

In the Beginning God created.....

“A group of people started meeting in 1880 and January 1, 1881 organized ‘The Christian Church of Spencer, Iowa’. Early meetings were held in the court house on South Main Street and the Baptist Church, then on West Third Street.



The Congregation grew and felt a great need for its own building, so a frame structure was started in May 1883 and dedicated October 3, 1883. W.P. Summers was the minister when the church was built. H.H. Hawley and H.E. Higbee were here before Summers. Other ministers up to 1900 were R.A. Thompson, J.W. Walter, John VanKirk, Granville Snell, James McIntyre, E.T. Jeffries, Samuel Magee, J.M. Hoffman and J.A. Seaton. Our records indicate the church was not actually incorporated until 1887, as “The Christian Church of Spencer, Iowa”. The eight signers of the Articles were Samuel Simington, Everett C. Wigmore,

William Disbrow, T. Van Ronk, William H. Fowler, John Dolvin, Squire Mack, and David Skinner...

The first ten years of this church’s existence were evidently hard ones. Most of the pastorates were of little more than a year’s duration. This was a struggling mission seeking to proclaim in message, “The Restoration of the New Testament Christianity.” However, during the last decade of the 1800’s there was an amazing growth of the “Disciples of Christ” on a nationwide basis which was reflected in the Spencer church.

When James McIntyre came here in 1892 the membership of the church was only 78, but when he left in 1895 it was 168. He administered the ordinance of baptism to 93 candidates, many of whom were young people. One of these was John Harris who responded to the call of Ministry. He thus became our church’s first ‘Timothy’. He continued in active ministry for over 50 years. In 1898, during the pastorate of Mr. Hoffman, a parsonage was built on the east one half of the church lot at a cost of \$2,500.00. This became the home of fourteen ministers. During the pastorate of J.A. Seaton in 1900 the interior of the church was remodeled, seating arrangement changed and other improvements made. The records say that on February 19, 1900 ‘it was moved and carried that we improve the church property not to exceed \$1,200.’

In May 1901, Fred D. Macy assumed the pastorate. His salary was \$11 per week, later raised to \$12.50. He was the brother of Ethleen Macy Helm, who painted the pictures that hung in the baptistery of our former church.

Loren Howe was our next minister for a short time. He later became Northwest District Secretary. He came back several times for short interim terms and also held several revival meetings. He was a forceful and dynamic speaker.

The next ministers in order were B.L. Cline, Edward Wright, G.L. Bohannon and E.N. Spafford, under whose pastorate in 1909 the church was again remodeled and the class rooms enclosed. Prior to this the church had been more or less one large room. The value of the church property in 1909 was listed at \$10,000 and the membership as 142.

In April 1911, a young couple and their family moved into the parsonage, namely Mr. and Mrs. C.V. Pence. They were a young, ambitious couple of fine personality, and the church prospered well under their influence. Up to this time there had been only one married couple's class in Sunday School, and the Bible class, but with increased attendance there was need for more classes, so Mr. and Mrs. Pence helped organize the "Twentieth Century Class" of younger married couples. It immediately grew into a fine class that had great influence on the life of the church for many years to come. Mr. Pence was also instrumental in organizing a young men's class called the "Loyal Sons". The Pence family left in the latter part of 1914 when William baier came as pastor and was here until September 1918, during the uncertain years of the First World War

W.F. Hurst assumed the pastorate here in February 1919. It had been apparent for some time that the old frame church building was coming apart at the seams. With increased attendance it was not large enough and Sunday School room particularly was very inadequate. Several classes had to meet in difference parts of the auditorium. There was no basement except a hole in the ground to hold an old fashioned coal furnace of doubtful dependability. The baptistry was a tank set in the platform and reached by rolling the carpet back and opening a trap door. It was hard to fill and harder to heat with some kind of kerosene burner that did not always operate successfully. For this reason many baptismal services were held at the river in warm weather. Yet it is a period remembered by older members as one of friendliness and good times. There were many parties, congregational meetings, Sunday School picnics down by the river south east of Spencer, hay rack rides, bob sled parties, and Ladies Aid Society meetings.



The Congregation decided in the latter part of 1919 to erect a new building. The old frame structure was torn down in April 1920, a basement dug and a new building started. By the time the basement was finished, the after-war depression had set in, hard times were here and building plans were temporarily abandoned. All this time services were held in the Court House; so, in 1921 it was decided to put a roof over the basement, finish it enough for use, and move into it, which was

done, and dedication services were held November 27, 1921. The basement cost was about \$15,000.

The Keystone Sunday School class started in April 1921 with Mrs. John Coats as teacher. Other teachers in succession were Mrs. M.S. Taylor, Mrs. Charles Rankin, Sam Axe, and Dr. C.J. Coder. It immediately became an important class carrying a membership of over 60 and had more than that on several special days.



The basement was used for several years but in 1928 the mortgage on it was paid off and work was then started on the church proper. The corner stone was laid October 17, 1928. The architect was W.C. Barton and a contract was let for \$45,000. The church was dedicated April 14, 1929, with state secretary J.A. Dillinger in charge.



We now dropped into another difficult time, the depression of the thirties. To help make payments, the congregation had been operating an eating place at the Clay County Fair in temporary quarters, so in 1931 a restaurant building was built on the fairgrounds and a cafeteria was operated every year until World War Two, when no fair was held. By this time, the mortgage on the church had been paid off, and due to lack of help and better economic conditions, the restaurant building was sold.

Things were progressing fairly well in spite of the depression until April 30, 1933, when the congregation was stunned by the death of its beloved pastor, W.F. Hurst, as the result of an automobile accident in Des Moines. He had served fourteen years and three months, much the longest pastorate of any minister in its first 85 years.

“After considerable inquiry a promising young man was located, Forrest L. Richeson, of Marshalltown, Iowa. He consented to come to this church but had several months work ahead to finish his training and was not available until September 1. Arthur Sebastian of Spencer kindly consented to help us and did so very ably for the summer months.



Forrest Richeson and his bride Dorothy, came to us September 1, 1933. They proved to be the spark that was needed at this time to shake the church out of its lethargy and boost it along. The Congregation responded well to his leadership, and there was a substantial increase in membership and influence. The church was filled to over-flowing many times during his pastorate and the Sunday School enjoyed the largest attendance it has ever had before or since.

During this period, another Sunday School class was organized, a married couples class, called the “Welcome Class”. Also during this period, three young men responded to the call of ministry. They were Gordon Hagberg, George Manning, and Wayne Larson.

It was only natural that a young man, (Mr. Richeson’s), of his talent and ability attracted attention through out the area. Also, he was ambitious, and felt he was capable of even greater work in a larger field, so the congregation reluctantly released him to go to Portland Avenue (now First Christian) Church of Minneapolis.



Helen Brigham	Margaret Johnson	Ralph Fain
Joyce Clark	Herbert Clarke	Joe Deidinger
Art Brigham	Clara Fisher	Johnson
Dorothy Weiser	Katherine Jones	Mac Smill
Dorothy Reidinger	Dale Jones	
Lucille Carlson	Bud Weiser	

During these years romances were developing that resulted in the need of still another married group Sunday School class. A few couples started the Homebuilders Class (in 1938). Mrs. Jack Snyder was the first teacher.

Mr. and Mrs. G.D. Serrill and family came here from the Sioux City Christian Church the first of May, 1938. The following year, enough money was raised to clear the church building debt, and mortgage burning ceremony was held February 28, 1940. This

was a joyous occasion, culminating eleven years of hard work during the great depression of the thirties. Money was scarce. Many families had considerably less than \$1,000.00 income per year, but they donated their time and labor by helping at the fair restaurant, holding bazaars, rummage sales and many public dinners were served in the church basement. There were two special building fund Sundays a year. This was a period of genuine personal sacrifice for many of our members.

A year later on February 16, 1941, an explosion and fire severely damaged the interior of the church. Luckily, there was sufficient insurance to cover the major part of loss and there was no large financial loss incurred.



During Mr. Serrill's ministry in 1940, he and Mrs. Serrill helped organize the Christian Women's Fellowship replacing the older Missionary Society type of organization. This was highly successful, and has been a great help to the church ever since. The first officers of this organization were: President: Mrs. Ernest (Inez) Clarke, Vice President: Mrs. Ethel MacDuffie, Secretary: Mrs. Bill (Lola) Green, and Treasurer: Mrs. Clarence (Mabel) Olson. Also, the Christian Youth Fellowship was instituted replacing the older Christian Endeavor Program.

In 1946, another young man of the church, William Green, entered Drake University to prepare himself for the ministry.

Mr. Serrill's pastorate here was concluded in August 1948 when, because of age and declining health, he accepted a smaller pastorate at Pierson, Iowa. He gave much of himself in an effort to steer the congregation through an extremely difficult period, that of World War Two, when families were separated, and many of our young people gone, scattered all over the world. His kindly sympathetic attitude was a great help and comfort to many people. He passed away December 30, 1952.

After the Serrill's departure, Mr. Eugene Ogrodowski, formerly editor of youth publications with the Christian Board of Publications came here from St. Louis, October 1, 1948.



During part of Mr. Serrill's pastorate, the roof of the church had leaked and been repaired several times, the heating system was not very satisfactory, and we realized it would take some major repairs to remedy the situation, so another building or repair fund was started at that time. The following spring after Mr. Ogrodowski came, an extensive program of repairing was launched, including a new bonded 20 year roof, new window frames, a new heating plant, interior redecorated and the ceiling celotexted. This all was at a cost of \$10,000 which was on hand when the program started.



In 1949 a new Sunday School class was organized for adult unmarried persons. It was named the 2B class.

During this period, three more young people began preparations for the ministry, Ronald Anderson, Clela McCall, and William Hansen.

In 1952, the Articles of Incorporation were renewed and under these Articles the official name of the church was made, "The First Christian Church, Disciples, of Spencer, Iowa".

Also in 1952 a different parsonage was purchased on 8th Avenue West at a cost of about \$16,000.

Mr. Ogrowdowski left in 1953 going to Topeka, Kansas, as State Religious Education Director.



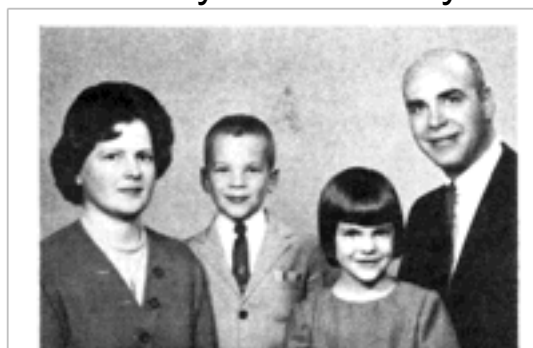
In May 1953, Richard Goins came here from Marion, Iowa. Under his leadership, the church continued to grow. There was a very substantial increase in membership during his ministry. This caused need for another young married people's class which started in 1954 under the name of the Harmony class with Rev. Goins as the teacher.

Another young man, Charles Presley, began preparation for the ministry in 1955.

The Goins family left in 1957 to go to Oskaloosa and in August of that year Kenneth Kershaw came here as minister. He continued here until September of 1961 when he left to accept a pastorate in Louisville, Kentucky.

We were without a regular minister for a few months and Dr. McDiarmid of Des Moines helped us out in this period.

Gerald Sawyer and family came here next, and he started his ministry January 2, 1962.



Again, our church building was becoming inadequate for our needs, especially Sunday School rooms. There was considerable interest in adding to the present church so it was decided to rebuild the old church and add an educational building. A building fund was started for this purpose. Before anything definite was done, however, it was decided by the congregation that because of lack of adequate space and the congested location of the old church in downtown Spencer, it

would be better to seek a new location and build an entirely new church.

Consequently the old church property was sold and a 12-acre lot purchased on East 18th Street. An architect was employed and a contract let for construction of a new church there. A ground breaking ceremony was held November 15, 1964. Very little could be done after that date before winter set in, but in the spring of 1965 building began in earnest. Work progressed nicely on schedule throughout 1965 resulting in its completion April 1, 1966, except for a few minor details.

On April 3, 1966, the people of First Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, moved from their building at 125 West Fourth Street to a new location at 701 East 18th Street in Spencer, Iowa.



The move followed months of planning and preparation by many people. Clayton Hagberg was the Building Chairman and overseer of the following Church Building Committees.

