

Early History of Methodist Church in Clyde, Ohio

Methodism in this vicinity began as an organized church in the year 1820. Previous to this, prayer meetings were held by a few who belonged to the church before settling here. The sparsely settled country admitted of no regular stations and large tracts were organized into circuits. This place was included in the Lower Sandusky District, and in the year of 1821. Rev. Boardman organized the church here. The class consisted of six, viz: Samuel McMillan and wife, James Guinall and wife, and Albert Guinall and wife. Preaching was held in a log school house (standing on what is now Main Street) once in four weeks, usually on week days. Under these circumstances it could not be expected that the church would grow very rapidly, but the few were faithful, and under Mr. McMillan as class leader, they held class and prayer meetings once a week, in their private houses and kept up the interest, so that in 1825, they were ready for the revival which occurred. It was one of great interest and a large number were converted, among whom was Amos Fenn, who afterwards served the church as a local preacher for many years. Again in 1827, under the preaching of Presiding Elder McMahan, John Hazzard and Adam Poe, preachers, a revival occurred, and about twenty-five united with the church, Norton Russell being the first convert, his wife and sister, Mrs. McPherson, were also converted at that time. Preaching was held once in two weeks and the members held prayer meetings every night, the interest

kept up several weeks, and extended all through the circuit.

For some years following, the success of the church depended almost wholly on the efforts of the members and local ministry, and though there were clouds and sometimes seasons of depressions, the faithful few kept on, under all adverse fortunes, and held their meetings, often a handful, yet not despising the "day of small things," looked hopefully to the future, trusting that brighter days were near. And thus they kept on, while some were "gathered home," and some sought a home in the west, yet they waited, and not in vain, for the years came and went, and in '44 there was a great awakening in the church, especially among the young people, numbers united with the church, among them was James B. McPherson. Also a number of young men, some of whom are respected ministers. Again a time of quiet pervaded the church, preaching only semi-monthly. The society depended on class and prayer meetings to keep up the interest, but their faith kept them strong so that their numbers increased, if slowly yet surely. In 1850, preaching was held in the Dewey school house on (now) Buckeye Street, W. H. Seeley was the pastor. In 1851, the society decided to build a church. A subscription was circulated by Norton Russell in Green Creek, Townsend and York townships and a sufficient amount raised to justify the building of the church. Accordingly the contract was let to Wm. Weeks

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by Amos Fenn, Norton Russell, M. Persing and others, and the first Methodist church (now United Brethren) on Duane Street was built, the lot was donated by Jonathan Ames. Geo. Eaton was preacher in charge, his health failing, Alford Wheeler supplied him, Rev. Day assistant. The church was finished and dedicated the last day of December 1852. Presiding Elder Disboro preached the dedicatory sermon at which time \$400 was raised which freed the church from debt, the whole cost was fifteen hundred and thirty dollars (\$1,530) the meetings continued for several weeks and many were added to the church, the Sabbath school connected with the church continued through the winter for the first time, Mr Weeks, superintendent.

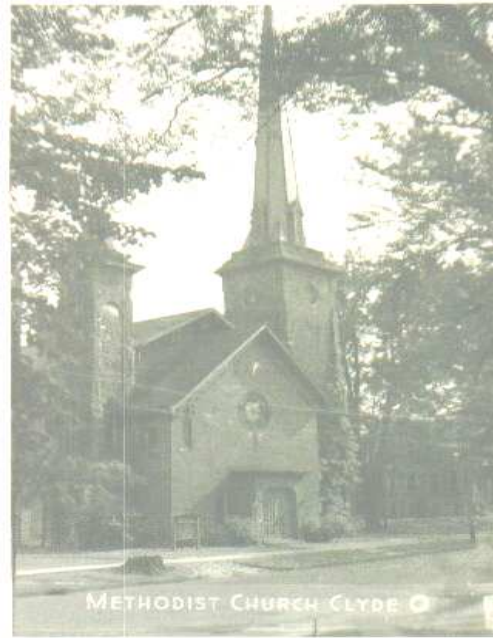
The charge consisted of the following appointments Clyde, Green Spring, Hedgetown, Person's school house, North Ridge, Castalia, Muscash and Tuttle's school house. In the winter of '53 and 4, Rev's Pelton and Vertican conducted a revival of considerable magnitude, and 30 united with the church.

