



A Historical Collection
of
**HARPER COUNTY
CHURCHES**

FILMED

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of
**HARPER COUNTY
CHURCHES**



Published by
Harper County Religious Heritage Committee

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INTRODUCTION

Harper County is noted for its fraudulent beginning, and yet it boasted of no famous lawmen, because it has never harbored or reared any well-known outlaws who appear in the annals of the West. Its settlers have been morally strong, and far above the rascality which gave the name "Harper County" a bad odor wherever it was used in early days.

The name, full of disgrace and dishonor, prevented early settling, but it belongs to a day before the county had any inhabitants other than the majestic buffalo, howling coyote and festive, wild horse. That story of this tall, prairie grass country and scheming scallywags goes back to 1873 and 1874 when fraudulent bonds of "Harper County, Kansas" were floated in the East and a not too alert state administration admitted it and allowed it. However, Governor George T. Anthony appointed officers for the county on August 15, 1878, and the boundaries we acknowledge were set the following year.

In 1876 four families settled on what eventually became the east boundary line of the county—Devores, Jessepchs, Lamars and Thomases. In 1877 the settlement of Harper got started; Anthony came into being the next year; Danville in 1880, Albion the following year, etc.

This book, then, is not concerned with evils of selfish men in the county's prior history, but with the goodness and the Gospel taught by organized fellowships when people finally began emigrating into what was probably "one of the most beautiful prairie regions of Kansas". This is a collection of individual histories from the various congregations we could find as Kansas celebrated its 100th year of statehood. The committee received histories from most of the existing groups. (Only exceptions were the South Church of God in Anthony, and three churches believed still in existence at Harper — Apostolic Christian Church, Immanuel Bible Church, and the West-side Church of Christ.) It also found what it could about disbanded churches. (We think that at least one of each denomination included that branch's development in the history of the Christian Church.) All the religious groups which have been found in Harper County are of the Christian religion — no Judaism or other faith.

It was interesting to note that as people arrived, they nearly always wrote back East asking their friends to move out and enjoy Harper County. For instance, in the south part of the county is a settlement known as "Little Tennessee". After one Harper County explorer, William H. Burchfiel, made it out here in 1878, he wrote his brother (a Methodist circuit rider) to gather up the family and friends and colonize with him. A group of 40 adults, and numerous children, gathered at the banks of French Broad River in eastern Tennessee, sang an appropriate hymn, then went aboard a large flat boat and sailed to Knoxville. There they chartered a railroad coach and boarded a train (a mechanical development many of them had never seen before, and few if any, had ever been aboard before). At St. Louis they changed railroads, truded a half-mile to a different station — toting bundles of all shapes and sizes, baskets of lunch, valises bulging with clothing and household supplies, and with almost every one of them carrying a sack over his shoulders that was filled with seeds of fruits, grains, nuts, etc. From early Monday morning to Saturday it took the train to make it from St. Louis to Harper. There wagons met the group, took them to Anthony, and eventually to Spring Township.

The important thing we noted in gathering these histories was that as people came, they built churches very soon.

So, to the churches of the first settlers, to the good citizens of Harper County's early days, and to the families they developed on this level land of south central Kansas, we dedicate this collection of their churches' histories.

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AMONG THE RETIRED CHURCHES

We know that there were churches in the county which once served the area very well and which later, as population changed, either disbanded or combined with some other group. Records are scarce on these, but a few reports we have which give us a little bit about the widely scattered congregations in our county's past.

COUNTY'S FIRST CONGREGATION

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, HARPER (1877)

In the spring of 1877, a number of families emigrated from Bloomfield, Iowa, to what was then called the frontier, and established a settlement in Harper County, Kansas. At a later period in that year Rev. Andrew Axline, a Presbyterian minister and missionary who was stationed at Iuka, Pratt County, in compliance with an invitation from some friends visited this new settlement, and at that time preached to the people the first sermon ever preached in Harper County. He also arranged to make occasional visits to this settlement which was subsequently called Harper, and in the following winter of 1877, at a meeting of these early settlers, Rev. Axline presiding, a religious society was organized which was named The First Presbyterian Church. There was then no other church of any denomination in Harper County.

The next year, in July, 1878, Rev. J. P. Fulton came to Harper, and by an appointment of the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions, commenced preaching regularly to the people of Harper and vicinity. During seven years he continued in this work, until in 1885 he was released from Harper and engaged elsewhere.

Rev. J. M. Wright was the next pastor, and after three years he was succeeded by Rev. M. S. Riddle who remained two and one-half years. Mr. J. E. Everett, a student of Union Theological Seminary was then employed to supply the pulpit. When his engagement ended, The Rev. Hoffmeister was called to the pastorate. He was followed by Mr. D. D. Mitchell, a Theological student who preached during this summer vacation. Afterward Mr. Fulton resumed and continued in the Harper church until 1897 when he was replaced by Rev. Henry Farwell.

The first Presbyterian church house was a frame building erected on the east corner of Central Avenue and Eighth Street. This house was subsequently removed to the west corner of Central Avenue and Twelfth Street. After it was wrecked by the cyclone of 1893, another, better, more commodious and more comfortable house was erected at the same site.

This church celebrated its 75th anniversary in October, 1952. The following is an excerpt from historical records which were read on that occasion:

The church is united and harmonious, and in excellent condition for good, earnest and effective work. Presbyterians and their friends coming to Harper will find a warm welcome, and a cordial invitation is extended to attend all the services of the church, and also to partake of the social enjoyments of the church and congregation, which are not the least among its many pleasant features.

"A very encouraging feature of the work in the church is the large number of young people, especially young men, who attend the services. Their energy and hopefulness is always a source of encouragement to a pastor and church. The prospects of the church are very hopeful for a future of usefulness."



BURCHFIEL METHODIST CHURCH (1883)

Burchfiel Church really began in the late 1870's when Mr. William H. Burchfiel conducted a Sunday School in his home. In 1883 the Burchfiel schoolhouse was built and the people of the community asked Rev. Wood of Anthony to meet with them to organize a Methodist Church. This was done and the charter members were: William H. Burchfiel and his wife Sarah, and George Burchfiel, Mrs. Elizabeth Cary, Miss Allie Cary, Miss Josie Cary and Mrs. Ellen Hager. Rev. Wood preached for them once a month until he was moved from Anthony.

About that time Rev. J. R. Burchfiel and family came to the community, and, for several years, "parson" Burchfiel preached in the church that had been named for his brother. Then Rev. H. J. Purcell, a local preacher living near Harper, discovered the little band of Methodists. During his pastorate more than 100 new members were added.

In 1892 Burchfiel was joined to the Bluff City charge and, for 29 years, each place had preaching services on alternate Sundays. In 1902 the first church building was completed and dedicated. When the parsonage was built in 1921, Burchfiel became a separate church with a full-time pastor. Recently the two have combined once more.

In April, 1936, the church building burned; but the real Church that lived in the hearts of the people still stood undamaged. A new sanctuary rose in the place of the old one, and Burchfiel Church still serves.

Ministers who have been assigned over the years are Wood, J. R. Burchfiel, H. J. Purcell, C. H. Westfall, C. C. Rarick, Williams, Watson, J. R. Millsap, Clapper, E. M. Smith, William Blood, F. H. Ebright, R. D. Webster, J. E. Murphy, R. A. Sawyer, R. H. Runion, A. O. Ebright, L. H. Horton, R. O. Schmidt.

Jim Crawford, B. F. Foard, Wayne Allee, Burton Lovelady, Orville Bokless, M. O. Wheaton, J. W. Dibbens, H. E. Galyon, Dean Dryden, Elmer Burke, Marian Schuh, Harry Maitland, E. W. McNeil, Oscar Magnuseon, Herbert Parkes, Richard Hardesty, K. J. Modschiedler, Omer B. Randall and Harry Blowey.

CHICASKIA BAPTIST CHURCH (1880)

"We love the little country church
Where Christ is still upon the throne;
Let's keep her altar fires ablaze
Till he returns to claim His own."

The Chisaskia Baptist Church, a rural church, is located four miles east and three miles north of Harper, in Harper County, in the state of Kansas.

First church meetings were held in a sod shanty a quarter mile north of the present building on the west side of the road, but organizational plans were not commenced until February, 1880, when services were held in a schoolhouse across the road east of the present church building. At this time there were 15 charter members: Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Litsey, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Litsey, Ella Teeter, Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Litsey, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Green, C. W. Litsey, Mr and Mrs. William Freeman, Horace Rice, and Mr. and Mrs. Edward Gorton. Elder Moses Parker was the first preacher.

In 1892 a medium-size white church with a tall spire that "pointed the way" was built. Eventually the spire was severed from the church building, by the male members, because it was struck by lightning three times. Sadness swept the congregation in 1938 when lightning struck and burned to the ground their beloved church. With hope and determination, before the ashes cooled, plans were made to have a basement church. After ten years of worship underground, a sanctuary was built atop the basement. Additional classrooms, a new kitchen and dining area were added in 1959.

In 1948 schools were consolidated in our vicinity and the Star Center schoolhouse, across the road from the church, was for sale. Realizing it was a landmark second only to the church in sentimental value, would sell for little money, and could be of great benefit to the church, the Chicaskia folks voted to buy the school house and use it as a Fellowship Hall. Despite repair work the "old house" began to crumble and it was deemed wise for safety and economical purposes to raze the building and use the lumber in the building project of 1959. The grounds on which the Fellowship Hall stood are used for a soft ball diamond, croquet, and tennis.

A women's missionary society was organized in July, 1928, bearing the name, in its birth, as Ladies Aid. The twenty members have now increased triple.

The church membership has seen a larger growth in number. From 15 charter members, church record bears a resident membership of 102, with an average Sunday School attendance nearing the hundred mark.

What a joy it would be if someone could only whisper to those who started this church of the lasting accomplishments in His name.



ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, HARPER (1882)

The St. Patrick Catholic church, located at the corner of Jefferson and Ninth street in Harper, Kansas has quite a long history, having been established in the year of 1882. The first Mission church was built on East Main street in Harper in 1882, and was located west of what was later known as the Orient depot.

In 1896 the church was completely destroyed by the tornado which struck Harper in that year.

In 1897 the church property was vacated and lots were purchased where the present church is located. At that time a church was built on this location. The approximate cost of the new building was \$100.00. This Mission was attended from Danville. The priests who have served the Mission were: Fathers O. L. Kearful, G. Bitter, Thomas O'Hara, Bernard Martin, K. T. Werthrop, J. C. Corrivault, J. C. Sullivan, H. Walsh, A. Dykmans, P. J. Maloney and D. Kenneally.

In 1934 Rev. J. A. Wechensky began attending the Mission.

In 1939 the church was newly remodeled and re-decorated. The Blessing of the Church was conducted by Ms. Gr. Morrell on November 8 of that same year.

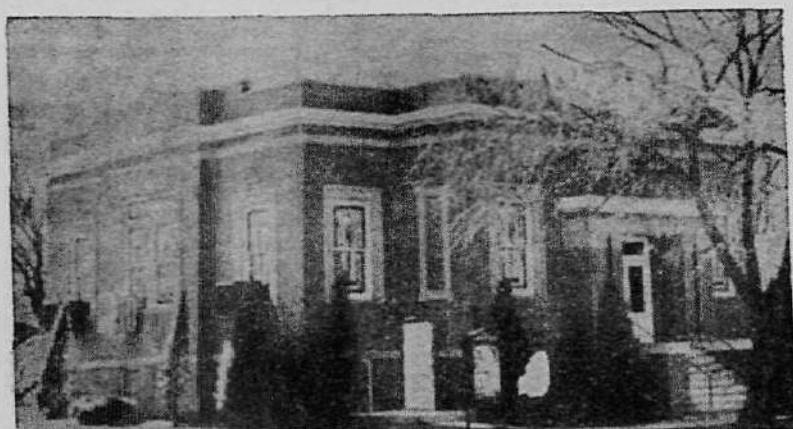
In 1948 the church was moved back 24 feet and the body of the church was extended to the front 16 feet, with an extra eight feet for a vestibule. On July 27, Bishop Carroll blessed the newly remodeled church. The blessing took place at 4:00 o'clock, with a parish dinner following at 6:00.

On January 30, 1949, Rev. J. A. Wechensky called a meeting of the church committee for the purpose of considering a resolution pertinent to the incorporation of the Diocese of Wichita. It was considered and unanimously passed.

In 1950 a Mission was conducted by Rev. Henry Vetter, on March 5th to 12th Bishop Carroll gave confirmation on March 15th.

In 1955 confirmation was held on Nov. 10th by Bishop Carroll, Rev. Strecker, Albers, Kingman; Bartos, Danville; Birzer, Sharon; Jarosa, Kiowa; Wechensky, pastor, in the sanctuary.

Rev. John Wechensky is the present pastor.



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, HARPER, 1880

The first meeting held in Harper in the interest of establishing a New Testament Christian Church was conducted in 1879. Due to the faithfulness of Bro. James R. Thompson, the original minutes have been preserved in excellent condition.

On May 3, 1913, Brother Howard H. Jackman, a resident of Harper in its beginning days, sent the original minutes to Brother Thompson, after having discovered them in some of his private papers. The following is an exact duplicate of those minutes:

"On the evening of June the 5th, 1879 a meeting was called at the residence of Mrs. J. B. Brodnix, for the purpose of taking into consideration the propriety of organizing a congregation of Christians for the purpose of holding worship in the town of Harper. The meeting organized by appointing Bro. W. A. Karr to the chair and electing Howard H. Jackman as secretary. After talking the matter over informally, and believing it for the best advancement of the cause a committee of three, consisting of Bro. J. B. Brodnix, Sister C. E. Gray and H. H. Jackman, was appointed to choose a building lot for the erection of a church building and to visit the Probate Judge and have him deed up the lot chosen to FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF HARPER. Adjourned to meet at the same place Monday evening, June 9, 1879.

(Signed) H. H. Jackman, Secretary"

"Harper, Harper Co., Kansas. June 16th, 1879 — On call of the brethren we met at the residence of Bro. J. B. Brodnix. After being called to order, the report of the committee appointed to select a lot upon which at some future time to erect a church building was heard. A lot was chosen, and the selection approved. We then proceeded to effect a permanent organization by the election of three trustees. Bro. J. B. Brodnix was nominated, and upon motion elected one of the trustees of the First Christian Church of Harper. Then H. H. Jackman being placed upon Nomination, was elected as the second trustee. Bro. Tavorl Barton being nominated, was elected as the third. After an informal talk over the propriety and feasibility of obtaining a minister, and other matters pertaining to the advancement of the cause, we adjourned to meet on Thursday evening, June 26th at the residence of J. B. Brodnix to organize a prayer meeting.

(Signed) H. H. Jackman, Secretary"

Thus we find the church of Harper beginning in the midst of humble and dedicated surroundings.

The Christian church was organized in Harper in April of 1880 as the result of a series of services held by Elder A. H. Mulkey of the Christian church at Medicine Lodge, Kansas. As early as July of 1879 this group had been having services at intervals. Most of these services had been held in what was known as Spencer's Hall.