SITE COMMITTEE

Mr. Gordon Norvell, Chairman
Mr. Darwin Moore
Mr. Glen Kahley
Mr. Robert Guerttman
Mr. Robert Anderson
Mr. Barney Roberts
Mr. Herbert Clarke
Mrs. Elmer Michelson
Mrs. Harvey Verdoorn
Mrs. Donald Nissen

WORSHIP & ARTS COMMITTEE

Mr. Derwin Myhr, Chairman
Mrs. Chris Dudley
Mr. Darwin Hoover
Mrs. Darwin Moore
Mrs. Glen Kahley
Mrs. Bernard Freeburg, Jr.
Mrs. Clayton Hagberg
Mrs. Deane Anderson
Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Clarke
Mrs. Dean McAtee

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ADMINISTRATION & SPECIAL FACILITIES

Mrs. Robert Guerttman, Chairman
Mr. Clarence Olson
Mrs. Derwin Myhr
Mrs. Gordon Norvell
Miss. Clara Michelson
Mr. Donald Nissen
Mr. Robert Guerttman

**EDUCATION, ROOMS,
& EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Don Veitch, Chairman
Mrs. Charles Clarke
Mrs. Robert Roti
Mrs. Donald Nissen
Mrs. Raymond Banks
Mrs. Mel Moser
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Stevenson
Mrs. Gerald Lake
Dr. C.J. Coder
Mr. L.W. Green
Mrs. Lloyd Triggs

FELLOWSHIP & RECREATION

Mr. Bernard Freeburg, Jr., Chairman

Mrs. Ron Schweppe
Miss Lola Anderson
Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Triggs
Mrs. Floyd Wollam
Mrs. Edmond Northwall
Mr. Lisle Knight
Mrs. Elmer Michelson

PLANS-CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE

Mr. Harvey Verdoorn, Chairman
Mr. Bernard Freeburg, Sr.
Mr. Robert Anderson
Mr. Gerald Lundquist
Mr. Henry Hanson
Mr. LaWayne Enke
Mr. Mel Moser
Mr. Floyd Wollam
Mr. Dean McAtee
Mr. John MacDuffie, Sr.
Mr. Elmer Michelson

ARCHITECTS & CONTRACTORS

ARCHITECT – Don Hollis of Hollis, Miller & Hollis, Overland Park, Kansas

GENERAL CONTRACTOR – Glade Construction Co. of Ocheyedan, Iowa, Leonard Glade, owner

PLUMBING CONTRACTOR – Webster Plumbing and Heating, Spencer, Iowa – Earl Webster, owner

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR – Johnnie's Electric, Sioux Center, Iowa – John Franken, owner

Some of the highlights of the first six months of 1966 follow. They are reprinted from the January through June 1991 issues of "The Spencer Christian" newsletter.

JANUARY 1966

- First Christian Church was 85 years old.
- Gerald Sawyer was the Pastor.
- Linda Guerttman, Dave Stevenson, and Gary Gaston spoke on "What in the World Are We Waiting For?" on Youth Sunday, January 30.
- First Christian Church was looking ahead to the substantial completion of the new church building by March 1. Delivery and installation of furnishings and equipment was expected by April 1. April 3 was the date set for the first service in the new building and dedication of the new facilities was being planned for May 29.

FEBRUARY 1966

- Week of Compassion was observed with a film, "Give Us This Day", and a covered dish dinner under guidance of the Outreach Department, Betty Myhr, chairman.
- The Harmony Class sponsored a Box Social on February 15 to raise money to buy a 16 mm. sound movie projector.

- Our new church building was getting its finishing touches. Most of the painting and staining has been done on the walls and cabinets. The restrooms were receiving their equipment.
- Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Mills were contracted as custodians for the new building.
- The Father/Son Banquet was February 8. Mr. Don Hollis, architect, was the speaker.
- A baby boy, Barry Gene, was born to Wendell and Vivian Anderson on February 18.

MARCH 1966

- Equipment for the new building was expected to arrive between March 1 and 15.
- The CYF attended a Zone Rally at the Laurens Christian Church on March 6.
- Lillian Yarger was the CWF President
- Elders, Deacons, Deaconesses, Ushers, Greeters, Teachers, and Officers of the Church School met at the new building on March 28 and 29 for orientation sessions in the use of the new facilities.

APRIL 1966

- April 3 was Palm Sunday and Transition Sunday to the new church building. Worship began at 9 am at 125 West 4th Street. The order of service included “The Heralding of the Word” (Luke 19:28-44), “Silent Meditation”, “The Anthem” (“Hosanna” by the Chapel and Chancel Choirs), “The Word Witnessed” – “The Triumphal Entry,” by Gerald Sawyer), “The Invitation to Commitment,” “The Lord’s Supper”, and “The Tithes and Offering”.

At 10 am worshippers were instructed to take a hymnal with them and to begin singing “Onward, Christian Soldiers” as they joined the motorcade. The motorcade proceeded east on 4th Street to 4th Avenue East, then north to 18th Street and east again to the new building at 701 East 18th Street. After a ribbon cutting ceremony at the front door, everyone went into the sanctuary for the remainder of the service.

The congregation sang the fourth verse of “Onward, Christian Soldiers”, and a baptismal Service followed with Communion for the candidates. The singing of “Blest Be the Tie” concluded the service. The Sunday School classes met briefly in their new rooms until the buzzer signaled a Fellowship Hour in the new Fireside Room.

- Those baptized on April 3 were Kristi Hagberg, Barbara Verdoorn, Steve Roti, David Udorvich, Roger Knight, Randall Knight, and Galen Banks. Lisa Leon, Cathy Leon, Denny Gates, and Gerald “Gus” LeMaster were baptized on April 10.
- The first church officers to serve in the new building during April 1966 were:
 ELDERS – Bill Green & Wendell Anderson
 DEACONESSES – Mrs. Bernard Freeburg, Sr. & Mrs. Clifford Church
 DEACONS – Barney Roberts, John MacDuffie, Nick Udorvich, James Lauck, Marvin Harris, Clarence Olson, Reid Jones, and Levi Riedinger.
- The Central College Choir of Pella gave a choral concert on Good Friday evening, April 8.
- We had a Crusade for Christ with Dr. Wayne A. Greene of Indianapolis, Indiana, as our guest preacher from April 11 through 15 at 7:30 pm each evening. Marlene Toft directed the choir and Mrs. Dorothy Enderson was organist on our new Allen organ. Judy Triggs, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leon Triggs, was baptized by her father during the Crusade.

- April 25 was the date for the Mother/Daughter Banquet. The cost was \$1.35 per plate. The program was an “Album of Memories”.

MAY 1966

- The Nominating Committee for 1966-67 Church Officers was Bill Green, Chairman; Floyd Wollam, Alma Fitzloff, Don Nissen, and Carol Lake. The Nominating Committee for Board Officers was Darwin Moore, chairman; Bill Stevenson, and Naomi Nissen.
- A long play record album was made, “Songs of the Christian Faith” sung by Lola Anderson, Lois McAtee, Natalie Moore, Gerald Sawyer, and Marlene Toft with accompaniment by Mrs. William Enderson. Only 300 records were cut and they were available for \$4.00 each with any profit going to the church.
- At the May 5 CWF General Meeting, Herbert Cole, Camp Minister of the Christian Churches of Newton, Iowa, shared slides about the campgrounds and program for the state.
- May 22 was Cap and Gown Sunday honoring the following high school seniors: Milo Allen, Linda Anderson, Bruce Brigham, Kenneth Falline, Diane Fischer, Gary Gaston, Linda Guerttman, Jim Hagberg, Cathy Leon, Jerry Myhr, Kirby Roberts, Cindy Schoning, David Stevenson, James Triggs, and Jack Wollam.
- On May 29 the new building was dedicated and the 85th Anniversary of the First Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, Spencer, Iowa was celebrated with a noon potluck dinner, a 2:30 pm program, a reception and open house. The Dedication Sermon, “Why Build?” was delivered by Dr. Loren E. Lair, Executive Minister, The Iowa Society of Christian churches, Des Moines.
- The building was presented by Leonard Glade, General Contractor of Ocheyedon, Iowa, Don Hollis, Architect of Overland Park, Kansas, Harvey Verdoorn, Plans and Construction Committee Chairman; and Clayton Hagberg, Building Chairman. It was accepted by Glen Yarger, Chairman of the Church Board.
- Lisle and Edith Knight, with the assistance of many other members, compiled a “History of First Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, Spencer, Iowa” which was included in the dedication program booklet.
- Our church secretary and financial secretary was Mrs. Robert Guerttman.
- Our Church School superintendent was Mr. Harold Knight.
- Our organist was Mrs. William Enderson. Lola Anderson was assistant organist.

JUNE 1966

- Our Summer Schedule from June 5 through August 28 included Drive-in Worship at the Coral Drive-In Theatre at 8 am, Church School at 9 am, and Worship at 10 am at the church building.

- An Organ and Choir Festival on June 5 at 2:30 pm featured Mr. Archie Nibbelink from Hartog Piano and Organ Company of Edgerton, MN., on our new Allen organ. Our Chapel and Chancel Choirs also participated under the direction of Marlene Toft, Miss Lola Anderson as pianist, and Mrs. Dorothy Enderson as organist.
- Chapel Choir members were: Coreen Camp, Cindy Fitzloff, Cindy LeMaster, Candy LeMaster, Barbara Verdoorn, Judy Davis, Sheryl Gifford, Jeryl Gifford, Becky Gifford, Becky Smith, JoLynn Clarke, Cathy Griffiths, Teri Griffiths, Connie Godfrey, Kim Reynolds, Stanley Nissen, Tim Newcomb, Mike Gifford, and Gary Stevenson.
- Chancel Choir members were: Mrs. Natalie Moore, Mrs. Joyce Clarke, Mrs. Virginia England, Mrs. Diane Clarke, Mrs. Valetta Shatto, Marsha Moore, Linda Guerttman, Marcia Clarke, Lola Anderson, Shirley Gaston, Sue McDuffie, Cathy Batchelor, Arlene Gates, Dave Stevenson, Dan Guerttman, Gary Gaston, Derwin Myhr, Bob Nissen, Neil Ball and John Mills.
- **Vacation Church School** was June 6 through 10 from 9:30 am to 3 pm and was directed by Ardyce Stevenson. The theme was “The Church”. Classes were Kindergarten through 7th grade.
Teachers were:
Preschool – Gladys Sawyer and Relda Lathrop
Kindergarten – Edna Crandall and Marsha Moore
First Grade – Gerry Griffiths and Gertrude Triggs
Second Grade – Beryl Moser and Corinne Jones
Third Grade – Doris Nissen and JoAnn Ball
Fourth Grade – Neidra Krebs
Fifth Grade – Diane Clarke and Joan Moser
Six & Seventh Grade – Bernice Cooper
Kitchen Chairman – Cora Hargrave
Nursery – Ruth Norvell and Shirley Gifford
Crafts – Jan LeMaster and Beth Shaffer (helper)
Pianist – Shirley Gaston

An offering was taken each day for Ronald and Clela Anderson for their missionary work in the Congo. Doris Nissen showed slides in a joint session and told about their work.

- Men and boys age 16 and older were asked to contact Neil Ball or Bob Nissen if they would like to play Church League Softball.

3rd New Church

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) did not have its beginnings on that day in April of 1966 when it moved to East 18th Street. It was already 85 years old and this was the third new building it had occupied.

The church has been known over the years as “Christian Church of Spencer, Iowa”, “First Christian Church, Disciples, of Spencer, Iowa”, “First Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, Spencer, Iowa.” The parentheses were added through the adoption of Resolution Number 55 at the 1968 Kansas city Assembly of the International Convention of Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ), and the Spencer church followed suit.

The church is affiliated with the international organization known as the “Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ) and is a member of the regional manifestation known as the "Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Upper Midwest."

A transition service was held Palm Sunday, April 3, 1966, in which a regular service and communion was held in the old building after which the congregation proceeded in a caravan to the new building where a ribbon cutting ceremony was performed and the building opened for a baptismal service and a short Sunday School session.



There was again some demand for a younger married couple's class. Mr. Sawyer helped start a new class in 1964, named the "Crusaders" class. Also during this period several prayer groups were organized with services held in homes on week nights.

In 1965, the Worship Committee and Minister decided that outdoor church services during the summer months might be beneficial, so services were held early Sunday mornings at the Corral Drive-In Theatre. This service was well attended and proved successful.

Rev. Sawyer resigned effective July 31, 1967, to accept the pastorate of the First Christian Church in Fort Madison, Iowa.

William A. Knight served as the interim pastor from July through October 1967.



David Barnes was called to Spencer from Mt. Ayr, Iowa, with his wife, Lynda, and two children, Lori and Mark, to begin his pastorate on November 1, 1967. During his ministry, the church agreed to permit the Head Start Program to use the building to prepare preschool children from disadvantaged and low income families for kindergarten. The first Head Start class was held on September 8, 1969. Mr. Barnes resigned effective June 14, 1970, to accept a position with the Iowa Society of Christian Churches.



Keith Purscell came to Spencer from the First Christian Church of Douglas, Kansas, with his wife, Mary Louise, and their children, Kenneth, Sally, David, and Glenda, to begin his ministry on June 21, 1970. Two Lay Witness Missions were held during his pastorate. The church driveway was paved on October 25, 1975.

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) chose the red chalice with a white St. Andrew's cross as the official symbol of the church at the General

Assembly in Louisville in 1971. The chalice speaks of meeting at the table of the Lord as the heart of our gathering for worship in every congregation and in our regional and general assemblies. The St. Andrew's cross links us with Scotland, the ancestral home of Thomas and Alexander Campbell and Walter Scott, early leaders of the Christian Church.

The church sponsored the relocation of a Laotian refugee family. Eleven members of the Phuc Baccam family moved to Spencer in the summer of 1976.

Kenneth Purscell, son of the pastor, began his preparation for the Christian ministry.

