



# Lighthouse of Iowa

*Keeping in touch with Iowa's Churches of Christ*

December 2018

## History of Iowa Churches of Christ

*Dean Avenue — "The struggling congregation at Des Moines" (Dec. 19, 1922)*

Does anyone remember the Church publication called the *Apostolic Review*? From the historical information on Dean Avenue Church of Christ the *Apostolic Review* reported quite a bit on the congregation's progress and growth during the early 1920's.

A Civil War veteran, who was either an evangelist or elder, published a letter in the *Apostolic Review* making a plea for financial aid for "*the struggling congregation at Des Moines*" and their efforts to complete their building.

*Apostolic Review* (1920-40) was edited by Daniel Sommer, who was influenced greatly by Benjamin Franklin.

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### CIVIL WAR VETERAN APPEALS FOR DES MOINES

— December 19, 1922 —

"It was my privilege to meet with this church two Lord's days, and I found a devoted band of Christians. But they are without a building, and have to pay \$25.00 per month rent besides other incidental expenses. Most of the members are poor in this world's goods, but rich in the Faith once delivered to the saints.

They have a lot but are not able to build; and now brethren, you that have plenty and to spare, it is your duty to help the church of Christ build a house of worship in Des Moines, the capital city of Iowa, so they can save the extra expense and inconvenience they have to contend with.

"This congregation has several young sisters and brothers, and I was pleased to see the interest they took in worship. You know the church of Christ

has no worldly attractions like our sectarian friends, and it is very difficult to get young folks interested in the Pure Gospel. So I hope churches not only in Iowa, but in every state, will lend a helping hand to the struggling congregation at Des Moines.

"Contributions sent to Eugene Suddeth 1640 E. Walnut St. will be thankfully received. Bro & Sister Suddeth are devoted Christians. I made my home with them while in Des Moines, and they treated me like a father.

"Your Bro. in Christ - T.H.B. Garner Spickard, Missouri"

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Brethren and congregations around Iowa and beyond responded donating a little as \$1.00 "*sister from Pleasanton, Nebr.*" to as much as \$111.90 "*from Berea, Ia.*" and many various amounts in between. Toddville Church of Christ (now Center Point Road Church of Christ in east Iowa) donated \$25.00 and "*three monthly installments of \$3.00*"

This was big money back then and enabled the congregation to accomplish quite a bit. However, rumors started to spread that the congregation was having internal conflicts, which was not true. An excerpt from a Church report states the following:

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**January 23, 1923** - Report has reached some places [that] the church is divided here and that a faction had pulled away. This is absolutely false, and why it should have been made, I do not know. Though there are some things that hinder (such as some who fail to do their duty as they should) yet brethren are at peace among themselves.

Brethren we sincerely thank you for your fellowship in our efforts, without which the work could not have been accomplished. Pray we be able to keep the church pure and growing.

In Hope of Life Eternal- Eugene Suddeth

As the years went on the congregation grew in souls and "the meeting house" expanded. In the Spring of 1923, three brethren were appointed to manage the cost of materials and labor. The three were C.D. McCay, J.W. Gorrell and George Munger. The original building was completed in the Fall of 1923 with additions and remodels over the next twenty years.

There is an interesting note after this regarding brethren who served during WWII. It reads:

"There were approximately 23 members who served in the military services during World War II and just one lost his life, Leonard Fritz, U.S. Navy."

As the Dean Avenue congregation grew holding meetings and doing local mission work, the congregation was **able to assist establish four other congregations** in the Des Moines area:

Location	Year Started	Charter Members
Fort Des Moines	1933	25
59 <sup>th</sup> & University	1939	19
Martensdale	1948	8
Pleasant Hill	1959	44

The history also mentions that Dean Avenue assisted other Iowa congregations such as Cedar Rapids, Marshalltown, Council Bluffs and Mount Ayr, but then states "...we are saddened to report that these have all been disbanded, the meeting houses sold, and the few faithful members meet elsewhere."

We will end with a final note on Dean Avenue and the Vandalia congregation meeting together in 1946.

"Dean Ave. hadn't worked in fellowship with the Vandalia congregation for a number of years, but in November 1946, eleven brethren from Dean and 59<sup>th</sup> & University met with about the same number of brethren from the Vandalia and Newton congregations. These conditions were openly and frankly discussed, and they agreed in the future to unite their forces in an effort to build up the church of the living God. The meeting closed with much rejoicing as they all stood and sang 'Blest be the tie that binds'. The congregations have exchanged talent and worked in close harmony ever since."

