

CHRISTIAN CHURCH



Fulfilling the Biblical passage, "Where two or more are gathered in my name there will I be also," 11 "Christians of faith" met in Saint Anthony School January 18, 1890.

The purpose of the meeting was to organize a Christian Church. The group consisted of: Mr. and Mrs. Peter Lindquist, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Darner, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Farber, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Farber, Mr. and Mrs. L. O. Farber and Mrs. George Ford. They were led by Rev. N. A. McConnel.

They met for some time at various homes and at the town hall. A Sunday School was started and a Ladies Aid Society formed.

Some informants tell that the early congregation shared a building with the Methodist Protestant Church, but no actual record of this is known to exist.

The Ladies Aid Society was apparently very busy from the very beginning because when the lots were purchased for the church building, it was done by the women of the church.

The deed reads: "From A. R. Pierce and wife to the St. Anthony Ladies Aid Society on the 8th of December 1891, Lots 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 of Block 6 Town of St. Anthony, for the sum of \$125.00."

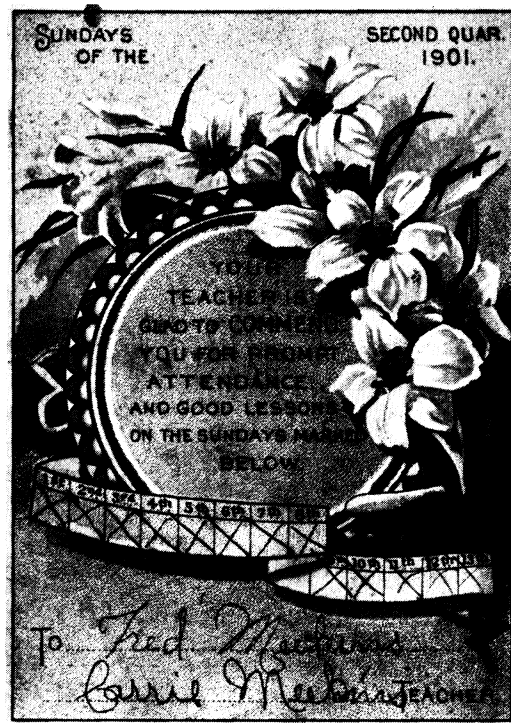
The guiding force from the beginning was the hard work done by these women of dedication.

The congregation grew, and in the summer of 1892 ground was broken and a building erected with money pledges and with work pledges. The Saint Anthony Church of Christ was dedicated, debt free, November 6, 1892, by Rev. A. M. Hagar of Des Moines. The first pastor was Rev. Angus McKinnon.

The church grew and prospered in the early years of the 1900's, but in 1908, 25 families left the area for California. It took a huge chunk from the new congregation and it never fully recovered from the loss.

The fire that destroyed most of the business block October 2, 1909, also consumed the only official records of the church. They were in the safe of the Lindquist Grocery, as Charles Lindquist was secretary of the church at that time.

In 1915, work was started to dig a basement under the church. Frank Bryant provided the team of horses and also provided the slip to remove the earth from under the standing structure. It was hard work for both man and beast.



On file in the Marshall County Recorder's office is recorded the following Articles of Incorporation:

Church of Christ of St. Anthony
St. Anthony, Iowa December 23 1891

Filed for Record December 30 AD 1892 at 1 o'clock PM

To all whom it may concern, be it known that the following named persons of lawful age and citizens of Marshall County and State of Iowa do hereby associate themselves together to form an organization to be known as the Church of Christ at St. Anthony Iowa. The same to have all the functions and privileges of corporate bodies under the laws of Iowa to organize, hold and sell property, sue and be sued and transact its business according to law. Now therefore for the object above stated and in conformity to the laws of Iowa do hereby adopt the following

Articles of Incorporation

1. This corporation shall be known as the Church of Christ at St. Anthony, Iowa.
2. It's object shall be the dissemination of Christ's Gospel and the building up of it's number. To assist in benevolent and Charitable and Educational work and such other enterprises as assist in carrying out the work of the gospel.
3. The members of this corporation shall consist of baptized believers in Christ and consenting to live in training with the teaching of the Apostles of Christ.
4. The officers shall consist of Elders and Deacons chosen by ballot by a majority of votes of the members present at an annual meeting one of each going out of office each year. The number of Elders and Deacons above two each may be determined at the annual meeting. The duties of these officers are those stated in the New Testament.
5. Three trustees shall be elected for one, two and three years, for the first year at the annual meeting. One going out and one new one elected. These Trustees shall hold in trust the real estate of this corporation and such other effects as may be committed to them. They cannot sell or Mortgage any of said property except by order of the Church through its officers.
6. If the Church fail to meet for one year or to elect officers and trustees as above provided for a like space of time, then the property of this corporation diverts to the Iowa Christian Convention without process of law.
7. All private property shall be exempt from corporate debts.