The church began a program of summer internship whereby ministerial students could receive a summer of practical experience in ministry. The first summer intern was Diane Wachtler in 1976. She was succeeded by Koni Purdy in 1977 and Randy Parkins in 1978. We did not have summer interns in 1979 nor 1980 because of the change in pastors. Randy lived with Jerry and Sherry Groenewold during his internship.

Mr. Purscell terminated his ministry in July 1979 to accept the pastorate of the Broadway Christian Church in Wichita, Kansas.

Dr. G. Gerald Sias traveled to Spencer each weekend from his home in Sioux Falls, SD., and served as Interim Minister from July 22, 1979, to June 8, 1980.



Dr. J. Landon Williams and his wife, Diora, came to Spencer on June 15, 1980, from Merced, CA., where he had completed his service as an Air Force chaplain at Castle Air Force Base. The church parsonage at 432 Eighth Avenue West was sold in July 1980 since Dr. and Mrs. Williams preferred to own their own home.

The church celebrated its centennial in 1981 with a special observance on Saturday and Sunday, April 26 and 27. The celebration culminated three years of advance planning by the Centennial Committee: Herbert Clarke, Chairman; Joyce Clarke, Linda Gaston, Iva Hanson, Elmer Michelson, Mel Moser, Stan Nissen, Evelyn Snyder, and Kathy Stouffer.

Former Pastors Forrest Richeson, Richard Goins, Kenneth Kershaw, Gerald Sawyer, David Barnes, David Barnes, Keith Purscell, and Gerald Sias (Interim) participated in the celebration as well as several of our Timothy's: George Manning, Bill Green, Gordon Hagberg, and William Hansen.

Eugene Ograd also planned to attend, but illness prevented his coming. (Rev. Eugene Ogradowski had his last name legally changed to Ograd, timing the change to coincide with his acceptance of the position in Kansas, following his pastorate in Spencer.)

The Celebration included a come and go continental breakfast on Saturday morning and a potluck supper on Saturday evening, followed by an evening service with Gerald Sawyer as the speaker. The Sunday morning service was attended by 338 people, and Forrest Richeson had the sermon. A dinner was served at the church following the worship service and the celebration concluded with a service in the afternoon with Richard Goins as the speaker.

The summer pastoral internships were resumed in 1981 with Kevin Anderson. David Nash came in 1982, Kevin Anderson was back in 1983, and Clay Midkiff came in 1984. We did not have an intern in 1985 because there was no suitable candidate. Jim Summers came in 1986 followed by Howard White in 1987 and Richmond Adams in 1988.

Two young men were ordained into the Christian ministry, Kenneth Purscell, on September 19, 1982, and Kevin Anderson on August 9, 1985. Kenneth is the son of Pastor Keith and Mary Louise Purscell, and Kevin is the son of the earlier Timothy's, Ronald and Clela (McCall) Anderson.

Another special event took place on April 29, 1984, when a Mortgage Burning celebration was held. Enthusiasm for the occasion was dampened only slightly by a late spring snow storm. On August 11, 1965, the congregation borrowed \$175,000 from Spencer Savings and Loan Association (later Home Federal Savings and Loan Association) to build the church at 701 East 18th Street. On December 1, 1983, Gary Gaston, Chairman of the Board; Harvey Verdoorn, Chairman of the Property Department; Doris Nissen, Financial Secretary; and J. Landon Williams, Pastor, delivered the final payment on the mortgage.

The church office joined the computer age in December of 1984. We bought a Digital Rainbow personal computer, a Brother printer, and the WordPerfect word processing program. We also acquired a Sharp photo copier.

In 1987 First Christian Church joined with the other area churches in what has become the annual CROP Walk in October. The church has been a leader in the number of walkers and funds raised each year to benefit the world's hungry people. Church World Service administers 75% of the funds, while the other 25% stays in Clay County to benefit such programs as Food for Life, Meals on Wheels, and the Upper Des Moines Opportunity Food Pantry. Kathy Anderson was the CROP Walk chairman in 1990 and Mel Moser has been the treasurer for several years.

Dr. Williams retired from active ministry as of December 31, 1988.

Dr. N. Gayle Fischer and his wife, Jo, of Sioux Falls came each week from Friday through Sunday beginning January 6, 1989, to serve as Interim Minister. About this time the office mimeograph was wearing out and we replaced it with a Minolta photo copier on which we could print bulletins and newsletters as well as smaller runs of letters and reports. Dr. Fischer's ministry lasted through the first Sunday of May 1989.

May 7, 1989, was also the first Sunday for our new Pastor, David A. Nash, his wife, Ruth, and their two children, Emily and Rebecca. They came to us from Vinton, Iowa and were no strangers since David had been our Summer Intern in 1982. Their third daughter, Elizabeth, was born on December 24, 1990.

We did not have a summer intern in 1989, but Renee Hoffman came in 1990 and William Dunning in 1991. Randall and Kathy Anderson provided housing for Renee and Bill.

The Christian Church in the Upper Midwest reorganized the districts in the region and we became part of "Cluster #2". Five of the ministers from Cluster #2 met in November 1990 and chose the name IAKOTA Cluster, since it includes Cleghorn, Estherville, Holly Springs, Lake

City, Laurens, Lohrville, Pierson, Rock Rapids, Sac City, Sioux City, Sloan, and Spencer churches in northwest Iowa and the churches at Sioux Falls and Winner in South Dakota.

The First Christian Church is governed by the congregation which elects a board of directors known as the "General Board". Elders, Deacons, and Deaconesses are elected in November for the next calendar year. We currently elect three Elders, eight Deacons, and eight Deaconesses each year for three year terms. Up to six Junior Deacons and up to six Junior Deaconesses may also be elected for one year terms. Others on the Board because of their position are the Church School Superintendant, The CWF and CMF Presidents, youth sponsors, department chairpersons, and the pastor. The Board-elect then chooses its officers.

Board officers in the past years have been:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Chairperson</u>	<u>Vice Chairperson</u>	<u>Secretary</u>
1965-66	Glen Yarger	Wendell Anderson	Pat Verdoorn
1966-67	Bob Guerttman	Barney Roberts	Pat Verdoorn
1967-68	Bob Guerttman	Darwin Moore	Pat Verdoorn
1968-69	Elmer Michelson	Mel Moser	Neidra Krebs
1969-70	Mel Moser	Jack Easter	Dorothy Veitch
1970-71	Jack Easter	Darwin Hoover	Dorothy Veitch
1971-72	Darwin Hoover	Ken Crandall	Pat Verdoorn
1972-73	Ken Crandall	Derwin Myhr	Clara Michelson
1973-74	Derwin Myhr	Bob Griffiths	Clara Michelson
1974-75	Bob Griffiths	Dwight Willard	Neidra Krebs
1975-76	Dwight Willard	George Knox	Neidra Krebs
1976-77	George Knox	Wendell Anderson	Pat Verdoorn
1977-78	Wendell Anderson	Darwin Moore	Pat Verdoorn
1978-79	Derwin Myhr		
1979-80	Derwin Myhr	Glen Petersen	John Harker
1980-81	Glen Petersen	Irwin Kinsley	Nancy Fiedler
1981-82	* Irwin Kinsley	Dwight Willard	Kay Galm
1983	Gary Gaston	Jerry Groenewold	Nancy Fiedler
1984	Jerry Groenewold	Darwin Hoover	Jean Gran
1985	Darwin Hoover	Kathy Stouffer	Jean Gran
1986	Kathy Anderson	Frank Zech	Nancy Fiedler
1987	Frank Zech	John Gran	Bev Tjebben
1988	* John Gran	Glen Petersen	Kriselle Harrison
		Don Veitch	
1989	Glen Petersen	Deane Anderson	Nancy Fiedler
1990	Deane Anderson	Jerry Groenewold	Reynold Peterson
1991	Jerry Groenewold	Randall Anderson	Reynold Peterson

* Darwin Moore moved to Council Bluffs and Derwin Myhr accepted the position of Vice Chairman according to the Board minutes on December 8, 1977.

* This term was from July 1, 1981 through December 31, 1982, since the congregation decided on May 3, 1981, to change the church year to coincide with the calendar year.

* John Gran served as chairperson until August 1, when he resigned to go to Culver-Stockton College on his way to preparation for the ministry. Glen Petersen filled in as acting Chairperson and Don Veitch became Vice Chairperson Pro Tem for the remainder of 1988.

The program of the church is carried out through the departments of the General Board under the guidance of the Elders, the Minister, and the authority of the General Board. There are

seven departments: Christian Education, Church Growth, Membership, Outreach and Social Action, Property, Stewardship and Finance, and Worship.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

The Christian Education Department oversees most of the learning experiences in the church's life, including Sunday Church School, Vacation Bible School, the Youth program, also the camps and conferences.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT CHAIRPERSONS:Dorothy Veitch

1966-67	Bill Green
1967-68	Mel Moser
1968-69	Glen Davis
1969-70	Derwin Myhr
1970-71	Ken Crandall
1971-72	Mel Moser
1972-73	Barbara Brownmiller
1973-74	Bob Griffiths
1974-75	Bruce Gifford
1975-76	Clifford Church
1976-77	Gerry Griffiths
1977-78	Irwin Kinsley
1978-79	Irwin Kinsley
1979-80	Barbara Brownmiller
1980-81	Doris Salton
7/1981-12/1982	Doris Salton
1983	Irwin Kinsley
1984	Marie Clarke
1985	Gerry Griffiths
1986	Gerry Griffiths
1987	Julie Kinsley
1988	Darwin Hoover
1989	Gerry Griffiths
1990	Gerry Griffiths
1991	Glen Petersen

The Christian Education Department sponsors a Youth Banquet each spring to honor the high school graduates from the church. Special speakers and musicians are invited along with the youth and their parents and church leaders who have had an active part in their lives.

Vacation Bible School is the big event for the summer. Children age 3 through 7th grade are invited for a week of Bible lessons, crafts, music, puppets, and games from 9 to 11:30am during a week in June. The children are also encouraged to bring an offering of food items or money for the Food Pantry or another special project.

Linda Gaston and Karin Hanson directed the VBS in 1991, Julie Kinsley in 1989 and 1990, Sherry Groenewold in 1983, 1985, and 1988, Margaret Anderson in 1986 and 1987, Linda Gaston and Sondra Conard in 1984, Linda Gaston and Sherry Groenewold in 1981 and 1982, Margaret Anderson and Pat Swancutt in 1980.

Earlier VBS directors were Ardyce Stevenson in 1966, Barbara Schweppe in 1967, Mrs. Elmer Michelson and Mrs. Ron Schweppe in 1968, Mrs. Lowell Meier and Mrs. Howard Krebs in 1969, Irmgard Elston in 1970, Mrs. Lowell (Delores) Meier in 1971, Mrs. Bob Peters in 1972, Glenda Peters and Bette Stover in 1973, Connie Godfrey and Edna Crandall in 1974, Connie Godfrey in 1975, Laurie Gifford and Vivian Anderson in 1976, Doris Salton in 1977, Candi Schlotfeldt and Linda Fisher in 1978, Margaret Anderson and Vivian Anderson in 1979.

The Christian Education Department also plans the Church School Promotion Sunday activities usually the last Sunday in August. It includes the promotion of the children in the Church School (those going into 4th grade receive a Bible) and a church family picnic and games.

Winter activities include the Church School Christmas Program. The 1990 program was a children's musical, "The Story of the Ornament", directed by Shirley Clark and Sherry Groenewold. Marcia Petersen was the Music Director and Jim Conard accompanied on the piano. Larry Clark and Denny Stevenson were in charge of scenery and Alice Dudley planned the costumes.

We appreciate the faithful Sunday School teachers and officers who have served over the years. (Records are incomplete, so we have had to rely upon information provided by family members and others. Most of the list was compiled for Heritage Sunday in 1986.)

