

HOW THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) CAME TO BE.

Our beginnings are a confused mixture of the aches and pains of the Methodists, Baptists, and particularly the Presbyterians. Out of all the trials and tribulations of these churches emerged our church. We will try to set forth for you the highlights of how we as a church came to be.

Way back in 1791, the famous Cane Ridge Meeting House was built. It was here that Barton W. Stone first proclaimed the cardinal principals that gave birth to the Christian Church -Disciples of Christ.

The Cane Ridge Church has stood up fairly well. Many times extensive repairs had to be made. In 1932 it was restored to its original form but time and the weather caused it to deteriorate. In 1957 a superstructure was completed to preserve the Meeting House at a cost of \$100,000.

Now some information about Barton W. Stone, 1772-1844. He came to Cane Ridge in 1796 from North Carolina. He became the supply preacher for the Presbyterian Churches at Cane Ridge and in Concord in what is now Bourbon County, Kentucky.

He was ordained in 1798. By this time he had begun to doubt the Westminster Confession of Faith as being consistent with the Word of God.

August 7-12, 1801 there occurred a great revival of which Stone was an active participant. Crowds were estimated to be between ten and thirty thousand people. Anywhere from five to twenty ministers would speak at the same time. The people would gather around their favorite. Methodists and Baptists as well as Presbyterians took part in this great revival.

On June 28, 1804 the Last Will and Testament of the Springfield Presbytery was written and Barton W. Stone and others came to call themselves "Christians". Stone offered to leave Cane Ridge Church but the people refused and became Christians themselves.

Stone remained at Cane Ridge fifteen years. During that time the Christian movement spread rapidly.

No less famous in the early development of our church are the Campbells, Thomas and his son Alexander.

Thomas Campbell came to this country from Ireland in 1804 closely followed by Alexander in 1808. In 1809 Thomas Campbell made his famous speech called Declaration and Address. He emphasized the unity of God's people on the basis of the Bible that the world might be saved.

Under their guidance, the Brush Run Church was founded in 1809 in Western Pennsylvania. Boundary lines of states have been changed since then and the Brush Run Church is now in West Virginia. The followers were called Disciples.

Alexander Campbell came to Kentucky in 1823. He was a very popular speaker and was particularly influential with the Baptists. He made a great deal of use of his father's Declaration and Address.

January 1, 1832 the followers of Barton W. Stone and the Campbells met at the Hill Street Christian Church, Lexington, Kentucky. This meeting established the union of the two movements and therein began the Christian Church - Disciples of Christ. We celebrated this union's 150th anniversary in the 1982.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF MANSFELD IT'S BEGINNING AND GROWTH

It is interesting to note that the first settlement in Mansfield in 1808 is the same year the Campbells established the first Christian church at Brush Run.

The first authentic knowledge that we have of our own church is contained in a brief statement on file at the Disciples of Christ Historical Society in Nashville, Tennessee. The note was written by a Mr. G. D. Lowry and is date-lined, Richland County, Ohio, June 11, 1833. The note says, "A GREAT Revival has taken place with us. Twenty-four were buried in baptism in one day, fourteen in another part of the county within four Weeks, and three 'first day' in Mansfield."

In the book titled Buckeye Disciples written by Henry K. Shaw, there is a statement which says "In June 1833 the brethren in Richland County entertained a big Meeting of Days near the village of Mansfield."

These two statements seem to be about the same event. Anyway, we find in them the grass-roots beginning of our church in June 1833.

Rev. James McVay did quite a bit of preaching in the vicinity of Mansfield. A group of people became interested in the teaching of the Disciple Church and asked Rev. McVay to stay and help them get their church started. Thus, he became our first minister.

To the best of our knowledge, there were ten charter members. The ten included Mr. and Mrs. John Cline, Benjamin Gass, John and James Gilkinson, William B. Hammett, Mr. and Mrs. John Neal, and Mr. and Mrs. James Pluck.

Our church was officially organized in 1835 according to the book Buckeye Disciples by Henry K. Shaw.

1833 - 1836 Block House and Wiler Home

Needless to say with only ten members, there was no money to buy or build a church building. The First Christian Church of Mansfield met in the Block House located at that time in Central Park. This building was used as a jail on the first floor and a court house on the second floor during the week. Several other churches met there also. The Methodists were the only ones who had a church home.

During this period they sometimes met in the ballroom of the Wiler House which was located on Main Street between Third Street and Dickson Avenue.

