

Fairborn U.M. Church



1926 - 1967

40 Th.

Anniversary

APRIL 16, 1967

United Missionary Church

Second at Walnut

Fairborn, Ohio

*Compiled by: Jesse K. and Mary E. Osborn
1967*

Art and Layout by: Ralph F. Matheny

MY CHURCH....
God's House

Here, in this quiet place where men
 have prayed
And lifted up their hearts to heaven in
 praise,
I feel my need--by mine own lack
 dismayed--
And seek my voice of penitence to raise!

For here the generations long since
 dead
Drew near to God and took from him
 their strength,
And I can nothing do but bow my head
And pray for simple faith like theirs
 at length.

Here was the living bread dispensed to
 men
And thirsty souls drank from the
 heavenly spring;
So would I find refreshment here, and
 then
Go forth replenished--both to serve and
 sing!

Here, at the holy table of the Lord
True worshipers remembered him who
 died;
I too would be a doer of the Word
And feed on him who once was
 crucified!
And as I sit in silence in the pew
Methinks I hear his voice who makes to
 cease
The storms of life--and giveth Grace
 anew--
And says--"Go forth into the world in
 peace!"

--(REV.) R. D. BROWNE
Tiverton, England

HISTORY OF THE FAIRBORN UNITED MISSIONARY CHURCH



Mission 1926

In September 1926 after some visitation and inquiry, Rev. H. M. Metzger, Ohio District Superintendent, and his Home Mission Committee rented a store room on West Xenia Drive in Fairfield (which is now Fairborn). They then announced a revival meeting to begin immediately at this location. This meeting continued every night for six weeks. Rev. Colonel Spry preached for two weeks, Rev. J. I. Moore continued for two more weeks, and then Margaret Powell Sensenbaugh was the evangelist for the last two weeks which concluded the revival and officially opened the mission which grew into the church of today.

Miss Powell acted as pastor until April 1927 when Mrs. Elizabeth Kline came to Fairfield under appointment of conference to act as pastor along with her husband and two daughters. Some of those who were converted during this six month period and others who wished to make this their church home formed a group of thirteen charter members and organized in April 1927. They were:

Mrs. Elizabeth Kline
Mr. Henry Kline
Miss Sarah Kline
Miss Mary Kline
Mr. Ward Palmer
Mrs. Dora Palmer
Mr. Harrison Null
Mrs. Elizabeth Null
Mr. Charles Edmison
Mr. Joe Campbell
Mr. Roy Maggert
Mr. Elmer Seifer
Mrs. Etta Seifer Deisch

From 1929-1932 the Fairfield and Pleasant Grove churches were on a circuit, both churches being pastored by Mrs. Kline with Sunday morning services being conducted at Pleasant Grove on alternate Sundays. It is interesting to note that the present pastor of the Pleasant Grove church and his family were converted in the Fairfield Church, and that he received his call to the ministry while a member here.



Margaret Powell
Sensenbaugh



Mrs. Elizabeth
Kline

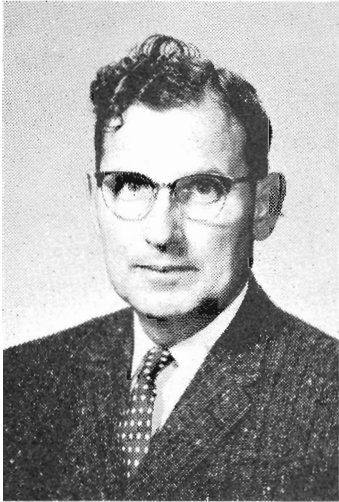
Mission 1928



In 1931 Mr. Peter Weimer became associated with the church group which was then conducting services in part of the building which now houses the Fire Department on Broad St. Realizing their need of a church building, Mr. Weimer donated the lot on which the church now stands. The construction of the church began under the direction of Rev. William Manney in 1936 with the assistance of donated labor and equipment. The original frame structure 34 x 48 feet was completed in 1937.



Rev. William Manney



Rev. Raymond Pettit

Rev. Gordon L. Beck



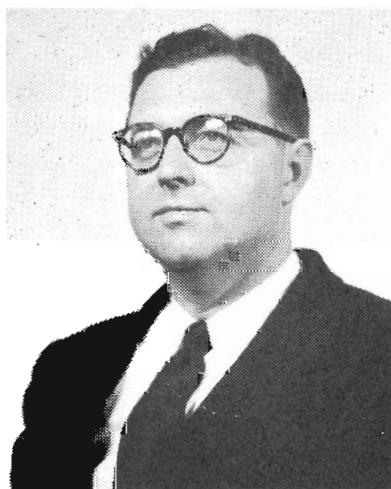
It was during Rev. Raymond Pettit's pastorate here - about 1946 - that our church had its first radio broadcast. This was a 15 minute program from 7:15-7:30 each Sunday morning over radio station WING. It was also during Rev. Pettit's pastorate that the first church parsonage at 315 Greene St. was purchased.

