

# HISTORY OF ORLEANS COUNTY CHURCHES

## TOWN OF CLARENDON

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## HISTORY OF ORLEANS COUNTY CHURCHES

by  
Helen E. Allen

### Town of Clarendon

Clarendon is located in the southeastern corner of Orleans County. The first white man to settle in the area, which was later set up as the Town of Clarendon, came in 1811. This was Eldridge Farwell who built a saw mill by a waterfall on Sandy Creek that year and a grist mill two years later. A small settlement soon grew up around Farwell's Mills and only four years after he arrived and built the first cabin, a Methodist Episcopal Class is said to have been formed there. Also in 1815 there were some people in the northwestern part of the town who joined with Murray pioneers in organizing a Christian Church.

Settlement in Clarendon was rather slow and the State census of 1855 recorded a population of only 1749, the smallest of any town in Orleans County. But at that date there were four Churches in the Town. The Methodist Episcopal Church which had developed from that early Class at Farwell's Mills, later the village of Clarendon, a Universalist, the Christian Church which was at this date located at Manning in the western part of the Town and a Free Will Baptist Church. One other Church was organized a few years later, The United Brethren, in 1862. This was the only Church of that denomination in Orleans or any adjacent County but they were numerous in Penn. It is interesting that this denomination which contributed the word 'United' to the United Methodist Church which is the result of the most recent merger of Methodist groups completed in 1968. In 1946 a union of the Evangelical Church and the United Brethren formed the Evangelical United Brethren, E.U.B., which in 1968 merged with the Methodist Church.

The Free Will Baptist Church never erected a meeting house. The other four nineteenth century Churches built five edifices but since one of these was a replacement for the first M. E. Church which was destroyed by fire there were never more than four houses of worship in Clarendon. The first to be erected in the town was the large Universalist church constructed of stone from local quarries. It is still standing in excellent condition but Universalist organization died out about 1959. The small frame meeting house of the Christian Church was built at Manning in 1839 and used for services until the membership became too small to continue. The old building was still standing in 1968 in use as a farm storage. The second building erected by the Methodists in 1893 was used by them until the fall of 1967. In 1969 the building was sold to be remodeled into a dwelling house. The United Brethren meeting house was built in 1869 and used by them for only a little over ten years. It stood for many years, gradually falling down and was finally razed in 1914.

There is now only one Church in the Town of Clarendon. This is the Disciples United Methodist, formed in October 1966 by the merging of the Clarendon Methodists and the Holley Methodist Church. This new Church plans to minister to the religious needs of the people of the Town of Clarendon and those formerly served by the Holley Church. The large building located in the Town a short distance north of the village of Clarendon was designed to provide space for worship, Christian Education, and meeting place for all organizations of the Church. It was built in 1969 on a twenty acre site.

## THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF MANNING

The oldest of the Churches active in the Town of Clarendon during the nineteenth century was organized, not in Clarendon but in the Town of Murray. It was later known as the Christian Church of Manning or West Clarendon. A group of Christian people who did not wish to accept the doctrines of any of the various denominations of that period, met at the cabin of William Burnham in September, 1815. This cabin was located in the Town of Murray, about a mile and one half north west of the present village of Holley.

LANDMARKS OF ORLEANS COUNTY gave records of the organization of that Church as follows: "We, whose names are written in this book, acknowledge ourselves a Church of Christ, taking Christ the son of God for our leader, master and lawgiver and the Scriptures for our rule of faith and practice. In the first place a few names were joined together by Daniel Brackett; then about the first of November, 1815 a few were added by Elder Morris. Then, in the month of March, 1817, the Church was regularly organized by Elders Robinson Smith and Joseph Badger." The following names were recorded: "Daniel Brackett, Jesse Everts, Docas Everts, Urania Everts, Paul King, Winthrop Young, William Whitney, Sarah Whitney, Sarah Brackett, Thaddeus Austin, Eunice Thing, Robinson Smith, Joseph Terry, W. B. Worden, Pollina Worden, Peter Miller, Esther Miller, Susannah Young, John Stockwell, Levi Preston, William Burnham, Phebe Burnham, Zebulon Rice, Polly Meed."

