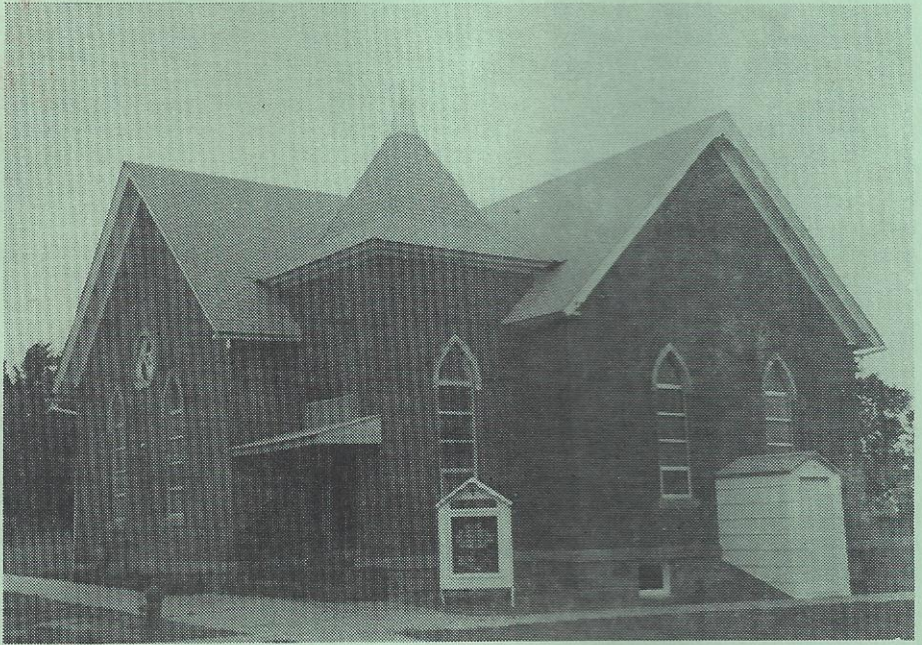


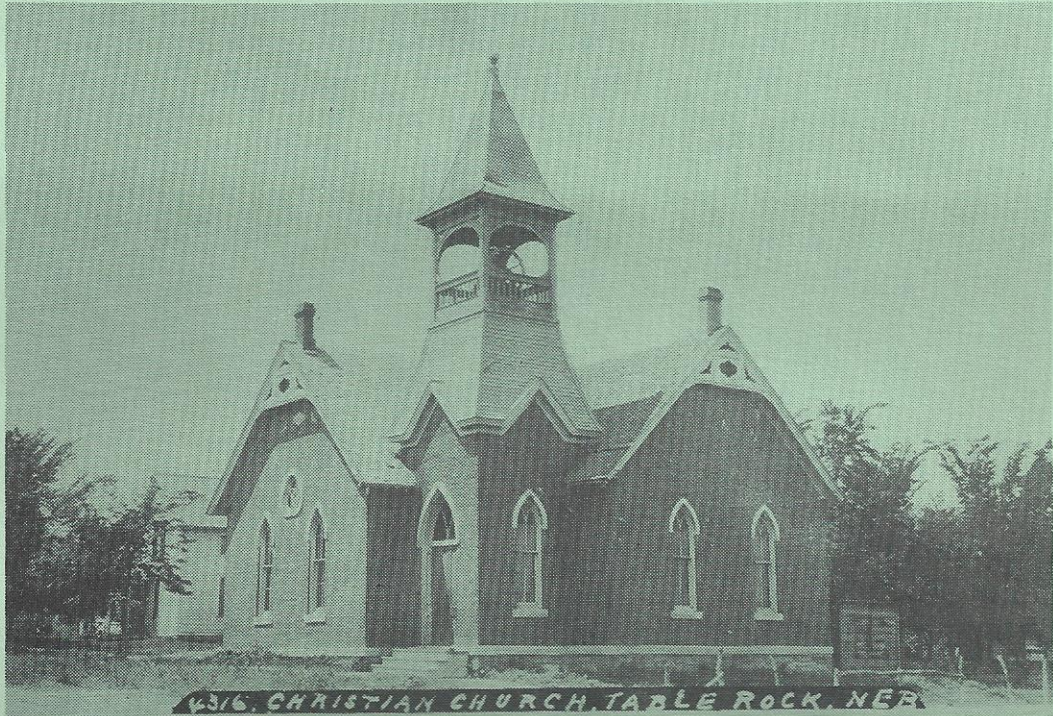
*One Hundred Years
1889 - 1989*



Church Of Christ

Table Rock, Nebraska

Original church in early 1900's



Picture taken from a postcard in Table Rock Historical Society Museum.