It is said that there were many social gatherings and singing was popular in those days. However, they did not neglect their church.

1836 - 1840 Walnut Street

By 1836 the people felt the need of their own church building. They built one at the foot of Walnut Street where the freight station for the B. and O. Railroad was later located. Not much is known of church activities during this period. _

1840 - 1868 Corner of Mulberry and Bloom (West Fifth)

Although the church did not grow too rapidly in these early days, they did build a new church where they stayed for twenty-eight years. Quite a few important things occurred while they were in this building.

The first state convention of the church was held at Wooster in 1852. Our church was represented by John Gilkinson, who along with his brother James, was the first elder of our church.

The second state convention was held in Mt. Vernon. There was great excitement when it was announced that Alexander Campbell would be a speaker. The meeting had to be moved to the railroad station, it being the only place large enough to hold the 3,000 people who came to hear him. Mansfield reported a membership of forty-seven at this time. In 1848, they had reported forty members.

At the state convention in 1853, Mansfield did not report having a Sunday School. However, the next year John Neal initiated a Sunday School in our church. The school grew slowly as the church did.

From the National Historical Society we learn that w. H. Martin held a series of meetings in Mansfield in 1869 which lasted from February 7 to March 3. There were twenty-three additions, 21 baptized and two reclaimed. (interesting word)

1868 - 1898 Corner of Third and Adams Streets

This building was purchased from the Regular Baptists for the sum of \$2,100.

In 1870 Mansfield was host to the nineteenth state convention. Between six and seven hundred people were in attendance. A report at this convention stated that the annual salary for ministers ranged from \$140 in produce to \$3,000 in cash. The average salary was \$747 a year.

At this same meeting a motion was made by R. R. Sloan, "That the Convention appoint a committee of five, who shall visit the Baptist Convention of the state, to convene in Columbus the coming October, to bear from us words of Christian greeting and sympathy." This may have been our first movement to secure friendly relations with another church body. The next year the Baptists sent fraternal greetings to our state convention.

In the 1870's there were quite a few privately-owned normal schools established. The Disciples led the field in this activity with six schools, one of which was in Mansfield. Where it was located is not known but it was in existence for three years.

George M. Kemp of Mansfield was appointed in 1882 to the position of assistant state evangelist. Among the many meetings which he held was one in Mansfield. Apparently, the people liked him because he became the minister in 1885 and served three years.

From an official report of the membership and finances of the First Christian Church in the year ending December 1895, we learn these interesting things. The following information was furnished by Mrs. Florence Hill. The societies in the church were the Junior and Senior Christian Endeavor, the C. W. B. M. and the Ladies Aid Society. These organizations, along with the church giving, contributed a total of \$1,077.50 to the church treasury. The disbursements were \$1,076.71 leaving a balance of 79¢. The expenses ranged from \$817.87 for the minister's salary to \$2.50 for lemons for the Sunday School picnic and \$2.70 for the children's Christmas treat.

There were 275 members at this time. The weekly pledges to the church ranged from 5¢ to \$2.00 with many in the 15¢, 25¢, and 30¢ categories. They had a building fund (for the Fourth Street Church) and pledges were from \$2.50 to one of \$250 and one of \$300.

Under the leadership of Rev. J. E. Lynn the attendance nearly doubled and also there was growth in devotion and faithfulness of the people. It became apparent that new quarters were necessary. Mr. W. J. Tappan was the building committee treasurer as the church purchased the property on West Fourth Street across from what was then the Post Office. The church was built for \$18,000. It took a lot of courage and faith to attempt such an undertaking when you realize what the giving had been.

1898 - 1956 West Fourth Street close to Mulberry

It was a day of great rejoicing when on January 2, 1898 the church on Fourth Street was dedicated. Some of the present members of First Christian Church have fond memories of the church on Fourth Street.

The first really important thing that occurred was the entertaining of the 49th State Church Convention- May 21 to 24, 1900.

What one might call an "explosion" occurred in the Sunday Schools throughout the area beginning around 1912. Contests were the thing. We were often involved in several contests at the same time. Sunday School attendance boomed as everyone tried to outdo the other fellow. Easter attendance was over a thousand and regular attendance figures averaged about 675.

Mrs. Goldie Swaidner remembers how in the early 1930's the Easter goal was 1,000. The attendance was 1,001. Each one put in a dollar bill and they were fastened together and stretched around the sanctuary. It helped the treasury which was having a struggle at this time.

