breakfast. The group attracted women who worked during the week and could not attend an afternoon or evening meeting. They coordinated a number of "collection" projects from recycling paper to Campbell soup labels and coupons and aluminum can pop-tabs each one supporting a specific charity.

### Christian Men's Fellowship

Organized fellowship groups for men have come and gone over the years. One of the earliest records of a men's Bible study group is the framed photo of the "Comrades of the Cross" in the library. The certificate recognizes an "organized adult Bible class according to the International Standard" June 19, 1909. Forty-eight men signed the certificate as charter members.

In 1913, a Loyal Men's class was formed as a counterpart to the Loyal Women's class and while the women's class flourished for over 50 years, the Loyal Men eventually joined other Bible classes as their numbers dwindled. Rev. Evans organized a Layman's League during his ministry and a strong men's group was active during the pastorate of Rev. Thomas. For many years the men hosted a mother-daughter banquet in the spring. Later George Wright hosted a number of monthly prayer breakfasts which included speakers and guests from other churches in the community.

In the 1980's and 90's the Christian Men's Fellowship served a breakfast one Saturday each month which included a brief devotion. Wayne Bixler, a former Army cook, prepared many good breakfasts. Others took turns preparing the breakfast or the group met at Clay's or Home Town Deli. Leaders over the years include John Sears, Wayne Bixler, Ron Folden, Jim Neel, Russ Parker and John W. Slater.

Our men's group has been active in District 10 attending and hosting men's rallies in the spring and fall. Several of our men attended retreats at Camp

Christian and we sent work crews to do maintenance at the camp. In 1979 and 1980, David Dernberger served as vice-president of the state CMF.

As the 21<sup>st</sup> century unfolded the men of the church found it useful to support a number of “as needed” projects such as helping members relocate, assisting with remodeling projects and other service projects requiring lots of effort over a short time period.

### Christian Youth Fellowship

The first youth fellowship was organized around 1900 by Rev. Harry H. Elwinger who enjoyed working with young people. The group was called Christian Endeavor Society and met each Sunday evening before the regular church service. Social meetings were held in the homes of members. Rev. Elwinger also taught a class for teenage boys and sometimes 14 or more boys in the class.



In the late 1930's Rev. and Mrs. Evans hosted a large youth fellowship in the parsonage. Twenty-five or so young people in their teens and twenties from the Fisher, Mayer, Johnson, Sands, Sites, Amspaugh, Slater, and Smedley families plus many of their friends enjoyed the Evan's inspiration and leadership. Mrs. Evans often made her signature Date Pinwheel cookies for the group. Mrs. Evans served as church camp counselor at the YMCA Camp Moore in Zanesville. The Evans' organized a Youth Advisory Council, and a Young People's Society. Several youth attended camp activities at Moore's Camp near Zanesville.

During the ministry of Rev. Snell, youth participation grew under the leadership of Jesse and Pauline Ours. In 1950, several youth attended the new Camp Christian at Magnetic Springs. The camp had just been purchased by the Ohio Society for Chi Rho and Conference youth. A Chi Rho group was organized for younger youth. Early youth leaders included Glenroi and Martha McQueen, Richard and Doris Orr, Hazel Thornton, Evelyn and Sherman Clay and various ministers and their wives. It was common for our youth group to hold joint meetings and activities with youth from the Methodist Church and the Community Church.



Youth Group, 1991

In the late 60's the Youth Fellowship grew to over 40 youth. Doris Ann and Jim Sunkle were the leaders and the group enjoyed wiener roasts at the Cordray or Sites farm and sledding down Blatter's hill

or ice skating on Sellers' pond. Newspaper drives generated cash to keep the group going and help pay summer camp fees. Later on the group was split into

Chi Rho (grades 6-8) and Christian Youth Fellowship (grades 9-12). Ron and Laura Folden were the first Chi Rho leaders and continued with Chi Rho and CYF for over ten years. Their biggest project may have been the purchase of a new piano for the sanctuary.

Other Chi Rho leaders included Joe and Doris Bagent, Peggy Gant, Anne Slater and Theresa Ours. Wayne and Debbie Bixler, Mardell Sears, Ila Mason, Carol Noble, Sue Lockwood, Anne Slater, David and Vivian Dernberger and Tom and Lisa McNichols, Sharon Scheidegger, David Russell Cable, Angela Cornett and Angel Schneider served as CYF advisors. The youth group raised money through pancake breakfasts, yard sales, coin capers, game nights, an indoor miniature golf course and a variety of other projects and always gave a portion of their funds to the church for various projects.

Several of our youth have served in youth leadership roles performing duties at Phyto Conference and state youth retreats including Connie Wildermuth, Josh Halter, Kalie Fellure, Randy, Cheryl and Penny Clay, Randy Wadley and Hetzel Folden. In November 1965, twenty-six youth plus adult leaders attended the state youth convention at Hiram College and our group was the largest in size and percent.

The Christian Church in Ohio sponsors a United Nations Seminar every two years for high school juniors. A very select group travels to New York City and Washington DC in February to get a glimpse of how our United Nations and our United States government work. Hebron Christian has been represented by Cheryl Clay, Martha Slater, Penny Clay, Glenna Clay, Megan Curran, Jennifer Damron, Connie Mason, Shenna Whittaker, Amber Damron, Jana McNichols, Kalie Fellure, Christian Slater, Abby Slater and CJ Klein.

### Contemporary Worship or Alternative Worship

In the early life of our church regular morning worship was often supplemented by evening services, "protracted meetings," and revivals. Sometimes these services were ecumenical efforts with several of the churches in the community joining to sponsor a traveling evangelist and his team. Always the purpose was to revive the spirit within the faithful and to draw the un-churched to Christ. The last big revival was *The Crusade for Christ* held for 15 days in March 1971.

In the summer of 1966 George Wright held an early worship service at 8:30 followed by Sunday school and then a second worship service at 10:30. Later in the 70's he held "unified" services where we blended worship and education into a 90 minute Sunday service.

Morgan Wickizer launched a contemporary service in the spring 1997. This evening service was "geared toward baby boomers and generation Xers" incorporating contemporary hymns and worship songs with a children's activity and a brief Bible study. Rev. Gill held casual early services during two or three summers, singing praise hymns and trying different communion formats. Pastor Steve Brown also attempted to hold an evening contemporary service in 2007. Rev. Whitehead initiated a monthly service "Soup and Scripture" with a light meal

and casual worship service led by one of the Elders. Each time these services began with a small but enthusiastic attendance which gradually faded over time.

### Nursery and Cradle Roll

Our nursery probably came into being with the post-WWII baby boom. In the 1950's the Dorcas Missionary Society took turns in the nursery looking after children up to five-years old. Marjorie Hommon was the faithful nursery superintendent for many years followed by Barbara Pierce, Jean and Linda Lockwood, Kathryn Lockwood and the McNichols family. Over the years many of the youth also provided assistance caring and entertaining small children.

Rev. Smith initiated the practice of placing a rose on the pulpit each time a baby was born to a member of our church family. He also conducted annual baby dedications, usually on Mother's Day. One Sunday 26 babies were dedicated. Baby dedications have continued to be a part of our church life.

The nursery was moved from the north classroom to the south classroom. Homer Pierce cut a new door to give mothers and small children access to the restrooms without traipsing across the back of the sanctuary. In February of 1992 the nursery was remodeled and dedicated in memory of Zella Ours.



Baby Dedication, circa 1955: front l to r: Pat Ours and Leonard, Becky Ours and Theresa, Betty Passman and Vicki, Hazel Dupler and Jaime, Betty Williams and Rodney, Mary Baughman and Linda  
back l to r: Sylvia Wadley and Joan, Charlotte Cordray and Ernest, Alpha Duffill and Sarah, Ila Mason and Timothy, Nell Caughenbaugh and Sue Ellen

### Library

The Zoa B. Sellers Memorial Library was established in the summer of 1985 with a generous gift of \$10,000 from the estate of Mrs. Sellers. Carpenter Harold Strider and member Karen Bane constructed and finished shelves and cabinets in the center classroom. Later an island was added to provide work space and additional book storage. The library committee purchased a television and video unit and other audio-visual equipment for use by the church.

When the library was dedicated, November 9, 1985 there were over 500 books on the shelves. Margaret Slater served as librarian for many years followed by Ila Mason, Chad Smathers, Maribel Neel and



Zoa B. Sellers Library, 1991, Margaret Slater, librarian

Janice Harris. During the summer of 1986, Elma Cass, Margaret Slater and Shirley Curran held summer story hours. The Library Committee and Christian Education Committee have hosted a number of book fairs and celebrated Christian Literature Week.

### Church Van

A 12-passenger Plymouth van was purchased in June 1975 to serve as a church bus and a means for small groups to travel to off-site meetings. Ron and Laura Folden adopted the van and raised money to pay the expenses for the van by collecting newspapers. The van transported youth to camp, hauled men to district rallies, took people caroling, picked up kids for Sunday school and occasionally served as back-up transportation for the pastor. It made trips to Sessions in Purdue, to the state offices in Cleveland and to Pennsylvania for Randy and Sue Clay's wedding. The van was retired after more than 20 years of service.

### Newsletters and Bulletins

Rev. Worstell was very methodical and he organized and published some yearbooks containing all of the officers and committees of the congregation, by-laws, membership lists and a photo of Rev. Worstell. The 24-page yearbook was printed on a "job" or platen press with a card stock cover. Ads were sold to offset the cost of printing. A copy of the 1926 yearbook, Church of Christ, Hebron, Ohio is in the library.

A mimeograph was purchased in July 1939. Rev. Evans wanted to have all announcements in a printed bulletin which would be "more dignified than making announcements from the pulpit."

The 1941 Weekly Bulletin had paid advertisers. A weekly ad cost \$2.50 per year and there were at least a dozen businesses that bought space including The Lake Lumber Co., Cummins Restaurant, Hutzell Insurance, The Slater Gas Station and Fitch Bros. Grocery.

From 1963 through 1969, Henry Cass published our weekly bulletin. The bulletins were very professional with a color photo of the church on the cover. Announcements and service changes had to be given to Henry nearly a week ahead to maintain publishing deadlines. The bulletin cover was the same as that used for the Centennial program.

Currently our weekly bulletins are prepared using computer software and printed on a photocopy machine. Ila Mason published the weekly bulletin for over 35 years. Others who prepared bulletins are Connie Wildermuth, David Dernberger, Vivian Dernberger, and Chris and Kate Whitehead.

In the late 1940's there was some discussion of sending or having the deacons deliver the weekly bulletin to families who did not attend worship, however there is no indication that this suggestion was implemented.

In 1962 Rev. Smith launched a newsletter "*Christian Hi-Lites*" which was mailed to church members and friends. Ron Folden, Pauline Avery and Edna

Shaw were co-editors however it was not published consistently. Toward the end of Smith's pastorate, Ron Folden and Rev. Smith made another attempt to publish "*Christian Hi-Lites*", sending the newsletter to 132 families.

"*The Epistle*" was published for a brief period in 1967 by Ron Folden. The address list was updated and a few issues were published. Ron's work laid the groundwork for "*The Church Window*" launched on May 2, 1976.

The first issues of "*The Church Window*" were published without a name. For a while the letter was called "*The Mahrah*" which means mirror in Hebrew but this was too close to the word *maroth* meaning bitterness so we changed it to "*The Church Window*." David Dernberger has been the editor since the beginning with David Dernberger II and Ila Mason filling in during international assignments. In July 2008 we began emailing the newsletter to subscribers who preferred to receive their letter electronically.

The task of publishing a newsletter has become easier with the use of improved computer software...no more stencils, ink accidents and messy clean-ups. This as much as anything explains why "*The Church Window*" has been successful when other attempts failed.

While Jeff Gill was pastor we launched a web site, but it could not be maintained after Jeff left. In 2010 [www.hebronchristianchurch.net](http://www.hebronchristianchurch.net) was launched using web software provided through The American Bible Society. In 2013 the site was moved to a new host when the ABS stopped providing host services. The site contains information about worship services, news of the church, the latest newsletter and links to other Christian Church sites.

As noted above, Rev. Worstall probably published the first annual report in 1926. In 1949, Rev. Snell prepared an annual report containing the budget and reports from various classes and small groups for the annual congregational meeting.

An annual report in the current format was first published in 1980 for the June 1979-June 1980 church fiscal year. David Dernberger edited and published the first report. Ila Mason assumed responsibility for editing and publishing the next year and has done it ever since. These reports provide a valuable source of information on the life and history of our congregation. The 2012 Annual Report was the first to be available in digital format and from 2013 report has been available on the church web site for everyone who might want to know more about the Hebron Christian Church. Two printed copies of each report are filed in the church library.

### Community Service

Our church has a rich history of involvement in our community, both in terms of supporting community activities and service organizations and in terms of accepting leadership positions. At one point in the mid-1990's two of five school board members, two of three township trustees, three councilmen and the mayor of Hebron attended or were affiliated with our church.

We willingly shared our building and talents with service organizations through the years including Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Brownies, Girl Scouts, TOPS,

Women's Clubs and 4-H clubs. Kathryn Lockwood led the Hebron Happy Homemakers 4-H for many years. Prime Producers 4-H led by Dave and Martha Cable continue to use our fellowship hall for their meetings. The club has 65 members. The Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation has held Interfaith Legal Clinics in our building for several years. These clinics offer free legal services to those who cannot afford legal advice. Lakewood Schools also designated our fellowship hall as a Safe Haven in the event of an emergency at Hebron School.

