

HISTORY OF OUR CHURCH
FOURTH OLDEST CHURCH OF CHRIST IN THE STATE OF MICHIGAN

THE FOLLOWING WAS WRITTEN THROUGH THE EYES OF NINETY ONE - YEAR OLD SISTER IONE THOMAS, WHO WITNESSED THE GROWTH OF THE CHURCH FOR SEVENTY TWO YEARS.

IT'S NEW YEAR'S EVE, 1992 -- 5:30 PM. IN 1½ HOURS WE WILL WALK INTO 706 SOUTH HIGBY TO START A GLORIOUS NEW BEGINNING; BUT FOR NOW, I WALK INTO ADAMS STREET, SIT ON A BENCH AND CRY.

DID YOU EVER DREAM A DREAM AND LIVE TO SEE THAT DREAM COME TRUE? TONIGHT I TOUCH THE BENCH AND RELIVE THE YEARS, THE GOOD TIMES, THE HISTORY, THE MEMORIES, AND REMEMBER ALL THE PEOPLE WHO MADE THE DREAM POSSIBLE.

(a.) IT ALL STARTED MAY 23, 1920, WHEN MILTON AND LUVENIA SISSON AND THEIR NINETEEN YEAR OLD DAUGHTER, IONE, UNABLE TO FINE THE LORD'S CHURCH, STOPPED TO HAVE CHURCH IN THEIR ROOM AT 1301 NORTH STARR STREET.

(b.) ON JUNE 9th. - ONE MONTH LATER THE CHURCH ALMOST DOUBLED IN SIZE WHEN ALBERT AND MILLIE McCONNELL AND THEIR TWO SONS, GLYNN AND BILAM CAME NORTH AND JOINED THE CONGREGATION.

(c.) THE CHURCH MOVED TO THE SISSON HOME ON PAGE AVENUE, THEN TO THEIR BLACKSTONE STREET ADDRESS, AND FINALLY IN THE MID 1920'S SETTLED AT 914 NORTH BLACKSTONE STREET.

(d.) IN 1924 THE CHURCH GOT ITS FIRST MINISTER BROTHER ECKLES OF DETROIT.

(e.) BY 1929 - 1935 THE CHURCH ROLLS CARRIED THE FAMILY NAMES; McCONNELL (ALBERT AND HORACE), THOMAS, LATHAM, UPCHURCH, WELCH, SISSON, ROGERS, MILLBEN, COWENS, PALMER, SHANKLIN AND HIGHWARDEN. THERE WERE SO MANY FAMILY MEMBERS THAT PEOPLE CALLED IT THE "SISSON" CHURCH.

IN THE ENSUING YEARS THE CHURCH MOVED DOWN BLACKSTONE STREET, UP TO 316 ADAMS STREET, BACK DOWN TO BROTHER BEN HART'S HOUSE ON THE CORNER OF NORTH AND BLACKSTONE; IN 1951 THE CHURCH WENT BACK TO ADAMS STREET-- THIS TIME TO OUR BRAND NEW FACILITY AT 316 ADAMS STREET.

AND WHO SHEPHERDED THIS FLOCK DURING THESE SEVENTY TWO YEARS?

BROTHER O.A. ECKLES

BROTHER YORK

BROTHER J. HURT (LIVED IN THE OLD CLOTHING BANK)

BROTHER MALONE

BROTHER D.E. BELFORD
 BROTHER WEBB (visiting)
 BROTHER ENGLISH (2) *Paul or David*
 BROTHER SMITH (2) *Robert - Detroit*
 BROTHER GILLISPIE (visiting from STOCKBRIDGE, MI.)
 BROTHER BYNUM
 BROTHER DONNELLY
 BROTHER J. D. DAVIS

BROTHER CANNON *(Willie)*
 BROTHER BISHOP - *(ZEBEDEE)*
 BROTHER MURPHY (part-time)
 BROTHER HAROLD TURNER
 BROTHER JAMES L. (JIM) BURRUS
 BROTHER LAWRENCE D. TAYLOR
 BROTHERS J. BURRUS AND L. TAYLOR
Brother James E. Wilson, Jr.

MEMORIES (GOOD AND BAD)-SEVENTY TWO YEARS!
 LOVED ONES, FELLOWSHIP, SERMONS -SEVENTY TWO YEARS!
 A DREAM FULFILLED - HIGBY STREET - NINETY ONE YEARS!

THANK YOU LORD