History Of The Church Of Christ Table Rock, Nebraska

In April of 1889, Bro. C. P. Evans held a meeting in one of the C. H. Norris store buildings across from the west side of the city park. Many of the people attending had been meeting for about two years in the home of Caleb Lane and others. The group organized and became known as The Church of Christ in Table Rock, Nebraska. Charter members included Mrs. Sam Purcell, Lizzie (Grandma) Fairbanks, Grandma Pangburn, Mrs. Amanda Marble, Tulley Linn, Mr. and Mrs. Will Crisler, Anna Pangburn, P. O. Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. William Herrick, Elva Rulon, Mrs. Davidson, Mary and Bill Pangburn, Mrs. Joe Parrish, Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Fisher, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Fisher, Mrs. Charlie Moe, Emma Moe, Mr. and Mrs. John Bray, Nancy Kerns and the Caleb Lanes. Bro. Evans preached for them for two years. During this time a brick structure was built in 1890 on a corner lot one block west of the park. The carpenter work was done by S. H. Dopp, grandfather of present member, Alice Covault. Ole Griffing did the masonry work. A dedication service was held in March of 1891. Bro. F. M. Raines delivered the sermon and music was provided by a quartet composed of Mr. and Mrs. Spencer George, Jennie Purcell and Elmer Moe with Della McCoy as organist.

The first converts were immersed in the old Nemaha River below the dam where the old Blacklaw Mill stood. A baptistery in the church building was added many years later.

Although the building used as a place of worship today is the original one built almost one hundred years ago, many changes have been made through the years. A basement was excavated in 1918 to house a furnace room and Sunday School classrooms. In 1954 a forced air gas fur-

nace was installed. The belfry was removed in the mid-forties due to deterioration of the wood. In the winter of 1945, the bell ceased to ring for Sunday morning services, as it too, was removed for safety reasons. Although a canopy, railings and an east entrance has replaced the old basement doors, the building still looks much the same as pictures show it to look originally. Extensive interior redecorating was done in the late forties, with additional work done in the sixties and this year. Wall to wall carpeting was installed in 1974 and replaced with new carpeting recently. To keep the congregation cool, central air conditioning was added in 1982 and later ceiling fans were added for more circulation. Pews were replaced with pews purchased from the United Pawnee City Presbyterian Church. This year a fund is being started to buy new pews. Memorial gifts have added an outside bulletin board in memory of Mrs. Rudolph (Mary) Snabl, Mrs. Edgar (Mary) Gilbert and Mrs. Kenneth (Darlene) Gilbert, a clock and pulpit given by the Fred Rottman family in memory of their parents, glass entrance door in memory of Randy Kalina, a piano in memory of Lucy and Leonard Mertes, pulpit and communion chairs in Howard Howell's memory, a divider in memory of Irma Harris and a communion service given in memory of the George Johnsons. All new windows were recently installed. Many were purchased in memory of deceased members who had served the Lord in years past. A communion set was given to honor Lloyd and Alice Covault on their 50th wedding anniversary. Offering plates of native walnut were made and given by Leland Covault. The basement was paneled and the ceiling lowered in 1984. New cupboards were also installed. All the tables were replaced by new ones in 1989.

In 1964, a frame house was purchased from the Anna Vrtiska estate to be used as a parsonage. It is located one block south and one block west of the church building.

Through the efforts of Nebraska Christian College, it was brought to the church's attention that by-laws should be drafted and the congregation should become incorporated. For many years the church had gone by the name, Christian Church. Upon searching courthouse records for information to formalize the incorporation, it was

discovered the original name when organized was The Church of Christ. The congregation voted to keep the original name. This church is independent of any and all other churches and recognizes no superior church authority, and is legally independent of any denominational organization or authority. The internal affairs are conducted by Elders and Deacons of the church.

Guy Dunning began his ministry in Table Rock. He served during the flu epidemic of 1918. He and his wife were very talented. Mr. Dunning played the violin, his wife the piano and harp. They were frequently asked to present musical programs before the school assembly. Dr. Dunning was one of the founders of Nebraska Christian College in Norfolk, which through the years has educated many of the ministers who have ministered with the Table Rock church. During the 30's, pastors sometimes knew only Sunday by Sunday if they would be preaching the next week. There was no money available to pay their salaries. Members would furnish wood for fuel so the church could always meet for Sunday School and communion time. No matter what the weather conditions, very rarely has there not been worship time as usual on Sunday morning.