Recent service projects include on-going collection of food for LEADS' food pantry in Buckeye Lake, Coats-for-Kids, Adopt-a-Teen at Christmas, CROP, Goodwill, Heifer International, Special Olympics, Blanket Sunday, Heartbeats, Hospice of Central Ohio, Operation Christmas Child, special offerings to help families who lost their homes to fires and assistance to needy families. In January 2010 the Teen Sunday School class challenged the congregation to bring one food item per person each Sunday for the entire year. The goal of 4000 items was exceeded by 10% much to the delight of the LEADS center at Buckeye Lake.

In 2011 the church board voted to add 10% to all capital projects over \$1000 for a five year period. This "capital tithe" was directed into the community to do mission work outside of our church walls. When possible the capital tithe was given to support a similar project in the community, for example \$4025 was given to Buckeye Lake LEADS for four home improvement and weatherization projects when the roofs were replaced on the church and the family life center.

Members have volunteered at the hospital, with Hospice and LEADS. In January 2009, Maribel Neel received a President's Call to Service award for more than 4000 volunteer hours to Licking Memorial Hospital. Vivian Dernberger, Carrie Hutzel, Clifford Mason, Ila Mason and Dave Porter were named to the Lakewood Wall of Fame. Members have served our community through local fire departments and EMS units. Roger Pierce gave his life serving as a volunteer fire fighter.

### Church-Wide Service

Our congregation has actively supported regional and national church activities. Esther Wright was head cook at Camp Christian for many years. David Dernberger and Ila Mason served six-year terms on the regional commission and David served a two-year term on the regional executive committee. Morgan Wickizer served on the regional youth commission. Morgan, Tim Mason, Jeff Gill and David Dernberger served on the Camp Christian management committee. Steve Brown served on the New Church Committee. Other pastors served on regional committees and missions boards over the years.

In the 1990's we raised \$10,000 for the "Touch Tomorrow" capital campaign to bring Camp Christian up to modern standards. Funds from Touch Tomorrow also went to the Zaire Christian Institute in Bolenge, Zaire; for All Peoples Day Care Center in Los Angeles, CA; and for new restrooms and showers for National City Christian Church in Washington, DC. A few years later we gave

another \$6000 to the second Camp Christian capital campaign, "Keep the Fire Burning."

Our Sunday School has supported the Cleveland Christian Home and The Emily E. Flynn Home for many years holding drives for everything from socks to grape jelly. The Christian Women's Fellowship and the Women's Breakfast Club continue to be focal points for a number of mission projects through local agencies, the Christian Church and Church World Service.

Over the years a number of people have attended National or General Assemblies as delegates and as participants. As early as 1909 some from our church attended the centennial celebration of the Christian Church in Pittsburgh. The Hutzell sisters and May and Letha Madden (daughters of Rev. Thomas N. Madden) represented our congregation for many years as they attended various district, regional and national meetings. A medallion and name tag in the history display cabinet note that "Mrs. Henry Cass, Hebron, O." attended the "Centennial Assembly Int'l Convention, Disciples of Christ Cincinnati, Ohio, Oct 25-30, 1949." Letha Madden, Mrs. Bevelhimer, Emma Heimerl and Rev. and Mrs. Snell also attended the Cincinnati assembly. Jesse Ours, John C. Neel, Charles Cordray, Maribel Neel, Herb Gant, Harold Blount, Russ and Helen Parker, Nora Lee Orr, Ila Mason, Vivian Dernberger, David Dernberger, Debbie Bixler, Ralph and Mary Alice Dernberger, Ethel Braden, Kim Halter, Connie Wildermuth, Jennifer McNichols and numerous pastors have also represented us as delegates at the General Assembly.

The 2015 General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) was held in Columbus. David Dernberger served as vice chairman of the Specialized Connecting Committee, a sub-committee of the Local Arrangements Committee; Clifford Mason chaired the Hospitality and Security Committee; and Martha Cable served on the Chapel Committee. The Elders took the opportunity to hold a retreat during the assembly. We invited Rev. Jeff Wright, Heart of the Rockies Christian Church in Fort Collins, Colorado, to speak at our church on the Sunday of the convention. Rev. Wright was the pastor of the church where Rev. Chris Whitehead was ordained. In all, twenty-six of our congregation served in some way from assembly choir to logistics.

### **State of the Church – from the 2015 Annual Report**

Pastor: Rev. Christopher Whitehead  
Chairman of Elders: Martha Cable  
Chairman of Board: Will Harris  
Chairman of Trustees: Randy Fisher

Total Membership: 216  
Participating Membership: 88  
Average in Sunday Worship: 56  
Average in Sunday School: 20  
Annual Budget: \$90,140  
Long Term Debt: none  
Annual Outreach Giving: \$8,333

## A Look Forward...sort of

Vision 20-20 Committee was formed in 2000 to prepare a vision for the first 20 years of the new century. Committee members were Mark Slater, chairman, Kim Halter, recording secretary, Rose Mason, Anne Slater and Nick Wildermuth. Pastor Jeff Gill served ex-officio.

The committee worked with the following assumptions:

- 1) The Family Life Center (604 West Main St) was available for furthering our mission in Hebron;
- 2) The Parsonage would be available for general church use;
- 3) Community growth was imminent as witnessed by initial construction in the Lake Forest edition and explosive growth in the Beaver Run/Blacks Road corridor.

In their report to the board on September 5, 2001, Vision 20-20 offered the following time line:

*2001 – Move the library, office, all Sunday School classes except adult and nursery into the parsonage leaving the church basement permanently set up for large gatherings. Set up the living room for group meetings. Set up one bedroom for overnight guests;*

*2002 – Remodel the Family Life Center to enable it to be used for some purpose benefiting the community as well as the church;*

*3-5 years – Double active attendance with a strong focus on growth. This would be an increase from 110 to 200 per Sunday; air condition the sanctuary; up-grade restrooms;*

*10 years (2010) – Worship attendance at 250 per Sunday; reevaluate parking needs as well as property uses and needs; assess the need to purchase property for expansion elsewhere;*

*2017 – Celebrate our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary;*

*20 (2020) years – Continue to assess growth with the addition of a large multipurpose center for youth and other groups.*

Hindsight is always 20-20. As you read this, how did we do? Have we moved forward? Have we met the needs of our congregation and our community? Have we adapted as things changed?

## Epilogue

The writing of history tends to draw attention to the good and ignore the bad. This is not unlike our own memory which helps us remain sane by amplifying the positive events that shape our lives and diminishing the negatives. And so we remember a pastor or an era or a church event as better than our current situation and we long for “the good ole days.”

In reading through reams of board minutes and class notes I was struck by a particular period in our church life. In the short span of three years a treasurer embezzled money from the treasury, a janitor had to be dismissed because “his services were inadequate,” a pastor’s “indiscrete conversations among the young people and young married women” resulted in a reprimand from the regional pastor and forced him to resign as our pastor, the pastor left owing money to several local businesses, and the newly hired candidate resigned before starting in a dispute over some miscommunications and misunderstandings.

The board minutes have a cleansing effect on such events for we can all imagine the impact that each one of these challenges likely had on the daily life and works of the congregation, yet the minutes record only the issue and the outcome. Thank God! We need not rehash the details to understand the severity of the problems and the pain of the solutions. We do, however, need to remember such events and remind ourselves that the church survived and grew and the people continued to serve and to worship. Rather than long for times past, we need to look to the future and direct our energy and spirit toward advancing the Lord’s work here and beyond.

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise Him all creatures here below  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.  
Amen*

David S. Dernberger, Historian, 2016

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Raising the original building -- Model made for the Centennial of the 1915 Expansion

## Traditions

**Coffee Fellowship:** Our Coffee Fellowship mission was started by Rev. EC Traylor during his interim in 1977 to help us get acquainted and develop camaraderie among members. Cookies, coffee and lemonade (Rev. Traylor called it “bug juice) were served. Katherine Hutchings kept it going when she and Keith began their service at Hebron. Since then many people have served as coffee fellowship coordinators and hosts. About 30 people remain after church on a typical Sunday to enjoy the tradition of fellowship as well as some good snacks and refreshments.

**Youth Sundays:** For a number of years the youth fellowship was invited to conduct the morning worship service on the annual Youth Sunday. In 1948 Junior Elders and Junior Deacons served along with their adult counterparts. Rev. George Wright initiated the practice of allowing the Youth Fellowship to lead the Sunday morning worship on the last Sunday of every month with five Sundays. This enabled the youth to conduct the service at least four times each year. Besides letting the congregation see the youth in action, youth Sundays served as a training ground for future leaders. The youth brought guitars and wind instruments into the service, shared camp experiences and presented a number of skits over the years. The pastor also enjoyed a Sunday off and the opportunity to sit in the congregation and see the youth in action.

**Children’s Messages:** We believe that Rev. Connie Strawn introduced a regular children’s sermon into the morning worship service. She did these once each month. The tradition continued under Revs. Wickizer and Gill with Morgan occasionally in character. Jennifer McNichols, Angela Cornett and Kate Whitehead also presented children’s messages each Sunday.

**Junior Church:** Mrs. Thomas introduced Junior Church during her husband’s ministry in Hebron. Young people went to the fellowship hall for morning worship that was both educational and entertaining. Flannel board bible stories and film strips enhanced the experience. Viola Bauman and her children helped with the Junior Church. The practice was revived under Rev. Gill and named “Jesus Loves Us.” Today children have an opportunity to study or do a craft that supports the Lectionary theme under the leadership of Angela Cornett and volunteer assistants.

**Communion to the Shut-Ins:** In the early ‘40’s Rev. Hannum organized the deacons to take communion to shut-ins. Rev. Thomas also asked deacons and elders to make regular calls on those who could not get out for worship. During the ministry of Rev. Wright the elders accepted the responsibility of taking communion to the shut-ins and those in long-term hospital or nursing home situations. This was further encouraged by Rev. Hutchings and a rota was set up with a deacon assigned to each elder as an assistant. Gradually it became an elder and spouse who made the weekly calls.

**Photo on the Front Steps:** Photos of our church family posed on the front steps are hanging in the library and the Friendly Class room. This tradition started in June 1909 with the “Comrades of the Cross” men’s Bible class seated in the shape of a cross in front of the original church building. The first all church



photo was taken around 1920 when Rev. Elby was our pastor. Another was taken around 1950 during the ministry of Rev. Snell. George Wright was our pastor when the photo was taken in 1972. The next was taken in June 1989 when Morgan Wickizer was our pastor (shown). Another during the ministry of Jeff Gill was taken in September

2000. In 2009 two photos were taken to try to catch as many people as possible. Another photo will be taken in spring of 2017 to mark our sesquicentennial.

**The Lenten Fair:** The first Lenten Fair was held on Palm Sunday in 1981 and continued for several years. The practice was revived in 2006 and it has become an annual event appropriate to the triumphal entry. Each Sunday School class hosts a booth with an Easter theme and a hearty breakfast is served. In recent years the fair has included a petting zoo, Seder meal, study of Easter symbols and the children's egg hunt. The Lenten Fair replaced the children's party traditionally held on the Saturday morning before Easter.

**Maundy Thursday Service:** Communion "each time we gather in His name" is one of the tenets of The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). This makes the commemoration of the Passover meal which became The Last Supper an important event in the church year. The annual Maundy Thursday service has given our church the opportunity to explore different ways of sharing the communion feast. Several times the men of the church have reenacted the Last Supper complete with beards and costumes, the latest being in 2010 when a living tableau was presented. Also on occasion the Passover Seder meal was reenacted complete with unleavened bread, bitter herbs and lamb.

**Prayer Vigil:** The first 24-hour prayer vigil was held in November 1972 as a part of the National Chain of Prayer. Later the Prayer Vigil was moved to the winter to be part of an uninterrupted time of prayer extending from January 1 through Easter. Eventually it was moved to Holy Week between the close of the Maundy Thursday service and the beginning of the Good Friday service, marking the time Jesus spent in the Garden before being arrested. Each participant commits to one half hour of prayer alone in the sanctuary. An elder is always on duty in the fellowship hall. Many people say this prayer period is one of the more spiritually uplifting events of the year.

**Easter Sunrise Service at Dawes Arboretum:** Dawes has provided a beautiful and appropriate location for the Easter Sunrise Service for over 50 years. Several local churches have shared this experience with us, the Hebron and Jacksontown UM Churches being the most recent and consistent partners. Other venues have been tried such as the Canal Park in Hebron, but always the service has returned to the beauty and solitude of Dawes' Woods.

**Mother of the Year:** The selection of Mother of the Year was begun by Rev. George Wright on Mothers' Day May 10, 1970 in memory of his mother Mrs. Jeannette Ellen McPherson Wright. Since its inception thirty-nine women have been elected as Mother of the year. We are now honoring women whose mother and grandmother were selected for this honor. The Mother of the Year is presented with a Bible for her personal use for the year and a small gift and her name is inscribed on a plaque displayed in the library. For more information see the section on Memorial Gifts.

**Youth Fellowship Scroll Service:** Doris Ann (DA) Sunkle, youth advisor, held the first youth fellowship scroll service in the mid-1960's. This consecration service and the signing of the scroll give the youth a way to make a commitment to the group and to God. The officers for the year sign as well as every member of the group. This record of membership in the youth fellowship is inspiring to children and grand-children of past members and leaders.

**Treats, Treasures and Trivia:** Mary Lawrence and Marianne Amspaugh headed up the Project Committee from 1980 through 1995 to raise funds for various capital improvement projects around the church. The largest fund raiser each year was a pre-Christmas bazaar called "Treats, Treasures and Trivia" held in late November in the fellowship hall. Mary and Marianne with the help of many others in the church raised more than \$27,000 over the 16 years that they chaired the Project Committee. Profit from the T.T &T. alone exceeded \$16,000. Surplus items from the T.T.&T. were donated each year to veterans' hospitals, nursing homes, the Cleveland Christian Home, Salvation Army and the Red Cross.