In January of 1883 the five trustees, M. B. Hiatt, R. Barton, J. P. Oldfather, W. G. Mahen and H. C. Finch purchased the lot on which the present building is located. By October 1884 the erection of a frame building 32x48 feet on a foundation of dressed stone, was begun. According to a statement in the Harper Sentinel of October 7th, 1884 it was described as "much surpassing either of the present church buildings (Methodist and Presbyterian) in beauty of design. Besides its capacity will exceed at least by one half either of the others."

This frame building, with some remodeling, served the congregation as a sanctuary until the present building was erected on the same site in 1917-18 under the leadership of W. E. Kelly, the pastor at that time. In recent years the church sanctuary has been redecorated, a modern heating plant installed, and many improvements made in the equipment of the building.

METHODIST CHURCH, HARPER (1879)

The Methodists of Harper started a weekly prayer meeting and a Sunday School in the summer of 1877; both were undenominational in character.

The Rev. J. W. Payne organized the church January 10, 1879 and left Mrs. E. S. Morgan in charge of leading services until a pastor could be appointed. After walking from Kingman wading the Chickasaw River at full bank, The Rev. J. W. Anderson arrived March 15, 1879 to become the first pastor.

Services were held in local homes until 1882 when the first church building was completed. The First Methodist Church in Harper was dedicated May 4, 1882.

The ladies of the Church purchased an organ in 1881 and the first public appearance of the choir was on Sunday, May 18, 1882.

Beginning with the following twelve chartered members, E. S. Morgan, M. E. Morgan, J. Cheevers, E. Anderson, Susan Lanmyon, I. P. Campbell, Hattie Bloom, Belle Goss, J. H. Gray, H. T. Spencer, Mary Gorman, C. P. Brollier and C. Brollier, the church prospered and grew to such an extent that it was noted in the "Harper Sentinel" May 22, 1886, "The stove in the Methodist Church has been taken out and forty more chairs put in this week." "On account of lack of seating capacity heretofore a good many have been unable to attend services there."

The local paper also commented December 28, 1882, "The new bell for the Methodist Church arrived just in time to ring out a genuine surprise to our citizens Christmas morning. It weighs 700 pounds, has a deep, rich, voluminous tone, and seemed to penetrate the atmosphere for miles around."

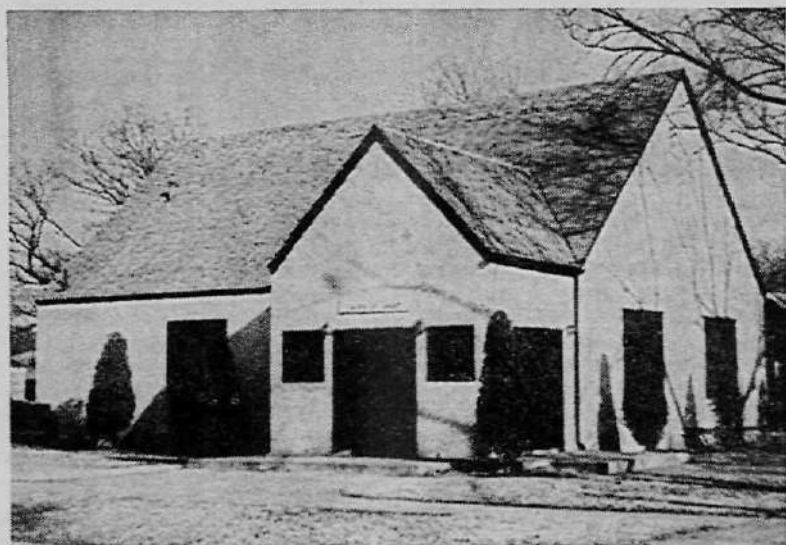
Rapid growth made the original church building after 25 years inadequate in spite of additions and changes in the structure. Fund raising for a new and larger church began in March, 1907.

Chancellor George H. Bradford and Dr. D. M. Yetter led in the laying of the cornerstone February 22, 1911. The final service in the old church was held November 19, 1911 and the new church was dedicated November 26, 1911. Frank E. Mossman who was then serving his first term as president of Southwestern College, Winfield, delivered the dedicatory address.

The church and parsonage became free of debt December 2, 1916 and the happy event was marked by a Jubilee Celebration. The Junior Choir was organized in the church. A primary department of the S. S. was organized in 1908 by Lena Smith. The Junior Department was organized by Rev. Abernathy in 1912. The "Mother's Jewels" was organized by Mrs. Chas. Melvin in 1922.

After 1945 the Danville Church was added to the Harper charge. In 1949 the Runnymede Church was closed and 27 members came to the Harper Church.

Another special service was held September 12, 1954 to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Methodist Church in Harper.



EASTSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST, HARPER

In 1945, 35 members of the Eastside Church of Christ met and formulated plans for the building of a new church building to be located at the corner of Central and Monroe streets in Harper. Members of the new congregation constructed the building with very little outside help. The building was finished for services in March of the same year.

Ordination of deacons and elders was held on June 7, 1945 by Evangelist H. L. Gipson. Those elected elders were: A. F. Dietz, B. B. Poundstone and Everett Mathes. The deacons selected were Gilbert Wiley, Virgil Wiley and E. D. Petry. The membership at that time was 35.

When B. B. Poundstone moved to Kingman, Gilbert Wiley was advanced to elder. Both A. F. Dietz and V. E. Petry have passed to their rewards, and the following are now in charge of the work: Everett Mathes and Gilbert Wiley, elders; Virgil Wiley, deacon.

A new minister, J. D. Comer has just begun his work here with the church. Meetings are held on Sunday at 10:30 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. The membership has now grown to 65 members.



HARPER SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH (1903)

A number of families residing in the southern part of Kingman county and the northern part of Harper county had learned the Adventist message in various ways. Some however, moved into this territory having already been Sabbath keepers. But the main source seemed to originate with a Dr. Rogers who located in Spivey to practice medicine. He began to attend Sunday school which was being held in the Honey Creek public school house. Being a good Bible student he was soon asked to teach the Bible class. In the course of about two years quite a few were interested but L. A. Carrick became convinced of the truth.

In Feb. 1903 Eld. Norwood, an Adventist minister, held a series of meetings in a public school building known as the South Rochester school. At the close of these meetings an organization was formed with 23 charter members. They chose to call themselves the Spivey church, elected officers and a short time later voted to apply at the proper time for admission to the state conference of S. D. A. churches. The officers of this first church organized in Feb. 1903 were; Perry Pepper, elder; W. A. Rogers, deacon (no relation to Dr. Rogers); Mrs. A. E. Culver, clerk; L. A. Carrick, librarian and treasurer.

At this time Eld. McReynolds, the conference president, was also present and he conducted the service for the ordination of the newly elected elder and deacon. At first they met in the homes, then later in the Honey Creek public school house, which by this time had been moved to the east side of the section in which it formerly was located. During the year 1903 six more joined them and by the end of 1904 there was a membership of 38. However, by the middle of 1916 many had moved away, some were deceased, a few found the going too difficult, until of the charter members only 5 remained. These were: Perry Pepper, his wife Victoria, Walter Carrick, Ross Carrick and Edward Pepper.

Through the courtesy and kindness of the members (these 5, together with Elder Wilson and Bro. Phillips), were permitted to meet in the Christian church in Spivey. In order to reorganize the 5 charter members, acting as a nucleus, voted into membership eleven others. The officers at this election were: Perry Pepper, elder; Edward Pepper and Walter Carrick, deacons; Mrs. Perry Pepper and Mrs. Walter Carrick, deaconesses; Mrs. Ross Carrick, clerk and treasurer; W. H. Fairbrother, home missionary secretary.

Now they began to worship in the Four Acre public school house. Sometime later they moved to the hall in Duquoin. About 1938, on account of its membership disbanding, they purchased the Methodist church in Duquoin. Now with the first apparently permanent home, it was felt the name should be changed from the Spivey Church to the Duquoin Church. By this time the membership had grown to 66.

Here are a few names of the ministers and district leaders who have served among us over the years: Elders McReynolds, Norwood, Johnson, I. F. Thorne, Kettring, Wilson, Noah Sutton, Sherman Bringle, Knott, Wiest, Untersehr, Aalborg, Osmunson, Baughman, Meyers, Christiansen, Kirby, Patton, McWilliam, and now our own Eld. Lunt.

Aug. 6, 1950 Elders Kirby and Bro. Patton, the singing evangelist, began a series of meetings in a tent on West Main street in Harper. So at the close of these meetings when 26 individuals decided to accept the message, it was thought advisable to build a church in Harper. It was learned by this time that the church then being used in Duquoin was in such condition something drastic must be done, and soon. Permission was secured to use the community hall in Rago while the old church was being torn down so the good lumber might be used in Harper. This hall in Rago was used until the Junior room upstairs in the new building was finished sufficiently to be entered. It was at this time the name was again changed — this time to the Harper Church.

In 1951 a suitable location was found in Harper and financed by two of the brethren, Earl Cole and Lloyd Carrick. Lloyd passed away in the Spring of 1952. A building committee was chosen consisting of Earl Cole, chairman, Walter Carrick and Ross Carrick, treasurer. There was a ground breaking ceremony in 1951. This building is the product of the untiring efforts and consecrated labor of the building committee, coupled with and supported by the members of the church, as well as the conference officials, together with neighbors, friends and the city of Harper. We are grateful to each one.

While we have met here today to dedicate this building — at the same time each one of us rededicates his life, to the service of the Master in pointing souls to "The Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world."



HARPER ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH

The Assembly of God church of Harper was started in June 1951. W. E. Hampton came as pastor and the meetings were held in his home.

In 1952 we rented the hall on North Central in which our services were held.

In June 1952 the church bought 3 lots and a parsonage located at 604 East Main.

February 21, 1954, Kenneth E. Hearle and family came as pastor.

June 19, 1955, Howard Marshal and family came as pastor.

September 26, 1955 we started building a church just east of the parsonage. November 6 we moved into the new church.

On June 3, 1956, W. E. Hamptons came back as pastor.

June 23, 1957, Alpha Hodg came as pastor.

Don McDaniel was pastor starting January 12, 1958.

Loretta Plummer came June 25, 1958 as pastor.

ST. PATRICK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, RUNNYMEDE (DISBANDED)

On the formation of the town of Runnymede in 1889, the English and Irish colonists, being members of the national churches of England and Ireland, formed a parish and built a church which was dedicated to St. Patrick, the patron saint of the Emerald Isle. Efforts were then made to obtain the first minister of the congregation from England, but without success. However a stone font and other furnishings including a memorial tablet were obtained from the motherland.

Occasional services were held until 1890 when the Rev. B. Hartley was appointed and services were held on a more regular fortnightly basis in Runnymede and Harper. He was succeeded by the Rev. J. A. Doons in 1891.

But the brilliant hey-day of the community and thus of its church was shortlived, a period of some five years. Nothing now remains of the old site except one solitary grave with its monument. On the desertion of Runnymede the congregation of the Episcopal Church of Harper negotiated for the removal of the church to their town. This was effected in the fall of 1883 and the church rededicated to St. James. There it still stands, the maintenance of the fabric being entrusted at this time to the care of the Harper Historical Society.



ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH, HARPER (DISBANDED)

The organization of the parish of St. James Episcopal Church took place in the Court Room in Harper, June 4, 1888 with the Rev. J. T. Hargrave presiding. Thirty-nine persons signed the charter.

At a vestry meeting held July 9, 1888 it was voted to procure the lots at the corner of Pine and 11th Street where St. James Church is presently located.

During 1889 the town of Runnymede, 12 miles northeast of Harper, was started and an Episcopal parish formed there. On October 9, 1889 representatives of parishes of St. Patricks, Runnymede, and St. James, Harper, met and agreed that the people of Runnymede, being English, would secure a clergyman from England to serve both communities. Both parishes, however, continued to be served by laymen since no clergyman was ever found.

Not until the winter of 1890 was a permanent clergyman installed. It was the Rev. B. Hartley of Larned who held services at both places until the English colony of Runnymede was abandoned.

The cornerstone of St. James Church was laid May 5, 1893 by the Rev. R. W. Rhamos. Within the cornerstone was placed the history of St. James, papers of Harper County, the Church Diocesan paper, several denominations of Columbian stamps, and papers of St. Patrick Church. During the summer of 1893, St. Patrick Church was removed from Runnymede to the St. James' lots in Harper. It was remodelled, enlarged, and furnished at a cost of \$1400.00.

St. James parish at last had a church which was accordingly Consecrated October 10, 1893, by the Rt. Rev. E. S. Thomas.

The Rev. F. Duncan Jaudon, rector of Kingman, took charge of the new church until 1906.

The parish of St. James was active until 1957. In the summer of 1959 the Rt. Rev. Arnold M. Lewis, Bishop of the Missionary District of Salina, leased the property for a ten year period to the Harper City Historical Society. The society maintains and preserves the church as a historical monument because of its association with the unique Runnymede era.

The old church features imports from England and beautiful stained glass windows.

The church is open to the public upon request.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, HARPER (1881)

The First Baptist Church of Harper was organized in 1881 on November 19th. Twelve charter members met in the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Gwinn, where H. B. Hoyt and H. S. Reed were appointed as a committee to obtain a charter and secure a lot on which to erect a building for worship. H. S. Reed, first pastor of the church, and H. C. Maxwell, church clerk, were asked to invite pastors from Wellington, Clearwater and Chicaskia churches, and the District Missionary of the Chicaskia Association of Baptist Churches, to be present at an organizational meeting to be held in December, 1881, in the school building.

The Church grew rapidly in numbers, and in 1885 plans were completed for the erection of a building where the present parsonage stands. Rev. A. B. Charpie was pastor at that time. The contract for erection of the building was let on September 28, 1885. It was completed and dedicated in April or May of 1887.

For several years the church prospered and was one of the largest in this community. However many members were lost when the Oklahoma strip opened and many families moved to Oklahoma to establish new homes.

The original building was razed in 1930, and a basement was constructed directly south of the old building site. The basement was used for worship for several years, before the present building was erected. There are approximately 50 members at present, and Dean Endicott has been pastor of the church since the fall of 1960.

THE UNITED MISSIONARY CHURCH, HARPER

(Formerly Mennonite Brethren in Christ, Change made at a General Conference at Potsdam, Ohio, 1947)

The Harper United Missionary church had its beginnings in the last part of the 19th century. One of the first of the young men of the Plains to enter the Gospel ministry was Omer B. Henderson, who began preaching in 1894, and that same year organized a church group at Hillsdale, Kansas. Several before him had preached in the community, but no organization had been effected. A church was dedicated in 1899.

Ministers serving the Hillsdale work saw the needs of other communities round about, and services were held at such communities as Runnymede and Antelope, and at the Grove School House. A membership list was maintained at Antelope for a good number of years, and church officers regularly elected. Antelope was considered as a part of the Hillsdale circuit, and joint business meetings (Quarterly Conferences) were held from time to time. These meetings were presided over by the "Presiding Elder", an elected official traveling over an area of several states, serving what was called the "Nebraska Conference" of the Mennonite Brethren in Christ church.

