

*ANNIVERSARIES
AND
MERGER CELEBRATION
of*

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)
1862-1988

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
(United Church of Christ)
1868-1988

CHRISTIAN AND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Merger
1976

CHURCH SANCTUARY CENTENNIAL
1888-1988
117 East Third Street
Eureka, Kansas



Sunday, October 9, 1988
Dr. Gilbert Daniel, Pastor

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"In 1976 the First Congregational Church (United Church of Christ) and the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) set out in faith to live in practice the prayer of Jesus Christ for the oneness of the church. As the Christian and Congregational Church we celebrate our history. For over a century, and well into the second century the church has given its witness. We can celebrate this anniversary, because of the faithfulness of those in the past who kept sight of the vision and claim of Christ upon their lives. We are grateful for Sunday School teachers, Board Members and Board Meetings, Trustees, Elders, and Deacons, who lived out their commitment in the care of Christ's Church and these congregations responded to His commission. The history of yesterday is for our inspiration and interpretation. It is not to be a stopping point but a time of refreshment to note the faithfulness of God to our forebearers, and to take up the call of Christ for us in our time."

"We give our prayerful thanksgiving for all those whose stewardship of life found favor and meaning in the church, and we today are the recipients of their spiritual heritage. May we who receive and celebrate this event be mindful of the gifts we hold in our hearts, and of ourselves give graciously to God who calls us through Christ Jesus our Lord. May it be said of us 'We failed not mankind nor God!'"

Dr. Gilbert Daniel

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Eureka, Kansas
1862 — 1974

A crude little log school house was erected on the southeast corner of First and School Street in Eureka's early days. The year is not known, but there were fourteen folk who began to meet there on Sunday for religious services. A community Sunday School was set up to supplement the weekday school teaching. This is how the Eureka Christian Church originated. In 1862, James and Judith Kenner, H.J. and Hannah Willis, J.A. and Mary Stewart, Charles and Mary Stapleford, J.B. and Harriett Musett, Mr. and Mrs. Josiah Kinniman, Purl Beard and Harrison Auldridge organized forces for the extended work of the church. The first church building was erected in 1871 and had a baptistry. The organization was granted a charter by the State of Kansas, June 21, 1871. This charter named it "The Christian Church at Eureka", a voluntary organization "for the support of public worship at Eureka and to diffuse the principles of Bible Christianity abroad."

This charter was a result of the Restoration Movement started by Barton W. Stone in 1804, and continued by Alexander Campbell in 1811, in an effort to reform existing denominations and to unify them into one Christian Church based on a simple New Testament faith, which became known as the Disciples of Christ.

The first Kansas preacher was Pardee Butler, who came from Illinois, and founded a congregation in June 1855, but unsettled political and social conditions affected the fixed minds of the people on the slavery question. The oldest Christian Church in Kansas, in continuous operation, is the congregation at Leavenworth, which was established in mid 1855.

James Kenner moved to Eureka with his wife, Judith, about 1861. He preached many years, having numerous evangelistic meetings in addition to farming during the week. He was followed by C.C. Deweese who served about two years during which time the church grew to 125 members. In 1887, A.D. Skaggs became pastor, followed by J.W. Damon. In 1889, J.N. Munroe was called and served about three years. He was later called as the first State Secretary for the Christian Churches of Oklahoma and organized the first Christian Endeavor Society.

The first persons to be baptized in the first church building were Lorena and Carrie Woodrow, about 1890. About this time, a Missionary Society was organized. Almost three years later, D.D. Boyle and Elder Davis were the evangelists and the church increased its membership to more than two hundred.

The old building became inadequate, so in 1898 a Building and Finance Committee was appointed. The building was auctioned and sold for \$150, wrecked and transported to the A.M. Erickson farm near Virgil, Kansas. Its sturdy oak and black walnut timbers were rebuilt into a barn. On November 27, 1898, the new frame building was dedicated.

A bell hung in the bell tower, and bore the date of 1870. The bell is now in use at Christian Hills Camp for Call to Worship and other activities. On January 1, 1899, the envelope system for receiving offerings was started.



In 1902, a young minister, the Reverend George Bradford, was called and during his five year ministry, 257 were added to the church membership. On September 18, 1904, Almond P. Sherman was the first minister ordained in the Eureka Christian Church. He had received his education from Eureka High School and Southern Kansas Academy in Eureka, and Johnson Bible College. Perry Ellsworth Hawkins was ordained May 28, 1905, the second minister ordained in the Eureka church. He attended high school in Quincy, Kansas, graduated from Southern Kansas Academy in Eureka, and Iowa Christian College. He served a number of churches in Kansas and Texas, including the Johnson City Church in Texas, of which Vice-President Lyndon B. Johnson was a member. During Stacey Phillips' one year stay from 1908-1909, one hundred members were added.

In 1909, the first parsonage was built north of the church. In 1916, a basement and furnace were built under the church for the growing congregation's needs. The Church Board Extension assisted with an \$800 loan.

During the Reverend George Bradford's second ministry to the church, a Home Department was organized, later merging with the Cradle Roll which developed until there were 142 babies on the roll.

Hugh Warner graduated from Moody Bible Institute and was ordained April 12, 1921, the third minister ordained in the Eureka church. He was a Timothy to churches in Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas. He died August 31, 1974. In 1921, the Packard evangelistic team services added 104 members. In Bradford's last ministry, he began "Storehouse Tithing," which brought a large increase in the church income.

The church actively supported missionaries, and through the gift of Mrs. W.A. Christy, a Golden Jubilee goal of \$400 was increased to \$1600, which stimulated the missionary offerings. During Oscar Joneson's four year ministry, 215 members were added.