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Deane Anderson
Kathy Anderson *
Margaret Anderson **
Randall Anderson *
Vivian Anderson **
Wendell Anderson
Beverly Benberg
Barbara Brownmiller
Doris Camp
Eunice Christenson
Charles Clarke
Herbert Clarke
Joyce Clarke
Marie Clarke
C.J. (Doc) Coder
Sondra Conard **
Lavon DeLoss
Virginia Dudley
Edna Dufur
Frances Elkin
Doris Erickson
Nancy Fiedler *
Bernard Freeburg
Gary Gaston
Linda Gaston **
Phoebe Godfrey
Laurie Gifford
Shirley Gifford

Anna Green
Brenda Griffin **
Bob Griffiths
Gerry Griffiths **
Virginia Griffiths
Sherry Groenewold **
Marge Guerttman
Margaret Hagberg
Iva Hanson
Connie Harker
John Harker
Bonnie Harrison *
Kriselle Harrison *
Ethelene Helm
Louise Helm
Dora Hively
Darwin Hoover *
Harriet Johannsen **
Dortha Johnson
Cindy Jones
Thelma Kahley
Eldon Kanago
Irwin Kinsley
Julie Kinsley *
Ruth Kirlin *
Harold Knight
Virginia Knight
Mrs. Clyde Laird
Carol Lake
Ethel Manning
Jeanne Manning
Max Manning
Maxine Manning
John Mattlin
Joe McCall
Marie McCall
Deanna McCord **
Dick McCord *
Clara Michelson
Elmer Michelson
Lois Michelson
Margaret Mills
Beryl Moser
Betty Myhr
Derwin Myhr
Dave Nash *
Ruth Nash **
Cleo Nelson
Bert Nisbet
Doris Nissen

Janelle Nissen *
Glen Petersen
Ruth Piper
Florence Rankin
Forrest Richeson
Dorothy Rogers
Bob Roti
Stella Roti
Candi Schlotfeldt
Mrs. Serrill
Daisy Shawver
Lola Sjogren
Irene Slupe
Cleone Snyder
Evelyn Snyder
Merrill Soloman
Grace Sorensen
Steve Steele *
Mary Steele
Marilyn Stevenson **
Patricia Swancutt
Ruth Snyder
Bob Taylor
Jo Taylor
Dorothy Veitch
John Wagoner
Diora Williams
Becky Woolery
Lucille Wright
Glen Yarger
Linda Zech **

(* *Present teachers*
** *Present substitutes*)

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDANTS

Sam Axe
Marie Clarke
Saint Freeburg
Delbert Gaston
Bruce Gifford
Bill Green
Robert Guerttman
Clayton Hagberg
Harold Knight
Lisle Knight
Ralph H. Knight
John Mattlin
Derwin Myhr

Stan Nissen *
C.G. Rankin
John Wagoner
(* Present)

SUNDAY SCHOOL SECRETARIES

Lola Anderson Sjogren
Niles Swancutt *
(* Present)

CHURCH GROWN DEPARTMENT

The Church Growth Department is actively engaged in developing methods for reaching new members and in training and leading the congregation in evangelism.
This department was formerly known as the Evangelism Department and during some years the Evangelism and Membership Departments have been one department.

EVANGELISM & MEMBERSHIP DEPARTMENT CHAIRPERSONS

1968-69	Harold Knight
1969-70	George Knox
1970-71	Herbert Clarke
1971-72	Marie Clarke
1972-73	Wendell Anderson
1973-74	Marge Guerttman
1974-75	B.J. (Saint) Freeburg
1975-76	Harold Knight
1979-80	Darwin Hoover
1980-81	Darwin Hoover
7/1981 – 12/1982	Elmer & Lois Michelson

EVANGELISM DEPARTMENT CHAIRPERSONS

1965-66	Bill Green
1966-67	Derwin Myhr
1967-68	Delbert Gaston
1976-77	Roland & Pearl Coil
1977-78	Herbert Clarke
1978-79	Deane Anderson
1983	Deane Anderson
1984-86	John Gran

CHURCH GROWTH DEPARTMENT CHAIRPERSONS

1987	Jean Gran
1988-90	Ruth Kirilin
1991	Linda Gaston & Becky Woolery

“Bring-a-Friend Sunday” was a program sponsored by this department in October of 1984 through 1987 to encourage people to invite a friend who is not attending any church to come to Worship

Service and to be their guest for the dinner which followed.

The “Supper for 8” program was also sponsored by this department. It encourages new members, recent visitors, long-time members to get together in small groups for a meal and fellowship in order to get to know each other better and to grow in Christian love. People are assigned to a group for about four months and then participants change groups in order to become better acquainted with more people.

MEMBERSHIP DEPARTMENT CHAIRPERSONS

1965-66	Barney Roberts
1966-68	Bob Griffiths
1976-77	Bob & Stella Roti
1977-78	Clifford Church
1978-79	Linda & Gary Gaston
1983	Clifford Church
1984	Wayne & Doris Salton
1985-87	Shyral Nelsen
1988	Doris Salton
1989-90	Wayne & Doris Salton
1991	Clifford Church

The Membership Department has the responsibility for integrating members into the total life and work of the church with a special concern for new and inactive members. They also plan and carry through special fellowship events and celebrations in the life of the church.

1965-68 this department was known as the “Membership Development” or “Membership and Development Department.”

For several years they have sponsored Quarterly Birthday Party to honor those who have had birthdays during that calendar quarter. Refreshments are served following the morning worship service on one Sunday in each quarter, and those with birthdays are invited to put a cent for each year in the birthday bank to be used for a special project.

“Heritage Sunday” is also the responsibility of this department. Special attention is paid to the church’s history and members who celebrate their 80th birthday during the year are honored. A major project in 1990 was having a pictorial directory made. The committee had many meetings to plan the layout, make appointments for having the pictures taken, and proofreading the final result.

OUTREACH AND SOCIAL ACTION DEPARTMENT

The Outreach and Social Action Department handles the education of the congregation regarding our outreach responsibilities and opportunities, both in the community and beyond the congregation and community. They recommend the outreach program to the congregation.

CHRISTIAN ACTION DEPARTMENT CHAIRPERSONS

1965-66	Ardyce Stevenson
1966-67	Ken Crandall
1967-68	Harland & Barbara Brownmiller

WORLD OUTREACH DEPARTMENT CHAIRPERSONS

1965-66	Betty Myhr
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1966-67 Darwin Moore
1967-68 Wendell Anderson

OUTREACH AND SOCIAL ACTION DEPARTMENT CHAIRPERSONS

1968-69 Gerry Griffiths
1969-70 Wendell Anderson
1970-71 Bill Green
1971-72 Clifford Church
1972-73 Deane Anderson
1973-74 Mel Moser
1974-75 Jo Taylor
1975-76 Jo Taylor
1976-77 Deane Anderson
1977-78 Linda & Gary Gaston
1978-79 Wendell Anderson
1979-80 Herbert Clarke
1980-81 Wendell Anderson
81-12/1982 Wendell Anderson
1983-87 Joyce Clarke
1988 Deane Anderson & Ruth Allen
1989-90 Marie Clarke & Margaret Anderson
1991 Margaret Anderson & Virginia Tomford

First Christian Church of Spencer receives two “special” offerings each year, the Week of Compassion offering in February and the Thanksgiving offering for Basic Mission Finance in November.

The department also recommends the percentage of giving to the Current Fund which will go to outreach. In 1981 Basic Mission Finance receives 20.5% and .5% goes to local outreach.

The Week of Compassion offering is our channel for combating world hunger and alleviating suffering brought about by natural disasters. We exceeded our goal of \$1200 in 1990 and almost reached it in 1991.

Guest speakers are often invited for Week of Compassion Sunday and a Soup and Cake dinner and a program follow the Worship Service. Some of those who have been guest ministers are Rev. Roger Miller of Muscatine (1991), Dr William L. Miller, Jr., Regional Minister (1990), Dr. Forrest L. Richeson (1989), Dr. John Else of Iowa City (1983 and 1988), Rev. Joyce Coalson, Division of Homeland Ministries (1986), Laurie Anderson (1985) about her mission trip to Costa Rica the previous summer, Dr. Mark Love, Week of Compassion Committee member and head of the Iowa State University Department of Food Nutrition (1984), Rev. Traverce Harrison, Associate Minister, Christian Church in the Upper Midwest (1981).

Other responsibilities of the Outreach Department include recruiting people to deliver Meals On Wheels twice each year and taking our turn with other churches and organizations to help at the Round-Up at St. Luke Lutheran Home to enable residents to go to the chapel service.

PROPERTY DEPARTMENT

The Property Department oversees all church properties and is responsible to see that they are kept in good condition. The department makes recommendations regarding repairs, maintenance, improvements, and insurance of the properties.

PROPERTY AND MEMORIAL DEPARTMENT CHAIRPERSONS

1965-66	Gerald Lundquist
1966-67	Harvey Verdoorn
1967-68	Harvey Verdoorn
1968-69	Gerald Lake
1969-70	Don Veitch
1970-71	Bill Stevenson
1971-72	B.M. (Bud) Freeburg
1972-73	Gerald Lake
1973-74	Deane Anderson
1974-75	Dwight Willard
1975-76	Robert Anderson
1976-77	Harvey Verdoorn
1977-78	B.J. (Saint) Freeburg
1978-79	Jerry Groenewold
1979-80	Rodney Boernsen
1980-81	Rodney Boernsen
7/1981-12/1982	Dennis Stevenson
1983-85	Harvey Verdoorn
1986	Dennis Stevenson
1987	Don Veitch

In 1966-67 the Memorial Department was separate from the Property Department and was presided over by Edith Knight.

PROPERTY DEPARTMENT CHAIRPERSONS

1988	Don Veitch
1989	Gert Triggs
1990	Gert Triggs and Mel Moser
1991	Mel Moser

In 1988 the Charitable Gifts, Memorials, and Bequests Committee was formed to implement the "Charitable Gifts, Memorials, and Bequests Policy." The committee makes recommendations to the Board regarding the dispositions of gifts, particularly those which are undesignated. The membership consists of the minister, two men, and two women who are elected by the congregation for four-year staggered terms. Since its inception, elected or appointed committee members have been Harvey Verdoorn, Gertrude Triggs, Mel Moser, Kathy Anderson, and Herbert Clarke.

Some of the accomplishments of the Property Department have been:

- The inside of the parsonage was cleaned and painted and new storm windows were installed on the second floor (1979-80). The parsonage was sold in 1980-81.
- Vents were installed in the sanctuary roof (1979-80).

- The Fireside Room was painted and fireplace bricks were repaired in 1980-81.
- The driveway was paved in 1975 and the parking lot in 1981.
- In the fall of 1981 the Board approved a landscaping project under the direction of George Manning. Planting began in 1982 and will eventually consist of hybrid poplars, white pine, arborvitae, and blue spruce trees.
- Ceiling fans were installed in the sanctuary and the ceiling was repaired (1980-81).
- A new 18 HP International tractor was purchased in the spring of 1983 for lawn mowing purposes.
- A full-time janitor was recommended in 1984.
- New glass doors with brass-coated enclosure were installed on the fireplace along with a heater and a new water cooler was installed (1984).
- The lower portion of the roof was replaced in 1985 by McDonald Roofing of Sanborn at a cost of \$27,222.
- Insulated thermopane windows were installed in the pastor's study, financial secretary's office, library, and Room 17 (1985).
- Room 17 was converted into a Church Lounge, furnished by the Lloyd Triggs family in memory of their daughter, Janet Triggs Miller. The committee in charge of the project was Stella Roti, Chairman; Alice Dudley, Pat Verdoorn, Gert and Lloyd Triggs.
- Handicapped rails were installed in the bathrooms in 1986.
- Stella Roti and Alice Dudley painted the hallways (1986).
- In 1987 a new storage building was built, a cap was installed on the fireplace chimney, thermopane windows and doors were installed on the north, and the outside doors were refinished and repaired.
- A new lighted church sign was placed near the entrance on 18th Street (1987).
- The upper roof was replaced in 1988 by H & S Roofing of Spencer at a cost of \$15,487.
- A high-speed buffer was purchased to keep the floors in better shape (1988).
- Room 12 was redecorated in memory of Glen Kahley and insulated windows were installed in memory of Celia Anderson (1989).
- A Minolta Zoom copier was purchased to replace the mimeograph machine (1989).
- The Nursery was redecorated with moneys from the youth's pizza sales, the Gordon Norvell memorial, and the Grace Spaulding memorial (1989).
- Unidirectional microphones for the lectern and pulpit were purchased in 1990.
- The 4' x 4' slates in the Sunday School rooms were replaced with the white marker boards (1990).

STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE DEPARTMENT

The Stewardship and Finance Department is responsible to strengthen our stewardship knowledge and practice. They also have oversight of the church's finances.

STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE DEPARTMENT CHAIRPERSONS

1965-66	Mel Moser
1966-67	Darwin Hoover
1967-68	Elmer Michelson
1968-69	Jack Easter
1969-70	Herbert Clarke
1970-71	Darwin Hoover
1971-72	George Knox
1972-73	Bob Guerttman
1973-74	Dorothy Knox
1974-75	Darwin Hoover

1975-76	Elmer Michelson
1976-77	Herbert Clarke
1977-78	Mel Moser
1978-79	Wayne Salton
1979-80	Wayne Salton
1980-81	Mel Moser
7/1981-12/1982	Glen Petersen
1983	Glen Petersen
1984	Bob Griffiths
1985	Bob Griffiths
1986	Mel Moser
1987	George Knox
1988	George Knox
1989	Jerry Groenewold
1990	Darwin Hoover
1991	Dave Ellis

A major project for this committee is to conduct the fall stewardship campaign to determine what resources will be available to meet the budget for the coming year. Several programs have been used successfully.

In 1981-83 the Pony Express program was used. It was patterned after the old west mail service of the same name. A saddlebag containing estimate of giving cards was passed from church family to church family, constituting the "run." Deacons and Deaconesses were designated as "Trail Bosses," each with ten families on their route.

A similar program called the Iron Horse Express was used in 1984-86. Instead of saddlebags, cardboard locomotives were passed from church family to church family with estimate of giving cards enclosed. This program ended with a golden Spike Sunday Celebration at which time the Railroad Superintendent, assisted by the Pastor, drove a "golden spike" to symbolize the completion of the campaign.