Trustees

L. O. Farber	One year
J. A. Bryant	Two years
D. Blackburn	Three years

Elders

Thomas Farber	One year
William Atkinson	Two years

Deacons

John Evans	One year
Peter Lindquist	Two years

Deaconess

Sarah E. Farber	One year
Mrs. William Atkinson	Two years

Secretary

Miss Blanch Blackburn

Trustees

Miss Hattie Farber

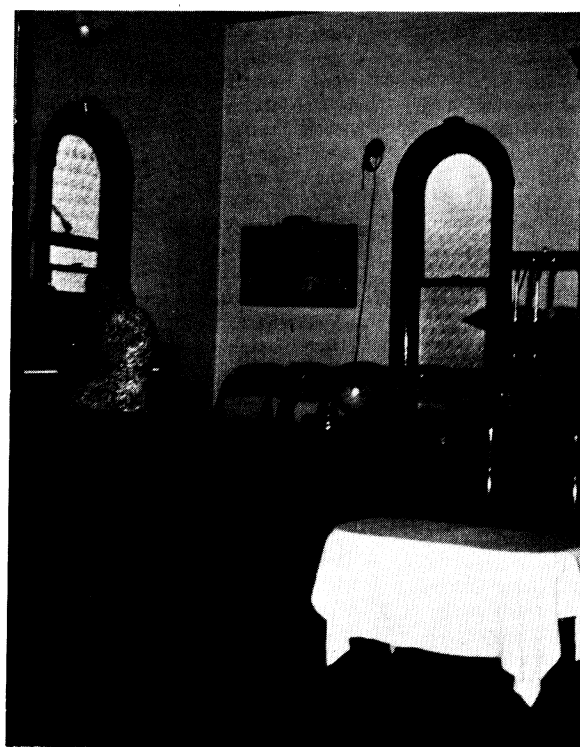
Adopted by the Church December 23, 1891
State of Iowa
Marshall County

Be it remembered that on the first day of January AD 1892 before the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said County came, John A. Bryant, L. O. Farber, and David Blackburn to me personally known to be the identical persons whose names are subscribed to the foregoing instrument and acknowledged the same to be their voluntary act and deed.

Joseph Forrey
Notary Public



Walter H. Sandy
1908-11



Ada Lindquist, pianist

In the 1920's, the addition was built on the west end of the church, and originally it housed the Ladies Aid Society meeting room. The ladies used this room when they did sewing for missionary work, and many quilts were made here. Church dinners were also held in this room.

The first furnace was also installed during this period.

Some years later this additional room was incorporated into the main part of the church. It became the "front" of the church, housing the choir, pulpit and baptistry.

Prior to that time baptisms were held in other churches where baptistries were available or, more often, in nearby streams. One account tells of a minister calling on one man, trying to get him to come into town and be baptized. The man was not so sure he wanted to be baptized and said to the minister, "What about baptizing me in the horse trough?" The minister, anxious for the conversion, took his confession of faith and baptized him at once.

Throughout most of the church's history, the Sunday School has been a strong and active part of the church. Many people have faithfully filled the post of Sunday School officers and teachers.

Following is a list of names, by no means complete, of some who have served the church, often holding several jobs in both the church and the Sunday School.

