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March 23, 1969

A Brief History

The story you are about to read relates the history of the church from the former Seventh Avenue Congregation through the former Cleveland Avenue Congregation to the present Northland Congregation.

On Sunday November 29th, 1942, a few disciples separated themselves from the main congregation of the 7th Avenue Church of Christ and formed a new congregation, known as the Cleveland Avenue Church of Christ.

They met in a storeroom at the corner of Cleveland Avenue and Hudson Streets under the direct leadership of the late Ray Elerick. The first sermon was delivered by Leslie Ward from the 7th Avenue Congregation with about 50 persons present.

At a business meeting in November 1944, plans were made to look for lots for erecting a church building. In April 1945, John Gaskalla was authorized to purchase two lots at 2189 Cleveland Avenue and in August 1945 the title was transferred to the trustees of the church who had been appointed and are still serving.

contd.

A BRIEF HISTORY - contd.

We continued to meet in the storeroom at 2293 Cleveland Avenue until the first Sunday of May 1946. We then met in the American Legion Hall at 2682 Cleveland Avenue until the first Sunday of June 1947, making one year.

In June 1946, plans were under way to build a basement on the lots at 2189 Cleveland Avenue which was completed for the first service on June 1st, 1947. Carl Finley worked with this congregation until October 1947 when Raymond G. Norris came to work with us. Our membership at that time was about 65 with around 90 to 100 present for the services.

In 1950, Harold Hill began working with this congregation and in late 1951 plans were made to erect the auditorium on top of the basement. This work was started in the Spring of 1952 and completed and dedication services were held on November 30th, 1952, lacking just one day of being 10 years since the congregation first met in the Linden area.

On October 1st, 1952, Horace Taylor came and worked with us until the Fall of 1953, when Harold Stanley began working with this congregation. During the time Harold Stanley was here in 1957 and 1958, the Cleveland Avenue Congregation assisted the church at Tiffin, Ohio in building a basement and supported Van Bowers as their minister. Bowers worked with them for one year and after that we furnished speakers twice a month through 1961.

In August 1958, David Myers came to work with this congregation. In April 1962 plans were made and a three acre lot was purchased on Spring Road in Westerville, Ohio. Construction of the church building started about September 1st, 1962, by Paden Construction Co.

BUILDING DATA

ARCHITECT:

Ernest E. Gaal - Columbus, Ohio
Victor Galier - Fort Worth, Texas

CONTRACTOR:

Paden Company, Inc. - Fort Worth, Texas

SUPERINTENDENT:

Don Eveland - Los Angeles, California

FINANCED:

First Mortgage Bonds - Security Plan, Inc.
Fort Worth, Texas

COST:

\$225,000 - Building and Furnishings
75,000 - Land, Parking Lot, Landscaping, etc.

STATISTICS:

600 - Seating Capacity
20 - Classrooms
2 - Offices
2 - Nurseries
2 - Storage Rooms
2,000 - Ultimate Seating Capacity

NOTE: Additional classrooms may be added along the sides of the auditorium, and/or at the rear of the building. Additional seating may be obtained by removing the present classroom structures; they are all removable.

UNFINISHED:

Spire - Under construction at front of building
Paving -
Landscaping -
Interior - Shelves, Bulletin Boards, etc.

IN APPRECIATION

For services rendered, at no cost to the church, we recognize:

DONATED AND/OR LOANED EQUIPMENT:

Buxton Auto Radiator & Glass Co.
R. L. Massey Co.
Ray's Lawn Service
Williamson Home Service Co.
Roger & Ronnie Dye (and Mother)
Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Bishop

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE:

Melvin Watts - General supervision
Millard Justice - Carpet installation
Charles Thompson - Woodwork
Bob Massey - Beams and wood finish

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A BRIEF HISTORY - contd.

The building was completed in January 1963, and dedication of same was January 27th, 1963. David Myers was released from his work at Cleveland Avenue to start the Westerville work at that time.

In July 1963, Keith Stotts, who had been working with the congregation at Ashtabula for the past 7 years moved to Columbus and started work with this congregation.

In May of 1964, seven acres of land was purchased at 4581 Cleveland Avenue (present location). Construction began on the new building in August of 1967, and the first worship service was conducted on July 7, 1968.