



"Leading Wise Men to Their Service"

A BRIEF HISTORY OF
THE ANN ARBOR
CHURCH OF CHRIST

Plans were made and carried in 1941 for the first meeting of the church of Christ in Ann Arbor, Michigan because of the need and desire of three people to serve and worship god. Edith Howard (Mueller) from the Vinewood congregation in Detroit was a student at The University of Michigan and Duane Canby and his mother Mrs. Canby. They first met on June 1, 1941 at the old Y.M.C.A. building at 110 North 4th Ave. James Tolle preached a meeting for them and nine people were present.

The Vinewood congregation sent Brother Leo Gentry to do the preaching each Sunday until Gavin M. Toms began preaching on September 21, 1941. Gavin, a graduate of Abilene Christian College, entered The University of Michigan and preached for the congregation for about a year and a half. The first baptism of the congregation was on September 21, 1941. This was Harlin Shepherd who served later as one of the Elders.

As the church began to grow and prosper the need for a church building was evident. A building fund was established in 1947, the present property acquired in 1950, and the ground breaking for the new building took place on April 4, 1953. The Ann Arbor congregation held services in the new building for the first time on December 6, 1953.

The first gospel meeting in the new building was held in March of 1954. In 1964 it was necessary to expand the building to accommodate the growth and the need for more classroom space.