In the course of time as the membership grew and the Sunday school attendance increased, the church sanctuary and basement facilities became inadequate. Consequently, in 1950 during Rev. Gordon Beck's pastorate an additional thirty feet and wing were added at the rear. It was about this time that the church again sponsored a radio broadcast each Sunday morning over stations WJEL and WIZE in Springfield.

While Rev. Lowell Nihizer was pastor, about 1955, the church parsonage on Greene St. was replaced by the purchase of the one located at 410 Clover St. This was more conveniently located - the rear of its lot adjoining the rear of the church lot.



Rev. Lowell A. Nihizer



Rev. Forest L. Huffman

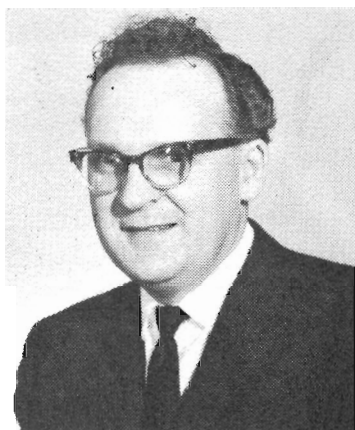
In 1958 while Rev. Forest Huffman was pastor, the group decided to further improve the appearance and capacity of the church. A vestibule and cloakroom together with new steps and entrance were added to the front, and a large Sunday School room was constructed under this addition. Then the entire exterior of the church was covered with brick.

While Rev. Howard Brenneman was pastor, in 1964, the parsonage kitchen was enlarged and remodeled, a new bedroom added, and a new grade entrance to the basement constructed. During the next year the area at the rear of the church and adjoining the parsonage was blacktopped in order to provide parking space for the church.



