

The East End church of Christ, under the eldership of Mitchell Merriman, Wayne Owens and David Thomas, saw the need for a congregation of the Lord's people in this area since five of their members had located here. On June 3, 1962, at eight o'clock in the morning, several members of the East End congregation met with these families and conducted their first worship service in the Allen B. Shephard School - June 17th, 1962. Their Sunday contribution was \$55.00.

Eight members from East End provided the first sermons, until September 2, 1962, when East End hired Lonzie B. Meece to serve as the preacher. Wednesday evening services were held in the home of Jerry & Elaine Morris and later in the home of Clellon Sanders.

November 18, 1962, the congregation moved to the Albert Beaver School where they began having three services on Sunday. On December 2, 1962, the first baptisms were Clellon Sanders and his daughter, Shelby Smith, and Marvin Maples who were taken to East End for the immersion. Brother Sanders was a dedicated Christian who later served the congregation as a deacon until his death.

East End acquired property at 14150 East Thirteen Mile Road, Warren, for the future home of the North Warren congregation. The first

Gospel meeting was conducted there under a large tent. The meeting began August 26, 1963 and ended September 1, 1963. There were eight evangelists who spoke on the theme "What Must I Do to be Saved?" Each night there was a different speaker. These evangelists were: R.C. Oliver, Allan Killom, Ray Dillard, Paul Watson, Richard Robinson, Millard Loftis, Robert Buchanan and Clark Elkins. The song director was Ted Goodwin, Sr., who later served as a deacon, then an elder of the congregation until he moved to Manchester, Michigan, before retiring to Florida. These dedicated Christians donated their services because of their love for our Lord and lost souls.

On April 1, 1964, a bond issue of \$90,000.00 was made and Continental Builders, Inc. was engaged to supervise the construction of a permanent home for this congregation.

June 14, 1964, Lonzie B. Meece delivered his last sermon as North Warren's regular minister. He is now deceased.

Cecil Shaw became the new minister for North Warren on July 5, 1964, under the East End leadership. December 13, 1964, a \$35,000.00 bond was issued to complete phase #1 of the building program. In that same month, they met to worship in the new church building where many dedicated Christians had labored many hours to save money on building cost. The North Warren congregation became self-supporting in 1965.

In 1966 the educational wing was completed, consisting of ten classrooms and two offices.

In 1968, North Warren purchased their first church bus and selected their first elders. They were John Chessor and Jack Pierce. Shortly after, deacons were selected including Jerry Blankenship, Bob Benthal, Bill Bloomingburg, Jack Boustead, Harry Edwards, Ted Goodwin and Clellon Sanders. This same year the church bus was driven to Freed Hardeman College in Tennessee to pick up students who were anxious to assist in a campaign to win souls for Christ. This proved to be very successful, and in 1969 began supporting one of those students, Allan Fraser, their first missionary minister to his native country, South Africa. He was successful in establishing two self-supporting congregations of the Lord's people in metropolitan Cape Town, namely Bellville church of Christ situated between the cities of Bellville and Durbanville, and Central church of Christ, (formerly meeting in Milnerton) situated in the municipal district of Goodwood.

August 1968, Cecil Shaw moved his family to Kentucky, where he became the minister of the Spurlington Road congregation. Paul Killom began his work with North Warren that same year.

The North Warren Eldership dissolved in 1970 when one of the elders, John Chessor, resigned. Following his resignation several families started a new congregation in Sterling Heights. Paul Killom resigned as the regular minister for

North Warren and began his work with the Metro church.

In 1971, a new eldership was formed with Bill Bloomingburg, Ted Goodwin and Jack Pierce being asked to serve. They invited Cecil Shaw to return as their full-time minister. In August 1971, he began his second tenure with North Warren.

This was the year Cecil Shaw began preaching on a local radio station, and it was the beginning of the "Flower Program" at South Macomb Hospital. The Birmingham congregation taught the ladies class how to make flower corsages. The program was a success from the beginning and the hospital was very supportive. The thanks, blessings and smiles of the patients always made their efforts worthwhile. They averaged three hundred corsages each week which was a message of love from the church of Christ to the patients. The program was self-supporting and fruitful.

For many years the ladies class made weekly trips to the church of Christ home for the aged in Romeo. When the home in Romeo moved and became the Church of Christ Care Center in Mt. Clemens, the ladies continued to make regular visits. They were instrumental in starting a hair-grooming program. Dedicated people spent one day a week washing, cutting and curling hair for any of the residents who needed this service. The teenage girl's class adopted two Christians in the Care Center as their grandmothers. They were Evelyn Knox and Dutch Alexander. They cared for

them several years with presents, cards and visits on their birthdays and other special days during the year. The congregation also supported the Care Center financially.

North Warren has always been a firm supporter of the orphans homes. One family served as house parents for one of the homes. They financially assisted both Shults-Lewis and Mid-Western homes. North Warren, with help from many other east-side congregations, delivered bus loads of food and clothing to Mid-Western Home about every six months.

North Warren purchased a second bus in 1972, and in 1973 a third bus. In 1974 the bussing program was in full swing bringing in approximately 150 souls each week. The buses were painted yellow and brown, using the Joy bus logo, "JOY" representing Jesus first-Others second and Yourself last. In 1975 members of the congregation worked hard and erected a bus garage for repairing the buses. It still stands today and is affectionately termed the "barn".

The congregation began a pre-school worship and a youth worship. The minister for this youth worship was Mike Boyd. The worship services for these groups were conducted by Christian men in the congregation.

Bill Nichols was selected as an elder in 1975 and is still serving at the time of this writing.

Rufus Mosley served as an elder from 1976 until 1982. Alonzo King served as an elder from 1977 until 1983. Harry Edwards served as an elder from 1977 until he resigned in 1983 due to health problems.

