

**A History and Recollections  
of  
Paynesville Christian Church  
1907 AD - 2007 AD**





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Located In the Hamlet of Paynesville,  
Saluda Township, Jefferson County, Indiana

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## FOREWORD

This is a compilation of historical records, newspapers, and oral history of the independent Christian Church established in the early 20th Century. Information was gathered from the *New Washington Courier*, *Charlestown Courier*, *Madison Courier*, Disciples of Christ Historical Society in Nashville, TN; Cincinnati Bible Seminary Archives; Hanover College, Hanover, IN; Lincoln Bible College; Milligan College, Johnson City, TN; *Giveaway*, Scottsburg, IN; Johnson Bible College, church newsletters, records and members, past and present. A photo disc has been completed of persons and activities of the congregation.

To make this history a living document, many persons have related interesting anecdotes under the heading of oral recollections. The charter members are listed within the context of the founding. Some members were listed as they were added during a historical event. The contributed information has been assembled into a historical and narrative form. Photos for the history disc have been donated by numerous persons.

The congregation wishes to thank all persons who have made any contribution to this endeavor.

~Janice Stanley  
October 2007



“Whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them.  
I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure,  
For my heart rejoiced in all my labor;  
And this was my reward from all my labor.”  
~Ecclesiastes 2:10

## INTRODUCTION

Paynesville Christian Church is an independent non-denominational congregation of believers who have committed our lives to serving Jesus Christ and showing Him to others daily. Our only creed is Christ, and Him crucified. We have no book of authority but the Holy Scriptures, the Bible. Our plea is for Christian unity. Our mission is to seek and to save that which was lost. We are not the only Christians, but Christians only.

PCC is a somewhat traditional small country church (with a little bit of high-tech thrown in). As a visitor you will always receive a warm welcome at PCC, but you won't be able to stay a visitor for long. A couple of visits are usually all it takes to feel like a part of God's family here. You won't get lost in the crowd, and we will miss you when you are not in attendance.

We promote spiritual growth in the life of the each worshipper. Maybe you are just looking for a place to worship the Lord, and feed on His word. Maybe you are looking for a place to serve Him and make a difference in the lives of others. Or maybe you are still looking for the answers. No matter where you are in your Christian walk, there is a place for you in Paynesville.

We love to sing praise to the Lord with a blend of old gospel favorites, and some of the more contemporary choruses. Special music is a weekly event, and whether its one of our talented musicians, gifted vocalists, the choir, or the men's quartet performing, we always make "a joyful noise" unto the Lord.

Since it's founding in 1907, PCC has enjoyed fellowship at the church house located in Paynesville, Indiana. The small town of Paynesville is located two miles east of Indiana State Road 62, ten miles south of Hanover in southern Indiana.

You can visit us anytime on-line at <http://paynesvillechristianchurch.com>.

~ Loren Bair  
Elder

## FOUNDING

**1907 Beginnings** *W O S Cliffe held a four-week meeting beginning Sept.15, 1907 and closed October 11, 1907 in the Payneville IOOF Hall (the hall later became Hearn's grocery) and organized a Church of Christ with the following members by statement... as quoted from New Washington Courier. According to church records, at the close of the meeting there was a band of 35 disciples.*

*The Church of Christ at Payneville met at Charley Amick's, October 17, 1907 for the purpose of electing trustees*

*Elected: J C Maddex, Chairman*

*W E Palmer, Secretary*

*Trustees as follows: W E Palmer, 3 years*

*J W Rankin, 2 years*

*W C Dawson, 1 year*

*Held a business meeting after church, Dec. 18, 1908, re-elected W C Dawson, 3 years*

*Church was dedicated Dec. 20, 1908. Elected the following officers in the afternoon:*

*Elders: Allen Miles, W E Palmer;*

*Deacons: J (John) C Maddex, J G Rankin, L R Lawson, D J Hardy*

*Deaconesses: Mrs Mary Eldridge*

*Mrs Nannie Reynolds*

*Clerk: Mrs Orva Pender*

*Treasurer: W E Palmer*





**W O S Cliffe and Wife, Beatrice**

**The following was taken from a church record book:**

“W O S Cliffe held a meeting beginning September 15, 1907 and closed October 1, 1907 in the Payneville IOOF hall and organized a Church of Christ with the following members by statement:

Mrs Julia Hardy, Mrs Helen Arbuckle, Mrs Alice Noell, Mrs

Minnie Bare, W C Maddex, W C Dawson, W E Palmer, Mrs W E Palmer, Henry Consley, Mrs F A Palmer, Mrs Mary Eldridge, Mrs Nannie Reynolds, Dallas Hardy, Mrs Mary Hardy, Mrs Cordie Synder, Charley Lawson, Allen Miles, Mrs Ellen Miles, Miss Ethel Morris, Mrs Lola Morris, Miss Laura Blackford, H A Hardy, S L Maddex, Mrs S L Maddex, Miss Maggie Close, Mrs S O Tolbert, Mrs Carrie Dawson, Mrs Nora Amick, Mrs Emma Rankin, J W Rankin, Lindley R Lawson, Mrs Grace Eldridge, How Maddex, Mrs Florance Maddex, Carl Bare, Mrs Carl Bare, Mrs Anna Wells, O C Baker, J C Maddex\*, William Renolds, The following members by baptism; James Arbuckle, Mrs Emma Lawson, Mrs D L Pender, Mrs Dora Lawson, Miss Olda Jenkins.”

\*Historical records indicate that John C Maddex was a Civil War Soldier in the 54th Indiana. He was wounded and spent time at Cahawba Prison in Alabama. After the war, he and many other prisoners of war were returning home on the boat, Sultana, when it sank in the Mississippi River. The boat was too heavily loaded with returnees. He and Romulus Tolbert saved themselves and the governor of Indiana was instrumental in getting them back to Indiana and Saluda via the railroad. Mrs S O Tolbert was a member of the church but I do not know the relationship to Romulus. Although, it is thought that she was Sophronia, Romulus’s wife. Robert C Lawson entered the war at the same time as Maddex

and Tolbert. An eulogy was given by Henry Clay King at the funeral of Lawson, age 73. He was the father of Lindley R Lawson and Charley Lawson. These three soldiers were members of the J E Fouts, Post 272, which organized the GAR Jubilee in the 1880's.

During the month of December 1907, property was acquired at Payneville for the structure.

## **THE DEED**

“This Indenture Witnessh: A M Payne, John W Rankin, Emma Rankin, Godfrey King, Harriett King, Oscar Moody and Effie Moody of Jefferson County, in the state of Indiana convey and warrant to the Trustees of The Christian Church of Payneville for the sum of Fifty Dollars the following real estate: Being the northwest quarter of section, containing One Half Acre. . . Be it remembered on this 20th day of December, A D 1907 this property was received by William Maddex. Received for Record, The 23 day of Jan A D 1908, at 10:50 am. By Recorder, Jacob L Clover.”

The members began at once to build a house of worship. By hard labor, donations from produce, and perseverance, a \$4000.00 house was erected. Allen Miles was very instrumental in the establishment of the church with his \$1000 donation. During the construction, as recalled by some, timber was donated by members, Himes and Dallas Hardy and others. Bill Dawson, who owned a sawmill in Chelsea, along with the help of Clarence Nichols, and John and Bill Maddex, prepared the lumber for building. Yellow pine floors were used, as they were resistant to termites and decay. One member was very insistent on having double doors at the entrance to facilitate the entry of a casket. The first funeral was for this member. (It may be that W Edgar Palmer was that person as he died in 1910). The piano in the auditorium, the Regulator clock, currently hanging in the annex, and the pews were all purchased about this time. At the early meetings, still in the I.O.O.F. Hall, Ruby Hearn was the pianist and later, Mary Lawson Pender was pianist in the church house. Allen Huttzell was the song leader.

W O S Cliffe and wife held a meeting at the Payneville Christian Church beginning Feb 13 and closing March 7, 1909 resulting in the following additions by statement: B W Noell, Mrs Cora Noell, Richard Hostetler, Mrs Jennie Hostetler, Ora Barnes, Ira Hooker, Mrs Maude Hooker, Mrs Amelia Consley, Gabe Glass, Golda Dean, Cora Dean. The Following additions by baptism; Jesse Montgomery, Mrs Florence M Montgomery, Miss Maude Rankin, Miss Ora B Hearn, James Heaton, Mrs Ida Heaton, Charles Copple, Mrs Ida Copple, Miss Maude Reanan, Miss Eva Reanan, Miss Lotta Reanan, Miss Laura Dawson, Mrs Minnie Turner, Mrs Lillie Hostetler, Frank Giltner, Jesse Hostetler.

The following additions by baptism in May 1909: Frank Consley, Glenn Stodghill, Lola Heaton, Hazel Heaton, Dallas Noell, Frank Arbuckle, Claude Hardy, Omer Hardy, Olive B Hearn, B G Hearn, Levi Burnworth, Mrs Levi Burnworth, Marvin Burnworth, Chester Bates, Hannan Bates.



**Sanctuary 1967**

## NEWS ARTICLES

### ***The New Washington Courier, New Washington, Indiana***

**May 1, 1908** *Work on the new Christian church at Payneville will begin as soon as the weather settles.*

**May 28, 1908** *Sunday School - The Teachers' Training Class met at Bethel Sunday afternoon with 66 pupils. John Allen, minister of Payneville Christian Church, was the instructor with Ben Conn as assistant.*

**October 21, 1908** *The new Christian Church at Payneville is nearing completion. It will be quite an addition to the burg.*

**October 23, 1908** *The new Christian Church at Payneville is about completed.*

**November 27, 1908** *The dedication of the new Christian Church at Payneville has been postponed until December 20<sup>th</sup>. Rev. T J Legg has been secured for the occasion.*

**December 11, 1908** *A series of meetings will begin at the new Christian Church at Payneville on December 13, conducted by Rev Lawson of Madison.*

### ***Christian Standard, January 1909***

An article submitted by Mrs B W Noell added this information.

*On the night of December 14, 1908, J T Lawson of Madison began a week of services. He was greeted every night by an audience that filled the house. On Saturday night, T J Legg preached... Money is now raised to pay a preacher for one year. W O S Cliffe will begin a series of meetings with us in February.*

**December 11, 1908** *Brother Lawson will begin a series of meetings at the Christian Church December 14<sup>th</sup>. On the Dedication Day, December 20, services will be conducted by Rev T J Legg. Bro Pierson of Louisville will have charge of the song service. All are to come and bring well filled baskets. A table will be spread in the Payneville Hall. There will probably be four or five ministers present and a big time is expected.*

**1908: The First Dedication** From *New Washington Courier*, On the Lord's Day, **December 20, 1908** a large audience assembled for the dedication of Payneville Christian Church. T J Legg conducted the service and Brother Peirson of New Albany, Indiana, a gifted singer, led the music.

**December 26, 1908** *Saluda Snap Shots*, The new Christian Church at Payneville was dedicated Sunday, and following officers elected: Elders, Allen Miles, Edgar Palmer; Deacons, John C Maddex, Lindley Lawson, Dallas Hardy, John Rankin; Deaconess, Mrs. M Eldridge, Mrs. Reynolds; Secretary, Orva Pender; Treasurer, B Dawson; A Sunday School was organized with John Rankin, Superintendent; W E Palmer, Assistant; M Lawson, organist. An Aid Society was also organized with Mrs G Eldridge, President; Mrs. Amick, Vice President; Rev T J Legg assisted by Mr. Pierson conducted the services. The subscription amounted to \$1,017.25 which lifts the church debt.

**January 15, 1909** There was quite a crowd at both the Christian and Methodist Sunday Schools on Sunday. According to Bertha Huttsell Benham, sometimes, the Sunday Schools were held one in the morning and one in the afternoon and many people would attend both, as she did.

**February 5, 1909** John Ubel, of Bethel Christian Church, was at Payneville Christian Church Sunday School and gave an excellent talk.

**February 12, 1909** A B Hutsel, of New Washington, presented the Payneville Christian Church with a new organ. Brother Cliffe and his wife, Beatrice Kunce, a singing evangelist will begin services on Saturday night.

**February 19, 1909** Edgar Palmer (elder) is not so well at this writing. Rev Cliffe and his wife spent several days last with Mr and Mrs Palmer. Rev Cliffe began a series of meetings at the Christian Church Saturday night to continue two or three weeks.

**March 15, 1909** Rev Cliffe closed a very successful meeting at Payneville Christian church on Saturday night with twenty-eight additions. Fifteen of whom were immersed Sunday afternoon.

**May 14, 1909** The Rev McKane of Beechgrove will preach at the Payneville Christian church on Saturday night, Sunday morning and night.

**June 11, 1909** *Services at the Christian Church will be held Saturday night, Sunday morning and night.*

**June 25, 1909** *Brother McKane's interesting sermon at the Christian Church Sunday night resulted in two additions.*

**August 20, 1909** *Rev Cliffe and wife of Ohio are visiting friends in Saluda. They have just closed two successful meetings at Kent.*

**October 14, 1909** *The Christian Church at Payneville has organized a Christian Endeavor.*

**December 19, 1909** *Preparations are being made for a Xmas entertainment at the Christian church Christmas night.*

**March 18, 1910** *The death of Edgar Palmer and Chas G Amick was a severe shock to this community. It is indeed a trial to give up such strong and active men in the very prime of life. Both were honored and respected by all who knew them. Mr Palmer was an enthusiastic church worker and it was through his untiring efforts that we have the Payneville Christian Church today. He loved and lived for Christ and the church which will stand as a monument to his good works long after we have all passed away. Mr Palmer leaves a wife and three children, an aged mother, three brothers and several sisters to mourn his departure. A brief funeral service was conducted by the Rev M I Rice at the Christian Church. The remains were taken to the Mt Zion cemetery, where Knights of Pythias Lodge No 496, Bethlehem, performed the last sad rites.*

**April 18, 1910** *L D Eldridge of the Christian Church entertained young folk at an Easter Social.*

***Christian Standard, June 18, 1910*** *William Edgar Palmer born August 16, 1863 and died March 10, 1910. He was a good man and full of faith and good works. He became a Christian in Lewis, Iowa. and later was the leader in establishing a church in Payneville IN where he placed his membership, being a faithful worker until he was called up higher. He was married in 1902 to Miss Mary B Giltner and had two sons and one daughter. The world is better because of his having lived in it. Funeral services were conducted in the church and interment in the local cemetery. Submitted by W O S Cliffe, Evangelist.*

**April 19, 1910** *There will be services at the Christian Church on the fourth Sunday of this month.*

**April 22, 1910** *Rev McKane filled his regular appointment at the Christian Church on Sunday.*

**August 26, 1910** *Due to the heavy rain Sunday, the Saluda township Sunday School convention was postponed until a later date.*

**September 23, 1910** *The Saluda Township Sunday School Convention will be held at New Prospect Church on Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup>. Dr Millis, Prof Hadley, and Prof Culbertson will address the convention. The Mt Zion quartet will render some special music on that day. An interesting session is expected.*

**October 7, 1910** *The Saluda Township Sunday School Convention at Prospect was a complete success. Dr Millis and Prof Hadley aroused the enthusiasm of Sunday workers by their oratory and logic, and Prof Culbertson is always a favorite with Saluda township people. W S Pender gave an excellent address on the temperance question-a paramount issue in Saluda Township.*

**February 17, 1911** *Prof Levi A Burnworth, a teacher at Saluda and a resident of Payneville, was ordained as a minister of the Christian church faith by Rev Fred R Davies on Sunday the 5<sup>th</sup>.*

**December 8, 1911** *During the Thanksgiving Services the Payneville Christian Church caught fire from a defective flue and was considerably damaged.*

**May 31, 1912** *John A Hardy and family of Lexington, Col Ed Hughes and wife, Wm Stillman and wife and Chas Zollman of Charlestown and representatives of Hibernia, Olive Branch, Bethel, and Payneville attended the morning and afternoon services at the New Washington Christian Church Sunday.*

**June 7, 1912** *The K of P (Knights of Pythias) memorial service will be held at Payneville Christian church on Sunday, June 30<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm.*

**October 24, 1913** *The Saluda Township Sunday School Convention held at Tryus Universalist last Sunday was an interesting and profitable session. The next annual session will be held at Mt Zion. The new officers are: President, Mrs*

*W D Wells; Vice President, Mary McKeand; Secretary and Treasurer, Ora B Hearn; Supt. Home Dept, Archie Pender; Teachers' Training, Earl O Moore; Elementary Grades, Mrs W S Pender; Secondary Grades, Ed Tolbert; Adult Grade, Edith Protsman; Missions.*

**October 4, 1914** *Seventh Annual Sunday School Convention, Saluda Township for 1914, Mt Zion M E Church, Sunday October 4<sup>th</sup> Payneville Christian Church participated by leading a song, Bro John C Allen led the prayer and gave an address, Ora B Hearn was Secretary and Treasurer. Allen and Hearn were members of PCC.*



**Menfolk gathering on the front steps of the Church**

**October 24, 1915** *Sunday School Convention Postponed - On account of the death and burial of Mrs William Bare the Saluda Township Sunday School Convention to have been held at the Payneville Christian Church Sunday October 24<sup>th</sup> has been postponed until Sunday October 31<sup>st</sup>, all day. The public invited.*

**December 7, 1916** *There will be a parcel post sale at the Payneville Christian Church on Friday Night, December 8<sup>th</sup>.*



**February 22, 1917** *Frances Amanda Dean, wife of George Palmer, died on February 8, aged 78. She joined the Christian Church at the age of 13. Brother John C Allen, of the Christian Church, conducted the services and burial at Mt Zion.*

**August 22, 1918** *The obituary of William T Maddex was listed in the New Washington Courier. Mr Maddex was a faithful member of the Christian Church, an obliging neighbor, a true friend and a loving father. He is survived by one brother, John C Maddex, both were founding disciples.*

**August 7, 1919** *The meeting at Payneville Christian Church is progressing nicely. There have been 12 additions.*

**December 1, 1919** *In the death of Mabel Fern Eldridge, we wish to thank Brother John C Allen and Brother Levi Burnworth...signed Mr and Mrs L D Eldridge.*

**June 15, 1921** *Each week during the summer months an ad ran in the newspaper listing 15 church names of varying denominations with 6 being the Christian Churches under the heading of "Go To Sunday School" - the fifth name was the "Christian Church, Payneville."*

**May 4, 1922** *The members of the Payneville Christian Church installed an electric light plant in their place of worship.*

**August 5, 1922** *Members of Lexington Christian Church plan to attend the revival at Payneville as Elder Trinkle will be the evangelist.*

**June 14, 1923** *Brother John Allen preached two great sermons at Payneville Sunday. We are proud to have such a good man with us once a month and wish it were oftener.*

**June 21, 1923** *The Sunday School of the Payneville Christian Church will hold its annual picnic at Hearn's Grove on July 4. A prominent speaker will be secured and an interesting program arranged.*

**July 17, 1924** *Brother J C Allen preached two excellent sermons at Payneville last Sunday. Dallas Noell and family entertained Rev J C Allan and family at Payneville, Sunday.*

**October 22, 1925** *Brother J C Allen had dinner with elder, Lindley Lawson and family in Hanover. He thanked Payneville for their kind remembrance.*

**August 1, 1926** *Ice cream supper at Payneville on Saturday August 7<sup>th</sup>. All are invited.*

**June 17, 1926** *There will be baptismal services at Payneville Sunday afternoon and preaching at Bethel Sunday night by Brother Bartel of New Albany. Bro Allen was in Martinsville taking treatments. (There were mineral springs at Martinsville to which many sought treatment.)*

**September 2, 1926** *A farce comedy in three acts, "A Poor Married Man" will be presented at Payneville on Friday and Saturday night. Proceeds will benefit the church. Presented by Howard Park Christian Church, adults 25 cents and children 15 cents.*