Sunday services began with Sunday Bible School at 10:00 and Worship and Communion at 11:00. During the summer months services begin at 9:30. Sunday night worship begins at 7:30. For almost twenty years, members of the church have visited Pawnee Manor on the first Wednesday of each month and Colonial Acres in Humboldt on the third Wednesday Night. The group has singing, prayer, scripture reading and a sermon. Special programs are given by the entire group at Thanksgiving and Christmas. The residents enjoy Happy Birthday being sung to those celebrating a birthday during the month and the time of fellowship after the close of the service. Prayer time and Bible study are held on the remaining Wednesday nights. Throughout the years, there have been Senior Youth meetings on Sunday evenings and Junior Youth groups meeting during the mid-week. The Ladies Aid Society meets the first Tuesday of each month. During the winter months the men have had soup suppers with a variety of programs presented. No women allowed! Vacation Bible School in the summer is a

time of learning from God's Word and fun for both students and teachers.

From 1943 until 1957 the church in Table Rock shared a ministry with the Pawnee City Christian Church. Since then the church has strived to keep a minister full time in the community. Ministers are selected from applicants which the elders have found to be scripturally sound. The congregation then votes on whether to call him to serve in Table Rock.

Throughout the years the church has been devoted to the restoration of Christianity in its original revelation in the scriptures. We strive to speak when the Bible speaks and be silent when the Bible is silent.

And in ALL things. . . LOVE.

MISSIONARY WORK

It was in January, 1957, that an interest was shown among the members of the congregation to do "direct support" missionary work. Contact was made with our Bible Colleges and they in turn sent information of graduates that had gone to the mission field. Our main concern was that we wanted to be sending support to missionaries that were doctrinal sound workers. The first three chosen were: P.M.C.C. - Philippine Mission Churches of Christ, Belo Horizonte Christian Mission (Brazil), and McKinley Indian Mission (Yakima Indians-Toppenish, WA).

We still send regular support to the Charles Selby family in the Philippines and the Yakima Indian work in Washington. Our support for the work in Brazil stopped when Robert Smith passed away.

Regular support is also sent to: CCCF - College Career Christian Fellowship (Lincoln), ARM - American Rehabilitation Ministries, N.C.C. - Nebraska Christian College, C.T.M. - Christian Television Mission, and N.C.E.A. - Nebraska Christian Evangelizing Association.

Our Vacation Bible School, during the years, has also sent their offerings to different missions. Some included were: *M.C.C.H. - Midwest Christian Childrens Home, *Cookson Hills Christian School, Ninos de Mexico, Deaf Missions, Puerto Rico Christian School, Toronto Christian Mission, and Cagayan Valley Childrens Home (Philippines).

*Campbell Soup labels, plus other labels desired, were sent to these two Childrens Homes.

LADIES AID

The early records of the ladies organization could not be found. We know however, they were very helpful in assisting with the work needed to keep the congregation growing.

Those early years were struggling years, especially in the late twenties and thirties. The ladies group helped by paying for the electricity, janitor and many other things. Their money was earned by food sales, Easter and election day suppers, quilting quilts and various other activities.

The ladies meet the first Tuesday of each month. After the business meeting and devotionals, a Bible study closes the meeting.

Missionary work has always been of interest to this group. Different missionaries have been chosen and at the present time twenty dollars is sent each month to ARM (American Rehabilitation Ministries).

Each bride is remembered with a food shower and new babies receive a "Precious Moments Bible Storybook". Aid members place gifts of money between the pages before it is presented.

This group remembers the members of the congregation when there is illness. A memorial gift is given to the family when a loved one passes away.

The shut-ins of the community are remembered at various times with fruit and goodies. These are delivered to the various homes and a short time is spent visiting. Easter cards, with a personal note are delivered to the Nursing Homes each year. This year the boys and girls of the congregation personally handed each resident cards which they had made.

The group has been responsible for making floats for the fairs, helping at the blood mobile and many other activities. The purpose of the group is to further the teachings of the Lord and His Church.

