

History Tuscarawas Co.

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erected in 1836 and used by the society until after the war. In 1866-67, a new frame structure was erected upon the old site. The church was dedicated during the ministry of Rev. Dickenson R. Moore. A parsonage was also built at a cost of \$1,100. A year after the dedication of the church, during the pastorate of Rev. S. A. Thompson, an extended revival occurred, also during the pastoral term of Rev. S. R. Clark. The society at present is in a flourishing condition with Rev. W. C. Endly as pastor. During the last winter, the society was visited by the most gracious revival that has ever occurred in its history. The present church membership is 130.

The Methodist Protestant Church of Newcomerstown was organized in 1842. In September of that year, Coshocton Circuit was divided and Tuscarawas Circuit and Newcomerstown Mission formed. Dr. James Brown and David Mulvane were early leading members. The first church was built on the east side of the present Presbyterian Church, and was occupied until the present edifice was constructed in 1878, during the pastorate of Rev. W. L. Wells. It was dedicated July 3, 1879, by Rev. S. A. Fisher, of Cambridge. The building is a handsome brick structure, 40x64 feet in size, and its cost, including furnishing, was about \$4,500. The present pastor is Rev. L. Bo-man, the present membership about 100.

The Presbyterian Church was organized November 13, 1876, by a committee of the Steubenville Presbytery, with the following original members: Adolphus W. Search and Mrs. Low M. Search, Jonathan and Rebecca Evans, Mrs. Emma Evans, George and Ruth Bagnall, Robert Y. Patterson, by certificate; and Philip Sheets, Mrs. Susan Sheets and Miss Lillie T. Bagnall on profession. For several years the congregation was irregularly supplied, and, in 1879, Rev. George W. Riggle took charge, and remained ten months. Rev. A. B. Wilson succeeded him, was regularly installed pastor, and continued a little longer than a year. After a vacancy of some time, Rev. David B. Rodgers, in the spring of 1883, assumed the pastoral relation, and still maintains it. George Bagnall and Robert Y. Patterson, the first Ruling Elders, were installed November 13, 1876. George W. Barnett and Philip Sheets were installed in the same official position January 22, 1879, and John Buck was elected March 17, 1880. The church edifice is a handsome and commodious brick structure, located on the west end of South Canal street. It was erected in 1878, at a cost of \$3,000. The membership of this congregation is now about sixty

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city charges," said Dorothy

Roof walk at local church

11-21-07
NET News



Ray Booth / Newcomerstown News
Rick Peterson of Newcomerstown treads carefully along the roof line of Christ United Methodist Church. A group of volunteers continued their work recently to get a new metal roof in place before winter weather hits.

College street Methodist, once located where car wash is now located on corner of Canal and College St. Across from St. Paul Lutheran Church

-1947-

Girl's choir or Communion ??

Front row (left to right)

Etta Mae Kissel, Barbara Froelich,
_____, Judy Castle, Marde Castle.

middle row:

_____, Joyce Watson,
_____.

Back row:

_____, Marilyn Mullen,
_____ } _____ }
Diane Duff.

1947



Christ United Methodist Church

Christ United Methodist Church of Newcomerstown is the result of a merger of two old and respected denominations. The older of the two, the former Methodist Episcopal Church, was organized in 1830.

The Rev. Donahue was the first pastor of this newly organized church, with Jacob Tufford, Aaron Schenck, Peter Gaskill, and Isaiah Wilkin serving on the Board of Trustees. Since they had no established place of worship, they did as early Bible Christians did — met wherever possible; in their case, in homes, barns or school-houses.

However, in 1835, Conrad Miller deeded a lot to them and one year later the church was completed. This lot was on the corner of Church and River Streets, and the church erected thereupon was used until 1854, at which time it was abandoned and the society worshipped temporarily in Crater's Hall. In 1867, a frame church was erected on the same site with Dickerson R. Moore as pastor.

By June 22, 1884, the quarterly report was given and revealed a total membership in the Sunday School of 97 with an average of 48 and 8 teachers in attendance. In 1945-46 the average attendance was 200.

In 1916, the building committee of Thomas J. Shannon, Samuel Rush, John W. Ley, John Hinds, and F.L. Euga added to the frame building of 1867 and covered the entire surface with brick. The new church was dedicated on March 12, 1916; the minister was H.F. Patterson. The Queen Esther Class was organized in the same year.

The College Street Methodist, formerly the Methodist Protestant Church was formed in 1843, and was the first building erected on Canal Street. It stood about where the present post office is located. Records indicated that in 1866, the congregation was considering the raising of funds to build another church. However, this suggestion was shelved temporarily and the building they had was equipped with new underpinning, a new roof and new seats.