**All Saint's Commemoration:** On All Saints Sunday in 2010, Pastor Steve Brown held a commemoration service for friends and family members who had passed to their heavenly home in recent years. Subsequent All Saints services included those who had passed during the previous year.

**Christmas Eve Service:** The best attended evening service of the year is the Christmas Eve service. Over the years a number of things have been tried including a Bethlehem Fair, but nothing has served as well as the traditional service of carols and scripture and the passing of the light around a closing circle.

**Poinsettias and Easter Lilies:** For many years at Christmas and Easter the sanctuary has been decorated by flowers purchased by families and individuals in memory of loved ones. Flowers are ordered by the youth fellowship with profits going toward a service project. In this way the flowers give fourfold service to enhance worship, to commemorate a loved one, to help the youth and finally to a home, nursing home or graveside.

**Christmons Tree:** The word Christmon is short for Christ monogram and each figure represents a symbol of faith, many of which were used by early Christians. Our Christmons were made by the Keystone Class when George Wright was our pastor. The traditional Christmon tree is an evergreen lit by small white lights. Christmons are white, the liturgical color for Christmas, and are decorated with gold to represent the majesty and glory of Christ.

## Memorial Gifts and Presentations

### Retired or Cannot be Identified

Illuminated Bulletin Board: Presented to the Church by the Christian Endeavor Society, 1943. Rev. and Mrs. Harry Hannum, counselors. This bulletin board was retired and replaced by the present lighted sign in 1968.

Organ lamp: In Loving Memory of Elizabeth Fitch, January 1953 by the Dorcas Missionary Society. Lamp base broke and gift was retired in 2004. Memorial plate is in the historical cabinet.

Pastor's Communion Set: In Loving Memory of Dr. and Mrs. Ray Spurgeon by Mr. and Mrs. Allen Mille, April 10, 1954.

Collection Plates: In Loving Memory of Joel R. and Henrietta Vorhees by the Vorhees Family, date unknown but likely in the mid-50's.

Neon Crosses (2): Presented to the Church by the Friendly Class, 1958. One cross was on the front of the church, this cross was retired and replaced in April 1980. The second cross stood on the top of the bell tower until it blew down during a storm. Two transformers were presented by the Church by Robert Yost at the same time.

Collection Plates (2) and Urns (3): In Loving Memory of Fannie Duffill, July 1963 by the Duffill Family and Friends. The urns are in the historical cabinet.

Carpets for the Three Main Floor Classrooms: Presented by Henry and Elma Cass, April 10, 1966. These carpets were retired when the sanctuary was remodeled, April 1981.

Choir Stoles: Presented to the Church by Mrs. Charles (Doris) Cordray, March 1967. Senior Choir ceased wearing robes in 1995. Robes and stoles are in storage in the baptistery room.

Paraments: In Loving Memory of the Mowery and Justice Families, May 3, 1981, by the Henry Justice Family. These paraments were retired at Easter 2007 and replaced by new paraments.

### In Active Service

Nursery Rocking Chair: Purchased by the Loyal Daughters' Class in 1914 and still rocking babies in the nursery. The chair was used in the chapel at the 2015 General Assembly in Columbus for prayer and meditation.

Desk: Purchased by the Loyal Daughters' Class in 1914. Currently used as the Sunday School secretary's desk in the library.

Hymn and Record Boards: Presented by the Youth Fellowship, February 1948. Original boards had an oak cross at the top. The crosses were replaced by Disciple chalices.

Desk and Chair in pastor's study: In Loving Memory of Ethel Julia Sharer Slater, January 21, 1966 from the family: Charles W. Slater, Jack Flynn, Margaret R. Slater, Charles E. and Wanda Slater, John D. and Anne Slater, Robert W. and Mary Sue Slater. Desk is still in use. Chair is in the Teen Class room. The Youth Fellowship presented a Glass Top for the desk, February 1966.

Candelabrum for Organ and Piano: In Loving Memory of Annie Rebecca Kibler Smedley, January 24, 1966, by the Smedley Family and Close Friends.

Centennial Display Cabinet: In Loving Memory of Rev. T.N. Madden and his wife, Virginia Madden by their children. Cabinet was built by Homer Pierce, Art Ours and Stan Queen, likely made in 1967 for our centennial celebration.

Mother of the Year Bible: "This Bible is given to God this 10<sup>th</sup> Day of May, 1970, in honor of my beloved Mother, Mrs. Jeannette Ellen McPherson Wright. And is to be used at the Hebron Church of Christ for the purpose of Honoring the 'Mother of the Year.' She is to be chosen by the entire congregation on the Sunday before Mother's Day each year. This Bible is to be presented to her by the Pastor with his own appropriate words. And is to remain in her possession for one year. On the Sunday before Mother's Day it should be returned to the Minister for his own evaluation and note taking. It is the hope and prayers of the donor that each recipient will read regularly from this very fine Bible, while it is in her possession. She may make note on the margins (In fact she is encouraged to make such notes as, 'This is my favorite verse' I have received (sic) much encouragement from this chapter.' Etc. She should not however deface this sacred Book, perhaps her Grand Daughter may some day be the recipient of this same book and will get quite a thrill from her notes. After one mother has been chosen, she may not again be eligible for 'Mother of the Year' until three others have been chosen." George E. Wright, Pastor Hebron Church of Christ. Two plaques in the library record the names of Mother of the Year honorees.

Mother of the Year Award Plaque: Presented by Mrs. George Wright in Honor of Her Mother "Mrs. Estella Pflaum" May 1970

Fluorescent Lights (7) for the Upstairs Classrooms: Presented to the Church by the Christian Youth Fellowship, May 1970.

Fluorescent Light for the Downstairs Nursery: Presented to the Church by the Chi Rho, May 1970.

Sanctuary Piano: Presented to the Church by the Christian Youth Fellowship, February 20, 1972, Ron and Laura Folden, advisors. Piano is an Everett upright and includes a bench.

Sanctuary Flag Sets: American and Christian flags with tassels, poles, stands, eagle and cross given "In Loving Memory of Frank Hammond, June 10, 1973, by his wife Eula Hammond."

Cross, Two Candlesticks and Two Flower Urns for the Communion Table: In Loving Memory of John C. Neel and Susan R. (Neel) Janks, April 3, 1977, by the Fisher Family. Worship set was made by Artistic Mfg Inc and consists of a silver cross (BW3024), two candle holders (BW3124) and two flower vases with inserts (BW3224).

Communion Table Shelf: In Loving Memory of John C. Neel and Susan R. (Neel) Janks, April 3, 1977, by the Fisher Family, built by Fred L. Fisher.

Senior Choir Chairs: In Loving Memory of Letha Rose Madden, November 6, 1977 from her estate.

Neon Cross: In Loving Memory of The Madden Family and Clyde Kapp, April 1, 1980, by the Kapp Family and Florence White.

Five Georgian Brass Chandeliers: In Loving Memory of Charles W. and Ethel Julia Slater, April 26, 1981, by the Family.

Georgian Brass Stairway and Hallway Lamps: In Loving Memory of Roger Pierce, April 26, 1981, by the Homer Pierce Family

Junior Choir Chairs: In Loving Memory of Margaret Grace (Peggy) Slater, April 26, 1981 by the Family

Pulpit Bible: In Loving Memory of Clara Belle Vorhees, May 10, 1981, by the Vorhees Family

Bible Lectern: In Loving Memory of Israel Minor and Ruth Long and Charles W. and Ethel Julia Slater, 1983, by the Family. Lectern was made by Mr. Nelson Werkhaven of Hebron to match the design and color of the pulpit.

Library: In Loving Memory of Zoa B. Sellers, November 9, 1985, gift from her Estate.

Two Octave Set of Hand Bells: Dedicated December 24, 1988 and paid through gifts from 20 families and groups as listed on a plaque in the library.

Red Hymnals "*The Hymnal for Worship & Celebration*": Dedicated May 7, 1989 In Loving Memory of those identified on the book plate inside of each hymnal. Two large print piano and organ copies were purchased, as were full accompaniment and instrumental arrangements.

Third Octave Set of Hand Bells: In Loving Memory of Dent and Louise Darling and Russell and Helen Arnold, May 27, 1990.

North Wall of the Fellowship Hall: In Loving Memory of Ron Folden, February 1992. Wall refurbishing was paid for by The Friendly Class.

Elevator: In Memory and Honor of the Many Stewards of Hebron Christian Church, February 1999.

Scholarship Fund: In Loving Memory of Carrie B. Hutzell, with a gift from her estate, July 1976. Note that the scholarship fund was started in 1971 but not designated as a memorial until after Carrie B.'s death.

Pew Cushions: In Loving Memory of Walter and Carrie Greathouse by their family Mary Morrison, Helen Hupp, Wilford Greathouse, Barbara Young and Marilyn Norris, August 13, 1990.

Perpetual communion supplies: Disposable communion cups In Loving Memory of D. Wilbur Mason by Clifford and Rose Mason.

Pew Bibles: In Loving Memory of D. Wilbur Mason, February 25, 2001.

Table by the Sanctuary Entrance: "This table was made and donated to Hebron Christian Church in loving memory of Wilbur Mason long standing member and deacon of the church. It was constructed by Terry Mason using wood from a work table on their farm. Feb 25, 2001"

Allen Renaissance II Organ: In Memory of Sarah Elizabeth Neel Brockman and eight others, September 23, 2001, by the Neel and Brockman Families and over sixty families and Individuals.

Nursery Book Case and Puppet Theater: In memory of Barbara Pierce who died August 25, 2004.

Giant Print Bibles: Ten Bibles presented in Memory of Sally Vanoy Darling by John and Anne Slater, May 10, 2009. Bibles are in the Friendly Class room.

Sanctuary Sound System: Dedicated November 15, 2009 in memory of Terry Mason and Roxie Taylor and others. The system includes amplifier, wireless microphones, speakers in the sanctuary, nursery and fellowship hall and a wireless system for assisting the hearing impaired.

Stoves and Refrigerator: Two new electric ranges and a new refrigerator were purchased in August 2015 in memory of Charlotte Cordray from the estate of Chuck and Doris Cordray.

Sesquicentennial Celebration: The costs of planning and execution of the 2017 Sesquicentennial Celebration will be covered from a gift in the name of Ralph and Mary Alice Dernberger given by David, Sara, Buddy and John Dernberger and their families.

Non-Specific Memorials: Many thousands of dollars have been given to project funds or to the general fund. These memorial gifts cover many small items or on-going expenses rather than a single large item. For example, in June 2013 we received a gift from the estate of Doris Cordray designated as follows: \$8000 for church maintenance in memory of Chuck and Dan Cordray; \$4000 into the music fund in memory of Doris Cordray; and \$4000 into a kitchen fund in the name of Charlotte Cordray.



Circa 1920

## Do you remember when?

One of our ministers wore his bedroom slippers to church each Sunday when he preached; another rode a bicycle to make his calls; another walked 18 miles round trip to help start a new church in Newark; and another didn't believe in making calls, but said, "The church is here for them if they wish to come."

Several Easters ago, it was the custom to hold a community Easter Sunrise Service around the Japanese Gardens at Dawes Woods. As is often the case in early spring the ground was very soft and footing was tricky to say the least. Our Senior Choir was placed next to the lake with our backs toward the water. The slope was somewhat steep, and we were standing facing up hill. As we started to sing, Viola Bauman began to tip backwards as her high heels slowly sank into the soft ground. We finished the anthem with several of the men holding Viola so she would not tip completely over.

When Angela Dernberger was born, George Wright came to visit the newborn and her family. George enjoyed a little banter with Davy, who was four at the time, over the value of having a new sister. He offered Davy a candy bar for his sister. He refused. He asked what happened when she cried, and Davy responded that she would be held and fed.

On Sunday morning, George called Davy to the pulpit during the announcements and asked him about his new sister. He offered him a candy bar, and again Davy refused. He asked what happened when she cried and Davy responded loudly over the PA that it meant she had "pee'd her pants." George should have known better.

Becky Ours was known for her children's dramas and musical productions. Becky was the director of the Junior Choir and Protea Dickey played the piano. In the 50's, every child who attended the church had the opportunity to be in one of Becky's special programs. During one musical presentation, Dave Ford was attempting to sing a solo, "My Mother's Old Bible Is True," when a fly flew into his mouth. It was a real show stopper!

Rev. Snell, who was one of our ministers in the late 40's had a young son who was less than well behaved. Generally the hand was spared when dealing with his antics and several times the parents were embarrassed by Jimmy's tricks. One time while visiting the Slater farm, Jimmy picked up a wooden toy hammer and solidly hit his father's bald head...so much for sparing the rod....

"Christmas is coming. Today is our program. Everybody is excited over how well they will say their piece. I said mine okay I guess. Primary Department sang some songs. Fredrick wouldn't say his piece at first but he did thank Heaven. May the spirit of Christmas be with us through this holy season. Our class had \$5.00 offering for home for children and old people." From a handwritten church diary by John Cooperider, December 22, 1940. Given to the church by John at Doris Cordray's funeral.

Remember when the plaster fell immediately after Dave and Martha Cable's wedding?

Rev. Connie Strawn is remembered for serving the needs of our congregation between Rev. Hutchings and Rev. Wickizer. She is also remembered as the minister who preached such a hot Easter sermon that she set the church on fire. No one will ever forget the tragedy which was prevented by the actions of Homer Pierce and Charles Slater, who quickly extinguished the fire. The fellowship hall suffered only minor smoke damage. Connie never did get to finish her Easter sermon.