In '56 Rev's. McKane and E. Y. Warner, were stationd here and remained two years. Under their labors the church increased in numbers. They were succeeded by Rev's. Castle and Thompson. In '59, Holderman and Barker, '60. Wilson and Sites in '61. The circuit was now reduced to the following appointments, Clyde, Green Spring and Townsend, Rev. Barker, pastor

in '62, Rev. Jones in '63, remained six months and enlisted in the army, and Rev. McKillips filled out the year. During this time series of meetings were held during the winter with some success and the membership of the church increased. In the winter of 1864, Rev. Broadwell, pastor, held a revival meeting and the church was filled every night. Many who were converted joined other branches of the church, the congregation continued to increase, the necessity for a larger church became apparent, and in 1866, the officials decided to build a new church (J. S. Broadwell, pastor); the membership of the church at that time was 145. A subscription was circulated and several thousand dollars subscribed, and two lots on the corner of George and Buckeye Streets were purchased at a cost of \$1,150, and a contract made with Mr. Carroll to superintend the work. He proceeded to erect the church and so far completed it, that in Feb. 1867 the basement was ready, and the congregation used it until the audience room should be ready. Work was continued on the church, and it was dedicated in August 1867, Rev. Dr. Donaldson preaching the dedicatory sermon. Thirty-seven hundred dollars were subscribed. Enough it was then supposed to pay the debt; however, the church was not completed, neither the spire nor gallery were built, and on completion of the whole, and a failure on the part of the subscribers to pay, it was found to be in debt. Rev. E. Y. Warner was pastor in the fall of '67. Nothing was

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done this year towards paying the debt, the church was in a good spiritual condition, the Sabbath school increasing in interest and earnest spirit, pervaded the church in all its departments. In '68, Rev. W. S. Paul was pastor, a move to reduce the church debt was made, a reunion society was formed and considerable amounts were raised at each reunion, held monthly. Notwithstanding the debt and its consequent embarrassment the church and congregation kept up, and a few were added to the church. Rev. Paul was returned pastor, in 1869 and '70. During his pastorship arrangements were perfected with Messrs. Remington of Illion, N. Y. and money borrowed to pay the church debt, which was then on interest, the church to pay the principal in yearly payments, no interest being charged on the same. Great credit is due the pastor for his energy and faithfulness in thus arranging the affairs of the church, giving new life to its membership. In the winter of '71, the pastor resigned his charge, and B. Wright supplied his place. Fall of '71 – Rev. G. H. Hartupee pastor. The reunions were still continued, and the debt was being reduced, the church was in a healthy state. In the following spring the church was badly injured do to a heavy wind which prostrated the spire, and otherwise injured the building. This was a heavy blow on the church financially, but it was then determined by the board of trustees to erect a new spire and also procure a bell, which was done during the summer, at a cost of



thirty-seven hundred dollars, thus greatly increasing the indebtedness. During the following winter (Rev. Hartupee pastor) a series of meetings were held by all the churches, all uniting in one, occupying the M. E., for convenience, it being larger than others. The meeting were kept up for weeks, the interest was great and many were converted and united with the church. In the spring following, the church debt was so large that it was resolved to try and raise a part of it. Accordingly Bishop Bowman was called and preached, a subscription was taken and several thousand dollars promised, but a failure on part of the subscribers to pay again left the church yet in debt, and though considerable reductions was made, the indebtedness continued burdensome. In '74 and '75 Rev. S.