These large attendances in this period brought in many children and adults who might never have been in church otherwise. Unfortunately the children's classes were so crowded that they had to sit two on a chair. The teacher could do little more than keep them quiet. The unfortunate feature of this "explosion" was that when the final bell rang for Sunday School, a large percentage of those present went home instead of staying for worship.

One of the classes that really boomed at this time was the Brotherhood Class which often had over one hundred in attendance on Sunday. They had to meet in the sanctuary.

The only class that began in this period and is still very much alive is the Wilcox Class. They were started in 1920 as the Young Married People's Class. The class changed its name to the J. D. Wilcox Class to honor their teacher of the same name. They couldn't compete with the Brotherhood Class in size but they made up for it in many other ways. On August 7, 1921 the attendance was twelve and the collection was 85¢. On August 8, 1922 the attendance was thirty. The offering was \$13.55 and \$7.70 in the Loving Cup. The money from the latter is used in Outreach projects of the class. One of their favorite projects still is buying shoes for the needy children of West Fifth Street School at Christmas time.

The only charter members who are still active are Mr. and Mrs. Hubbell Marlow and Mrs. Delta Zediker. The class celebrated their 60th Anniversary at a banquet on November 5, 1980 with one hundred eleven members, old members, and friends present.

Mrs. Emma (Wert) Hoffman is the proud possessor of her Certificate of Promotion from the Junior Dept. to the Intermediate Dept. The certificate is dated September 28, 1919 and was signed by John H. Casto, William Conn, and the minister, Rev. M. L. Jenney.

Excitement ran high in Mansfield when it was announced that Billy Sunday, the great evangelist, was going to speak in Mansfield. Among those who anticipated hearing him, were Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Hammett. Much to their disappointment, they were turned away at the door because they were

carrying their year-old daughter, Naomi, who might have caused a disturbance.

Two of the well-known elders in the West Fourth Street Church were J. D. Wilcox, father of David, and Frank Cook, father of Ruby Cook. Goldie Swaidner remembers so well how each man usually began his prayers at the communion table. Mr. Wilcox always addressed his prayer to our Heavenly Parent and said, "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed rightly dividing the word of truth." Mr. Cook usually began with, "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help; my help cometh from God who made heaven and earth." What a fine way to express our thoughts to God!

The large Sunday School attendance mentioned earlier, led the church on July 2, 1922 to vote "to purchase the Leonard and Dickson properties at the northeast corner of West Third and Bowman Streets for a new church site." This quote comes from the Mansfield Christian, the church paper at that time. The property cost \$26,000. This was a big undertaking but the members felt that they must provide adequate space for all their members.

This was a time of little money and the church had that debt to be paid. Florence Marlow remembers how the church was divided into teams each of which was responsible for raising one hundred dollars. Mrs. Marlow was asked to be a captain of one of those teams. Here she was with four children and no car but being the good Christian she has always been, she agreed. A friend offered to take her around and hopefully collect the money. She didn't have very good luck and finally hit upon the idea of having a pie social. For fifteen cents everyone received a cup of coffee, a piece of pie, and an evening's entertainment. She made her goal.

With at least part of the money on hand, the church finally purchased the new site in 1924. Two years later they were able to pay off that debt. One wonders if their faith might have wavered a bit if they had known that it would be thirty years before their new church became a reality. Not knowing this, they looked with great interest at the architect's drawing of their new church which Rev. Tisdall brought with him from the state convention.

On April 10, 1927, the Board presented to the congregation the proposal for building the parsonage first and then proceeding with the plans for the church.

A year later Rev. Tisdall moved into the new parsonage but they had gone deeply in debt to build it so nothing could be done about the church.

When Rev. Hagelbarger came in 1929 the church owed \$44,500. He instituted a tithing program. The Buckeye Disciple said of this program, "The church at Mansfield demonstrated year after year that excellent results could be obtained through a regular system of proportionate giving."

This was demonstrated by the fact that by 1948 the debt for the parsonage was paid off and \$50,000 was on hand for the new church.

On the lighter side, Doris Mabee will never forget the curving stairway in the West Fourth Street church. One Easter, she started down those stairs gingerly carrying some beautifully-colored Easter eggs when lo, she slipped and fell, bumping her way to the bottom. Result: a black and blue Doris but not an egg was cracked.

Many years ago at the West Fourth Street Church, they celebrated Mother's Day by giving a plant to the mother who had the most children present. Much to the embarrassment of Ruth (Davis) Beer, her mother always won the plant and was very proud to stand with her nine children. They had quite a record of being there every Sunday, not just on Mother's Day.