Bill Dillon and Carl Feril, Jr. grew up in this congregation. Both became full-time Gospel preachers - Bill preached in Alabama and Carl in Kansas. Mike Martinko became a minister after his conversion and John Johnson who attended here was a minister in Saginaw. Walter Sargent also attended North Warren while finishing school to become a full-time minister. He later accepted a position in Alpena, Michigan. Pete Wackerman left North Warren to preach in Hastings, Michigan.

Glen Randolph served as the regular minister of North Warren from August 1977 to August 1978 and moved to Tennessee to serve there.

Randy Tuminello was the regular minister here from January 1979 to March 1980, but had to leave Michigan because of his child's health and moved to Arizona.

In July 1980, Allan Fraser, missionary to South Africa, returned with his wife, Aileen and four children, Stuart, Ryan, Laureen and Fiona, for a limited stay in the US and began his ministry at North Warren.

The North Warren congregation bought Northwood School, next door, from the Warren

Woods School District for \$450,000.00 in 1981. The first year it consisted of grades 7 - 10. The last year it had a complete school, with grades kindergarten through 12th. 550 students were enrolled in Lockett Christian Academy and 257 of this number were enrolled in this facility. June 1984 marked the first graduating class from Lockett.

Allan began making plans to return home to South Africa, leaving North Warren in June 1983 to spend some time in Tennessee with the Harpeth Hills congregation, that assumed sponsorship for his new missionary work in Milnerton. The Belville congregation began with Allan and Aileen as its only members. It was then a self-supporting congregation. These dedicated Christians were starting all over again, hoping to accomplish the same goals as before in a new area closer to the city of Cape Town called Milnerton. North Warren continued to support the work financially.

There was an expansion in the area of missions. Contributions were made to support the work in Sault Sainte Marie with Thomas McCurty and to the work in Ottawa, Ontario, with Wally Cromwell. Help was extended to support the Amazing Grace and Herald of Truth television programs.

Don Ogburn was selected as an elder in March of 1983 and is still serving at the time of this writing.

The elders, Bill Nichols and Don Ogburn,

hired Dean Clutter as the new minister. Dean and his wife, Ruth, along with Ruth's mother, Juanita Wheeler, arrived November 6, 1983.

During the tenure of Dean Clutter, the eldership decided to hire another man who would essentially relieve Dean of most of the pulpit duties, and when Dean retired, would take over all the duties of the minister. During this time Mike Boyd was selected as an elder and Steve Feril and Joe Bloomingburg as deacons.

Don Smith, a graduate of the Bear Valley School of Preaching, was selected to fill this position. He moved to Michigan from California and began his work in April 1992. His tenure ended at North Warren in March 1993.

Dean Clutter, in the meantime, had been seeking another work and in December 1993 he was offered a position with the Coldwater church which he accepted. It was agreed to help him get started in this work by paying for this health insurance for an initial unspecified time.

In November 1993, the congregation asked Jerry Miracle to serve as an elder. Jerry accepted and is still serving in this capacity. Jamie Couch, David Kimmel, Jim Miracle and John Tunks also agreed to serve as deacons at this same time.

Ron Meecham served as part-time minister, filling the pulpit on Sundays and teaching a Bible class, starting in February 1993 and continuing

until a selection committee recommended they hire Jay Stephens as their full-time minister. Jay began his work with North Warren in January 1995, but due to personal difficulties he left Michigan to seek employment in Colorado in December 1995.

Allan Fraser was supported in South Africa by North Warren from 1969 until 1992 when he returned to the United States to take up a position as pulpit minister in Roswell, Georgia. In 1996, Allan Fraser was invited to return for his second tenure. He agreed but could not report until mid-August. During the wait for Allan to report, many preachers from the area were gracious in giving their time and assistance in filling the pulpit.

In November, 1997, the congregation selected Patrick Brandimore and Allan Fraser to join Jerry Miracle, Bill Nichols, Sr. and Don Ogburn in serving as elders. They also selected Joe Cutshaw, Mike Martinko and Steve Wriston to serve as deacons.

When Allan returned to North Warren in 1996, the need for a new congregation in the New Baltimore, Chesterfield Township area was investigated by two families who lived in the area. The Bill Wright family (Bill was a deacon at the time) and the Jamie Couch family undertook the task. They reported that there was a dire need for a congregation in that area and a church-planting took place in 1998. A number of North Warren families as well as families from sister congregations were charter members of the new congrega-

tion that was called the Northpointe Community church of Christ.

Because of continued growth and the problem of lack of space, the elders unanimously agreed that they call for quotations in order to erect a new auditorium that would join to the southern end of the existing building.

The successful contractor, T.N.C. Construction, plus many dignataries from the county and City of Warren participated with North Warren in a "groundbreaking ceremony" on June 21, 2000. The construction activity began in September, 2000, with the demolition of existing patio and the digging of footings.

The completion of building operations slated for May 2001 was met by T.N.C. and the official opening of the new facility set for the thirty-ninth anniversary of North Warren's first worship service on June 3, 2001 - the exact date of that first meeting at the Allen B. Shephard School in 1962.

At the time of this writing the elders serving are Patrick Brandimore, Allan Fraser (also the preacher), Jerry Miracle, Bill Nichols and Don Ogburn. The deacons serving under the present eldership are: Joe Cutshaw, Tony Gaglio, Ken Jamison, David Kimmel, John Tunks and Steve Wriston. The newest of these are Tony Gaglio and Ken Jamison who were added on January 7, 2001.



Our deepest gratitude is expressed to the Christians of the former East End congregation for their wisdom and vision! The results have been great! They have accomplished their goal. There is a congregation of the Lord's people firmly established at North Warren, a congregation at Northpointe and five congregations in South Africa.