In 1987 the church began using a "Consecration Day" program in which church members are invited to make their stewardship commitment in an act of worship during the morning service. Elders, Deacons, and Deaconesses, have endeavored to contact every church member by a personal phone call or by letter from the church office.

Children and youth of the Church School had a poster contest for three years with the winning poster used as the bulletin cover on Consecration Day. The 1987 theme was "God Gives So We Can" with the winning poster by Charity Harrison. The 1988 theme was "Loving, Caring, Sharing" and the winning poster was designed by Emily Petersen; in 1989, "Happiness Is Giving" with Jessica Kinsley as the top designer.

The 1990 campaign theme was "Matters of the Heart" and plans are already beginning on the 1991 campaign with the theme, "The heart is FORgiving." Each campaign has concluded with a "Victory Dinner" with the meal paid for by the church.

WORSHIP DEPARTMENT

The Worship Department is responsible to work out the worship experiences of the congregation

both on Sunday and special occasions. They are also charged to strengthen the basic devotional life of both individuals and families.

WORSHIP DEPARTMENT CHAIRPERSONS

1965-66	Herbert Clarke
1966-68	Gordon Norvell
1968-69	Deane Anderson
1969-70	Stella Roti
1970-71	Chris Dudley
1971-72	Neil Ball
1972-73	Georgia Willard
1973-74	Gayle Freeburg
1974-75	Nancy Fiedler
1975-76	Karen Eickhoff
1976-78	Virginia Dudley
1978-79	Richard Vanderhoff
1979-1982	Jerry Groenewold
1983	Glen Petersen
1984	Wendell Anderson
1985-86	Jerry Groenewold
1987	Bob Roti
1988	Doug Conard
1989	Linda Gaston & Mary Steele
1990	Bob Roti
1991	Steve Steele

The Worship Department has special responsibilities during the Easter and Christmas seasons. They are in charge of the decorating of the church at Christmas and help plan the Christmas Eve Service.

The department organizes the 24-hour Prayer Vigil which begins each year at 6am on the Saturday before Easter Sunday and helps plan the Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunrise Services. We have also cooperated with the other churches each year for one or more Union Lenten Services.

The department has also prepared or assisted with other special services such as the Installation Services for Dr. J. Landon Williams on June 29, 1980, for Rev. David A. Nash on May 21, 1989, the Ordination Services for Kenneth Purscell in 1982, and Kevin Anderson in 1985.

The department arranges for the Nursery Attendant each Sunday. Shirley Smith was the regular Nursery Attendant from January 30, 1977 through January 27 1991, sometimes assisted by her children, Missy or Bradley. Since then Bernice Udorvich, Denise Salton, Niles and Bonnie Harrison, and Kim Peterson have taken turns in the nursery, and the department plans to include others as well.

In 1982 a Children's Church Service was started under the leadership of Marcia Petersen; Bonnie Harrison is now in charge. Other Children's Church leaders include Linda Zech, Sondra Conard, and the high school youth. Children age 3 through first grade are invited to participate. They attend the first part of adult worship service and then they are dismissed following the anthem or children's message to go to Room 6 for their own service.

Members of the department also recruit greeters for each Sunday's worship service, arrange for

worship leaders as needed, plan the special music during the summer months when the choir takes a break, and ask someone to give the devotions at each month's Board meeting.

First Christian Church takes turns with other churches three times a year to conduct worship services at Longhouse and Northshire Residences on Sundays at 4:45 pm and 5:15 pm respectively. The service usually includes music by the choir and a brief devotional by the pastor.

Music has always been an important part of our worship experience and many people have participated over the years. Royal blue choir robes were purchased in 1990 with contrasting stoles, one side white with royal blue braid and the other side gold with royal blue cross.

CHOIR DIRECTORS

Harold Brigham
Gayle Freeburg
Beverly Hagberg
Derwin Myhr
Char Nissen
Marcia Petersen
Bert Shaver
Lola Anderson Sjorgren
Wilma Solomon
Steve Steele *
Marlene Toft

(* Present)

ORGANISTS

Deanna Anderson
Dorothy Cooksey
Dorothy Enderson
Sherry Groenewold *
Mary Lou Klaessy
Mary Louise Purscell
Lola Anderson Sjorgren
Chuck Smith
Sherry Zinn

(* Present)

PIANISTS

Harold Brigham
Marian Serril Clarke
Jim Conard
Dorothy Cooksey
Laura Gould
Lola Green
Sherry Groenewold

Stanley Hahn
Mary Lou Klaessy
Marcia Petersen
Mary Louise Purscell
Ethel Jones Sorensen
Clarissa Taylor Rice
Lola Anderson Sjogren
Jackie Yarger

CHOIR MEMBERS

Linda Anderson
Sonya Anderson
Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Axe
Neil Ball
Raymond Banks
Eleanor Banks
Harold Brigham
Verne Bascom
Genevieve Church
Shirley Clark
Amy Clark
Barbara Clarke
Marcia Clarke
Joyce Clarke
Dick Coder
Jill Coleman
Doug Conard
Jim Conard
Sondra Conard
Lanny De Young
June Dickenson
Marian Droll
David Ellenwood
Virginia England
Vicki England
Gayle Freeburg
Marlene Freeburg
Kay Galm
Linda Gaston
Gary Gaston
Kim Gaston
Kris Gaston
Marietta Goins
Jean Gran
Beverly Hagberg
Della Hagberg
Bob Hager
Stanley Hahn
Becky Traughber Hannon

Michael Hannon
Rich Hanson
Kriselle Harrison
Charity Harrison
Shantell Harrison
Margaret Helm
Alma Helm
Donna Evjy Herbst
Dora Hively
Sharon Hively
Darwin Hoover
Dale Jones
Dixie Kanago
Karen Klaessy
Shirley Kershaw
Edith Knight
Harold Knight
Lisle Knight
Florence Manning
Paul Manning
Ralph Manning
Sybil Mattlin
Kathy McCall
Dick McCord
Donna Traughber McMichael
Doris Erickson Miller
Floyd Miller
Craig Moore
Marsha Moore
Natalie Moore
Brian Myhr
Derwin Myhr
David Nash
Ruth Nash
Janelle Nissen
Arlene Noll
Elsie Noll
Marcia Petersen
Ruth Serrill Piper
Keith Purscell
Mary Louise Purscell
Charles Rankin
Bob Roti
Ron Schweppe
Valetha Shatto
Lola Anderson Sjojren
Aaron Steele
Joe Steele
David Stevenson
Keith Swancutt

Kelly Swancutt
Pat Swancutt
Tom Traugher
Gert Triggs
Lloyd Triggs
Dwight Willard
Frank Zech

Most of this list was compiled for Heritage Sunday on July 20, 1986, and appeared in "The Spencer Christian" in August and September of that year. We know that the list is incomplete and we apologize to those whose participation is unknown to us.

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

For the past 50+ years the Christian Women's Fellowship has been an important part of the First Christian Church. It was organized by Mrs. G.D. Serrill in 1940. **Betty Myhr composed a poem** about some of the activities of the CWF for "Blessing Box Dedication Night" in April of 1981.

*When the year nineteen-fourty was very young, our Women's Fellowship began
With a brand-new pattern for Ladies Aid. This is how it ran:
Eight Circles of women were structured; a Leader for each was chosen.
Every third Thursday each met in a home for dessert and a study of Mission.
For luncheon and program on Thursday first, in the Church Hall the eight did meet.
The luncheon was served for twenty cents; with that we can't compete.
The public flowed to our famous Bazaars with its chicken and biscuit dinner.
The money we made for good causes was used. The Bazaar was always a winner.
A new Circle was drawn, called Lydia. Its members met at night.
Since many women were going to work, this Circle was needed, alright.
Soon Blessing Boxes replaced bazaars. We counted our blessings and gave to Outreach,
Ramsey, and others.
For personal needs we'd save.
Changes came as changes must, for the betterment of our "troops".
Circles 'twas said, were ever closed. There would be openness in Groups.
Mothers and Daughters, Fathers and Sons had Banquets, dressed in fine duds.
The men served the ladies, carving the ham – they even put soap in the spuds!
We have Calling Day and the Timothy Fund, and of course, Quadrennial.
So much to do along the way – our days are brimming full.
There's Family Night (with never a fight!) with a feast and a program, too!
The bonds of our families grow stronger, then; more loving and more true.
We've made school, health, and sewing kits, lap robes and bandages rolled.
Many the quilts we've made and clothing sewn, with benefits often untold.
Our Blessing Box Plan continues on, when we sacrificially give.
Christian Women's Fellowship is – Service. It is Sacrifice and Sharing.
It's cleaning the kitchen and cooking funeral meals, ever and always caring.
We've given brides-to-be a shower and helped with wedding receptions; whatever comes
up,
We try to help and that without exception.
The first CWF President was Mrs. Ernest (Inez) Clarke.
From a small but hopeful beginning, she and others did embark.*

*Great foresight was Mrs. Serrill's. In our hearts we hold her dear – for initiating CWF.
May God bless, greatly, from year to year.*

The Christian Women's Fellowship year runs from July 1 through June 30. Many women have served over the years as CWF President and other officers.

CWF Presidents during the first 25 years were: Mrs. Ernest (Inez) Clarke, Mrs. John (Ethel) MacDuffie, Sr., Mrs. Elmer (Margaret) Ketcham, Mrs. Leslie (Jennie) England, Mrs. Myron (Clara) Stanton, Mrs. Clarence (Mildred) Good, Mrs. Lisle (Edith) Knight, Mrs. Clarence (Mabel) Olson, Mrs. Robert (Marge) Guerttman, Mrs. Harold (Fern) Traughber, Mrs. Elmer (Lois) Michelson, Mrs. Harvey (Pat) Verdoorn, and Mrs. Derwin (Betty) Myhr.

[information received from CWF 25th Anniversary Program, May 6, 1965]

Since the move to East 18th Street, CWF Presidents have been:

1965-67	Mrs. Glen (Lillian) Yarger
1967-69	Mrs. Mel (Beryl) Moser
1969-70	Mrs. Elmer (Lois) Michelson
1970-71	Mrs. Howard (Neidra) Krebs
1971-72	Mrs. Gerald (Carol) Lake
1972-73	Mrs. Darwin (Natalie) Moore
1973-74	Mrs. Glen (Lillian) Yarger
1974-75	Mrs. Dale (Marian) Droll
1975-76	Mrs. Harold (Fern) Traughber
1976-77	Mrs. B.J. (Gayle) Freeburg
1977-78	Mrs. Wendell (Vivian) Anderson
1978-79	Mrs. George (Dorothy) Knox
1979-80	Mrs. Derwin (Betty) Myhr
1980-81	Mrs. Deane (Margaret) Anderson
1981-82	Mrs. Johnnie (Fernn) Steward
1982-83	Mrs. Harold (Fern) Traughber
1983-84	Mrs. Harland (Barbara) Brownmiller
1984-85	Mrs. Jerry (Sherry) Groenewold
1985-86	Mrs. Gary (Linda) Gaston
1986-87	Mrs. Wendell (Vivian) Anderson
1987-89	Mrs. Don (Dorothy) Veitch
1989-90	Mrs. Jerry (Sherry) Groenewold
1990-91	Mrs. Johnnie (Fernn) Steward
1991-92	Mrs. Wendell (Vivian) Anderson

CHRISTIAN MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Sixteen men met on April 21, 1983, and organized a Christian Men's Fellowship. A Steering Committee of Dwight Willard, Doug Conard, Niles Swancutt, and Bob Roti was selected to guide the organization until a permanent organization could be formalized and officers could be elected. The CMF adopted Bylaws and elected officers on December 1, 1983: John Gran, President; Elmer Michelson, Vice President; and Randall Anderson, Secretary-Treasurer.

In 1984 the CMF worked jointly with the CWF to put carpet in the pew pockets. They also had a joint meeting with the CWF in which the men grilled hamburgers and the ladies brought salads. As

a result, the men made a large grill for the church which has been used on many occasions.

The men met on the first Thursday of the month during 1984 and 1985 for a meal, a speaker, and Bible Study. In 1986 the CMF began meeting on a Saturday morning each month (usually the first Saturday) for a continental breakfast of juice, coffee, and rolls, and a Bible Study, discussion, fellowship, hoping to attract more men to the meeting.

CMF men have grilled hamburgers for the annual all-church picnic at the end of August each year and have provided apples for everyone at the Christmas programs.

They have also taken on several repair and maintenance projects around the church and grounds, including removing old shrubs and dead trees, and planting new shrubbery, and restocking the firewood supply.

The CMF also assisted in the advance preparation for the Shelby Hagberg estate auction (1988) and painted the outside of Dave and Ruth Nash's house (1989).

CMF OFFICERS

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>PRESIDENT</u>	<u>VICE PRESIDENT</u>	<u>SECRTY/TREAS</u>
1984	John Gran	Elmer Michelson	Randall Anderson
1985	John Gran	Lloyd Triggs	Randall Anderson
1986	←----- (no written record) -----→		
1987	Gary Gaston	John Gran	Mel Moser / Dwight Willard
1988	Gary Gaston	John Gran	Mel Moser / Dwight Willard
1989-90	Mel Moser	Bob Roti	
1991	Cliff Church	Bob Roti	

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

First Christian Church has three youth groups: CYF (Christian Youth Fellowship) is for those in 9th grade – 12th.