Back in the 40's, District 6 of the CYF had a meeting at our church. Among those present were Joyce Booth and her boy-friend Dick Warne. At dinner, they were served scalloped potatoes and ham on thin paper plates. When Dick and Joyce were served, Joyce has an enormous helping while Dick's was quite small. While Dick was talking to someone on his other side, Joyce elected to change plates with him. Just as she was passing the full plate to him, the plate collapsed and poured all the hot potatoes into Dick's lap. Result: Dick was very hot and Joyce was very embarrassed. We are happy to relate that the incident did not spoil the romance.

As time passed, the nest egg for the new church grew. Finally early in 1954, Dr. Wallace H. Buker became impatient. He was tired of hearing how much they had added to the fund since the last board meeting. He made a motion that we get busy right now and build our church. Everyone agreed and finally plans could be consummated.

On August 22, 1954 three hundred men, women and children armed with shovels left the West Fourth Street Church and headed for the corner of Third and Bowman where the outline of the new church had been made. The children took the first shovelsful, as they lined around the markings, and then the adults. Many people today still have the little shovel tied with a red ribbon was a memento of that day.

On September 11, 1955, seven hundred people traveled again to the site where the new church was taking form. This time they came to place the cornerstone which was done by little Cathy Bemiller and Mr. C. C. Lindsley, representing the young and the old of the congregation. The dream of these loyal souls was closer to reality.

1956 - THE CHURCH AT THIRD AND BOWMAN

What a day of rejoicing there was when on February 5, 1956 the congregation of the First Christian Church met for the first time in their new sanctuary! A dream that was fulfilled after thirty-four years of praying, planning, and waiting.

The morning service featured the combined choirs singing Bless This House and the Youth Choir singing The One Hundredth Psalm. The elders

were J. D. Wilcox and Myron Miller. The sermon Faith Triumphant was given by Mr. William Percy, Executive Secretary of the Board of Church Extension.

At three in the afternoon the service of dedication was held. The anthem by the adult choir was How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place. Mr. Charles Carson sang the solo Open the Gates of the Temple. The sermon of dedication was I Will Build My Church given by Mr. Percy. Rev. Hagelbarger conducted both morning and afternoon services and led in the litany of dedication. After the service the people of the church and the public had the opportunity to get acquainted with the building.

One would have thought that all problems of space had been solved with the building of the new church. That, however, did not prove to be true. In 1961, the Newmans, he was now the minister, moved from the parsonage to their own home and the parsonage became the Youth Center. This aided the cramped classroom space.

In 1971 the space under the balcony was converted into a fine library. The library and lounge being connected makes a very popular place for meetings, including the receiving line for many weddings. More about the library later.

When the present church was built, the front window was painted in a modernistic design. In 1971 this window was replaced by a beautiful faceted glass design which when lighted at night is a joy to all who pass by. At the same time a lovely stained glass window was placed at the rear of the balcony.

The last thing of beauty to be added to the church is the beautiful faceted glass windows placed on the East side of the sanctuary. These windows depict events in the life of Christ. They are particularly lovely in the morning with the sun streaming through them.

A different kind of undertaking was initiated in the early sixties. People came to believe that Mansfield needed a second Christian Church. "After much consideration as to the best location, the church voted on June 5, 1961 to purchase a property on the east side of Middle-Bellville Road. The church which came to be known as the Southside Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) was chartered in 1963. At that time the Ohio Society took over the final payments on the property. It is interesting to note, that this is the only new church in Ohio in which the charter members all came from another church. Eighty-one members of First Christian Church became the nucleus for the Southside Church.

ORGANIZATIONS AND THEIR WORK'

From "The Sunday School" to the "Church School"

In the early 1900's in the Sunday Schools in Mansfield, the people met in broadly graded groups on Sunday morning for an hour or so for the study of the Bible. Helps for teachers and pupils were limited, mainly to booklets called Quarterlies. '

Today children, youth and adults meet in closely graded groups and have available for their use in studying the Bible much excellent age level study materials for both leaders and students. Care and learning experiences are prepared for children as young as parents wish to bring. For pre-school children three groups are provided - Nursery, Toddlers and Kindergarten I.

Elementary grade school children are grouped as follows: K2 (age 5) and Grade 1, Grades 2, and Grades 4, 5 and 6. For each of these there is excellent leadership using the best programming, materials and methods of teaching the Bible, worship, music and crafts. They are in session from 9:30 to the close of adult worship.