In the early days money was scarce, and the ministers had to labour with their hands to maintain themselves and their families. "The task of opening up the frontier was far from easy. Most of the pastors had at least 4 or 5 appointments. Many of the services were held in small one-room school houses sometimes crowded with 150 to 200 people. The majority of the people were poor, some of them—including some of the preachers — living in sod houses."

"Sometimes a minister would receive only one or two dollars in cash during a three month period. The preaching of these humble, consecrated men of God aroused not only interest but antagonism as well.

Opposition was often quite strong, even from ministers of other denominations." — From "History of the United Missionary Church," E. R. Storms, author, published 1958.

The work continued at Hillsdale until 1928, when arrangements were completed to move into Harper. A report of the Board of Trustees at an official business meeting reported building funds raised to the extent of \$3,908.58. Bro. Snyder, the pastor in 1930, reported that the work was "A City Church with a Country Congregation."

(Practically the reverse is true today. Virtually all of the members and adherents are residing within the city limits of Harper).

As might be expected, due to conditions, and the manner of the development of the work, the church has had numerous pastors. Among those serving the longer terms were T. J. and Lulu Overholt, Wm. Lambert, E. D. Young, Rev. Trafton, Charles Gray, Joseph Persell, K. L. Robinson, D. L. Crosby and Duane Ferguson. Rev. Ferguson served from 1955 until 1960. A new and modern parsonage was erected during his period of ministry.

Rev. David Johnson was extended a call in July 1960, due to Duane Ferguson's decision to return to College for more training. The Johnson family arrived August 31st, after assignment by the District Conference, from their previous charge at New Market, Iowa.

Compiled by Rev. David Johnson, present pastor.



THE ATTICA SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH

The First Southern Baptist Church is the most recently organized church in Attica. It had its beginning when the first few members met in the homes of J. C. Fillman and J. F. Thomas for prayer meetings in March, 1956.

Cecil Adams, associational missionary, was present to help organize. Jim Vadnais was called to the mission from Florence, Kansas when the first meeting was held in April, 1956.

The members met in the theatre building until it reopened necessitating their moving to the Oliver building. Belle Plaine was voted as the Mother Church until the Attica group became self-supporting.

On the first Sunday in October, 1956, services began in the school house which had been purchased and moved onto lots purchased from Mr. and Mrs. W. S. McKelvy.

Following this, a new addition was added and on Easter Sunday, 1958, the first services were held there with Rev. Vadnais, pastor.

Rev. Vadnais resigned in May, 1958 to attend school. The church is now pastored by Lee Spradlin who teaches Math at Park City, Kansas and serves as a non-resident pastor.

The church has 45 on its Sunday school roll and 34 members.



CHYSTAL SPRINGS METHODIST CHURCH (DISBANDED)

The Methodist building at Crystal Syring was dedicated just before the cyclone of 1892, when it was partially destroyed. The building was rebuilt. The Crystal Springs congregation helped the Silver Creek congregation get their church started. Most of their ministers were circuit preachers from Harper and Attica. The building was sold to the Silver Creek church in 1910.



EVANGELICAL UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH, ATTICA (1885)

The Attica United Brethren Church was organized on December 5, 1885 with 13 members. Rev. Joseph Knight was the first pastor.

The first building was destroyed by fire in 1902. Negotiations were made immediately for a new building, which was completed in 1903. By 1921, the membership had grown until a larger building was needed. Rev. A. W. Cortner, pastor, and Superintendent Priddle, began taking pledges, and \$3000 was subscribed.

The following September, the Annual Conference sent Rev. U. P. Brubaker here to build the new church. On June 4, 1922, the corner stone was laid for the present church, and on Oct. 15, 1922, the church was dedicated by Bishop Kephart. In July of the same year, Mrs. Brubaker passed away. The membership voted to make the church a memorial in her honor. It was dedicated "The Brubaker Memorial Church."

For many years the church had a struggle to meet its obligations and indebtedness on the building. Through the generosity of two noble women, Mrs. Simmons and Mrs. Menke, who remembered the church in their wills, the church was able to pay off its indebtedness.

Today many of those who carried the burden of the church have passed on, but other good people have come into the church and have assumed the responsibility so that the work has gone forward in a fine way.

In November, 1946, the United Brethren Church merged with the Evangelical Church. This merger has contributed to a greater and better work.

Our church has contributed in making our community a better place to live. The Lord has called from our church ministers and missionaries, and many others to responsible places in life. Thirty-five pastors have served this church in the 75 years of its history. On October 9, 1960, the church will celebrate its 75th anniversary, with Rev. Don Bumgarner as the morning speaker. He is a product of this church, and a grandson of Rev. M. C. Pasley, a former pastor.

Rev. Bill Woodruff is the present pastor. This is his first pastorate, which he began in June, 1960.

Mrs. Alice Henderson, historian.



THE ATTICA METHODIST CHURCH (1886)

On February 28, 1886 a group of Methodist people in the Attica area came together to formulate plans for officially organizing a congregation. On that day the Methodist Church of Attica, Kansas was organized with an official board of four members to carry on its work. On March 15, 1886, Rev. T. S. Hodson was appointed as the first pastor. The congregation grew rapidly and several members were added to the board in June, 1887. Ira J. Morse was elected the first Sunday School Superintendent on February 11, 1888.

During these early years short pastoral appointments were the rule in the Methodist conference system and no pastor remained for more than one or two years until the Rev. J. Hamline Smith was re-appointed for three consecutive years beginning in 1900. The longest pastoral appointment to date was that of Rev. E. N. Cunningham who was first appointed in 1925 and remained nearly seven years.

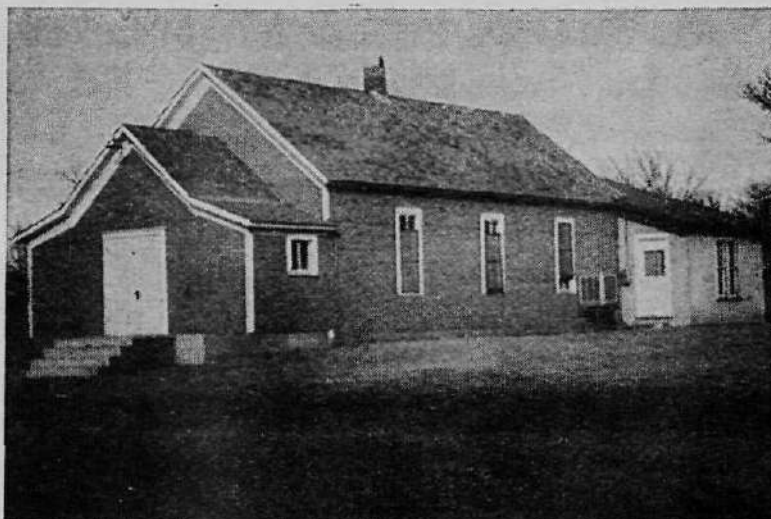
The first building was a small frame structure. On cold winter mornings it became necessary to hold services in the local funeral parlor because of the inadequate heating facilities of the church building.

The present brick structure, located on Main street at Avenue F, was built in 1912-13. The present parsonage was purchased in 1918.

Through the years the church has experienced a steady growth and now has a membership of 240 and serves a total congregation of about 350. Facilities are once again proving inadequate and plans to meet the present and future needs of the congregation are under consideration.

Rev. Robert C. Ely, the present pastor, was appointed to the church in June, 1959. Dr. P. J. Antrim is the present board chairman. Mr. Leonard Grigsby is the lay leader and Mr. LeRoy Hoyt is the church school superintendent. Mrs. Troy Warren is the president of the Women's Society.

The Attica Methodist Church will celebrate its 75th anniversary in 1961.



THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IN ATTICA (1900)

The Church of Christ was organized about 1900. The present congregation began meeting at their present location in Attica in August, 1956 with ten adult members. Various speakers over the area were called upon to preach for the group until they were able to acquire the services of Leroy Thomas as full time minister. Mr. Thomas moved to Attica from Amarillo, Texas in April, 1957.

In October, 1958, the congregation began construction of three classrooms and a baptistry. Members of the local congregation along with very welcome assistance from members of congregations in the area, and under the able direction of Albert Dietz of rural Harper, completed the classrooms in May, 1959.

Mr. Thomas left the congregation in May, 1960 to attend school in Portales, New Mexico. Maynard Feely, the present minister, moved to Attica from Kinsley, Kansas in August, 1960.



CRISFIELD METHODIST CHURCH (DISBANDED)

The Crisfield Methonist Church, located southwest of Attica, was organized shortly after the turn of the century and the church building was erected about 1910. The church thrived for many years as it served the needs of the little Crisfield settlement and the surrounding rural area.

In the late thirties, as the population of the community declined the Crisfield church suffered greatly. About 1940, when a minister could no longer be provided to serve the church as part of a circuit, worship services were no longer held and most of the remaining families transferred their memberships to other churches. A few families continued to meet for Sunday school for several years.

The church property was recently sold and is being dismantled.



ATTICA CHRISTIAN CHURCH (1912)

The Christian Church had its beginning in 1912 in the school building. A one-room building was the next venture and in 1915 the present structure was completed. In 1938 the adjoining property was purchased for a parsonage. At present time a building fund has been established and plans for a new, modern structure are in the future. W. S. Dollard is the oldest living member.

In 1936, a gift of \$1000.00 from the estate of Mrs. Anna Menke enabled the church to re-roof the building and re-decorate.

In 1959 the interior was painted and Mrs. Ted Asper has beautifully painted a Biblical scene in the baptistry, as well as a full-length figure picture of Christ, which she gave to the church.

This year (1960) a new pulpit and communion furniture have been added, and a new public address system has just been installed. Jim Beaumont is the present minister.



SILVER CREEK METHODIST CHURCH (DISBANDED)

This church was first organized in the Silver Creek schoolhouse in about 1900. Mrs. Clara Leeper was one of the first workers in its Sunday school. As previously stated, they bought the Crystal Springs church in about 1910. It was moved to its present location by Guy Gill with his steam engine. It is now owned by Mrs. Elmer Thompson.

After the Methodists quit using it, the Nazarenes obtained permission to use the building. The Nazarenes built a parsonage on some land owned by George Barber.



FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH IN ATTICA

The Faith Baptist Church was incorporated Oct. 11, 1946, as a result of prayer meetings which were held in several homes in Attica. The first prayer meeting was held Sept. 19, 1945.

The church organized with 14 members and its first trustees were Carl Lilliard, Ora O. Brant, and Robert Shumaker. The first pastor was Rev. Leaford Cavin.

Services were held in the Brant Funeral Parlor until the building was built. The present lots were purchased May 16, 1949 and the Flowerdale school house was moved on the lots and remodeled into the church building. The dedication was conducted on Feb. 19, 1950.

On the seventh anniversary of the church, the final payment on the building was paid, leaving it and all its fixtures debt free.

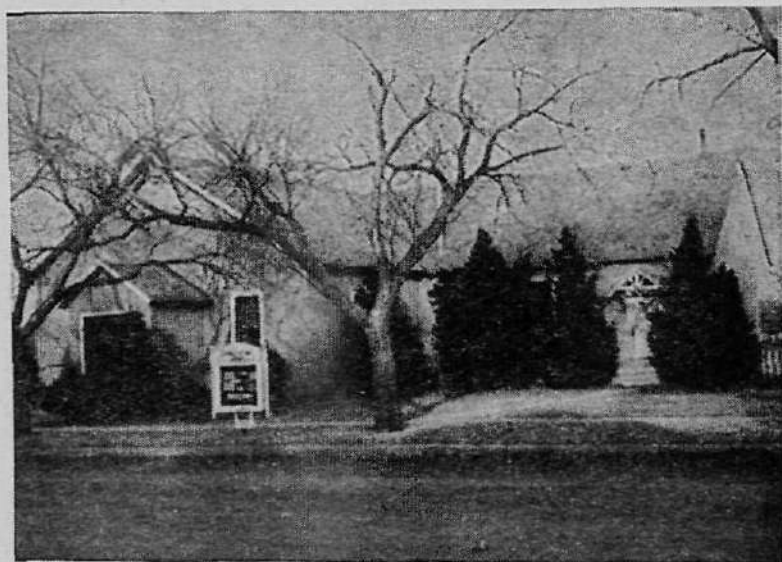
On March 1, 1958, the house on Miller St., was purchased as a parsonage, where the present pastor lives, Rev. Dean Cavin.



ANTIOCH CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISBANDED)

Also, in the south part of the county, a group that has long since been disbanded, was the Antioch Church, located three miles west and two and a half miles south of Anthony. It was organized and erected by a number of Campbellites in the now Hopewell community. Squire Watkins donated the land as a building site, and his family, the George Halbowers, the Fosters, and the Alexander Rutherford families were among those who were early communicants.

The Antioch Church building was peculiarly constructed in that it was a six-sided building. It served as a place of worship for several years, until it was finally disbanded after a disagreement arose between some of the members — many of whom had transferred their membership to the Christian Church in Anthony, which had started some years after the Antioch Church.



ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH, ATTICA (1925)

The Attica Assembly of God was founded in 1925 as the result of a revival meeting conducted by the Mehaney sisters in the Christian Church of Attica.

The church was set in order by District Supt. Fred Vogler on Nov. 28, 1926.

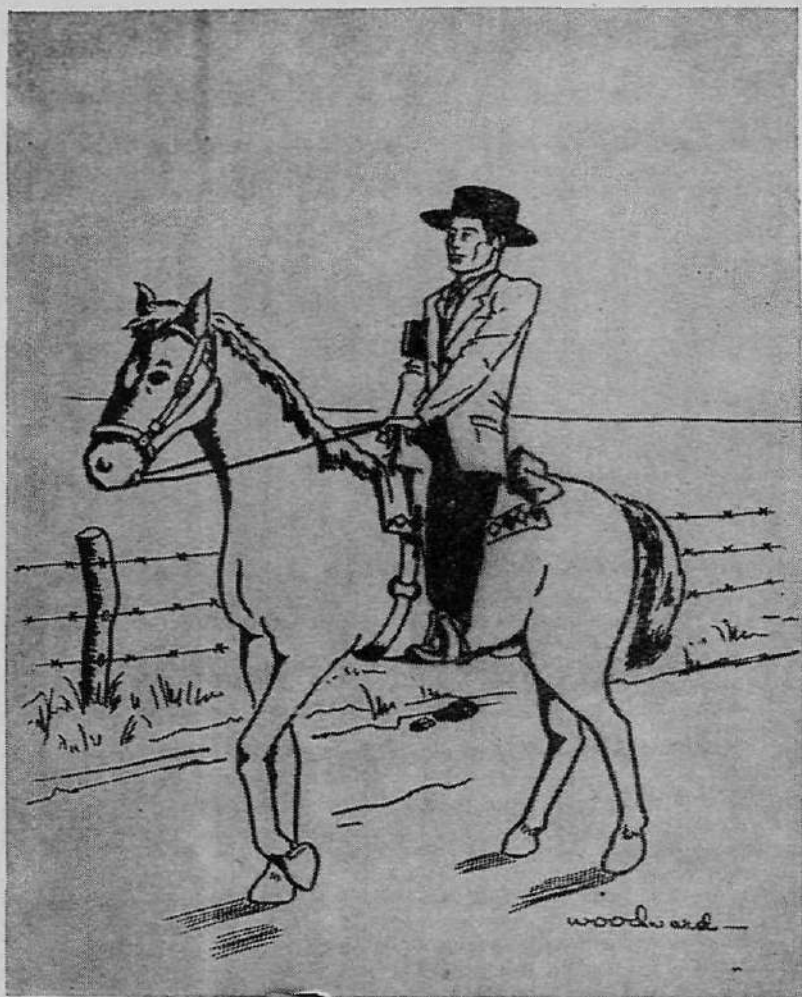
Before a church was built, services were first held in the home of Rev. Safford in the west part of town. Later, services were conducted over the opera house, next to Brandts store, and still later in the present parsonage.