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L. Yourtee labored with some success, and the debt was somewhat reduced. Yet in the fall of '75 they were still \$4,250 in debt, Rev. J. W. Mendenhall, pastor. It seemed a necessity to reduce the indebtedness as much as possible, and the pastor asked for subscriptions, and by the first of February '76, the debt was reduced to \$1,600. Rev. Mendenhall labored zealously and awakened among the members a lively interest in the welfare of the church, resulting in the cancellation of the entire remaining debt during his pastorate. The event was celebrated by a jubilee meeting. Rev. W. H. Painter succeeded as pastor in 1878, and remained the maximum allotted term of three years. He was succeeded by Rev. B. J. Hoadley, who served as pastor until the fall of 1882, when he was stationed by the conference at Sandusky, to assist in liquidating a debt of considerable magnitude which rested on the church at that place. Rev. G. W. Ball was the next pastor of the Clyde congregation; he served two years. In the fall of 1884 he was by the Bishop appointed Presiding Elder of Mt. Vernon District; the duties thus imposed on him cause him to release his engagement as pastor at this place. Through the assistance of evangelists many new members were added to the congregation during the time he remained here. Rev. O. Badgley, the present pastor, succeeded Rev. Ball and will have served the congregation three years in September next, at which date his term expires. The church has steadily prospered under the

guardianship of these several pastors, and enjoys a solid footing financially and otherwise. From an early date a Sabbath school has been regularly maintained, and for a number of years past is has been largely attended; Mr. G. S. Pickett is the present superintendent, and Mr. D. A. Heffner assistant. The trustees of the church are: h. H. Rabe, S. M. Terry, Wm. Weeks, G. S. Pickett, Wm. Russell, S. H. Rhoades, John Lefever, and A. A. Hutchins.

Historical Events to Remember

Methodism had its beginning in Hamer's Corners (Clyde) in the log cabins of a few families prior to 1820.

- 1820 Meetings were held in the McMillan cabin.
- 1821 Reverend Boardman organized the Methodist Church in Clyde. Meetings were still held in McMillan cabin. Meetings later were moved to a log schoolhouse located on what is now known as Main Street.
- 1825 Revival meetings were held with a large number of converts joining the Methodist movement. Among them was Amos Fenn, who later served as local pastor.
- 1827 A second revival service was held with 25 new members joining the church. Among them was Mrs. William McPherson, mother of James McPherson.
- 1844 A great awakening occurred and many young people joined the Methodist fold. Among them was the young James McPherson. A goodly number of this movement became respected ministers.
- 1850 Church services were held in the Dewey schoolhouse located on Buckeye Street.
- 1851 The Methodist congregation decided to build their own church. A petition was circulated in Green Creek and York townships and sufficient funds were raised to justify building a church on Duane Street. Norton Russell was instrumental in this endeavor, aided by the donation of the lots by Jonathon Ames.
- 1852 The church was finished and dedicated and free of debt. Total cost of the edifice was \$1,530.

The church in the 1850's was on a circuit taken care of by two ministers, and the charge consisted of the following places: Clyde, Green Springs, Hedgetown, Person's Schoolhouse, North Ridge, Castalia, Muscash, and Tuttle's Hill Schoolhouse.

- 1862 The charge was reduced to include Clyde, Green Springs, and Townsend, served by one minister.

Historical Events to Remember

- 1864 Another successful revival meeting was held with a capacity crowd every night. Many joined the church. It soon became necessary to consider a new and larger building
- 1866 Lots were purchased at the George Street site.
- 1867 The basement was completed. Remainder of the building was completed in August, and Dedication Services were held on August the 23rd.
- 1871 Severe windstorms damaged the church and tore off the spire. Repairs were made, and it was decided that the church would procure a bell.
- 1872 The new bell was installed in the reconstructed steeple.
- 1877 The church's debt was completely paid.
- 1900 The church continued to grow, and the building was remodeled with new windows installed and an addition added that enabled the sanctuary seating to be turned.
- 1901 A John Sole pipe organ was installed.
- 1920 Beginners Class assisted in planting the Sweet Cherry tree in the Parsonage yard, on May 21st 1920.