Young people in Grades 7, 8 and 9 meet from 9:30 to 10:15 in a class known as the Chi Rho Youth Fellowship. At the same time young people in Grades 10, 11 and 12 meet as the Christian Youth Fellowship for study of the Scriptures and their relation to life. Both these groups meet at other times during the week for additional activities.

For Adults, meeting also from 9:30 to 10:15 there are now six organized classes with persons ranging in age from the late 20's through the 80's and 90's! These classes are known by the names Christian Builders, Lamplighters, Seekers, Homemakers, Ruth Circle and J. D. Wilcox classes. A new group for those in the late teens through the middle twenties is in the process of formation.

Today the Church School is a vital and integral part of the total Church program of Christian Education and gives promise of healthy and meaningful growth and service in the future.

One of the Functional Committees of the Church, known as the Christian Education Committee, presently chaired by Mrs. George (Nancy) Rogers, administers the program of Christian Education in our congregation.

OUTREACH

In addition to regular giving to Outreach through the church offerings, the church has participated in several projects. The church brought three Displaced Families to Mansfield between 1956 and 1963. The first to arrive was the Edmund Wirschke family closely followed a few months later by the Otto Kirchofs. Both of them came from north-central Europe. It was quite an experience getting them a place to live, getting furniture, a job and helping them get acquainted with a supermarket. In 1963 the Adolph Meeuwen family came. They were originally from Indonesia.

Through the International Christian Youth Exchange (ICYE) we brought two students to this country, from Europe to spend a year. The first to come was Stans Sanders in 1963 from the Netherlands. She lived with the Marion Uhl family and became very well-liked by the congregation and the community. We were all saddened by her death a few years later. In 1965 Per Arne Gulstad came from Sweden to spend the year with the Grant Rosensteel family. Per Arne, also, was well-liked by all. In the same year Richard Newman, son of Rev. and Mrs. Newman, spent the year in Sweden. It was a wonderful experience for these young people and for us.

The children of the neighborhood became the concern of the church and for several summers the church conducted a playground for the youngsters. Out of this program came YAAP (Youth After School Activities Program) which was held during the winter months. All kinds of activities and crafts were available and many people gave of their time to make this a successful program.

Our Youth Center was the scene of the city-wide Headstart program for many years. This was discontinued when one of the city schools became available.

In 1971 a tutoring program was started. Children from West Fifth Street School who had reading problems came on the recommendation of their teachers and principal. This was replaced a few years later by having the tutors go to the school during school time. Lay teachers took over this work finally but we understand that Bruce Rogers still goes whenever he has the time.

The plight of working mothers came to the attention of the church with the result that the Child Development Day Care Center was started. It is a non-denominational organization and the board is made up of people from many different churches. Mrs. Charlotte Pugh is the director and has developed a very comprehensive program. The school is open from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The church furnishes the facilities rent-free but the Center does pay something for utilities.

Two months of the year the members of the church bring groceries and other staples to stock the Fish Pantry. The Fish organization is comprised of many churches with the main idea being to help those who find themselves without funds in an emergency.

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP AND SERVICE DEPARTMENT

According to the 1925 Year Book and Directory of the First Christian Church, there were many women's organizations, all under the United Society of Women. These were the Ladies Aid Society, Loyal Workers, Philathea Circle, Earnest Workers, Women's Missionary Society and Bethany Circle. Later, there were the Guild and Gamma Mu Sigma. They all had the same concern; study and support of missions, service to

the church and community and fellowship.

In 1950 a group of women went to the Cleveland Euclid Avenue Christian Church to observe their Service Day and CWF, a new organization replacing the Council. This program was presented to our various groups and they all agreed to merge into one organization.

On May 15, 1950 the CWF was organized with two hundred women attending. The following officers were elected:

President	Mrs. O. F. Shivley
1st Vice Pres. - Study Dir.	Mrs. B.F. Hagelbarger
2nd Vice-Pres. - Service Dir.	Mrs. Maurice Lybarger
Corresponding Secretary	Mrs. Kenneth Hammett
Recording Secretary	Mrs. Earl Hill
Treasurer	Mrs. Sherman Stone
Worship Chairman	Mrs. William Droz.

Group Leaders were: Mrs. J. E. Droz, Mrs. Ervin Remy, Mrs. C. C. Bemiller, Mrs. J. D. Wilcox and Mrs. Richard Hammell.

By June 1951 there were two hundred sixty-one active members and a budget of \$2,000 was adopted for the coming year. Included in this was \$1,000 to Unified Promotion and \$400 to the church building fund.