Chi Rho is for 6th – 8th grade, and JYF (Junior Youth Fellowship) is 4th – 5th grades.

The groups meet regularly on Sundays at 5:30pm during the school year for a fun time, study, and devotions. About once a month a special social activity is planned.

Social activities have included bike rides, hay rides, Christmas parties, New Year's Eve parties, Christmas Caroling, scavenger hunts, miniature golf, and outings to various interesting places in the area.

Fundraising activities are held to provide money for the groups. Projects have included pizza sales, candy sales, pen-pak sales, firewood sales, light bulb sales, ice cream socials, maidrite luncheons, and soup and pie dinners, and an omelet breakfast.

CYF (Christian Youth Fellowship)

1990-91 CYF sponsors are Glen and Marcia Petersen, Dennis Stevenson, and Dave Ellis. Other sponsors have been Glen and Marcia Petersen and Dennis Stevenson in 1989-90, Glen and Marcia Petersen and Dennis and Ardith Stevenson in 1988-89, John and Jean Gran in 1987-88, Randall and Kathy Anderson 1986-87, Randall Anderson, Mike and Donita Cahill, Nancy Fiedler, Kathy Stouffer in 1984-86, Irwin Kinsley 1978-84, Doug Stouffer 1977-78, Doug Stouffer and Gary Pierce in 1976-77, Doug Stouffer and David Stevenson 1975-76, and Saint Freeburg 1970-75.

Two special projects of the CYF have been providing Christmas baskets for needy families and sponsoring an Easter Egg Hunt for the children of the Church School just prior to the Church School hour on Easter Sunday.

In January 1983 seven youth and one adult from First Christian Church joined with a total of 37 youth and 6 adults representing seven Spencer churches in a two-day Planned Famine which raised \$1,257.15 to help alleviate world hunger.

CHI RHO

Shirley Clark and Mike and Cindy Williams were the 1991 Chi Rho sponsors. Previous sponsors have been Ruth Nash and Shirley Clark in Fall 1990, Ruth Nash, Shirley and Larry Clark 1989-90, Gary and Linda Gaston, Steve and Mary Steele 1987-89, Randall and Kathy Anderson 1986-87. The group was combined with the CYF in 1985 under the leadership of Kathy Stouffer, Randall Anderson, Nancy Fiedler, Mike and Donita Cahill.

Earlier sponsors included: Saint Freeburg 1970-71 with CYF, John Mather 1971-72, Don and Doris Nissen and Harland and Barbara Brownmiller 1972-73, Don and Doris Nissen and Phyllis Dontje 1973-74, Bruce Gifford 1974-75, Gary and Paula Pierce 1975-76, Irwin Kinsley 1976-78, John Harker and Connie Francisco 1978-81, Irwin Kinsley 1981-84 with CYF.

The Chi Rho has sponsored families through the Daily Reporter's "Adopt-a-Family" program at Christmas time and helped with other Christmas projects.

Study and discussion have been taken from the "Jr. High Group" magazine.

JYF (Junior Youth Fellowship)

The JYF group was called Jet Cadets when it was first organized in February of 1980 and included 4th-6th grades.

Kathy Stouffer and Kate Stouffer were the first sponsors. In the fall of 1980, Kathy Stouffer and Janelle Nissen took over the group. The group was discontinued in the summer of 1981 and did not begin meeting again until January 1986 under the leadership of Dale and Becky Woolery. Mary Steele and Larry Clarke were in charge in 1986-87. Since the fall of 1987, Tom and Bonnie Harrison and Shyral Nelson have been the JYF sponsors.

The group has studied Genesis, lessons about investigating the Bible for themselves, and lessons about fitting in, not making fun of others who are different from us, and that it's ok to be different and not follow the crowd when we know what the crowd is doing is wrong. There have also been lessons about friendships, getting along with others, and sharing in the beauty around us. The youth have played Bible Trivia, and had a Halloween party, a sledding party, a scavenger hunt, and a pizza-tasting party.

From 1987-89 the JYF chose of girl's name and one boy's name from K-Mart's Christmas tree from whom to provide gifts. In 1990 they bought coloring books and boxes of colors for the Toys for Head Start Tots project.

CHURCH STAFF

First Christian Church has employed regularly a custodian and one or two office persons in addition to the ministers, choir directors, and organists who have already been mentioned.

CUSTODIANS

Mr. and Mrs. Leslie (Margaret) Mills were the first custodians to take care of the building and grounds on East 18th Street. They resigned in February 1967 and have been followed by Art Mulder (March 1967-Sept 1973), Stephen J. Grimes (Sept 1973 – October 1974), Art and Ingreete Mulder (October 1974 – June 1976), Gary Gilchrist, Eugene and Nina Huffman (January 1977 – 1984), Don and Doris Nissen (temporarily), Clifford Church (May 1984 – January 1988), and Marcia Clarke started in March 1989.

FINANCIAL SECRETARIES AND OFFICE SECRETARIES

Doris Nissen has been our financial secretary since May 1975. She was preceded by Natalie Moore from August 1968 – May 1975, and Marge Guerttman who was the church secretary and treasurer when the church was dedicated in 1966.

Natalie Moore became the church secretary and treasurer in August 1968. At a time which has not been determined, Natalie continued on as the “financial secretary” and an office secretary was hired. Neidra Krebs resigned as church secretary in January 1973. Since then, church secretaries have been Fern Traugher from January 1973 – December 1975, Pat Faber from January 1976 – September 1977, and Alice Dalager started in September 1977. The Personnel Committee changed the title of the job to Administrative Assistant in 1990.

MINISTERS OF THE FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

	Name	From	To
1	H.H. Hawley	January 15, 1882	May 1882
2	H.E. Higbee	June 1, 1882	January 8, 1883
3	W.P. Summers	January 1883	February 1884
4	Frank O. Fannon	February 1884	January 1886
5	R.A. Thompson	January 22, 1888	January 1889
6	John VanKirk	January 1889	October 1889
7	J. Will Walters	October 1889	November 1890
8	Granville Snell John VanKirk	January 1891 December 1891	December 1891 June 1892
9	James R. McIntyre	July 29, 1892	September 24, 1895
10	E.T. Jeffries	October 1, 1895	May 1, 1896
11	Samuel Magee	1896	February 1897
12	J.M. Hoffman	July 1897	April 1899
13	J.A. Seaton	April 16, 1899	May 19, 1901
14	Fred D. Macy	May 21, 1901	May 1903
15	Loren Howe	May 1903	May 1904
16	Barton L. Kline	June 1, 1904	November 1905

17	Edward Wright	December 1, 1905	April 1, 1907
18	G.L. Bohannon	April 1907	March 18, 1908
19	E.N. Spafford	April 4, 1908	April 21, 1911
20	C.V. Pence Loren Howe & L.E. Huntley (Supply)	April 21, 1911 October 1914	October 7, 1914 November 1914
21	William Baier	December 6, 1914	September 29, 1918
22	W.F. Hurst Arthur Sebastian (Interim)	February 2, 1919 May 1933	April 30, 1933 September 1933
23	Forrest Richeson	September 1, 1933	February 1, 1939
24	George D. Serrill	May 1, 1939	September 1, 1948
25	Eugene Ogradowski	September 26, 1948	February 15, 1953
26	Richard Goins	May 1953	July 1957
27	Kenneth Kershaw	August 1957	September 1961
28	Gerald Sawyer William A. Knight (Interim)	January 2, 1962 July 16, 1967	July 31, 1967 October 29, 1967
29	David Barnes	November 1, 1967	June 14, 1970
30	Keith W. Purscell G. Gerald Sias (Interim)	June 21, 1970 July 22, 1979	July 31, 1979 June 8, 1980
31	J. Landon Williams N. Gayle Fischer (Interim)	June 15, 1980 December 30, 1988	December 31, 1988 May 7, 1989
32	David A. Nash	May 1, 1989	Present

TIMOTHYS

John Harris – deceased May 15, 1967, Ft. Dodge, Iowa; he was active in the ministry for over 50 years, his last pastorate at Lehigh, Iowa.

Gordon Hagberg – retired in 1983 from full time ministry; last pastorate was at First Christian Church in Zanesville, Ohio; currently lives in St. Petersburg, Florida.

George Manning – resides in Albany, Missouri, but also has interests in the Spencer area. George and his wife, Jeanne, have been overseeing the landscaping project around the church property.

Wayne Larson – deceased February 28, 1980, Tucumcari, New Mexico; at one time was pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Tecumseh, Nebraska.

William Green – is an Episcopal minister at Marshall, Minnesota.

Ronald and Clela (McCall) Anderson – served as missionaries in Zaire, Africa; currently reside in Bridgeton, Missouri; Ron is retired with a liver disability; Clela is the Minister of Christian Education at St. John United Church of Christ at Manchester, Missouri (Greater St. Louis).

William Hansen – last known address was Grand Ledge, Michigan.

Charles Presley – present address is Johnson Bible College, Knoxville, Tennessee 37998

Kenneth Purscell – co-pastor with his wife, Koni (Purdy), of Creighton-Central Parish, involving the Creighton Congregational Church, Creighton United Methodist Church, and the Central Congregational Church as of April 1, 1991. They were previously co-pastors at the First Christian Church, Fairbury, Nebraska, August 1, 1987 – March 1991. They have two daughters, Karli Virginia, born 1986, and Kendra Koni, born in 1989.

Kevin Anderson – pastor of the First Christian Church in Sweetwater, Texas, following a pastorate at Palmyra, Missouri. His wife Sandy and they have one daughter, Emily Beatrice, born May 21, 1990.

John Gran – is studying for the ministry at Lexington Theological Seminary, Lexington, Kentucky. He also pastors Mill Creek Christian Church, May's Lick, Kentucky.

SUMMER PASTORAL INTERNS

Diane Wachtler (1976) – As of June 1988, she was Diane (Wachtler) Koob and was ministering in Brooklyn Center, a northern suburb of Minneapolis, Minnesota. She had been married for seven years and had two daughters.

Koni Purdy (1977) -- Co-pastor with her husband, Kenneth Purscell, of Creighton-Central Parish, involving involving the Creighton Congregational Church, Creighton United Methodist Church, and the Central Congregational Church as of April 1, 1991. They were previously co-pastors at the First Christian Church, Fairbury, Nebraska, August 1, 1987 – March 1991. They have two daughters, Karli Virginia, born 1986, and Kendra Koni, born in 1989.

Randy Parkins (1978) – In 1988 he lived with his parents in Chanute, Kansas. He has had a bout with cancer with many cobalt treatments. He has reality counseling and crafts at the Chanute Nursing Home and is back in college for schooling for inhalation therapy for persons with lung problems. He was also taking a lay ministry course at Wichita, Kansas.

Kevin Anderson (1981 & 1983) – Pastor of First Christian Church in Sweetwater, Texas, following a pastorate at Palmyra, Missouri. His wife is Sandy and they have one daughter, Emily Beatrice, born May 21, 1990.

David A. Nash (1982) – Pastor of the First Christian Church of Spencer, Iowa. He and his wife, Ruth, have three daughters, Emily, Rebecca, and Elizabeth. Dave was formerly the pastor of the First Christian Church in Vinton, Iowa, and an associate pastor at Park Avenue Christian Church in Des Moines.

Clay Midkiff (1984) – Has a job in the petroleum industry, is married to Christa Fairchild, and lives in Houston, Texas.

L. James Summers (1986) – Pastor of the Woodward Christian Church at Woodward, Iowa, effective December 30, 1990 after being chaplain candidate at Scott AFB, Illinois.

Howard White (1987) – Has just finished his second year at Princeton (NJ) Theological Seminary. He will represent the seminary on a cross-cultural exchange in India this summer. From there he will work for a year as a minister in England. Rev. White was ordained as a “Deacon” in the Central Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church on June 4, 1991.

Richmond B. Adams (1988) – Was ordained into the Christian ministry on February 3, 1991, at the First Christian Church in Lake Charles, Louisiana, where he is the Associate Minister.

Renee M. Hoffman (1990) – has just completed her senior year at Phillips University in Enid, Oklahoma. She plans to attend Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, Indiana in the fall.

William F. Dunning (1991) – is our current Summer Pastoral Associate. He is a student at Lexington (KY) Theological Seminary.