On September 1, 1926, the first Vacation Church School was started. Uniting with other churches, a weekday Church School began in cooperation with the public schools along with classes in Leadership Education.

On May 9, 1927, a fire in a member's home, destroyed the membership records and the Reverend Harold Dickens spent much time in restoring them.

In November 1928, plans for a new building were approved and the last meeting was held on Mother's Day, 1928. They met for almost a year in the Masonic Building, where the Post Office now stands. On January 20, 1929, the new \$50,000 building was dedicated with services taking the entire day.



In 1934, the Functional Committee system was started and is still in use today. The largest recorded attendance was Easter Sunday, 1953 with 358 persons. The Eureka church celebrated its 75th Anniversary May 30 — June 1, 1937 with the Sunday sermon delivered by M. Lee Sorey, great nephew of James Kenner, founder and first minister of the church.

The Reverend Dr. Paul Frederick Sharp, the eighth President of Drake University, worked in the Eureka church as assistant minister the summer of 1937, while a student at Phillips University. He was also President of Oklahoma University from 1971-1978.

In 1940, the Reverend Bert Sutton was called to pastor, and two hour study program periods were organized for the children under the inspiration of Mrs. Sutton. During his time, 241 members were added and mission giving was increased fourfold. Under the Reverend J. Fred Bayless from 1945-47, twenty new members were added.

In 1947, a River Jordan scene, painted by Mrs. Paul Piatt of Eureka, was

placed above the baptistry. From March 1950 to July 1951, the Youth Group expanded under the guidance of the first Youth Director, Guyla Briggs.

In August 1951, the Reverend Hartford Inlow came with his wife, Esther, and sons, Roy and Hart. He started and taught a young married people's class. The Reverend Raymond Armstrong was called with his wife, Jane, in 1953. He started a Prayer and Visitation Program which resulted in 111 new members on April 11, 1953. The first Rosebud Service was for Malcom Obourn, son of Dr. and Mrs. Robert (Debbie) Obourn in January 1955. In November 1955, the Reverend Ralph Keller came with his wife, Jean, and sons, Ricky, Stevie, and Davie. In June 1956, the Memorial Fund was established.

On December 5, 1955, a lot was deeded to the church, given by Mr. and Mrs. Victor (Maude) Hyden. In November 1956, other lots were obtained and in 1959, a lot was purchased for a parsonage, which was built that same year. Open House was in August 1959. In October 1959, the church had a part in the purchase of Christian Hills Camp site, two miles southwest of Eureka. It was the result of a gift from Mr. and Mrs. Ward McGinnis, of 80 acres of grassland seven miles northeast of Eureka, the proceeds of it being invested in youth programs.

Dr. Robert Bowers, who had become the church's Service Link Missionary in the Belgian Congo, Africa in 1952, visited the church in 1956 and 1961.

During the Keller pastorate, 251 new members were added. Jeana Lynn Keller, born January 7, 1960, was the first newborn to live in the new parsonage. Reverend Keller was accepted in the United States Air Force as a Chaplain, January 9, 1966.

The Reverend Russell Money was called to pastor in November 1961, coming with his wife, Norma and children, Cala and Andrew. Daniel Clark Money, born March 23, 1962, was the second newborn to live in the new parsonage.

In February 1963, the Memorial Committee approved the purchase of 200 new Christian Worship Hymnals, the cost being \$1.50 with trade in. On March 3, they were used for the first time. On Maundy Thursday, the choir presented a cantata, "The Last Words of Jesus," with soloists Eva Sigler, Leone McCue, Charlene McMullen, Kay McManis, Phil Stone, and the Reverend Russell Money, with Gwen Jarrett, director and Nellie Boyer, organist.

The church's 101st Anniversary Dinner was held June 26, 1963 with 115 persons attending. Christian Hills Camp Dedication was June 30. The complete facilities were valued at \$125,000. As of September that year, the church had 505 resident members.

President of the United States of America, John F. Kennedy, was assassinated November 22, 1963, and a special Memorial Service was held in the church sanctuary November 25 with 80 persons attending. Lyndon B. Johnson became the new President, and was the second U.S. President from the Disciples of Christ, the first one being President James A. Garfield.

In 1964, for the Maundy Thursday service, the choir presented the cantata, "Easter Victory," directed by Gwen Jarrett. Soloists were Bonnie Campbell, Diana Jarrett, Charlene McMullen, Phil Stone and the Reverend Russell Money.

By giving 31.1% of gross receipts to World Outreach during 1962-63, the church ranked 4th in Kansas. Recent information showed that Christians began worshipping in Eureka in 1857, so the congregation could claim to be 107 years old!

A son, Jonathan Howard, was born to the Reverend and Mrs. Russell Money on April 2, 1964. On May 10, a Mother's Day Rosebud Service was held with seven children and their parents present.

A Scholarship Fund was established in 1964, with Ollie Demous, Jr. as the first recipient to assist him as a student at Phillips University in preparation for the ministry. The Reverend Allmond P. Sherman, the first minister ordained in the Eureka church, died June 9, 1964.

On October 18, 1964, the newly-formed men's choir, under the direction of Gwen Jarrett, sang "Send the Light." They were Leo Brown, Vernon Ball, Norman Jarrett, Wesley Norman, Eugene Burtin, Jim Cook, George Palmer, Clinton Barrier, George Torrance, Phil Stone, Ed Clowers and the Reverend Russell Money.