In 1878, the congregation moved to its new location, at the corner of Canal and College Streets. This church was dedicated in 1879 by Rev. S.A. Fisher, who at a later date, became one of its pastors. The cost of the building, including the furnishings, was about \$4500. In 1955, this building was almost demolished by a tornado and the congregation was forced to move to other quarters. Following a period of some indecision, they contracted to purchase the Touraine Club, north of town, and this edifice served as their church home until the merger of the two Methodist Churches, in 1966.

College Street Methodist Church and Trinity Methodist Church merged on March 6, 1966, under the name of the Methodist Church of Newcomerstown, Ohio. Thereafter, when the United Brethren Church merged with the Methodist Church Conference, the name was changed to Christ United Methodist Church, which is the present name of the church.

At the time of the merger of the two Methodist Churches, March 6, 1966, the former College Street Methodist Church had purchased a 3.62 acre tract of land by deed dated December 7, 1965, from Clark Van-Voorhis and his wife, Laura, which tract is the present site of Christ United Methodist Church. When the merger of the two churches occurred, Rev. W.A. Hewitt, who was the pastor of College Street, and Rev. Edwin F. Eshelman, formerly pastor of Trinity Methodist, were retained as co-pastors and served the combined congregations until July 1, 1967, when Rev. John P. Benson became the new pastor and he served until July 1, 1973, when Rev. Ray Snyder was appointed by the Conference to serve said church and who is at this time the pastor.

Following this merger, the two congregations took action to start a new building program. The ground-breaking ceremony at the Oak Street site occurred on June 19, 1968 and October 20, 1968, the cornerstone was laid. The dedication service was held in May of 1969.

The Reverend Ray Snyder is the present pastor of the church. It has some 700 members. - Submitted by Rev. Ray Snyder; Written by Doris Baker

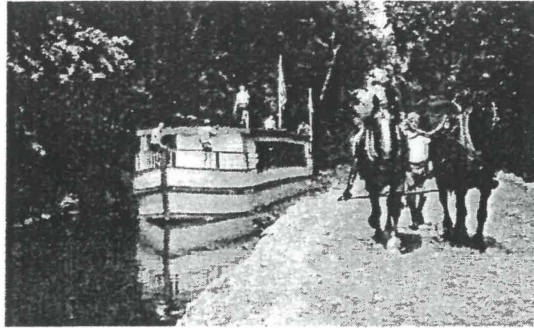
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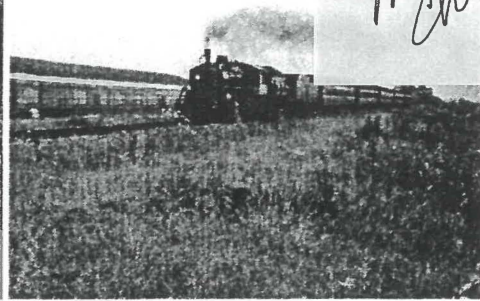
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A public notice, directed to the electors of Districts 1, 2 and 3, of Oxford Township, and signed by Andrew Creter, G. H. Dent, James Pilling, William Gardner, William H. Craig, L. C. Davis, Thomas Banks, James Brown, James Norris, C. T. Emerson, J. W. Gibbons, R. H. Nugen and G. R. Little was issued March 18, 1856, calling for an election to be held on the following 29th of March, to vote for or against the adoption of the Akron school law. On the day of election forty-two votes were cast, all favoring the adoption. The first School Board, elected April 12, 1856, consisted of R. H. Nugen and G. H. Dent, for three years, George R. Little and L. C. Davis for two years, and W. H. Craig and Amasa Brown for one year. The special school district thus organized, was very large, including all the land of Oxford Township north of the river and the Nugen farm of 600 acres south of it. When the Akron law was adopted, two small district schoolhouses stood within the present corporate limits of Newcomerstown, one on the lot west of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the other just south of the old graveyard near the depot. In 1857, the two-story frame school building, still in use, was erected and its four



Reconstructed part of the Ohio & Erie Canal
1970's



Steam engine & cars on Ohio Central Railroad
Excursion train, 1990's

The **Isleta Methodist Church** played an important role in our lives. In the 1850's, the Wolf, Fletcher and other neighborhood families founded the church as the **Plains Methodist Protestant Church**, later the Isleta Methodist Church. At first it was a branch of the **Newcomerstown Methodist Protestant Church**. Evangelistic meetings were held each year. My great grandmother, Catharine Fletcher, was one of the charter members, and in the 1890's my grandfather, David Fletcher, served as a trustee. Mom was more conscientious than Dad about attending church services. She transferred her membership to the Isleta Church from the Methodist Church in Hiramburg in 1910, at the time she married my dad. Through the years she served as Secretary for Good Literature, as Trier of Appeals, as an alternate delegate to church conferences, and as a Ladies Aid Society member and officer. She was also an active member of the Womens' Christian Temperance Union (WCTU). She frequently hosted both the WCTU and the Ladies Aid meetings in her home. My sister, Ruth, was Sunday School Secretary for many years.

