

METHODIST PROTESTANT CHURCH

The first reference to the Methodist Protestant Church in Saint Anthony is found in the minutes of the Annual Conference of Methodist Protestant Churches, 1888, which lists Saint Anthony and Grundy as a yoked parish with G. W. Pool as pastor.

The Methodist Protestant Church was a branch of the Methodist Church, according to some researchers and church historians, but not considered "main line" in its early history. It was recognized as Methodist in name only and its real affiliation with the Methodist Church came later.

Some informants say that an early congregation of Methodists and members of the Church of Christ (later Disciples of Christ) formed separate congregations but built a church building together. This, like two families living together, did not last long and the Church of Christ left to make plans for their own edifice.

The church was listed in the *History of Marshall County* of 1912, as having been formed on December 12, 1904. The trustees listed were: H. H. Buck, J. A. Bryant and Mrs. Maria Abbott. On January 24, 1905, it was re-organized and the trustees were: J. M. Plumb, H. H. Buck, J. A. Bryant, Mrs. Maria Abbott, Will Van Metre, J. D. Plumb and Charles Esterley. These two dates were evidently the times when official papers were filed in the recorder's office, as the congregation had existed for many years previous to this time.

A chronological summary of church history follows:

- 1891 C. G. Oxley, pastor; 24 members
- 1892-94 D. B. Turney, pastor
- 1895 Rev. Phillip A. Keopple, pastor; 43 members
- 1896 No record, but apparently Rev. Keopple was still pastor. (Possibly he retired in Saint Anthony as the 1898 record of deaths lists Sister Keopple, wife of P. A. Keopple.)
- 1897 J. M. Plumb, pastor; 119 members
- 1898 Listed as "supplied only" (apparently by various traveling ministers or church officers); 119 members, but only 30 active members
- 1899 J. H. Walley, pastor; 35 active members
- 1900 J. M. Plumb, pastor; 34 members
- 1901 J. M. Pickett, pastor; 30 members
- 1902 S. S. Scull, pastor; 30 members
- 1903 Supplied by President S. J. Geddes
- 1904 J. M. Plumb; 53 active members
- 1905-06 Listed as "to be supplied" (no name given)
- 1907 Listed as "to be supplied," but the "Roll of Circuits," page 3 lists John Bryant as delegate



- 1908 J. W. Robertson, pastor
- 1909 Listed as "unsupplied"
- 1910 R. Wilkinson, pastor; W. S. Nichols, delegate to annual conference
- 1911 Listed as "to be supplied"
- 1912 Charles W. Read, pastor
- 1913 W. C. Gray, supply minister
- 1914 No pastor listed
- 1915-16 Listed as "unsupplied," although apparently served by active laymen; Charles Keopple listed on "Roll of Churches & Delegates"
- 1917 Listed as "unsupplied"
- 1918-19 Church still listed in annual reports, but no pastor listed
- 1920 Church listed, but no report sent—apparently no delegate sent and no pastor assigned

The last year the church was mentioned in the minutes of the annual conference was in 1920. The church at this time apparently had so few members that it was not feasible to continue. Many members had moved away and some had transferred membership to the Christian Church.

The church property was empty for several years until lots 3 and 4 were sold to Charles Keopple December 3, 1925. On December 22, 1927, the north 48 feet of lot 3 (the parsonage) was sold to John Drew. The balance of lot 3 and all of lot 4 (where the church stood) was sold to John Flanagan December 22, 1927, with the building to be razed.

The parsonage was sold first to Martin Gaunt and then to Mike Buchan. It was moved in the 1940's to Marshalltown and is currently a residence at 1513 Summit Street. The land where the church and parsonage stood now belongs to Warren Bryant.

—Frank Shenkle