**June 23, 1927** *The Bethel baptismal services at the Payneville baptistery were largely attended. There were several candidates.*

**October 26, 1927** *The revival meeting at Payneville Christian Church closed on Saturday night.*

**November 25, 1927** *The Rev Bateman, of North Madison, will preach at the Payneville Christian Church on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in December, morning and evening.*

**August 16, 1928** *Rev Fred R Davies will begin a series of meetings at Payneville Christian Church on Monday, August 20<sup>th</sup>. The young folks will present a pageant at the Payneville Christian Church on Sunday night the 19<sup>th</sup>.*

**May 12, 1932** *The township Sunday School Convention will be held at Payneville Christian Church, Sunday afternoon. Public invited - The Sunday School convention was held on Sunday. Jim McFadden of New Bethel presided in the absence of President Clarence Baylor (Prospect). Five Schools responded to their part of the program with songs, quartets, readings. Brother Mc Fadden was elected president for the coming year.*

**October 13, 1932** *Brother Dunson filled his regular monthly appointment on Sunday at Payneville.*

**September 21, 1932** *Funeral of Mrs J E Tilley. The services were conducted by Brother Dunson at 9 am at the Payneville Christian Church. (Mrs John E Tilley was a member and active in the Aide.)*

**April 6, 1933** *Regular monthly services were held at Payneville Christian Church, Sunday morning and evening by Bro Harold Dunson.*

**November 28, 1935** *Sunday being regular preaching, the congregation of Payneville Christian Church held an all day Thanksgiving service with basket dinner at the noon hour. Attendance was very good and all enjoyed the occasion.*

**December 5, 1935** *Mr and Mrs Leroy Sutherland entertained the Eaworth League of Payneville Christian Church. (This was probably a wedding shower.)*

**May 15, 1936** *Payneville Christian Church is giving an entertainment at Saluda High School on Friday night, May 22. Featuring the Log Cabin Boys, Cousin Emmy, Little Hoosier Maids, Pee Wee, Shorty Hobbs, and many others. The public is cordially invited.*

**December 24, 1936** *The Christian Church at Payneville will close its Sunday School until spring after the first of the year. (It could be deduced that preaching would be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday with no services the other Sundays).*

**January 18, 1937** *Brother Layman filled his appointment on Sunday but will change from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the first Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. Omer Hardy, Lawrence Layman spent Sunday after services with Mr and Mrs L Dow Eldridge in Payneville.*

**April 8, 1937** *Members of Payneville Christian Church gave a miscellaneous shower at the home of Jess West in honor of Lawrence and Eileen Layman, recently married. They were substantially remembered. They will reside near Brownstown.*

**April 7, 1938** *Sunday School and preaching services were held at the Payneville Christian Church Sunday, the first in several weeks. Sara Noell Nighbert stated,*

*There was no service from December 24 until April. Roads were so bad-mud 12 inches deep in front of the church. The supplies were already at the church for that quarter so in April we just used them. For some reason, there was one more Sunday in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter than in the first so we were short one lesson. I was teaching the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade. So we challenged the other people in the classes to a test over what we had just had since April 1<sup>st</sup>.*



**Early Congregation Photo 1938**

**December 7, 1939** *The Saluda P T A wishes to thank the many Clark County friends who helped by their attendance at the play, "Womanless Wedding" recently given at Payneville Christian Church.*

**December 7, 1939** *Mrs Dora Lawson, of Hanover, recently entertained the Ladies Aide of the Payneville Christian Church.*

**December 26, 1940** *A Christmas entertainment and treat was given at the following places Payneville Christian Church, Prospect, Mt Zion.*

**April 12, 1941** *James Arbuckle 95, life long resident of Jefferson county died at the home of his brother, Charles. He was a member of Payneville Christian Church. The funeral service was conducted by Rev Fred Davies, district evangelist.*



*"Let us consider one another and stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together." ~ Hebrew 10:24, 25a*

## EARLY YEARS

Anne Hensler, Claude Hardy and Obert “Jack” Baker told the following story.

During a dinner held at the church house, the east flue caught on fire because of the two wood burning stoves. Mr. Allen Miles said that he had too much in this building to let it burn down, so he climbed up and put out the fire. (noted in a newspaper item). In the early congregational meetings, the front pew was always filled with men. For revivals, people put chairs in their wagons and brought them filled with people for the services. One snowy morning, Allen Miles had ridden his horse several miles, and Jack Baker had arrived to start the wood stoves. But those even within sight of the church failed to attend because the snow was so deep. In the early days of the church, carbide lights were used. Later a Delco engine, located in a tool shed, provided electric lighting. It was necessary for someone to come early and start the engine. Brother Johnny Allen, minister, was instrumental in this effort. The toilets were in the south end of the shed which housed the wood and later, coal which was used for the stoves. There were two seats (holes) on each side. The boards had weathered and separated slightly, so cardboard was tacked to the inside walls and doors. In the 1950's, coal was delivered and placed in the back building. Archie and Lizzie Stucker lived next door, and started the fires early on Sunday morning for the attendees. According to records kept by Lillian Bair, John Tommy West, son of Fern and Jess West, donated the first electric light fixtures possibly in 1933, when W F Friend was the evangelist.



“Oh come, let us worship and bow down;  
Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.  
For He is our God,  
And we are the people of His pasture,  
And the sheep of His hand.”  
~ Psalm 95:6, 7

The following was copied from the column - *They Say and Do in the Country* by Chas. E Heberhart, *Madison Courier*. Madison, In June 18, 1940.

### **Paynesville's Christian Church Youthful in Years But Inspiring**

*The spiritual restlessness and rugged individualism of the early settlers of Jefferson County is no more clearly evidenced than in the number of churches that bobbed up in the first fifty years of the last century. Often times a church was born within sight as it were, of another church of the same denomination, despite the fact that the earlier church was having a struggle to keep its head above water. The Christian Church at Paynesville experienced something of this in its origins. Its beginning goes back to "Old Antioch" church, first of the Christian denominations in the southwestern part of the county. From Antioch members went forth to form New Bethel church in 1860 and Concord church was born about the same time. Antioch church was at Marble Hill. Lindley R Lawson of Hanover, an elder of Paynesville church told of how he remembered his mother telling of the days when folk filed down the hill at Marble Hill ... to be baptized. Concord is only about three miles south west from the church in Scott County. Differences within one and another, in time, brought the Paynesville church into existence in 1908. Its founders were folks well known and popular in that part of Saluda Township. The site was chosen: the site of the church was obtained from Miller Payne for \$50.00 with a chuckle, John Bare of Paynesville Methodist Church, who strolled along while Lindley Lawson was relating some facts connected with the church's past, told how that particular spot came to be chosen. It's according to Mr. Bare, that Boris Hearn was restless over the locations that were first considered, some distance nearer the edge of town. Boris had a store, the store now owned by his son Forest Hearn, and John Bare had a store a half mile or so farther west. Boris met John and proposed that he give a donation to the new church, even if he was not to be a member. He suggested that the church would be better located if placed halfway between the stores, which was done. Bare's store is out of existence now. Paynesville Christian Church is almost unique in that it has no log church in its past. The present church building is the first and*

*only one. Built as it was in the early part of this century, the frame structure avoided some of the structural difficulties most of the churches of greater age encountered. It is solidly constructed and designed for its purpose. Its seating arrangement is excellent; it is roomy enough for twice its congregation... Its Sunday School has an enrollment of 50 and the church membership is about double that. "It is somewhat comforting to come here Sunday after Sunday and see the same faithful followers, and to see their young ones growing up carrying on their names." Sunday School services yesterday were unusually interesting, the discussion period furnishing some fine illumination in the Bible Class under the direction of the teacher, Omer Hardy.*

*Also, this was another of those Sunday Schools where they like to sing and in this they were well led by the piano music of Marjorie Lawson (granddaughter of Lindley R Lawson). The church organization is as follows: Pastor-Loyal Harris, also, at Kent and Marysville churches. Elders- Claude H. Hardy, Lindley Lawson, Al Miles, Boris R Hearn; Sunday School-superintendent, Claude H. Hardy; assistant, Corwin Benham; secretary, Neva Noell; treasurer, Omer Hardy; pianist, Marjorie Lawson; primary class, Lilyan Benham; young girls, Claude Hardy; junior class, Sara Noell; Bible class, Omer Hardy; assistant Bible class, Corwin Benham. LADIES AIDE - President Lona Arbuckle; secretary/treasurer, Sadie Turner. Showing the neighborliness of the churches at Paynesville, the Christians and the Methodists of those churches will get together on the Fourth of July for a joint celebration. The event will be held in the yard and grove of the Methodist church. Games and varied entertainment is planned, including a baseball contest.*

\*\* Note that copied material is italicized and that during the early years, the spelling of the hamlet as printed in records and newspapers was Payneville.



Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life.  
No one comes to the Father except through Me." ~John 14:6

## ADVANCEMENTS

### BAPTISTERY

The baptistery was not built at the time of construction but was installed some time prior to 1926. This was substantiated by Mrs L Beryl Sutherland Hardy because she was baptized that year by Brother William Snyder, who was holding a revival. Johnny Allen was still the official minister. Sara Noell was baptized in the fall of 1928 by Rev Fred Davies and Sara stated that he was a young man in 1911. There does not seem to be a record indicating when the baptistery was no longer used. As of 1948, converts were being baptized in the Ohio River near Sandy Newman's home and at Madison, in a local farmer's pond, in the Fourteen Mile Creek near Barnes Cemetery, or in sister churches. There are photos of persons attending a baptizing at Tommy West's Lake near Lexington and at Edwin and Juanita Hardy's pond. In 2005, a portable baptistery was donated by Moorefield Christian Church.

**1926 Classrooms** In 1926, the pulpit was extended, dressing rooms were added on the sides, and classrooms were added to the back of the church building. Donations of material and labor were again used. Earl Bare was the architect with Lynn Lawson, Claude Hardy, and Carmel Baker as helpers from the congregation. A Sunday School was organized at this time and, also, an organized Ladies Aide with Minerva Bair as president. Every mother who had a child in the nursery donated money to buy one chair. These chairs are still in use today. The chairs were painted dark green and dark red. The exterior wall was removed behind the baptistery and sliding doors were installed in the early '30s. The most familiar names of those who donated their time and talents were: Claude Hardy, Corwin Benham, Amos Bowman, and Earl "Cud" Bare, who was the engineer of the project. Bare, also, built a square frame around the pulpit so it could be used for community plays. As a young boy, Edwin Hardy relates that he had gone with his father to help with the construction of the frame and smashed his thumb with a hammer. Today, the rings are still in place on the rostrum riser.

**In 1973** Lloyd Bair made and installed a large bulletin board for the back classroom.



**In 2001** several members and volunteers removed the plaster from the walls and paneling was installed. During the removal of the plaster, many layers of wallpaper were found. A collage of the different prints of paper is framed for historical recollection. The floor was refinished and newly finished wood work for the windows was installed. As an added adventure, a jar with various church memorabilia was placed in the walls as a time capsule.

Snake handling is not one of the forms of worship in the Christian Church. However, while removing the plaster and boards in the back classrooms, Loren Bair had the pleasure of handling one which was found in the walls. Loren returned it to its proper out of door habitat.

**1949 October 9, 1949** Robert Hall writes in the *Christian Messenger*: “Thanks” Many thanks to Mr. Sherley Harsin, who built our song book racks on the back of the church pews. We appreciate it very much.

**1954 January 1, 1954** Claude Hardy is recorded as saying to the congregation, “We took a progressive step by developing a full time worship program. For the first time in our history Christ has blessed us with this faith and means of advancement.” Brother Joe Rowlett was hired as the new minister. Bro Rowlett lived in a house in New Washington and worked at the Charleston Ammunition Plant. He had two sons, Joe and John. The following are minutes from the executive board meeting on **January 1, 1954**. *A list of membership was checked and brought up to date. There are now 136 members with 23 of them non-resident. It was agreed to meet every two months. Consideration was made for more deacons. Harvey Baker was suggested. Plans for an intensive visiting program were made. The Board should have three groups for calling; Group One-Wilmer Newman, Amos Bowman, Corwin Benham; Group Two-Claude Hardy and Sherley Harsin; Group Three-Brother Rowlett and Omer Hardy.*

*Minutes of Board Meeting: The Board of Deacons and Elders of the Christian Church at Paynesville met at the church at 7:30 pm on **November 11, 1954**. Those present were: Claude Hardy, Elder; Wilmer Newman, Elder; Amos Bowman, Deacon; Harvey Baker, Deacon; Joe Rowlett, minister; Fred Basham, Treasurer of Building Committee. Brother Newman opened the meeting with prayer.*

*Ministers report: attended two meetings of Jefferson County Christian Youth, conducted eight prayer meetings and Bible studies, made four hospital calls, attended eight classes at Louisville Bible College, placed five sermons in houses by tape recorder, preached eighteen sermons, visited for revival meeting, attended one Sunday School and one Christian Endeavor Picnic and made forty-four pastoral calls. Treasurer's report: There is a balance of \$429.08, this date with all bills paid, an increase of \$15.03 since last regular meeting. The Board moved and passed a resolution to sell the stoves at auction to highest bidder after the new furnace has been properly installed and tested. After the furnace is installed in new basement, Harvey Baker is to light it on Saturday evening and Amos Bowman on Christian Endeavor evenings. It is the opinion of the Board that a day of dedication be planned for the new basement and furnace. This should be done as soon as weather in spring permits outdoor activities, possibly dinner on the grounds, etc. The meeting closed with prayer by Brother Rowlett.*

**1954 Basement Dug; Furnace Installed** Early in the year of 1954, the church building was in need of some improvements. With only \$10.00 in the building fund, a few zealous, hard working brethren started excavation under the south end of the building with pick, shovel, and wheelbarrows. Among the men helping with this project were Everett Stanley, Lee Kimsey, and several of their family members. The dirt and the broken concrete from the baptistery were carried out by means of buckets and wheelbarrows. It was placed in a wagon and hauled away. To dig under a building seemed to be the method used by several churches in the area during this period of time to provide more space. It worked at New Bethel Methodist and Prospect Baptist churches because they were on a hill but Payneville is in wetlands. The minutes of July 14, 1954, *by unanimous vote the board acted to remove the baptistery so that more room badly needed for construction of Sunday School facilities and heating unit would be available.* Under the supervision and skill of Brother Sherley Harsin the basement was completed and a new oil-burning furnace was installed. According to Joe Rowlett, the minister, a formal dedication was held on June 19, 1955 to dedicate the basement and the new furnace. The basement was never of great use as the area is so flat that drainage was always a problem. Also, during this time

period, the auditorium floors were sanded and refinished, the walls were papered, and the ceiling painted. The Ladies' Aide always provided the monies for the wallpaper and the papering. Archie and Lizzie Stucker usually prepared the walls and did the papering. During Brother George Uppling's tenure, the furnace was removed from the basement and the congregation tried to hold classes in the basement. Mr. Lizenby and his father sealed the walls with a guarantee of no seepage. It lasted for several years, but eventually failed. The next person who tried to resurrect the basement for use was Jim Strickland. He worked on the walls and installed new water repellent ceiling boards. He also installed a new pump system. In July of 1974 a deep ditch was dug around the basement walls which then were tarred. A sump pump has always been needed to alleviate the water problem. During the 1960's, Claude & Beryl assumed the duty of starting the furnace for Sunday morning. They would go to the church house late on Saturday night after attending a basketball game. They did this to conserve the heating costs, as the available money was very small.

**1954 December 1, Sunday** As noted from a speech by Claude Hardy at services *We have worshipped one Sunday warmed by a fuel oil Williamson furnace, and to feed this piece of machinery there is a 500 gallon storage tank under ground.*

**1961 Cross** Brother Amos Kendall was the minister. He and his wife, Elizabeth, had previously attended Floyds Knobs Christian Church. That congregation was renovating its building and decided that it did not want the lighted cross. Bro Kendall asked the officers if they would accept it. It has lighted the wall above the pulpit for more than 45 years.

**1962 Detached Housing** Doug Stanley took a truck to Jeffersonville where Martha Taylor and Dale McNeely lived. They had made contact with the trailer park owners about donating the outdoor facilities to the church. Doug hauled two concrete toilet stools back to Paynesville. A pit toilet was a great improvement for Paynesville. In 1975, the pit was used as the septic tank and laterals were dug for the indoor flush toilet.

**1970 Electric Heat and Other Renovations** Around 1970, after years of wear, the auditorium walls were stripped of wallpaper and prepared for painting. Much of this work was completed by several youth in the congregation. This was a great undertaking. The reason the youth were involved was because the older members did not wish to climb that high. The family of Lloyd Bair was greatly involved in the project. Others who helped were Joe Lock, Michael Hayden, Janice Stanley and her father, Claude Hardy. Olive Lawson had initiated the removal because wallpaper was falling off the old walls. It took most of one spring. One young man, Loren Bair, was on top of the scaffolding and he threw down the stripped paper. On one occasion, it hit the head of a teacher whom he had at Southwestern. It seems as he tells it, the story was a great hit with Mrs. Stanley's students, especially, the boys in her study hall. That young man later became an elder.

About the same time, Lanier Arbuckle, as a gift to the church, installed electric heat. The furnace was removed from the basement, the walls refinished, and paneling placed overhead. Members of the church and Brother George Uppling, minister during that time, combined efforts to build the front entrance onto the church. Following that construction, there was another dedication ceremony. The sump pump was always a troublesome machine. Claude Hardy would go to the church and sleep on the table in the back classroom during long downpours of rain, so that he could get up regularly and start the pump by removing the dirt from the well. Ditches were dug to drain off more of the water because it seemed that the water ran back into the basement as fast as it was pumped out.

**1972 Addition of an Annex** In the year of 1972, the members agreed that more room was needed if the church were to continue to grow and remain a house of worship. The meeting was held in the back classrooms. In attendance were Lillian Bair, Janice Stanley, Claude Hardy, Sandy Newman, Tom Noble, Juanita Hardy, Ruby Taylor, and Doris Taylor. The vote was taken with only one dissenting vote cast. The plans were drawn by Janice Hardy Stanley. Tom Noble built the frame work and other members proceeded to finish the interior. There were no build -

ing codes or the need for an architect. It was necessary to have a red tag from the county for the permit. The decision was made to borrow the \$3000.00 from the New Washington Bank for the initial construction. Tom agreed to construct the framework for the same cost as the materials. Some felt that money should not be borrowed. Comments were made that this was how a family business was lost. Some felt that it would place the members in financial jeopardy if the note were not paid. It was determined that the church should incorporate itself. Janice Hardy Stanley made the contacts and completed the by-laws and the necessary papers were filed with the state. Incorporation was completed in March of 1976.

There was a meeting to decide how to secure the funds for repayment. Brother Wilmer "Sandy" Newman stated that he believed that a Sunday should be designated for this purpose. A building committee was formed consisting of, Claude Hardy, Sandy Newman, Tom Noble, Juanita Hardy, Lillian Bair, and Janice Hardy Stanley. The first Sunday of each month would be designated for such an offering. Envelopes were placed in the bulletins. A separate building fund was established because it would be necessary to maintain the church account for expenditures. In the past, members and friends who did not reside in the area had sent money for a designated project. Over a five year period, the monthly income for the building fund was approximately \$60.00. The fifth Sunday had been designated for the mission offering so establishing another special collection was no problem. Doris Taylor was the treasurer of the Sunday school and Claude Hardy was the church treasurer. Lillian Bair agreed to maintain the new building fund. Lillian and Lloyd Bair became very involved with the interior construction. Tom Noble felt that some people could give as much or more over a period of time in money and time but not a lump sum. Thus, it was decided not to place donor plaques in the annex. Lillian, Lloyd, Sandy, Claude, and Tom worked on the interior. The business meetings were instituted on the Wednesday following the offering so that the committee knew how much to spend. No more debt was incurred and enough money was given to make the payment, which was less than \$100. Little by little the interior was completed. It took several years. Arbuckle Electric, which was owned by Lanier Arbuckle, a former member, installed the electricity. He did this because "I don't want the church doors to close like so many."