The church was built while V. G. Greisen was pastor. The Annex which serves as a C. A. chapel and Sunday School rooms, was completed while Rev. Anspaugh was here.

Eight pastors have served the church through the years: Revs. Safford, Greisen, Bray, Hanley, Samples, Anspaugh, Boyd, and McDaniel.

Rev. McDaniel resigned as pastor in August and Rev. Lynn Kanaga was selected as the new pastor, who moved here with his family September 6. Rev. Kanaga pastored at St. Francis, Kansas before coming here and also served as Presbyter in that section. The Kanagas have two children, Lynette age 10, and Val age 7.

Today the Attica Assembly supports two missionaries: Rev. Griesen, who serves in Europe, and Rev. Stetz in Korea.



A saddle and a bible with a man and his horse was the symbol in Harper County of more than Methodist Circuit Riders. In its early days lay-leaders farmed and preached and taught the message.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH, BLUFF CITY (189-)

Early settlers of Stohrville township used to meet in Pleasant Hill and Arnold schoolhouses on Sundays to break bread. To the meetings rode a farmer and preacher, A. Culbertson, slipped out of his saddle and assumed the pulpit.

Later an evangelist, Morgan Morgans, arrived and started meetings. His persuasive manner brought about 110 conversions. So many, in fact, that the folks decided they were going to have to have another meeting place. Soon they located an abandoned frame building in the area which the Church of Rome had started but had not completed. \$150 bought the structure and these eager pioneers proceeded to move it to the corner of Kalamazoo and Eighth Streets. It was 24 x 30 feet. They then went to the work of completing its ceiling and woodwork, and then had State Evangelist A. Bauserman come out and dedicate the building. First elders of the church were Culbertson, Dr. C. W. Goodrich and Benjamin Martin.

On July 5, 1893, a charter was granted to the congregation with W. W. Bird, David Henline, J. H. Brubaker, F. P. Privett and J. G. Willis as the incorporating trustees. In the spring of that year the Rev. Milo W. Nethercutt had been called to preach.

After him (and to 1939) several different ones filled the pulpit. Only a few lived in Bluff City since a number of them were student-pastors from Phillips University, Enid, Okla., and just drove up for the weekend. There was Frank Talmage, P. H. Guy, Cummings, Stallings, Cottingham, Marley, Robinson, C. C. Brown, John Varner, C. E. Taylor, Ralph W. Nelson, W. A. Wellman, Leroy Wise and J. C. Nengar.

Also C. C. Peck, M. A. Meeker, Bernard Kock, J. M. Sankey, Charles Brooks, Fred Seeley, Harold Combs, Hugh Sinclair, H. M. Hughes, Loyal Northcott, John Hanna, Clyde Lindsley, R. W. Nelson and Herbert Cunningham.

One summer, 1933, the church was without any pastor, so the elders, T. L. Sturdevant, Roy Northcutt and James A. Prouse, filled the pulpit.

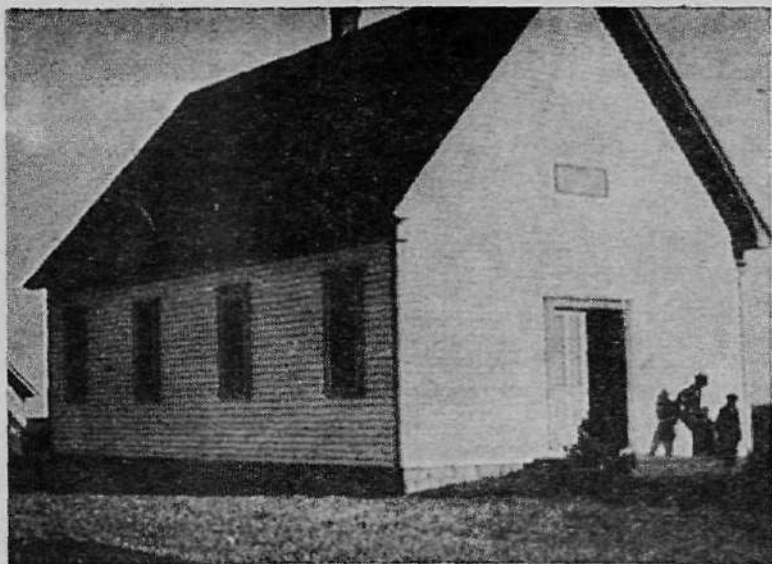
In 1939 the old building was taken down and a new stucco church, 32 x 48 feet, built by the members on the same lot. Mr. Prouse drew the plans and supervised the work. There was no pastor at the time but, on May 5, 1940, the new building — free of debt — was dedicated by the Rev. Dr. Ralph W. Nelson who had served as pastor in 1911 and 1936.

Prouse and Sturdevant were elders then too. The board of deacons consisted of L. C. Burgmeier, Leslie Burgmeier, Alvin E. Cook, H. M. Hawk, John Hybsha, George Noah, A. D. Sparr and A. T. Stewart.

Then the Rev. J. S. C. Hivner was called to preach. He was followed by Spencer M. Smith, Brace Johnson, Don Fitzsimmons, B. H. Bryant, Donald Yates, Roy Rutherford, Glenn Johnson, Orin Dyer, Richard Snell, Bob Johnson and Carson Davidson.

In October, 1959, J. W. Chadwick of Wichita was called to be preacher.

The cherished bell which hung in the first building now hangs east of the present one and rings every Sunday morning and evening summoning folks, far and near, to worship the Lord.



ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL CHURCH, BLUFF CITY (1912)

The Protestant movement in Europe, at the time of the Reformation and during the early decades of the 16th century, was divided into two main streams. The one was Lutheran, named after the great reformer; the other, led by Zwingli and later by Calvin, was called Reformed. In 1817, under the leadership of the Prussian emperor, the two streams were united and formed what is generally known as the Evangelical Union. Hence the name "Evangelical". However, before this union, as early as 1746, many immigrants came to America and settled in the states along the Atlantic seaboard. They continued to be known as the Reformed Church.

By 1840 immigrants, coming from Germany, had settled in the west and established their own free, independent churches. These were served by pious laymen and roving, free-lance ministers. The Evangelical Church of Germany sent missionaries over to help these new groups; however, the financial support came primarily from American Congregationalists and Presbyterians.

In 1934 the Evangelical group united with the Reformed Church. In 1942 negotiations began to unite with the Congregational and Christian group and, in 1954, the union was completed and the Evangelical and Reformed group became a part of a United Church for Christ.

Sometime in the early part of this century there was a Reformed Church at Bluff City; for in 1909 and 1910 eight Evangelical families came from Jansen, Neb., and for two years attended the Reformed Church. By 1912, tho, they felt they wanted their own congregation and invited their former pastor in Nebraska, the Rev. Wm. Fisher, to come and help them.

Services were held June 23, 1912, at the old Garfield rural school and definite plans made to organize a church. Being without a pastor, the constitution was not adopted until Easter Day, March 23, 1913, when the Rev. A. Walton was here from Oklahoma City to conduct services. This meeting was held in the Singer school house and 20 charter members were received.

The first regular pastor was the Rev. P. W. Brink who came in the fall of 1913 and served this church along with those at Hardtner, Kansas, and Tangier, Oklahoma. Under his leadership a church building was started in 1916 and completed in the spring of 1917, being dedicated with all-day services.

Previous to 1918 all services were conducted in the German language. This changed to a German service every third Sunday for a time, but now all services are in English. In 1931 the constitution was translated into English.

In August, 1923, the Rev. A. W. Hoelscher became pastor and held services every other week — with services at Hardtner the other Sunday. In March, 1925, he began full-time service at Hardtner. We then yoked with Enid, Okla., until the summer of 1927. In the fall of '27, we affiliated again with Hardtner, and have remained so since.

In 1948 the remodeling of our building was completed along with the addition. In the fall of that year our present pastor, the Rev. Carl Ringer, assumed the pastorate at Bluff City along with Hardtner. In 1955 the building was damaged from a storm but it was repaired shortly after the storm.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH, FREEPORT (DISBANDED)

There was also a Protestant Episcopal Church in the Freeport neighborhood, located on land donated by Benjamin Freeman. The George and Ed Cooks were also among the initiators of this parish and worshiped there for many years. However, this church was disbanded several years ago as many of the early settlers moved away, and the changes in the mode of travel gave others opportunity to attend services in Freeport and other cities.

This Episcopal church was built about the same year as the Grace Episcopal Church in Anthony (1889), and it is reported that the building material left from one or the other in construction was donated for use in the erection of the other. After serving as a place of worship for many years, the building was finally torn down and a part of it was sold to be used in the construction of a school house in a nearby community.

FAIRVIEW CHURCH OF CHRIST (DISBANDED)

This church had a good-sized congregation in the early days and was organized in 1892. In 1893 many of these people, tho, went to Oklahoma with the opening of the Strip. However, many of these families later came back. They met in the Fairview school until 1905 when the church was built. It was located just north of the Merle Barr home. O. C. Bradshaw was the head carpenter. In 1914 the Bradshaws moved to Attica and many of the families had cars and were able to go to town to church, so the building was sold to the Methodists at Duquoin. The money received was prorated back to the people who had given money to build the building. The church did not have any regular preacher, but some of the preachers who held meetings there were A. C. Crenshaw, Harper; John Maple (who is still living north of Rago); Elmore; Brodus; Tom Coats; and Aubrey Bradshaw (who is living now at Weatherford, Okla.) The building was used for several years by the Methodists and later sold to the Adventists at Duquoin who met in it until they finally tore it down and used part of the lumber to build a new Adventist church at Harper.



METHODIST CHURCH, BLUFF CITY (1891)

The Methodist Church at Bluff City was organized in 1891 by Rev. Charles Brown, who was stationed at Freeport. The organization was small at the start with only three members living in town. Several from Grandview and others from the surrounding country, tho, later moved their membership into the new organization.

The newly organized church was made a part of the Freeport charge until conference met and the Bluff City charge was organized with Burchfiel and Grandview (both school houses) appointments. Services were held in the old Hybsha Hall, directly across from the present high school building, until the new church building was finished. Rev. Brown laid the cornerstone and got the building underway by the close of the year.

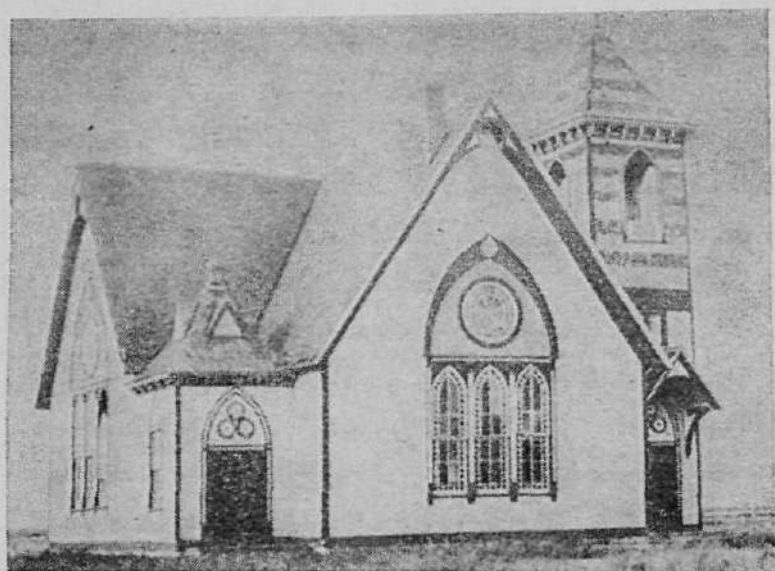
The next year (1892) Burchfiel and Grandview appointments were put with the new town appointment and made up, for the first time, "The Bluff City Charge". Rev. C. H. Westfall was appointed to the new charge and he carried forward the building of the church to its completion and dedication. (Rev. M. E. Phillips, then president of Southwestern College, Winfield, delivered the dedication sermon in the early fall of 1892.)

A few years later the Grandview appointment was dropped and Cameron, Okla., was added; but this was made a part of the Oklahoma Conference in 1905 and, from that time, Bluff City and Burchfiel Chapel was the charge. For a time, tho, the charge was divided and Bluff City and Burchfiel were each considered a charge.

The church building burned to the ground on Sunday morning, November 14, 1914, and was replaced in 1916 by the present brick structure. The first record books were burned with the church and, then about 1938, the new church records were burned by accident. The brick structure was dedicated on December 24, 1916, by Rev. Dr. Frank E. Mossman.

Miss Emma Varner, who was baptized here in 1892, is still a member of the church. The Women's Society was chartered in 1940 and Mrs. D. W. Ekhoft was the first president.

There have been 42 ministers through the years — three coming back for their second assignment. Also there have been several student-ministers.



FREEPORT METHODIST (DISBANDED)

A Rev. White came to the Freeport area in 1882 and organized a class in the Poorman School, which was just one mile east of the town. The class had 13 charter members: Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Green, Mr. and Mrs. F. T. Little, Mr. and Mrs. B. S. Wright, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Haun, Mr. and Mrs. John Huffman, Mr. and Mrs. John Thomas and W. W. Staley.

In 1884 the meeting place was moved to the Fairview (Greene) School, two miles west of town. In 1885, while on the Bluff City charge, a parsonage was built at Freeport. Also, in that year, these folks began to use the Presbyterian Church at Freeport every other Sunday and continued to do so for nine years.

It was in 1889 that the minister, C. E. Mann, was pelted with eggs after the evening service — for preaching against dancing. Then, in 1894 or 1895, they rented and equipped a vacant store room in Union Block which they used for services for a while. In 1896 or '97 they bought the United Presbyterian Church building at Anthony for \$500, tore it down and moved it to Freeport. In May of 1897 or '98 they had a church of their own to use.

In 1909 they sold the parsonage and built a new one. In 1918 they repaired their church, installed a furnace and electricity. On Easter, 1918, they gathered \$500 to build a church in the Philippines. Later on the Sunday School paid for shell windows in the Philippine church.