Pauline Lucas Prentice, Harold Walter Prentice, Donald Killinger, Sammy Killinger, Mary Westerhouse, Awilda Keyse, Helene Hummell , Ralph Birdal Abbott, Iona Hall, Agnes Franks, Donald Carter, Betty Heffner

All these are also members of the Mother's Jewels Band.

Historical Events to Remember

1942 The sanctuary was rededicated.



1943 Pictured above "Remembrance Ceremony for the men and women serving in our armed forces - WWII"

1952 The old church spire was removed.

1956 A new Moeller pipe organ replaced the one previously installed, and continued growth in membership to approximately 700 and church school enrollment of 500 prompted us to investigate new facilities. Our present church property was purchased. The location is especially significant since this is where the McMillan cabin had stood and where Methodism in Clyde had really started.

1962 Ground was broken for our educational unit and Fellowship Hall.

Historical Events to Remember



Groundbreaking Service

June 10, 1962

Rev. Paul Olinger, Marvin Pearce, Ralph Staver, Wilbur Sarvis, Ben Davis, Alton Drown, Martha Mitchell, John Jackson, George Clark, Vincent Garn

- 1963 We moved from the old church to our new location and consecration services were held.
- 1968 Dedication services were held on the education unit and Fellowship Hall.
- 1970 Ground was broken for our sanctuary in April, the cornerstone was laid in July, and on December 20, the sanctuary was consecrated.



Historical Events to Remember

- 1977 September the 18th, the mortgage was burned, and the entire building was dedicated to the glory of God.
- 1980 Agreement was reached with the Masonic Temple that the bell installed in our old church would be ours for removing and restoration of the roof area affected. In August of this year the bell was removed and placed in storage.
- 1983 On January the 18th the bell was installed in front of our sanctuary on a low pedestal. April 24th, Heritage Day, 1983, the bell was dedicated to the glory of God by the Bell Committee, the History and Records Committee, and the congregation of the First United Methodist Church. Installation of the carillon and electrification of the bell was completed December 24th.
- 1984 A church museum project was authorized and the first phase began with the purchase of two display cases.
- Bicentennial plates designed and procured as a part of the church's observance of the Bicentennial Year of American Methodism.
- 1985 The Korean Mission Church began to hold their services in our church.
- 1986 A major outreach project was accomplished through a large donation to Baughman United Methodist Church in Sierra Leone, West Africa.
- Phase I of the organ renovation was completed.
- 1987 The first church pictorial directory was completed
- 1989 New Organ console work completed May 15, 1989.
- 1991 Handicapped friendly restrooms were installed.
- 1992 A Peace Pole was installed and dedicated.
- 1993 Celebrated 30th year in current building.
- March 15, the organ contract was received for phase I of phase III.
- 1995 175th Anniversary of the Methodist Church in Clyde was observed. History and Records Committee planned special activities for each month of the year to commemorate this historical event.

Historical Events to Remember

The Rev. Sue Chidley was invited to deliver the message on Sunday, February 11. Steve Kline, Missionary delivered the message on September 8. Both Sue and Steve had grown-up in this church. United Methodist Women's Sunday highlighted the role of women in the church. Rev. Mark George a former pastor of this church, gave the sermon on Homecoming Sunday. Other former pastors in attendance were Recognition of 50-year members was held. Dramatic monologue featuring important people in the church's history was presented by various members of the church. Youth Sunday was planned and presented by the youth of the Church. History & Records Committee sponsored the first annual Church picnic held under a tent on the church grounds. An Old Fashioned Church Bazaar was held.

Having funds on hand, dedicated for the organ upkeep. It was advised that The Bunn Munnick Organ Company be engaged to estimate what could be accomplished with the funds available.

- 1996 Vision 2000 was undertaken to express the goals of the church for five years. The goals were categorized to include administration, buildings & grounds, and the general programs.