The congregation started using the facility before the tile was on the floor. Each week members eagerly examined and awed the new improvements.



### **The Annex under construction**

Three new classrooms, a multipurpose room, restrooms, and a kitchen were completed with much faith, a lot of physical labor, and many donations. These donations even included some pledges of God's rewards from soybean sales. Juanita Hardy and Doug Stanley formed a co-partnership pie venture. Juanita baked pumpkin pies and Doug sold them for \$2.50 - \$3.00 to the workers at Ford Motor Company in Louisville, Ky. The Jubilee Stand was manned by the ladies and this money was used for the building fund. Mrs Agnes Harsin was the main contributor with her many quilts, afghans, and crocheted pieces. Georgia King and the Bair family made many handcrafted articles for the booth. A yard sale was held in Chelsea on Tom and Clora Noble's property. Lloyd and Lillian Bair,

and Ilene Bair Harsin donated much of their time installing the tile floor while Claude Hardy and Sandy Newman worked on the paneling. Many others put a lot of effort into this labor of love. Mrs Thelma Tilley Benham donated money for the purchase of folding chairs. Saluda Farm Bureau contributed money for chairs as the organization had used the facility for its meetings. Brother Jim Bowyer was ministering here during most of the construction. The restrooms were completed and hooked up in November of 1975. Labor for septic lines was donated by George Fresh. Beryl Hardy and Georgia Van Winkle were instrumental in the selection and purchase of the awning over the annex entrance. Storm windows were purchased and installed on the sanctuary windows by members in December of 1975 to save the \$5.00 installation fee. The payments to the bank for the loan were halted to pay for the roof. It was possible to do this as more monies had been paid than was needed. When the mortgage was paid off, there was a mortgage burning and dedication ceremony on December 5, 1976. Bro George Uppling and Mr & Mrs Tom Noble were special guests.

During the year of 1972 the front steps were cemented and repaired topically. This was a busy time for in 1972 the first and only pictorial directory to that date was published. In fact, the photos were taken in the new annex with mainly the outside structure completed. The directory helped the new minister, Jim Bowyer, become acquainted, provided new addresses for the newsletter, and assisted in locating families, who had moved from the area. The ladies served refreshments for those getting their photographs for the directory.

**1973 Good Friday Services** According to some business meeting minutes, the congregation began observing Good Friday during the tenure of Brother Joe Rowlett, who lived in New Washington. He engaged the congregation's participation with the area churches on Good Friday from noon to 3 p.m. The various churches sent persons to bring specials and ministers delivered short messages. The year that Paynesville participated, it was held at the Presbyterian Church in New Washington. During the tenure of Brother Jim Bowyer, a service was begun on Good Friday evening and continues to the present with candlelight, special music, meditation, and communion. In 1983, the offering of "Thirty Pieces of Silver" was instituted and given

to the parsonage fund. In the 1990's, Linda and Alethea Sutherland made colorful knitted pouches for the special offering. At this time, the tradition of Reno Taylor singing, *Thirty Pieces of Silver* with her guitar began. Reno has rarely missed entreating the attendees in the last 30 years. Also, at that service the unleavened communion bread was homemade by Janice Stanley and Carolyn Hostetler.

**Additional Activities:** A phone prayer chain was instituted among the members. Saluda Merry Maidens and Knights 4-H Club performed service jobs to thank the congregation for the use of its building.

## REPAIRS AND UPGRADES

**1974 Roof Repair** In the prior year, the roof on the sanctuary began to leak. Some shingles had been repaired by various contractors, but the roof needed major repair. During the spring months of May and June, Janice Hardy Stanley contacted Brown Construction Company, who presented an estimate for the reshingling. Since no insurance claim had been made in 19 years, Janice petitioned the insurance company to help with the repair. They agreed. The insurance company paid 50% of the shingling, which was \$960.00 and paid \$425.00 on plaster repair caused by leakage, total of \$1385.00. A campaign with emphasis on tithing was scheduled to culminate on Easter Sunday, April 14. That day the congregation had reason for special rejoicing and thankfulness as most had escaped the tornado of April 3rd without major damages. One child, Edith Stanley, had been hospitalized resulting from the devastation of her school bus by the tornado. The Easter offering was nearly \$400, which was double the normal contributions. The total cost for roofing was \$1952.00. A payment of \$1400.00 was paid from the specially designated roofing fund, which was financed mostly by friends of the church. The church newsletter was a great resource for financial assistance. An additional \$100.00 was donated by the Ladies Aide, making a total of \$1500.00 payment. The roofing was completed in October. The attendance increased during morning worship with an average of 50 and for the Christ-mas program on the evening of December 21, 1975 more than 100 persons attended. As a result of this increase in attendance and donations, the remainder of the indebtedness was completely paid by January 15, 1976.



**1976** The walls were given another paint job. The Ladies Aide purchased the paint and two ladies, Janice Stanley and Ruthie Brewster chose the paint. The prior paint had a tint of green, so the ladies decided to use a similar color. The day that the painters came, the women were not present until noon when they brought food for lunch. The green color was very intense. There were several negative comments made on Sunday morning and due to these remarks the man in charge never returned to worship.

**1977** Storm windows for the lower half of the sanctuary were purchased and installed.

**Pews** The old black varnish began sticking to the members' clothes. Janice Stanley went to a wedding at Wirt Baptist Church near Madison. They had almost identical pews which had been refinished and were beautiful. She asked her cousin, Betty Moore Wehner where they had them finished. It was an establishment in Madison. The members were excited. Lillian Bair contacted the place of business. The owner came and gave an estimate. He took the short pews, which he said he would use as an example. He, however, put a dark stain on them. But before a decision could be made and a plan of payment devised, he went out of business. Lillian and Lloyd Bair had some difficulty getting the pews returned. This was discouraging. He who waits on the Lord shall be blessed.

About one year later, some monies had been secured and another contact was made. This man made an estimate of \$300.00 per pew. A few years before, this amount would have seemed enormous and unattainable.

That was not true now. It was decided that he would take three pews for refinishing at one time. He also stated that he would not put on this dark stain. He did try to remove it from the others but was not totally successful.

The plan was made to have plaques placed on the end of the pews in honor or in memory of persons making donations. The response was great. There was no delay for lack of money. The pews were more beautiful than ever expected and the wait was really a blessing.

This year an Internal Revenue number was issued to the congregation. A directional sign for the church was placed on State Highway 62, which was designed and painted by Reno Taylor, and installed by Claude and Beryl Hardy. There is no record if there were one previously.

In the April 11th issue of the *Christian Standard*, an article was printed about the growth of the church. It was entitled, "Resurgence in Rural Indiana." In the spring of 1969, a few dedicated members began a determined effort to revive the dwindling congregation. By 1974, the worshippers had increased by threefold. The article was written by Mrs. Janice Hardy Stanley.

**1980 Painting and Refinishing** In the spring of 1980, with the coming weddings of four of the church members, it was decided to redecorate the sanctuary and the ladies of the church refinished the floors. A new carpet for the pulpit and runners were installed. The plastered walls in the sanctuary were repaired and painted, mainly by the brides and grooms to be, Loren Bair and Deborah Clapp, Jim Strickland and Valerie Bair.



**Brother Joe McKay and Newly Refinished Floors**

**1981 Annex Upgrade** During the year of 1981, after many donations, the bill for the refinishing of the pews was paid. Also, the congregation decided to prepare the annex as a temporary housing facility for the minister. Jim Strickland installed a built-in shower, water heater, and closet. A hide-a-bed, night-stand, and lamp were purchased for the room which had the folding door. The ladies supplied the kitchen with pans and other cooking and eating needs. At that time, young ministers from Cincinnati Bible Seminary were filling the pulpit on Sunday morning. The purpose for the new facilities was to encourage the ministers to come and stay in the annex overnight. None chose to do this.

**1982** The congregation was informed that two former ministers were married. Mark & Sherrie Seevers-November 10, 1982 and Don & Glenda Farrell on September 18, 1982. Jim Strickland began the process of purchasing and installing the ceiling fans and lights in the sanctuary.

**1983 Parsonage Purchased** The congregation had been working for some time to fill the need for a full time minister in Paynesville. The congregation felt it would help secure a minister if housing for him and his family were provided. When the house next door to the church came up for sale, it was determined that the time had come to act. There were many discussions in several congregational meetings about the ability to afford this property. Claude and Beryl Hardy were instrumental in convincing the congregation that it must step out on faith and purchase the house. The decision was to be made based on the amount of money which was pledged beyond the weekly contributions. The pledges were placed anonymously in a collection plate. Very few people had income from any source other than farming and social security. The pledges when counted totaled \$152.00; the amount needed was \$156.00. No one had talked to any other person about how much they were going to pledge. It was divinely inspired. To help alleviate the debt, Mrs Cora Newman who lived in the house expressed her desire to stay there. She paid \$150.00 rent per month, which added to the \$152.00 pledged and made the total amount equal to two payments per month. Sadly, Brother Claude went to be with the Lord that fall. The congregation received \$1247 in memorial that was applied toward the down payment. Friends of the

church sent donations just as they had for the annex. God blessed the decision and by 1988 the mortgage had been completely paid. In 1988 on Mother's day, Beryl Hardy was asked to burn the mortgage certificate.

In the *Charlestown Courier* June 1941 *The house (that became the parsonage) built by Archie and Lizzie Stucker next to the Christian Church in Payneville has been rented by the Scarbough family of Detroit. The father and son are architects for Duponts. (It would be assumed that they worked at the Charlestown Ammunition Plant.)*

**Tidbits for 1983** A booklet of Christmas songs were to be used for services.

A safe deposit box for the church was rented at New Washington State Bank for storage of deeds and other official papers.

**1985** Lillian Bair was instrumental in securing a United States flag, which had flown over the Capitol Building in Washington, D C, sent to the congregation. There was a formal flag dedication ceremony and the flag is still being used on the rostrum. On November 10, 1985, John Penn performed ordination services for Loren Bair and Leon Hostetler as elders, and Gwen Bowman as a deacon.

**1986 Jr.** Worship was initiated. During the months of March and April, Lloyd and Loren Bair rebuilt the atrium on the entry steps. A Clothing Evangelism Ministry was begun in the basement of the church. Lillian Bair was in charge of this project. The church was opened during certain hours for persons to come and make a selection at no charge. According to the business minutes, community caroling and fruit baskets began this year and continued until 2002.

**1988 October 6** As noted in the *Madison Courier* - Transfer of property: *Olive Lawson to Leon Hostetler and Loren Bair; Elders and Trustees for Paynesville Christian Church part of section 14, Saluda Township.*

A \$5000.00 donation was received from the estate of Pauline Beach. These funds were used to reshingle the back classrooms. Lloyd and Lillian Bair contacted the Amish carpenters who shingled the roof. Plexi-glass was installed on the upper sections of the sanctuary windows to save the existing structure.

**1989 Parking Lot and Repairs** Land was donated by Olive Lawson on the east side of the sanctuary to add to the parking lot. Primarily for most of the church history, the people had parked their cars on the road. Only the in and out drive had gravel on it. If the ground was wet, there was nowhere to park.

During the year, Danny Bates offered to repair the walls of the building, which were pulling apart at the trusses. He installed bolts in the trusses to pull them back together and prevent it from happening again.

**1992 Purchase of Property** In February of 1992, property belonging to Olive Lawson was purchased on the east side of the sanctuary. The sale of the mobile home helped pay for the purchase of the property. The west section of the new property was graveled and this made a circular drive on the east.

## **MAJOR RENOVATIONS**

**1995 Building Renovations** The congregation at Paynesville came “Alive in ’95.” As part of this year of spiritual rebirth the congregation took a hard look at the grounds and structure of the sanctuary. Many problems were identified and prioritized, and thus a major renovation project began. The sidewalk along the west wall was removed so that a ditch could be dug around the foundation and repair the aging mortar. Where the chimney had been removed on the west side, water damage had destroyed the sill and header plates causing the wall to sag and bow. The east side of the sanctuary had similar problems following the repairs after the flue fire in early years. Several persons helped with the repair of the foundation by filling in the spaces between the rocks, which is called tuck pointing. While this was being done, Ky Yarling, Loren Bair, David Smith, Danny Corbin II, and Ricky Perry crawled under the church to move insulation and position a large I-beam which would be used to jack up the floor of the sanctuary. After assessing the situation, Dan Corbin, the minister, observed that the combined prayers of all lifted the wall that was unable to be raised by human means. The repair work was badly needed as the remains of the old sill plate were so deteriorated that it could be removed with a vacuum cleaner.

Also during the year, the piano was reconditioned and tuned.

**1996 A New Roof** In February 1996, Danny Bates presented a plan to the congregation to repair the structural walls, strengthen the structure, and replace the sagging roof on the sanctuary. Under his direction and with his help, Marshall, Bob and James Huttshell crawled through the attic space to place bolts in all of the rafters to hold them together. Scaffolding was built around the outside. Four large angle irons were put into place around the building. Then steel rods were installed on the inside and the walls were slowly pulled together over the course of the summer. The roof over the annex was extended to cover a planned patio. A donation of \$10,000.00 from the estate of Virgil Snyder was given to the church in August of 1996. Part of this was used to continue the work on the roof. In September a large number of people worked to tear the entire roof off of the sanctuary. New rafters and a complete new roof were installed. The last shingles were being put down, as the weather was turning cold on November 30, 1996. The ladies of the church provided meals for the workers.

Donations were made and a new copier was purchased for the office.

**1997 Rewiring And A New Patio** In early 1997, the electrical service box was moved to the annex. Arbuckle Electric donated its time and materials to rewire the entire structure. This brought the wiring up to electrical code standards and provided the means for future expansion. Danny Bates, James, Bob and Marshall Huttshell relocated the bathroom plumbing and a utility closet was built to house the new electrical boxes. In March, Kenny, Marshall, Bob, & James Huttshell, Joachim Wagna, and Danny Bates dug out the area for the new patio. It was poured later that month by Greg Wilson. After the patio was poured, the columns were put into place under the new roof of the patio. New soffet and fascia were installed and the back classrooms were roofed with the same brown shingles. The siding on the church building was in great disrepair and the congregation decided to install vinyl siding. New windows were installed in the annex and back classrooms. The Church of Christ at Moorefield donated the sum of \$2000.00 to the church from the sale of their property, which helped with expenses.

✠ “Create in me a new heart, O God; and renew a right spirit with in me.” ✠  
~Psalm 51:10

**New Hymnals** As new hymnals had not purchased for many years, Jonita and Arleen Hardy purchased the present set, *The Hymnals*.

**1998** As the building was being renovated and restored, there was a discussion concerning the north entrance doors. In the 1970's, the original high wooden doors had been removed. To conserve heat, it was decided to place a two foot transom under the window and install house doors. In 1998, two families wished to restore the original design and stated that they would pay for the doors. Danny Bates, who was the main constructionist, contacted Koetter Woodworking near New Albany. Janice and Doug Stanley went with Danny to the establishment and made the plans for the two tall double doors. The material to be used was mahogany. After several trips to confirm the style, the doors were taken to the finishers. The doors, with brass fittings, were installed in 2000.

**2001 Repairing The Ceilings, Walls, and Floor** Having completed the exterior repairs, the restoration of the sanctuary was planned. Brother Joe McKay made contact with a company in Canada, which would make a mold for the ceiling squares. The new panels were installed and the entire ceiling was painted by the members and the watchful eye of God. As the members worked from scaffolding, some stood on buckets to reach the tin panels. The plastered walls were cracked and had many fractures, which needed to be mended. A decision was made to cover the plaster with a thin wallboard, rather than remove the plaster. The walls were then painted. To complete the renovation, the floor was sanded and refinished. For two Sundays, the congregation met in a house across the street while the floor dried.

**2002 September** The new carpet runner was installed. The back and the front areas were completely covered as well as the aisle. Also, the new window treatments of dark blue were installed. One of the purposes for the drapes is to use them as a darkening device during movies and special occasions.

**2003 August 31** An outdoor service was held on this date for the dedication of the shelter house. In December, the new septic system on the west lot was completed and seeded in the spring of 2004. New tables and chairs were purchased for the annex as the others were 30 years old.

**2004** Jim Butler, who was a member from the Canaan area, noted that the congregation was searching for a new communion table. As a craftsman, Jim made the new table and it was dedicated. Loren and Adam Bair completed the construction of the booth for the sound equipment. It is a finished work of art. The completed work would have greatly pleased Loren's father, Lloyd, who was a fine craftsman. New wooden storage cabinets were stained by Bro Joe and placed in the annex.



Shelterhouse Dedication 2003

**2005** During the winter months, the members of the congregation gathered several evenings and days to make changes in the annex room. Many of the items were removed from the area and the walls were painted white.

**2006** In the summer, the men of the congregation and a contractor began the task of enclosing the porch on the annex. This addition would be used primarily for youth activities. The primary construction was finished in the spring of 2007.

**2007 May** After some years of contemplating the addition of cushions on the pews, the task was accomplished this month. The cost was financed by persons purchasing a pew for \$215.00 and some donations were made in honor of Brother Joe and Velma McKay.



## AUXILIARIES

### LIBRARY

As Paynesville was so far from a public library and members had knowledge that other churches had their own books of Christian topics, it was decided with the urging of Olive Lawson that the congregation would support this effort. Beryl Hardy was the first teacher to be selected to serve with Reno Taylor as co-chairwomen. Representatives from the classes were selected to serve as advisors for the board. The members of the board were the president of youth group, minister, superintendent, and a librarian. Janice Stanley was the treasurer and kept the record of the purchases and usage. To finance the project, the birthday money was used and the ladies held Stanley parties with the profit donated to the fund. Sara Noell Nighbert donated an encyclopedia of studies about each of the New Testament books. In 1985, Janice Stanley wrote a history of the church and it was published in the *Christian Standard*. As a gift from the publisher, *The Strong's Concordance* was donated to the library. These two reference donations greatly added to the resource material. The young people used the library during the summer and for several years a contest was held to recognize the person reading the most books. Many unique Bibles were given and their different wording was always an interesting topic. The library was dissolved in 2005 with the exception of reference books.

### INTERIOR DECOR

The sanctuary and annex have been decorated mostly with the talents of members. Lillian Bair was a designer and artisan. She crafted several banners of different themes, i.e. communion, fall, and Christmas. Reno Cable Taylor designed and painted hangings in the sanctuary, i.e. window scene, Christmas, and Christ. One notable hanging was the names of World War II soldiers from the congregation and area. The original clock now hangs in the fellowship hall. The Noble family donated a decorative clock with Jesus knocking on the door in the memory of Claude and Beryl Hardy. In 1980 a silver cross was donated anonymously for the communion table and years later silver candlesticks were added.

## NEWSLETTER

The first recollections of a newsletter were mailed to the members in the 1940's. The members of the church had borrowed a gum type printer called a hectograph on which the message was etched. Each page was separately printed. Corwin and Lilyan Benham and Claude and Beryl Hardy printed numerous pages by the light of an Alladin lamp in the Hardy home. The purpose was to secure money to keep the doors open.

*The Christian Messenger* was born in 1949 by the minister Robert Hall. On June 1950, *First Anniversary, Our Christian Messenger is just one year old... It has served all the families of the church, giving the latest church news besides various interesting comments, excerpts, and articles...* We have 11 of these letters of three pages in length, thanks to Lloyd & Lillian Bair and family. A sample is available on our website. In the 1950's, during the tenure of Bro Joe Rowlett, mailings were sent to members to solicit funds for a furnace and other improvements.

In 1963, Anna Noble was the editor of the *The Newsletter* printed on the spirit duplicator and distributed at services. January of 1971, with the employment of Bro. George Uppling, *The Paynesville Christian Church Newsletter*, was printed on a stencil machine. A recollection by Emmily Bair Enyart: I remember typing some of the church newsletters during my high school years. Even trying my best I would often make mistakes. Correcting the stencils was a tedious job, not so easy as today's word processing.