The Dean Avenue Church of Christ did a phenomenal work with awesome fervor evangelizing the state of Iowa. Something for us to consider. Don't the lost souls in Iowa need this type of zealous evangelizing again?



From L to R: C.D. McCay (?), Thompson, Eugen Suddeth (?), Mabrey, C.R. Turner, W.G. Roberts, Ralph Anderson, John Rhodes, Carl Ketcherside, E.M. Zerr. November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1936.

*Many thanks to everyone who shared information on the history of the Iowa congregations. The stories are edifying and fascinating. This history seemed to stir memories of a very zealous and fruitful work! Any other stories or photos you would like to share for possible publication please send to [iowalighthouseletter@gmail.com](mailto:iowalighthouseletter@gmail.com).*

— Tom & Dianne Collier

## Chariton

**Meeting times:** Sundays: 10:00 a.m. (no evening services)

**Location:** 15<sup>th</sup> & Roland, Chariton, Iowa

**For information call:** Albert Schreck (641) 535-2381 or Brian Schreck (641) 535-2931

- Evelyn Bennett was hospitalized for a couple of days and has now moved to an assisted living facility. **This is a permanent move.**

Her new address is:

**Evelyn Bennett**

Homestead Assisted Living

19999 St. Joseph's Drive

Centerville, Iowa 52544

- Mary Jo Riekens fell and had to have several staples put in the back of her head.

- Barb Fetters was our visitor this month.



### December Birthdays

- ★ 9 Albert Schreck
- ★ 31 Brian Schreck

### December Anniversaries

None

## Dean Avenue

**Meeting times:** Sundays: 9:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.

**Last Sunday of the month:** A social after morning services meeting back at 1 pm instead of 6 pm.

**Location:** 2907 Dean Ave., Des Moines, Iowa / P.O. Box 57398, Pleasant Hill, IA 50327

**For information call:** John McNeece (515) 263-9428

- **Rick Sparks gave us many good lessons during our fall meeting. We want to thank all surrounding congregations for their support in attending our meeting.**
- Tom and Dianne Collier met with us, and Tom gave an excellent exhortation on "*What manner of persons ought we to be?*"
- Harold McNeece, brother of John McNeece has passed away.
- Earl Allen is continuing immunotherapy treatment for his cancer. Please pray for him.
- Pam Climpson has been ill with pneumonia. She is slowing getting better.

- Glenn Meacham has been having back problems.
- **Visitors:** Tom Warren, Bill, Bryan and Tally Charlier, Preston and Paxon Boozell, Don and Wanda Burkman and Brita and Charlie Kelsey.



### December Birthdays

- ★ 18 Yvonne Coe
- ★ 18 Travis Head
- ★ 28 Risa Schamel

### December Anniversaries

None

## Fairview

**Meeting times:** Sundays: 10:00 a.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.  
**Location:** 1001 S. 22<sup>nd</sup> St, Clarinda, Iowa 51632  
**For information call:** Richard Negley (712)542-3728 or Marvin Negley (712)542-2792

### Visitors this Month:

- We enjoyed having Rick Sparks with us November 3rd & 4th and we also had a basket dinner on Sunday
- Kevin Woodson friend of Vanessa Groves.
- November 10 - We had a basket dinner for Josh & Jessica Gonzalez as they are leaving the community - also her parents Nick & Vicki Bos of Sioux City were here helping them move. We are very sorry to see them leave, as they were a nice asset to our group.
- Paul, Timber, Minka & Race Negley

- Molly & Zoey Gilmore
- November 19th Vanessa Groves had out patient surgery to remove a cyst and is doing fine.
- No church on November 25 due to inclement weather.



### December Birthdays

- None

### December Anniversaries

- None

## Martensdale

**Meeting Times:** Sundays: 10:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.  
**1st & 3rd Sundays of the month:** Basket dinner after morning service meeting back at 1 pm instead of 6 pm.  
**Location:** 10985 44th Lane, Prole, Iowa (1.5 miles east of Martensdale, IA on Hwy. 92)  
**For information call:** Duane Proudfit (515) 961-4470 or Mike Penick (515) 681-0279

- **We're very happy to welcome Mike and Shawna Divis to our church family!** They placed their membership with us November 18th.
- Tracy Penick traveled to California on a business trip.
- Fred Bown continues to improve. The brace was removed from his leg but he still can't put weight on it. Fred has been able to worship with us some.
- Tiffany George and Jenna Wheeler attended the ladies day study at Excelsior Springs.

- **Bill and Wendy Hounsom traveled to Chicago to the Cancer Treatment Center.** Wendy went through a series of tests to determine if/what treatment she needs. Please continue to keep Bill and Wendy and their family in your prayers.