The young Church continued to meet in the Burnham home or other cabins in that vicinity for a number of years. During that time, the Revs. Daniel Brackett, Robinson Smith and Joseph Badger, served as pastors during that time. About 1824 the place of meeting was changed to a school house in the western part of Clarendon. In 1826 a small Society of Christians was formed in the eastern part of the Town of Clarendon. After holding meetings for about three years, this group united with the older Christian Church.

In 1839, Daniel Brackett gave a site at West Clarendon, later called Manning, and the Christian meeting house was built there that same year at a cost of about \$2,000. The Church continued to increase in membership and to minister to the spiritual needs of the community for many years. In 1874, during the pastorate of the Rev. J. W. Lawton, the members had the meeting house repaired and improved at a cost of \$1,000. One of the pastors of the Christian Church of Manning, the Rev. Warren Vreeland, served for a time as President of Western New York Christian Conference of which the Manning Church was a member.

When LANDMARKS OF ORLEANS COUNTY was published in 1894, the Manning Church was carrying on an active program. Pastors who had served the Church from 1824, when the Society moved to Clarendon until 1894 were: the Revs. - Daniel Brackett, Ezra Smith, Aaron Cornish, Ezra Gates, Richard Davis, A. C. Parker, W. T. Caton, J. D. Childs, Joseph Weeks, H. S. Fish, F. R. Hoag, I. T. Tryon, A. C. Parker, Elias Jones, James W. Lawton, Warren Vreeland, J. B. Clark, Elias Jones, D. D. Moore, Warren Vreeland, and D. D. Moore who was serving a second pastorate in 1894 and for an unknown period afterward.

There is no complete list of pastors after that date but some records of the closing chapters of the life of the Manning Christian Church were found. Edward B. Fancher was ordained to the ministry in



in the church on September 27, 1912 and occupied the pulpit at various times. He also served as pastor of Christian Churches at Pembroke and Castile. The Manning Church had begun to decline in membership during the early years of the present century. The Rev. O. R. Newman of East Gaines was the last pastor of the Church, serving full time for a number of years until 1917. As he was an elderly man, he did not attempt to drive from his home to Manning during the winter months after that date, but continued to serve the Church during the rest of the year for some time. Several people joined the Church during the summer of 1920 and Rev. Newman welcomed them into the membership on October 31 with the right hand of fellowship. The final regular preaching service was held in the Manning Christian Church on a Sunday in the spring of 1921. For a number of years the few members remaining in the vicinity held a business meeting and Prayer Service once a year until October 1928 when the old meeting house was sold to William Gaylord and the proceeds turned over to the Western New York Christian Conference.

This Christian Church had carried on an active witness for Christ for more than a century and their house of worship in Manning stood for nearly 90 years before the steeple was removed and it was made into a potato storage.

## CLARENDON UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

The Universalists erected the first Church edifice in the Town of Clarendon, a fine substantial stone structure, still standing in 1969. They were also the first to legally organize as a religious society but that action did not take place in Clarendon. Among early residents of Clarendon and Murray were a number who held the Universalist interpretation of the Bible. These people met occasionally, with the pastor of a Universalist Church in Parma preaching to them. According to LAND MARKS OF ORLEANS COUNTY, a Society was formed in 1827 which met more regularly. On November 3, 1832, in Holley, this society incorporated as the First Universalist Society of Clarendon and South Murray.

The constituent members of the new Church were; Eldredge Farwell, David Matson James Orr, George A. Porter, Eli Bickford, Henry Wetherbee, Benjamin Mallory, Ezekiel Lee, Edward Squires, Harlow Wells, Horace Moffatt, Levi Hard and David Matson Jr. It is interesting to note that these first members were all men. Many early Churches began with more women than men in the membership even though they were allowed no voice in the proceedings. The Universalist Church usually held their meeting alternately in Clarendon and Holley school houses, for about four years.

