

HISTORY

Baldwin Church of Christ

The Baldwin Church of Christ first began in the fall of 1946, meeting in the home of Bro. & Sis. William Curry, with a charter membership of six (6): Bro. & Sis. Curry, Bro. & Sis. Will Dunn, Sis. Taylor and Sis. Neal.

Bro. Wm. Lamar from Joseph Campau congregation, visiting Baldwin on vacation finding the situation as it was, returned to Detroit and reported his findings. Bro. O.L. Trone from the then Joseph Campau, Now Elwood Park Congregation in Detroit, came to Baldwin and conducted a meeting. It was through this meeting others became members of the Church and they met in the Webber School house. Later on through the leadership and support of the elders (John W. Holt, Omar Manuel, and Samuel Holt) at Joseph Campau and other congregations in Detroit, Ludington, Muskegon and others that we were able to purchase the land and finish the basement where we are now worshipping. We worshipped in the basement until 1957, when Joseph Campau financed the upstairs auditorium as it now stands.

The ministers who have served from the beginning were: J.T. Williamson, P. Curry, Clarence Smith, Ellis Bonner, Solomon Sims, Richard Carr, Robert Jackson, Donald Bigley and presently Solomon Sims, J. T. Williamson and Clarence were the only ministers who lived here, the others were here only on week ends.

Revival meetings were held occasionally through the years, with several additions. There were periods of time when we were without a minister. This situation brought on discontentment and some of the weaker members left the church. After getting ministers on a more regular basis, with much persuasion and teaching of God's Word, some have returned, others have not.

Until Bro. Solomon Sims moved here in Aug. 1975 with his family (Including two teenage, christian sons) there had been only ten(10) young people who were members of this congregation, from 1946-1975. Some left the church, others married and moved away, leaving only two teenage boys.

Through all of our struggles for survival, our most rewarding achievement has been keeping the Church alive and existing in this area. There were times when discouragement almost overwhelmed us, but our different ministers kept us together and several members were added through all efforts.

Lack of money has been our big problem. Baldwin is historically a poor area, being primarily a resort area, with very few job opportunities. Our members are mostly senior citizens, retired and on fixed income. Most of our brethren have passed on and there has been no replacement, sufficient to realize proper leadership.

The most rewarding time, financially for us is during the summer and hunting season, when there are out of town visitors, who are on vacation.

We are happy and thankful to God and all who have helped financially, through prayers, visits, and words of encouragement, to make it possible for Baldwin Church of Christ to stay together and hopefully to grow to the point of being self-supporting.