1989 Ladies Aid Members

Catherine Barrett
Charlotte Bowen
Lillian Bowen
Susan Bowen
Alice Covault
Gleora Covault
Ardyce Freeman

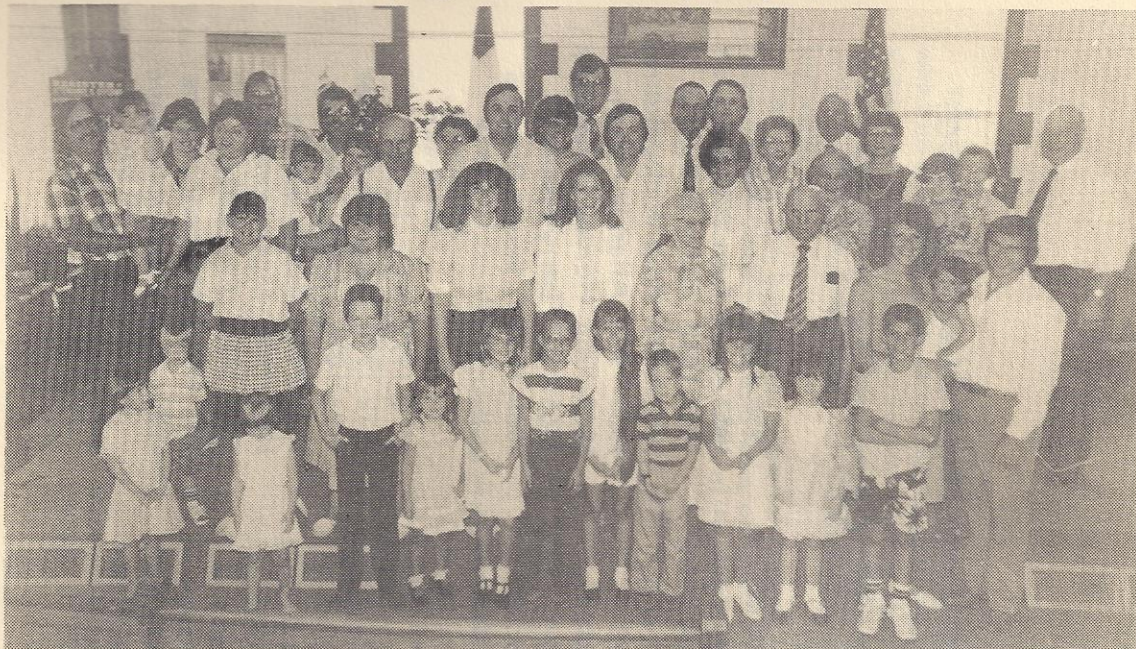
Barbara Freeman
Ronda Freeman
Verna Kalina
Margueritte Mertes
Mabel Rue
Karla Taylor

List Of Ministers Who Have Served

The Church Of Christ Since 1889

1889-1916	No record of early ministers	1956-1957	Val Johnson
1917	R. A. Thompson	1957	Tom Whitney
1918	Guy Dunning	1957-1958	Richard Shaffer
1919-1924	No record	1958-1959	Paul Wickenkamp
1925	A. L. Ogden	1959-1963	Allen Burnham
1926	W. S. Lowe	1963-1965	Harvey Richardson
1927-1929	E. M. Pardee	1965-1967	Larry Fiscus
1930-1931	T. N. Russell	1968-1969	Interim Ministers Ed Towne Mel Towne Ray Phelps
1931-1932	Voted not to hire a minister until out of debt.	1970-1972	Larry Fiscus
1933-1934	Harold Reel	1972-1974	Kenneth Cooper
1935	Hamm	1974-1976	Randy Gilmore
1936-1938	No record	1977-1981	Randy Steele
1939-1941	R. S. Souder	1981-1986	Mark Imel
1942	No record	1986-1987	Jim Hackel
1943-1944	Morris Bailey	1987-1988	Nathan Thomas
1945-1946	Gail Dunning	1989-	Interim Ministers Jeff Rue Jim Hackel Ron Walter
1947	J. W. Tanenzler		
1948-1955	B. F. Parnell		

Congregation - Sunday July 9, 1989



First row Sunday School Children: Bobbi Laun, Billy Laun, Heather Nelson, Quentin Bowen, Megan Bowen, Nichole Bowen, John Bowen, Crystal Bowen, Andrew Bowen, Erica Hill, Jessica Hill, Joey Sochor.
Second row: Tammi Saathoff, Gina Waters, Susan Bowen, Charlotte Bowen, Alice Covault, Wayne Covault, Susie Sochor, RanDee Sochor, Dave Sochor.
Third row: Russell Freeman, Samantha Freeman, Ronda Freeman, Robert Freeman, Brad Bowen, Greg Bowen, Lillian Bowen, Catherine Barrett, Rachael Staley.
Back row: Missy Freeman, Roger Freeman, Brittany Freeman, Randy Freeman, Barb Freeman, Ardyce Freeman, Terry Walter, Lon Walter, Johnny Bowen, Tim Bowen, Margueritte Mertes, LaVon VCovault, Gloria Covault, Esther Staley, Jim Staley.

Parsonage - 1989