A newsletter dated January 7, 1974 notes that Brother Jim Bowyer initiated his own monthly newsletter titled, *Paynesville Christian Light*. The committee appointed to help Brother Jim Bowyer with the newsletter was: Loren Bair, Juanita Hardy, and Georgia Van Winkle. After Brother Jim left in the summer of 1976, Juanita Taylor Hardy and Janice Hardy Stanley contacted Brother Jim Bowyer about his old newsletter printer. Brother Jim was then pastoring at Mt. Tabor Christian Church, which is northwest of Scottsburg. Juanita and Janice with children journeyed to the church and Brother Jim gave them the printer. It was a black messy contraption. The ladies had to wear old work aprons to keep the ink off of their clothing.

Janice and Juanita thought that a newsletter would help generate interest and income. Prior to this venture, Janice had mimeographed them and paid the postage for about 60 persons. Janice typed the stencils and the two of them printed the newsletters on the printer at the church house. Juanita and her children then addressed 200 plus of them by hand. It had taken some effort to secure the needed 200 minimum for the postal bulk fee. In 1977, it was decided to have a contest to select a name for the paper. Danny Lawson submitted, *The Christian Epistle*, which was readily received. His selection was taken from II Thessalonians 2:15. Hence, the name continues to the present, 2007. The volume and the number were printed on the early copies; as of 2007, volume XXXI is being published. It was printed about every two months except extras for holidays. The letter was typed in columns as this was the style used by Jim Bowyer. In 1984, Loren Bair printed address labels which greatly improved the appearance and the rapidity of mailing. When Janice returned to teaching, she decided that someone else should have the opportunity. Jonita Hardy was the editor and publisher for a short period of time. Ilene Bair Harsin assumed the task but she had the pleasure of using a new Xerox copier. Ilene was then followed by Jennifer Bibb Huttsell. In 1998, Janice Stanley resumed with innovations: computer, multi-purpose copier, and newer computer printed labels. In 2004, the Ladies Aide had a rock-a-thon and used those monies to purchase a folding machine, which shortened the preparation time by half.

## **BULLETINS**

During George Uppling's tenure, a duplicator was purchased and bulletins were purchased and prepared by Janice Stanley. Jim Bowyer prepared the colored picture bulletins himself. When he left, it was decided that those bulletins were too expensive even if only half (25) were used. A photo of the interior of the sanctuary was used for the front and on the back was the history of the restoration movement of the Christian Church. This was continued for many years. Then in 1981, Jonita Hardy prepared the bulletins. Later, it was decided to return to the manufactured colored ones with pictures on them commemorating the special seasons or events. In recent years, computer generated bulletins have been used.

## **HYMNALS**

*Joy And Praise, copyright 1908.* In 1939 a letter was written to elder, Lindley Lawson from Standard Publishing Company in regards to the purchase of hymnals. Mr Lawson, we sent 100 Faith Inspiring Songs books to the office of Mr Barbee. They were purchased and delivered on August 2, 1938. As of this date we have not received payment. The hymnals evidently had been purchased for Mr Barbee's use during the revival of 1938, when he was the evangelist. There is a very large photo of that revival on the disc. The cream colored paperback hymnals were in use in 1926 when Beryl Hardy came to Paynesville and were used until the 50's when the Ladies Aide purchased the brown ones, Great Songs of the Church, copyright 1965. Some of these hymnals had been purchased from the publisher but were worn and it was noted that Harmony Christian Church in Northern Indiana had used ones for sale. Arrangements were made and the books were transported by Jim Strickland.

Arleen Hardy Smith has been the song and worship leader since 1985. *During the 1990's, Arleen and Jonita Hardy ordered the blue hymnals presently in use, titled The Hymnals.*

**PIANISTS:** W O S Cliffe's wife, Beatrice, Mary Lawson Pender, Ora Hearn Plaskett, Bessie Burden Noell, Sara Noell, Wilma Bare, Marjorie Lawson Reed, Lynne Lou Lawson, Wilma Hardy Hollis, Joe Lock, Jonita Hardy; and Deborah Clapp Bair. The following played occasionally: Olive Lawson, Etta Crook, Edith Stanley and Arleen Hardy.

## **FUNCTIONARIES**

### **MISSIONS**

Beginning with the minutes which started in the 1970's, the following are the missions which have been supported since that time. Undoubtedly, some have not been recorded and the church would have supported missions prior to this date, therefore, this is just a listing.

## List of Supported Missions:

The Kiamichi Mountain Indian Ranch in Oklahoma, College of The Scriptures in Louisville, KY, Conservation Sunday 1973, JW Halo-Manila, Philippines, John T Chase-South Korea, Atlanta Christian City, WCEF, Cecil Todd and Revival Fires-Clean-up TV Alliance, Cookson Hills Orphanage, Artesia Christian College in Arizona-a Layman family project, Faith Promise-1980 & 1981, Cincinnati Bible College, Youth Shelter-Madison, IN, World Mission Builders-Jim Bowyer, American Rehabilitation Ministries-baptistery, Salvation Army, ARM, Provisions Inc, Kentuckiana Christian Home, Wonder Valley Camp, Muscatatuck Christian Ranch, Hanover Nursing home (gifts and services), Jefferson County Jail Ministry, Crusade for Children, Bibles for Russia, Maple Manor Children's Home in Sellersburg, Indiana. The congregation participated for many years with Cookson Hills fund raising by collecting Campbell soup labels which Beryl Hardy sent to them and then Arleen Hardy Smith continued the project.

August 1959 began the long and extended mission endeavor by the church for the missionaries, **Paul and Shirley Lanham**. Paul and Shirley left for Brazil in August of 1959, where Paul worked until his death. Shirley continued until her stroke in 2004. The congregation gave monthly donations, individuals gave financial support, and the congregation has printed and paid the postage for the newsletter for many years. The Lanhams stayed in the church parsonage, when they were in the States during their furloughs. Their daughter Anna and husband Magno continue the mission work.

**Francisco Leite** *I was won for Christ and baptized in Brazil in 1959 by Paul Lanham.* Francisco came with the Lanhams to present the mission project for Vacation Bible School. He recalls "attending morning service and then having lunch over at a lady's house by the name of Mrs. (Olive) Lawson that afternoon." Presently he is in mission work with the Northern Brazil Mission. He lives in Carrollton, KY and is a retired pharmacist.

## LADIES AIDE

**1927** A photo donated by Jerry Lawson Bruner was taken of the Ladies Aide. The members, who can be identified are: Mary Blackford Hardy, Olive Lawson, Cordie Arbuckle Snyder, Dora Lawson, Nanny Arbuckle, Lona Arbuckle, Julia Arbuckle Hardy, Marjorie Lawson (Olive's child).

According to records kept by Claude Hardy, **June 10, 1936**, four named persons made a donation. A record was kept of the individual pledges by twenty-three persons in January of 1935. The record listed the amount each would give per month. The three pledges paid were for the amount of \$.50, one for \$.25 and an open collection of \$2.66 making a total of \$4.41. As this was not sufficient to pay Bro Lawrence Layman, the treasurer borrowed \$10.00 from the Ladies Aide. There were notations in records that the Aide often made up the balance.

**1932 August 4** *Ladies Aide of Paynesville Christian Church had an ice cream supper at Chelsea on Saturday night, at which time the Blazing Star quilt was given away. Miss Ora Hearn was the lucky winner. They are to sell 200 tickets at 6 cents each on another quilt of the same design.*

**1932 October 25** *Ladies Aide of Payneville Christian Church held an all day session at the home of Cordie Snyder on Thursday. Ten members were present. They finished a beautiful Blazing Star quilt which they have sold to a lady in Jeffersonville.*

**1932 November 24** *Ladies Aide of Payneville met with Mrs Fount L Turner in Payneville. Present, Mrs J E Tilley, Mrs Fern West, Mrs Howard Smith, Mrs Grace Edridge. The society voted to send Mrs Lindley Lawson a potted primrose because of her illness.*

**1933 August 24** *Ladies Aide met with Mrs Lindley Lawson of Hanover. Present were Mrs L D Eldridge, Dean Eldridge and wife, Mrs J E Tilley, Cordie Snyder, Mrs Lizzie Smith, Mrs Claude Hardy, Mrs Mary Hardy, Harry Lawson and family. A wonderful dinner was served followed by an interesting and helpful religious service and business meeting.*

**1933 July 27** *Ladies Aide of Payneville Christian Church met with Mrs Dallas Noell. The Blazing Star quilt that they sold chances on was drawn by Mrs Harlie Tilley of Carrollton.*

**1935 November 28** *Regular meeting of Ladies Aide met at the home of Sadie Turner, of Payneville on Thursday, November 21. Five members and four visitors present.*

**1936 May 10** *Ladies Aide of Payneville Christian Church gave prizes to the oldest mother, youngest mother, mother having the most children attending church services on Mother's Day. Dora Lawson for oldest mother, Beryl Hardy for youngest mother, Olive Lawson for the having the most children present.*

**1942 January 29** *Ladies Aide of Payneville Christian Church was entertained by Mesdames Nannie and Lona Arbuckle at their home in Old Chelsea. In the forenoon some assisted in the preparation of the beautiful and delicious dinner, while others pieced quilt blocks which are eventually made into comforts and ready for sale. Mrs Lona Arbuckle, president called the meeting to order after a lovely devotional service. Plans were made to make some money for the coming year. The next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs Irvin Taylor. Those present were Lona Arbuckle, Nannie Arbuckle, Mary and Beryl Hardy, Mattie and Reno Taylor, Maxine Schoolcraft, Winne Dunn, Cammie Woolen, Grace Eldridge, Sadie Turner. Visitors were Doris Taylor, Agnes Harsin, Erma Huttsell, Maude Benham, William Huttsell, Arnold Snyder, Charles and Alva Arbuckle, children Janice Hardy, Zelma Nighbert, Ruby Taylor, Julianne, Vincent, and Lawrence Taylor, Marcella Schoolcraft.*

**From theCharlestown Courier:**

**September 21, 1944** *At a recent meeting of the Ladies Aide of the Paynesville Christian Church, held at the home of Mr and Mrs Fountain L Turner of Paynesville, the Ladies Aide passed the bills of no small consequences, the re-roofing of the two Sunday School rooms and that of the winters supply of coal. They plan to hold a food sale and bazaar in Madison before Thanksgiving. Three beautiful quilts pieced by a member, Mrs Freda Jackson, were sold and pieces distributed for members to piece two more of "Endless Stair" during the coming month for*

*which they have orders. The next meeting will be with Mrs Grace Eldridge on the third Thursday in October. The following enjoyed the hospitality of Mr and Mrs Turner. Visitors were Mr and Mrs John Turner of Bradford, IL, Mrs Evelyn Wells of Hanover, Fred Woolen of Hanover. Members: Lona and Nannie Arbuckle, Mrs Lindley Lawson, Freda Jackson, Mae Bare, Mary Hardy, Beryl Hardy, Reno Taylor, Grace Eldridge and Maude Benham.*

**December 7, 1944 November Meeting** *The following members attended the Christian Church Aid meeting at the home of Mrs Wheeler of Paynesville: Mr and Mrs Dow Eldridge, Mrs Allie McDonald, Mrs Lillie Wilson, Mrs Maude Benham, Mrs Sophronia Hooker, Mrs Quthbert Benham, Mrs Reno Taylor and children, Miss Center and brothers, Mrs Lizzie Smith, Mrs Lona Arbuckle, Mrs Mae Bare, Mrs Mary Hardy, Mrs Beryl Hardy.*

*The forenoon was devoted to work on quilts and the afternoon to tacking a comfort. The food sale, which they recently held at Madison, was quite a success clearing almost \$35.00. The sale was held in the window of the City Meat Market, which is owned by Mack Bennett of Saluda.*

**February 1, 1945 January Meeting** *Mrs Clete Hooker was hostess. A very busy and happy day was enjoyed. Miss Erma Hooker, a member of the Senior Class of Saluda pieced a quilt top and presented it to the aid. Mrs Andrew Jackson, also, surprised the organization with a beautiful quilt top. At noon a splendid dinner was served to a troop of school children (the children of members) and tobacco strippers, besides the ladies.*

**From New Washington Courier:**

**February 1, 1945 January Meeting** - *Mrs Clete Hooker was hostess.*

**September 28, 1946** *Mrs. F L Turner of Paynesville was hostess to the Ladies Aide of Paynesville Christian Church last Thursday.*

**1964 From the Paynesville Light** *The Ladies Aide held its monthly meeting on January 16 at the home of Mrs Olive Lawson in Paynesville. Officers were elected as follows: president, Clara Noble, vice-president, Beryl Hardy, secretary/treasurer, Agnes Harsin.*



**1972 November 1972** was the first Thanksgiving Dinner held for the ladies in the community in the new annex, which was not completed. The ladies invited were primarily those who were widowed and a senior citizen. The community dinner and quilt show was discontinued in 2003.

**1974 February 11** *Paynesville Light The Ladies met for their January meeting with Mrs Bill (Jerry) Van Winkle and answered roll call with a Bible verse. Newly elected officers were president, Juanita Hardy; vice-president, Mrs Janice Stanley; Mrs Georgia King, secretary/treasurer.*

**1978** Noted in the newsletter, the Aide members elected the following officers; President, Janice Stanley; vice president, Reno Taylor; sec/treas, Agnes Harsin.

**1981** The March meeting of the Ladies Aide was held at Bessie Eldridge's with nine members and two guests present, Virgie Jenkins and Ilene Harsin. Roll Call was answered by a favorite spring flower from God's creation. Beryl Hardy had devotions noting the historical origin of the Christian Church. Business-a visit to Kentuckiana Nursing Home on April 8, taking sweet breads, purchasing kool-aid for camp, the ladies retreat at Wonder Valley in April, carpet needed for entrance, new kitchen cabinets, NCAA in Louisville in July, youth worship services, and a goal for the coupon box is \$25.00 by June.

**1999 Wednesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> 28th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner** A day that will live in infamy for Paynesville Christian Church Ladies Aid. 'The joy we share as we tarry there, none other has ever known.' Brother Joe and Velma McKay were the honored guests and were introduced as the incoming ministers. The joy shared by the ladies, Brother Joe and Lloyd Bair was fantastic, a reunion this side of heaven. People who came expressed their feelings about coming to the dinner in these words: 'I won't know anyone there,' but that changed upon entering. We are all in God's care and share in His World. These were some of the reunions: Beryl Hardy met a lady who had known her when she was a teen in Hanover. One lady met another who shared a mutual relative in Bethlehem and so the fellowship flourished. A guest shared that she was thankful to be with people in other congregations who were so friendly-a great compliment.

The Bears surrounded the guests: Reno Taylor shared her rendition of the three bears followed by delightful and spontaneous laughter. A papa and mama bear were in attendance. Linda Sutherland was the storyteller in resident as she shared from memory a humorous story about a fox told to her by Grandpa Melvin Bare. Linda read an article, which Georgia Van Winkle King had read years prior, about how elementary children would prepare a turkey. No one would want to eat a turkey with pounds of sugar, salt, feathers, and cooked three minutes. It was a day of thankful smiles and hugs, and friendships renewed. Labors of love were exemplified by the sharing of food, crafts, stories, and the services of the Lord's people. We don't know what the church building thought of all these 'goin's on,' and if we did, we might seem more peculiar than people think Christians are. Could it have been shaking its rafters and sides with all this rejoicing? What we do know is that the Lord was happy that there was joy again in this sanctuary after a long drought.

**2007** The Ladies Aide has continued with the number of its members fluctuating. Meetings are held in homes or in the fellowship room. The names are exchanged for secret sisters. An innovative idea presented by Ruth Phipps was to have a color theme for each meeting. Therefore, members wear the color, think of sayings using that word, read scripture with the word in it, and bring food of that color. It has been a fun addition to the fellowship. A member gives a report of a woman of the Bible for each meeting. Various charitable projects have been chosen in the last few years, infant clothing for Wishard Hospital, Indianapolis, for 30 years the group took Christmas gifts to Kenuckiana Nursing home and sang carols. Young people went and sang, plus Reno Taylor would play her guitar and sing special novelty songs. In 2003 and 2004, the group took Christmas gifts to the Hanover Nursing Home and in 2005 to the Waters in Madison and sang Carols. In 2006, Hickory Creek was the recipient of the gifts. Members prepared and sent items to the grandson of Joe and Velma McKay, who was in Iraq. The members have had a rock-a-thon for several projects: wooden offering plates and envelope folding machine. Presently, CRADLE, which helps women with infants's needs, was a project for the month of May. Special sweet treat baskets are prepared during the Easter season and taken to residents of the community.

## QUILTS

The activity of making quilts began out of necessity for most ladies. It was a form of recycling material for a useful purpose. As the endeavor progressed, it became an art form. Many designs were created by the makers. Since there was a desire for them, persons began to make them for sale.

Thus, the ladies of various charitable groups used them as a source of funding. At the present, many are made for decoration as well as use. Material is sewn together in some design, attached to a batting, and backing. Stitching is used to bind these three materials together. This stitching is often made in designs to further decorate the quilt. Comforters are made by piecing fabric, batting, and backing, but are tacked with string in various places. The ladies of the church began this project in the early years as an aid in the financial needs of the congregation. The ladies made several friendship quilts and gave them to the wives of ministers, when leaving the congregation. As noted in various meetings and Jubilee stand, quilts/comforters were part of the activity for the ladies' meetings. The following is the story of the bits and pieces of two quilts/comforters.

In **1963**, the ladies of Paynesville Christian Church decided to make a friendship quilt with the names of many members of the church and seniors in the community embroidered on it. The ladies and Olive Lawson, who was a seamstress in Paynesville and a member of the congregation made blocks. Most people wrote their names on the blocks and the ladies then traced the lines with embroidery thread, but some signees chose to embroider their own names. The names are: The Patecell family: Douglas, Nelle, Cheryl, Derran, Teddy, Donna, David; Marjorie Lawson Reed, Mary Jo Reed, and Crystal; Charlotte Farley; Janice and Douglas Stanley; Rev and Mrs Amos Kendall and Sharon; Thelma Benham; the Hardys: Edwin, Juanita, Brandt, Arleen, Jonita; Mr and Mrs John Ellis, Darrell; Mr and Mrs Clete Hooker; Mr and Mrs Thomas Noble, Anna, Tommy, Joe; Carroll and Jeri Bruner, Jeffrey; Mr and Mrs Lloyd Bair, Judy, Emmily, Ilene, Jeanette, Loren, Valerie; Marguerite Lawson; Fern West; Lillie Wilson; Amos Bowman; Harold and Reno Taylor; Alice and Bud Lloyd; William and Kathleen Lorige, Steve, Kathy, Jill, Roger; Agnes Harsin; Olive Lawson, "The Stitchery:" Doris Taylor and Joe Lock; Omer and Credith Hardy, Wilma; Mr and Mrs Gwen

Bowman, Judy, Jeff, Nancy, Glenn; Claude Hardy; Dusty Short; Jessie and Opal Taylor; Carl Goldsberry; Georgia Van Winkle; Dale and Martha McNeely; and Minnie Bair. Olive sewed the blocks, batting, backing, and binding all together and the ladies tacked it. It was purchased by Thelma Tilley Benham. Following her death, the quilt was given to her niece, Irene Benham Neal. In 1999, the ladies purchased it from her and it hangs in the fellowship room.