In February 1965, special recognition was given to Nellie Boyer, who came to Eureka in 1942 and had been active as church organist. She retired that year. On April 15, the choir presented a cantata, "No Greater Love" for the Maundy Thursday Service with Gwen Jarrett, director; Diana Jarrett, organist; and Norma Money, pianist. Solos and duets were by Bonnie Campbell, Ruby Foster, Phil Stone, Pauline Grooms, Joyce Leslie, Teresa Leslie, Charlene McMullen and the Reverend Russell Money. Gwen Jarrett, choir director and Diana Jarrett, organist, attended the National Church Musician's Workshop in Lexington, Kentucky July 15-20. The Kansas Boys Chorus of Kansas City, Kansas, directed by Kenneth Schult, who grew up in Eureka, presented a program November 7.

In 1966, carpentry and garden tools were gathered for the Overseas Self-Help program and shipped on the Church World Service truck. Diana Jarrett and Larry French assisted the Reverend Russell Money in Religious Emphasis Week Services at the High School. Ollie Demous, Jr., Timothy from the church and a sophomore at Phillips University, spoke at the Youth Union Sunrise Service on Easter with 40 in attendance. The Reverend Russell Money resigned to accept the pastorate at the Christian Church in Winfield. A "thank you" was given to Diana Jarrett, who had served as organist over two years, the second youngest to fill that position. She accepted the offer of organist at Willow Road Christian Church in Enid, where she was attending Phillips University. The Christian Women's Fellowship sponsored two children at Colorado Christian Home in Denver. During 1965-66, the church contributed 26.8% of the budget to missions. They voted to increase it to 30%.

In December 1966, the church called Laverne Leigh as minister. He came in January with his wife, Betty, and children, Neil, Brenda, Elaine and Jolene. He graduated from Phillips University Seminary with Graduate Seminary exercises in May. The church presented him with a selfwinding Bulova watch and a Travelette overnight case. The Elmer Childress family presented a musical program in September with 223 attending. An advent wreath and candles were given by Henry and Martha Francis to the church in honor of

Loretta Campbell for her years of loyal service. They also presented one to another church in the community.

In 1968, two new organ students began lessons and practicing on the church organ. They were Maggie Yost and Carmen Ball. They joined Marcia McMullen, lead organist, and Karen Lewis. Terri McMillan, who had helped, moved away.

The church continued to contribute to the Scholarship Fund and in 1970, it was approved for Ollie Demous, Jr. again after he had been in the service, and returned to Phillips University to prepare for full time ministry. In December, the first live Nativity Scene was put on outdoors by the youth of the church.

In 1971, new pew cushions were given in memory of Mrs. Laura McGinnis and Margaret Hover by Mr. and Mrs. Ward McGinnis and are still in use in the Christian and Congregational Church.

The Reverend Laverne Leigh resigned in early 1972 and preached his last sermon February 13, having been in Eureka five years.

Four sets of new pulpit cloths (red, green, white and purple) were given in memory of Elmer Hoobler. A pair of 3-candle candelabra were given in memory of Theodore and Viola Hammans, by their family.

Dedication of a new Retreat Center at Christian Hills Camp was held in April 1972. The 110th Anniversary and Memorial Dedication was held June 4 with 110 members present. Other memorials dedicated were altar cabinet, kitchen clock, compotes and tray, drapes, and chairs for fellowship hall in memory of the following respectively: Margie Snider, Margaret Hover, Harriett Sherman, Edith Hall and Julia Cook.

The Reverend Gilbert Daniel was called as pastor, and came with his wife, Bessie, and children, Tammie, Tony and Tiffany, July 23, 1972.

In July 1972, Louise Hicks directed a junior high attendance contest and the boys won with 155 to the girls 105.

A Sunday School class for young adults was organized in October 1972. Reverend Gilbert was installed October 29.

In 1973, new choir robes were given by Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Lawrence, also the silk stoles worn by the minister with the pulpit robe in keeping with the liturgical colors. At the February Board meeting, it was decided to establish a Building Fund for a new building. Later, it was decided to enter into a sharing group discussing the future possibility of a United Church with the Congregational United Church of Christ.

In 1974, Meals-On-Wheels started in Eureka with churches taking turns delivering them. Talks were continued with the Congregational Church members. Ollie Demous, Jr. was ordained in the Eureka Christian Church June 2. The church members started study and worship at the Congregational Church August 4, and a Get-Acquainted Ice Cream Social was held August 25 on the south lawn of the Congregational Church. In August, a By-Laws Committee was formed from the members of both churches with Norman Jarrett as Moderator, the Reverend Gilbert Daniel, the Reverend John Prickett, George James, Emily Bailey, Arleta Carter, Maurice Hartman, Francis Campbell and Lois Ball. In December, the Official Board decided to continue meeting at the Congregational Church, in hope that some agreement might be found which would be satisfactory to most people. Both churches

worshipped in the spirit of Christmas with a Crismon Service, which was new to both churches.

Vernon and Lois Ball resigned in December 1975, after serving fourteen years as Managers of Christian Hills Camp. They worked through the year of construction before the camp was dedicated and up to their leaving, giving of their time in a labor of love for the youth.

In Memoriam: Gladys Lewis for the many years she served as church organist, and Hazel Scott who devoted much of her time through the years in telephone calls for volunteers to deliver Meals-On-Wheels, other projects and activities.

