

HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSITY DRIVE CHURCH OF CHRIST

The earliest knowledge of the church of Christ in Pontiac dates back to 1926 when, Margaret Girdley, who is still a member, moved to Pontiac and placed membership with the local congregation then meeting in a house on Auburn Avenue.

They bought property on Tasmania Street and moved into their new building early in 1927. Considerable growth followed with many surrounding congregations being started with a nucleus from Pontiac and in several cases financial help being given also. In 1953 they built and moved into the building at 1180 N. Perry Street. In May of 1963 twenty-two acres across Perry Street was purchased for future expansion. This was sold and 35.4 acres were purchased in 1967 fronting on University Drive, Doris Road and Opdyke Street.

The new building was started early in 1968 on 10.9 acres with class rooms designed so they can double for Sunday School and a parochial school. *James ... 1961*

Preachers who have served the church are C. C. Burns, Claude Thomas, Flavil Hall, Frank Killom, L. H. Andrews, Raymond Andrews, L. L. Yeagley, C. B. Clifton, Archie Hastings, Jack Hawkins, Ed Alexander, David Allan, Walter Bankes, Milton Truex, W. W. Hall, and Boyd Glover who has been with the church for 7 1/2 years.

Several have had a part in leading the church to where it now is including Argyll Allen and Otis Palmer who are our pastors at present. Those who serve the congregations as deacons now are Darrel Ashby, George Girdley, Charles Harrington, *ERVIE Jorden*, Mike Parent, Joseph Priestley, *Aaron* Martinez, Ray Shelton, Van Simpkins, and Bill Yates. Evelyn Glover serves as secretary, Bude Little is educational director and Lewis McClain is caretaker.

The University Drive church now conducts a program for *inner-*enter-city children in Pontiac called "The Way". The church supports Joe Eddings and family in Escanaba; *Thelma* Eubank in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; and helps support Stephen Bilak with his Russia For Christ broadcasts in Switzerland; Joe Mays in Finland; Janice Allen in Jamaica; Berckley Hackett in Kenya-Uganda, East, Africa; and the Herald of Truth Radio and T. V. programs.

The congregation has contributed to help many *other* missionaries in several countries.

It has intentions to start its own childrens home in the future to care for homeless children and has a fund started for that purpose. It has *helped* Shults-Lewis Children's Home in Valpariso, Indiana, Mid-Western Children's Home in Milford, Ohio, and Potter's Children's Home in Bowling Green, Kentucky. It has helped from the beginning the Home For the Aged in Romeo, Michigan.