In 1836, Eldredge Farwell gave land in the village of Clarendon to the Society. Plans were then made for immediate building. Contractor Philip Preston and stone masons, Levi Davis and Seth Knowles erected the church there, using stone from local quarries. the belfry was topped by a lofty spire. The edifice had a large seating capacity with galleries extending nearly around the interior. The pulpit was at the north end and the choir loft in the gallery at the opposite end of the auditorium. The cost of the building was about \$2,500.00

Extensive alterations were made to the edifice in 1870. The side galleries were removed, the pulpit moved to the south end of the room and the seating reversed. The choir was placed near the pulpit, the walls frescoed and a mural painted on the south wall. Horse sheds had been built along the south edge of the property at an unknown date and apparently each member either built or paid for his own shed, for the name of the owner appeared on each one. About 1877 the spire above the belfry was considered dangerous and was removed. During 1887 a parsonage was built on the property just west of the church. A wing was added on the east side of the church near the back in 1896. It was carefully constructed of stone to match the original building. The annex, as it was usually called, provided space for a dining room and kitchen and many social events were held there.

The incorporated name of the Church was soon forgotten but the Clarendon Universalist Church as it was commonly known, continued to be strong and active for about eighty years. Then, as older members died and some of their descendants moved away, the Church failed to attract new members and interest, and attendance at services began to decrease in the twentieth century. During this period, while some of the older faithful members were still living, they began to worry about their beautiful Church edifice being used for commercial purposes if the Universalist Society should go out of existence. The trustees therefore deeded the property to the New York State Universalist Society, while services were still being held. About 1932 the

congregation became so small that a pastor could no longer be supported and the Church was closed.

For fifteen years no services were held in the Clarendon Universalist Church. Then a few members still living in the community, decided to try to do something. They made plans for an Old Home Day at the Church in June 1947. They worked to arrange a good program and create interest in the project. They were so successful in drawing many people to the celebration that day, and in reawakening concern for religion that regular Sunday services were resumed and a Sunday School organized. Also a branch of the Association of Universalist Women was formed. Many social activities were carried on. The Rev. Donald Lawson, pastor of Pullman Universalist Church in Albion, accepted a call to also serve the Clarendon Church when it reopened.

Members of the Church and the congregation went to work with a will and the property was again put into good condition. The stone walls were pointed up, furnaces installed in both church and parsonage, the auditorium redecorated and the organ electrified. Also new furniture for the dining room and Sunday School and new kitchen equipment were purchased. During this period of activity while restoring the property interest remained strong and attendance at services was good. After the work was completed attendance at Sunday worship services began to diminish and after only twelve years of again carrying on a religious program the Clarendon Universalist Church closed permanently in 1959.

After the Universalists merged with the Unitarians, the New York Universalist Convention went out of existence and before doing so deeded the Clarendon Church back to the almost defunct Universalist Society there. Two of the older members, saddened by the closing of their beloved Church and not wishing the beautiful edifice to be used for other than religious or beneficial social purposes, or to finally fall in ruins, made plans for keeping the building as a distinguished landmark. A corporation was formed - The Clarendon Universalist Church Preservation Society- and, on March 17, 1967, the Corporation received the deed of the property. Members of the corporation are descendants of Levi Davis, one of the stone masons who constructed the church and of Mr. and Mrs. B. Britt Andrus, who were members for many years. They are, Mrs. Herbert G. Salisbury, Mrs. Earle D. Smith, of Clarendon, Mr. Harland A. Smith of Rochester and Mr. Paul D. Smith of Short Hills, New Jersey.

