

CHURCH HISTORY
Midland Church of Christ
Midland, Michigan

In the winter of 1944, Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Phillips of Tennessee visited relatives in the Midland area. Finding no church here, they attended services at Bay City, and made arrangements for Mr. C. B. Clifton and Mr. Gordon French, ministers at Bay City, to meet with members at Mapleton and discuss the possibility of starting a congregation there.

The first service was conducted on Sunday afternoon, February 11, 1944 in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Phillips at the corner of S. Carter and Saginaw Road with Brother Gordon French preaching. There were 36 present including ten who came from Bay City. Those attending from Midland area were Z. T. Phillips, Frank Phillips, and Billie Hancock and families. Later that year, arrangements were made to use a large room in the Pearl Hubbard residence on S. Saginaw Road as a regular meeting place. Sunday morning and evening services were begun with Gordon French preaching.

The church continued to meet there after the Hubbard family moved out and until fire destroyed the building in the winter of 1946. The church met in various members' homes again until a building could be constructed.

The first service was conducted in the church building on S. Saginaw Road on May 11, 1947. Trustees for this new property were Mrs. Nelson Aieschliman, Mrs. Billie Hancock, Mr. G. C. White, and Mr. Frank Phillips.

The first Gospel meeting was conducted in 1945 with Gordon French preaching. Other early meetings were conducted by David Allen, Sam Pittman, and Jim O'Neil.

During these early years, Gordon French found work in Midland and moved here with his family and continued to serve until the summer of 1954 when Don Wilkerson was hired as the first full-time minister. He served for about a year. Then the men of the congregation together with various men from the Flint area did the preaching until Guy Warner was hired on a full-time basis in the fall of 1956. He returned to college in September of 1958. John Brinn a professor at Bay City Junior College served as minister on a part-time basis during the school years of 1958-1960 with Guy Warner returning for the intervening summers.

In June of 1960 Wallace Rae, a teacher at Otter Lake, Michigan, drove to Mapleton each Sunday to preach and continued until January of 1963. During this time property was purchased on M-20 in Midland and construction of a meeting place was begun in the summer of 1961. A dedication service was held March 11, 1962. In January of 1963, Marshall Kirk, Lewis Sellers, and Roy Petersen were appointed as elders. Shortly thereafter Ralph Mansell, Charles Phillips, John Ireland, and Bill Loy were selected as deacons.

Wallace Rae alternated with David Gatewood and other students from Michigan Christian College from January 1963 through June 1963 when T. J. Mitchell became the third full-time minister of the church and continues to serve.