On December 1, 1929, the church burned and Methodist work at Freeport was closed. During its less than half a century of service, tho, this church produced as full-time Christian workers: one evangelist, five ministers, one minister's wife and two YMCA secretaries.



FREEPORT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (1884)

The Presbyterian Church began with John Calvin who published his "Institutes . . ." in 1636 in Geneva. Spread throughout Europe and the Colonies. (French Huguenots arrived in South Carolina in 1662). 1706 — first presbytery organized, 1717 — first synod, 1789 — organization of the General Assembly, 1855 — Presbyterians reached Kansas.

A church school was organized at Freeport in the autumn of 1884, being held in District 21 school house, one mile east of the present town. A church was organized in February, 1885, with 14 charter members. Charter for the church was granted on March 17, 1886.

A church building was erected on the present site with money given by members and friends, plus \$400 granted by an agency of Presbytery. First services were held in April, 1886, in the structure. Organized as a home mission church in the beginning, it has been self-supporting since 1904.

The original building, rectangular in shape, is a part of the present building. The pulpit was in the north and the entrance door on the south side. In July, 1900, it was decided to put the pulpit on the east side; also to add a steeple and bell and to furnish the building with carpets and chairs. This was done and a re-dedication service held in May, 1901. Later it was decided to move the pulpit to the west side. This was done also. Then in 1927, it was decided to make the pulpit larger and add a choir loft and supply room at the rear. This was done, too, and, at the same time, the

church was raised, a full-basement dug, and modern heating equipment installed. November 13, 1927, another re-dedication service was held.

Improvements have come to our physical plant thru the years. 1905 — a manse was secured for the pastor; 1916 — the present manse was built; 1943 — mortgage burning ceremony held with the repayment of original grant; 1947 — forced-air oil-burning furnace installed; 1952 — running water, sink, hot water tank, electric stove and tile floor installed in basement; 1956 — classroom in rear of church enclosed, auditorium and pulpit papered and painted, floors sanded and refinished, seats rearranged, new light fixtures installed and new carpet laid; 1959 — building moved near church and remodeled for pastor's study, electric organ purchased, basement and outside of church painted.

Our present pastor is the Rev. Willard F. Payne.



DUQUOIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (DISBANDED)

There was also a Presbyterian church organized in 1892 in the old Duquoin schoolhouse. The congregation moved a building from Crystal Springs to Duquoin for a church house. It was disorganized before 1920; later the building was sold and torn down.



DUQUOIN METHODIST CHURCH (DISBANDED)

The Methodists at Duquoin bought their building from the Church of Christ in about 1914. Hattley was one of their preachers who is remembered as a good community mixer. Other preachers were Ford and Ramsdale.

The committee has learned the names of others, but has been unable to learn information about them. Churches go with the people. They have served God and taught the Gospel wherever there have been people; but as populations decrease and larger groups were possible, many a church which once had a purpose, found its purpose could be better carried out in fellowship with some other church; and many were left with no one to teach as people changed their residences and abolished communities in the passing of years.

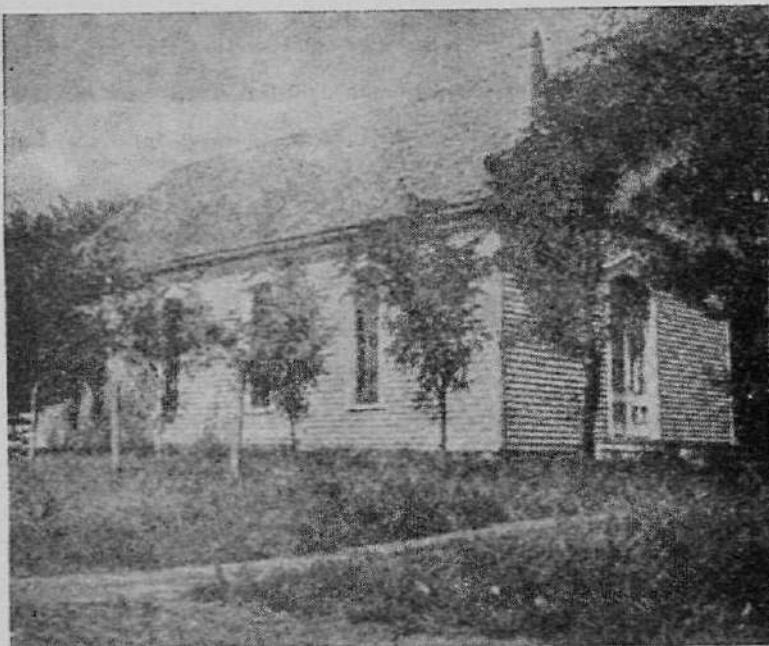


KEYSTONE METHODIST CHURCH (DISBANDED)

The Keystone Methodist Church, located in the northwest corner of Harper County was established about 1900. It was an open country church and served the spiritual needs of its farming people for half a century. Over the years many ministers served the Keystone Church as one point on a circuit of several small Methodist Churches in the area. The services of lay preachers were also frequently employed.

Although religious services are no longer regularly held the building still serves as a center for community activities. An annual event still observed with enthusiasm is the Keystone Ladies Bazaar. This Fall event draws people from miles around.

The building and property are still kept in excellent repair.



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, ANTHONY (1878)

Modern Congregationalism began in England as an outcome of the struggle for freedom from ecclesiastic control and a continued application of the principles of the Protestant Reformation. First organized church was in 1567. Believers in this movement came to Western hemisphere in 1620 as Pilgrims. American Christian Church began in late 18th and early 19th centuries as certain groups left the Baptist, Presbyterian and Methodist churches seeking greater freedom, and then, later, united. Congregational and Christian churches merged in 1931. Reformed Church was of Zwingli and Calvin heritage, coming to U. S. from Germany in 1746. Evangelical Church was a European merger of Calvin and Lutheran groups in 1817, coming to U. S. in 1840. An American merger of the two came about in 1934. These then merged with the Congregational and Christian churches in 1956 and formed the United Church of Christ. To this fellowship Harper County's only Congregational church belongs.

In 1854 a movement started in Massachusetts to settle Kansas and make it a free territory. The first group left Boston in August. Early in September a Congregational church was established in Lawrence with a pastor from the Home Missionary Society.

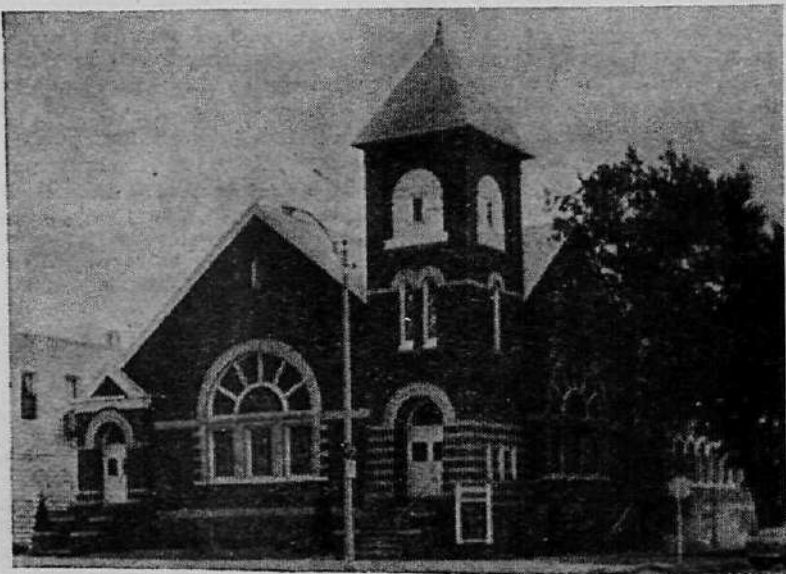
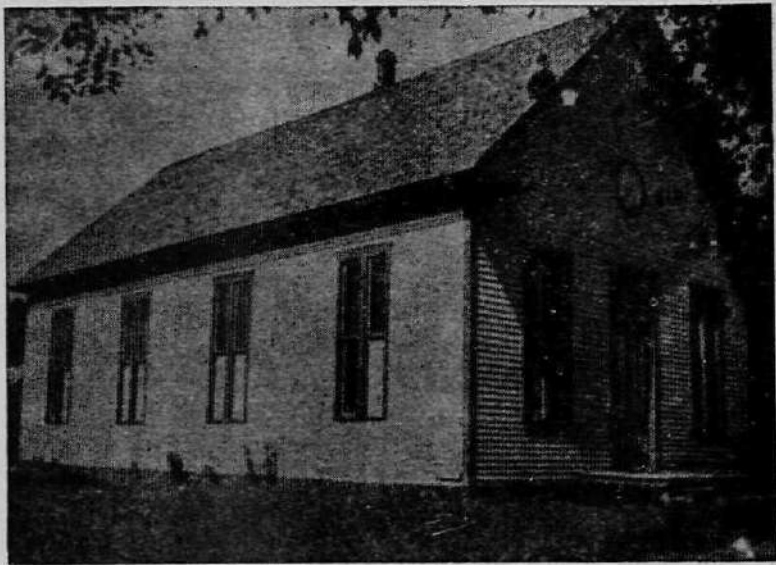
Almost a quarter of a century later (April, 1878) another group of young men and women came from the East to settle in Kansas and chose Anthony as their sight. By May they had a church school going and, after four months, decided O. Jennings, president of the town company, should be superintendent. One meeting place: a 14'x16' building on South Bluff; the seats were planks laid across nail kegs with boxes around the walls; preaching was held when a minister could be found. It was decided to organize a church — a congregational church, and W. A. Hobbs, a theological student at Oberlin College, arrived the next summer. On August 3, 1879, ten were recognized as members and eight more the following Sunday.

The next spring (1880) a church building was erected at a cost of \$1,500 (\$350 coming from Congregational Building Society). Lumber was hauled from Wellington, nearest railroad point, 42 miles away. Dedication services were July 4, 1880. First regular pastor was the Rev. T. D. Childs and the church became self-supporting five years later.

1908 — it was decided to build a new building. The Rev. B. F. Buck was called as pastor and gave wise guidance thru the building period. Parsonage north of church was sold to give more room for the larger church building. Dedication was on November 27, 1910. Stained-glass windows, irreplaceable by American craftsmen today, are in memory of three members of first church choir and other devoted workers. (On August 5, 1952, a hard wind and hail storm severely damaged these windows. The choir window had to be replaced, others required extensive repairs.)

A frame parsonage west of the church was purchased in 1912 and sold in 1959. A ranch-type, brick parsonage (to match church) was erected on corner west of church and dedicated October 7, 1959. First pastor to occupy new parsonage was the Rev. Harald Wise-garver who is now doing dedicated work for the church and community. In 1960 repairs were made on windows and the church building was redecorated inside and out and put in good order for continued service to God and the community.

Euphie Croft, Hutchinson, historian.



CHRISTIAN CHURCH, ANTHONY (1882)

In 1830 a group separated from the Baptist Church and formed what it chose to call the "Christian Church". This group, under the leadership of Thomas and Alexander Campbell, Burton Stone, and others in Kentucky and Virginia, attempted to "restore New Testament Christianity", thereby uniting all Christians into one body. Out of this movement came "The Christian Church" or the "Disciples of Christ". (Both names are used.)

This movement went west with the frontier and in 1855 the first congregation was formed in the Territory of Kansas. Two years later, 1857, the Kansas Convention of Christian Churches held its first meeting. In the same year the Territorial Missionary Society was formed.

In 1882, in a little one room school house, which served as Anthony's Hall of Education, a Christian Church was organized. W. H. Embry served as first pastor. There were seven charter members: Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Embry, Mr. and Mrs. P. N. Collier, Mrs. Knisle, Mrs. Rebecca Blackburn and J. A. Blackburn. Mrs. Blackburn was organizer and superintendent of the Sunday School. The first church building was built in 1885 and located north of the present parsonage on South Bluff.

A. L. Shelton, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Shelton, became one of the Christian Church's greatest medical missionaries. In 1921, Dr. Shelton was killed by bandits in Tibet where he had spent many years as a missionary. Harry Green, son of Mrs. Charles Green, also became a minister of considerable ability and prominence.

The music of the church was directed by J. H. Brubaker from 1885 to 1898. W. W. Bird moved to Anthony in 1898 and became choir leader, serving the church in that capacity until the late 1930's.

In 1898 the missionary society was organized with Mrs. Charles Green as the first president. The Ladies' Aid of the church always took an active part in the progress and growth of the church. They raised money for the building of the parsonage.

The present church building was started in 1910. "Grandmother" Blackburn "broke the sod" for the beginning of the work.

Mrs. W. A. Miller and Mrs. J. J. Costa contributed much to the completion and equipment of the basement. It was not until 1913, however, that the building was dedicated.

The Dorcas Society was formed in 1923 primarily to handle charity work. (Its scope of work included that formerly done by the Ladies' Aid.) In recent years the Dorcas Society has become a part of the Christian Women's Fellowship (national women's organization in the Christian churches). A Christian Endeavor society was organized in 1913. (For many years it was the largest young people's group in this part of the state). In 1954 ChiRho Fellowship was organized for Junior high age children. At the same time a Christian Youth Fellowship was organized for the high school youth.

From a group of seven original members the church has grown to a resident membership in 1960 of 402.

Present minister is Paul Whitfield.



Rev. J. R. Erwards, First Pastor - 1886
(Photo courtesy the late Mrs. J. F. Tuttle and Gertrude Duttle Wriht)

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, ANTHONY (1880)

The modern Baptist movement dates from about 1609 when John Smyth, a Separatist clergyman from England, emigrated to Amsterdam under the stress of persecution. There he came in contact with the Anabaptists and the Baptist movement was born. Roger Williams is generally regarded as the founder of the first Baptist church in America — Providence, R. I., 1638-39. In 1832 there was a Baptist church established among the Creek Indians on the Verdigris River. In 1855 a Baptist church was established at Lawrence for settlers.

A Baptist church in Anthony was organized June 27, 1880, by Rev. Post of Wichita; baptismal service was at Spring Creek west of town; organization was in the courthouse. Charter members were Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Bulger, Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Hammers, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Hammers, Mrs. Sherwood, Mrs. Clara Sherwood Gray, Mrs. Livermore, Mrs. J. W. York, Mrs. John Kinsley, Mrs. Neal and Mrs. Mary Duboise.

First services were held in Bulger Mill, later at home of Mrs. M. J. Davis. In June, 1884, a Sunday School was organized with Jas. Hammers, Supt. In 1885 services were held in Union Hall over Costa Hardware.

June 20, 1886, new Baptist Church building was dedicated. Pulpit was occupied by Rev. Harper of Wichita, Rev. Parker of Clearwater, and Rev. J. R. Edwards, first pastor of the church. Also assisting were Rev. Price of Methodist Church, Rev. Halliday of Congregational Church, and Rev. Cooper of United Presbyterian Church.