Pastors who served the Church: The Revs. Calvin Morton, Isaac Whitwell, Alfred Peck, Russell Tomlinson, Wm. Andrews, Charles Hammond, Nathan Sawyer, Seth Remington, L. L. Spaulding, Thomas Clark, Wm. Cool, H. L. Hayward, Alonson Kelsey, J. J. Austin, Nelson Snell, Wm. Knott, W. B. Randolph, Wm. Breoffle, D. C. Tomlinson, W. C. Tansom, E. R. Ottoway, F. B. Peck, E. L. Conklin, H. A. Markley, W. S. Goodell, H. K. Riegel, Lewis H. Robinson, F. J. Angel, R. A. Lenz, D. M. Flower, I. V. Lobdell, E. P. Wood, Donald Lawson and Joseph L. Sullivan, Th.

## CLARENDON METHODIST CHURCH

A Methodist Episcopal Class is said to have been formed at the little settlement known as Farwell's Mills in 1815, only five years after the first settler came to that spot. As Ridgeway Circuit of Methodist of Methodist Episcopal Preachers, who served this whole area of western New York for some years, was not set up until late in 1816, this early class must have been formed by consecrated laymen and was probably visited occasionally by a minister from older settlements farther east in what was then Genesee County. The first minister mentioned was Israel Chamberlain. The class continued to meet in the homes of members and then in the school house as the village grew and membership increased. The Methodists did not organize as a Church for thirty years even though they maintained regular worship services. Finally their membership had increased so much that a meeting house of their own was urgently needed. On February 28, 1848 the members organized and incorporated under the name, First Methodist Episcopal Church and Society of Clarendon. The minister at that time was the Rev. Reuben Foot who acted as moderator and George M. Copeland as secretary of the meeting.

For some reason the Church delayed three years longer before beginning to build. Finally, during 1851 a substantial frame meeting house was erected on land given by Mr Copeland and dedicated late in December. The Rev. Simeon Smith was the pastor. The little settlement of Farwell's Mills had long before become the village of Clarendon.

The membership continued to grow and twenty years later the building was remodeled, enlarged and improved. Additional land east of the church was purchased on which sheds were built to shelter the horses of the congregation. A picture of the first Clarendon M. E. Church shows it as an attractive white edifice facing south, flanked by two tall trees and the grounds separated from the street by a neat white fence. George M. Copland again donated land to the Society in 1878, this time for a parsonage which was built at a cost of about \$1500. The Clarendon Church had usually been joined with the Hulberton M. E. Church under the care of a pastor who lived in that village. In 1879, however, the pastor, C. W. Swift, moved his family into the new parsonage at Clarendon.

In 1892 the Clarendon Methodists lost their beloved Church building during the fire which destroyed much property in the village. The members promptly entered upon the task of cleaning up the debris and building a new edifice on the same site. A basement was constructed to provide space for furnace, a large cistern, kitchen and dining room which was also used for Sunday School classes. The entrance to the sanctuary above was reached by a rather long set of outside steps. The new church was built at a cost of about \$4,000 and was dedicated, debt free, in November 1893. Services had been held in the Town Hall during the preceeding year.

During the present century the building has been kept in repair and the sanctuary redecored as necessary. Gifts and memorials have added needed equipment such as pianos for sanctuary and Sunday School and the present organ, also appointments to add to the atmosphere of worship, including candelabras and the picture of Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane.

The basement has been remodeled from time to time to meet changing needs. In recent years the kitchen has been modernized, rest rooms



added and the dining room, which is used for children's classes, enlarged. In 1959, Herbert VanAmeron gave and installed two new oil burner furnaces. As the early members of the Clarendon M. E. Church gave generously to make their House of God a worthy place in which to worship Him, so through the years, later members continued to contribute time, talents and money to the Church.

As a means of promoting community fellowship, the Church sponsored a group known as the Friendly Folks, for about twenty years beginning in the early 1930's. Neighborhood meetings were held in different homes one Sunday evening each month with a tureen supper followed by the singing of favorite hymns, scripture reading and brief remarks by the pastor. Community spirit was once fostered in the Clarendon Methodist Church by the fact that so many families of early settlers in the community were represented in the Church for several generations. Now Elijah Root is the only early member still represented in the Church by descendants William C. Root and his son Royce Root.