**1975** The ladies made a friendship quilt with signatures of the senior citizens in the Saluda neighborhood. This is a tribute to those persons and to many who have supported the church and have lived in the area for several years. The ladies did all the construction. The names are Joy Arbuckle, Georgia King, Cordie Farley, Iva Stein, Hartley Stein, Claude and Beryl Hardy, Omer and Credith Hardy, Louie and Helen Stein, Thelma Long, Anne Hensler, Telma King, Virgie Jenkins, Agnes Harsin, Evaleigh Stillhammer, Emma Goldsberry, Stacy Turnbaugh, Helen and Virgil Snyder, Olive Lawson, Mary Pender, Luther and Etta Crook, Carmen Newman, Elsie Smythe, Opha Rankin, Clete Hooker, Sandy and Dora Newman, Georgia Adams, Martha Hostetler, Alice Jackson, Virgie Sutherland, and Lee Hamilton, 9th District Congressman, and Lloyd Bair. (Lloyd and his father, Lee, had been officers of the Jubilee.) The quilt was auctioned at the Chelsea Jubilee on September 3rd. Bidding started at \$60.00.

**1985 September** The quilt was tacked for the Jubilee. It was voted to give at least half of the proceeds to the copier fund and give additional monies from the treasury... The next meeting we plan to tack Bessie's (Eldridge) quilt, for all had fun working together and learning something new.

**2002** The ladies once again took the comforter challenge. With the expert advice and assistance of Moniee Tackett, the group cut, sewed, and tacked a nine patch comforter. A silent bid was held at the Jubilee and it was sold to Dawn Hardy.



“Delight yourself also in the Lord, and  
He will give you the desires of your heart.” ~ Psalm 37:4

## SUNDAY SCHOOL INFORMATION

### Taken from the Church Records:

**1909** The following accounts are taken from a church record book: In 1909 there were about 72 persons enrolled. The amount which each person donated was written in columns. In 1910 and 1911, only the numbers corresponding to names were written and amounts recorded. In the record book for 1912, the names were written in beautiful hand script and totaled 90. Some gave .25 cents and one man, Allen Miles gave \$1.00 almost every Sunday and his total for the year was \$40.00. Many of those listed had donations which ranged from zero, \$1.00 to \$15.00 per annum.

**1912** *The Saluda Township, Sunday School Convention, for 1912, New Bethel M E Church, Sunday, October 13. Program: 10 am song: New Bethel, Devotional Exercises; The Teacher, Rev Protsman; Song, Elsie Turner; Song, New Prospect School; Teachers' Training, Levi Burnworth (Paynesville); song, Payneville School.*

*Remarks; Every Sunday School in the township is requested to attend in a body and help make this the most successful Convention in the history of the organization. B G Hearn, President; Carl Bare, Vice Pres (Paynesville); Nora Bower, Secretary.*

**1935** As records indicate this year the officers were: Superintendent, Mr Lindley Lawson; Assistant Superintendent, Mr Dallas Noell; Treasurer, Mr Lindley Lawson; Secretary, Chrystal Maddex, Teachers: 1 Claude Hardy; 2 Corwin Benham; 2 Bessie Noell; 4 Sophia Huttsell; 5 Beryl Hardy; Wilma Bare, Pianist.

### Children's Day 1920s and 1930s

*There was a Children's Day in June and Ora Hearn and Eva Payne were the ones in charge. It was a time when children from all over the township came to be a part of it. It consisted of a pageant and Standard Publishing Company issued a booklet with speaking parts, songs, and drills. While the children practiced, the Ladies Aide was in the sanctuary making crepe paper costumes for us to wear in the pageant. Sara Noell Nighbert*

A written record of a Sunday is as follows:

*Report of Paynesville  
Christian Sunday School  
April 7, 1935*

<i>Class No</i>	<i>Teachers</i>	<i>Scholars</i>	<i>Collection</i>
	1 p	8	.30
	2		
	3 p	6	.14
	4 & 5 absent	9	.11
	Cradle Roll	1	
		24	\$.55
	<i>Teachers</i>	2	
		<i>26 present</i>	

At that time the secretary would read the reports in front of the congregation after Sunday School class. For the period of the record from 1933 to 1936, the totals averaged from 30 to 45 persons and as much as a \$1.00 collection.

**1940-1950's** A typical secretary report for this period of time was as follows:

*Report of Paynesville C S S  
December 25, 1949*

<i>Beginners</i>	9	.18
<i>Juniors</i>	7	.10
<i>Intermediates</i>	8	.25
<i>Seniors</i>	22	1.86
<i>Bible Class</i>	7	.51
<i>Teachers</i>	3	
<i>Cradle Roll</i>	1	
<i>Total</i>	57	\$3.20

**1964 January** *Officers were: Tom Noble, superintendent, and Emmily Bair, the secretary.*

**1964 January** *Books of the Month are I and II Timothy. The names of the readers of these books will be printed in the Sunday Bulletin.*

**1971 March** *The Paynesville Christian Church Newsletter states, Some of you may not know the Sunday School teachers here at the Paynesville Christian Church so here is a brief introduction:*

<i>Bible Class</i>	<i>Teacher; Omer Hardy; assistant-Tom Noble</i>
<i>Senior</i>	<i>Teacher; Ruby Lock, assistant- Claude Hardy</i>
<i>Youth</i>	<i>Teacher: Janice Stanley</i>
<i>Jr. Hi</i>	<i>Teacher: Mrs. Beryl Hardy</i>
<i>Junior Class</i>	<i>Teacher: Doris Taylor</i>
<i>Primary Class</i>	<i>Teacher: Lillian Bair</i>

**1973** *Noted from business minutes: Sunday School officers were: Linda Sutherland, secretary; Jeanette Bair, assistant secretary; Mike Hayden, song leader; Sandy Newman and Claude Hardy co-superintendents, and Jonita Hardy in charge of VBS.*

**1982** *The congregation is working with enthusiasm to fulfill the requirements for LOOKOUT'S 5 Star Program. We have met 4 of the 5 criteria by adding a new class and a new teacher, Mrs. Linda Bear, 18 new enrollees, and 43 visits. The teams must have a total attendance of 200 for us to meet these attendance requirements. The goal was met and listed in the LOOKOUT'S registry of completions.*

**1982 June** *The Junior High class members have really been working for the Lord in preparation for classes each Sunday. A contest was held and gifts received. The class members are Donna Cleffman, Derran Stanley, Robbie Simmonds, Shelly Taylor, Tammy Bear. They memorized the 23rd Psalm and conducted a memorial service on May 30.*

## **PICNICS**

The Sunday school has had its annual picnic in various locations. To name some: Kettlebottom Creek near New Washington, Poplar Grove at Clifty Falls State Park, Henryville State Forestry, Spring Mill State Park, Hanover Beach, and Saluda Park. In the 1940's, Frank "Tate" Taylor had a farm truck with a very large bed and racks on it. He volunteered to drive the congregation to Spring Mill State Park near Mitchell, IN. The food was loaded and the members climbed aboard following an early Sunday morning service. It was a long and bumpy ride upon straw bales. Young people stood up on the bales, which raised them above the cab, and felt the wind on their faces. At the park were very beautiful swans in the creek, which was a great attraction for farming folk. At Clifty, there were always baseball games, horseshoe games, and hiking. One year, some of the teen girls decided to go (slide) down hill to Clifty creek. The trek up took many times longer than going down and the families were concerned about their whereabouts.



**Church Picnic along side of the Road**



**July 4, 1935** *Payneville Christian Church Sunday held the annual picnic at Hanover Beach, a large attendance was present.*

**July 17, 1937** *Payneville Christian Church held its annual picnic at the Forest Reserve, Henryville, on Sunday.*

From early photos, the congregation had baskets dinners on the front steps. Long tables were used for the food. Some were held in the IOOF building.

A pig roast and picnic was held on **July 10, 1993** on the church grounds. A large panoramic photo was taken of those present. It is on the church photo disc.

Sometime in the late '80s, the practice of having Sunday School officers was discontinued.

## **VBS**

**1973** During the tenure of Brother Jim Bowyer and with the addition of the annex (only exterior completed), the congregation planned a vacation bible school, which would be the first in the history of the church. It was decided that more children and workers could attend, if it were held at night.

In **1975** The following were teachers for VBS: Ruthie Brewster, Georgia Van Winkle, Janice Stanley, Jonita Hardy, and Jan Rainey. Sandy and Dora Newman were in charge of refreshments.

**1983 June 20-24** Aluminum cans are to be collected by individual classes to help with cost. A prize will be awarded to the class bringing in the most cans. Paul and Shirley Lanham were the missionaries and participated in the programs.

**1984** A balloon launch and the collection of 3000 aluminum cans were used to help defray the cost of the supplies for VBS. The mission project was World Mission Builders, which received a donation of \$125.00.

**1984** *Come Unto Me All Ye... As the 13<sup>th</sup> annual VBS has come and gone, it is with great pleasure to report that all the adults survived. The average attendance was 51 and Wonder Valley Christian Camp was the mission. Puppets Flo and Moe were activated and voiced by Derran Stanley. Through the puppets, the*

*audience was informed and entertained about the happenings at the church camp. The offering was \$75.00 and the theme was “In His Footprints.” Jonita Hardy was the director and Edith Stanley led the singing.*

**1987** *We collected over \$100.00 for the Jefferson County Youth Shelter. We were visited by two puppets who told the children about the work of the shelter. We thank Edith Stanley for her puppeteering.*

**1990** An excerpt from the Giveaway newspaper - “Record Set at VBS” 1990

*A record number of children and adults attended Paynesville Christian Church’s vacation Bible School this year. The average attendance was 97 with a high attendance of 110 for the Thursday night session, and 137 attended on Saturday for the wiener roast. As a result of the 110, the elder, Leon Hostetler, was the recipient of a cream pie in the face. Also, as a competitive spirit, the minister, Dan Corbin, agreed to have his mustache shaved off if the camp mission fund was above \$250.00. All attending enjoyed these festivities, including a pie for Jay Jones, who received another pie due to the attendance of 137 for the Saturday night session. A beach theme was featured for the last night, with many wearing beach clothing, games, and several activities took place. Directors: Jonita Hardy, Valerie Strickland, and Ilene Harsin planned the VBS and all the skits, crafts, and daily programs. Arleen Hardy and Amber Kleopher assisted with the song service and Reno Taylor and Georgia King served refreshments to more than 600 persons for the week. Many others gave their time, food, craft items, and all that was appreciated.*

**1995 May** *Hey, Kids, don’t forget about our VBS here at Paynesville. Our week will be June 12-16. We will start on Sunday night at 6:30 pm with a parade in downtown Paynesville.*



But Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me,  
and do not stop them; for it is to such as these  
that the kingdom on heaven belongs.” ~ Matthew 19:14

Most memorable moments of VBS for the  
**Stanley family-Janice, Edith, Marc, and Derran:**

Marc remembers that the boys wanted to get there early and all play softball and kickball in the west lot, that two groups on either side of the aisle singing to determine who sang the loudest, i.e. Praise Ye the Lord-Hallelujah, while standing and sitting rapidly. Derran's choice was the puppet shows, dressing with a feather headdress for the Kiamichi mission and the popsicles. Edith recalls the building shaking when the kids sang Marching in the Infantry. It seemed to be fun for the boys to chase the girls or vice versa. Hide and seek was a game of choice in the darkness. The wiener roasts were a memorable experience for all. Janice shared the hours of preparation by Lillian Bair and family for all the craft projects. The ladies of the congregation would save many household items for those projects: bath tissue rolls, paper towel rolls, aluminum pans, milk cartons, egg cartons, fabric pieces, ad infinitum. It never seemed to be a cool week. The leaders were always sweating it out with fans in each room. A few nights were exciting as a severe thunder storm would come upon the gathering. It was a frightening jolt to hear lightening strike and thunder clap in that large and open building. Many screams were heard and small children had to be consoled. It was a coveted task to be chosen to carry the flags and the Bible in front of those marching into the pews. Fond are the memories of those older members who contributed by serving the refreshments, which were kool-aid served with different flavors each night, cookies placed on a napkin and occasionally a special treat. Nightly, some little fellow would spill that colorful drink on the floor but the servers were always so kind to the child and clean it without any fuss. Faithful servers were Dora and Sandy Newman, Bessie Eldridge, Beryl Hardy, Georgia King, Reno Taylor, and others. Mostly the ladies of the congregation were the workers for every task. Beryl Hardy, Hildreth Cleffman, Bessie Eldridge, Doris Taylor, Janice Stanley, Lillian Bair and many others would double deck their cars with children so they could experience the gospel stories and songs. One can only estimate that hundreds of children in the Paynesville area were given this opportunity shared by those dedicated saints.

VBS was discontinued in 2002.

## **JUBILEE STAND**

**1920-1930's** The church had a food stand at the Jubilee. At that time the ladies had the stand and sold hamburgers, drinks and baked goods. It was just a one day affair at that time in Hearn's and Flint's Groves.

**1961** Judy Bair and her family, who were very craft oriented, suggested that the church have a booth at the Jubilee. Edwin Hardy and Douglas Stanley prepared the frame and set it up on the grounds. Every one made a contribution. The Bair family, Agnes Harsin, and Georgia King made many exquisite items. The money that year was mainly for the youth. As those youth moved on to other endeavors, the Ladies Aide took the initiative to man the booth. The monies were used for projects at the church and given to the building fund/parsonage fund. In later years, the booth was more of a flea market type of sale. The entire congregation was encouraged to participate.



**Jubilee Stand**

**1985 August** *A lot of activities are being planned for the two days. The church will again have a stand. Donations of crafts, flowers, veggies, etc will be appreciated. Quilt: a tacked double knit blocked quilt will be sold at the Jubilee stand. Plans are tentative but we think that sealed bids for over \$50.00 will be taken that day and prior to September 7. Then at 8 pm on Saturday evening they will be opened and the quilt will belong to the highest bidder. Half of the money will be given to the copier fund. Participation in the Jubilee music program will be Reno Taylor and Leon Hostetler.*

**1986 September/October** *On Saturday afternoon of the Jubilee, the Ladies Aide awarded 8x10 pictures in two categories: youngest baby, and longest married couple. These framed pictures were awarded to: youngest baby-Clyde York, and as second an unframed picture was given to Wayne Rowlett; and longest married couple-Brooks and Eleanor Darrah, 58 years.*

**1987 September 4 & 5** *On Saturday, at 8 pm the Ladies Aide will have a Pie Auction. Several pies and a few cakes will be donated. Bill Boles will auction them to the highest bidder. The proceeds from this activity will be donated toward the outstanding debt on the parsonage.*

**2000** *The following are excerpts from an article included in the Jubilee Archives at the Library of Congress as a part of its bicentennial celebration of a program called Local Legacy. The Paynesville Christian Church has been involved with the Jubilee as a congregation as far back as 1920-30's. For a period of time the congregation did not have a booth but in 1961, a craft booth was initiated. Throughout the years, there have been various and myriad merchandise sold such as: clothing, garden produce, flowers, baked goods, and jellies. One especially prized item was the two layer red cake made by Doris Taylor. Green lime pickles were a favorite of several persons. There is a drawing for free Bibles. The church has a permanent booth with a picnic table and lawn chairs behind it. It is a gathering place for all those members and friends of the church who have left the area and live elsewhere. Several of the older members sit near the stand for the duration of the festival. People will stop at the booth and want to know when a certain person will be there. Pictures are taken of the families, often consisting of several generations, near the booth. Lloyd Bair parked his*

camper near the booth so he could have cold water and other necessities for visitors. He sometimes would stay the night so that the items in the booth did not have to be packed away.

**2003** As many of the ladies were unable to contribute handcrafts and the flea market became an exhausting task of displaying and disposing of items, the congregation took a different direction. Loren & Debbie Bair photographed festival goers. The finished colored photo included the inscription “137th Jubilee” and “Paynesville Christian Church.” The booth is presently being used as an evangelistic endeavor.

**2005** The longest married couple this year was John N and Barbara King Clapp, who had been married 51 years. They received the large print Bible for this year. They are the parents of Brian and Deborah Clapp. Deborah is married to Loren Bair, elder, and they have a son, Adam.

**2006** The booth was manned by several persons, who gave visitors a brochure about the church and a 2007 magnet calendar with the photograph of a double rainbow over the church during a VBS session. The longest married couple was Bob and Dorothy Gray, of Paynesville, who had been married 46 years.

**2007** *Paynesville Christian Church Epistle 141st Jubilee is now history. The congregation manned the booth, which began in 1961. It is now a hospitality and welcome center. This year Loren Bair had many of the historic photos of the congregational progress on a disc for viewing. We thank all those who helped spread the word and work of the congregation. Emily Sandlin, 8 year old daughter of members Donnie and Michelle Sandlin, sang “Me and God” song in the opening ceremony. Praise the Lord for her talent. The Ladies as in the past provided free Bibles. The longest married couple was Kenneth and Peggy Hostetler Stoner, who were married January 19, 1954. A heritage Bible will be presented to this couple. They are both graduates of Saluda and live in Madison. The name drawn for the free Bible was Rose Huttshell, who lives in the Paynesville community. A new category was the couple who had been married the shortest length of time. That couple was Charles and Becki McNeeley, who married June 16, 2006. They received the four gospels on CD. Charles is a director of the Jubilee Association.*

## YOUTHACTIVITIES

During the tenure of **Brother Dixon Hall**, who was the minister for Hibernia and Paynesville, the youth from both churches were organized as “The Christian Endeavor.” Juanita Taylor Hardy related the following memories of those years. They put on a play, in which she and Jim Hall, son of Dixon and Edith Hall were colored people. The oldest daughter of the Halls, Dixie, played an older woman with “white powdered hair.”

The group played many softball games and had numerous hayrides. For a picnic, the group went to Cherokee Park in Louisville, KY. Edwin Hardy, who later became her husband, was the main source of transportation for the group from Paynesville when they met at Hibernia or the Hall home. At a New Year’s Eve party at the Hall home, Harold Bowyer and wife were married. One of them said “I do” in the past year and the other in the new year.

**1950’s Brother Joe Rowlett** was the minister. He was very active with the youth and had meetings every two weeks on Tuesday night. The congregation was the only one which had an active young peoples group in the Saluda area. Most of the youth members were students at Saluda High School and invited fellow students from other churches. The Taflinger family youth came from New Washington. The group had officers and conducted Bible contests, played charades, sponsored skating parties & picnics/wiener roasts, hiking at Clifty, and much to the amazement of today’s group, they would even play “poor pussy cat.”

**1964** Youth Officers were: Tommy Noble, president; Sheila Hyatt, vice president; Glen Bowman, sec/treas.

**1974** Quoted from *Paynesville Light*, January 7, 1974, *On the last Sunday in December we had a special treat. Two of the young men of the church each brought a message from God’s word. In the Morning service the singing for the Sunday School opening service was led by Sherry Cutshall. Then after returning, from classes Danny Lawson led the singing for the worship service and Loren Bair brought a stirring message from the Bible. In the evening service, Joyce Weber led our hearts in song and Danny Lawson expounded the Word with a Bible message.*

**1983 May** A wiener roast and game activity was held on April 26<sup>th</sup>. Also, the youth conducted the Sunday School Services on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

**1983 October 3** The youth conducted Sunday School Services. The following participated:

*Joey Simmonds, Amber Kloepfer, Marc Stanley, Rob Simmonds, Derran Stanley, and Jim Simmonds. The youth sang HAPPINESS IS. Jeffery Kelly helped with the flags.*

**1994 February Youth Rally** - The Youth Rally for January was held at the Paynesville Christian Church. Our guest speaker was Bob Grove who spoke on the 'Shopping Bag of Life.' He wanted to know if loving God was the most important thing in your life. We had about 50 people present but the home church cannot receive the bear, it was retained by Cross Plains.

**1994 June** The May youth rally was held at Florence Church of Christ... Paynesville brought home the trophy Bear as 23 attended from here.