Today we have one hundred eighteen participating members and a budget of \$4,518 with \$4,000 going to Church Finance Council in Indianapolis. There are five groups. They are: Deborah-Dorcas, Edith Davis, Leader; Esther, Trudy Reader, Leader; Lydia, Gretchen Davis, Leader; Priscilla, Marvel Frickman, Leader; and Rachel, Beverly Laird, Leader. Two groups meet in the daytime and three at night. They meet monthly and there are three general meetings a year. The president for 1982- 1984 is Mrs. Larry (Nancy) DiGiammarino.

An integral part of the fellowship is the Service Department. From the beginning we were making mattress covers and layettes.

Since then a multitude of projects and giving have been a part of the Service Department. Clothing, Blankets, hospital gowns and bandages go to Church World Service, Homeland Missions, Cleveland Christian Home, Emily Flynn Home and the Migrants. Thursdays are work days and all sorts of activities go on. Clothing is given to persons of our city. Different individuals are busy making school kits, health kits, sewing kits and dressing dolls for the Salvation Army for Christmas. Others are busy with mattress covers for Camp Christian, sorting stamps and soup labels, taking care of the needs of Richland County Home, making crib sheets, draperies, sewing carpet rags, signing cards for shut-ins and getting dinner for the workers. Last, but by no means least are those ladies busy making innumerable small stitches on those beautiful quilts. You name it as a need and the Service Department comes through. Directors for 1982-1984 are Mrs. Adam (Margaret) Takos, Hrs. Charles (Elizabeth) Beer and Mrs. Hobart (Barbara) Rice.

CHRISTIAN MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Some of the men of the church enjoy the fellowship meetings with the men of other churches in District Six Rallies. Over the years they have enjoyed picnics, have entertained the ladies at Sweetheart banquets and have had father-son banquets. Some men have gone to Purdue to the men's general fellowship. Robert Laird is president at this time.

YOUTH WORK IN THE CHURCH

The first work among the youth was the well-known Christian Endeavor. The Disciples entered heartily into the Christian Endeavor movement which was founded in 1881 by a Congregational minister, Francis E. Clark. This interdenominational fellowship was a study and commitment organization for young people. The Disciples continued Christian Endeavor fellowship long after other participating churches started their own denominational groups.

On the local level our church was very active with four groups: Junior, Intermediate, Senior and Young People. The Senior group published a weekly bulletin of which Miss Emma Beck was the editor. In the 1920's the Christian Youth Fellowship was formed under the leadership of W. G. Loucks. This was the forerunner of the national movement which was officially proposed and adopted at the International Convention in 1938.

A few years later, in 1942, the Intermediates of the church, youth in grades 7, 8 and 9 were formally organized and initiated into their own fellowship to be known as the Chi Rho. Dr. Herald B. Monroe was one of the first Counsellors for this group when they met for the first time at Camp Moores near Zanesville, Ohio.

For years the CYF and Chi Rho met wherever there was room to feed and house them. In 1949 Camp Christian was purchased and has since been developed into an out-standing Church Camp and Conference Grounds for all ages of youth and adults, with a vital Christian experience that is second to none anywhere in the United States. Great credit must be given to Dr. Monroe and Rev. Richard Felton plus the many, many adults who have given of their time in faithful service to the youth of our churches.

A unique experience will help us understand something of the commitment and dedication of these leaders. In 1945 during World War II, the U. S. Office of Defense Administration refused to permit Ohio Disciples to hold CYF Conference because all public transportation was needed for the War effort. Dr. Monroe made three trips to Washington to plead our cause because he said, "Public transportation is not used 'as parents drive their youth to and from camp'." He was turned down on three attempts, but finally won out on the fourth. An editorial in the Cleveland Plain Dealer said in part, "A wholesome

effect has been felt for future government policies in such matters."

In the field of Christian Service, our youth of First Christian Church have shared in the following experiences and projects during the 1960's and 1970's: work camps in Elkhart, Indiana for CROP; the inner city in Chicago, Illinois, Indianapolis, Indiana and Washington, D. C.; the Puerto Rican section of Lorain, Ohio; "Project Outreach" with five other churches in Mansfield; Koinonia Farms in Americus, Georgia in an area where blacks were not even allowed to own land; and in Camp Christian where many hours have been spent in cleaning, painting, planting trees and many other jobs.

