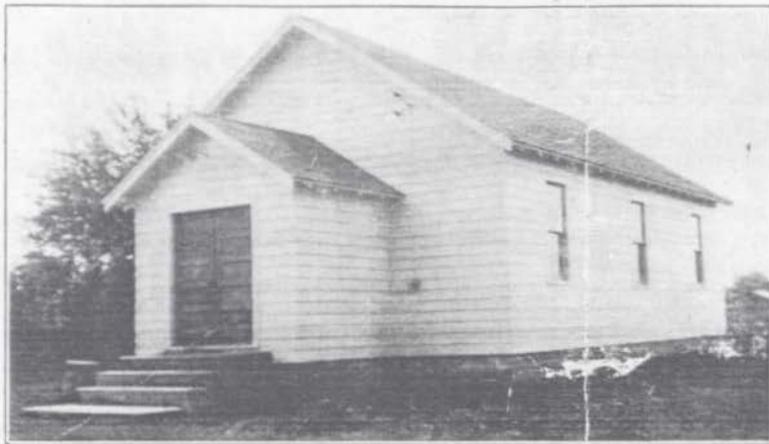


North Chippewa Street Church Of Christ, Shepherd, Michigan



G. L. Gooden

Shepherd, Michigan

In September 1936 G. L. Gooden and family moved to Alma, Mich., and set out at once to locate the Church of Christ, but were somewhat surprised to learn the nearest one was fifty or sixty miles in either direction from Alma. They then began to look for members of the church with whom they might worship, but without success, so they began the worship in their home. In the summer of 1937 Bro. Gooden got in touch with Bro. C. B. Clifton of Flint, and together they located some eight or ten members in Shepherd. They continued meeting in Bro. Gooden's home in Alma for a while but in November of the same year the meeting place was moved to Shepherd. A hall was rented over the Chevrolet garage and the first meeting held Nov. 7, 1937.

Brother Carroll Beagle of Holiday's Cove, West Virginia, held a meeting in the hall in November of the same year with one baptized and one restored. The same preacher held another series of meetings in June 1938 with one baptized and two restored. In the summer of 1938 the brethren gave up the hall and began meeting in the home of Brother and Sister Larnie Schultz to save expenses. They continued to meet there until they began to feel the need of a larger building and church home. So, in March 1939 they secured three nice lots at a cost of seventy-five dollars for which they paid cash, and began planning for a building. Donations were asked for and checks received from congregations in West Virginia, Kentucky, Pennsylvania and Michigan. May 16, 1939, ground was broken for the new building on North Chippewa street. The Petro Oil Company donated the sand and gravel for the foundation. The men of the congregation met there May 22 after their regular work hours and began pouring concrete for the foundation, finishing their work at 11:00 p.m. by the lights from their automobiles. The Roosevelt Oil Company of Mt. Pleasant sent three men who

laid the concrete blocks on the foundation May 25. The men of the congregation have done all the carpenter work in the evening after their regular working hours. The building is 24x36 feet, has 10 foot ceiling, 8x10 vestibule with a seating capacity of about one hundred twenty-five. The house is heated by a new oil burner. All the members of the congregation worked hard to get this church building, and extend a cordial invitation to all who may come this way to stop and worship with them. They feel that this is a great field and that much good may be accomplished in the Lord's work in and around Shepherd.

GEORGE L. GOODEN

George L. Gooden was born December 12, 1895, near Bowling Green, Ky. He is married and has two daughters, Wanda, age 18, and Catherine, age 16; both members of the church. Brother Gooden was baptized into the Baptist church at age 12 and remained there for seven years. In 1919 W. A. Cameron of St. Petersburg, Florida, conducted a meeting at Price's Chapel, near Bowling Green, where the subject of this sketch heard the gospel in its fulness and obeyed, being baptized into Christ. A few years later he began preaching for that same congregation at Price's Chapel. Since then he has preached in Tennessee, Kentucky, Indiana and later in Michigan. He, with his family came to Alma, Michigan, in September 1936. (There being no church in Alma he began the worship in his own home and began the search for members of the New Testament church in that area. By the help of Brother C. B. Clifton several members were located who met in his home for a short time; the meeting place later being changed to Shepherd. He has worshiped and worked with that congregation up to the present time, and has been instrumental in the building of the new meeting house (shown on another page) which is just about completed.