**1995 December Senior Trip**, Senior High students traveled to Johnson Bible College the last weekend in October.



**Youth Group in the early 1990's**



## FALL EVENTS

**1949 November** *Yes! Everyone had a really fine time at the Halloween party for the congregation on the 28<sup>th</sup> of October. A good program was presented with refreshments at the end. You who missed it really missed something enjoyable!*

**1983 October** *All Saints Party. On November 1, the church is sponsoring a party to celebrate this particular time of year. Instead of costumes, there will be decorated hats with prizes awarded for the ugliest, prettiest, and the most original.*

**1993 November** *The All Saints party was held on October 29<sup>th</sup>. There were two hayrides and lots of games and food. We had a great turn out...*

**1998 November** *The All Saints Hayride was enjoyed by young and older. Doug Stanley drove the tractor for a tour of the Paynesville area. Choral singing by all complimented the beautiful moonlit night. Some stated that they had never been on a hayride before, while others recalled former rides. One lady commented that "John Glenn was up there somewhere." Refreshments and games followed.*



**Hayride 2006**

## MINISTERIAL INFORMATION

### Ministers of Paynesville Christian Church

<b>NAMES</b>	<b>TENURE</b>	<b>REMARKS</b>
W O S Cliffe	1907	Deceased. Held first evangelistic meeting establishing the church
McKane	1909	Deceased
John C Allen	1915 - 1926	Deceased. Served 11 years.
Enos Dowling	1927	Deceased
John W Ricketts	1920's	Deceased
Fred Daviess	1928	Deceased
Harold Dunson	1928	Deceased
Lawrence Layman	1934 - Feb. '37	Deceased
Russell Martin	1937 (6 months)	Deceased. First ministry here at age 18
Loyal Harris	1940 - 1945	Deceased. Served Kent and Payneville
Dixon Hall	Sept '45 - Feb '48	Deceased. Served Hibernia and Paynesville
Robert Hall	Mar '48 - June '50	Lives in Johnson City, TN
John Smelser	Spring '51 - Summer '52	Lives in Columbus, OH
Joe Rowlett	August '52 - Dec '55	Deceased
Charles Wooley	1956	Lives in Louisville, Ky
William Davis	1957	Lives in LaGrange, Ky

## Ministers of Paynesville Christian Church (con't)

Jerry Mc Kay	Summer '58	Lives in Memphis, IN
Ronald Barnes	1958 - 1959	Lives in Vincennes, IN
Amos Kendall	Spring '59 - '68	Deceased. Daughter Sharon lives in North Carolina
Mike Duree	Fall '68 - May '69	Deceased. Died in auto accident.
David Zollman	Summer '69	
George Uppling	Dec '69 - '72	Lives in North Vernon, IN
Jim Bowyer	Jan '72 - May '75	Lives in Clarksville, IN
Warren Brattain	July '75 - Nov '77	Lives in Erlanger, KY
John Penn	April '78 - Oct '79	Lives in Lady Lake, Florida
Bret Nealis	Jan '80 - Dec '80	Lives in Mason, OH
Mark SeEVERS	Nov 30, '80 - March 28, '82	Lives in West Portsmouth, OH
Don Farrell	1982 - '84	Deceased. Wife Glenda lives near Paris, IN
Tim Bond	1985 - Spring '87	Lives in Nashville, IN
Dan Corbin	Nov '87 - Aug. '98	Lives in North Vernon, IN
Joe McKay	Jan 2000 - present	Lives in Henryville, IN

Gilbert Matthews served as interim minister through many years, when no minister was employed. Deceased.

It has to be assumed that during periods of time that no minister is listed that there were guest speakers or worship service was not held.

**AUGUST 1998-JANUARY 2000** - Louisville Bible College supplied the ministers for each Sunday.

## **Names of the Minister's Wives:**

W O S Cliffe	Beatrice
John Allen	Eva Payne (2 <sup>nd</sup> , first wife died)
Enos Dowling	Thelma Laverne King of North Vernon, IN.
Harold Dunson	Mary Louise Layman
Lawrence Layman	Eileen
Russell Martin	Alta Casey
Loyal E Harris	Ida Coots
Dixon Hall	Edith
John Smelser	Mary
Joe Rowlett	Eleanor
Charles Wooley	Frances
Amos Kendall	Elizabeth, daughter Sharon
George Uppling	Bert
Jim Bowyer	Rhonda McKay
Warren Brattain	Vicki
John Penn	Brenda
Brett Nealis	Daphne
Mark SeEVERS	Cheri
Don Farrell	Glenda
Tim Bond	Pam
Dan Corbin	Denise
Joe McKay	Velma Banta

## OFFICERS

**Elders:** John Maddex (grandfather of Gwen Bowman), Andy Huttzell, Boris Hearn, Allen Miles, Himes Hardy, Bill Dawson, Lindley Lawson, Edgar Palmer, Dallas Hardy, Dow Eldridge, Tom Noble, Claude H. Hardy, Omer Hardy, Loren Bair, Leon Hostetler, Wilmer “Sandy” Newman.

**Deacons:** Gwen Bowman, Amos Bowman, Dallas J Hardy, Lee Smith, Harvey Baker, Allen Dew, Jim Strickland, J C Maddex, J G Rankin, Lindley Lawson, Sherley Harsin.

### 1985 November Ordination Report:

On Nov 10, three men were ordained as officers of the church. The service was conducted by John Penn, former minister of the church. John was assisted by another



former minister, George Uppling. George brought greetings and a message from Bro Sandy Newman, whom he and John had visited prior to the service and who was unable to attend. Bro Tim Bond, the present minister, aided in the ‘laying on of hands’ portion of the service. New Officers: Loren Bair, Elder; Leon Hostetler, Elder; Gwen Bowman, Deacon.

**Elders: Omer Hardy, Sandy Newman and Claude Hardy**

**January 26, 2003** Deacon Ordination The deacons are to be spiritual and in tune with the elders and seek to assist them in implementing the goals of the local church. On this date during worship service, Lee Smith, was ordained as a deacon. Brother Joe McKay's sermon topic was from I Timothy 3, titled "Effective Biblical Leadership". Bro Joe had a reading followed by prayers and the laying on of hands by Bro Joe, Loren Bair, and Mitch Hutchins. The congregation is pleased and blessed to have Lee as a leader.

**March 25, 2007** Installation Brother Joe McKay's sermon preceding the service was titled, "The role of a Leader." Allen Dew was installed as deacon following the acceptance given orally by the congregation and Mr Dew. The officers of the congregation, Elder, Loren Bair; Deacon, Lee Smith; and Bro Joe McKay performed the formal service by the 'laying on of hands' and prayer.

## **EARLY EVANGELISTS**

1925 Morris Lively, 1926 William Snyder, 1927 Enos Dowling, 1928 F R Davies, 1929 Harold Dunson, 1933 W F Friend & Harold Dunson, 1936 Ralph Cope, 1937 Russell Martin and Harold Haussem, song leader, 1937 Horace Dabney and Gene Barbee, song leader, 1946 Marion Railing, 1948 Henry Webb and Robert Hall, song leader, 1950 T G Burke and Robert Hall, song leader, 1951 Robert Smelser, 1952 Paul Smith.

**Later years** Charles Wooley, Joe McKay, Clyde True, Michael Gillespie, Bill Wines, Ron Barnes, Ted Kaiser, Gene Kitts, Dave Stone, Phil Lamaster, and multiple others. Revivals were held almost every year. In the early years, one would last for weeks and called "protracted meetings". Later years, the revivals were held in July when the crops were "laid by" and would last two weeks. In the recent years, a fall revival has been held, sometimes called a "preaching festival" and only lasts a few days with different evangelist each service.

✠ "A Faithful Saying: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." ✠

~ I Timothy 1:15

## REVIVALS

**1924** Following a revival in the fall of 1924, Mrs Thelma Lawson and Mrs Olive Lawson joined the congregation.

**1925 August 6** *A protracted meeting was begun at the Payneville Christian church Monday night. Rev Lively will fill the pulpit each night up to Saturday night After that date, Brother Allen will preach. The public is invited to attend. Three additions by statement and five by baptism.*

**1926** A revival was held from September 13<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> by Rev William Snyder at the Payneville Christian Church with the following additions: Irvin Taylor, Mrs Irwin Taylor, Harold Hardy, Crystal Maddex, Dean Eldridge, John Tillie, Jacob Snyder, Mrs Clapp, Jewel Hooker, Wilma Bare, Mrs. Beryl Hardy, Amos Bowman.

**1927** Beginning September 15th-29th Rev Dowling held a meeting in the Payneville Christian Church, Receiving the following additions by baptizing: Mrs Stella Bowman, Mr John Consley.

**1928** Beginning August 20<sup>th</sup> to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September, Rev F R Davies held a meeting at the Payneville Christian Church. Receiving the following by baptism: Miss Sara Alice Noell.

**1929** Beginning August 12- 25<sup>th</sup>, Rev Harold Dunson held a revival meeting and received by baptism: Miss Sophia Hutsell, Virginia Bare, Virgie Bare, Maxine West, Ruth Montgomery, Lilyan Benham, Doris Taylor; by letter: Mr Melvin Bare, and Mrs Mae Bare.

Ruth Montgomery Reed recalls the event: *I was baptized at Paynesville Christian Church when Rev Harold Dunson preached here.*

**1931** Revival services were held in August by Rev Harold Dunson, received by baptism: Arnold Snyder, Neva Noell, Hettie Williams, Della Crafton, Frank Taylor, Mrs Lulu Brooks, and Forest Cobb.

**1933** Revival Services were held at Paynesville Christian Church in August, conducted by Rev W F Friend and Harold L Dunson. Receiving by baptism: Doris Bare,

Ernest Bare, Junior Noell, J B Noell, Rosie Williams, Leroy Sutherland, Robert McDonald, Mrs Mamie Eldridge, and by letter, George Oakley. Soon after the services close, the church will give an entertainment.

**1934 August 1** *A series of meetings will be held at Payneville Christian Church. August 8 The series of meetings will be postponed due to the auto accident of Bro Dunson. He is recuperating at his home in Crothersville.*

**1935 September 26** *Mrs L Dow Eldridge entertained Mr and Mrs Corwin Benham and daughters, Reverend Cope and Bro Lawrence Layman, who had conducted a revival at Payneville Christian Church.*

**1936 August 9-23** Lawrence Layman was evangelist. *The meetings will begin at 8 pm. Special song service is arranged for each evening. Public cordially invited.* The meeting was well attended, one addition by baptism, Miss Goldie Berry; three by letter, Mrs. Claude Hooker, Mrs Lona Arbuckle, Mrs Nannie Arbuckle.

**1937 Big Evangelistic Meeting at Payneville** *Hear the Cincinnati Preacher in the Great Evangelistic Meeting at Payneville Church of Christ beginning, Sunday August 22. New Testament Preachin., Song Service, Home Coming on Sunday, September 5<sup>th</sup>. R L Martin, Evangelist from Cincinnati Bible Seminary will preach. Topics, "The Payoff," "Three answers to the same question," and "Why so many Churches?"*

**1938** A revival was held at the church by minister, Russell Martin, evangelist was Gene Barbee, and song leader was Horace Dabney. Mr Dabney was instrumental in the establishment of Southeast Christian Church and was honored at NACC as "mentor to Bob Russell, the minister." From his records, he stated that the average attendance per night was 225 persons with 12 additions by baptism. He was a student at Cincinnati Bible College. There is a large photo of this revival taken on the front steps. Juanita Taylor was baptized at this time and her hair was wet in the photo.

**1949** The second summer that Robert Hall was ministering at the church, Bro Henry Webb, with his family, was the evangelist. The revival was usually held in July and began at 8 pm so the farmers could complete the evening milking chores. Juanita Taylor Hardy recalls that Robert stayed in the Taylor family home just north of Tryus



Church. The Webb family lived in a trailer parked under the trees in the yard. Water was available from a deep well near the house. The group played so many badminton games in the front yard during those two weeks that grass no longer could be sighted on the court. It was at this revival that Mrs Henry Webb, who was an accomplished vocalist, sang a song on the rostrum in front of the pulpit. This caused consternation among the members, as only men had been sanctioned to be in that location.

**1949** From *The Christian Messenger Revival Success- The Lord has indeed richly blessed us in our evangelistic efforts in this congregation. Our attendance during the meeting averaged over 80 with the largest attendance of 125. Every person present thrilled at the wonderful gospel messages brought to us each service by Brother Henry Webb. The congregational singing was very fine and we were inspired by many special numbers. We had three additions to our congregation. Miss Louise Means, transferring her membership from the New Prospect Baptist Church, Mr Ramon Newman, confessing his faith in Christ as his Savior and being baptized, and Mr Harvey Baker, coming to us from the Mt Zion Methodist Church and completing his obedience to Christ in Christian baptism. We wish to thank again everyone who made the meeting a success. It is up to every member now to work for further victories for Christ during the coming autumn season. This now brings the number of additions in 1949 to nine.*

**1953** For two weeks during July, the congregation held a revival with Bro Lawrence Layman and his family being housed at the home of Claude and Beryl Hardy. There were five of them including a young lady from the Kiamichi Mountains, who was a student in a Christian College. The Hardy Farm house did not have modern facilities or air conditioning. As recalled, the ladies did the laundry by hauling the water from the church and hanging the clothes on the line for a total of eight persons. The Hardy family prepared breakfast for them but members of the church hosted the family for dinner (noon) and supper. The men of the church made house calls with Bro Layman.

**1955** In 1955, three Sutherland family members, Alethea, Hubert, and Everett were baptized in a farm pond which was owned by Agnes and Sherley Harsin near Chelsea. The congregation parked their cars so that the headlights were the used for lighting.

The minister was Joseph Rowlett, and the evangelist was Lawrence Layman. At that time, the ministers felt that it was important that the baptizing be completed as soon as possible.

**1960-1964** Emmily Bair Enyart recalls the revivals held in the early 1960's: *As a teenager at the time I remember attending the revival meetings at Paynesville Christian Church. They were held in the evenings for a week in August. There was always joyful singing and preaching that stirred the soul if one was really listening and open to God. I went forward in one of the meetings in 1962 at the age of 16. Baptisms were held on the following Sunday afternoon at the Christian Church in North Madison. I wore a white blouse and skirt and remember my Grandmother telling me "to make sure that I get the top of my head wet or I wasn't completely baptized." Also, I remember it was always hot and we would use the hand fans with fervor, that a local funeral home had furnished the church. We referred to them as the "funeral fans."*

**1963** Revival Service was held by Paul and Shirley Lanham, missionaries from Brazil, South America. They were assisted by the regular pastor, Rev Amos Kendall and a student from Brazil, who was attending the Cincinnati Bible Seminary. Those who were baptized; Jeffrey Bowman, Nancy Bowman, Judy Bowman, Glen Bowman, Mrs Sophronia Hooker, and on September 8<sup>th</sup>, Joe Noble and by letter, Tommy Noble. It was stated by Mrs Hooker's daughter, Betty, that her mother wanted to become a member at Paynesville before she died.

**1986 April 11-13** Dave Stone, who was a student at Cincinnati Bible College, was the evangelist. The theme of the Revival was "Spiritual Maturity." Special music was brought to the services by a group named "New Hope."



“Restore us again, O God of salvation, and put away  
Your indignation toward us. Will You not revive us again,  
so that Your people may rejoice in You? Show us Your steadfast love,  
O Lord, and grant us Your salvation.” ~Psalm 85:4, 6, 7

## MINISTERIAL HISTORY

**Walter Orville Stephen Cliffe** was born June 10, 1873 at “Cliffe Mansion,” which is two miles south of Jeromeville, OH. Being of sturdy English stock and spending 18 years on the farm. He was prepared to confront the difficult problems of acquiring an education. He graduated from the Michel Art College, attended the School of the Evangelists; later attended Hiram College, and completed supplemental work at Drake University. He began his work in the ministry of Church of Christ churches in 1896. In 1918, he performed “one year of war work.” He died March 31, 1947 at Compton, California. He stated that his average salary for 25 years was about \$800.00 per annum. No descendants.

**Enos Everett Dowling** was born 1905 and died on March 25, 1997 at the age of 92 in Illinois. He was a native of Lawrence County, In. He arrived at North Vernon, Indiana, shortly after a tornado had destroyed the church building and the services had to be held in a store building. He stated in an interview that “I heard the gospel at the Christian Church and it was simple to understand.” His education included Cincinnati Bible Institute, Vincennes University, Hanover College, Butler University 1943, and University of Illinois. Information from Hanover College states that he graduated in 1929. In his early years, he majored in Theological Studies. He was a minister for several churches in southern Indiana. He was a song writer and compiled the largest collection of hymns written by Restoration Movement people in the world. The collection is housed at Lincoln Christian College. He restored, compiled and reprinted more than thirty volumes of the early Stone-Campbell Movement. He had two children, Kingsley and Anita.

**Fred R Davies** an evangelist, who was at the Paynesville church, was discussed in an article in the *Christian Standard*. Brother Davies was an Englishman who became an American citizen and worked on the North Vernon church building with Dowling. Brother Davies was the district evangelist. Dowling described Davies as “hair prematurely gray, head held high, a robust figure, and I can almost hear him lustily singing, “I love to Tell the Story.” He was born in Liverpool, England October 11, 1874. He immigrated to the United States in 1899. He attended Johnson Bible Col-

lege and the Presbyterian Seminary in Louisville, KY. He married Mary Belle Sharp in 1904. He was minister at Charlestown, Clifty, Lexington, and New Washington, Indiana. He was the state evangelist for the Southeastern District of Indiana and Chaplain in World War I, 167th infantry. Reverend Davies was the minister at New Washington Christian Church during the chaplaincy.

**John W Ricketts** was born April 30, 1894, began his ministry in 1915. His last recorded address was Columbus, Ohio in 1925. He was an evangelist most of time. Ministry records in 1913 indicated that he had lost his right foot.

**John C Allen** was the minister during the time period of 1915-1926. A sketchy biography has been gathered. He and his second wife, Eva Payne, lived in or about New Washington. In various obituaries, Brother Allen was listed as conducting the burial service. In the newspaper it was mentioned that he had made renovations to his home in New Washington. In one article it was reported that the New Washington High School students' performance of a play, "speaks well of the training they have received under Prof Sanford Murphy and Mr John C Allen. The name of the play was "Pauline" presented in June of 1917. In October of 1918, a card of thanks was extended to Bro John Allen in regards to the burial service for Henry Clay Palmer.

**Loyal E Harris** was the minister of Kent and Paynesville. He was born June 26, 1864 and died March 16, 1949 in Julesburg, CO. He had been in the ministry for 45 years. He had been an evangelist and a minister with churches in Southern Indiana, Kentucky, and Colorado. The funeral services were held in Colorado and Mitchell, Indiana with Gilbert Matthews officiating.

**Robert B Hall** was the minister in 1948 to summer of 1950. Bob came to Paynesville with the help of his uncle Dixon Hall. Dixon had been called to go to First Christian Church in Scottsburg. He preached at Paynesville two Sundays per month as it could not afford full time service. The other two Sundays, he went to Sonora Christian Church in KY and later to Birdseye, IN. Bob traveled from Cincinnati, where he was studying for the ministry, to Louisville, his home on Friday evening. He came to Paynesville by bus on Sunday. Often times in the winter he would walk from the

highway through snow to the church building. He would even start the fire in the stove to warm the building for services. He left Paynesville in 1950 to minister at White Mills, KY in a full time pastorate. During this time, he attended Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and continued his studies at Butler, where he received a Master of Divinity. He married Velma Jean Jones in 1954, while pastoring at Ogilville Christian Church near Columbus, IN. Other graduate degrees included Vanderbilt, East Tennessee State, and University of Tennessee where he obtained a PhD. He was called to the faculty of Milligan College in Johnson City, TN where he taught for 27 years and retired in 1994. He taught at Springdale College in Birmingham, England three times. He was in the Tennessee National Guard for 30 years. Presently, he teaches an adult Sunday School class at Grandview Christian Church in Johnson City, TN. He and Velma have three children: Kathy, Bob, John, and three grandchildren: Colby, Kylie, and Anna Katherine.