ROLL OF MINISTERS

James Kenner	1862	1881
James Owen	1881	
J. G. McKinney	1881	1885
C.C. Deweese	1885	1887
Allen Emerson (Elder-Ad Interim)	1887	
A.D. Skaggs	1887	1888
J.W. Damon	1888	1889
J.N. Munroe	1889	1892
Will Woodside	1892	1893
B.R. Gilbert	1893	1895
W.E. Bobbitt	1895	1898
S.W. Brown	1899	1900
J.D. Forsyth	1900	1901
Vernon J. Rose	1901	1902
George F. Bradford	1902	1907
Orlo J. Law	1907	1908
Stacey Phillips	1908	
G.G. Horne	1909	1912
F.H. Gillette	1912	1915
J. Ralph Roberts	1916	
H.M. Gilmore	1917	1918
George Bradford	1918	1919
N. Ferd Engle	1920	
George F. Bradford	1921	
W.A. Webster	1921	
George F. Bradford	1922	
Oscar Joneson	1922	1926
L.T. Faulders	1926	1931
Harold E. Dickins	1931	1934
Max E. Willcockson	1934	1938
David E. Donaldson	1938	1940
Bert Sutton	1940	1945
J. Fred Bayless	1945	1947
Carl M. Packard	1947	1951
James A. Underwood (Ad Interim)	1951	
Hartford C. Inlow	1951	1953
Raymond A. Armstrong	1953	1955

James Edward Lackey (Ad Interim)	1955	
Ralph E. Keller	1955	1961
W.E. Babb (Ad Interim)	1961	
Russell E. Money	1961	1966
Benjamin R. Hollis (Ad Interim)	1966	
Laverne Leigh	1967	1972
Gilbert Daniel	1972	

MEMORIES

I was baptized while Bert Sutton was minister, during a revival meeting. Revival meetings were almost an annual thing then. The most things I remember were the Sunday Schools. I began teaching by accident. About ten or twelve were meeting in the church office and had no teacher. We took turns teaching and I took my turn. They persuaded me to be the teacher and it was over thirty years before I quit. We used to have at least 150 in Sunday School. The adult classes were the "Home Builders", "Come Join Us-We Need You", "The Queen Esthers", and at least six classes for younger people. The "Home Builders" I taught, got to average thirty every Sunday. Our greatest number during a revival was ninety. We outgrew the office and met in the sanctuary.

George James

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH History



1888
117 East Third Street

Congregationalism began to take form in Greenwood County with the coming of Edwin Tucker in 1857. There was no formal organization at that time; however, a Sunday School was being conducted under Mr. Tucker's leadership. He continued preparing the lessons until his death.

The First Congregational Church of Eureka was organized on October 21, 1868, when eight people gathered in the home, still standing at the south end of Elm Street, of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin S. Tucker. Charter members were Amelia and Edwin Tucker, Elizabeth Tucker, Mr. and Mrs. J.J. Hawkins, Frank Hawkins, George A. Gordon, and S.G. Mead. The first minister was Reverend William Copeland, and services were held in the log school house at First and School Streets.

Earlier, in 1859, the Congregational Home Missionary Society had sent Reverend Josiah G. Fuller of Boston, Massachusetts, to establish a Congregational Church in Eureka, but the threat of the Civil War and the "free" versus "slave" status in the Kansas Territory caused Rev. Fuller to return home to fulfill his military obligation to Massachusetts before a Church could formally be organized.

The spiritual heritage of the Congregational Church is rooted in the firm belief of the Separatists who lived and worshipped in Scrooby, England, as early as 1557. Their belief was that Christ was their guide and governor, and that they had the right of self-government to be free to follow Him and not the Queen. Their worship services were held secretly in fear of their lives, for at that time in history Queen Elizabeth was recognized as the sole head of the Church of England.

In 1607, the Separatists, under the leadership of Elders John Robinson and William Brewster, escaped to Amsterdam, Holland, where they were given asylum. In 1608 they settled in Leyden, Holland, and after twelve years of preparation and determination, John Carver and William Brewster secured an American land patent from the Virginia Company of England for colonization purposes. They helped select and equip the Mayflower for the voyage to plant Congregationalism in the new world. The clergy at that time believed that God had sifted a whole nation that He might send choice grain into the wilderness.

John Carver, while standing on the deck of the Mayflower in 1620, was elected Governor of Plymouth Colony, the first colonial governor in the new world and perhaps the first ever to be chosen by the people themselves. At his death in 1621, William Bradford was elected the second Governor of the colony.

The Congregational way came first with those Pilgrim Separatists to Plymouth in 1620 to establish the second church in America. The first church was the Anglican Church, the Church of England. A few years later, the flood-tide of Puritans with John Endicott and John Winthrop among them arrived and became the Massachusetts Bay Colony. The Separatists and Puritans united to become the Congregational Church.

The Congregational Church played an important role in the educational process of this great nation. Almost all Ivy League Colleges were organized in colonial times under Congregational auspices — Harvard in 1636, Yale in 1701, Dartmouth in 1769, Amherst in 1825, and Oberlin in 1833. The Congregationalists founded the first women's colleges — Mount Holyoke in 1888, Smith in 1875, and Wellesley in 1875. Additionally they established the first schools in Utah and New Mexico. Congregational ministers founded the educational systems of Ohio, Michigan and Oregon. A Congregational minister secured passage of an ordinance which reserved every sixteenth section of land in western states for maintaining free education.

In a day when Christianity is so eagerly kept out of education, it might be well to remember the words of our Congregational forefathers which stand inscribed over the gates of Harvard College: "... after God had carried us safe to New England and we had built our houses ... reared convenient places for God's worship, and settled the Civil Government, one of the next things we

longed for and looked after was to advance learning and to perpetuate it to Posterity".

In 1806, five young men from Williams College, after a prayer meeting under a haystack where they had taken shelter from a violent thunder storm, made a promise to the Lord to go to the ends of the earth as America's first missionaries, thus giving America her first Board of Foreign Missions and the first Bible Society.