In recent years the CYF, Chi Rho and many of the younger children have participated in WALKS, JOGGING, SKATE-A-THONS AND ROCK-A-THONS FOR CROP, UNICEF AND CYSTIC FIBROSIS. The Youth participated in a "Hunger Happening" in which they fasted for eleven weeks at lunch time. The money they earned was given to local relief agencies to give to the hungry. Last year the CYF visited the historic spots of our church history as well as Lexington Theological Seminary and Bethany College. They earned money for the trip by various projects as did the youth who went on the work camps. We should mention that they were helped by funds from the church budget.

Our youth have taken an active part in many ways of the church's life. They help in the Educational program of the younger children, serve as deacons the third Sunday of every month, in Youth Choirs and as Lay Readers for the morning worship, as members of standing committees and in presenting the worship service on Youth Sunday.

MUSIC IN THE CHURCH

Music has always been an integral part of a church service. As far back as we can find there has been a choir. The first full-time director was Prof. J. E. Sturgis. Not only was he choir director, but he directed the orchestra and band. He was also expected to sing a solo twice a day on Sunday. For all of this he received \$600 a year. To supplement his income, he gave musical programs at various churches. He also was well-known as a song leader at evangelistic services throughout Ohio and neighboring states.

The band which Prof. Sturgis developed was quite popular among the younger boys. They often played at church functions and performed in Central Park. The band apparently broke up after Sturgis left.

Another musical group which furnished many hours of good music was the orchestra which was started by Prof. Sturgis. The orchestra was a very important part of the opening exercises of the Sunday School for many years. There were probably many directors but the ones who stand out are Prof. Sturgis, J. Merton Holcombe, and Maurice Lybarger. The change to no opening exercises in the church school caused the

orchestra to break up.

It seems safe to say that there was a choir over the years. The first organization of the choir was in January 1927 when Mrs. O. F. Shivley was chosen the first president. The choir was then known as the First Christian Church Choral Society. When the present church was dedicated, the name was changed to the Chapel Choir, a name which is still used today.

On April 20, 1924 a big step was taken by the choir. They appeared for the first time in robes which they had made and paid for themselves, as they sang the Cantata

Our Living Lord, under the direction of Mr. Paul Thomas with Mrs. Mabel Clingan at the organ.

An important part of the Worship Service is the music. Choir directors have played an extremely important part of the service over the years. Directors whose names we know include: Prof. Sturgis, Charles G. Bergstrom, J. Merton Holcombe, a Mr. Hayes, Paul Thomas and even J. J. Tisdall filled the position temporarily. Frances Hughes served during the war years. In 1948 and for thirty years, thereafter, the position of choir director was held by Mrs. Bruce (Leola) Rogers, who has now been a choir member for sixty years. It was quite an undertaking to fill her shoes. After an interim of temporary directors which included George Lake, our own Charles Carson and Zella Smith, a new director, Richard Ferrell, was hired. He served one year. Our present director is Ralph Brown. He has been with us two years.

He is director of the Madison Band and plays in the Mansfield Symphony Orchestra. His wife, Jane, often accompanies the choir and organ on the piano, where she is very talented.

The whole worship service is held together by the organ and organist. The first organ was an Estey two-manual organ. Andrew Carnegie generously helped in its purchase. It was installed in August 1912 in the church on west Fourth Street. The first organist was Mrs. Byron Conn, the mother of two of our members, Mrs. George (Mary) Harmony and Mrs. John (Florence) Hill. The next organist of whom we know was Mrs. Mabel Clingan, who served for many years and even served as choir director part of the time. In 1953 she became ill and Miss Alfaretta Bowden (now Mrs. L. E. Chamberlain) took over the position and has served now for thirty years. In all those years she has not missed a rehearsal or church service except when an organist was not needed and that has been very few times. The present organ was purchased at the time of the building of the present church. Mrs. Clingan, although ill at the time, gave many hours in meeting with different organ companies. The organ selected is a Schantz two-manual pipe organ. It was dedicated April 15, 1956. In 1960 a carillon was given to the church in memory of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Tappan by their children. It was dedicated June 5th. The carillon plays hymns for the enrichment of the community three times daily. It is played during the communion service every Sunday. In the early 60's the men of the church organized the First Christian Church Men's Chorus under the direction of Charles Carson. They practiced regularly and sang in the

worship service at regular intervals. In addition to singing in church, they also sang in many nursing homes, at men's rallies, the Knights of Pythias, the Ohio State Reformatory, and for the Mother-Daughter Banquet. To quote from the April 27, 1963 News-Journal, "We just love to sing." They were accompanied by Miss Alfaretta Bowden. Mr. Carson again issued a call in 1979 for men who liked to sing. The men responded and called themselves the "Him Singers." They practice twice a month and sing the last Sunday of the month. They are accompanied by Mrs. Chamberlain at the organ and Frank Daniell at the piano. They have sung many times at nursing homes.