**Morris Lively** was a minister in the area, who held various revivals. He was called in August of 1925 to serve as Chaplain in the army and attached to the Officers Reserve Corp in Charlestown. In one article, it was noted that he was *of the School of Missions*.

**Lawrence K Layman** was the minister at Paynesville from 1934 to 1937. He was born in Commiskey, IN and died December 30, 1997 in Chickasha, OK. He attended Cincinnati Bible Seminary graduating with a Masters' Degree in Theology in 1937. He married B Eileen Smith in 1936. In 1947 he and his family went as missionaries to southeastern Oklahoma until 1976. He started four new churches and was co-director of Kiamichi Mountain Christian Mission and Clinic. He was a writer of books and plays for young people. He was a founder of Artesia Christian College in Artesia, AZ. There were three children born to this union: Gary, Mark, and Linda. Mark often comes to Paynesville and speaks about his missionary work in many parts of the world.

While **Brother Lawrence Layman** was ministering, he was in a member's home for a meal. One of the young family members said to Lawrence, "May I have a roll?" To which Lawrence replied, "Yes, you may, there's the floor, just roll over

as many times as you wish,” followed by a hearty laugh. From his son Mark: During his ministry at Paynesville, he did not have a car and he hitchhiked to fill the pulpits. Once when he was hitchhiking, he was picked up by two fellows who were somewhat inebriated. When they found out he was on his way to preach they began singing hymns. Lawrence said that they were not good singers and slurred their words.

**John Smelser** was the minister in 1951 and 1952. His wife Mary shared these memories as he had a stroke in 1998 and is not able to speak or walk. They live at Worthington Christian Village, Columbus, Ohio. *The memories I have of the church there is, that John began preaching while in Bible College (Cincinnati University) maybe for two years. It was only every other week and sometimes I wondered if we would make it from Cincinnati to there or not as the roads were so icy at times. I remember Mr and Mrs Hardy and eating delicious dinners on those Sundays. Preaching there and another church part time gave John his start in the ministry. We worked as missionaries in the Buffalo, NY area for a few years, also in Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio.* They had three sons and one daughter. Their son, Gary, is shown in the photo disc swinging at the Hardy Farm.

**Mark Seevers** served the congregation for about two years. *I can still remember the kind, encouraging words that Mr Claude Hardy and so many others gave me in those early days of ministry.* He and Cheri, were married in November of 1982. Since his graduation from Cincinnati Bible College, they have served in three different congregations. Presently, he is the Senior Minister at Dry Run Church of Christ in West Portsmouth, Ohio and has been since 1989. They have three children: Ashley who is 21 and attending Shawnee State University, Austin is 18 and is a high school senior, and Aaron is in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Joe McKay** has been the minister since January, 2000. *Greetings in the Name of Christ! It hardly seems possible that it has been over seven years since I came to Paynesville as minister. How quickly time flies! There have been years of blessing for Velma and me. Our fellowship among you has enriched our lives. Looking at the larger picture in the life of the congregation, how quickly one hundred years came to pass. Many who have served in the past have gone on to*

*be with the Lord, and God has provided others to take up the challenges before us, so it must always be in the work of Christ. May God bless and lead us together to make the most of the opportunities before us as we enter into the second century of the work and service of Paynesville Christian Church.*

**1948** During the tenure of **Brother Dixon Hall**, who was serving the congregations of Paynesville and Hibernia, a sunrise service was held for both congregations on Easter Sunday. The congregations gathered for the service early on the hill southeast of his home, where he had constructed three crosses. It was most memorable for all. Dixon, his wife, Edith, and five children lived north of Hibernia on the west side of Highway 62 near New Washington. The children were Dixie, Doris, Jim, Bill and Richard.

**Brother Joe Rowlett's** notes: Minutes of September 8, 1954 *Brother Claude Hardy moved that a church letter of circular type be mailed to all members for the purpose of informing them of progress of building program and to enlighten them of our future needs. Motion carried. Finance committees approved by the board were: To survey Madison merchants; Claude Hardy, Albert Monroe, and Amos Bowman. To survey merchants in New Washington. Claude Hardy, Omer Hardy. To survey Hanover merchants: Wilmer Newman, Fred Basham. By unanimous vote the board agreed to lock the church building when not in use. The meeting was closed with prayer by Brother Claude Hardy.*

*The board of Elders and Deacons of Paynesville Christian Church met at the church building January 13, 1955 at 7:30 pm. The meeting was opened by prayer by Brother Basham. The following members were present: Wilmer Newman, elder; Amos Bowman, deacon; Harvey Baker, deacon; Fred Basham, treasurer of building committee; and Joe Rowlett minister. Minister's report: 17 sermons, 4 sermons in homes by tape recorder, 1 hospital call, 5 school classes, 4 Christian Endeavor meetings, 2 J C C Y meetings, 2 C E committee meetings, 1 New Year's watch party, 1 Christmas program, 7 prayer meetings. 38 pastoral calls, and 9 Sunday School lessons." Minutes of March 10, 1955: Upon the resignation of Brother Fred Basham as member and treasurer of the building committee, Brother Sherley Harsin, deacon, was elected to fill this office. A total of \$37.01*

balance in the building fund has been properly transferred to Mr Harsin. Minutes of May 12, 1955: motion passed to pay \$5.00 per person for children who will attend Whitewater Christian Service Camp in August. This is to be furnished 50% by church treasury and 50% by Sunday School. Revival advertising committee will be composed of James Bates and Harvey Baker. Minutes of June 19, 1955: Brother Amos Bowman reports that Mike Stucker has been contacted to complete the wiring of the new fuse box in the main auditorium soon. Minutes of September 1955: In appreciation of the work and effort of the minister, Brother Rowlett, the Board recognized his labor by voting a raise in salary of \$5.00 per week. Brother Rowlett expressed his appreciation for this act of confidence and Christian love.

**George Uppling** shares the following thoughts: *To the Christian Brothers and Sisters at Paynesville Christian Church. Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Congratulations on your church's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the year of our Lord 2007. Hard work and a commitment to be faithful to the word of God has allowed the Paynesville Christian Church to be blessed and continue to share the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ throughout the community and the world. As a new Christian at the age of 28, I felt called to study at the Louisville Bible College to learn more about the word of God and the Christian way of life. Even as a new student and convert, the Paynesville Christian church under the eldership of Claude Hardy, Sandy Newman, and Omer Hardy approached me at the college one day to try out for the preaching duties at the church. The best thing that happened to me as a new Christian was to be encouraged by these elders to preach the word. I will never forget the great fellowship with these men as we traveled to the Kiamichi Mountains of Oklahoma to hear some of the best preaching and singing by Christian men this side of Heaven. Good fellowship has always been the theme of the brethren of the Church at Paynesville and still is today. Over the many years Paynesville Christian Church has nurtured many young preachers who went on to accomplish great and mighty works for the Lord. Although small in size and numbers, the church has been a big influence throughout the years for the kingdom of God*



*and continues today, Praise the Lord! Some say that small churches have little influence in this world today, but don't tell the members of the Paynesville Christian Church that because they will prove you wrong. May we never forget those folks that served the Lord at Paynesville in the past and those now serving and those that will serve in the future and the good things God can accomplish with a few people that are faithful and willing to follow Him. May God's Blessings continue to be with the Christians that serve Him at Paynesville and just think of that great reunion someday when we get to heaven, what a day of rejoicing that will be! Your brother in Christ, George Uppling*

**Harold Dunson** wrote these recollections: *I preached my first sermon on Mother's Day 1929. Bro Lindley Lawson, an elder, took me home for dinner. He lived in Hanover. He told me that I would be hired if I would hold a revival. I had never held a revival but he continued to insist. I agreed but drove to Detroit, Michigan and got my mother to help me with the moral support and guidance that I needed. God blessed our efforts and there were 10 additions. How well I remember the men filling the baptistery by taking turns in pumping water by hand from the well. I recall that Ora Hearne said to me afterward that she was going to tell Fred R Davies, the State district Evangelist, that we could hold a revival without him. It seems that he had refused to hold one because the Payneville Church couldn't pay enough money into the state Disciples of Christ Treasury. One Sunday I shall never forget. It was the second Sunday in March, 1932. It was cold and Mary Louise and I were entertained in the home of the Eldridge's (Dow and Grace) who lived just east of the Hearne store in Payneville. As I recall Mr Eldridge was a school teacher. An elderly gentleman by the name of John Bare was also a guest for dinner. We leisurely ate dinner and visited until mid afternoon when Mr Eldridge suggested we had better go start the Delco light plant and get it warmed up for the night service, since it was blowing a little snow. This we did and returned and ate supper. At church time we five went to church and noted the weather was worse. No one else came for the service. However, I didn't stay in the pulpit to preach but stood in front of the pews and preached to the four who were present in order to earn my salary. I was feeling disappointed that Claude Hardy, the church treasurer, didn't come.*

(Claude would have had his pay.) *The Eldridges urged us to stay all night with them but we wanted to get back to Kent. My wife, Mary Lou, was reluctant to be away from home and was not happy about it and did not understand why we couldn't dig the snow out. It was several miles to Kent. Little did we realize that the north and south roads were drifted over. After getting stuck in snow drifts three times we made it back to Corwin and Lilyan Benham's home (at Saluda) and woke them up. Corwin got me a pair of his long winter underwear to put on and we stayed the rest of the night with them. The Dunsons were attempting to return to Kent, where they lived in a parsonage. Payneville and Kent shared the ministers for several years. Many rural churches only had services twice a month for financial and ministerial availability. The old Delco light plant gave me some anxious moments, when it would konk out and leave us in the dark. I soon learned to have my sermons pretty well in hand and not to depend too much on notes. One of the fondest memories I have was that of Claude Hardy's grandmother (Julia Arbuckle Hardy, wife of Himes) always sitting in the second pew from the front on the right side from the pulpit, eagerly waiting for me to come into the building, and when I reached her she would always say to me, "I glimpsed ye as soon as you came in." That dear soul was a great inspiration me, a young minister who needed encouragement. Another vivid memory of the Payneville church was your Thanksgiving dinner. That first year one of the church boys from Kent where I was living wanted to go with me and I was happy to have him, since at that time I wasn't married. It seems that the boy had run his traps that morning and had caught a skunk. I, having no sense of smell, was unaware of this until Claude came to me and wanted to know who the boy was and he told me about the skunk's offensive odor on the boy. ☺*

**Russell Martin** tells this story about Corene Consley. She lived near Paynesville but had to walk on the muddy or dirt roads. Therefore, she carried her shoes so that they would not be soiled. The church had an outside pump in a very deep well. She would then wash her feet under the pump and put on her shoes. He told this in the Kiamichi Mountains of Oklahoma and embarrassed Claude and Beryl Hardy but he thought it to be very amusing. He served at Paynesville for six months in 1937. He was ordained that same year at Fairview Church of Christ,

Ohio and married Alta Casey on September 6, 1938. Martin graduated from CBS in 1940 with a BA. In 1945 he went to Miami, OK and ministered there for 27 years. Prior to Oklahoma, he traveled as an evangelist and revival preacher and one of his “Timothies” was Reggie Thomas. A quote attributed to him, “Christ has no hands but our hands to do His work today. He has no hands but our hands to lead men His way.” He died February 17, 1988 at the age of 69.

**Warren Brattain** shares these thoughts. *The people at Paynesville made me feel welcome from day one and I appreciated that. I remember people like, Claude and Beryl Hardy, Sandy Newman, Reno Taylor and Loren and Debbie Bair. Some other names are Juanita, Jonita, Arleen, and Dallas Hardy. It has been 30 years so my memory is not exact. As this was my first ministry, these were my firsts: one baptism Edith Stanley, two weddings, and one funeral were events that I will always remember. Congratulations on the first 100 years and may God bless you all in the next 100 as well.*

**John Penn April 1978-October 1979.** John is a Hoosier reared in Elkart, Indiana. He graduated from Purdue University and worked as an engineer until called into the Army and served two years mostly in Arizona. “There he gave his life to Christ and at the urging of his preacher enrolled at Cincinnati Bible Seminary after leaving the Army. At CBS he met his wife-to-be Brenda Singleton from Kentucky. They began their ministry in Holton, Indiana and moved there and preached for 3 ½ years. During which time, Jeffery was born. While at Holton, they met George and Bert Uppling, who were living in North Vernon.

John joined George in the Christian Bookstore business in the early 1970’s. John then ministered for a while at a small church south of Salem, IN. Having left there, he was called to fill in for a few Sundays at Paynesville. The family, now including new-born, Michael, were asked to stay. Already, knowing and loving some of the Paynesville folks and the distance not so great, John accepted the call and ministered for 1 ½ years. Memorable times were enjoyed both there and far away at the Kiamichi Clinic with some of the Paynesville men and boys. God also granted the adding of some souls to His Kingdom and to Paynesville Chris-

tian Church. John began a new career in sales with a company in Columbus, Indiana. The family served several churches either in the ministry or as worship leaders at Burnsville, North Vernon, and Jonesville. John and Brenda accepted a call to serve as full-time associate minister in Lady Lake, Florida. They have been there two years. Michael and wife Daimy live in Naples, Florida and Jeffrey and wife Tamara teach at a mission school in Panama City, Panama. John and Brenda are both young at heart and active in church service.

**Brother Amos Kendall** was the minister during the 1960's. He, his wife, Elizabeth and daughter, Sharon came to the church on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month. He was employed at a furniture factory near New Albany. Some one in the church would sign up to have dinner for them. Sharon lives in Charlotte, North Carolina. The following are some memories: *I remember how excited Dad was when it was decided that he would accept the position at the Paynesville Church. It was the culmination of a dream for him, and it nearly broke his heart when he had to leave. He really loved everyone there. It was just a little different for Mother and me. Mother was working full-time and taking care of her mother, who was gravely ill. She spent every Saturday caring for her for several years. It did not leave her much time for anything else. As for me, I was so excited to be graduating from high school and enrolling at Hanover College that everything else took second place. All of us loved getting to know you all at Paynesville.* Sharon included a photo of a Christmas pageant taken during their tenure and it is on the church photo disc.



“The works of the Lord are great,  
Studied by all who have pleasure in them.  
His work is honorable and glorious,  
And His righteousness endures forever.  
He has made His wonderful works to be remembered;  
The Lord is gracious and full of compassion.”

~ Psalm 111:2-4

# MEMORIES

## ORAL RECOLLECTIONS

**Church Well** A sucker pump was in a very deep well on the south east corner adjacent to the building. The water from the well was cold and of the sweetest taste. The community of Paynesville and surrounding area depended on the well for its water. Archie Stucker maintained the pump for many years as a service for all the users. The members of the congregation, who lived some distance, would haul water to their homes during periods of drought. One member recalls that two ten gallon milk cans were taken on Sunday morning, filled with the precious fluid and this was the drinking water for the week. Many persons, particularly young people, would wash their cars there. On Sunday morning when services were being conducted, women mostly, but sometimes men, would come and pump water. Through the open windows in the summer with each pump of the handle, the sucker would make a very loud squeaky noise. This noise was most disruptive to the minister and the congregation during the services; however, some young people snickered. From notes of a meeting in 1954, the board voted to allow the Anderson Family to repair and use the old pump in the well on the east side of the church building. In 1975, when the members decided to install indoor plumbing, there was a decision made to maintain the pump as a community service. The congregation was instrumental in getting the water line. The water was brought to Paynesville and later a number of other households joined. Thus, the pump was removed. As this memory is recalled, the meeting of the Samaritan woman and Christ comes to mind. Just a thought: maybe, the water from this well was a good evangelistic tool which was never pumped.

**1921 Evaleigh Bair Stillhammer** related this memory as a ten year old.

*I, Pauline Beach, and Mrs. Eliza Smith were baptized at the Christian Church at Madison. Johnny Allen was the minister.” She recalled that Lilly Haycock and husband, Will Wilson, were baptized first. It was of interest that a cousin Elsie Berry and husband William Wheat and Flo Berry came to the baptizing in a horse and buggy.*

**1920s** A story related by **Agnes Leland Kimberlin** as a child. When she was eight or nine years of age, she often sang in various community programs. As she recalled, Daisy McFadden, a lady in the community took her home from New Bethel church. Mrs McFadden put one of her daughter's dresses on Agnes and took her to Paynesville Christian Church to sing. She sang, "Tell Mother I'll Be There." Agnes's mother had taught her the song, which had a lot of verses. As she was singing, she saw the older people crying. At that age, she did not understand the reason for sorrow.

**1960s & 1970s** **Martha Taylor McNeely** notes the following memories. Hildreth Cleffman stopped by her home and took her to church every Sunday. Her aunt Doris Taylor was a strong witness in studying the Word, had faithful church attendance, was a Sunday School teacher, and cared for others. To her, Olive Lawson was a servant and teacher of the Word. She would tell the Lord that she would give all the money that she made from a project for a church fund. Olive would chuckle and say "the Lord is working me to death." Claude and Beryl Hardy were faithful and sincere servants. All the youth that attended when I did were an inspiration to me.

**Marguerite Lawson Baugh** shared these memories. *I was baptized in 1953 by a young man who stayed with my Uncle Lindley Lawson, who lived next door to the church. My friend and I were baptized in the Ohio River at Bowyer's landing. My uncle was always interested in the Christian Church and it is my understanding that he helped out financially on occasions when there wasn't enough money to the pay the preacher. He built the large three tiered concrete steps in the 1940's.*

**Lindley Richard Lawson** was an elder at the church for many years. His wife, **Dora Pender Lawson**, was active in the ladies organization. The information about Lindley was submitted by his great grandsons, Mark and Danny Lawson. Lindley was born in February of 1871 and married Dora in 1890. Lindley was a farmer and a rural mail carrier for 30 years before retiring in 1935. He originally ran the route by using a horse and buggy, but finished his career in an automobile. He was instrumental in the founding of the church in 1907 and was a charter member. It has been related that during meditation prayer, he would not only ask God to forgive our "amissions as well as our omissions." Older members of the church recalled that Lindley arrived at church early every Sunday morning so that he could wind the clock that hung on the wall in the

front of the church. (The clock is in the fellowship hall.) Dora died in 1942 and Lindley on July 11, 1951 and was buried at Mt Zion. His son, Hallie, married **Olive Brooks**. She moved to Paynesville after her husband's death and lived in a house east of the church previously occupied by Sarah Jane Lawson. Olive was very devoted to the activities of the church and to the children of Paynesville. She was a seamstress and used those talents to benefit the kingdom of God. She nurtured the flora and fauna which remains on the property as of 2007. She died in December of 2000.

Recollections of **Martha Basham**, *I was baptized in the Ohio River in August of 1952. Joe Rowlett was the minister and Lawrence Layman was the evangelist. My mother was Clara and my stepfather was Fred Basham. Harold Harsin invited me to go to the youth group with him. I'm grateful he cared enough to introduce me to the Lord. Signed Martha Ratliff.*

**Harold Harsin's** story of baptism, *I recall going down to the Ohio River for a baptism when I was baptized along with others in the river. I was maybe 9 or 10 years old and when the minister dipped me backward into the river, I struggled as I was thinking that I was drowning and he had to do it twice because he hadn't held me down long enough to suit him!* According to records, it was 1952, John Smelser was the minister and Paul Smith was the evangelist.