The Home Missionary Society came to Kansas chiefly because of its sincere conviction that slavery was wrong in principle and that Kansas must be developed as a free state. On October 1, 1854, Reverend S.Y. Lum, sent by the Home Missionary Society, held his first service in Kansas and preached the first protestant sermon to be delivered in this state. He organized Plymouth Congregational Church at Lawrence in October, 1854, the first church of any denomination organized in Kansas. Plymouth Church (United Church of Christ) remains active today, in October, 1988.

The earliest Congregational pioneer churches of Kansas were established in the 1850's under the influence of the Andover Band and other missionaries which were sent from the east. These early churches were — Lawrence, Manhattan, Topeka, Wabaunsee and Council Grove. The Andover Band was originated by a young student, S.D. Storrs, at Andover Seminary, Massachusetts.

Following the establishment of these Congregational Churches, Congregational Colleges were established — Lincoln College (1865), later to become Washburn College of Topeka; Fairmount College (1886), later to become Wichita State University. Congregational ministers were instrumental in organizing a Normal Training Center, which was a part of Kansas State Teachers College at Emporia.

Academies, secondary schools, were built by the Congregational Churches to support a christian base and fill the gap between elementary school and college. In addition to the Southern Kansas Academy at Eureka, other academies were built at Stockton, Hiawatha, and Maize.

In 1870, members of the First Congregational Church of Eureka erected a small frame building at the present site, 117 East Third Street. This building stood until the erection of the native limestone structure in 1888, which is the east half of the present building. The architect was John G. Haskell, of Topeka, one of Kansas' most noted designers. The builders were Daily, McKenzie and Edwards of Eureka. The total cost was \$10,000 for the building and contents. The Ladies Aid Society alone raised \$1,500 of the cost, an achievement reflecting great credit on the society. The stone was furnished by Tamer and Samuel L. Brookover and sons. The pastor at that time was Reverend E.R. Drake. The dedication services for the stone Sanctuary were held October 12, 1888. Edwin Tucker gave the historical address, and President Peter McVicar (pioneer preacher) of Washburn College gave the dedicatory sermon at the morning service. The evening service speakers were Reverend Mr. Meeker and Reverend Mr. Sparr.

In 1924, the Sanctuary was remodelled and the west part of the building added, consisting of Fellowship Hall, Sunday School rooms, pastor's study, library, kitchen, and rest rooms, at a cost of \$30,000. The builders were

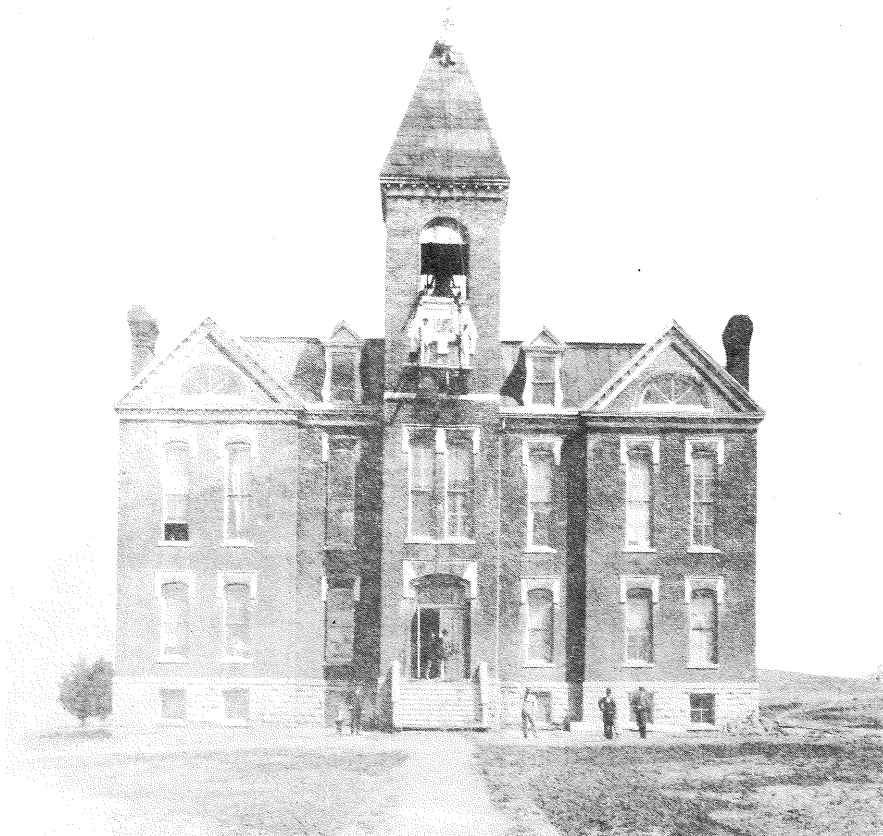
Vandenberg and Son Construction Company of Wichita. During the remodelling, a choir loft was added and a new \$6,500 organ installed. The organ with twenty-one stops and one thousand speaking pipes was manufactured to the church's specifications by the Reuter Organ Company, Lawrence, Kansas. Major contributors were W.S. Marlin and Mr. and Mrs. M.W. Allen. The dedication service was held on December 14, 1924, during the pastorate of Dr. H.A. Lovell.



The Church in 1924

After the Southern Kansas Academy, which had been established in 1885, was razed in 1914, the Academy bell was placed in the First Congregational Church belfry, and at this date, October 9, 1988, is still calling the faithful to worship. The 2000-pound "Children's Bell" was so-called because a part of its \$400 cost came from contributions of the children of the community. Any child donating ten cents or more was given a certificate.