A Church Endowment Fund was established.
Youth Mission trip to Kentucky

A children's play group was held weekly under the guidance of Natalie Danhoff.

- 1997 Second Annual Church picnic held on July 27th. Membership & Evangelism Committee held and auction during the picnic.

A contemporary service was begun with services held on Saturday evening. The service was informal and held in Fellowship hall. After a full year the service was discontinued due to poor attendance.

- 1998 Handbells were purchased with memorial funds from the Coleman family in memory of Ethel Coleman. A three octave bell choir was established. Charter members of the choir were Nancy Greenslade, Kevin Koots, Janet and Hal Michaels, Edith Gray, Linda Bailey, Natalie Danhoff, Vickie Taylor, Becky Massey under the direction of Rev. John Bailey

The third annual Church picnic held on August 9th was very well attended

Historical Events to Remember

History & Records Committee established a historical picture gallery in the upper hall of the education wing. Charles and Alice Wolfe donated historical pictures and funds for matting and framing the pictures.

- 1999 History & Records Committee arranged for the lighted showcase to be built in the narthex. The showcase is in memory of Tom Perry with memorial funds from the Perry family.

The church sound system was upgrade and a projection system was installed in the sanctuary.

Youth Choir/Children's Choir/Tone Chimes

- 2000 A second bell choir was formed, the two choirs were identified as "Praise Ringers" and "JuBellation".

New landscaping was added to enhance the overall appearance of the church. A "Love In Bloom" offering campaign provided the funds to accomplish this project.

- 2002 An alternative worship form was begun on Sundays at the 10:30 am service. The service included contemporary music, multimedia elements and drama. The altar area was remodeled to accommodate the instrumental band.

New carpet was installed throughout the sanctuary and adjoining area.

A number of new small support, study, or interest groups were included in the church program.

Vacation Bible School was held outside using tents.

The kitchen was remodeled and major appliances replaced. This was made possible by a generous donation from Mrs. Albert (Doris) Baker.

Twelve youth and six adults were received on profession of faith along with six transfers. The church lost eleven members through death or transfer to another church.

- 2003 The Ladies Lounge was completely refurbished. The flat roof section over Fellowship Hall and surrounding area was replaced with a slightly slanted roof.

Historical Events to Remember

2003 Rev. James Greenawalt (Interim Pastor) served this church for the first six months of the year. In June, Rev. Dennis Rinehart became the pastor.

The Worship Team organized and sent "Care Packages" to college students and military members.

2004 The Worship Team organized and sent "Care Packages" to college students and military members.

In keeping with the Church Vision Statement a free community dinner was held.

A "Power Up For God" to raise funds to upgrade the church computer and telephone systems was held.

New confirmed members

The Church found itself in a financial crisis. Church operating expenses were far exceeding the giving. Designated and restricted funds were inadvertently used to fund church operations, thus reserve funds were nearly depleted. The situation came to light in January when steps began to be taken to find how to relieve the financial difficulties.

Staff positions were eliminated, and others were drastically reduced. A professional audit was performed to review all records and reconcile all accounts.

A Church Conference Meeting was held on March 21, 2004 with the District Superintendent presiding. It was revealed there had not been a financial audit turned into the District Office since 1999. A resolution was passed to hold a major financial campaign, beginning in June 2004 to repay the designated funds and to increase weekly and monthly giving.

A complete financial disaster was averted due to faithful members giving substantial funds to keep the operating fund solvent.

"Blessed to Be a Blessing" financial campaign was held in June to increase regular giving and build a contingency fund that would put the church back on a firm financial foundation.

Much credit is to be given to Rev. Rinehart for guiding and keeping the church united through this crisis.

Historical Events to Remember

2005 New entry doors were installed in the handicapped and back entrances.

Church rear entrance beautification was completed by Robert Hintz, for his Eagle Scout project. He added benches and landscaping along the sidewalk leading from the parking lot.

An additional octave of hand bells was donated by the Coleman family.

2006 A new boiler was installed at a cost of approximately \$7,000.