Would like to incorporate this into the main area of the book, not have it separate

125th Anniversary of the Spencer First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

*701 East 18th Street, PO Box 1440
Spencer, Iowa 51301*

“... the next 15 years at 701 East 18th Street ”

Written & Compiled by Stephanie J. Prince

Re-formatted by Julie Kinsley

Board Officers from 1991 – 2006

	Chairman	Vice-Chairman	Secretary
1991	Jerry Groenewold	Randall Anderson	Reynold Peterson
1992	Randall Anderson	Dennis Watters	David Ellis
1993	Dennis Watters	Kathy Anderson	Bev Tjebben & Barbara Brownmiller
1994	Kathy Anderson	Milo Allen	Barbara Brownmiller & Bonnie Harrison
1995	Milo Allen	Dave Donaldson	Candi Schlotfeldt
1996	Dave Donaldson	Kelly Swancutt	Julie Kinsley
1997	Kelly Swancutt	Wendell Anderson	Kay Galm
1998	Bob Griffiths	Kay Galm	Sharon Allen
1999	Kay Galm	Lloyd Triggs	Nancy Triggs
2000	Lloyd Triggs	Glen Petersen	Connie Hollander
2001	Glen Petersen	Jerry Groenewold	Connie Hollander
2002	Jerry Groenewold	Randall Anderson	Glen Petersen
2003	Randall Anderson	Barry Anderson	Glen Petersen
2004	Barry Anderson	Dick McCord	Glen Petersen
2005	Dick McCord	Kathy Anderson	Candi Schlotfeldt
2006	Kathy Anderson	Kay Galm	Candi Schlotfeldt

Department Chairs from 1991 - 2006

Christian Education Department

1991	Glen Petersen
1992	Deanna McCord
1993	Deanna McCord
1994	Deanna McCord, Dorothy Veitch
1995	Bev Tjebben
1996	Bev Tjebben, Marcia Petersen
1997	Bev Tjebben
1998	Gerry Griffiths
1999	Dawn Feucht, Becky Woolery
2000	Dawn Feucht, Becky Woolery
2001	Becky Woolery, Gerry Griffiths
2002	Dawnetta Baethke, Becky Woolery
2003	Dawnetta Baethke, Becky Woolery
2004	Dannie McCord, Dawnetta Baethke
2005	Dawnetta Baethke, Dawn Feucht
2006	Dawnetta Baethke, Dawn Feucht

Church Growth Department

(* this department probably went through the most name changes) 😊

1991	Linda Gaston, Becky Woolery
1992	Ruth Kirlin, Glenn Biggar, & Marilyn Biggar
1993	Dick McCord
1994	Dick McCord

1995 Dick McCord

1996 Ed Koenig

Church Growth & Membership Department

1997 Max & Phyllis Hurdle

1998 Dick McCord

Church Growth Department

1999 Milo Allen & Norma Stubblefield

Church Growth & Evangelism Department

2000 Milo Allen

2001 Dick McCord, Keith Swancutt

Church Growth Department

2002 Gary & Linda Gaston

Evangelism Department

2003 Gary & Linda Gaston

2004 Stephanie Prince & Michael Schoeninger

Membership Department

1991 Cliff Church & Doris Salton

1992 Wayne & Doris Salton

1993 Wayne & Doris Salton

1994 Glen Petersen

1995 Cindy Williams & Linda Zech

1996 Milo Allen

** In 1997 and 1998 Membership was with Church Growth Department*

1999 Max Hurdle

2000 Bob Roti & Cliff Church

2001 Elizabeth Boernsen & Michael Schoeninger

** after 2002 there was no longer a Membership Department, the Worship & Evangelism Departments*

absorbed the responsibilities of that department.

Outreach & Social Action Department

1991 Margaret Anderson

1992 Margaret Anderson & Virginia Tomford

1993 Margaret Anderson & Virginia Tomford

1994 Linda Gaston & Sherry Groenewold

1995 Linda Gaston & Sherry Groenewold

1996 Kathy Anderson

1997 Deane & Margaret Anderson

1998 Shirley Clark & Linda Gaston

1999 Linda Gaston

2000 Wayne Salton

2001 Candi Schlotfeldt & Linda Gaston

2002 Candi Schlotfeldt & Milo Allen

2003 Candi Schlotfeldt & Jerry Groenewold

2004 Jerry Groenewold & Linda Gaston

2005 Linda Gaston & JoAnn DeYoung

2006 Linda Gaston & Candi Schlotfeldt

Property Department

1991 Mel Moser
1992 Mel Moser
1993 Mel Moser & Frank Edwards
1994 Randall Anderson
1995 Randall Anderson
1996 Randall Anderson
1997 Randall Anderson
1998 Randall Anderson
1999 Julie Kinsley
2000 Julie Kinsley
2001 Julie Kinsley & Randall Anderson
2002 Dan Hollander & Julie Kinsley
2003 Dan Hollander & Julie Kinsley
2004 Dan Hollander & Randall Anderson
2005 Randall Anderson & Julie Kinsley
2006 Randall Anderson & Julie Kinsley

Stewardship & Finance Department

1991 Dave Ellis & Mary Steele
1992 Rich Hanson
1993 Rich Hanson
1994 Rich Hanson
1995 Lloyd Triggs
1996 Jerry Groenewold
1997 Milo Allen
1998 Glen Petersen
1999 Glen Petersen
2000 Jerry Groenewold & Connie Hollander
2001 Barry Anderson & Connie Hollander
2002 Barry Anderson
2003 Milo Allen
2004 Bob Griffiths
2005 Bob Griffiths & Keith Swancutt
2006 Barry Anderson & JoAnn DeYoung

Worship Department

1991 Steve Steele
1992 Gerry Griffiths
1993 Gerry Griffiths
1994 Nancy Triggs & Doris Salton
1995 Kelly Swancutt
1996 Ken Hicks
1997 Ken Hicks
1998 Ken Hicks
1999 Greg Baethke & Dick McCord
2000 Greg Baethke
2001 Marcia Petersen & Greg Baethke
2002 Marcia Petersen & Deane Anderson
2003 Nancy Triggs & Deane Anderson
2004 Dick McCord

2005 Connie Hollander & Kay Galm
2006 Connie Hollander & Bev Dudziak

Pastor's / Interim Pastor's from 1991 – present

David A. Nash May 1, 1989 – August 15, 1993
Fred R. Gee (interim) September 20, 1993 – September 30, 1994
Paul L. Davidson September 26, 1994 – March 29, 1998
Eddie K. Stubblefield (interim) September 9, 1998 – June 30, 1999
Phillip L. Hayes (interim) July 1, 1999 – June 30, 2000
Charles W. Schoeninger July 14, 2000 – May 22, 2005
Cheri Gelner (interim) July 1, 2005 - present

Timothy's from 1991 - present

Clela Anderson -- St. Louis MO.

John & Jean Gran -- McPherson, KS.

Gordon W. Hagberg – Excelsior, MN.

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Presley -- Invernes, FL.

Ken & Koni Purscell – Creighton, NE.

Kim Gaston – Fort Worth, TX.

Summer Interns from 1991 to present

William F. Dunning (1991)
(now known as William F. (Bill) Spangler-Dunning)

Timothy J. Squier (1993)

Dan Jassman (1995)

Rebecca M. Heller (1996 & 1997)

Stasia Krivanek (2002)

Would like to make this the end of the book and the letters and memories in another booklet

The church had been receiving letters from people that were not able to attend or those sharing their memories of the church for the 125th Anniversary celebration, here are some shared below...

Dear First Christian Church Family of Spencer, Iowa,

I am thrilled to hear of your 125th Anniversary. We will not be able to attend. I will give you an update of our family. Jackie and I have been co-pastoring at First Christian Church (DOC) Mt. Carmel, Illinois for over 9 years now. We have two children, Clayton, who is 10 and in the 5th grade. We also have Kate who is 7 years old and in the First Grade. We will hold you in prayer on your special day. We hope to hear from you again soon.

God Bless You,

Jim Summers

Dear Rev. Gelner:

I was delighted to hear from you and to have word about the special anniversary celebration coming up this summer! I will be at our annual conference on this date and, hence, will be unable to travel west for the occasion. Please convey my regrets to the community.

I don't know if anyone at the church even remembers me after all these years. I served as an intern for a summer in (I think) 1976. I have wonderful memories of my time in Spencer at First Christian Church. I lived with the Brownmiller family and one other family whose name I don't recall. They were very gracious and made me feel entirely at ease. We agreed to host what was either a Cambodian or Vietnamese family that summer. There was some debate about whether or not we should sponsor them. The bottom line was that people did not necessarily agree with the immigration and re-settlement policy, but they recognized that these were strangers at our gate. The community decided that we neither could nor would not deny them Christian hospitality and care. I had a chance to practice my French, taking family members to doctor's offices and other places. In addition to all this, I remember the church building (hallways around a central sanctuary), singing an assortment of songs ("Give Me Oil in My Lamp") with the young people and being terrified at the prospect of preaching. Generally speaking, I think my sermons were too "heady" and far too long. People were kind all the same. They knew we shared the same faith and served the same Lord, so they made allowances for my inexperience and awkwardness.

I will always be grateful that this wonderful congregation was willing to help a young woman get started in pastoral ministry. There weren't many women in seminary in those days. This congregation was decidedly ahead of its time.

Many blessings of the day and best wishes for a joyful celebration. I would rather be partying with

you than sitting at our annual conference. As I recall, Jesus was a party animal, and I'll take parties over meetings any day.

In the service of our Lord,

Rev. Diane W. Koob

(District Superintendant)

Northern Shore District Office

The United Methodist Church

Dear Christian Friends,

We appreciate very much your inviting us to share in your 125th Anniversary Celebration, and we congratulate you upon that milestone.

We have a good idea of the work that has gone into preparing for the big event as the congregation we last served celebrated its 100th on April 30th.

Since Dorothy and I completed our interim with you in June 2000, we have served interims at Central Christian Church in Danville, IL. First Christian Church in Billings, MT. Southview Christian Church in Lincoln, NE, and recently closed our sixth interim which was at First Christian Church in Nampa, ID.

Since the interim with you was only our second, we now know that you did a good service in helping us learn more about how to do an interim. We have used your idea of making a brochure of the search committee to acquaint candidates with the people with whom they are talking in a conference call. That has proven to be a very helpful tool.

We wish you well in your celebration, and we are sorry that we are unable to be with you. As you celebrate I am honoring a prior commitment and am teaching a high school camp in Nebraska.

Blessings,

Phillip & Dorothy Hayes

First Christian Church,



It is with great regret that I will be unable to attend your 125th anniversary service on June 4th. Spencer Christian played a vital role for me in confirming my call to ministry. I had been studying computers and math in college when I began to sense a call from God into ministry. After talking with the chaplain at Eureka College, he told me of your internship program to which I applied and was accepted in the summer of 1995. During the course of that summer, my sense of call was confirmed and strengthened through the time and ministry that we were able to share together. I thank you greatly for the opportunity that you gave to me through your ministry and the assurance that it gave to me that I was pursuing the call of God in my life.

Currently, I am pastoring two small congregations in Colfax and Arrowsmith, Illinois. I commuted to seminary from these two congregations and completed my Masters of Divinity in December of 2001. I have been serving Arrowsmith and Colfax Christian Churches for

nearly ten years now and it has been a great blessing as we have learned and grown together. We are currently exploring the direction that God is leading us in for future ministry.

I have been involved in initiating a program called Needline for the community which provides assistance in several areas including, food, medicine, gas, utilities, rent, mortgage, and free financial counseling. We have started an after-school program in Arrowsmith, and my wife, Amanda and I have spear-headed a community youth group and had the pleasure of taking ten youth on a mission trip last summer with another trip in the plans for this summer. Much of my time is spent with the logistics of serving two churches, meetings, hospital calls, worship services, etc., but I thoroughly enjoy the opportunities that I have had to reach out beyond our walls to serve the larger community as well.

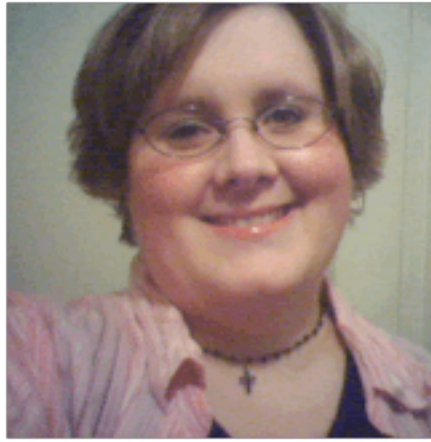
On a personal note I am blessed with my wife, Amanda. Some of you may remember that we got married the week after I left the internship in Spencer in August 1995. We have also been blessed with a daughter, Hannah. Hannah just turned five on April 2 and has both congregations wrapped around her little finger. Hannah even helped Amanda sing special music on Easter, which everyone loved.

I thank Spencer Christian for the time that we shared together and for helping me to confirm my call and discover the confidence to accept a position with these two congregations even before I did my seminary training. God has provided greatly along the way and I look forward to seeing what God has in store for the future.

May God bless you richly in your celebration and in the years to come!

**Sincerely,
Pastor Dan Jassman**

P.S. A special thanks to Harland and Barbara Brownmiller for their wonderful hospitality during my summer in Spencer. It was greatly appreciated!



April 30, 2006

To my Spencer First Christian Church Family,

I'm sorry I won't be able to attend the 125th Anniversary. (I had planned to, but summer time is never very predictable is it?) I'll be there in spirit with you. 😊

I've had so much fun working on this book, it was an honor. I was a part of the Spencer First Christian Church for almost 7 years. You've all blessed me so much, (this was my small way to give back to you.)