On July 1, 1886, the new Baptistry was used for the first time. Rev. Edwards immersed Mrs. Bertie Kinsley, Minnie Ermin and Mrs. Smithson. On December 28, 1886, Major Penn, an evangelist, began holding meetings. After two weeks Rev. Harper of Wichita took over for six weeks more and over 100 people joined the church.

The Ladies' Aid Society was organized in June, 1884, with Mrs. M. J. Davis as first president. They helped the church with many activities and gave \$50 a year toward the pastor's salary. The Missionary Circle was organized in an early day. A group of youngsters called "The Band of Hope" met every month in the Lecture Room and were the children's missionary organization. The young people's organization was started along in 1904 and was called Baptist Young People's Union. The Philathea Class was organized along about 1906 by a group of young girls with Mrs. S. L. Murphy as teacher and belonged to the National Philathea Organization. Later these girls disbanded and married women took over the organization.

Rev. Edwards remained with the church for 19 years. Every Easter he invited the Masons and Knight Templars to services and reserved seats for them.

A list of the ministers down through the years, from 1880 to 1960, are as follows: Rev. Post, Rev. J. R. Woods, Rev. J. R. Edwards, Rev. Swazie, Rev. Butler, Rev. A. B. Kirk, Rev. O. C. Teachout, Rev. John Via, Rev. J. C. Cardiff, Rev. Cheatum, Rev. J. P. Woods, Rev. C. K. Byerley, Rev. O. L. Wood, Rev. John L. Issacs, Rev. A. N. Cain, Rev. O. R. Powell, Rev. J. S. C. Hivner, Rev. Charles R. Storer, Rev. O. L. McCracken, Rev. Hugh Cooper, Rev. Elmer L. Gray, Rev. Earl Barbour, Rev. Lawrence Duncan, Rev. Gayl Bender, Rev. Floyd E. White, and our present pastor, Rev. Sam Beckwith.



CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE (1929)

In October, 1908, independent groups seeking to maintain the doctrine of John Wesley as put forth in the previous century came together in Pilot Point, Texas and formed the "Church of the Nazarene".

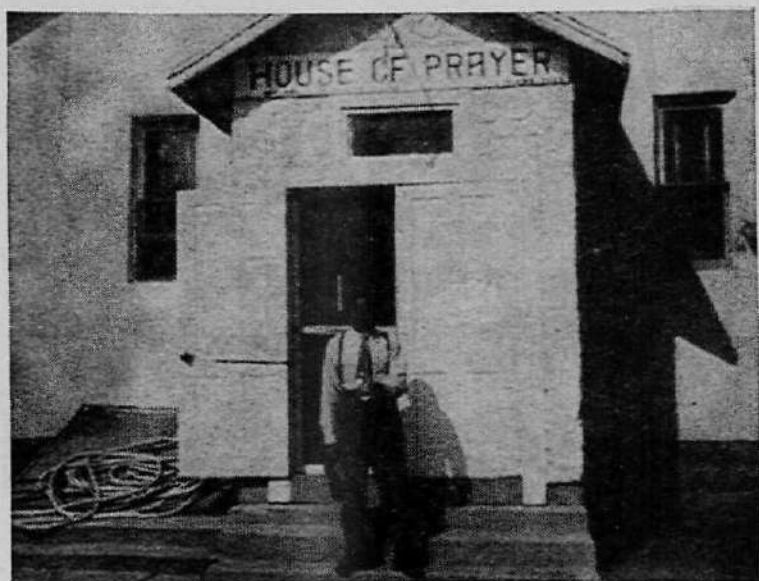
In the early 1900's there was a Church of the Nazarene organized in Kansas at Pleasant Hill, a rural community near Sylvia.

Following a meeting held by Rev. J. P. Wear in a rented store building in Anthony in February, 1929, a Church of the Nazarene was organized here by District Superintendent A. F. Balsmeier, with 11 charter members.

Rev. A. D. Grim then became pastor and served for 19 months. During this time, in 1930, a lot was secured at the corner of Jennings and Grant, and basement church erected. The next year Rev. E. L. Duby became pastor and parsonage property was purchased at 306 S. Anthony in January of 1932. Rev. R. H. Jordan became pastor in 1935 and a sanctuary was built on the basement. This was dedicated March 21, 1937.

Other pastors have been R. E. Bebout (1938-1942), A. H. Rose (1942-1944), M. T. Chinn (1944-1946), Vern H. Lewis (1946-1949), E. R. Houston, Jr. (1949-1954), G. H. Nicholson (1954-1956), and Donald Oyler (1956-1957).

The present pastor, Rev. Forrest Woodward, came in August, 1957. In July, 1959, the church board voted to sell the Anthony Street parsonage property and build a new dwelling on the lot at the rear of the church building. In September, 1959, the old property was sold and the new building started with the pastor as architect and contractor. The old "Gallagher" farm buildings and the Ted Meador house in town were given to the church to use the materials. In February, 1960, the pastor and his family moved into the beautiful, new parsonage. It was dedicated Sunday, April 3, 1960, with Dr. Ray Hance, District Superintendent, as the speaker.



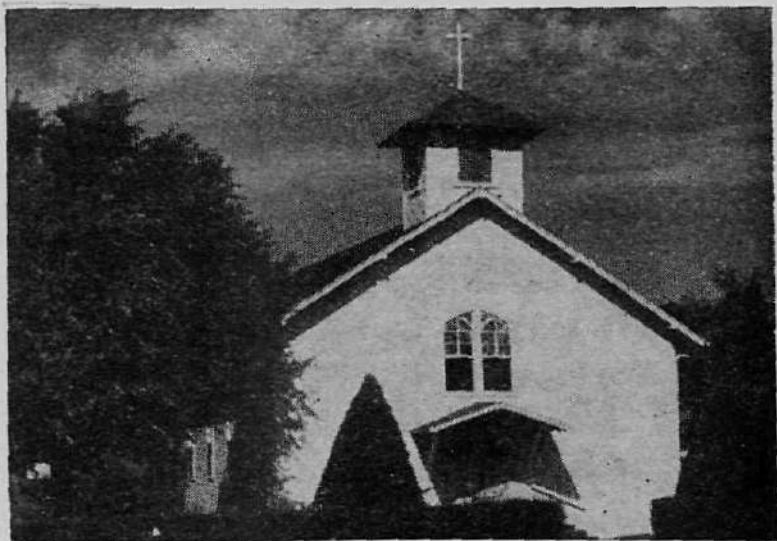
HOUSE OF PRAYER—1928

The Lord put it on my heart in 1928 to come to Anthony. I saw the need of Jesus being preached in His fullness. There was a church where people thought having their name on the church-roll was all that was needed.

We started having prayer meetings in our home and any home that was open to us. We had services in our yard. We have found that we have misfit persons in this world like misplaced persons — with no spiritual home, so one day God put it on our hearts to open up a place. We prayed and God blessed us to buy what used to be a Methodist Church. Some people were going to buy it for a beer-joint. A lady called me and asked if we wanted the building for a church. I told her “yes,” but she didn’t know it was God answering prayer — but we did. The Lord blessed us to buy it without asking anyone for a penny and we paid cash for it.

The Bible said: “Out of one blood He made all nations” (Acts 17:26) The Lord kept dealing with us so one day God told me thru His Word (Isaiah 56:7), “My house shall be called a House of Prayer for all people”.

When I say “we”, I’m talking about my self and my wife. She helped me pray this through and, as long as Anthony stands, we are praying that this little House of Prayer shall stand. May God raise up someone to carry on the work. — Elder C. J. McCanse.



SACRED HEART PARISH (1879)

One of the earliest Church organizations in Anthony was the Catholic, which was organized in 1879. From that time until 1908, services were held irregularly in some of the more prominent homes, such as those of Mrs. A. D. Kensley, Mrs. Samuel P. Black, Mrs. Ernest Bosc and Mrs. Floyd L. Bassett. Meetings were also held from time to time in store buildings rented for the occasion.

In the fall of 1908 construction of a small frame church was begun on the present property of the church at the corner of Washington Street and Jefferson Avenue. This church was dedicated April 28, 1908, by the Rt. Rev. Bishop J. J. Hennessey of Wichita. The Rev. Patrick J. Maloney was the pastor coming to Anthony once a month from Danville. From 1909 until December, 1915, the church was served once a month by the Rev. Daniel Kenneally from Danville.

The Anthony parish, in 1915, was then attached to Caldwell as a mission and, thereafter, services were held twice a month until July, 1934. The priests attending this mission during this time were the Rev. M. K. Barry, the Rev. J. A. Lenchan and the Rev. Thomas W. Green.

On July 1, 1934, the Rev. John A. Wechensky was appointed first resident priest and has been the resident priest from that time. In October, 1934, construction of the present parish rectory was begun, and completed in April of the following year.

The old church was torn down in June, 1935, and construction of a new and larger structure was begun on the same site. This new church was dedicated by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Aug. J. Schwertner, D.D., of Wichita on November 1, 1938.



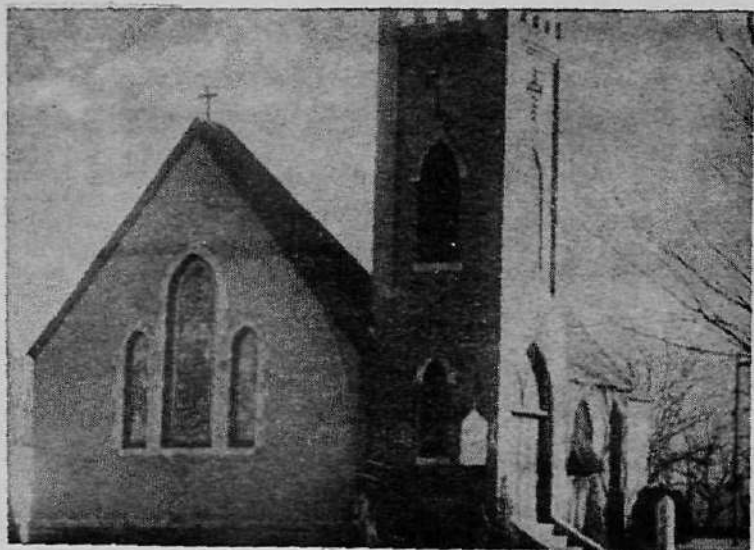
ASSEMBLY OF GOD, ANTHONY (1951)

The Assemblies of God came into existence as a result of a spiritual movement which began in the early twentieth century, but owes its existence primarily to an outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon a group of earnest Christians in Topeka in 1901. The first General Council was held at Hot Springs, Arkansas, April 2-14, 1914.

The church in Anthony had its beginning in 1951 under the direction of Rev. Clyde Gilbert. The church had formerly been established in Corwin, but, because of a dwindling population, it was decided to move the congregation to Anthony. A house was rented in the 200 block on North Santa Fe to serve as parsonage and meeting place until a permanent sanctuary could be erected.

In the fall of 1952 the congregation moved into the present building, located at 408 N. Santa Fe. The building was not completed at the time, but was completed later under the ministry of Rev. David Matweyiw. Rev. Matweyiw served the church from 1954 until 1958. During this time the church experienced growth and the mortgage was cleared. Also, during this time, four water cooled air conditioners were installed.

In 1958 Rev. Dave Williams came to be pastor of the church and served for a period of two and a half years. He left in 1960 to be a missionary in Central America. In September, 1960, Rev. Robert D. Box began serving as pastor.



GRACE CHURCH, ANTHONY (1889)

The first services of the Episcopalian Church in Anthony were held by the Rev. D. Howard, rector of Arkansas City in 1889, in a store building on Main Street and later in the court house. During the succeeding years ministrations were somewhat irregular and held on the premises of other religious bodies of the town. Of this period an early member writes, "I remember the late Rev. Cyrus Townsend Brady as he made his visits to conduct services once in several months. Other early ministers were Rev. Jordan, an imposing white haired man, and a young Rev. Hill who brought his boys' choir from a nearby town for services one Sunday."

In 1908 the church was built at the corner of North Anthony Ave. and Vine Street under the leadership of the Rev. W. E. Vann and consecrated by the Rt. Rev. S. M. Griswold, Bishop of Salina, on April 23rd, 1908. The beautiful stained glass windows were brought here from the old cathedral at Salina.

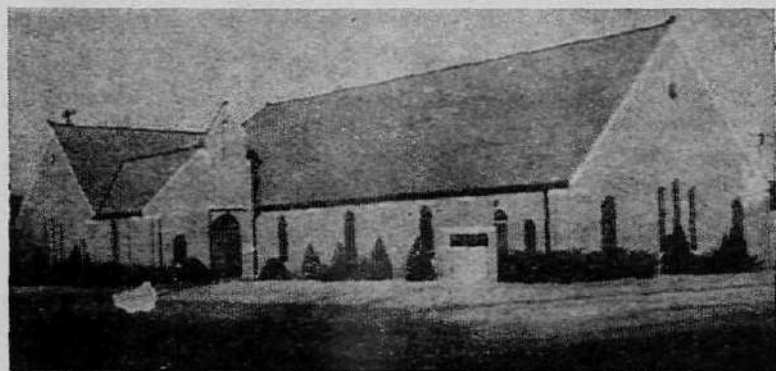
Early members of the church were the late T. B. Marsh who was churchwarden for many years and thus responsible for the church's progress and the organization of finances for the erection of the church; also H. Llewelyn Jones.

Over the years some sixteen clergy have been rectors of Anthony in the group of missions which has at various times included Freeport, Medicine Lodge, Kiowa and Kingman. These include Revs. W. E. Vann, 1908; Rev. M. L. Kain, 1911; W. A. Munday, 1916 and 1923; Peter Francis, 1945; Owen Lloyd, 1946; C. L. Johnson, 1957; J. H. Hill, 1959.

St. Barnabas' Women's Guild has continued through the years to be the handmaid of the church. An early organist was Mrs. A. G. Wright, also Mrs. Sumner Bird, followed by Mrs. Mary Crooker who served for some years in that capacity. The organist at the present time is Mrs. H. L. Galloway. In former years there was a choir of children, also acolytes. The Sunday School is held under the superintendency of Mrs. Bob Newton. One of a pair of pottery vases used at the early services of the mission has recently been donated by Mrs. F. M. Paul of Meade, Kansas.

The Jubilee of the church was observed on Apr. 23rd, 1958 with a celebration of Holy Communion and a dinner at which the guest speaker was the Rev. F. Croft of Hutchinson.

The Rt. Rev. A. M. Lewis is the present bishop of the missionary district of Salina, of which Anthony forms a part.



CHURCH OF CHRIST, ANTHONY (1942)

The Church of Christ was organized in the home of Mrs. Ansel Tower, 219 South Madison, on November 2, 1942. There was a gospel meeting conducted by H. R. Atchinson of Wellington with Warder Novak of Wichita leading the singing. There were 12 members.

Then the group met in the American Legion Hall until August, 1944, when they purchased a residence on North Springfield so they could have a place of their own in which to worship.

Later, the lots on the corner of Washington and Anthony Sts. were purchased and the present building was begun about November 1, 1947. It was completed in January, 1949.