The practice of allowing the Youth Fellowship to lead the morning worship service whenever there was a fifth Sunday in a month was initiated by Rev. George Wright in the sixties. Several of the youth seized this as an opportunity to introduce camp songs and guitars to the congregation. The changes were not well received by everyone. On Palm Sunday in 1969 the youth sang "Blessed Quietness" to the tune of "Proud Mary." This was too much for Viola Bauman and she walked out of the service. Viola took her complaint to Chester A. Sillers who wrote "A Chat with Chet" an advice column in *The Christian*. Her question and his answer were published in a subsequent issue. Chet responded that The Bible identifies a number of different instruments and forms of music as appropriate for worship. Thus so long as the presentation is worshipful and intended to celebrate the Glory of God, it is all right. Viola apologized to the youth and continued to worship and serve faithfully for many years.

One of the more noticeable changes was the replacement of the old sanctuary gas-light fixtures which had been retrofitted with electric wiring, with chandeliers. Chuck Cordray, Ron Folden and David Dernberger did most of the work and the first phase of the project was to increase the number of electrical outlets throughout the church. Dave Dernberger II was about 9 years old and we found his small hands very useful for reaching into electrical box access holes and fishing wires.

David Russell Cable brought a lamb to Sunday School one Sunday. During worship, he left the lamb in the cab of his truck. The lamb managed to lock the doors, with the keys in the ignition.

Hebron celebrated its sesquicentennial in July 1985. Our church hosted Community Fellowship Day on July 14<sup>th</sup> and many of our folks participated in the service including our organist and choir.

At the annual meeting in December 1929 the deaconesses reported they had made 50 bottles of grape juice for communion and also 16 quarts of grape butter for the orphanage.

The Crusade for Christ was held in 1971 in the Hebron School gym. During one of the evening services while our choir was singing, someone went back stage and stole Vivian Dernberger's purse. The thief was caught by the ventriloquist, Geraldine, and Vivian's purse and money were recovered.

At the annual congregational meeting, April 2, 1898, the treasurer's report notes that total expenses for the year was \$58.91 (excluding pastor's salary) plus \$11.50 given to missions. The average collection was 95 cents. Balance at the end of the year in the treasury was \$3.37.

The church constructed a float for the Bicentennial Celebration in 1976. The theme was the importance of the spread of religion throughout the nation. On the back of the wagon there was a ten foot cross constructed by Jim Neel. While we were waiting at Hebron School for the parade to start, the cross came loose and fell off the wagon, nearly striking State Senator Gene Branstool, who was standing nearby. Gene was heard to remark something about an omen for the future of his political career.

Jim Weekly found several church record books in the basement of Fitches Grocery when they were cleaning up after the store went out of business. He gave these books to Nora Lee Orr to return to the church. Elizabeth Fitch was secretary to the official board for several years. She had kept the books at home and they ended up in storage at the grocery after her death.

Our church was selected as "Church of the Week" by *The Sally Flowers Show* on WTVN-TV in Columbus. We were allotted 12 tickets to be guests in the studio audience.

"And yet another exceptional thing was the fact that all the services of the church were closed on account of the influenza from Oct 9<sup>th</sup> to Nov 9<sup>th</sup>. On Nov 10 and 17<sup>th</sup> preaching services were held but no Bible School. On Nov 24<sup>th</sup> all the services were held including the Union Thanksgiving Service. But from Dec 1 to Dec 21 there was again no services and even on Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> and Dec 29<sup>th</sup> there were only preaching services. I think I am safe in saying that never before in the history of this church has there been a cessation of services for so long a time for such a cause." H.H. Carter, Pastor's Report, Dec 31, 1918

In the late 60's a volunteer group painted the church, parsonage and garage. Jim Neel and David Dernberger painted the garage roof. One started on the west and the other on the east and they painted to the center. This worked out especially well because Jim was left-handed and David was right-handed. When they met in the center, they realized that the ladder was at the end. The rest of the men were painting the east side of the church. Both boys yelled for help to no avail. They finally jumped from the roof and went to find out why no one had come to their aid. The answer was simple. Their cries for help had been echoing from the houses to the east. Several men had walked around the neighborhood as far east as Walter's Chevrolet in an unsuccessful attempt to locate those in need.

In early years the janitor had to fire the two stoves in the sanctuary and fill the lamps, trim the wicks and clean the chimneys. There was a large central lamp fixture and wall sconces with kerosene lamps. Even into the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century the janitor's responsibilities included firing the furnace and cleaning coal-black

throughout the church. How to pay the coal bill was a regular topic of discussion at board meetings. Ralph Dernberger hauled coal from the Sunny Hill mine in Perry County to both the church and parsonage. Every load had to be shoveled from the truck into the coal bins.

At one time the Deacons had to go out and solicit for money to cover expenses. One group visited an elderly well-to-do lady in the church. After telling her their reason for being there, and stressing the importance of their mission, she finally said, "Well, the Lord loveth a cheerful giver." She gave them fifty cents.

A popular youth fellowship activity in the 60's was the family outing for swimming and picnicking at a state park such as Burr Oak. Elma and Henry Cass and their son Larry went along with youth leaders Richard and Doris Orr to one such event. When it came time for lunch, Elma and Henry opened the trunk of their car, only to find it empty. It seems that each one thought the other had put the basket in the car. When they got home a full picnic basket was still sitting on their front porch.

In 1933, Rev. Worstall accepted a pay reduction to \$800 per year. His salary had been set at \$1500, but in 1931 and 1932 the church was unable to pay this amount. At the same meeting, the board acted to send only cards to the bereaved instead of flowers which were simply too costly...such was the condition during the Great Depression. Rev. Worstall stated that he would probably have to suffer with the rest because of the condition of the treasury.

In the 30's and 40's you were not allowed to teach Sunday school if you "danced at Buckeye Lake."

Doris Cordray, Belle Amspaugh and Esther Wright attended an activity at Camp Christian. They enjoyed their experience, but their cabin was infested with mice. When they returned the following year they brought mouse traps. Everyone had a good laugh.

In the 1960's church league softball was a big community activity with a number of area churches fielding teams. To stop the insertion of "ringers" into the line up the league had a rule that players must attend Sunday worship to be allowed on the team. This explained the row of men and boys who sat near the choir loft each year during late spring and early summer worship services. In 1967 our team won the league sportsmanship trophy, code for finishing in last place.

Rev. and Mrs. Hannum had two young children. Their five-year-old daughter, Kay, monitored the work of the trustees as they built the single-car garage behind the parsonage. Every morning she would come out with hands on hips and ask, "Now, what you guys doing?"

Around 1990 our church was blessed with a woodwind quintet. A woodwind quintet consists of a flute, a clarinet, an oboe, a bassoon and a French horn. For

a church of our size to have youth who were proficient in each of the five instruments at the same time was somewhat of a miracle. Quintet members were: Krista Amspaugh, flute; Megan Curran, clarinet; Jamie Mason, oboe; Angela Dernberger, bassoon; and Dory Wonders, French horn. The quintet presented special music on several youth Sundays.

One minister regularly left his two oldest sons home on Sunday morning to care for their baby brother. One Sunday, the baby escaped and came walking into the church during the service bare foot and wearing only his nightshirt. On another Sunday the pastor just quoted from the Bible "This is my Beloved Son, Hear ye Him" when there was an awful scream from the parsonage. Without missing a beat, the pastor said, "But I didn't think I'd hear him this soon!"

While preparations were being made for the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration Mary Alice Dernberger took the kitchen curtains home, washed them and put them back up after she and Helen Parker finished painting the kitchen. Later that same day she returned to the church to find the curtains in a pile on the counter. Laura Folden had taken them down so she could wash them.

Margaret Slater drove her Model-A Ford from Dublin to Hebron in the early 40's so she could serve as choir director and attend worship.

On March 24, 1924 the church board acted to follow the village ordinance recently passed by the town council to adopt Eastern Time for all worship services.

Public water became available in Hebron in the mid-1930's and the church had an operating water system in time for the 1937 Easter services. Because both the church and parsonage water came off the same tap and through one meter, the board passed a motion that the pastor would pay any water cost in excess of \$20 per year. As far as I have been able to determine, this action has not been amended or rescinded.

Commemorative plates were ordered for our Centennial celebration with the intention that they be sold as a fund raiser. Unfortunately the plates did not arrive in time for the centennial. They were sold after the fact and are now rare and priceless for those of us interested in our history. Two plates are in the historical cabinet.



Ron Folden and David Dernberger built a plywood model of the church as a visual aid for various remodeling projects. The model was displayed in the sanctuary and later in the fellowship hall. The model included additions such as a ramp to the sanctuary that could be removed or relocated to show how the church would look after completing a project. Interestingly, no projects were implemented and the model was eventually destroyed.

In May of 1942 the board minutes note that the church received an anonymous gift of 225 shares of Banc-Ohio stock to be held in a trust fund for "proclaiming the Gospel in Licking County and surrounding counties." The average annual earnings were projected at \$200. The donor was "not to be known." No further mention of this gift has been found.

In the 1950's men still wore suits to church and in the winter there was often several gray overcoats hanging on coat racks in the sanctuary. One Sunday John Neel could not find his car keys after the service. One of the other men had taken John's coat with keys in the pocket, leaving his for John. It was not long before the mistake was discovered and coat and keys returned.

For many years movable partitions were used to divide the fellowship hall into five Sunday school classrooms for children. A central gathering area held four benches and several rows of chairs for the opening singing. The partitions were of wood construction with caster wheels. They were wall-papered so when properly placed all walls surrounding a classroom had the same pattern. When there was an activity in the fellowship hall, all partitions were removed, Sunday school rooms disassembled and tables and chairs set up. When the activity ended, everything had to be reset for Sunday school.

In the early years of our church it was customary for the congregation to vote each year on the status of the pastor. At one annual meeting the vote was 18 yeas and 12 nays. The pastor promptly resigned.

The official board manages the business side of our church. The list below comes from a review of board minutes over 50 years or so. It seems that some issues never go away and could have been discussed by the board last month. Perhaps you remember discussing these issues.

- Ceiling in the sanctuary
- Roof
- Leaking baptistery
- Heater in the baptistery not working
- Water in the basement
- Offering envelopes
- Heating cost (first coal, now gas)
- Maintenance of the parsonage
- Care of the stained glass windows
- Pastor's vacation
- Janitor/cleaning
- Pastor's salary

<b>Pastors and Dates of Service</b>						
Pastor	Status	From	To	Years Service	Went To	Significant Event
Timothy J. Newcomb	Circuit	March 23, 1867				Church founded
Benjamin Franklin W. E. Elmore	Circuit					Evangelistic Meeting
Thomas N. Madden	Part time	Circa 1870				New building built 1878
Thomas N. Madden	Shared	June 23, 1893				
Walter Scott Cook	Part time	May 1, 1897	April 3, 1899	2.0		
Galva Critchett	Part time	November 25, 1900	February 14, 1902	1.2		
Harry H. Elwinger	Part time	June 8, 1902	March 28, 1903	0.8		
Harry H. Elwinger	Full	March 28, 1903	January 16, 1904	0.8		
Harry H. Elwinger	Part time	February 17, 1904	June 1, 1905	1.3		1/2 time with York Street
Earl P. Kempfer	Full	April 1, 1906	May 1, 1907	1.1	To another church	First parsonage built
S.C. Pierce	Full	May 8, 1907	1908	0.8	To Texas	
Frank A. Higgins	Full	January 7, 1909	1911	2.0		
Thomas B. Shearer	Full	April 6, 1912	April 1, 1914	2.0		
H.H. Carter	Full	September 9, 1914	May 30, 1920	5.7	To Millersburg	Church building expanded
R.M. Elby	Full	June 1, 1920	April 30, 1922	1.9		
John A. Goddard	Full	November 1, 1922	July 1, 1923	0.7		
William C. Worstell	Full	August 19, 1923	June 1, 1936	12.8		Second parsonage built
Dr. Walter Mansell	Full	July 19, 1936	October 30, 1938	2.3	Retired	
Leonidas E. Evans	Full	January 1, 1939	August 1, 1941	2.6	To Nelsonville	
Harry F. Hannum	Full	October 1, 1941	March 1, 1943	1.4	Return to college	
Alvin B. Amos	Full	September 1, 1943	November 1, 1944	1.2	Return to college	
Lester Snell	Full	May 1, 1945	May 30, 1951	6.1		
Robert D. M. Thomas	Full	July 1, 1951	December 19, 1954	3.5		
Vanus E. Smith	Full	April 1, 1955	July 5, 1965	10.3	To Savannah, GA	
George E. Wright	Part/Full	January 1, 1966	October 1, 1977	11.8	To Sylvania, OH	
Keith T. Hutchings	Full	November 1, 1978	July 1, 1986	7.7	Retired	Sanctuary remodeled
C. Morgan Wickizer	Full	August 1, 1987	November 1, 1997	10.3	To Powell, OH	Fellowship hall remodeled
Jeffery B. Gill	Full	September 1, 1999	December 1, 2004	5.3	Left full time service	
Steven P. Brown	Full	June 1, 2006	March 6, 2011	4.8	To Warren, OH	
Christopher Whitehead	Full	January 1, 2013				
<b>Others Who Served</b> -- excluding guest pastors and guest speakers						
J.A. Barr						
J. Rowe						
Lyle Scott Husan	Intern	Summer 1944			To Peoria, IL	
Delbert Mills	Interim					
Ross Gonser	Interim					
E.C. Traylor	Interim	1977-8				
Constance K. Strawn	Interim	August 1, 1986	August 1, 1987			
Paul Johnson	Interim	1998-9				
Ralph Burnette	Interim	1998-9				
Dr. Larry Miracle	Interim	January 1, 2005	June 1, 2006			
John Romig	Guest	April 1, 2011	October 16, 2011		To Gender Rd	
Nik Donges	Interim	November 27, 2011	December 31, 2012			
Note about Daniel Mayer: asked to fill the pulpit between Evans & Hannum but does not appear to have held "interim" status.						
Daniel's father was an elder in the church.						