The women of the Church many years ago organized a Ladies Aid and a Missionary Society to help carry on the work. In more recent years these have been reorganized as The Women's Society of Christian Service. At the beginning of this century, <sup>Young People</sup> worked in an active Epworth League. Now they belong to the Methodist Youth Fellowship in two age groups. Until recently the seniors met with the Holley group and the juniors at the local Church under the leadership of Charles Bowen and Mr. and Mrs. Royce Root.

The Clarendon and Hulberton Churches were for many years served by one pastor. Since the Hulberton Society disbanded twenty years or so ago the Church has been under the care of the Holley Methodist pastor. Often a Colgate - Rochester Divinity School served as pastor. Although they were usually consecrated men it was impossible for them to give adequate leadership to two Churches on a part time basis. Membership and interest in both Churches declined. Then for a time they were without any regular pastor. On February 1, 1965 Conference appointed the Rev. Donald K. Coburn as full time pastor to the charge. Mr. Coburn set to work with energy and consecration to build up the Churches. A year or so earlier the student pastor had suggested the idea of the two Churches merging as both congregations were small, but no definite steps were taken in that direction. As the Rev. Coburn was able to build up interest in the Holley Church and attendance increased the lack of parking space for cars and lack of space for Sunday School classes caused other problems. During 1966 the idea of uniting to form a strong new Church was again considered. After numerous meetings to carefully explore all angles of the situation, The Clarendon Methodist Church and the First Methodist Church of Holley voted on November 15, 1966 to become one congregation and to purchase a site for a new edifice. In January 1967 officers were elected for the United Church and a budget of \$17,483 for operating expenses and Conference assessments adopted. The Official Board of the united congregations then approved the name, Disciples Methodist Church, for the new organization. Plans were made for the purchase of a suitable site and the financial campaign for building funds. The fund drive in October, 1967 brought in pledges for well over \$57,000. A site on the Holley Clarendon Road, less than a mile north east from the village of Clarendon, was secured. Ground Breaking ceremonies were held on June 23, 1968 and Disciples Methodist Church <sup>edifice</sup> was erected during the summer and fall. January 1, 1969 the work has proceeded to the point of installation of heating equipment and interior finishes. It is planned that the building will be ready for use and Dedication in the coming spring.



For a time after the merger was voted, the two congregation worshiped in their own buildings and services were held as usual in the Clarendon Methodist church. The Youth groups and the two Women's societies merged at once and held meetings alternately in the two communities. Later the congregations joined in worshiping together using each church on alternate Sundays. In the fall of 1968, in order to avoid the cost of heating both buildings, services and Sunday School sessions were all held in the Holley edifice. Officers and Board and Commission members who carry out the programs of Disciples Methodist Church are elected from both the former Clarendon and Holley members.

The Clarendon Church was always served by pastors from the Hulberton or the Holley Churches and are listed in those Church histories.

After serving the religious needs of many Clarendon people as a Methodist Episcopal Class for more than thirty years and then as the Methodist Church of Clarendon for almost a century, members of the old Church are continuing to serve the spiritual needs of the area as part of the new Disciples Methodist Church whose edifice is located in the Town of Clarendon and which is now the only active Church in the Town.

## FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCHES

Two Free Will Baptist Churches were organized in Clarendon. County histories barely mention the first one, merely stating that a Free Will Baptist Church was organized at an early date in the eastern part of the Town. It was probably not organized as early as that statement would indicate, for Free Will Baptist records list a Clarendon Church for the first time in 1835. At that time a membership of 22 but no pastor was reported. This Church never reported a pastor so it is most likely that services were held only occasionally when a minister was available. The members never built a meeting house.