I want to thank God for bringing the Schoeninger's to Spencer. Chuck was a great friend and pastor. I will never forget his infectious laughter, crazy sense of humor, and our goofy inside jokes ("they're baaack").... and willingness to help me find information for anything. (I'm pretty sure he had a book for everything... if not, he would Google it!) 😊

I loved facilitating the Christian Singles Group (D.I.S.C.O. = Disciples in Singles Christian Outreach.) We became such a close group! (Thank you to Stasia, our former Summer Intern, for planting that seed.)

My heart is for evangelism, and I loved chairing the Evangelism committee so much. (Thanks to Michael Schoeninger for co-chairing). Being Sunday School Superintendent was a lot of fun also, and substituting for Ruth's Sunday School class! (*I think they just liked me because I brought food*).

😊 Also helping at the lock-in the last two years on New Years Eve was great fun! I've loved watching the youth grow physically and spiritually!! You guys amaze me, you really do!!

And then there's the Lydia Circle... I love you guys! What a great group of friends you've all become.

Lastly, thank you to my prayer partner for being such a great prayer warrior!! I'm still praying!! 😊

I will always consider the Spencer First Christian Church as family. I grew so much in my faith walk there.

You all mean the world to me.

~ Love & Blessings to you all, Stephanie J. Prince



April 29, 2006

Spencer First Christian Church

P.O. Box 1440

Spencer, IA 51301

Dear Friends in Christ,

Congratulations on celebrating 125 years of serving our Lord, Jesus Christ! What a wonderful witness to the community of Spencer, Iowa and the world.

Our five years at Spencer, from July 2000 to May 2005, were very happy years. Chuck enjoyed working with you even though he was beginning to slow down a bit toward the end of our time there, due to his illness. He had hoped to finish out his 13 years till full retirement with you, but the Lord had other plans. Looking back on it now, we know that the Lord wanted us closer to our daughter, Melissa, to help her through the difficult time of not only losing her Dad to Multiple Systems Atrophy, but two weeks later to the day, losing her husband to

Melanoma Cancer. It's been a rough month, but with all your prayers and support, we are seeing real progress.

We have fond memories of that first "old-fashioned northwest Iowa winter!" with 52 inches of snow. How Chuck loved to tease Dan Hollander and Larry Clark about wanting another deep snow!

I, too, have great memories of the Praise Group, the CWF Group, the "Banner Brigade" making the Disciple Banners, and the Prayer Garden Committee. We accomplished quite a lot together didn't we?!

Michael still talks about the Praise Group, going to a Hawkeye game with Bob Griffiths, teasing Marcia & Glen about the Cyclones, and all his dear friends there at Spencer. Even though we cannot physically be there for the Celebration, please know that we are there in spirit and are lifting you up in prayer for a wonderful day of remembrance. (And if there happens to be a thunder storm or a snow shower that day, that's Chuck up there chuckling!)

**God bless you all,
Kathy & Michael Schoeninger (and Chuck, too!)
903 Charlotte Dr. Ph: 309-212-6620
Normal, IL 61761 E-mail: revup@insightbb.com**

**Landon and Diora Williams
4917 Ravenswood Drive, Apt. 1615
San Antonio, TX. 78227-4334**

April 28, 2006

Dear People:

You asked to know what we are doing and how the First Christian Church of Spencer influenced our ministry. We have been living in this private retirement community called Air Force Village. It has some arrangements for assisted living and a health care center (nursing home). As one resident told us before we moved in here, "I'll never need it, but it is nice to know it is there for those who will."

After leaving Spencer, we used our travel trailer for a year to see parts of the United States. For the next year and a half, we had the opportunity to house sit in Wendover, England, for a friend of our daughter Lavon. It was a great sacrifice to live in that quaint English village rent-free and travel around the British Isles and places in Europe, but we survived.

When we returned from England, our daughter Lavon was entering the University of North Carolina at Greensboro to work for a Doctor of Philosophy degree. We shared her apartment in Greensboro but we traveled a lot. We used our travel trailer to follow the sun in the winter and parked it at Christmount Christian Assembly in Black Mountain, North Carolina from May until October each year where we did volunteer work. Diora worked in the office and Landon assisted another volunteer who did maintenance work.

Lavon got her PhD and took a job in the fall of 1995 teaching at Western Illinois University. It was the right time for us to make our move into a retirement community. We visited several facilities and chose to move into Air Force Village that operates two places here in San Antonio, Villages I and II. We chose to move into Village I. We have lived here just over ten years. It is the longest

we have lived in any one place during our fifty years of marriage.

It seems that it was such a short time ago that we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the church's life there in Spencer. Now, we rejoice with you as you celebrate the one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary. Time marches on. We are glad to have served with you for a brief period in the long history of the congregation.

We could not have asked for a happier experience to bring our active ministry to a close than the one we had in Spencer. After twenty-eight years as an air force chaplain, we dreamed of locating along the Gulf coast where we could bask in the sunshine beneath palm branches swaying overhead. That was not to be; we ended up in Spencer, Iowa, where blizzards blow under leafless trees when it isn't even snowing.

We have often said and sincerely meant that the cold weather in Spencer was nothing compared to the warm friendship of the people. We arrived in Spencer in June 1980 with the hopes that the 1980's would be a decade of joy for the congregation. We hope that it was; it was for us. We are grateful to you for making it so.

Our love and best wishes always,

**Landon and Diora
Clela E. Anderson
2571 Grayland Walk
St. Louis, MO. 63129-3309**

April 26, 2006

Dear friends and family of First Christian,

It is with regret that I must decline your invitation. My responsibilities here are such that it is not possible for me to be away at the time of your anniversary celebration.

May 6th is the anniversary of my ordination. Union Avenue Christian Church is helping me celebrate those 50 years on the 7th of May. Much of it was to have been a surprise, but the best laid plans can go askew. Because of an international e-mail list from which they failed to remove my name, I learned of the plans. It will be a lovely day, I am sure.

I worship regularly in two denominations and am involved in two congregations – United Church of Christ and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Since I have standing with both denominations I try to maintain a balance. At the UCC congregation I lead a Bible Study group and have helped them establish two prayer groups. At the Disciples congregation I have been chair of the Outreach and Service Department for over two years now. I will be leaving that position to chair the church board this coming year. I also have been doing the study and worship for the Christian Women's Fellowship and participating in their prayer group. I am a member of the Core Team which is involved in community work. We especially work for systemic change.

It has been a joy to help one block until near the church reestablish itself. As a result of this, we, meaning those of the block and myself, have succeeded in cleaning up their alley, moved drug dealers out of the vicinity, held events to build community spirit and more. Now they are excited about the possibility of helping other blocks to do as they have done and want to call in these

blocks to give encouragement.

My health remains good for which I am truly grateful. Age does take its toll and one has to slow down a bit. This has meant I am behind on keeping up with all the paperwork much of the time.

Have a wonderful celebration!

Clela Anderson

I have been serving as the Minister of First Christian Church of Kent, Ohio for nearly three years. Ministering to my congregation has been an opportunity for tremendous growth and development, and it is truly an honor to serve as their pastor-- they keep me on my toes! Before coming to Kent, I was ordained at my home church in Minnesota in January of 2001, and then immediately began serving as the Associate Minister of Cherry Log Christian Church in Cherry Log, Georgia. Perhaps the most exciting development in my life these days is that I am getting married to a wonderful man from Northeastern Ohio in September of this year. We are looking forward to our life together.

I served as Ministerial Intern at First Christian for the summers of 1996 and 1997-- the summer before I began seminary, and the summer after my first year in seminary. Serving those two summers I learned so much about ministry, worship, pastoral care, and the function and fellowship of the church. It was during that time that I discerned my call to pastoral ministry in the congregation. Thank you for being such a significant part of my journey of faith. Congratulations on this blessed occasion.

In Christ,

**Rev. Rebecca M. Heller
First Christian Church
335 West Main Street
Kent, OH 44240**

On April 20, 2006 a few people got together to exchange memories about the history of the First Christian Church in Spencer, between the old church building and the current one.

Present: Lois Michaelson, Sherry Groenewold, Joyce Clarke, Bob Roti, Carol Lake, ...and Marge and Bob Guerttman wrote something up to be added later. The conversation was recorded on tape.

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**LOIS:** When we decided to move to this location, it passed by one vote. We went to look @ the site NE of the shopping center, and Doc Coder looked at this site. They looked where those trailer

houses are.

**SHERRY:** Give me a little information of Doc Coder...

**JOYCE:** He was here in '37. He passed away in the 60's.

I don't know background or anything, they had one son I believe. He was just a good member of the city and the church. He was pretty strong minded about things. He was a good leader. His dental office was above...and up above where the Christian bookstore is, south of there. I remember his wife she was a kindly woman who loved to cook. I remember she gave me a meat grinder for my wedding shower. She liked to cook, she had arthritis in her hands. If you forgot and walked up to her and shook her hand, it hurt her hands.

They had this one son, he was already gone and settled someplace else.

**SHERRY:** This man was here in the 30's to the 60's, just when you moved here....??

**LOIS:** Oh no, he was elderly... he was in his 80's. He was a pillar of the church. They had trustees then in the church. Kathryn Jones Dad, there were 3 men. Doc Coder was a trustee, Lankin, ...these men were on the minutes of the board meeting. They more or less had the final say of things at the board meeting.

**JOYCE:** I can remember some of those early minutes, I had the opportunity to read some of the trustee minutes... and one of the expenditures was for light bulbs for 30 cents... things have changed.

**LOIS:** If there was trouble at the board meetings, ya know sometimes it was pretty wild at sometimes.

**JOYCE:** Oh yes it was!!

**LOIS:** But when it was all over, you were still friends. He always went and solved the problem, and shook that person's hand.

**JOYCE:** Another name comes up at the board meeting, past the time of the trustees. Ralph Manning's father, can't say his first name.....ohh, it was Max. He was one of those that had very strong feelings in the church.... or not.

**SHERRY:** What was it you were saying about Doc Coder not wanting to move to the new church? You started to say something about how he didn't want to go to the new church.

**JOYCE:** No, I said when he saw the architect plans when he saw the plans. The congregation saw his plans. It was an architect from out of town. He did not like the plans at all. The architect drawings... he said it looks like a cow barn with sheds around it.

**SHERRY:** Is that this church???

\*laughing\*

**JOYCE:** Yes, that's this church. We've been told many many times just how functional this building is.

**LOIS:** It's like the temple of Jesus' time.



**JOYCE:** But he didn't like it... it was like a cow barn with sheds around it!! \*laughing\*

**SHERRY:** They took the "sheds" off now, so we don't have those anymore. \*laughing\*

.....Anything else??

OK, now this would've been back in Circle days when 1940-50's, the Circle was mostly "Mrs...." none of the first name business back then. You never called the minister by the first name either didjya....

In the old church they had communion linen, that was wrinkle free, hanging just so.... who's job was that?? Whoever was deaconess was in charge of that for that month. They were actual linen...they did that up themselves.

**JOYCE:** Another thing I remember....I don't remember when that was...there was a fire at the old church. It was in the winter time. The furnace apparently exploded during the night.... it was when Rev. Ferrell went to start the furnace and he saw the fire, and it had burned part of the church above it. The fire extinguished itself. I remember it was really cold in the church, and the Methodist minister invited us to go to church there across the road. They called everyone on the phone to go to the Methodist church. I remember both ministers standing outside the church door and shaking hands with us. I remember one of the two elder chairs standing up on the platform of the church and one of them was very badly and had to be rebuilt, and the cabinet maker made a new chair... and part of the table too.

Was the piano up there then??? It was later that they had to get that fixed... Marian Clarke was the pianist at that time I remember. They had the piano up close...they had Stanley Hahn as the choir director, and he wanted the piano up closer to it...up by the choir loft. But anyway, we were very lucky the fire burnt itself out and didn't burn the church down.

**LOIS:** What about when they had to get the blackboard out that showed how much everybody gave.

**CAROL:** We need to try that again!! \*laughing\*

**BOB:** *[came in the room later and brought pictures, he'd gone home to find some things to show everyone]*

These two were kinda together...they were pictures of the old church.

**JOYCE:** We were the Christian Church and it was changed what...nationally...internationally... or just the state of Iowa?? I remember Herbert coming home from the board meeting saying the name was to be changed to First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

**BOB:** I think it was in the 50's.

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## **Some stories remembered...**

"We were having a Family Night and the program was the men portraying the women. Lisle Knight was the Mistress of Ceremonies. He was dressed in a long dress complete with elbow length gloves and a hat. There were east and west stairways down to the basement where the event was being held. As Lisle spoke about the latest fashion being the Can-Can skirt, down the stairs came

Gerald Sawyer flipping his skirt showing his can-can skirt, which was many strings of cans that had been fastened from the waist. The noisiest Can-Can ever created!”

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“At one time, when we were at the old church, the Congregational Church, Methodist Church, and our church combined forces for Bible School. One time while we were having Opening Exercises, we sang, “*Lord I want to be a Christian*” and one little boy began to cry, upon being questioned as to what was the matter, he sobbed, ‘I don’t want to be a Christian, I want to be a Methodist’.”

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“The Homebuilders Class held monthly “parties”. One such party, also held in the church basement, was a “Hawaiian” party. The hosts and hostesses all wore grass skirts, and even the water glasses were adorned with grass skirts. Over a 100 folks attended the party.”