The Southern Kansas Academy played an important role in the history of the Congregational Church. Many of its teachers and students attended the church. Jessie (Trotter) Bailey, who had taught music at the Academy, was organist and choir director at the First Congregational Church for fifty years, retiring in the late 1960's from that position. It is to the Academy's and Jessie's credit that the church has such a fine repertoire of choir music. A picture of the Southern Kansas Academy remains on the wall in the church library today, (1988).



Southern Kansas Academy

At the Seventieth Anniversary Celebration of the First Congregational Church, October 21, 1938, during the pastorate of Reverend Duane Ogden, it was noted that Mrs. Edwin (Amelia) Tucker was the only living charter member of the church.

Plymouth Guild played an important function in the church. It was originally called "The Ladies Aid", "The Women's Society" and, at Duane Ogden's suggestion, in 1938, became "Plymouth Guild".

The Fidelis Class, oldest organized class in the church school, evolved in 1925 from a young girl's group that started meeting in the early part of the century. It continued as a Sunday School class until about 1940 when some of its members were needed as teachers in other classes. At that time they began meeting evenings once a month and for many years Fidelis faithfully served the church. The group's last meeting, in May, 1978, was a coffee held in honor of Dorothy Morgan.

The Couples Club was started in the 1940's with twenty couples listed on the roll. In 1951, under the direction of Reverend Dr. George E. Brown, the Congregans was organized and many young couples met monthly carrying

out several work projects for the church. In the early 1960's, the Congregans renovated the church basement allowing the much-needed extra space for the church's growth.

The Menninger Bible Study began in 1958 through the efforts of Dorothy Dalbom. The class met at the Congregational Church for several years with Muriel Leonard as its leader. It then moved to the Christian Church, and later to the Methodist and Lutheran Churches.

A Seventy-fifth Anniversary Celebration was held on October 31, 1943, under the pastorate of Reverend Robert D. Brodt. The following is an excerpt from a history prepared by W.J. Bilson and read by him at the Sunday evening service. "With the shadow of war upon us, our church still serves the cause of Christ. With one hundred twenty-eight members on its roll, many of whom are on the far-flung battle lines, the First Congregational Church continues to strive to attain the high goal which its pioneer members early envisioned."

During the pastorate of Dr. R. Banks Blocher, a special service of dedication was held at the Congregational Church in March of 1955. Four other ministers, including Rev. John H. Jones a former pastor of this church, assisted Dr. Blocher with the ceremony. The Sanctuary's interior, especially the chancel area, had been renovated and many of the members had provided new furnishings as memorial gifts. Those memorials and donors were as follows:

The Altar and The Pulpit — in memory of Mr. and Mrs. H. Greeley Brookover, given by their daughter, Mary and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. W. I. Boone.

The Lectern — in memory of Mrs. A.D. Burt, Sr. and Edna Fuller Burt, given by Esther Burt Gill, Helen Burt Harris, Harold A. Burt and Arley D. Burt.

The Clergy Stall — in memory of the pioneer founders of this church, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Tucker, given by Mr. and Mrs. E.S. Tucker and Mr. and Mrs. Edwin T. Wood.

The Baptismal Font — in memory of Mr. J.H. Wiggins, given by his daughter and wife, Miss Isabel Wiggins and Mrs. J.H. Wiggins.

The Hymn Board — in memory of Mr. Raymond B. Blocher, given by his son, the Rev. R. Banks Blocher, Th. D.

The Offering Plates — in memory of Mr. Duke Coulter, given by Catherine Burt, Edward Coulter, John Coulter, Oscar Coulter and Mrs. Duke Coulter.

The Violet Super — frontal — in memory of Mrs. C.A. Leedy, given by Miss Isabel Wiggins and Mrs. J.H. Wiggins.

The Green and White Super — frontals were given by Mr. and Mrs. George Hull.

Donors to the Carpet Fund were the Plymouth Guild, Congregans, Church School and many couples and individuals in the congregation.

The new choir robes were purchased by the members of the Chancel Choir with some help from generous individuals, and at this same time the pews, which had been arranged in three sections, were repositioned in two sections creating a center aisle. The organ, formerly located in the center of the chancel, was moved to the north side and the choir seats moved to the south side.

In 1957, the First Congregational Church under the ministry of Joseph G. Morgan, who served for twelve years, agreed to be a part of the United Church of Christ, which was a merger of the Congregational and Evangelical and Reformed Churches.

A most impressive ordination and installation service was held at the Congregational Church on September 24, 1967, for the new minister, Reverend Norman M. Kirsch. Ministers from other areas and a number from Eureka took part in the ceremony.

In October 1968, the Congregational Church observed its Centennial with Rev. Norman M. Kirsch presiding and assisted by Rev. Joseph G. Morgan, retired former pastor. Percy Shue, former church member and former president of Midwest Institute of Eureka, gave the Centennial address.

In 1974, the Christian Church began meeting with this congregation, and in 1976 merged to become the Christian (Disciples of Christ) and Congregational (United Church of Christ) Church of Eureka, with Rev. Gilbert Daniel as minister.

