



MIDLAND HISTORY

In the winter of 1944, Mr. & Mrs. Wendell Phillips of Tennessee visited relatives in the Midland area. Finding no church here, they attended services at Bay City, Mich. 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, Feb. 11, 1944, in the home of Mr. & Mrs. Frank Phillips at the corner of S. Carter & Saginaw Roads. Gordon French did the preaching. There were 36 present including 10 who came from Bay City. Those attending from Midland and the surrounding area were the Z.T. Phillips, Frank Phillips, and Billie Hancock families.

Later that year, arrangements were made to use a larger room in the Pearl Hubbard residence on S. Saginaw Rd. 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 Rd. on May 11, 1947. Trustees for this new property were Mrs. Nelson Aeschliman, Mrs. Billie Hancock, Mr. G.C. White, & Mr. Frank Phillips.

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

During these early years, Gordon French found work in Midland and moved 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 Sept. of 1958. John Brinn, a professor at Bay City Jr. College, served as minister on a part time basis during the school years of 1958—1959 and 1959—1960 with Guy Warner returning for the intervening summers.

Wallace Rae, a teacher at Otter Lake Mich., drove to Mapleton each Sunday to preach from June of 1960 until January of 1963. During this time, property was purchased on M. 20 in Midland and construction of the present building was begun in the summer of 1961. A dedication service was held on March 11, 1962. Marshall Kirk, Lewis Sellers, and Roy Petersen were appointed as elders in Jan. of 1963. 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 Jan. of 1963 to June when T.J. Mitchell became the third full time Minister of the church.



Harry Akers



Mrs. Arnett Bird & Children



Betty Bowles



The Martin Gay Family



Mrs. Clyde Hancock & Children



Mrs. Hassel Hancock



The Willard Haight Family



The Bob Herron Family



The Jack Hickman Family



Grace Hunt



Mr. Wayne Hunt



The John Ireland Family



The J.M. Kirk Family



The Bill Loy Family



Bob Loy