CHURCH LIBRARY

Our church library began as a collection of mostly missionary books donated and purchased by ladies in the various missionary societies. When we moved into this building, they were housed in glass-front bookcases in the Lounge. When the director of Christian Education moved from her Office, the library was moved into that room, now the media Center. After much planning the present facility under the balcony was established in 1970, mainly through gifts from Paul Metzler in memory of his parents, and Faye Griebeling, who presented the stained glass windows. Many others have contributed money and books throughout the years. The work of classifying, cataloging and typing all the cards was done by Mrs. William (Ruth) Newman and Mrs. John (Jean) Hoffman. We now have around 3,000 books and are considered one of the finest church libraries in the State of Ohio. Mrs. Hoffman and Mrs. Maurice (Marjorie) Lybarger head the Library Committee at this time.

SCOUTING

When scouting first started in Mansfield, it was a member of First Christian Church who was the first scoutmaster of the troop called Troop #1. It was Carl Warne who organized that troop in 1916. Mr. Warne was also responsible for organizing the first Boy Scout Council in Mansfield.

Troop #2 which was later to be known as Troop #102 met in the cafeteria of Carpenter School with George Rogers as the scoutmaster. When the new church was completed in 1956, the troop was moved to the Scout Room in said church with George Rogers still at the helm. Mr. Rogers was followed, as scoutmaster, by T. Arthur White, Kenneth R. Johnson, John deChant, and Clarence Mason. Many of our churchmen have helped on committees and in advancement of the scout movement. The group disbanded early in 1982 due to the illness of the scoutmaster.

SERVICE IN THE CHURCH AT LARGE

The following members of this congregation have served or are serving on National, State, and/or District levels of the Church's manifestation.

NATIONAL LEVEL

Dr. J. Harold Hopkins, our Pastor, is a member of the General Board of the Christian Churches in the United States and Canada.

STATE LEVEL

Dr. Hopkins serves on the Ohio New Church Committee. Mrs. John Hoffman has served on State CWF Commission and nominating committee. Mrs. Marjorie Kieffer, our Administrative Assistant, was a member of the State Board of the Christian Church in Ohio. She is now on the Ohio CWF Commission. Dr. William C. Newman recently completed many years of service on the prestigious Commission on the Ministry in Ohio and is now on the staff of Interim Ministers. Rev. Elizabeth M. Schwed has just finished long service on the Commission on Christian Education and is also on the Staff of Interim Ministers.

DISTRICT LEVEL

Mrs. Virginia Zeiter is now Consultant for the ten Christian Churches in District Six for CWF.

LIVING DESCENDANTS OF CHARTER MEMBERS

Mr. & Mrs. John Cline - charter members
Mrs. George (Mary) Harmony
Mrs. John (Florence) Hill

Mr. William B. Hammett - charter member

Mrs. C. R. (Mildred) Miller	
Mrs. L. E. (Alfaretta) Chamberlain	
Kathy Bowden	William Bowden
Jean Bowden	Kenneth Richard Bowden

Mrs. Naomi Houston	William B. Hammett
Mrs. Janeen Mabee	Jason Hammett
Jennifer Lynne Mabee	William B. Hammett, Jr.
William Russell Mabee	Larinda Hammett
Elmore J. Houston	Robert Hammett
Michelle Lynne Houston	Direnda Carroll
Casandra Jo Houston	Jill Carroll
Roberts R. Hammett	

Mrs. Ronald (Irene) Day	Mrs. David Stoltz
Arthur Hammett	Trudi Ann Stoltz
Gene Hammett	Trisha Leigh Stoltz
Jeff Hammett	Mrs. Marlene Stadjuhar
Melanie Hammett	Jerry Stadjuhar
David McFadden	Mrs. Margie Pesotoro
Debra McFadden	Joey Pesotoro
Mrs. Shirlee Fury	Tony Pesotoro

Mr. & Mrs. John Neal - charter members

Mrs. Floyd (Emma) Hoffman

Robert Hoffman

Kevin Hoffman

Ruth Ann Hoffman

Mark Hoffman

* All are not members of our church.