

THE BEGINNING OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IN FLINT

In November 1911 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Carpenter moved to Flint from off a farm near Harbor Beach, Michigan. Mrs. Margaret Carpenter tried to locate a true church but failing to find one she wrote to C. F. Whitty in Detroit to see if one could be established here. In 1915 J.N. Heironymus of Fairbury, Illinois also corresponded with Whitty about a church in Flint because his daughter was moving on a farm near here. This was the early part of 1915. Finally J. N. Heironymus agreed to pay part of Witty's expenses if he would come here and start the church. On July 22, 1915, Whitty preached his first sermon in Flint in a store building (being built by Chas. Carpenter) to a group of five. Mr. & Mrs. Charles Carpenter, Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Carpenter, and Mrs. Parker. Whitty continued coming to Flint, every other Sunday for three months, preaching in the Carpenter home and visiting from house to house. Hieronymus accompanied him on occasion. By October the work had so developed that the Warren Ave. church in Detroit proposed to assume the responsibility of the work in Flint.

A. W. Hastings of the Warren Ave. congregation was selected to do the speaking, coming every other Sunday, and visiting as many as possible. This was very successful and new members were reported nearly every trip. By spring the congregation had grown until it was necessary to obtain a meeting place other than in the private homes in which they had been meeting.

E. M. Carpenter was building a house on Fairview Street and agreed to let the church meet in the lower left half if the members would lath and plaster it. James Nash (who was living upstairs temporarily) plastered it; Mrs. Nash & Margaret Carpenter mixing the plaster for him. This gave a room 14'x28' plus a 6'x6' hall for a meeting place. As baptisms were frequent, a tank was made 42"x 98"x 36". This we would set in the corner by the back door, when baptisms were made, filling it with water hauled in a tank wagon by a team of horses. In 1917 water and sewers were put in on the street. The builder had the water and sewer laid as far as the house, as there was no permanent basement under the building. The church had a water meter put in, making it much handier to fill the tank.

By October 1917 the congregation had grown to thirty-three. In the summer of 1918 the church bought a lot at 1437 Mabel Avenue. That fall the members dug a basement by hand. They bought the blocks and had them laid for a building 28'x 48'. Not having enough finance to complete it, it was left until the next year. On October 28, 1919 Ernest Carpenter began the job of rebuilding it, agreeing to build the church for 75 cents per hour and donating the other 10 cents to the church. Eighty-five cents per hour being the going wage. Also, he donated all time over eight hours per day. The members agreeing to help whenever they could. The structure was enclosed by January 17, 1920 but had to be abandoned until spring because the frost heaved the center support about three inches.

Abandoned

on April 21, 1920 work was resumed. On June 6 the church met in the building although it was not completed. The finishing was completed by donation, E. M. Carpenter overseeing.

In 1923 some members that had moved here from the south became dis-satisfied and met by themselves in their private homes but wanting the church at Mabel Avenue to finance the cost of a preacher for them. This was impossible because the congregation was not able to support a regular preacher for themselves.

Leslie G. Thomas (a young minister) worked in the shop and preached on Lord's Day and also taught a mid-week Bible class for some time. Brother Thomas worked with the church until September 1, 1924.

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MEMBERSHIP FROM JULY 22, 1915 to MARCH 21, 1917

	M	Mrs. Margaret Carpenter	2218 Lewis Street
	"	Mrs. Clara Leach	Walker St.
	"	Clarence Preston	1305 Orchard St. (now Mabel)
	"	Mrs. C. Preston	" " "
	"	Elmer Leach	Walker St.
	"	Lottie Leach	" "
	"	John McKellar	812 Witherbee St.
	"	Flossie Adams	YWCA
12/12/15	B	Ernest Carpenter	1333 Fairview St. (now Jane)
12/12/15	B	Flossie Carpenter	" "
12/12/15	B	John Hayward	" "
12/26/15	B	Sidney Weathers	816 Newell St.
12/26/15	B	Ella Hayward	1314 Fairview St.
1/9 /16	B	Henri Volcke	Walker St.
1/9 /16	B	Mrs. WM. Simmons (Mrs. Carpenter's mother)	2218 Lewis St.
2/6 /16	M	Mr. Jacobb Hayward	1314 Fairview St.
"	M	Mrs. Sarah Hayward	" " "
3/6 /16	B	William Hayward	" " "
9/3 /16	M	Don Colburn	1454 Mabel Ave.
"	M	Flossie Colburn	" " "
"	M	Luella Colburn	" " "
9/17/16	B	Walter Colburn	" " "
9/3 /16	M	Elsie Badour	Cronk, Illinois
3/9 /17	M	Mrs. A. Badour	" "
10/15/16	B	Esther Hayward	Indiana Ave.
12/10/16	M	John W. Laszwell	1210 Benson
"	M	Anna " (mother of Robert)	" "
"	M	Robert "	" "
1/21/17	B	Theron C. Bearup	1916 W. Court St.
1/7 /17	M	J. L. Newman	822 Conover St.
"	M	Mrs. "	" " "
10/29/16	M	Percy Matthews	
"	M	Mrs. "	
3/19/17	M	Mrs. Dervitt	