### December Birthdays

- ★ December 10 – Mary Proudfit
- ★ December 12 – Teresa Bown
- ★ December 29 -- Drew Teghtmeyer
- ★ December 30 -- Hannah Hounsom

### December Anniversaries

- None

# Pleasant Hill

**Meeting Times:** Sundays: 9:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.  
**Every Sunday:** Potluck with afternoon service (Every Sunday – Dec 2 thru Feb 24)  
**Location:** 5091 E. University, Pleasant Hill, Iowa  
**Website:** pleasanthillchurchofchrist.org  
**For information call:** Bob Flack (515) 262-7329, Lowell Hermon (515) 989-0727, Mike Warner (515) 967-4529

STARTING DEC. 2

**WE WILL HAVE POTLUCK EVERY SUNDAY  
THRU FEB 24TH WITH AFTERNOON SERVICES  
STARTING AROUND 1:00 P.M.**

- **It is with great sadness that we report the loss of Sister Connie Price.** She departed this world on Friday the 16th and the funeral was the 21st. Please keep her family in prayers.
- **Nora Lee Ingle would also like to thank everyone** for visits, cards, prayers, flowers and food while she was in hospital for her heart and since returning home. Thanks to granddaughter Ginger for letting people know and a big thank you to Tom Brady's family for coming to sing before having the procedure done.
- Shirley Warner's brother and wife were visiting.
- Randy Ingle was visiting son Brandon.
- **Mike and Shirley Warner have a new great granddaughter.** Nova Layne Thornton was born to grandson Shaun & Brittany Thornton weighing 7 lbs and 12 ozs.
- Tom and Dianne Collier, with mother Peg Collier and brother and sister-in-law, Brian & Karen Collier, were visitors.
- **Bob Flack spent almost a week in Mercy.** He is now home and feeling a bit better. They took 2 liters of fluid off of his lungs. He would like to thank everyone for cards, visits and prayers.

- Carson George tried out for a Drum & Bugle Corp in Wisconsin. Allison went with him.
- Randy Ingle spent a few days in Iowa Lutheran Hospital adjusting to some new medication.
- Tom and Fred Brady are in Florida for a few days.
- **Joyce Ingle would like to thank everyone** for prayers, cards, food, and flowers since her surgery, very much appreciated.
- Joyce also went to visit with her father Roy Whanger. Roy's face is clearing up from cancer treatment. Rodney's family visited with Travis and Jenika Schreck and then went to visit with Roy.
- Marc Hermon family spent the Thanksgiving week-end with the Matt Harvey family in Ill.



## December Birthdays

- ★ 3 Jediah Wood
- ★ 7 Gabriel Hermon
- ★ 18 Jason Brady
- ★ 18 Paul Zinnel
- ★ 23 Dominique Blackman
- ★ 29 William Conner

## December Anniversaries

- ★ Nick and Susan Conner

## Vandalia

**Meeting Times:** Sundays: 9:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:30 p.m.  
**Location:** 2.5 miles east of Runnells, Iowa on F70, then 1 mile north on 131st St.  
**Website:** vandaliacoc.com  
**For information call:** Greg Ingle (515) 994-2824 or Charles Ingle (515) 966-2537

- **We are happy to report the baptism of Abigail Dilley on November 18th.**
  - We express our sympathy to Tonya Guthrie and family for the loss of her father Reginald Gray of Newton.
  - Lynnette Dowdy visited family in the Kansas City area.
  - Greg and Margaret Ingle spent a few days at Clear Lake.
  - Visitors were Valerie Burkman and Bobbi Jo Dilley and daughter Abigail.
  - Lisa Fiorentin underwent shoulder surgery and is doing well.
- Derek Ingle had gall bladder surgery and is recuperating.



### December Birthdays

- ★ 2 Bonnie Harkins
- ★ 3 Kelsey Fiorentin
- ★ 3 Carson Dowdy
- ★ 8 Leah Fiorentin
- ★ 27 Melody Burkman
- ★ 27 Jason Henle
- ★ 29 Staci Miller

### December Anniversaries

- ★ 12 Robert & Sharon Cummings



Church of Christ. Camp Center, Iowa. 1914

1914--Bible Reading at Camp Center Church of Christ.

Front--Nart Tyler (George), James Scott (Teacher), aunt Ruth Johnson (James)  
Middle--Cecil Miller (no relation), Pearl Ware (Haws), Addie ?  
?, Beatrice Suddeth, Annie Johnson, Col. Curry, Mary Miller  
(Suddeth),  
Back--Eugene Suddeth, Alsie Suddeth, Oliver Ware, Roy Warren, Earl Warren.