

Northern Kentucky Views Presents:

The Milford Church

by

unknown

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THE MILFORD CHURCH

On August 2, 1853, a group of believers united for the first service of the Milford Church. The building was

located on the north end of this small rural town. Some of the charter members were E. S. Adams, J. M. Browning, Mary E. Browning, Mary E. Duncan, Julia Fan Duncan, Frances Dunn, T. J. Duncan, Mary A. Duncan, Annie M. Askins, Oliver Cleveland, and America Cleveland.

As the congregation grew and their building became too small, Mrs. Mary Duncan Giltner donated a parcel of land near the center of Milford, toward the south, to the Milford Church congregation for a new and larger building. The dedication was held December 2, 1883 with Bro. Robert Graham of Lexington delivering the sermon.

The old church building was sold to the colored people residing in and around Milford. They used the building as a church and school until 1889 when it was destroyed by fire along with a larger part of the entire town of Milford.

Records show that in the early 1900's, the first elders elected by the congregation were Bros. Charles H. Kinney and J. H. Marsh. P. M. Spicer was elected as Clerk. They were duly ordained by Bro. Marian Pfanstill and J. H. Taylor. Bro. C. E. Duncan was elected as Supt. of the Sunday School and Sister Lucy Taylor was elected as Treasurer of the Sunday School.

Bro. Marian Pfanstill preached off and on as regular minister and as a fill-in minister for many years. The first records of any salary for the year 1905 was \$26.75 and for 1906 only \$14.60. Church housekeepers were paid \$.25 - \$.75 per week. Services were held Saturday night, Sunday morning, Sunday afternoon and Sunday night.

Various ways were used to raise money to help support the church - box suppers, ice cream suppers, The Franklin Entertainment Company, estate

contributions. Many of these activities were the combined efforts of the church and school.

Each year protracted meetings (revivals) were held for 2 weeks, usually in the summer. The evangelist would stay in members' homes at night and was fed 2 meals a day prepared by other members. At the end of the Revival Meeting, all who had made their confession went to a nearby stream of water and all were baptized. Records of these Evangelists are found in the Church Logs, along with marriages, deaths, trustees, elders, deacons and ministers dating back into the 1880's.

The first full-time minister was Gareth Reese. He came to Milford in 1953 and preached every other Sunday. Seeing the need for every Sunday preaching, he confronted the church board, offering to come the other two Sundays for a free-will offering. The board decided if he was willing to do

that - they could surely get the money for a set salary. This began Milford's first full-time ministry.

A steady growth became apparent so in the 1950's '60's, and '70's, changes were made to the original church structure. Thirteen classrooms were added including a library, nursery, a large fellowship area, a minister's study, two bathrooms, an equipped kitchen, baptistry and a completely remodeled Sanctuary.

Within a few years the Church saw the need for a full-time minister to live in the community. A parsonage was purchased south of the Church at the corner of Routes 19 and 539. Bro. Lloyd Mealer and wife, Pat, were the first to live in this parsonage. This served as a parsonage until the 1970's when land was donated by Mr. & Mrs. Elwood LaMonda about 1 mile south of Milford to build a larger parsonage. Bro. Tom Lipscombe and wife, Betty, were ministering at this time.

In 1981 the Church called their first Youth Minister to serve. David Vaughn, a student at Cincinnati Bible College served in this capacity until his graduation. Ernie Campbell, also a student at Cincinnati Bible College, took his place and was Youth Minister until his graduation. Roland (Chip) Denief, a student from Kentucky Christian College, was then hired and is serving the youth of the Church at the present time.

As with most small rural communities, the church building serves not only as a place of worship, but also a place of many community affairs and activities. Today, under the direction of the Church are Sunday School Classes for all ages, mission programs, prayer meeting and Bible Study, an active youth program with full time Youth Minister, the Cum Join Us Ladies Group, Adult and Youth Choirs, Tape Ministry

Men and Boy's Softball Teams, Ladies and Girl's Softball Teams, and the Over 55 Group.

The Milford Christian Church has weathered many storms and today still stands as having "no creed but the Bible - it speaks where the Bible speaks and is silent when the Bible is silent".

LIST OF MINISTERS

| | |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Gary Mattingly | 1987 |
| Jack Knechtly | 1982-1986 |
| Wayne Rice | 1980-82 |
| David Brown | 1977-79 |
| Tom Lipscombe | 1974-76 |
| Joe Hatchett | 1970-73 |
| Bruce Heller | 1966-69 |
| Gene Kearns | 1963-65 |
| Lloyd Mealer | 1959-62 |
| George Stanley Eads | 1957-58 |
| Stanley L. Jones | 1956-57 |
| Gareth Reese | 1953-56 |
| Everett Stevens | 1952 |

| | |
|------------------|---------------|
| Dean Rutherford | 1951 |
| Bro. Davis | 1949-50 |
| Eugene K. Wilson | 1947 |
| Paul Hazeltine | 1946 |
| Ronald Storm | 1945 |
| William Roland | 1944 |
| Robert Muligan | 1943 |
| George Elliott | 1942 |
| Bill Huey | 1931-41 |
| R. B. Cheathane | 1939-41 |
| Owen Crouch | 1937-38 |
| N. L. Shorphire | 1930 |
| R. T. Drake | 1929 |
| O. L. Mankamyere | 1926-28 |
| James Faulconer | 1920 |
| C. O. Stevens | 1918 |
| Marian Pfanstill | 1910-11-15-22 |



Mollie Ogdon Duncan
Giltner

Courtesy of Alice
Pope