

THE FIRST YEAR

1956-1957

In the Fall of 1956 a few families of the Church of Christ felt the need for a congregation to be established in the Southfield Township area. A number of individuals began to work and plan for the beginning of this work. A central location in Southfield Township seemed best in the minds of all concerned and therefore steps were made toward renting the Brooks School building on the corner of Lahser and Eleven Mile Rd.

An announcement was sent out to all Churches of Christ in Detroit and suburban to the effect that on Oct. 7th 1956 a new congregation to be known as the Southfield Township Church of Christ would start its first meeting at 10:00 AM Bible study; 11:00 AM Worship and 7:00 PM evening worship. Bro. Gerald Montgomery, minister of West Side Central preached the first sermon. Seventy-seven attended this first meeting which consisted of several visitors from other congregations in northwest Detroit area.

The membership of this new Southfield church was made up from membership of several other congregations which totaled about thirty-six. For the first few months the average Sunday morning attendance was around fifty-five. In the very beginning the leaders who consisted of Beals, Burke, Burton, French, Gunter, Herndon, Lemkes, Rush, Stokes, and Worten felt the need of a regular minister and the congregation was deeply grateful when Bro. Wm. Burke, who lives in this community, agreed to assist us as our first regular minister. Bro. Burke had recently labored with various churches in metropolitan Detroit, Toledo and Florida. The Burkes have two children, Stephanie and Dannie.