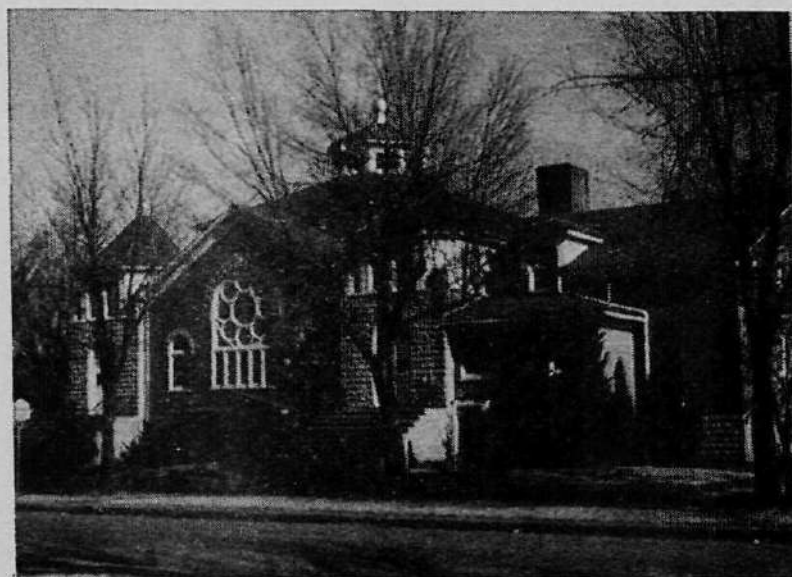
The initial service in the building was conducted on Sunday, January 30, 1949, with Bill Thompson of Lufkin, Texas, the speaker.

The first preacher to work in a part-time capacity was Albert Gonce, back in 1943; but the first preacher to move here for full-time work was Smith Kite in 1951.

It was about this time that the house at 224 S. Madison was purchased as a residence for the preacher serving them.

The membership (those old enough to request baptism on their own will and volition) has grown to 65. Attendance on Sunday mornings averages about 70.

M. E. Church, Anthony, Kansas.



METHODIST CHURCH, ANTHONY (1878)

Methodism started as a movement within the Church of England, under the inspiration of John Wesley, for the vitalizing of personnel and social religious living. It soon spread to this country, and was organized in Baltimore in 1784 as the Methodist Episcopal Church. On October 23, 1856, at Lawrence, a group of windblown and sun-tanned Methodists, under the presidency of Bishop Osmon C. Baker, organized the Kansas and Nebraska Annual Conference. The conference embraced all the Kansas and Nebraska Territories, and that part of the territories of New Mexico and Utah lying east of the Rocky Mountains. In 1959, with the union of three major branches of American Methodism, the name of the denomination became "The Methodist Church".

The church at Anthony had its inception sometime in the fall of 1878. A group of citizens met at the home of civil engineer, J. B. Lee, to organize a Sunday School under the leadership of Rev. W. M. Mock (as stated in St. Clair Gray's report as secretary) "that we might be permitted to enjoy the same blessings from our Saviour here in our prairie homes as we enjoyed in our former distant abodes elsewhere". The first services were held in the homes of the community. Out of the Sunday School came a growing desire for a church. A young Methodist minister, J. W. Anderson, delivered his first sermon on March 15, 1879, and completed the organization of a church with 16 charter members. The services were held in a store building where the Roach Motor Company is now located.

The first communion service was held April 24, 1879; the presiding elder, Rev. J. W. Fox, administered the sacraments. Soon after this memorable service, the meetings were held in the old court house and in a new school building where the Washington School now stands, and in the Congregational Church when it was completed. Fall of 1882 work began on church edifice on present site donated by trustees of town company. It was completed at a cost of \$2,500 and dedicated in 1883, with Rev. J. W. Anderson as pastor. In 1904 it had to be enlarged at a cost of \$3,000 under pastorate of J. N. Roberts. In 1909 the present church building was designed and built at a cost of over \$30,000 including a Carnegie pipe organ; then dedicated at gatherings of the members from December 16-21, 1911, by Bishop Alfred Quayle. Present parsonage was built 1924-25 during pastorate of Rev. W. M. Austin.

In 1940 four women's organizations combined in the Women's Society of Christian Service.

It is with a great deal of pride that church members mention Miss Ruth Hoath who spent nearly 40 years in India as a missionary under the Women's Board of the Methodist Church.

Joash Day was first observed in 1935 when Rev. C. C. Brown was pastor and continues to be observed annually in the fall. In 1946 a bronze plaque, given by Mrs. J. R. Joyner in memory of Pauline Joyner Taft, was dedicated in honor of 83 men from the church who served our country during World War II. From this roll three gave their lives.

Amplified chimes were made possible in 1950 by an initial gift from Mrs. E. C. Toler. Methodist Men's organization was chartered in 1951. The church assumed sponsorship of Boy Scout Troop No. 351 in 1952; it also sponsors a Cub Pack and an Explorer Post. It also has an active Methodist Youth Fellowship in 1960, an adult choir and two youth choirs.



FIRST CHURCH OF GOD, ANTHONY (1894)

The "Church of God" is an outgrowth of holiness agitation in the last century by some who began to feel a special concern about the unity of the Church. In 1880, D. S. Warner and others in Indiana prayed that "they all may be one", emphasizing the unity of all Christians in the Church of the New Testament. They taught that a normal congregation of the church of God is a congregation of which every true Christian is potentially a member without joining.

In 1884, J. F. Prouse and his wife (Mary Fishbaugh Prouse) came to Anthony from Ohio and settled northwest of the town. Also her two sisters (Hannah Fishbaugh and Leah Fishbaugh Miller) came with them. All of these people were connected with the Church of God movement in Ohio. The Prouses soon started holding services in their rural home. Mr. Prouse did much of the preaching and, many times, was called upon to pray for the sick. The people came to the Prouse home for services in wagons and on horses and, of course, had to stay all night. Later this group met in the schoolhouse west of the county farm.

Hanna Fishbaugh moved to 220 N. Pennsylvania and services were held in her home. George and Mary Cole, a brother and sister from Missouri, acted as pastors. Leah Fishbaugh Miller also had services in her home. She lived in one of the houses across the street from the present Missouri Pacific depot. Later these people held services in a rented building on West Main Street.

About this same time a group of pioneers living south of Anthony met in the first schoolhouse ever built in Spring township — Burchfiel schoolhouse — for Sunday School and preaching services, with J. F. Prouse doing much of the preaching. Another group south of Manchester met in their community for services.

In 1906 a one-room church building was built at the corner of Jefferson and Spring on a lot given by Jeff Broce. After this building was constructed, the various groups from over the county began to assemble here for worship. The first regular pastor was Otto F. Linn, serving from 1912-1920. Now retired, he lives in Portland, Oregon. Later a larger building was built.

Next pastor was C. A. Hoffman, followed by L. B. Morrison, J. B. Reeves, H. S. Ford, H. M. Sell, Mary Shepherd, G. L. Willsey and E. Dewey Johnson. In 1944 H. V. Collins was called as pastor and during his pastorate the present church, at 407 East Main, was built. It was dedicated September 15, 1946.

Paul Walen succeeded Rev. Collins and served for five years, during which time a parsonage was purchased. Other pastors were George Christie and Carl Edminston. The present pastor, Fred Bruner, assumed his duties in May, 1958.

For many years a tent meeting was held each summer on East Main. Many outstanding ministers of the Church of God were engaged to hold these services, i.e., E. G. Masters, W. E. Monk, H. M. Riggle and N. S. Duncan.

Some of the other pioneer families in the early group were Billy Bonine, Charlie Christian, L. C. Crane, J. R. Parkerson, Flint Collins' parents, Mrs. W. R. Cary, Mrs. Anna Linn, Mrs. I. S. Long, Sue Farringer, Mrs. W. G. Muir, Mrs. W. D. Laughlin, Mrs. Allie McAdams, Jeff Broce, Plunkets, Carmeans, Kunkles, Coxes, Bryants, Helms, Shroyers, Shoots, and others.



THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH, WALDRON (1932)

The church building now known as the "Waldron Christian Church" was built in 1903 by the United Brethren. The first minister was Rev. Johnson. A greater part of the funds for building was donated by Mrs. Waldron, mother of Howard B. Waldron, a rancher for whom the town was named. Dean Knapp, George Covey and Mr. Tanner were the carpenters who erected the building.

After several years, the building was taken over by Congregational people who then owned it and held services until late in 1932.

In 1932 a Christian Church was organized by Rev. Ray Burgess of Anthony and John D. Zimmerman, state secretary. There were 25 charter members. Plans were made to purchase the Congregational building. The Kansas Missions made a financial appropriation to help. Rev. Burgess preached for a time, then his brother, Emory Burgess, was minister.

The basement was put in and the ceiling changed in 1940 when Rev. King was minister.

The present minister is Rev. W. A. Keller, a semi-retired minister from Cherokee, Oklahoma.



ASSEMBLY OF GOD, WALDRON (1931)

The National Assembly of God Church originated in the United States. The first church to be organized was at Hot Springs, Arkansas, in 1914.

The church at Waldron was started in 1931 when Miss Rose Burnhart and Miss Lestesia Burnhart from New Jersey (and who had just graduated from the Central Bible Institute at Springfield, Missouri) came for a revival meeting which they held in a tent.

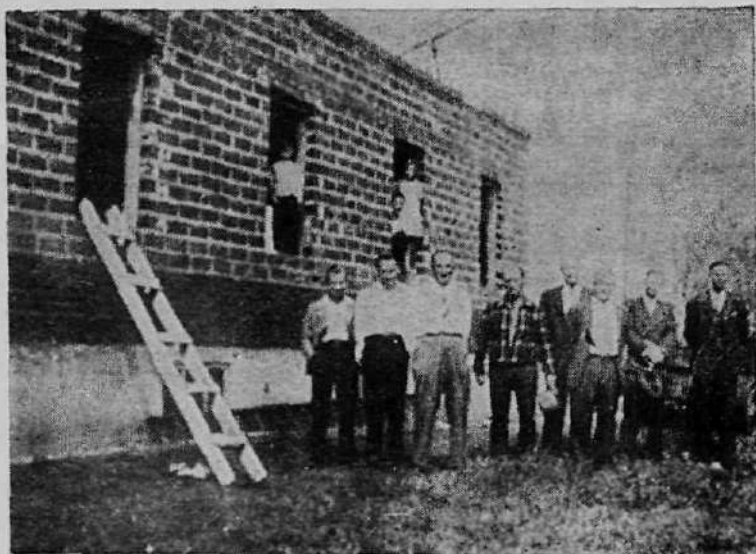
After the revival a building was rented for regular services and the two girls stayed as pastors.

The Waldron church, however, was not organized until April, 1938, when Rev. Ivan Rayborn was pastor. Rev. V. G. Griesen, District Superintendent of Kansas, officiated at the service.

The church was first called the "Pentecostal Assembly of God", but, in 1941, the name was officially changed to the "Waldron Assembly of God".

In 1940, the building the church had been renting was given to them as a gift at the death of the owner, Mrs. Bassitt. After that the church was remodeled and improved.

In 1944 the church sold the first parsonage and purchased the present one, which the pastors, Rev. and Mrs. Glenn Johnson, use.



CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

(November 24, 1936)

The church organized on November 24, 1936, as the "Faith Fundamental Baptist Church" with 32 charter members (most of whom have since moved elsewhere or are deceased). First pastor was Rev. S. E. Dorsett who served until March, 1943.

Meetings were held in the "Alley-Way" between Main and Steadman on Jennings until property was purchased at 535 South Bluff on about January 3, 1940. Meetings started being held at the new location in August, 1942, after a house was moved and the basement finished.

Rev. Bert R. Strickland served as pastor from July, 1943, to June, 1944. Rev. E. Byron Clemons and Rev. C. L. Cole served as pastor and associate from September, 1944, to April, 1945. During this time the church purchased a parsonage at 534 South Bluff, built an upper story on the basement and the first auditorium. On January 4, 1945, it also voted to change the name from "Faith Fundamental Baptist Church" to "Central Baptist Church".

Rev. Claude J. Bonham served as pastor from June, 1945, to October, 1948. During his pastorate the parsonage was sold and another house purchased for the purpose at 623 North Jennings.

Rev. E. Fred Null became pastor in October, 1948, and served until November, 1951. Under his leadership a new auditorium was begun. Rev. Bert J. Homer began pastoral duties in January, 1952, and continued until August, 1954. The auditorium was completed and dedicated on March 8, 1953.

Rev. William Delude served as pastor from September, 1954 until December, 1956. The present pastor, Rev. Leslie C. Truitt, assumed his duties here in July, 1957.

At present the church is supporting nine missionaries in six countries, as well as the Baptist Bible College at Springfield, Missouri. A number from this church have gone into fulltime service of the Lord as missionaries, pastors and pastors' wives.



PLEASANT VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH, WALDRON (1903)

On November 6, 1903, when Rev. J. R. Edwards was pastor of the First Baptist Church in Anthony, the Pleasant Valley Baptist Mission was organized with the Anthony church as its mother-church.

On November 4, 1904, the mission became a church. Meetings were held at what is now known as the Eagle School until the present church building was erected. Construction on the building was begun October 31, 1910. It was completed and dedicated in 1911.

At the time the church was organized in 1904, there were 17 charter members: Mr. and Mrs. Warren Holcomb, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Zuber, Sr., Mr. and Mrs. William Barber, Mr. and Mrs. John Duggan, Mary Justice, Alpha Justice, Mamie Barber, Eva Wheeler, Mrs. Amich, Lena Duggan, Otis Taggart, Ruth Hall and Bertha Duggan. By 1916 there were 106 members.

Warren Holcomb gave the ground for the church building. In 1924 a basement was dug under it and a furnace installed. In the late '20's someone broke into the church during the week and stole the gasoline-powered electrical plant and the rugs from the floor.

Also, in about this period, Sunday School Superintendent, George W. Walker, and his wife arrived one morning to find the floor afire above the furnace. They grabbed a bucket and emptied the baptistry, putting out the blaze.

In 1955 the floors in the church sanctuary were sanded and re-finished, ceiling lowered, and entire building redecorated. New windows were also installed at this time.

Although the church is smaller in number now in 1960, it still holds a place in the hearts of the people of the community and surrounding areas, and its influence has been felt by people scattered all over the United States.



DANVILLE CATHOLIC CHURCH (1883)

According to the information given to us, a few Catholics settled around Danville, Kansas around 1880. They came from Danville, Ohio, and being strong in faith, they felt a crying need for a church. A meeting was held in February of 1883 at Harper, Kansas, and there was quite a discussion where a church should be built, at Harper, or Danville.

In the year of 1883, under the direction of Father Gregory Kelly, who came from Winfield, the cornerstone was laid, on or about May 19th. Father Kelly presided over the ceremony. The structure of the church was to be 36 feet wide, 50 feet long and 18 feet high.

During the construction of the church, times were hard and money was hard to get, so it was two years before the church was dedicated. During this period of construction, mass was held once a month at whatever place was available; once in a drug store, in a harness shop, in the residence of Mrs. Colopy, also in a school house. Mass was even said in the Methodist church.