W. N. Dickerson	Peter Lindquist	W. R. Atkinson
James McMannis	A. E. Bartine	E. W. Fisher
Frank Bryant	Charles P. Lindquist	B. S. Hines
Ralph Engle	Verle Bryant	Frank Lindquist
Albert Koch	Orley Brush	Walter Crosby
John Risher	Henry Van Orsdale	T. M. Brown
Fred Meekins	S. N. Meekins	Wm. Hines
W. F. Tight	Albert Tresler	Harry Lindquist
J. W. Tight	John Mayer	Russell Bartine
George Dewey	Walter Varner	George Tight
Jess McNabb	Wilbur Tight	Mr. Wiseman
Ralph Tight	Charles VandeCamp	John Easton
Richard Easton	Marion Hickman	Gaylord Engle
Donald Koch	Ray Bryant	E. B. Elliot
Washington McCormack	Dwight Hickman	Lyman Schryver
Loren Batson	Ralph Engle Jr.	Kenneth Bryant
Herb Borton	Loren Meekins	Bill Bryant
Bill McCormack	James Mayer	Wayne Clark
Larry Clark	Ron Fisher	Orville Nordstrom Jr.
Glen Brush	Millard Ward	Floyd Sparks
Ralph Lindquist	William B. Shenkle	Robert Easton
Orville Nordstrom	John Sparks	Frank Shenkle
Dale Easton	Warren Bryant	Hal Arrowood
Lea Howe	Mrs. J. W. Tight	Margaret Buck
Orva Shenkle	Jerry Buchan	Mrs. Ida Robertson
Lucille Meekins	Dora McCormack	Mildred Bryant
Mrs. Grace Dakins	Mrs. Mary Easton	Ada Lindquist
Mrs. Bess Condon	Ollie Tight	Marguerite Easton
Rose Buchan	Gertrude Koch	Arlene Shenkle
Marjorie Wengert	Helen Buchan	Inez Lindquist
Darlene Koch	Hazel Hickman	Maude Andrews
Rozzie Brush	Carrie LaPlant	Georgia Nordstrom
Marilyn Easton	Irene Ward	Mary Smith
Minnie Clark	Virginia Borton	Glenna Mayer
Florence Easton	Shirley Shenkle	Hazel Borton
Nola Sparks	Joan Sparks	Louise Sparks
Margaret Bryant	Elaine Arrowood	Mildred Ward
Myrtle White	Sherry Shenkle	
Lola Burg	Kathy French	



Ladies Aid Society. Front row: Marguerite Easton, Georgia Nordstrom. Second row: Marjorie Wengert, Mary Bryant Ehlers. Third row: Jerry Buchan, Irene Ward, Virginia Borton, Arlene Olson, Doris Brush (1957 photo)



Ladies Aid Society. Front row: Ada Lindquist, Ida Biersborn. Back row: Inez Lindquist, Mildred Bryant, Louise Sparks, Minnie Clark, Hazel Hickman, Carrie LaPlant, Rozzie Brush (1957 photo)



Ladies Aid Society and children. Front row: Ellen Ward, Darrell Eurom, Robert German, Judy Buchan, Betty Buchan. Second row: Lizzie Ridgway, Hazel Hickman, Jerry Buchan. Third row: Irene Ward, Ruth Eurom, Ada Lindquist, Marguerite Easton, Louise Sparks, Myrtle White (1957 photo)

Several have held offices for extended periods of time.
Those who have served 20 years or more are:

Chairman of the board	Charles P. Lindquist William B. Shenkle
Church pianist	Lucille Meekins Ada Lindquist Hollis Fisher
Sunday School supt.	Frank Lindquist Ralph Lindquist Frank Shenkle
Sunday School teachers	Charles P. Lindquist Ada Lindquist Inez Lindquist

In the early years there was preaching every Sunday, and usually two services. Sunday morning and evening services continued through the years when the church was supplied by laymen and divinity students from Drake University's School of Religion. During some years, services were held on alternate Sundays or sometimes just once a month. However, Sunday School was held every week.

Records at the state office of the Disciples of Christ in Des Moines show that one minister served both the Illinois Grove Church and the Saint Anthony Church. In later years, when the Illinois Grove Church closed, many of its members joined the local congregation.

If churches are to survive they need new members added to the rolls. Over 40 ministers have served the church through the years, and five have had ministries that added many members by baptism. Some of these achievements were accomplished by having week-long revival meetings or protracted meetings, as they were sometimes called. Notable among them is Walter H. Sandy who baptized 51 new members. F. A. Sward added 28 new conversions and Forest Richeson, a Drake divinity student, baptized 48 members. George Manning added 14 new members and George Biersborn, who probably had the longest tenure as minister, baptized 40 new members.

It should be noted that many Christian churches were first established as "The Church of Christ." Later, many of these churches wanted to follow more closely the teachings of Barton W. Stone and Alexander Campbell, and affiliated with the movement that later became simply the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Such was the case of the local congregation which had been part of the movement and officially changed the name in the 1950's.