Samuel Brookover, born in 1889, is the oldest living member of this church as of this date (1988). Sam is the son of Emma and William J. Brookover, and the grandson of Tamer and Samuel L. Brookover.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

MINISTERS

Reverend William Copeland	1868-1869
Reverend H.L. Platt	1869-1872
Reverend A. F. Hale	1872-1874
Reverend E. E. Rogers	1874-1877
Reverend J. McCune	1877-1880
Reverend H.C. Scotford	1880-1883
Reverend T.L. Brown	1884-1887
Reverend E.R. Drake	1887-1890
Reverend J. W. Marshall	1891-1892
Reverend W.F. Hemingway	1892-1894
*Reverend Adam Murman	1895-1897
Reverend J.S. Gould	1897-1899
Reverend G.S. Ricker	1899-1901
Reverend C.B. Wells	1901-1907
Reverend A.M. Spangler	1908-1911
Reverend H.O. Judd	1911-1915
Reverend E.V. Gardner	1915-1922
Reverend F.C. Gonzales	1922-1923
Reverend H.A. Lovell	1923-1927
Reverend J.H. Jones	1927-1931
Reverend C.M. Good	1931-1936
Reverend S. Duane Ogden	1936-1942
Reverend Robert D. Brodt	1943-1944

Reverend Lawrence Deever	1945-1947
Reverend Ray O. Walkenhorst	1948-1949
Reverend Dr. George E. Brown	1950-1953
Reverend Dr. R. Banks Blocher	1954-1956
Reverend Joseph G. Morgan	1956-1967
*Reverend Norman M. Kirsch	1967-1969
William Glenn (Interim Minister)	1969-1971
Reverend John Prickett	1971-1974
Reverend Dr. Gilbert Daniel	1975-

*Ordained here.

CHRISTIAN AND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Merger Agreement in 1976

PURPOSE: The Christian and Congregational Church shall be the establishment and maintenance of a Christian congregation within the community through regular worship to promote and nurture the Christian life, and the advancement of the Kingdom of God by all appropriate means at home and abroad and wherever man may be, according to the example set forth in the life, teaching, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

BIBLE: The church recognizes the Bible as sufficient rule of faith and practice, and holds that living in accordance with the teachings of Jesus Christ is the true test of discipleship.

MEMBERSHIP: Membership shall be received by transfer from any denomination. By baptism administered in the tradition of either denomination as desired, upon a Confession of Faith in Jesus Christ as Lord, and by confirmation as some who have received baptism as a child.

GOVERNMENT: The government of the church is vested in its members, who exercise the right of control in all its affairs. The church covenants a relationship with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the Congregational Church (United Church of Christ).

HOLY COMMUNION: Holy Communion is celebrated in the tradition of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) each Sunday of the year except three Sundays. The sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated in the tradition of the Congregational Church (United Church of Christ) the first Sunday of January, July, October, and Maundy Thursday.

THE CHRISTIAN AND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Eureka, Kansas

1974-1988

The oneness of the Church of Jesus Christ was a basic concern of the Congregational (United Church of Christ) and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Other denominations shared this concern and throughout the years many churches with a variety of backgrounds, services and styles of worship have sought ways to live out the oneness of the church. They have been active in both the World and National Council of Churches. In Eureka, Kansas, two churches carrying the seeds for oneness of the church, gave it reality in 1976.

The union of these two groups began at first with thought and conversation among the members. The idea moved from talk to planned meetings in 1974 as the realization grew that such a program could be mutually beneficial. In August of 1974, during the worship service, Paul George went to the Christian Church and extended the invitation to come worship with the Congregational Church members.

Representatives from each congregation were selected and met weekly to explore the essentials of worship and service in the church and how these were administered. The committee concluded that any differences could be overcome, and a new vision of the two churches working constructively together could be employed.

The first step was to hold combined meetings for particular events. The youth of the two churches were meeting with the Lutheran young people at the time of the early talks and the men's groups began meeting together, alternating monthly, at the two church buildings. The Reverend Gilbert Daniel and the Reverend John Prickett agreed to fill in for one another at times when the other had to be away.

The men cooperated in a worthwhile project at the Paul George farm after a tornado ripped through the area, scattering debris across the hay meadow. Bringing pickup trucks and other equipment, they cleaned up the damage and when the work was done, all enjoyed a good meal brought to the farm by the women of both churches.

In 1974 it was decided that the two denominations worship together for six months at the Congregational Church, and during this time lay the groundwork for a plan which would serve both churches in this unique adventure. A committee consisting of George James, Arleta Carter, Lois Ball, Emily Bailey, Maurice Hartman, Carole Shirley, Francis Campbell, the Reverend John Prickett, the Reverend Gilbert Daniel, with Norman Jarrett as Moderator, met weekly for eight weeks, studying the constitutions of the two churches and constitutions of other union, united, and federated churches. From this a document was prepared and presented to the membership of both churches. A vote taken in early December carried in both congregations, but not by as large a majority as required by the constitution of the Christian Church.

At a later meeting, however, the proposal received a favorable vote and for

the next few months the two memberships made many decisions concerning those items from their combined properties which might be useful.

The Christian Church arranged for their building to be demolished, and the debris used as filler in a ditch at the Christian Hills Camp. The stained glass window of "Jesus and the Children" was retained and later incorporated into the Christian and Congregational Church building. The oil painting of the Jordan River scene in the baptistry was kept and preserved, the organ pipes were sold to the Inman U.C.C. Church and the pews and stained glass went to the firm which helped dismantle the building. From this point the church moved forward.

During November of 1974 the Reverend John Prickett resigned and the Reverend Gilbert Daniel was called to serve as pastor of the new church in January 1975. This was at a point in the course of uniting.

One of the first projects, after the union was approved, was to name this special church that had come into being. Several names were submitted, votes taken, and the final selection was the Christian and Congregational Church.

Prayers and encouragement came from other churches in the community, adding strength to the endeavors of the union church as many changes were taking place. Later, the Congregational parsonage was sold and the funds were used for a badly needed new console and overhaul for the organ. While being repaired, electronic chimes were installed in the organ, purchased with funds from the Clifford Bailey and Warner Carter memorials. When the repair was completed in 1977, Marcia McMullen presented a concert during the morning worship and at this service the organ was dedicated to the glory of God. Soon afterward, Henry Francis gave a memorial recital playing compositions from the musical collection of the late Jessie Bailey, Congregational Church organist for over fifty years.