The new church was dedicated in 1887 and named St. Rose of Lima. The priest at that time did not live in Danville, Father Kelly coming from Winfield.

Father Kelly was succeeded by Father Kearful who served Danville for about a year. He also came from Winfield. Father Dugan, Father Call, and Father John Kelly, from Winfield, also helped at various times during this period.

After that, Father Bitters came in 1884, but before he became a permanent pastor, he came once a month from Wellington to conduct services.

The year 1895 was a very hard year, and the congregation did not feel able to support a pastor. The school was also closed. After Father Carrivault left, Fr. J. C. Sullivan came from Wichita and said mass once a month for a short time. He then became a resident pastor and through his efforts, the school was reopened in 1897. The Sisters of St. Joseph, whose Motherhouse was in Wichita, staffed the school and they have been with us ever since.

Father Dykman, the next pastor remained two years. In May, 1902 Father P. J. Maloney became pastor. The congregation at this time had increased in number, and the church was too small. The pastor and the people began to make plans for a new church. The old church was moved and was made into a school and the foundation for the new church was laid where the old church stood; in the Fall of 1903. On June 3, 1904, having a great devotion to Our Blessed Mother the pastor and people changed the name from St. Rose of Lima to Immaculate Conception Church.

The work was slow. At times it was rather difficult to raise funds, but through the efforts of Father Maloney the church was completed and dedicated on November 21, 1907, by Rt. Rev. J. J. Hennessey.

The Rectory burned down while Fr. Maloney was pastor. For three years he lived in a house close by. Father Maloney was pastor until March, 1913, when he was succeeded by Fr. Daniel Kenneally.

Shortly after Father Kenneally's arrival, a new priest's home was needed and the present rectory was built in 1914.

More land was acquired by the parish and a new hall was built to serve as a parish hall, to hold dances, and other parish socials. Father Kenneally solicited and collected money for this hall and it was built at a cost of \$5,000. It was dedicated on Labor Day, 1940, by the Rt. Rev. Christian H. Winkleman.

Father Kenneally remained pastor until May 15, 1954, a period of 40 years. He was succeeded by Fr. Vincent Ryan.

During Father Ryan's time the convent and rectory were re-modeled and modernized. The Holy Name Society made a gift of some property north of the parish hall. Father Ryan supervised the laying out of an outside dance platform.

Father Joseph G. Bartos succeeded Fr. Ryan and he was installed on October 3, 1954.

Father Bartos remained pastor until June 11, 1957, and was succeeded at that time by Father Herbert W. Mohr, the present pastor.

CRYSTAL SPRINGS MENNONITE CHURCH (1880)

The origin of the Crystal Springs Congregation takes one to central Kansas in western McPherson County. The church was located sixteen miles north and four east of Hutchinson. The first Amish Mennonite settler arrived from Iowa in 1872. Between 1874 and 1884 other families moved to McPherson County, Kansas, from Iowa, Nebraska, Ohio and Indiana.

When the Amish Mennonite settlers arrived in central Kansas there was only an occasional house on the prairie, and most of them were made of sod. Prairie chickens were numerous, and antelope were frequently seen. Land was cheap. The rich black soil was purchased as low as six dollars per acre. In 1878 the first church service was held in a schoolhouse. A few years later Sunday school was introduced.

In 1880 the congregation proposed to build a place of worship, and this project was managed by a member of the congregation, who also made the pulpit and benches. These are still being used in the basement of the present Crystal Springs Mennonite Church.

Before the opening of the Cherokee strip which occurred during the latter part of the nineteenth century, pioneer settlers had located in south central Kansas. This area included Harper County which borders the Oklahoma line. About seven miles west of Harper in Harper County, on the southern branch of the Santa Fe Railroad, was a small country-road town known as Crystal Springs. Nearby the early settlers had built both a Presbyterian and a Methodist church. When the strip opened many of the Presbyterian and Methodist settlers, as well as other settlers, left their land in the hands of mortgage companies, and crossed the line into Oklahoma. This was the occasion for the coming of the Amish Mennonites to the Crystal Springs settlement.

In 1902 the M. A. Troyer family moved to Harper County from McPherson County. With the exception of one family, the remaining families had joined them by 1904. Late in the same year the church building was dismantled. The lumber was hauled to Hutchinson where it was shipped to Harper by rail. The benches, pulpit, doors, windows, and frames, were hauled to Crystal Springs in wagons pulled by teams. This was a distance of about eighty-five miles.

When the Amish Mennonite settlers arrived in Harper County, Crystal Springs consisted of a post office, a blacksmith shop, a store, a stockyard, a depot, and two grain elevators. In addition to these, there were four dwelling houses.

The church was rebuilt on a site about a quarter of a mile east and about three-quarters of a mile south of Crystal Springs. The building was dedicated on January 29, 1905. After moving from McPherson County, services were held in Nebo schoolhouse, one mile north of Crystal Springs, from the spring of 1904 until the church was rebuilt and dedicated. Part of the services were conducted in German for several years after moving.

The women were active in sewing circle work almost from the beginning of their church life at Crystal Springs. During the first years they met in homes; and then in 1919 they began meeting regularly in the church.

In 1920 the Amish Mennonite Church of Crystal Springs merged with the Kansas-Missouri Mennonite Conference, thus dropping their Amish affiliation.

A new church was erected in 1928 and was free of debt the day it was dedicated. It stands west of the cemetery near the site of the old church. A parsonage in Crystal springs was purchased by the congregation in 1952.

Of the twenty-seven charter members, nine are still living: Daniel Reber, Dave Reber, Mrs. Fannie Stutzman, Abe Troyer, E. J. Shetler, Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Troyer, Mrs. D. J. (Katie Troyer) Yoder, Mrs. Kate Troyer.

Jacob J. Zimmerman, who was twelve years of age when his parents moved from Iowa to central Kansas, was ordained to the ministry in 1894, and served the Crystal Springs congregation some fifty-five years. He was almost 90 years old at the time of his passing in 1954. Gideon G. Yoder pastored the congregation for a number of years; his successor, D. Lowell Nissley, was called to serve the congregation in the fall of 1951. In October 1955, Alvin Kauffman assumed pastoral duties at the Crystal Springs church, and continues to serve at the present time.

In addition to the Sunday School and regular Sunday morning worship services, a regular Sunday evening meeting is held. A mid-week fellowship hour, including Bible study and prayer, with a separate meeting for children and juniors, is held on Wednesday evenings.



PLEASANT VALLEY MENNONITE CHURCH (1888)

The Pleasant Valley Mennonite Church was organized in the year 1888. The first Mennonite settlers arrived in Harper County in the year 1883. These first settlers came principally from Harvey County, Kansas and Wayne County, Ohio.

There were fifteen charter members when the congregation was first organized. Their first practice was to meet in the homes, each family taking its turn. They gathered in time for dinner which then was followed by Sunday School, scripture reading, and occasionally an exhortation by one of the lay brethren.

In the year 1888 the congregation also started meeting in the Pleasant Valley School for their worship. The first church building was not constructed until 1897. In this same year the Harper congregation was host to the annual session of the conference district, now known as the South Central Conference district.

In the year 1915 the old original building which was 28 x 40 was replaced by a larger building. The second was 36 x 52 with a balcony and full basement. This church building has been remodeled to provide additional rooms for the Sunday School facility.

Since the Mennonites maintained largely a plural ministry until the last few years, this congregation has been served by six Bishops, four deacons and seventeen ministers. The present pastor is James Detweiler and the regional overseer is Milo Kauffman, Hesston, Kan.

The membership has grown from 15 in 1888 to 38 in 1897, 43 in 1902, 195 in 1933, to the present membership of 179.

The present affiliate organizations of the congregation are its Sunday School, Women's Missionary and Service Auxiliary, the Mennonite Youth Fellowship, Girls' Missionary and Service Auxiliary and Boys' Club.

Compiled by Jess Hamilton. Edited by Pastor James Detweiler.



HOPEWELL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (1887)

The pioneers of the Kansas plains, living south and west of Anthony, met to worship God in three school houses. These were Goss, Bluff Creek and the Blue school. It was in the Blue schoolhouse, or Beaver College in 1887, that the Hopewell church was organized with the help of Rev. M. D. Walcher as pastor.

Soon the schoolhouse was too small to hold the crowds that came and, in 1892, the Hopewell church was built and dedicated with Rev. C. B. Parkhurst as the first pastor. It was founded as a Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

The 11 charter members were Mrs. Elva Blake, Elisha Lewis, Rachel Lewis, Leonard Gates, Sarah Gates, Charles W. Alley, Mrs. Jane E. Smith, William Elick, Mrs. Lucy Elick and Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Hayter.

In 1913 the church became the "Presbyterian Church U.S.A." and dropped the name of "Cumberland". In 1958 the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. united with the United Presbyterian Church and the church is now known as the Hopewell United Presbyterian Church.

Between 1920 and 1924 a community house and gymnasium was built north of the church. This was used for gatherings, fairs, literaries, basketball and other sports. Rev. T. M. Shellenberger was the pastor.

In 1917 a six-room parsonage was built adjacent to the church with a full basement to be used for class rooms and church suppers. The building committee was J. A. Patterson, O. L. Caton, J. G. Reynolds, J. C. Wharton and John Schnackenberg. Rev. W. A. Posey was the first resident pastor.

1949 saw the one room church transformed into a modern building with basement and well-equipped classrooms making it an outstanding religious training center. The building committee was F. W. Dusenbury, Claude Meade, Earl Gates and Elmer Smith. The pastor was Rev. D. C. Wallace.

Now, in 1960, among those who worship in the church will be found grandchildren, great grandchildren and a few sons and daughters of the pioneers who founded the church 73 years ago. The history of the church has been one of struggle and growth. The finances depend entirely on the income from the farm. Sometimes crops were good and sometimes there were none at all. But still the church continues to grow and, now, each Sunday, the church is filled with children, young people, and their parents who are doing the wonderful work of carrying on the Lord's work begun years ago by the pioneers.



CORWIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (1889)

On the 18th of January, 1889, there was organized in an old hall on the Main street of Corwin a new church adopting the principles of government of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. The Rev. J. W. Foose was the first pastor. There were 63 charter members. Three elders were elected: Dr. R. H. Dunnington, B. B. Rice, and J. B. Milam. One Deacon, Mr. J. Ford was elected. Sunday School and church services continued in this same old hall until the new church was built.

On Nov. 19, 1895, a special meeting was called by Mrs. Tom Kaley, president of the "Willing Workers" to decide about a church building. The president appointed Mrs. Frank Roberts and Grandma Bay to help canvass the community for the funds. Everyone responded well. Mr. George Landers donated the land where the church still stands.

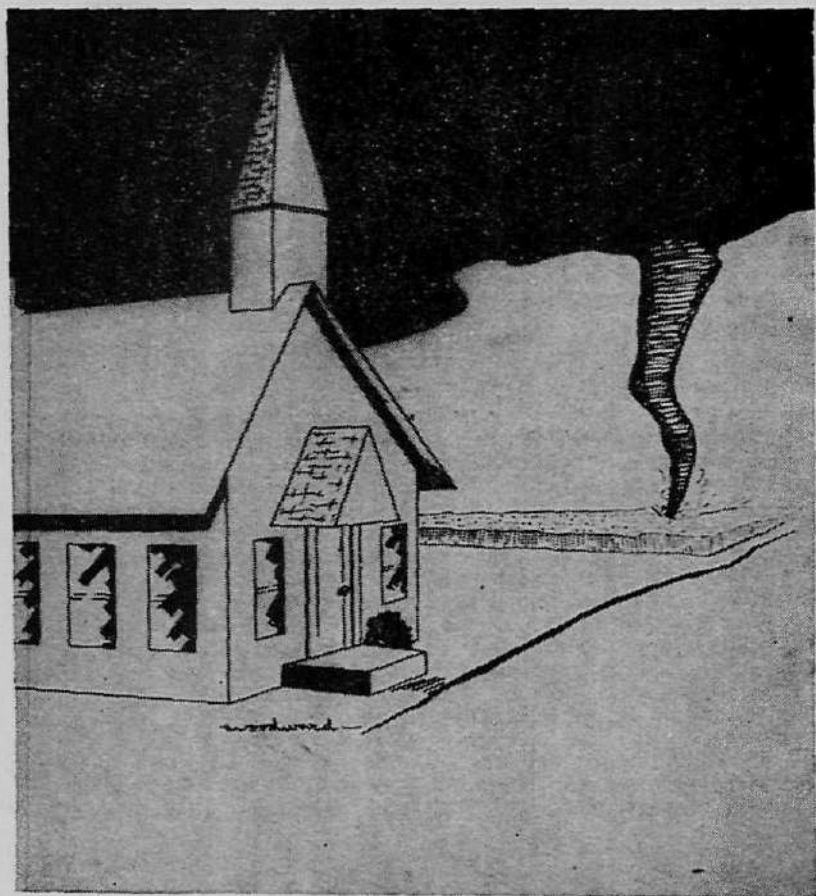
A hotel was purchased in Attica, torn down, and moved to Corwin by some of the men. The rock for the foundation was quarried one-half mile north and 1 mile east of Corwin on the north side of the road. Mr. B. B. Rice, ("Grandpa Rice"), laid the corner stone. Mr. Clair Mason and Mr. Dan Rice were employed as carpenters, and with help donated by the people the new church was completed in 1896. It had four windows on the east and west sides, two windows on the north, and double doors with a window on each side on the south.

The pews were built by Mr. Mason and Mr. Rice. Mr. Mason built the pulpit out of lumber which was donated by B. B. Rice and brought to Kansas from his old home in Ohio. The first lamps were coal oil hanging lamps, and a large lantern was placed on a post in the yard to provide outside lighting. In Dec., 1897, the new church was dedicated by the pastor, Rev. Parkhurst, free from all debt and encumbrances.

In 1910 the belfry was built on the southeast corner of the church, and a bell purchased and hung in it. Also about this time the coal oil lights were replaced by Coleman lights. In 1921, a Sunday School room was added to the east side of the church, and the basement dug. The entrance doors were moved to the belfry and double windows were put in their place. The old coal stove was replaced by a coal furnace in the basement.

In March of 1941 the church was wired for electricity, and the old Coleman lights taken out. In 1949 the church was decorated inside but putting ply-panel and celotex on the walls and ceiling, and new tile on the floor. The coal furnace was replaced by an oil burner furnace.

The membership of the church, which was originally 63, has varied somewhat through the years, and today it is 79. Until 1947, the pulpit was supplied almost totally by regular pastors. From 1947 until 1960 students and interns filled the pulpit. In August 1960 the church once again called an ordained minister as pastor—the Rev. Paul Jones.



Expensive trouble came to many houses of worship in this prairie country when the southwest winds twisted themselves into a tornado and decended with devastation.



Harper County's early day pastors preached Truth as they understood it. A complete reading of this collection shows that what they had to say was not always welcomed by all people.

The work, however, goes on — "to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable".