Throughout the years much talent has been brought forth in church sponsored programs. Many churches in the early 1900's produced musicals and religious plays, providing a chance to spotlight many would-be actors and singers. Several of these were held in the church and in the town hall. One such "Musical" was given in 1913 and the program is reprinted here.

MUSICAL

AT THE

CHRISTIAN CHURCH, ST. ANTHONY, IOWA

FRIDAY EVENING, MARCH 14, 8:15, P. M. 1913

Programme

Lord I am Coming Home	Kirkpatrick
Male Quartet	
Piano Solo	Flowers of Spring
Marie Ticht	
Reading	When Huldry Specters Her Beau
Loren Watson	
Vocal Solo	Always the Best
Margaret Buck	
Piano Solo	The Pipe and Bowl
Rhoda Berge	Selected
Vocal Solo	Jerusalem
John Fisher	Parker
Reading	Selected
Catherine Craig	
Vocal Solo	Take me back to Kidland
Ethel Watson	Brown
Piano Solo	Selected
Gail Keopple	
Vocal Solo	Just beyond the vale of years
Fred Meekins	Bishop
Reading	The First Snowball
Pearl Ward	
Piano Solo	Selected
Alfred Mayer	
Vocal Solo	Little Miss Golden Curls
Eva Ward	
Piano Solo	Alice
J. Asher	
Vocal Solo	Lucile Watson
Calvary	Rodney
Genevieve Craig	Selected
Reading	
Lottie Totman	
Vocal Duett	I wonder how the old folks are at home
Fred Meekins and Dale Miller	
Vocal Solo	Selected
Floyd Brackney	
Reading	Selected
Reb. Hart	
Praise to Thee	Kirkpatrick
Mixed Quartet	

THE END

ADMISSION 10 AND 25 CENTS



Ada Lindquist's Sunday School class. Front row: Ardis LaPlant, Helen Buchan, Lois McCormack, Darlene Koch, Virginia Sparks, Mary Bryant, Lois Clark, Margaret Zahnd. Back row: Ada Lindquist (teacher), Dwight Hickman, Wayne Clark, Kenneth Koch, Donald Sparks, Lauren Schryver, Herb Borton, Kenneth Bryant, Eddie Greiner, Harold Borton, Donald Koch, Gerald Kirk, Ralph Clark (1942 photo)



Ladies Aid Society, circa 1940. Front row: Carol Gaunt, Gary Wengert, Norna Lee Turner. Second row: Marguerite Easton, Gertie Engle, Sylvia Gilmore, Hazel Borton, Phyllis Meekins, Marjorie Wengert, Gladys Turner with Marlene in arms, Lois Ruckman with Mary Ellen Gilmore in arms, Esther Wyatt with Betty in arms. Third row: Lizzie Ridgway, Ruth Gaunt, Emma Bryant, Gertrude Koch, Lucille Meekins, Nanny Camp, Mildred Bryant, Rose Buchan



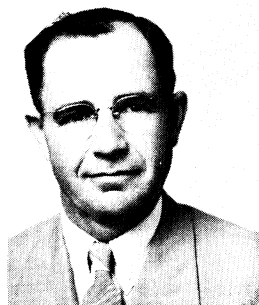
Jack Finnegan
1925-27



Forest and Dorothy Richeson
1927-32



George Biersborn
1939-49



Ben Harris
1953-54



Church Days parade float. Mary Bryant, nurse; Dwight Hickman, preacher; Bill McCormack, injured man; Jane Shenkle, angel

Many church members have fond memories of the church activities. During the years before hot lunch programs began in school, the church ladies prepared hot meals once a week for the school children and anyone else who wanted them.

For over 30 years, the church sponsored the annual "Hunters' Special" dinner, held on the opening day of pheasant season.

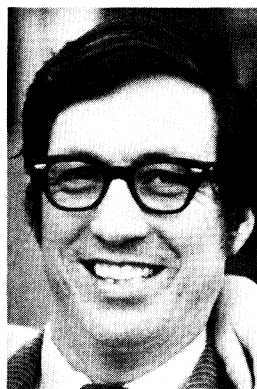
Other highlights have been hay rides, sing-a-long sessions on Sunday evenings, and church day parades in Marshalltown each summer where the church had a float. Also Vacation Bible School and the children's day program, "Golden Gate" exercises for perfect attendance, candlelight communion services, Christmas Eve children's programs and sunrise Easter services followed by breakfast will be remembered.