**2002 January Memories by Reno Taylor, Resident Artist** *I met Harold "Bud" Taylor at an Elizabeth Church supper. We went to all kinds of church doings, pie suppers, etc. We attended Paynesville Christian Church. I was baptized in the Ohio River, in the 1940's. Sandy Newman lived near the landing, where we were baptized. There were four or five of us who joined at that time. I joined Ladies Aide at that time. I have*



PAYNESVILLE CHRISTIAN  
CHURCH 1907  
RENO TAYLOR

*been vice-president several times. Bud passed away in 1988. I still sing and play the guitar at church, nursing homes and senior citizens. May the Lord Bless and Keep the ones who read this. Snow is on the ground now. Except for the tragedy on September 11<sup>th</sup>, we all enjoyed Christmas with family and friends. Reno*

**1940's** Sara Noell Nighbert recalls that Mr Lindley Lawson was the elder who tended the communion on each Lord's Day. At that time, the congregation only had services part time. Following the Lord's Supper, Mr. Lawson had the congregation always sing "God will take care of you" and closed each evening service with "Till we meet again." Sara stated that her paternal grandmother, Alice Arbuckle Noell joined the church in 1907. *I remember Mamie Hutsell being my teacher and we sat in the east end of the long pew just north of the stove on the east side of church. Our legs swung in the air because our feet wouldn't touch the floor. I remember sitting in church with my grandma, Alice Arbuckle Noell.*

**In the 1940's** Edwin Hardy recalls that the Wilber Davis Family from the Bethel Church community near New Washington would sing for many revivals and special occasions. He noted that Lonnie Consley always sat in a particular pew. Edwin noted that Corwin Benham, a Saluda teacher and active in the church, stated that the church had the best acoustics in the area. It has been noted by many musical and singing groups that the volume of their microphones did not have to be turned so high because of the building's acoustics. Edwin and Juanita Hardy brought to mind the locations of the Sunday School classes in the 1930's. The young boys and girls were separated and placed in the little rooms on the sides of the rostrum. They agreed that the boys met in the east one and the girls on the west, also, the green wooden chairs were used by the girls and the red ones by the boys. Edwin's teacher was Mrs Grace West and in his class were J B Noell, Junior Noell, and, Bobby Norris. Edwin had been given a vaccine shot and his arm was very swollen and sore. In that very small room, someone hit his arm and caused great discomfort.

**In 1963** Olive Lawson asked Edwin to plant trees on her west boundary line with the church parking lot. He planted water maples and was paid \$20.00. As a youngster in the 1930's, Edwin recalls a group of ministers were visiting at his parents' home from Savannah, GA. He was impressed with their conversation regarding segregation.



Records indicate that most of the persons, who were the original organizers of the new congregation, had been members of other churches in the community. Only five members were received by baptism at the close of the meeting in 1907. **William and Lucinda Arbuckle**, and **Himes A Hardy** were in the membership records for New Bethel Baptist Church (now Methodist). Himes was a clerk and Marion Noell was an elder. Himes and Julia Arbuckle Hardy were recorded as having been baptized prior to 1882. To further validate the previous statement, a letter with the letter head of “Kentucky University Publishing Co., R O Davis, manager, was written to Himes A Hardy, Hardy, Ind. On September 29, 1900, from Lexington, Ky. *“Dear Bro: Your favor rec’d some few days ago, but the presence of my work has prevented an earlier reply. I assume you know I was glad to hear from you. I have often thought that I would write you but as usual when contemplating a good work something would prevent it. So you see from the heading of this letter I am still at Lexington hammering away. This however will be my last year here. I graduate this year from both colleges. As yet I have not fully decided where I will go. I should like to get again in the state of Ind. if possible. Who is preaching now at Madison? I regret very much indeed that it is impossible for me to visit your congregation now or in the near future. I have my time all taken and this prevents me being away now on Sundays. I am glad that you are getting along better at Concord. If the young people will take hold as you say they are then there is no reasons why you should not succeed. I wish I could see that grandson that is your pride and boast. I am sure that he is all you claim for him. For us one can wear the name Hilderbrandt except him in whom all that is great and grand and able to write. This is my great and best argument for his greatness. I might advise as a secondary argument the fact that he has a great paternal grandfather. Remember us to sister Hardy, also, Dallas and wife and give my regards to all my friends . Write when you can find the time to do so. Fraternally, Geo W Hilderbrandt, 61 West Main, Lexington, Kentucky.* (The grandson was Claude Hilderbrandt Hardy, later elder, Sunday School teacher, and treasurer.) Himes A Hardy had been an elder in the Concord Church in Scott County on the Fourteen Mile Creek southeast of Lexington. **Sara Noell Nighbert** relates that she believes that Himes was the person who converted her grandfather, Marion Noell, to become part of the Restoration Movement.

He had been a minister at New Bethel Baptist Church. According to records, Marion was a member of this congregation in 1924.

**Beryl Hardy** related the following story about her children's Sunday School Class. The lesson was about the Ten Commandments. Beryl was explaining what coveting meant. She said that coveting was wanting what someone else had. Sue Benham, a very young girl, said "I don't want what they have, I just want one like it." ☺ (Isn't that true for all of us!)

In the mid-1940's, sometimes the Hardy car would not start or various other reasons, Beryl would take her two children, Edwin and Janice, and walk toward church. After crossing the highway, Beryl insisted that the speed of the walkers increase. She wanted to be sure that the Taylor family, who had a car, would see the disciples. The Taylor family would wait at Tryus Church and board the walkers.

**1940's Lilyan Benham's** Sunday School class was held near the stove on the west side of the church in the painted chairs. The lesson for the Sunday was a small 2½ x 3 card with a colored picture and scripture on the front and a lesson on the back. This type of literature was used for many years. Being an elementary teacher, Lilyan had the children make crafts in her class as a part of the lesson. One craft was making a necklace from acorns. Corwin Benham always had candy to share with the children in the congregation. He was a Sunday School teacher for many years.

**1953 Phyllis Stucker Widich** of Madison, IN shares a recollection of her baptism and her daughter's. Phyllis was baptized August 27, 1953 during a revival. The minister was Joe Rowlett and the baptizing took place in the Ohio River on the landing where Wilmer "Sandy" Newman lived. Her daughter, Carla, of Carlsbad, NM believes that she was baptized in 1963 or 1964. Bro Amos Kendall was the pastor.

**Ruth Cole** *I stepped forward in the late 1970's to have my membership changed from the First Baptist Church in Madison to Paynesville. I do remember that it was several years after Clemmons (husband) died. Ruth lived near Chelsea.*

‡ "He has made a His wonderful works remembered; ‡  
The Lord is gracious and full of compassion."

~Psalm 111:4

In a letter from **Ruth Bowman Phillips** in 1971, she related: *I believe I remember Claude's grandmother (Julia Hardy), Mary Hardy, and Bro Dunson. I remember the Noell's. The last that I knew of them seems like they lived over near Ten Cent and they all had typhoid. I remember the Lawsons, as Lindley was our mail carrier all the years we lived there until 1934 when we moved to Colorado. Olive and Hallie (Lawson) were members there too. There were the Snyders, B G Hearn, Payne Girls to mention a few. Mr Hearn taught school for years and so did Mr Eldridge. My mother (Stella) attended "Sweet Saluda" grade school and dad (Amos) went to Marble Hill and I went to Paynesville and Mr (Dow) Eldridge was my 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher.*

**Carol Wheate Baker** shared her reminiscences. *I was the last of seven children born to Maurice and Elsie Berry Wheate. We were all born in Kent, Indiana. Leanna Shelley and I are the only surviving children. We were taken as children to Kent Christian Church. We lived near New Bethel Church when I was six or seven years old and attended there. Later, Charles and Margaret Smith took us to New Prospect Church. Then we moved to the farm, presently, owned by Bill Bruce but at that time was owned by a Jewish man from Louisville, Ky. After a short stay at Kent, we moved to Paynesville when I was in 2nd grade. We attended Saluda School, where my mother was a cook. Our father had lost all but a thumb and little finger on his right hand and so it was difficult for him to find work. My mother and older sister, Helen, joined Paynesville church shortly. Leanna and I joined the church during a revival when she was 13 and I was 11. My father was not well and when I was 11 he died of a stroke. We attended every Sunday unless sickness prevented us from doing so. I married Harvey Baker and we worshipped at the church together as members for many years even after we lived on highway 62. We were happy at Paynesville and my husband, Harvey, was a deacon. Our daughter Gail was 2 years old and tried to get others to laugh by making faces. I would say, 'Gail, stop that.' Gail would get mad at me and leave. She would go sit on Georgia Van Winkle's lap. One day, Gail did not want to leave Georgia. When time came to go home, Georgia asked her, do you want to go with your mother or with me. The answer was with Georgia.*

**Bertha Huttzell Benham** shared some of her early memories of the church. Her Uncle Jett and Aunt Mamie Huttzell would stop by her home which was southeast of Paynesville with a 2 seated car and take them to church. Mamie was her Sunday School teacher. If you attended for three months without an absence, Mamie gave you a comb, mirror, or some prize. In the conversation, it was deduced that it was probably a class of all girls. Bloomfield and Clara Taflinger Huttzell drove buggies to church. Her cousin, Clyde Huttzell, led the singing and Lucille Cobb was the pianist in the 1930's. Clyde was very demonstrative in his efforts to lead the congregation in singing. One Sunday, Claude and Beryl Hardy took her home with them for the day and back to church in the evening. Their son, Edwin, was a small infant, at the time. She recalls that Beryl's brother, Leroy Sutherland, was riding a horse that day. It seems that he may have fallen off as he came into the house hobbling.

The **Lord's Supper**, as instituted in the New Testament to be observed on the first day of the week, was prepared by many persons. In early years, the unleavened bread was made by the ladies of the congregation. Later, the bread was ordered from Christian Standard Publishing in Cincinnati and mailed to the church. The bread was in the form of a large cracker, so it could be broken as written in the scriptures. Its preparation was thought to be the responsibility of the elders and their wives. In the 1940's, families would sign a monthly list and assume the responsibility for its cleansing and preparation. However, sometimes, that family would not come. Claude and Beryl Hardy voluntarily assumed permanent responsibility. Homemakers would make the juice, preserve it, and donate it for the church's use. It, therefore, varied in taste and sweetness. Glass cups were used and had to be washed. Some of the glass cups were tall, thin and placed in the center of the tray. In the 1960's, more persons volunteered, so Bill Van Winkle made a wooden box for easier carrying to their homes. After 1972, the tray could be prepared in the kitchen and the grape juice was purchased and stored in the refrigerator. In more recent years, plastic disposable cups have been used and small bits of bread. On the tables were white linens with crocheted designs on them. The ladies would launder them and starch the linens so heavily that they were stiff as boards when ironed.

**Wilma Ilene Hardy Hollis** *I was named for Lawrence Layman's wife whose name was Ilene. There were wooden chairs in the room behind the pulpit and I liked the red ones. Small girls wore ruffled dresses, white stockings or cute anklets, white patent shoes in the summer. Everybody dressed in their Sunday best for church when we were kids. There were interesting Sunday School lessons and picnics at Poplar Grove at Clifty Falls State Park and at Henryville Forestry. She listed these as church memories: keeping warm around the stoves on each side of the building, admiring the starched linens on the communion table, staying for preaching services two Sundays a month, attending revivals that lasted two weeks, entertaining preachers for meals in our home between services on Sunday and during revivals. Lying on my back during evening services and counting the "squares" on the ceiling, learning to sing hymns from the paper-backed song books, saying poems for special children's programs, singing children's songs, using funeral home fans, playing my first piano special "Wonderful Words of Life," youth meetings during high school years. Recalling baptismal services: my baptismal service was held July 26, 1951. John Smelser conducted the service at Saluda Landing on the Ohio River following a revival. We had to wait for a barge to pass before the baptism could take place. Our mothers had warned us to wade out into the water and be sure the bottoms of our skirts were wet before the baptismal service began (this prevented them from rising to the top of the water). Several of us were baptized that Sunday. The service ended with the people singing "O Happy Day."*



“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son,  
that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.  
For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world,  
but that the world through Him might be saved.”

~ John 3:16

# IDENTITY

## PUBLIC USES

In the late 30's, Claude Hooker, a brother of Clete Hooker, sons of Ira & Maude, had a scout troop, which used the church house for their meetings. Edwin Hardy and others were among the scouts. Claude died in a house fire.

After Saluda School was closed in 1960, the local 4-H club had no where to meet except in homes. These meetings were held mostly in the summer but some members wished to hold meetings and activities during the winter months. The Saluda Merry Maidens began meeting in the back classrooms. Later, after the annex was built, the larger area was ideal for the meetings. The club was no longer just girls, so Jeffrey Bowman, son of Gwen Bowman, stated that he wanted to be a member but not a Merry Maiden. He suggested and it was readily accepted to be named, Saluda Merry Maidens and Knights. Noted in the minutes of the congregation: the 4-H club performed clean-up projects on the property to thank the congregation for the use of the building.

On May 22, 1955 the Forty-Third Annual Saluda High School Baccalaureate Services were held at Paynesville at 2:30 pm. The processional was played by Mrs Emmett Wood, who was the history and language teacher at Saluda. Bro Rowlett was the minister of the church at that time. The congregational singing was the musical part of the program. The Saluda Girls' Chorus sang "Praise Ye the Father." Rev Leroy Kirsch, New Prospect minister, gave the address and the benediction was given by Bro Joe Rowlett. Members of the class who were attendees of the congregation were Harold Harsin, Janice Hardy, Marie Truesdell, Phyllis Bowman, Jerry Lawson, and Lois Cook.

Freddie Dale Smith happily related this usage of the church. In 1941, when Dale was a senior at Saluda High School, it was traditional to have a senior play. The school did not have a stage and the Christian Church did. Earl "Cud" Bare had built a frame to surround the curved pulpit and made it square, plus, the back rooms were ideal for actors to enter the stage from either side. The church, also,

had a declining floor, which was better for viewing the actors. Dale was the main character and he played an older business man. The business man was always smoking a cigar. During rehearsals Dale was in character chewing on the cigar. He and his “cronies” thought it would be amusing to enlighten all with a smoking tobacco smell, when the play had an audience. O C Boyer, who was principal and called “prof,” got wind of this schism and Dale was told that he was not to engage this idea. Dale being a senior and feeling his “oats” did the unthinkable in the church house. Prof threatened to deny Dale the privilege of graduating but did not, as the community thought it highly amusing and not sacrilegious.

The following articles are a summation of Saluda High School Programs:

### **June 21, 1923** Commencement-Saluda Township

The Paynesville Christian Church was crowded for the annual commencement of the Saluda township schools last Friday evening. An especially well arranged program was presented. The address ‘Press On’, was given by Rev Donald McCullum. Graduates-high school, J Monroe McKeand and Orlando F Berry, Grade School; Martha Bennett, Eston Fresh, Frank Graves, Ruby Turner, Helen Bruce, Clifford Giltner, Edna Taylor, Mildred Wilson, and Harl Williamson. The diplomas were presented by County Supt. Chas Dibler.

### **May 9, 1940** Programme ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT of Saluda High School

Thursday Evening, Eight O’Clock                      Paynesville Christian Church

O C Boyer, Principal

Piano Solo “Palm Branches” by Margaret Anne Burns

Flute Solo “Spring Song” by Elizabeth Boyer

Commencement Address: Rev R E Badger

Duet: Mr and Mrs McClary

Presentation of Diplomas: Superintendent, Howard Clashman

Music by Elizabeth Church

Members of the class: Lloyd Bair, John Paul Bare, Norma Stodghill, Elinor Clements, Marvin Davidson, Morris Horine, Clarence Joyce, Iris Leland, Rebecca Martin, Charles Proffet, Alice Taylor, James Witten

Ushers were Dale Smith, Margaret Anne Burns, Ernest Auxier, Marjorie Commingore

## **BUILDING ARCHITECTURE**

The influence of English romanticism and the mass production of elaborate wooden millwork after the Industrial Revolution fueled the construction of Gothic Revival in the 1800's. These structures are marked by Gothic windows with distinctive pointed arches. Ornate wooden detailing is generously applied to the windows and door trims. The Paynesville Christian Church building was designed and constructed with some of these characteristics.

The floor is yellow pine and resistant to termites. The rings in the boards indicate that the trees were 100 years of age at the cutting. The slope of the building leading to the worship area was characteristic of the church structures in the early 1900's. Hinges on the doors and the door plates are of the Colonial Revival style. The architects of the church building included many holy symbolisms, which style is called Dominus Deum (master of the people of God). The half circle pulpit has two steps upon which you go up to a more holy place. The center aisle is the path of life which leads to the Lord's Table.

The number of windows on each side represents the trinity, plus the two front windows. The better churches were constructed with eight windows. There would not be an uneven number of windows as a whole number like eight represents fullness or completion. Window construction was meant to encourage the worshipper to gaze upward and absorb the light. This light is a reference to Christ and will help the Chris-



tion on his journey. Three glass panels are placed in the shape of a Y reflecting the Trinity. In 1907 the builders used Florentine glass for religious buildings.

The ceiling has several symbols, the three levels, and three distinct tiles for the light fixtures down the center of the building. Designs in the tiles are crosses made with acanthus leaves on the borders. This design came from the Corinthian pillars and was used on the temple roofs of the 5th century Greek architecture. Ceiling tiles for the pulpit area has the shape of a fish, which represents the gospel call to be fishers of men.



Paynesville Christian Church in the 1960's



“Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations.  
Before the mountains were brought forth,  
Or ever You had formed the earth and the world,  
Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.”  
~ Psalm 90:1, 2

## **PAYNESVILLE, INDIANA**

Paynesville is a small community in the southeast part of Saluda Township. Payneville was named for its founder, Andrew Miller Payne. Andrew Payne was the son of John Payne. John and his brother, Moses, left Pacomoke, Worcester County in Maryland and migrated to Kentucky, where Moses remained. John crossed the Ohio River at Payne's Landing and settled on the Indiana side. Because Indiana was a free state, John set his slaves free. John married Sarah Snow Taff. To this marriage was born, Andrew and six other children. Andrew became a farmer, veterinarian, and a merchant spending his entire life in Payneville. Andrew self taught himself and became very well educated. Andrew worked to build Payneville into a God loving community. Andrew was a member of Tryus Universalist Church. He married Electa A Carley. Payneville had several stores and businesses. Andrew operated a store and after his retirement, John Rankin, his son-in-law ran the store. During the early 1900's, John Bare owned a shoe store a quarter of a mile west of the Payne Store. There were two cream stations in the hamlet. A blacksmith shop, operated by Tom and Ben Banta, was located on the Westside of the corner of the road going north to Saluda. Emma Payne married John Rankin and ran a millinery shop in one of Andrew's houses, as he owned many properties. Meg Consley had a dress shop in another of Andrew's houses. As Payneville grew, a gas station was added to the town. The Saluda post office was located in Payneville in various stores.

Amos Bowman, Gwen's father, organized the effort and built the house in 1932 north across the street from the church. The house was built for Amos's daughter, Ruth and her husband, Lawrence Phillips. They ran a grocery store in the two east rooms and lived in the two west rooms. As is noted about many of the early homes, the house has two front doors-one for the store and the other for the private home. At this time, Joe Decker had a grocery store east of the intersection on the north side of the road. It was in a house later owned by Fount Turner. Vest's bread made at New Washington was sold by the following gentlemen in their stores in Payneville, J W Bare and J W Rankin. In 1920, a passenger truck from Otto to Madison operated by F A Tucker made daily runs through Paynesville as

agents of Reed's Laundry. In 1922, Amos Bowman owned and operated a car dealership at the intersection selling, DA, Ford, Chevrolet, Overland vehicles. In 1921 a family by the name of Ogle owned a general store and was having a closing out of business sale. Five names of the Ogle family were recorded as members of the Christian Church congregation at that time. In the 1940's the men in the community had a very good baseball team and had their games on the north side of the school house. Gwen told about driving one of his father's cars to the away games and taking the ball players. The games between the colored team and the Paynesville men were always well attended, as the colored team was exceptionally skilled.

In the 1930's, north east of town was Paynesville Elementary school. The building was purchased and renovated by Dorothy and Bob Gray, the owners in 2007.



“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,” says the Lord,  
“Who is and Who was and Who is to come, the Almighty.”

~ Revelation 1:6



Logansville  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
SUNDAY SCHOOL - 9:30 A.M.  
WORSHIP - 10:30 A.M.