The Second Free Will Baptist Church was formed on April 7, 1846, in the school house in District No. 10, about two miles south of the village of Clarendon. Twenty-three persons met on that date and, under the guidance of the Rev. Eli Hannibal, pastor of the East Kendall Free Will Baptist Church, Elder Ferguson and Elder Archibald Bennett of their own group, organized as a Church. Chester Hawley was elected as Church Clerk and Treasurer, Jehiah Glidden as Deacon and John Hawley, assistant Deacon. Four years later the group from East Clarendon merged with the new Church which carried on an active ministry and won new members so that for some years there were more than one hundred on the Church roll.

In 1859 the place of meeting was changed to the school house in District No. 4, which was about a mile farther south. The Free Will Baptists never erected an edifice of their own but continued to hold services in the school house for about twenty years. For some reason when the consecrated founders of the Second Free Will Baptist Church of Clarendon died, their descendants and others who moved into the vicinity failed to support the work with the same devotion and after 1870 membership in the Church declined steadily. After 1877 they could no longer support a pastor. For a few years occasional services were held with the Rev. C. Putnam of Byron supplying the pulpit. The last records of the Church were in 1879 when Richard Babbage was Church Clerk and the membership was 20. There are no further references to this Church and it probably went out of existence soon after 1880.

Elder Archibald Bennett was the first pastor of the Second Free Will Baptist Church of Clarendon and continued his ministry there for five years. He was followed by the Revs. A. Gilman, William Peck, Charles Cook, Shubael Stevens, Walter Holt, S. S. Stevens again, Alfred Olmsted and D. L. M. Rollin who served until 1877.

## THE CHURCH OF THE UNITED BRETHREN

The last nineteenth century Church to be organized in the Town of Clarendon was the Church of the United Brethren, the only one of that denomination formed in Orleans County. This Church went out of existence only about twenty years after organization.

This denomination was founded by Philip William Otterbein who came to Pennsylvania from Germany in 1753 as a minister of the German Reformed Church. In this country he experienced a deeper religious conviction, perhaps from contact with enthusiastic Methodists. He was a preacher of great persuasiveness and won many followers who were also dissatisfied with the teachings of the German Reformed Church. With Martin Boehm, a preacher of similar deep personal conviction, as an associate, Philip Otterbein formed a German Speaking Church with doctrine and organization similar to that of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The first annual conference of the denomination was held in 1800. Later of course, English was used in Church services.

The U. B. Church in Clarendon was organized at the Brown school house in the western part of the Town in the summer of 1862 by the Rev. Jacob B. Erb of Buffalo. It began most auspiciously with 30 charter members and Rev. Erb serving as pastor. Giles Orcutt was chosen as class leader and regular services were maintained in the Brown school house for seven years.

In 1869 the members decided to build a meeting house of their own. They incorporated with Horace Coy, Giles H. Orcutt and George Lawrence as Trustees. A lot was donated just south of the school house grounds in District No. 10 and Daniel P. Albert hired to erect the small frame building. It was dedicated later that year with the Rev. John Hill from Penn. preaching the dedicatory sermon. The Church was a member of the Erie Conference of United Brethren Churches. One of the leading members and officers of this Church was a U. B. clergyman, Horace Coy, but he never served as pastor of his home Church. Pastors who followed Rev. J. B. Erb were the Revs. D. C. Starkey, Hodge, Philander Pierce, Parker, Butterfield, I. J. Bowen, I. Cole, Bennett and G. B. VanWaters who was pastor in 1879.

There are no farther records of this Church so it must have closed soon after 1880. Grant Orcutt, son of Giles H. Orcutt, one of the early trustees, could not remember ever attending attending services. He was born in 1878 and in 1967 could remember as a small boy going into the abandoned meeting house with other children from the school next door. The melodeon which had been used in the services was still there and the children tried to play it. Many years later when Miss Julia McAllister taught school in District No. 10 the pupils still liked to play in the old church. It was very dilapidated by that time as it had never been repaired and she made every effort to keep the children from going into the building. Miss McAllister well remembers the day in 1911 when lessons were disturbed by a crashing noise and they saw a cloud of dust coming from the church. The roof had suddenly fallen in. Not long afterward the old meeting house was completely torn down. In 1968 most residents of the Town do not know that the Church of the Brethren ever existed there.



