

## 1934 HISTORY OF THE DEARBORN CHURCH OF CHRIST

*The Directory of the Dearborn Church of Christ dated May 1, 1934 contained the following "History of the Dearborn Congregation" by Paul McAllister which we believe will be of interest to all former and present members and friends of the congregation. Thus, we are making it available on the occasion of our 50th Anniversary, August 5, 1979.*

*The Anniversary Committee*

Back in the summer of 1929 the need of more congregations in and around Detroit prompted a few of the members of the church of Christ to endeavor to establish a work in Dearborn. After some plans had been formed about one hundred people gathered in the Robert Oakman School Building for our first morning. This was August 4, 1929. Brother W. G. Malcomson spoke to us in that first meeting, also meeting with us previously as plans were being made for the work.

Brother Albert Hardison who now makes his home in Tennessee was our first song leader and what a good one he was; but no better than our present song leader, Brother L. C. Derryberry. Besides being a good song leader Brother Derryberry believes it his duty and privilege to always be at his post, and he is there ON TIME.

Brothers J. N. Hoover, L. C. Derryberry, D. D. Felske, Paul McAllister and T. W. Phillips II have had the oversight of our Bible School work which began with about sixty present. (There were two hundred and sixty-three present the last Sunday of April, 1934, TWP.) There is no way of ever telling the good accomplished by our Bible school work.

Brother Glenn Burch, now living in Indiana, was our first treasurer, followed by Brother Frank Cain, and then Brother J. N. Hoover.

Brother E. Gaston Collins, now of Nashville, Tennessee was our first minister. He was with us for only a few months, but while here he and his family made a place in our hearts that will long be remembered.

Brother A. W. Hastings began preaching for us about February, 1930 and continued for two years. While Brother Phillips was here in a meeting the latter part of 1931 he said that he had been associated with many preachers who were doing local work but that he had never met a more energetic and conscientious preacher. The good that Brother Hastings did while with us will never be fully known for some of the families that became Christians while he was here are among our most loyal Christian workers.

Brothers T. W. Phillips II began his work with us in May of 1932 and I think Brother Lon Hardison expressed the thought of everyone of us Sunday when he said, speaking of Brother Phillips, "He sure is some preacher." The congregation has conducted six revival meetings. The first was by Brother John C. Taylor of the Plum Street Church in June of 1931. Brother Phillips' first meeting was held in December of the same year; his second began May 8, 1932 and his third on the 22nd of October of the same year. Brother H. H. Adamson held our spring meeting of 1933 and Brother G. A. Dunn, Jr. held our fall meeting of the same year. Many responded to the invitation during these meetings and the greater part are very active in the Master's work.

As a congregation we have tried to be interested in more than just one kind of work. We have tried to preach the gospel away as well as at home. We have tried to feed the hungry and to help those in need, not only our own home people but those we did not know. I do not desire to mention all but just a part of our work.

We have been sending Brother Roy Whitfield ten dollars a month for his work in Canton, China, this since December 1932. Since Brother L. H. Andrews has been at Pontiac, Michigan we have been sending him five dollars a month. We have helped the work in Billings, Montana and Brother Hastings in the New Jersey-New York field. The ladies have made quilts and worked over clothing for Potter's Orphan Home as well as helping those here at home. We have tried to have at least a small part in all good works.

Our only indebtedness is that on the two lots we are buying on which we have our temporary building, that being around eight hundred and sixty dollars.

Now, Christian friend, we have said much about the past, but how about the future? Let each of us resolve that we shall try to do more in the time to come than we have in the past.

Paul McAllister  
Church Clerk

N.B. Since Brother McAllister wrote the above we have concluded our spring meeting of 1934 in which Brother Batsell Baxter did the preaching. Brother Baxter won every heart that heard him, and the largest crowds in our history were present, with more present several times than we had seats in our building. There were sixteen additions with twelve coming for baptism. The last Sunday of the meeting there was a meeting of the finance committee and plans were made to pay off the debt on our lots by first of June 1934, at which time plans will be made to go forward in a building program.