Sadness fell upon the membership as death claimed Charlene McMullen, one of the choir directors. Iola Sears gathered the choir and directed a special cantata, but in a few months death took her from our midst. Over the years that followed we were blessed with the leadership of Mike Leonard, Forrest Graves, Jeanette Butterfield, Larry Brownlee, Bruce Spitzer and currently Marge Matthews. Under her leadership the choir has grown in number, and the ministry of music continues to be a special part of the worship service.

On World Wide Communion Sunday, October 3, 1976, the union of the two churches was celebrated. Participating in the service were the Reverend Ron Reed, Regional Minister of The Christian Churches in Kansas, and the Reverend Dr. Norman Jackson, Conference Minister of the United Church of Christ.

The church began to attract new members and this growth resulted in change. No longer would there be three membership rolls but only one, since now the members of one church were also members of the other church. Young people from a number of other Eureka churches met in the Combined Youth Fellowship and went on annual ski trips.

Cooperation was evident as the Christian and Congregational Women's Fellowship prepared a cook book. The women have celebrated in numerous ways with worship, study, fellowship and retreats. They have quilted, sewed, and made bazaar articles for the Axtell Hospital in Newton, Kansas. The

Fellowship has served dinners for families at the time of a loved one's death, and continue this act of kindness.

In 1978 it became necessary to place a steel girder in the back of the sanctuary to brace a sagging roof. Costing \$7,000, this project demonstrated the need for the church to become incorporated, emphasizing that the property of one was the property of the other.

In recognition of his year of service to the congregation, the Christian and Congregational Church encouraged the Reverend Gilbert Daniel to enroll in the Doctor of Ministry program. The Graduate Seminary at Phillips University brought a satellite program to Wichita, which made it easier for him to participate. Upon completion of the course in 1980, the congregation presented him a doctoral robe as a special gift for this achievement and appreciation of his ministry.

As the years have come and gone many programs linger in our memory: the times we gathered at Christian Hills for all-church picnics; the trips to Kansas City to watch the Royals' baseball and the Chiefs' football games; the Starlight Theatre's presentation of *The Music Man*; the annual Thanksgiving dinner when we gather for fellowship with one another and bring canned goods for the community food pantry, which with the clothes closet, helps during the unemployment crises; and at Christmas when people in need are given the opportunity to select gifts for their children and themselves.

Remembered are the Cornerstones who organized for study and fellowship in 1978 and who still meet once a month and each Sunday as a Sunday School class; the Bible studies held during the past five years; the continuing growth of the Sunday School classes; the Junior Choir which presents a special program during the worship service the first Sunday of each month; the Children's Choir, a result of hard work of director Sheryl Smith and others, presenting their annual Christmas gift in song to the congregation; the fifth anniversary celebration at which the Reverend Gayle Engle, Kansas- Oklahoma Conference Minister, and the Reverend Dr. Lloyd Cox, Regional Minister of the Christian Church in Kansas, participated; Thornton Laaser completing a four year Education for Ministry and receiving a certificate May 26, 1988, and assisting the minister in a variety of pastoral duties.



Thornton Laaser

Also remembered is the Maundy Thursday service when the Last Supper is enacted and each disciple relates his experiences in following Jesus as his Lord and Master; the Chrismon Service which is part of the church's rejoicing at Christmas; the preparation of a special devotional booklet; the visits of the Woodhaven Bell Choir; the live Nativity scene, especially on that occasion when a sheep escaped and people watched Reverend Gilbert and some angels chasing the animal down the street; the young people attending camps and conferences; Vacation Bible School held with the youth of Christ Lutheran Church; the secretaries, custodians and all those who have contributed to the church's operation; and to the members themselves, who are special with their attendance, support and devotion.

We celebrate in this history and rejoice in the goodness of God to us. We seek the guidance of God in the future and pray we will always be responsive to His calling and His saving grace.

Christian and Congregational Church Building Renovation:

The old Congregational Church built in 1888 and the 1924 addition was deemed valuable and salvageable by the congregation in an overwhelming vote in the late fall of 1985. The Building Committee was reactivated and Charles L. Hall, Architect, Manhattan, Kansas, was engaged to prepare an overall master plan for the renovation of the exterior of the building. The work has been completed by three contractors with the City of Eureka providing a major contribution to the concrete work including side walks, curbs and gutters. (No longer is it necessary to push cars from the north parking on snowy and icy Sunday mornings.)

Casado-McKay, Inc., general contractors, Wichita, Kansas, were the successful bidders to a public bid letting. They completed the new roof structure with the removal of all flat roofs. This contract included the new northeast entry with steps under the bell tower and the new steeple. The total cost was \$91,349.58.

Johnson County Stained Glass, Inc., promptly completed the releading, glazing, resetting and polishing of all cathedral glass. Their artists modified the "Christ and the Children" window and installed it over the double door entry in the bell tower. The window was originally situated in the First Christian Church of Eureka. All cathedral and stained glass are protected by lexan plates to help preserve these valuable original glass windows. The total cost was \$32,732.96.

Mid-Continental Restoration Co., Ft. Scott, Kansas, were successful bidders for the cleaning, tuckpointing and waterproofing of the native stone portion of the building, and applying a special weather retardant plaster to the brick portion of the 1924 addition. The total cost was \$17,874.00.

The Building Committee is indeed grateful for the memorials and the congregation for their financial support in the renovation program. All bills are paid, and there is a balance of \$26,549.38 to start the interior renovation. Charles Hall, Architect, is in the process of preparing preliminary details for this project. We anticipate completing the interior work by stages as the bank balance allows. (See picture on the cover for the renovated exterior.)