## Loyal Women's Bible Class History

The Loyal Women's Bible Class of the Hebron Church of Christ was organized in March 1913. There were fifteen members. Mr. Thomas Shearer was the minister at the time. The first officers were: Mrs. Frank Robinson, president; Mrs. Ralph Hammack, vice president; Dessie Justice, secretary; Minnie Stadden, treasurer; and Mrs. Gertrude Bevelhymer, teacher.

In 1915, it was decided to remodel the church building and we pledged five hundred dollars. We made money in many ways. Mrs. Coad (Cully) White, a member of the church allowed us to use her building, where we had markets. We made large jars of sauerkraut, kettles of vegetable soup, baked goods, large kettles of apple butter and anything else we could sell. We served lunches at sales, election-day suppers, alumni banquets, chicken suppers and one banquet where we served fifty-eight dinners at sixty cents a plate. We collected papers and magazines, sold gelatin dessert, which we would order by two or three hundred boxes at a time, sold furniture polish, vanilla and sponges. We not only paid our pledge, but were able to help with kitchen equipment and dishes, and paid freight on barrels to the Cleveland Orphanage and always seemed to have money when asked to help with any church expense. The most we ever earned at one time was at the State Corn Husking at Mr. Alva Oyler's farm at Luray, where we cleared \$349.68.

We had our social and business meeting once a month.

When new carpet was bought for the church, Mrs. Bevelhymer was appointed chairman of the committee and was the only one living who had served on the committee to purchase the old carpet. The cost of the new carpet was \$1,562.69. Miss Nell Hutzell solicited for donations for the carpet and received \$400. The Loyal Women's Class paid the remainder. Mrs. Morrison, who was president of the class for several years, worked very hard on this project and the first funeral held in the church after the new carpet was laid was for her son Robert.

I remember what a shock I had when the younger members wanted to leave our class for one of their own. I thought, "Why, we are getting old. No!" Mr. Madden was teaching the older women of the Sunday School: our mothers, Mrs. Sarah Hutzell, Mrs. Alice Neel, Mrs. John Neel, Mrs. Alma Puffer, Mrs. Dora Millhouse, Mrs. Sally Embrey, Mrs. Lizzie Duffill, Mrs. Florence Mowery and Mrs. Whitney. As this class was almost gone, Mrs. Puffer came into our class with her daughter Roma Hammack and I think she lived to be the oldest, ninety-one plus. Mrs. Alice Neel and my mother, Mrs. Florence Mowery, came to our social meeting with Mrs. Minnie Hammond and me, and the younger ones came back to meet with us. Catharine S. Cooperider served as president for a time and Mary Geiger Voorhees as secretary. In looking over some old records, I found that in 1948, we had an enrollment of fifty.

At one time, the members were divided to make calls and Mrs. Emma Heimerl alone made fifty calls. We had a membership and lookout committee, who were on the alert for new members and sick members.

When the parsonage was rebuilt, we again pledged \$500 and raised \$1,100. We helped whenever and wherever possible. Mrs. Bevelhymer went into a home for several days and helped a sick family who were unable to care for themselves.

In 1967, we still meet as a class in the basement of the church once a month for a potluck dinner and it proves that all twenty-seven members enrolled are good cooks. We have an average attendance of fifteen. Mrs. Ethel Graham Blackburn, our president, drives eighteen miles to attend and makes several stops to pick up other members. Roma Hammack has been our secretary for nine years, Miss Nell Hutzell, our treasurer for twenty-six years, and Miss Letha Madden is our teacher.

We are still able to keep our flower fund financed and help in church expenses when necessary. Roma and Nell are still selling their wares and we have had anonymous gifts of money, Stanley parties and our monthly collections.

Mrs. Stella Richards, our oldest member will be ninety the fourth of march, 1967. The youngest, Eula Hammond, is sixty-three. Eight of us are past eighty. We have nine charter members living: Clara Brayton, Helen Sands, Roma Hammack, Dessie Justice, Blanche Kapp, Della Kelsey, Stella Richards, Minnie Stadden, Florence Savage and perhaps Mrs. Shearer and Mrs. Sprow. We are glad to welcome an old faithful member back as an active member, Mrs. Bertha Price Woolard. May Madden has served the most years in church membership of anyone now living. Philberta Hutzell, active in school and church work for years, became an active member of our class in her late years and helped out with our programs in giving us some of the stories she used in her primary work as county elementary school superintendent. She did much to help Catharine and Elma Cass, who are both working in primary departments in school and Sunday School.

I have found fifty names to be placed on the deceased list. We miss them and think how shall we do without them, but someone came forth to take their places for which we are thankful.

Class presidents: Bess Robinson, Roma Hammack, Fern Walters, Lucinda Walters, Vera Tygart Miller, Margaret Morrison, Gertrude Bevelhymer, Ethel Slater, Florence Savage, Catharine Cooperider, Helen Sands, Dessie Justice, Grace Worth, Edna Shaw and Ethel Blackburn.

Teachers: Gertrude Bevelhymer, Mrs. Will Edwards, Mrs. H.H. Carter, Mrs. Emma Heimerl, Mrs. Ethel Slater, Mrs. Tope, Mrs. Eby, Mrs. Bebout, Florence Savage, Mrs. Katherine Hannum, May Madden, Edna Shaw and Letha Madden.

Deceased members: Mrs. Will Edwards, Mrs. Rachie (Seibert) Kneller, Mrs. Minnie Walters, Mrs. Rose Walters, Mrs. Bessie Graw, Mrs. Nora (Messick) Clayton, Mrs. Addie (Messick) Woolard, Mrs. Bessie Robinson, Mrs. Mertie Sands, Mrs. Katie (Sands) Cooperider, Mrs. Vera (Tygart) (Taylor) Miller, Mrs. Emma (Tygart) Heimerl, Mrs. Minnie (Neel) Hammond, Mrs. Blanche (Blade) Stadden, Mrs. Minnie (Messick) Walters, Mrs. Edna (Fristoe) Walters, Mrs. Margaret Morrison, Mrs. Winnie (Embry) Kagey, Mrs. Gertrude (Hutzell) Bevelhymer, Mrs. Katie (Hutzell) Duffill, Mrs. Helen (Burton) Johnson, Mrs. May Avery, Mrs. H.H. Carter, Miss Fannie Duffill, Mrs. Annie Smedley, Miss Philberta

Avery, Mrs. H.H. Carter, Miss Fannie Duffill, Mrs. Annie Smedley, Miss Philberta Hutzell, Mrs. Ann Reynolds, Mrs. John Edwards, Mrs. Ethel Slater, Mrs. Robert Peters, Mrs. Washburn, Mrs. Lenora Enterline, Mrs. Clyde Reed, Mrs. Bess Robinson, Mrs. Tope, Mrs. Sherman Rees, Mrs. Cordelia Elijah, Mrs. Rose Price, Mrs. Lee Bonner, Mrs. Lindamore, Mrs. Collins, Mrs. Reubel Fox, Mrs. Hall, Alice Price Walters, Mrs. Starkey Griffith, Mrs. Allen Fitch, Mrs. Earl Swisher, Mrs. Ada Holycross, Mrs. Mae Smith, Mrs. Hamlet, Mrs. Myrtle Bebout, and Mrs. Frank Grandy.

By Dessie Justice, 1967



Last Supper Tableau, Maundy Thursday, April 1, 2010  
 Dan Bradley, Steve Webster, Tom Bradley, Rev. Steve Brown, Will Harris, John W. Slater, Tom McNichols, Tracy Wildermuth, Jessica Slater, David Dernberger, Mark Slater, Dave Dernberger II



Lenten Fair, Palm Sunday, 2011



Hebron 5K  
 September  
 2013  
 Hebron  
 Music and  
 Arts Festival

***“Ode to Fannie”***

Written by Viola Bauman soon after the death of Fannie Duffel, August 1961

She was a legend in Hebron, known far and wide  
Her skill as a seamstress was excelled by none.  
Physically handicapped early in life  
She was never a burden to anyone.

Rather she gave. She was true to her faith  
Her church was her life, she was loyal and true  
A duty never shirked, a service seldom missed  
How loudly it speaks now that one empty pew.

Crippled and maimed, she knew no defeat  
She met life’s challenge with a courage quite rare.  
She built her own home, and paid her own way  
E’en though very heavy was the cross she must bear.

Yes, crippled and maimed, she was no stranger to pain  
Yet always had a cheerful word and a smile  
She was gentle and patient and kind to a fault  
And seemed to find always that life was worthwhile.

Knowing her well one could easily sense  
Her pride of accomplishment in what she’d attained  
She managed to carry her share of the load  
Tho’ oft times one knew that her smile covered pain.

In the late years when ill health would permit no hard work,  
The burden of loneliness was an added cross  
I was never able to get past her door  
Without hearing her call out and appear for a talk.

Oft times it was difficult to break away  
She was lonely and yearned for someone to care  
Her “after church” lingering at the door  
Meant a little more time with others shared.

She will be missed by many she was a good neighbor and friend  
But we know now her victory is won  
She’s happy with her Savior in a body that’s whole  
And I know she has heard His “Well Done!”

***“Christian Church  
(Hebron, Ohio)”***

Written by Letha Madden, from “Old House and Other Poems”

Content to wear none save the name  
Her sovereign Lord worn,  
Unheralded, unknown to fame,  
The little church was born.

By consecrated hands, and strong  
Her torch of love was set,  
And though the vigil has been long  
That torch is living yet.

Down the far vista of the years,  
Braving what might betide,  
Through poverty, or strife, or tears,  
Her light has never died.

Warmed by devotion’s steady glow  
The tree of friendship throve,  
Whose sturdy boughs were made to grow  
The fruits of Christian love.

In reminiscent mood we see  
Fair spirits lingering there;  
Loved voices come to memory  
In cadences of prayer.

May we still keep the charge that they  
Into our hands have given,  
Remembering to watch, and pray,  
And strive, as they have striven.

God grant the torch may ever shine  
Its fire as pure as then,  
Till earth reflects the light above  
Of peace and love toward men.

## **Selected Recipes from "Cook Book"**

Compiled by Dorcas Missionary Society, Church of Christ, Hebron, Ohio, 1950

### **Baked Steak with Vegetables** *by Roma Hammack*

1-½ pounds round steak  
6 onions  
6 carrots  
6 small potatoes  
4 stalks celery, cut in pieces

Cut the steak in pieces for individual servings. Flour steak and brown in hot fat in skillet. Place meat in baking dish, place onions, carrots, potatoes and celery around meat, salt and pepper. Add 2 tablespoons flour to meat drippings, brown, add water and 2 tablespoons cream to make thin gravy. Pour cooked gravy over meat and vegetables, cover and bake in moderate oven until tender.

### **Chipped Beef Casserole** *by Maribel Neel*

Shred ¼ pound chipped beef, pulling it apart with your fingers. Sauté with 1 onion, chopped, and 1 cup diced, cooked potatoes in 3 tablespoons bacon fat. When potatoes are brown and beef is well frizzled, add 1 can condensed mushroom soup and ½ can water. Simmer until sauce smooths and blends well with beef and potatoes. Pour into casserole. Top with buttered crumbs and bake 15-20 minutes in moderate oven, 350 degrees.

### **Escalloped Cabbage** *by Viola Bauman*

Prepare cabbage, break leaves apart and put in salted boiling water, cook 12 minutes. Drain and arrange in baking dish, putting a layer of cabbage and a layer of white sauce, sprinkle buttered crumbs over the top and bake in moderate oven until brown.

White sauce – medium:

2 tablespoons flour  
1 cup milk  
1 tablespoon butter

Melt butter, add flour then milk and cook until slightly thick. Amount to make would vary according the size of baking dish.



#### **Dorcas Missionary Society 1950**

Top l to r: Thelma Stadden, Maribel Neel, Elizabeth Fitch, Verna Barnett, Catherine Cass

Center l to r: Betty Williams, Viola Bauman, Alpha Duffel, Ginny Artz, Mary Alice Dernberger

Front l to r: Clara Williams, Pauline Ours, Mrs. Snell, Becky Ours, Mildred Byrd  
Children: Jimmy Snell, David Dernberger

Photo taken on the front steps of the church and is in the cook book.

## Tuti-Fruti-Salad *by Pauline Curs*

- 1 package lemon Jello
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ cup boiling water
- 1 cup crushed pineapple (juice drained off)
- Let the above set until slightly firm, then add:
- 2 packages Philadelphia Cream Cheese
- 4 tablespoons mayonnaise
- 1 cup chopped celery
- ½ cup chopped nuts

Make sure the cheese and mayonnaise are mixed well, and fold second part into the first part mixing thoroughly. Set until firm and serve on lettuce leaf.

## Pineapple Cookies *by Ethel Slater*

- ½ cup shortening
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 eggs
- 2/3 cup crushed pineapple
- ¼ teaspoon soda
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 1-½ teaspoons baking powder
- ½ teaspoon vanilla
- 2 cups flour

Cream butter and sugar well. Add unbeaten eggs, one at a time. Sift flour, salt, soda and baking powder to first mixture; add one half flour, then pineapple and finish.

Drop by teaspoon on greased cookie sheet. Bake for 10 minutes in oven (375 degrees F.)

½ cup chopped nuts makes a fine addition to this recipe.

## Strawberry Punch *by Alpha Duffill*

Wash, hull and mash 2 quarts of strawberries, add 1 cup sugar, let stand one hour, strain, add juice of 12 oranges, 12 lemons, 3 quarts cold water and 2 cups sugar. Pour into large punch bowl, add 1 quart whole strawberries. Serves 15 to 20.