*Rev. Howard D.
Brenneman*

*Rev. Ronald L.
Byers*

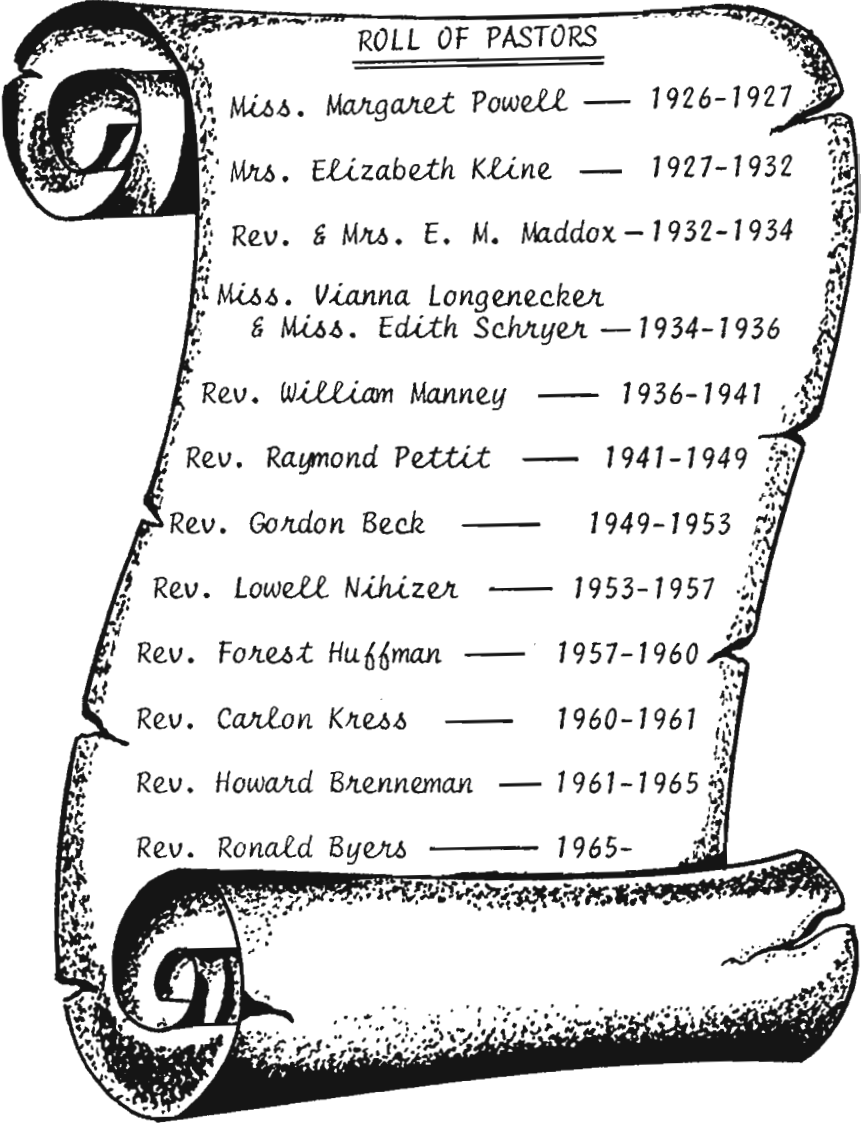


In 1966, upon action of the church board, provision was made for the pastor, Rev. Ronald Byers, to begin buying his own home through a monthly subsidy provided by the church. After he moved to his present home at 236 East Doris Drive, the property on Clover St. began to be used as a Sunday School annex, as well as a meeting place for the Youth group on Sunday evenings and for some social activities of the church and Sunday School.

Now that the church has arrived at its Fortieth Anniversary it is gratifying to note that there has been growth in various areas. The membership stands at 97. The Sunday School attendance averages 180. We are pleased with a large active youth group and a Women's Missionary Society with a vision and a mind to work. It has been our pleasure to support the Gambles in India for several years; and in August 1966 Mrs. Roberta Hensley Schlabach, who grew up in our church and was converted here, went with her husband to Brazil where they work as teachers of missionaries' children at Greenacre School. Mrs. Schlabach's support is also provided by our church.

Rev. and Mrs. Ralph Riley, pastors at Pleasant View Church, and Rev. and Mrs. John Moore, pastors at Pleasant Grove Church are also among converts of this church who have gone on to serve the Lord in other communities. Local licensed ministers are Mr. Dale Dawson and Mr. Jesse Osborn.

We must not fail to mention that there are a number who have helped to establish the church and support its program who have now gone on to their eternal reward. Their faithful devotion to their Lord and to the tasks they performed in His service speaks to us today and presents to us all a challenge to continue faithful to the things God requires of us.



ROLL OF PASTORS

Miss. Margaret Powell — 1926-1927

Mrs. Elizabeth Kline — 1927-1932

Rev. & Mrs. E. M. Maddox — 1932-1934

Miss. Vianna Longenecker
& Miss. Edith Schryer — 1934-1936

Rev. William Manney — 1936-1941

Rev. Raymond Pettit — 1941-1949

Rev. Gordon Beck — 1949-1953

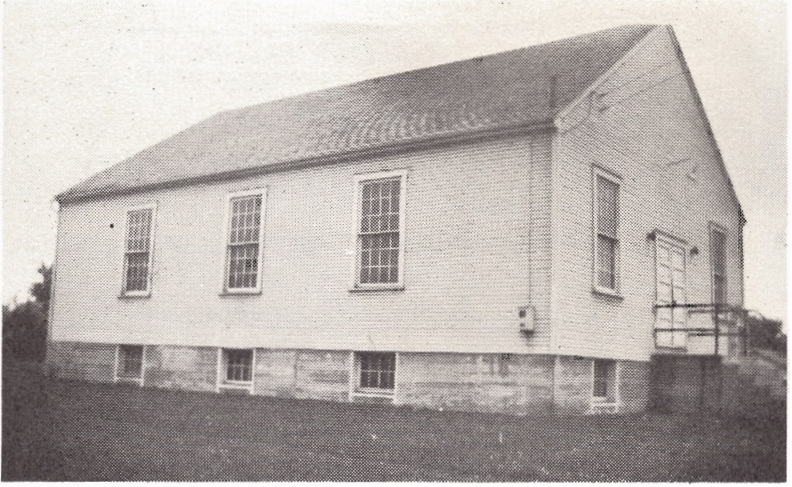
Rev. Lowell Nihizer — 1953-1957

Rev. Forest Huffman — 1957-1960

Rev. Carlon Kress — 1960-1961

Rev. Howard Brenneman — 1961-1965

Rev. Ronald Byers — 1965-



Church 1938

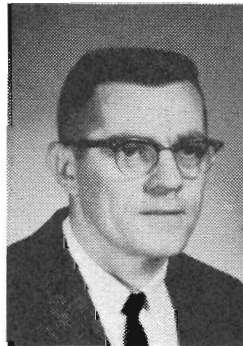


Church 1958



Miss.
Vianna Longnecker
&
Miss. Edith Schryer

Rev. Carlon Kress



Rev. & Mrs. Maddox



PRESENT CHURCH BOARD



Front Row, Left to Right: Willard Dresbach, Averil Aldridge, Vice Chairman, Marie Matheny, Secy., Rev. Ronald Byers, Chairman, Jesse Osborn. Back Row, Left to Right: John Artz, Earl Adkins, Roger Rice, William Edmiston, Thomas Barthauer

PRESENT CHURCH

