

HISTORY OF:

The Taylor Center Church of Christ

The Taylor Center Church of Christ had its beginnings through the efforts of Elmer Netherton in the fall of 1940. The church first met in brother Netherton's home, 24139 Kensington, Taylor, and his widow still worships with us. There were seven people at the first services. The group later rented a store building at the corner of Kensington, and Telegraph Road.

Later a small building was erected on the corner of Goddard and the east side of Birch. At the first meeting in this building in 1942, eight families made-up the congregation. The first building met the needs of the congregation until the mid-fifties when a new building was erected with a seating capacity of 450 people and a number of classrooms.

In 1963, the present building at 23333 Goddard Road, Taylor, was completed. The seating capacity is approximately 1100, it has a full basement with 26 classrooms, and a large fellowship hall seating 200. It has a large office for the minister, an elder's study, printing room and a number of storage rooms. A four bedroom minister's home is on the property and it contains a large parking lot of several acres.

Those who have served as elders in the past were: Elmer Netherton, Ransom Jones, Aubrie Howe, Elbert Lynch, James McAlister, Loyd Jones, Peter Naysmith, Vernon Wallace, and M.S. Hudgins. The present elders are Doyle F. Earwood, Edward Perry, and Eugene Stevens.

The preachers who have served: Elmer Netherton, Eulon Knox, Morris Womack, Hoy Ledbetter, Paul Woods, Clyde Baferson, John Smith, Charlie Garner, Stan Hudgins, Cecil Corkren, Jack Openshaw, Roy Palmer, Floyd Davis, and the present minister James Chilton. Terry McGiffin and Doyle F. Earwood have served as assistant ministers.

The deacons who have served the congregation: Clarence Baker, Charles Fite, Paul Leigh, John Suthern, David Denton, William Hensely, Ramon Howe, Edward Perry, Garland Ring, Eugene Stevens, D.J. Brown, Ray Molott, Boyd Callaway, Lester Osborne, Pete Naysmith, and William Page. The present deacons are Charles Bazell, Wayne Campbell, Dan Spiceland, and Glen Stinson.

At the present time the congregation has almost 300 people in attendance on Sunday morning and about 200 for Bible study with Doyle F. Earwood, elder, in charge of all Bible classes, and a weekly budget of \$1,600.00.

From its beginning, the congregation has been interested in brotherhood projects, and has contributed liberally as a congregation, and as individuals to various good works. Included in these works are the following:

1. Contributed to the Herald of Truth radio, and television programs.
2. Cooperated with the Metropolitan churches in a n area wide meeting at Cobo Hall with Jimmie Allen.
3. Sponsored Charles Garner and family in the Philippines on two occassions.
4. Supported Jerry Reynolds as a missionary at Cheyboygan, Michigan, for two years. For the past 3 years, Ron Brown has served as our full-time missionary there.

(Taylor Center history cont.)

5. Has helped support Schultz-Lewis Home for Children.
6. Supported the Romeo Home for Aged Christians.
7. Have helped support a number of young men in schools helping them to prepare to preach and do mission work.
8. Some members were active in the establishment of Michigan Christian College, and some of its members have been active in the "Ladies' Associates", and the "Men's Club". One of our former ministers, Clyde Balerson, was supported by the congregation and allowed to teach part-time at Michigan Christian College when it first started to help it get on its feet. One of our elders, Doyle F. Earwood, taught on the "Pioneer Faculty" for 8 years to help get it started, and also has served on the board of the college.
9. About 25 families helped support children at Khowe Mission School in Rhodesia, Africa. Also, we employed brother Roy Palmer for a year while he was back in the U.S. to work with us and helped him in many ways to continue to encourage the school while he was here.
10. Several families from this congregation moved to Saline, Michigan, and the congregation here encouraged them in many ways in getting started.
11. The congregation for several years supported brother M.S. Hudgins as full-time minister at Chelsea, and we encouraged this new congregation in many ways.
12. Several members helped start Michigan Christian Youth Camp, and several have helped in various capacities with the camp.
13. The congregation along with eleven other Downriver Churches of Christ conducts an annual Downriver Training Series that reaches hundred of people each fall.
14. The congregation along with eleven other Downriver Churches of Christ conducts a monthly singing that rotates among the congregations.
15. The congregation conducts a bussing program and hopes to enlarge this program with a full-time worker to conduct it.
16. Helps support the "Amazing Grace Bible Hour" on Channel 20.
17. Ralph Casey of Atlanta, Ga., conducted a singing school for the congregation last year, and he will be with us again this year.
18. We contribute to help support brother Coy Roper in teaching the Bible at MCC.

These are few of the things that we have done in the past and are doing at the present time. We hold two meetings a year and have conducted several workshops and are planning more workshops and programs for the future. The present elders want to enlarge the program of the congregation. The members of the congregation have hopes of helping to start a Christian school either in our building or at some other site in the Downriver area of Detroit.

* * * * *

The History of the Taylor Center Church of Christ was compiled by Doyle Earwood, an elder.