VBS  
1977  
Kitchen  
Crew

Anne  
Slater,  
Esther  
Wright

VBS  
1974  
Program

Becky  
Ours,  
Steve  
Douglass



Report of Auditing Committee, September 9, 1903  
 C.V. Bebout, Thomas Duffill, Rose Wilson  
 Thomas Duffill was church treasurer  
 John C. Neel, board chairman

100 years later  
  
 100 times the  
 budget

Balance left in treasury March 1, 1902	\$ 15.03
Amount of Sunday Collections for the year	\$ 61.19
Collections for Home Missions	\$ 15.00
Collections for Ohio Missions	\$ 10.00
Collections for Church Extension	\$ 20.00
Collections for Foreign Missions	\$ 20.00
Amount raised for gas fixturings	\$ 90.25
Amount raised for Pastor (Elwinger)	\$ 304.50
Amount raised for Evangelist (Neil)	\$ 100.00
Adjustment to reconcile with minutes DSD 2/13/2010	<u>\$ 11.89</u>
Total	<u>\$ 647.86</u>

Expenditures	
Pd to W.D. Andrews, janitor	\$ 36.00
Pd to E.J. Fristoe for Insurance	\$ 25.00
Pd for church register	\$ 1.50
Pd for work & material	\$ 1.89
Pd to T. Duffill for H.W. Garn	\$ 2.00
Pd for supplies	\$ 5.08
Pd for gas & meter rent	\$ 3.45
Pd for putting in gas	\$ 90.25
Pd to Home Missions	\$ 15.00
Pd to Ohio Missions	\$ 10.00
Pd to Foreign Missions	\$ 20.00
Pd to Church Extension	\$ 20.00
Pd to H.H. Elwinger, pastor	\$ 304.50
Pd to W.S. Neil, Evangelist	\$ 100.00
Pd for Programs for meeting	<u>\$ 1.75</u>
Total	<u>\$ 636.42</u>

Balance in hand of Treasurer \$ 11.44

Sunday School	
Amt. in hands of Treas, April 1, 1902	\$ 6.78
Amt. rec. from Sunday Collections during the year	\$ 35.34
Amt. rec. on Children's Day	\$ 14.59
Amt. rec. on Rally Day	<u>\$ 5.35</u>
Total for yr.	<u>\$ 62.06</u>

Expenditures	
Pd. for supplies for the yr	\$ 23.75
Pd for treat for S.S.	\$ 5.90
Pd for supplies for S.S. revival	\$ 3.38
Car fare to State S.S. Con.	\$ 1.75
Pd for missions	<u>\$ 19.94</u>
Total exp'd	<u>\$ 54.72</u>

Balance left in hands of Treas.	\$ 7.34
Report of C.E. (Christian Endeavor)	
Amt of money rec'd within the yr.	\$ 8.33
Amt paid out	\$ -
Bal. on hand	\$ 8.33
Report of C.W.B.M.	
No. of regular contributors (4)	
Amt rec'd within the year	\$ 25.41
Amt paid out within the year	\$ 25.41
Bal. in Treas.	\$ -
Pd. For support of little India girl	\$ 30.00
Full total of all moneys rec'd within yr	\$ 773.66
Full total pd out	\$ 746.55
Roll Call June 10, 1903, number of members	170

## Our Building

Our largest investment is our church building. The first church on this site was constructed in 1878. It was remodeled and expanded in 1915 to the present configuration. Some of the original lumber from the first building is still part of the structure more than 130 years later.

In 2001 Home and Building Inspector, Kurt Grashel, completed an inspection of the church and parsonage. He reported that “considering the age of and the fact that there were no building codes in effect or any type of inspection procedures the church (was found) to be in a remarkable sound condition not withstanding that it has been well maintained over the years.”

The building remains a testimony of the talents and abilities of church members who built the building and later expanded it with their own hands. We have also taken very good care of our building and have continued to renovate and renew to suit the needs of the congregation.

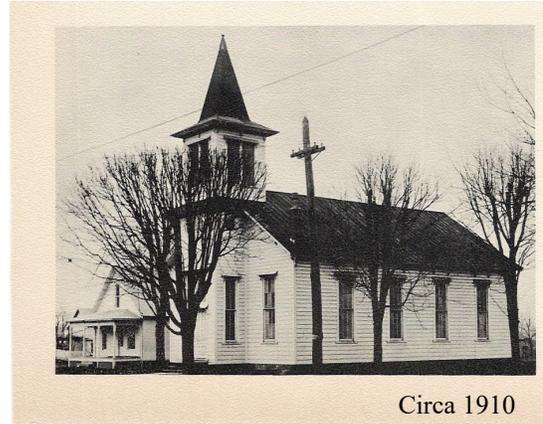
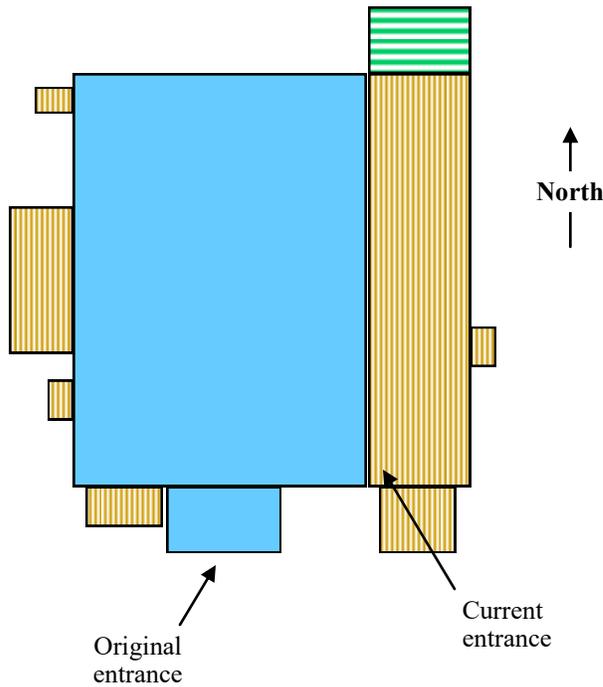
I have attempted to tell the story of our building with information from board minutes, construction documents and anecdotes. Many people contributed to this but no one more than Thomas Madden who served as secretary for the 1915 building expansion committee. His notes and time sheets, written in pencil in a school tablet, enabled me to construct a time line of the project and calculate the hours invested by those who did the work. By the way, Mr. Grashel was incorrect to say that there was no official inspection during the remodeling. The Industrial Commission reviewed and approved the plans in March of 1915. The state building inspector made visits in March and April and approved of the on-going work. State approval was required for installation of the furnace.

The next several pages contain information about our building that I found interesting in researching our history.

- 60) Layout of the church showing original building and additions
- 61) 1915 Building Expansion Timeline
- 63) Itemized Cost of the 1915 Expansion
- 64) Our Church Windows
- 65) Furnishings
- 68) History recorded in the bell tower
- 69) A historical fiction about our Bell

Hebron Christian Church  
**Building Expansions**  
 Not to scale

-  1878 Original Building
-  1915 Expansion
-  1999 Elevator Addition



Circa 1910

**1915 Expansion:** Original church was raised about 6 feet. The pulpit was moved from the north end of the building to the west side, a platform and choir loft were built. The sanctuary floor was sloped to the west. The floor boards in the sanctuary came from the Neel farm. A concrete baptistery was added along with two changing rooms. The eastern expansion contained three classrooms, stairways and a porch on the sanctuary level and three classrooms on the balcony level. The sanctuary entrance was relocated from the south center to the southeast corner. The entrance on the southwest corner was designed to enable easy access for funerals. A full basement was constructed under the church with a fellowship hall, kitchen, serving room, furnace room and coal room. Running water and restrooms were added in 1929. Over the years the tower has sported a spire, a railing and posts resembling a crown and a neon cross.

Can you see the lines of the original building in the current church?

Designated a “Historic Site” by the Greater Buckeye Lake Historical Society. Plaque is attached to the sign in front of the building.



## Hebron Christian Church 1915 Building Expansion Timeline

Assembled from Board minutes, Building Committee notes and work log, and Trustees Records

January 21, 1915	Board gave approval to "draft rough plans for church house improvements.	
February 15	Committee of three appointed to work with the trustees as a building committee. Dudley Avery, Thomas Duffill and Thomas N. Madden. Motion approved to authorize the trustees to raise money for the building. Jacob Mowery and Ray Walters added to the committee.	
February 17	Building committee met and elected Dudley Avery chairman and Thomas N. Madden secretary. Dudley Avery was head builder and Thomas Duffill was in charge of masonry. Decision to purchase building blocks from Mr. Holycross of Hebron.	
February 26	Earliest work log kept by the building committee. Nineteen men, three with teams of horses, "dug and scraped" working a total of 119 man-hours.	225 total man-hours worked in February
March 2-6	Work log indicates setting jacks and lifting the building	
March 16	"State inspector came and viewed the work and was satisfied with our plans but required of us a blue-print which I (Madden) understand was made by Brother Avery." The committee met to consider the curtaining, partitions and doors of the east addition. Decided to have plastered partitions above and curtain doors below.	
March 17	Mrs. Bernard Bevelhymer and Miss Clara Rees (later Mrs. Joel Voorhees) added to the building committee at the request of the committee to name some women to the committee. They were in charge of interior decorating including new windows and furnishings.	
March 18	Furnace man came and reviewed the building and conferred with the committee and took plans of building and said he would make blue-prints of it and of furnace.	
March 20	Received a letter from the Industrial Commission requiring two complete plans of the building for their inspection.	1151 man-hours worked in March
April 19	Building committee reported to the board that the state building inspector had inspected the site. Trustees were instructed to borrow \$2000 and that the notes be drawn to run until the 1 <sup>st</sup> of June 1916.	261 man-hours worked in April
May 17	Progress report to the board. Received cash donations to date     \$1145.64 Spent   \$ 734.09 Amount pledged                             \$2429.00 Discussed where to hold church services when the building could no longer be used.	
May 16 or 23	<i>Note: there is a date discrepancy here. This may have been May 23 and not May 16 as recorded in the minutes..</i> Congregation accepted the offer to meet in the school house while the church was under construction. Agreed to send a written note of thanks to the Odd Fellows and the school board for offering their buildings.	27 man-hours worked in May...perhaps planting season
June 13	Moved from the school to the Odd Fellows lodge	
June 21	Building committee reported that the contract for decorating the ceiling and windows had been let.	339 man-hours worked in June

	Brother Bates accepted an invitation to rededicate the church building.	
July 19	Authorized the trustees to take out a loan of \$4000	49 man-hours worked in July
August 16	Building fund at \$606.18 Decision on the kind of doors to be used.	
September 5	Congregation met <i>in the church</i> to discuss another loan. Decision to canvass the church membership for pledges and donations.	
September 20	Building fund at \$316.10 Report that Elmer Neel would loan \$2000 on the church property. Raised the insurance coverage on the building to \$4000.	
October 18	Board reviewed the mortgage which had been signed by the trustees, board president and board secretary. Money placed in Park National Bank. Building fund at \$526.22 <i>Note: It appears that references to the "building fund" in board minutes applies to the cash on hand and not the loans.</i>	377 man-hours worked July through October on finish work
November 15	Board met "in the church basement." Cash to date \$2306.14 Paid out \$5914.62 Balance in banks in Hebron and Newark \$ 358.70 Building nearing completion Discussed a pump for the baptistery. <i>Note: Public water was not available until Easter 1937.</i> Agreed to buy suitable chairs for the classrooms and balcony rooms and choir, not more than 150. Rededication scheduled for the 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in December followed by a one week revival meeting.	
November 17	Work log indicates a crew moving furniture and placing seats	
November 20-24	Work log indicates crews completing grading and brick sidewalks	86 man-hours worked in November
December 20	Rededication service led by Dr. Miner Lee Bates	
January 17, 1916	Balance in Hebron Bank \$107.43 Bill for lights \$107.00 Paid \$725 against the \$4000 loan, principal balance \$3828 Clara Rees was appointed to get prices for moulding for the classrooms Decision to paint the baptistery tub white Agreed to "redress" the pulpit Investigating gas stoves for the classrooms, restroom and robing rooms.	
March 20	Principal balance \$3323.65 Discussions on grading the lawn	
April 17	Principal balance \$2400	
May 17	Discussion about electric lights in the sanctuary, trustees authorized to purchase "bulbs." <i>Note: sanctuary light fixtures and wall sconces were originally gas lights later reworked into electric lamps.</i>	
July	Principal balance \$1900	
January 1, 1917	Principal balance \$1200	
May 2	Board approved holding vacation Bible school in the basement Insurance increased to \$10,000	
April 1, 1918	Principal balance \$286	

A total of 2530 total man-hours worked on the project. Mostly volunteer hours by church members and friends.

Total building cost was \$7397 (\$175,000 in today's dollars) broken out as follows:

<u>From Church Records</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>My comments</u>
Raising the building	\$ 45.00	
Lumber, cement, roofing, etc	1892.30	
Hardware, etc	466.09	Nails, hinges, etc.
Brick	32.93	Chimney?
Tile	7.17	
Hauling Gravel	146.15	
T.W. Duffill Labor and helpers	454.53	Excavation and masonry
A. Blade Labor	39.00	Painting
Carpenters	957.47	
Painting and Varnishing	119.25	
Paint and Varnish	51.74	
Plastering	131.91	
Electric wiring	64.96	
Frescoing	281.85	Flowers on the ceiling?
Stoves for dressing rooms	8.00	
Furnace	950.00	Coal-fired, forced air
Seats	594.24	Pews
Windows	283.52	Stained glass
Lights	107.00	
Carpets	185.24	
Pulpit furniture, Chairs	155.51	
Redressing pulpit stand	7.50	
Electric bulbs	5.00	
Programs	6.25	
Postage mailing programs	4.25	
Dishes	52.20	
Minor Lee Bates	40.00	Speaker at dedication service
Expense of Recording Mortgage	7.55	
Interest on \$1500.00 to Elmer Neel	32.92	
Interest on \$4000.00 L.C.B.&S Co	<u>271.69</u>	Licking County Bank & Savings
Total	\$7397.22	

Labor rates for paid workers: 20 cents per hour for unskilled and 40 cents per hour for skilled.

