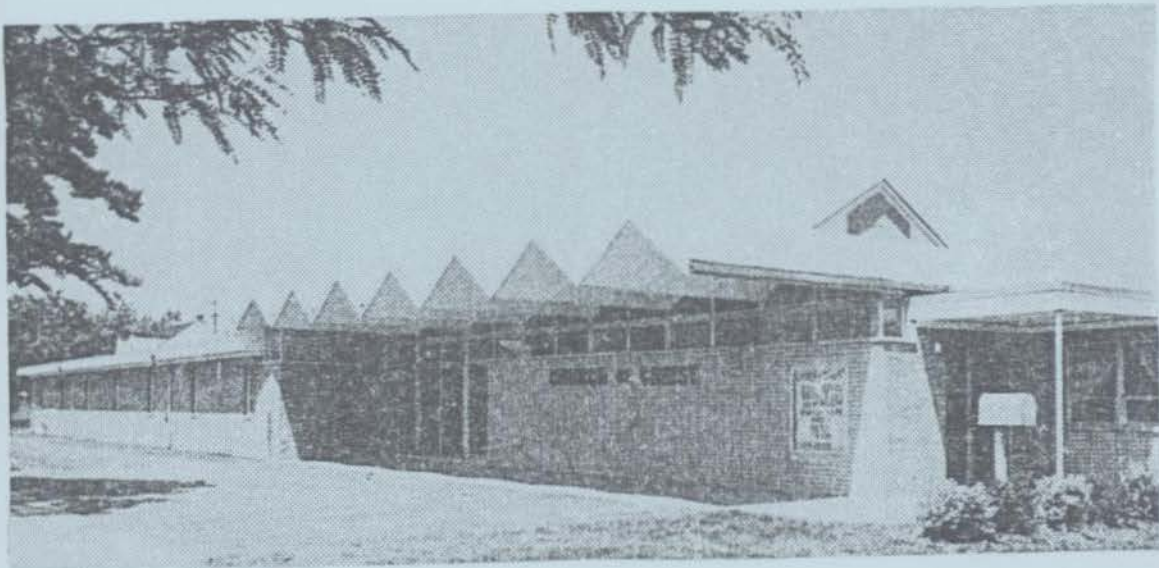


*Hazel Park
Church Of Christ*

*50th Anniversary
1941 - 1991*



*Homecoming
Memories*

- October 11-12-13, 1991 -

DEDICATION



Lela Matilda Cross was born August 23, 1892 in the great State of Arkansas to Wyatt William & Matilda Rebecca Hocott. She was one of 10 children, enjoying a happy childhood. Her dream was to go to school at Ft. Smith to become a doctor or nurse. Though she never fulfilled that dream for schooling, she did do a lot of nursing duties later on.

Lela was married to Irvie Cross on March 15, 1908 in Huntington, Arkansas. This union brought the joy of four children. Marlin Monroe was born December 9, 1908, Wilma Boesia, born August 28, 1910, Garlin Clyde, born October 25, 1911, and Bonnie Inez, born January 15, 1914. All the children were born in Arkansas.

The family lived for a brief time in Kansas, where Irvie studied auto mechanics. In 1923, the family moved to Michigan, driving north in a Baby Overland car. They lived on Otis Street. She was able to work with several doctors throughout those early years, delivering many children by herself. She did private nursing in homes, taking care of newborns, new mothers and their families.

Lela served as superintendent for the Church Old Age Home on Otis. She did the shopping, cleaning and book work. She feels that some of her hardest labor of life was carried out there at that home. The home was very dirty and had to be cleaned throughout before anyone could be housed. She worked there for several years.

During those early years raising her family, sister Cross carried water and did the family wash on a rub board. This was a way of life in the early 1900's, and sister Cross carried her duties well.

When the church at Hazel Park first began meeting, it was in brother & sister Cross' home before a building was built. Brother Cross was an elder in the Hazel Park Church for many years. Lela has been a widow since September, 1973. Brother Irvie had several strokes in the 60's from which he never recovered. All four of their children (who were faithful Christians) died after reaching senior citizen status. Lela has a long line of descendants including 17 grandchildren, 50 great-grandchildren, 45 great-great grandchildren, and 1 great-great-great grandchild. Though these 100 plus descendants are scattered from east to west and north to south, they are united in their feelings for Grandma Cross. She is loved and respected by all.