Mrs. Gladys Wittner, daughter of the Gust Olson's, related an incident when ladies of the church were preparing grape juice for the communion service. Gladys was asked by her mother to go to E. A. George Drug Store for wax to seal the jars, and got ear wax instead. She was a long time living that incident down.

Many ministers have served the church throughout its history. Some were students at Drake University Divinity School and later became well-known state-wide as well as nation-wide. Some have held state and national offices in the Disciples of Christ, are listed in *Who's Who in America* and *Who's Who in Religion*, have written books, and traveled around the world. All had one thing in common—they served well their God and their fellow man.

Following is a list of ministers:

Angus McKinnon	Summer 1892-
Eugene Curliss	Summer 1901-
Walter H. Sandy	Sept. 1, 1908-Aug. 13, 1911
Bros. Spainbower	Sept. 3, 1911-July 10, 1912
Albert Hart	Sept. 15, 1912-August 1914
Nathan O. Rogers	Sept. 1, 1914-November 1914
F. A. Sward	December 1914-November 1915
C. F. Ladd	December 1915-August 1916
Bros. Dayton	October 1916-Dec. 31, 1916
George Anderson	January 1917-March 1917
Mahlon Russel	April 1917-September 1917
E. H. Tetwiler	Oct. 1, 1917-Oct. 1, 1918
C. A. Underwood	October 1918-March 1920
Wm. Coverdale	April 1, 1920-Oct. 1, 1920
Benjamin Tate	October 1920-September 1921
Walter H. Coburn	October 1921-April 1922
S. Walter Fay	May 1922-(?) 1922
Ralph McBride	(?) 1922-October 1923
Morris Bailey	Oct. 21, 1923-July 18, 1924
Bros. Jope	August 1924-February 1925
Jack Finnegan	March 1, 1925-February 1927
Arthur Hixon	March 1927-May 1927
Forest Richeson	May 1927-August 1932
No record	September 1932-October 1934
Robert Burns	Nov. 11, 1934-December 1936
George Manning	Jan. 17, 1937-December 1938
George Biersborn	January 1939-March 1949
Monte Drury	April 1949-August 1950
Leland Chamness	Dec. 3, 1950-September 1952
Rev. Brown (interim pastor)	
Rev. James Johnston (interim pastor)	
J. Burrbright	October 1952-June 1953
Ben Harris	June 1953-December 1954
Don E. Van Voorhis	January 1955-March 1955
Earl Van Voorhis	April 1955-Sept. 15, 1957
Thomas E. Dart	Sept. 29, 1957-Dec. 31, 1957
Jerry Brubaker	(?) 1957-(?) 1958
Larry Brubaker	(?) 1958-(?) 1959
Joseph Turek	Fall 1959-May 1960
Ron Franklin	June 1960-September 1961
Irl Carter	Oct. 1, 1961-Sept. 1, 1963
Charles Weston	Sept. 8, 1963-Aug. 27, 1967
Dale Legg	Sept. 10, 1967-Oct. 31, 1971
James Coleman	Nov. 14, 1971-July 16, 1972
Eldon Crain	July 23, 1972-Sept. 1, 1974
Barry Rucher	Sept. 8, 1974-Dec. 31, 1974
Doris Kinton	Jan. 5, 1975-Aug. 21, 1977
Larry French	Oct. 2, 1977-



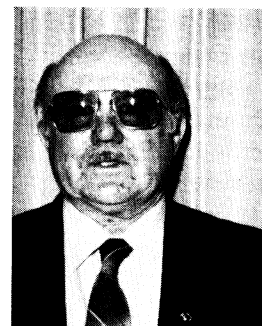
Don Van Voorhis
1955



Earl Van Voorhis
1955-57



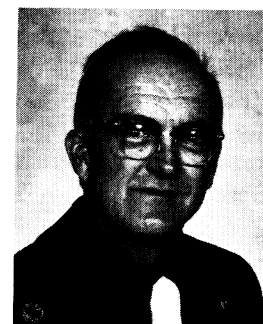
Dale Legg
1967-71



Eldon Crain
1972-74



Doris Kinton
1975-77



Larry French
1977-



The Christian Church in 1979

The Saint Anthony Christian Church will be 100 years old in 1990 and it invites all to share in its centennial celebration at that time.

—Frank Shenkle