All indebtedness was paid off in 3 years and 9 months.

The Loyal Women's class raised over \$500 of the total.

Estimated cost to construct a modern sanctuary to seat 175 people with fellowship hall and classrooms: \$1.6 million which includes nearly \$500,000 to comply with today's codes and regulations.



## Hebron Christian Church Windows

The windows are held together by lead strips in a wood frame. The color is in the glass, not painted on the glass. Every two feet or so there is a cross member that supports the weight of the glass and prevents the window from sagging. The windows will open and are counterbalanced with sash weights.

Fifteen windows are installed with one spare. Three different widths: Seven at 27 inches, two at 29 inches and six at 41 inches. Two windows are hung upside down.

The windows were installed during the 1915 expansion and remodeling at a cost of \$283.52. More recently, storm windows were installed to reduce heating bills and to protect the windows from the elements, rocks and BB's.

**Symbolism** that can be found in our stained glass windows:

four hand bells proclaiming the gospel to all of the world;

two rams horns used for giving signals, sounding warnings or heralding significant events;

two pillars representing those that flanked the door of Solomon's temple as described in I Kings and II Chronicles. The columns were named Jachin and Boaz which stood for the initial words of oracles which were inscribed upon them. The Jachin inscription was "God will establish thy throne forever" and the Boaz inscription read "In God is the King's strength." The capitals at the top of the columns in our windows are strikingly similar to an artist's conception of the actual capitals (Unger's Bible Dictionary, p. 547); a symbol of the small door that we must pass through to enter the kingdom of heaven (Luke 13:24).

### Through the Eyes of A Child:

Three-year-old Wesley Cornett saw a turtle, a butterfly and a frog in the windows. Can you see them? The turtle is at the top, walking toward you with his head held high. The butterfly is right below it with spread wings. The frog is at the bottom with two large red eyes looking in from the outside.

What do you see in our beautiful windows?

### Clock in the Library

The clock in the library has a brass plate with the date 1867 suggesting that the clock was in the meeting place for the newly-formed congregation or was presented to the congregation during its inaugural year.

Facts however place the manufacture date of the clock a little later. The clock was manufactured by Welch, Spring & Co. of Forestville, Connecticut. Welch, Spring was formed in March of 1868, a combination of E. N. Welch Manufacturing Co and Solomon C. Spring, each deeding a factory to the new company. Welch made the movement and Spring made the case. This company existed until 1884, so our clock was made sometime between 1868 and 1884.



Since the young congregation dedicated their new building on the current site in March 1878, it is probable that the clock was a part of the original furnishings. I suspect the brass plate was placed on the clock in 1967 during the centennial celebration.

The clock is an E.N. Welch “Verdi” wall clock, often called a Regulator clock. It has a 12” dial with a second bit. The case is Rosewood veneer, 31” tall. The movement was designed and patented by B.B. Lewis and is an eight-day plus one-day movement with a strike on a steel bell. The “plus one” refers to a clock that was designed to be wound every eight days with a one-day grace period (or nine days total). The glass window has probably been replaced as the word “Regulator” would have been printed on the original pane.



### Lamp with glass globe

Look closely at the floor lamp in one of the balcony classrooms. Then imagine it hanging from the sanctuary ceiling. In 1981 the original gas light fixtures, which had been wired for electric lamps many years earlier, were replaced by chandeliers. David Dernberger took one of the fixtures and converted it to a floor lamp to preserve this bit of our heritage. Upon inspection you can see the petcock where the gas was turned on before lighting the lamps.

### Settee

Ornate but uncomfortable, the settee was probably part of a Victorian parlor set consisting of the settee and two side chairs. The settee was likely made in the late 1800's and is believed to be a piece of original church furniture from 1878. In earlier church histories it is referred to as “horse-hair sofa with matching chairs” that sat behind the pulpit. It is currently in the choir loft.

### Original Communion Table

The original communion table is very simple design with two shelves behind a full door. A folding leaf comes up from the back to provide a larger work surface. It was in use from the founding of the church in 1867 until the building was remodeled in 1915. It is currently in the Friendly Class room.

### Communion Table

The oak communion table and two side chairs were purchased in 1915. A shelf was added in 1977 in memory of John C. Neel and Susan R. (Neel) Janks.

### Pulpit

There are some inconsistencies in the various references to our current pulpit. Some documents refer to it as the original pulpit from 1867 but it is unlikely that the fledgling church could have afforded such an elegant furnishing. During the 1915 remodeling money was allocated to “redress” the pulpit, indicating that the pulpit being used at the time was redone rather than replaced. It is more likely that the pulpit was new when the church was built in 1878, or perhaps made by someone during the early years in the “new” building. The pulpit is made from oak with cherry inlays that resemble people or windows. Sometime along the way the pulpit was painted with fake oak-grain paint, perhaps to match the communion table. This was discovered during a renovation that revealed the cherry panels. In 1983 the Bible lectern was constructed to match the design of the pulpit.



### Sunday School Desk

The Sunday School secretary’s desk was purchased by the Loyal Women’s Class in 1914. It is a drop front secretary with pigeon holes and one drawer, a design which was very popular around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. At various times it was in one of the baptistery changing rooms, the belfry room and is currently in the library.

### Flower Stands

There are two small and one large flower pedestals that were made by Gleason Enterline who was an active trustee for many years.

### Pews

Our curved pews were installed in November of 1915 at a cost of \$594.24 and are referred to as “seats” in board minutes during the building expansion. There

is a total of 275.5 running feet, providing seating capacity for around 150 adults. There are hymnal racks on the back of each pew designed to hold three books. Seat cushions were added in 1990 in memory of Walter and Carrie Greathouse. Bible racks were installed under the pews in 2001 in memory of Wilber Mason. One ongoing problem has been cracking caused by low humidity during the heating season. This has been abated with installation of modern HVAC equipment which does not “overheat” the building.

### Orphan Pews

There are three free-standing pews in the church. The one in the fellowship hall is thought to be one of the pews from the original church building. There is one of the curved pews in the Friendly Class room. This pew was removed to improve access to the sanctuary and create space for a desk near the entrance. The other curved pew is in the north balcony room and was removed to create space for the organ. Both pews could be reinstalled if necessary.

### Church Bell

The church bell was purchased and installed in 1879. See story about the bell in the appendices.

### World War II Banner

Hand sewn banner with sixty-nine blue stars representing Hebron men who served in World War II and one gold star recognizing the death of William Hammond. Made by members of the Dorcas Missionary Society 1941-1943.

### Rocking chair in the Nursery

This rocking chair was purchased by the Loyal Women’s class in 1913 for use in the nursery. Besides it’s intended purpose it was included in the Chapel at the 2015 General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) at the Columbus Convention Center. Many people rocked, meditated and prayed in the rocker during the assembly.

### Framed Documents in the Library

Articles of Incorporation in Ohio, January 1915

Charters from The International Sunday School Association recognizing formation of a men’s class “Comrades of the Cross” June 19, 1909 and “Loyal Womens Class” March 7, 1913.

Deed for West Main property (present site), December 30, 1878

World War I Honor Roll

Several Proclamations commemorating special events in the life of the church.

In the days before aluminum siding the church had to be repainted every so often. A partial record of those projects is painted in the bell tower. Aluminum siding was installed in 1981.

Painted on the North Wall...

Two dates with  
no explanation...  
**1979**  
**1879**

**Painted**  
**Two Coats**  
**May 1914**  
**By**  
**R.O. Wolfe and Sons**

**Painted**  
**One Coat**  
**June 1905**  
**By**  
**J.B. Sawyer**  
**T.M. Blade**

Painted on the South Wall...

**Painted by The**  
**Slaters, Neels, Blatters, Foldens,**  
**Ours, Morgan, Dave S. Dernberger,**  
**B. Busche, Pierce, Jim D. Neel**  
**Two Coats—August 1965**

I was working for John D. Slater in August 1965 between years of college. John provided manpower and equipment and I suspect paid for the paint. We used conventional extension ladders, but also a hay elevator to extend our reach. Jim Neel, Bill Busche and I painted the lower half of the bell tower by putting a rope around the tower, standing on the ledge with the rope behind our backs. Young and stupid. David D.

"Does anyone know the history of our bell," Cheryl Maslowski asked one Sunday morning returning from sounding the call to Sunday School.

No one did.

This haunted me throughout the morning worship and by the end of the service I resolved to find what I could about the bell. Cheryl and I climbed into the dusty tower with flashlights and over the next few weeks, the bell began to yield its story. Perhaps you will forgive me if I have taken some liberty in developing characters around some of your ancestors.

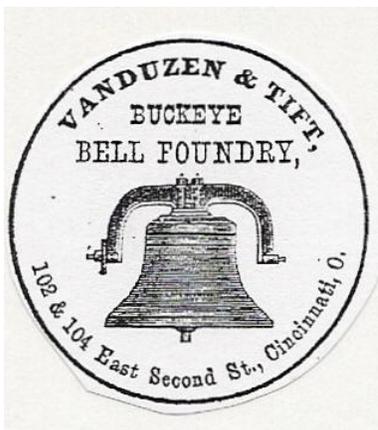
### Bell

John Voorhees stood on Hebron's main street and reflected on the events of the past year. The little brick building on High Street had become too small for the growing congregation and after the big evangelistic meeting of 1875, Rev. Newcomb had insisted that a new Disciples of Christ church be built. Soon everyone was caught up in the fury of activity and debate about the location was finally settled when Isabel Murch offered three large lots on the west side of town for the price of \$200. By 1878, the church was erected and Timothy Newcomb led a spirited, but worshipful, dedication service.

The church was of modest design as was the custom of the frontier religion known as the Disciples. Double doors opened onto the pike to welcome all who might desire to worship with the growing congregation. Inside, pews lined a central aisle which led to the pulpit on the north end of the sanctuary. On either side of the pulpit were benches, with deacons and elders always seated to the right of the preacher so as to give him visible and vocal support. A pair of coal burners provided the heat, and even on the coldest morning, worshipers could be comfortable...as long as the wind wasn't blowing too hard. Abe Swartz had even insisted on spending extra money to buy a kerosene 'shandy leer' to add to the light coming from the smaller wall lamps. The building had everything necessary and the Lord was surely pleased with His new house.

It was Ira Kelsey who proposed the bell. "Couldn't expect people to remember to come to worship without a bell to summon them." But there was a problem. The little congregation had just spent more than a year giving their time, energy and money for erecting the new building. Sure it was completely paid for, but everyone had stretched their resources to the limit. There was also the time commitment. Shop keepers and farmers alike had spent time building the building to the neglect of their own businesses which had a negative impact on profits and to ask for more time and money now was almost too much.

Still, most everyone knew that a church was not complete without a bell. It was finally Mrs. Rees who insisted that with faith, all things are possible, and besides, why did we build such a tall steeple if we did not intend to house a bell in it. And so, with this debate settled, another started: What kind of bell would be appropriate and who would cast it?



Rev. Newcomb, because he was much traveled and had developed a strong network of friends all over Ohio, knew there was a bell foundry in Cincinnati. He even had an address and so Ruth Long wrote to VanDuzen & Tift, manufacturers of Church, Academy, Plantation, Factory, Steamboat, School-house, Chime, Fire-alarm, Tower-clock, Court-house, and other Bells, and requested a catalogue. After four weeks, the arrival of the catalogue only sparked more debate as trustees argued over the size of the bell and what accessories were needed. Camps were drawn up around 'biggest and best' and 'modest and appropriate.' The trustees were split three to two and of course couldn't agree at all.

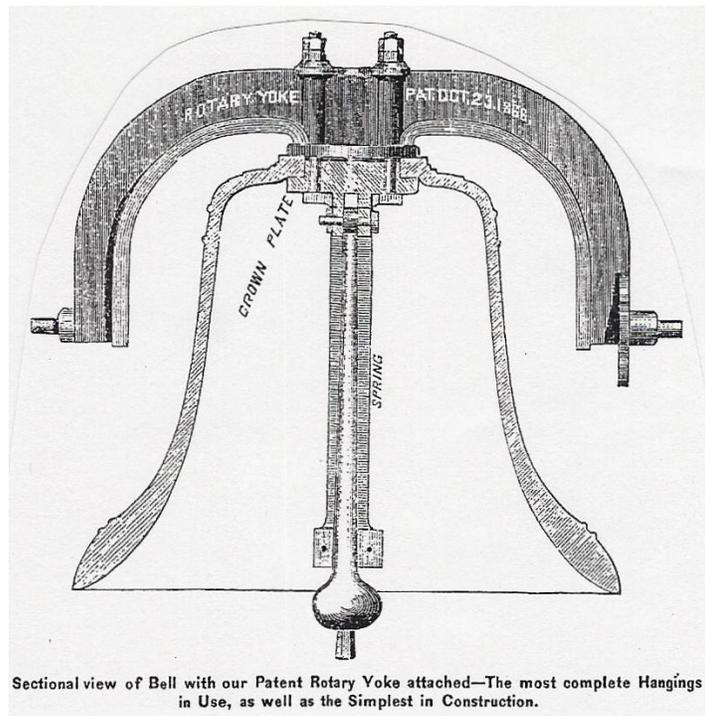
In the end it was the success of the big ice cream social which settled the argument. The youth of the church worked hard and with some

other donations, enough money was raised to buy a standard 28 inch church bell and all of the 'hangings.' After machining, the bell would weigh 400 pounds and the 38 by 38 inch frame would fit nicely into the new steeple.