## DISCIPLES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Disciples Methodist Church was formed in October, 1966 when the First Methodist Church of Clarendon and the First Methodist Church of Holley voted to merge. The two Churches had been served by the same pastor for many years. Since 1950 most of the ministers had been students at Colgate-Rochester Divinity School and could give little time to either Church and both had declined in membership. In Feb. 1965 the Rev. Donald K. Coburn was sent to the charge by Conference, as a full time pastor. This young, energetic and consecrated leader began his work by becoming well acquainted with the Church members and with the communities. He was then able to lead the congregations in improving the programs of both Churches. Soon new vigor and interest was experienced in all organizations. With increasing attendance at worship services and Sunday School, the lack of parking space and class rooms which had long been a problem for the Holley Church, became more acute. During 1966, the pastor, while continuing to build up the Churches, devoted much time to exploring the possibility of uniting them into one strong Church which could erect an edifice ample for all their programs and with sufficient parking space.

After the organization of the new Church in the fall of 1966, the search for a suitable site and careful consideration of the type and size of building needed for the new Church with its various organizations and many programs took up the early months of 1967. A twenty-acre site on the west side of the Holley Clarendon Road, less than a mile north east of Clarendon was purchased, and a campaign for building funds planned. During the fund drive in October more than \$57,000 was pledged. William H. Guilford was general chairman of the fund raising campaign. A Building Committee was set up with Bruce C. Rodwell as chairman and Tracy Smith as vice-chairman. Plans submitted by architect Shulgren, Patterson and Marzec were approved by the committee early in 1968. Manning, Squires and Hennig were hired as the general contractor and ground breaking ceremonies were held on June 23, 1968. Work proceeded rapidly and the building was enclosed before winter. Heating, Plumbing and lighting were installed during the winter and then members of the congregation did much of the work of cleaning, finishing and painting the interior in order to keep down the cost.

Disciples Methodist Church held their first service in their new building on May 4, 1969 and the service of dedication was on June 1. In June, the Rev. Coburn, who had led the Clarendon and Holley Methodist Churches in accomplishing so much during his five and a quarter year pastorate was transferred by Conference to another Church. The Rev. Brothers followed immediately and is serving with consecration.

When services in the building were started in May, grading around the edifice had been done and usable driveways and parking area developed. During the remainder of 1969 a small lawn was seeded and some planting done and other outside improvements made. Also the interior was more completely fitted for the needs of the various classes and organizations. During 1970 plans are being made to develop a Picnic and Camping area and ball grounds, improve the parking lot and landscape the twenty-acre site. At the same time members and pastor are working together to increase their Christian ministry.

Organization of the Church are: Woman's Society of Christian Service, Methodist Men and Methodist Youth Fellowship.

Disciples United Methodist Church in January 1970, has a membership of 310. The administration and ministry of the Church is carried on by an Administrative Board, Council on Ministries and several Committees which include too many people to list in this brief history. Some of the key officers from this large group are: Pastor - The Rev. Rae L. Brothers, Lay Leader - Mr. Myron Parsons, Lay Member of Conf. Miss Irene Gibson, Church Treas. - Mrs. Milton Bowen, Benev, Treas. - Mrs. Donald Gaines, Bldg. Fund Treas. - Mr. Dayton Bullock, Recording Sec. - Miss Patricia Smith, Chmn. Bd. of Trustees- Mr. Tracy Smith, Sup't of Church School- Mrs. John Ward, Coordinator of Childrens Work- Miss Patricia Smith, Co'r. Youth Work - Mr. Fletcher Brothers, Co'r Family Life -Mr. William Guilford, Youth Mem. of Ad. Bd. Miss Marcia Gallagher, Pres. W. S. C. S. - Mrs. Harry Bowen. Church Historian - Miss Irene Gibson.

Sunday Services : Church School 9:45, Morning Worship 11:00,  
Methodist Youth Fellowship 7:00 P. M.