Don't let Lela's age fool you. She has a lot of spark! In the mid-1980's (when she was only 93 or 94), she took a notion to take a hot air balloon ride. Why? Because she'd never done **that** before! During that same time period she was riding her stationary bike 15 miles or so a day. She still has some things she would like to do. She would like to see the Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama, and ride a horse again. She has been looking forward with great anticipation to the 50th Anniversary and Homecoming at Hazel Park. Her foremost desire is to keep a sound mind, body, and eyesight to be able to meet with the saints of this earth until the Lord calls her home.

Because you are a great Christian example for all of us, and because we dearly love you, we dedicate this 50th Anniversary Homecoming Book to you, Sister Lela Cross.

HISTORY OF THE HAZEL PARK CHURCH OF CHRIST

On Pearl Harbor Day, December 7, 1941, one hundred ten people met in the home of Mr. & Mrs. Irvie Cross for the first service of the Hazel Park Church of Christ. The Elders at that time were Irvie Cross, Charles Clark, Earl Dildine and Silas Montgomery.

Arrangements were soon made to meet in the Odd Fellows Hall and later in the Masonic Temple. This was during World War II and it was impossible to build. As soon as the war was over, property was purchased on Stephenson Highway at Harry Street. In the summer of 1948, ground was broken and the foundation was laid for a new building. Construction stopped there because the State Highway Department needed the property to widen Stephenson Highway. A settlement was reached with the State of Michigan and the search for property began again. A plot of ground on Stephenson Highway at Highland was purchased next. Another building was designed. The outside was completed with the first service held in the basement early in the year 1955. The congregation continued to meet in the basement while the upstairs was being finished. While meeting at that sight, the church grew to an average Sunday morning attendance of 350 people.

In 1963 the State Highway Department informed the Church that their property was in the path of the proposed Chrysler Freeway and would be taken. Negotiations continued with the State for about a year. In the meantime, the search for another location began. The property here on East Woodward Heights was purchased and the groundbreaking ceremonies were held on October 12, 1964.

The congregation was forced to vacate the Stephenson Highway building the last of March. For two months we met Sunday morning and evening in the Hazel Park Junior High School building. The first services were held in the new auditorium on June 13, 1965.

The cornerstone was laid and the building was dedicated on September 12, 1965.

Elders in 1965 were Irvie Cross & Elmer Loudermilk. Deacons were George Bullington, William Callaway, Thurrel Chaffin, Doward Runyan, Robert Wineinger and Earl Yates. Perry Milner was our preacher.

Elders in 1991: Thurrel Chaffin, Tom Gailbreath, John Pounders, & Robert Wineinger. Deacons: Pierce Dix, Pat Eveland, Jerry Gailbreath, Jim Ledford, Vernon Perry & Mark Sherfield. Our preacher is Dennis R. Swindle.

THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE WERE PRESENT AT THE FIRST MEETING OF THE HP CHURCH OF CHRIST

Mr. & Mrs. Loyd Butler, Corayle
Charles, Bessie, Kenneth, Gloria Clark
Mr. & Mrs. George Cox
Mr. & Mrs. Garlin Cross
Mr. & Mrs. Irvie Cross
Mr. & Mrs. Marlin Cross
Earl, Eva Dildine
Evelyn Arnold
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Doty
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Eslinger
Mr. & Mrs. W.L. Kennedy
Mr. & Mrs. Clifton Loudermilk, Barbara, Reba, Irvie, Floyd, Lillie
Mr. & Mrs. Elmer Loudermilk, Jimmy & Billy
Mr. & Mrs. Naolen Loudermilk, Allene, Francis, Louella
Mr. & Mrs. Ethro Loudermilk
Mr. & Mrs. Silas Montgomery
J.D. Montgomery
Mr. & Mrs. Pink Moody, Audrey, Faye, Louie, David
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Miller, Vergie, Pauline, Leyburn, Annetta, Ruth
Mr. & Mrs. A.R. Newlin, Joann, Kenneth
Mr. & Mrs. Errol Norman, Clarence, Christine, Rosemary
Ray, Blanche, Annie O'Dell
Mr. & Mrs. E.T. Phillips, Vella
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Rideout, Albert, Jr., Robert, Kenneth
Mr. & Mrs. Roy Salyer, Alvena
Mr. & Mrs. F. Smith
E.H. Snider & Gordon
Mr. & Mrs. John Tansil
Mr. & Mrs. Omer Taylor
Mable Wester
Mr. & Mrs. William White
Regina White
Mr. & Mrs. Floyd Whitaker, Billy
Mr. & Mrs. C.C. Whitsett, Clifford, Jr., Willard
Mr. & Mrs. Harry White, Stella Faye
Mr. William White
Mr. & Mrs. Wyatt Williams, Barbara Jean, Tommy Lee, Rebecca
Mrs. Robert Wineinger

Information provided by Velma Wineinger