This was by no means the biggest bell, in fact it was on the small end of standard church bells, but those insisting on the biggest and best were satisfied in the quality of design and workmanship. The bell would be cast from genuine bell metal consisting of Lake Ingot Copper and East India Tin, with tin making up 22% of the alloy in order to 'obtain the greatest Durability, combined with Perfection of Tone and Vibration.' VanDuzen had enjoyed great success and had recently doubled their warranty providing a signed guarantee that the bell would not break for two years from time of purchase while being rung or tolled in the proper manner.

Another design innovation, the rotary yoke, which had been patented in 1866 by VanDuzen & Tift, made it possible to rotate the bell without unhooking it. Rotation was recommended to present a new point of impact to the stroke of the clapper and lessen the chance of the bell being cracked. Inside the bell were clapper springs which caught the clapper just before striking, permitting it to strike with force and then holding it off, so as not to arrest the vibration while the bell is swinging up.

The hangings also added to the value of the bell. The yoke and stands were made of iron with wrought iron axles. Anti-friction metal was used to lessen the labor of ringing. The frame was made of ash, as was the 42-inch diameter wheel. There was also a tolling hammer which could be used for funerals or alarms. The hangings added \$28.00 to the \$120.00 cost of the bell, bringing the total to \$148.00, plus shipping.



And so in the spring of 1879, Hebron's bell was cast in the Buckeye Bell Foundry at 102 and 104 East Second Street in Cincinnati, using the latest foundry technology perfected during the rebellion.

The bell was shipped up river from Cincinnati and then by the Ohio & Erie Canal to Hebron. The overland part of the journey was just a few hundred yards from the Hebron Basin to the new church. Everyone turned out to watch the arrival of the new bell, and plans were soon laid for lifting it into place.

Lifting a 400 pound bell more than 25 feet into the top of the steeple presented an engineering and rigging challenge which only farmers can enjoy. I.M. Long had a good team of horses, ones which would pull steady and stand firm to keep the rope taut. Blocks and ropes were brought in from the Rees' place and a strong beam was mounted in the bell tower. The block and tackle hung to the ground and pulleys were rigged to keep the lead rope parallel to the ground. It was just like lifting hay into the barn, only the load was heavier and more precious. Once the bell was raised to the full 26-foot height, a crew in the tower began the difficult task of swinging the bell into the tower, during which the team had to carefully back up, giving just enough slack in the rope to allow the bell to enter the window but not drop so low as to hit the window frame. The men in the tower strained against the ropes to pull in the bell and place it in the A-

frame which had already been installed in the tower. When the bell was finally safely in the frame and the bearing caps bolted into place, a sigh of relief was heard from workers and spectators alike.

To the delight of all, the clear C tones of the bell could be heard throughout the little community and for a mile or so outside of town. The Disciples congregation was as proud as good Christians are allowed to be.

Thirty-five years later, as the church was remodeled and expanded, the bell was moved several feet higher as the building was raised to accommodate a basement and expand the sanctuary.

Ralph Dernberger recalled that in 1940, he helped Charlie Slater and several other church members lower the bell to its present location just above the belfry room. It seems that even a small 400-pound bell was too much for the wood frame steeple and the church trustees had noticed severe swaying of the bell tower during ringing of the bell and in high winds. Ralph remembers that they rigged blocks and tackles inside of the bell tower and carefully lowered the bell and bell hangings more than seven feet to the current height. This was tedious work inside of the tower and dropping of the bell would have done permanent damage to the tower structure.

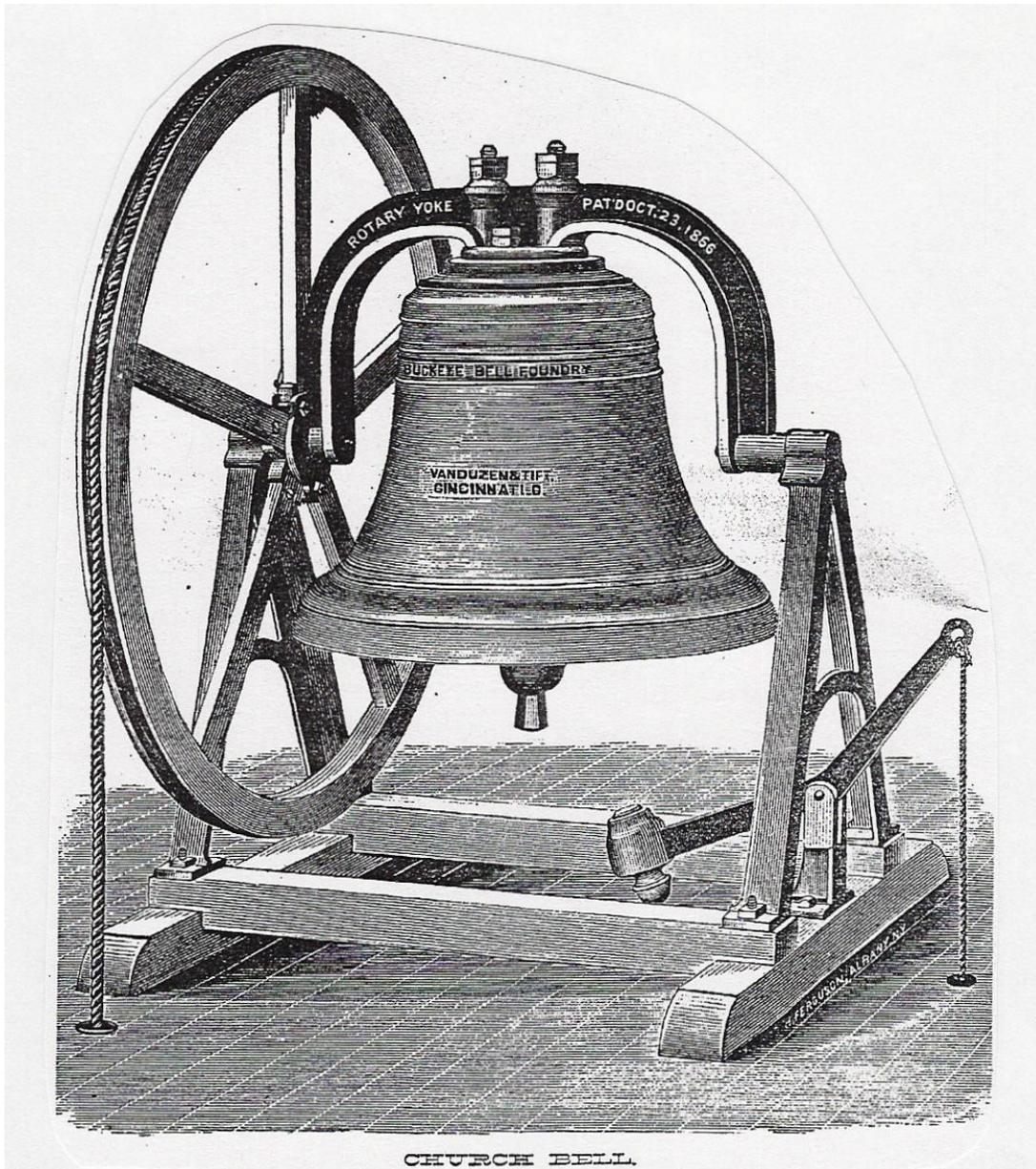
In the late 50's the bell sat silently as modern public address speakers were installed in the bell tower. Perhaps the bell found some consolation as Tennessee Ernie sang "When they ring those Golden Bells...." This fad was to pass, but the next crisis was more difficult to deal with as neighbors complained that the ringing of the bell on Sunday morning disturbed their sleep. For a while the bell was silent, but neighbors move away and the complaints stopped. Then for several years the bell was sort of forgotten, to be rung only when someone remembered to ring it or to help commemorate a special event such as the 200th birthday of the US or the Challenger disaster. A year or so ago, Rev. Wickizer and the Christian Education Committee decided that the bell should ring every Sunday.

Over the years, many young boys and girls have taken their turn hanging on the heavy rope, feeling the weight of the bell and the dust sifting through the floor boards, and hearing the rich tones of the bell as they call people to Sunday School and Morning Worship. Today, a new generation of bell-ringers are having their turn enjoying the thrill of the pull...just ask William Harris.

Oh yes, as for the patented Rotary Yoke. Well, the bell is still mounted in the rotary yoke in its original position. Apparently few people knew about the necessity to rotate the bell regularly to prolong its life, and even fewer people wanted to make the effort to do so. After 116 years, it seems pointless to worry about it.

The bell has outlived VanDuzen and Tift and The Buckeye Bell Foundry. Both ceased to exist in 1958 when the construction of Interstate 75 in Cincinnati overran the factory site. Their records, drawings, patents, and history were purchased by The Verdin Company who is headquartered in Cincinnati, however there are no commercial bell foundries remaining in the US. Verdin imports their bells from their foundry in Holland. Verdin offered a quotation of \$11,500 plus hangings, freight, and installation for a new bell, which would make the replacement value nearly 100 times the original investment.





Cheryl commented that the bell seems so loud inside of the belfry room. The explanation is simple. "Improvements" made over the years such as aluminum siding, better insulation, and tighter tower windows, and lowering the bell to its present location below the tower windows have had the effect of retaining the volume of sound inside of the tower instead of letting it escape into the surrounding neighborhood and across the country side.

In any case, trustees Kelsey, Voorhees, Long, Swartz, and Rees must be happy to know that their original investment is still proclaiming Christianity to the community from the little church on the pike.

David S. Dernberger, December 30, 1996

Acknowledgments:

Cincinnati Public Library, Rare Book Department, Alfred Kleine-Kreutzmann, Curator

The Verdin Company, Mr. Thomas W. Reiring, Sales and Marketing Assistant

History of Hebron Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), updated 1992, Mary Alice Dernberger

Hebron Christian Church Time Line																
	1867	1877	1887	1897	1907	1917	1927	1937	1947	1957	1967	1977	1987	1997	2007	2017
<b>Local</b>	1867 - Church Founded										1976 - Adopted name Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)					
<b>Events</b>	1878 - Church building built			1915 - Church expanded										1999 - Elevator installed		
	1879 - Bell Purchased			1907 - First Parsonage built										1981 - Sanctuary refurbished		
	1924 - Current parsonage built												2000 - Family Life Center			
	1890 - First Sunday School				1936 - Friendly Class established				1976 - "The Church Window" established							
	1903 - First full time pastor						1959 - I-70 bypasses Hebron									
	1902 - First Missionary Society															
	1913 - Loyal Women's Class						1955 - Junior Choir formed				2001 - Allen Organ dedicated					
	1917 - Golden Anniversary						1967 - Centennial				2017 - 150th					
<b>Disciples</b>	1874 - Women's Board of Missions formed										1968 - Provisional Design for the Christian Church (DOC)					
<b>Events</b>	1875 - Foreign Missionary Society				1944 - Week of Compassion established											
	1887 - National Benevolent Association established												2015 - General Assembly in Columbus			
	1909 - Centennial Convention in Pittsburgh						1948 - World Council of Churches									
							1950 - Mainline Protestant church boom									
	1917 - Lexington Theological Seminary founded as the College of the Bible															
<b>World</b>	1867 - Alaska purchased, Dominion of Canada created										1963 - Kennedy assassinated					
<b>Events</b>	1903 - Wright Brothers first flight						1969 - First moon landing									
							1989 - Berlin Wall falls									
	1918 - Influenza Epidemic						2001 - Sept 11th attack									
	1881 - American Red Cross founded						1986 - Challenger disaster									
	1918 - End of World War I						1950-1953 - Korean War				1991 - Persian Gulf War					
	1898 - Spanish American War						1939-1945 - World War II				2003 - Iraqi War					
	1869 - Transcontinental Railroad completed				1964-1973 - Vietnam War											
	1877 - first commercial telephone net						1920 - First licensed radio broadcast						1964 - The Beatles			
							1967 - First Super Bowl									
	1867	1877	1887	1897	1907	1917	1927	1937	1947	1957	1967	1977	1987	1997	2007	2017

Other Reading, which can be found in the Zoa B. Sellers Memorial Library

*About the Christian Church* copyright 1978 by Channing L. Bete, Inc.

*Annual Reports* of the Hebron Christian Church, June 1980 to the Present

*Religion in Ohio*, Edited by Tarunjit Singh and Dianne P. Small, 2004, Ohio University Press

*Journey in Faith – A History of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)* by Lester B. McAllister and William E. Tucker, 1975, The Bethany Press

*Old House and Other Poems* by Letha Madden, no publishing date

*We Call Ourselves Disciples* by Kenneth L. Teegarden, 1975, The Bethany Press

*You might be a Disciple If...*, Compiled & Edited by David P. Polk, 1977, Chalice Press

*Yearbook* of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), current and past editions

*1915 Building Expansion Centennial*, David Dernberger

Several scrap books and photo albums

Church board minutes, Annual Reports and church newsletters

Credits: 1967 History prepared for the Centennial Celebration – Zoa Sellers, Carrie B. Hutzell, Letha Madden, Helen Sands, Grace Worth and Dessie Justice. 1981 update -- Becky Ours. 1992 update -- Mary Alice Dernberger. 2012-2016 update – David S. Dernberger. Contributors: Viola Bauman, Letha Madden, Elma Cass; Rev. Chris Whitehead for opening article “The Disciples of Christ”.

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Copies of the *Church History* are available in a printed and bound edition on request and in a digital edition at our web site, [www.hebronchristianchurch.net](http://www.hebronchristianchurch.net). Contact David Dernberger at [dernbeds@hughes.net](mailto:dernbeds@hughes.net) or phone 740-928-7141 to order a copy.