MEMORIES FROM MY CHILDHOOD

My earliest childhood memories are of the 1913 flood. At least I think I remember the flood. It was a matter of great concern for the family at the time. I would have been only about 18 months old at the time.

When I was six or seven I was given a new nickname, Prince. Prince was the name of one of our horses. The barn was still down at Grandpa and Grandma's. I was sent down to feed the horses. Prince was always impatient and one day he tossed his head and hit my head with his. He knocked out some teeth, so that got me the nickname at school for awhile. When I was a youngster we had three horses. Prince was white and Dan was black. They were large work horses, Percherons.

NEWCOMERSTOWN METHODIST CHURCHES

TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH

The Methodist Churches in Newcomerstown helps to make up some of the history of our town. The first Methodist Church to be organized was the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1830. The first Board of Trustees members were some names that are still around today in the names of ancestors of the people on the Board. Jacob Tufford, Aaron Schenck, Peter Gaskill, Conrad Miller, and Isaish Wilkin. The first minister was a Reverend Donahue.

Members of this group of worshipers met in schoolhouses and individuals' homes until 1835 Conrad Miller deeded the lot located on the southwest corner of Church and River Street to the Methodist Trustees to build a church. The first church was built in 1835. This building burned down and a new church was built in 1866-67 which was also a frame structure. In 1916 the need to enlarge the building brought the congregation to the conclusion to build a new brick building. This is the Trinity Methodist Church that we all knew until the Christ United Church building was built and two congregations united into one church. The Trinity Methodist building was sold to the Church of God.

COLLEGE STREET METHODIST CHURCH

The second Methodist Church was the College Street Methodist Church, which was established in 1832 - 1842. There is a question as to which date is correct.

The Methodist Protestant Church (College Street Methodist) was formed when the Coshocton Circuit was divided. This formed the Tuscarawas Circuit and the Newcomerstown Mission. Dr. James Brown and David Mulvane were the leading members of this church.

The first building was situated on what is now the site of our Post Office Building on Canal Street. The congregation attended this frame building until 1878. It is said the

the members of the congregation were upset because a "great edifice" had been built next to the MP church and the members did not like to be in the shadow of this "great edifice", so they decided to move. The "great edifice was the Presbyterian Church). In 1878 a brick structure had been erected at the corner of College and Canal Streets, which is where the members of the College Street Methodist Church attended until March 1955. This was the site of the College Street Methodist Church until on March 11, 1955, a tornado hit the church building, lifted the roof off the building and then set the roof back down on the building. There is a car wash on this site now.

COLLEGE STREET METHODIST CHURCH (TOURAINÉ BUILDING)

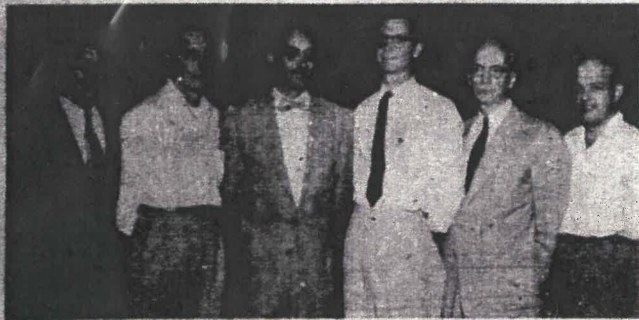
The building was deemed unsafe and the congregation moved to North College Street after purchasing the Touraine Supper Club from Joe Lenzo. With some renovations the building was turned into a church building and the members attended church there from 1955 to 1969 when they united with the Trinity Methodist congregation to make the Christ United Methodist Church. At that time the road went in front of the building, not in the back as it does now. The North College Street site is now the ODOT building.

CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The present church building was built from 1966 to 1969 when it opened to the combined congregation of both Methodist churches. Over time the church has been renovated and also has had three additions. Those additions are the West entrance room and drive up so people can get out of their cars and not get wet, or have to walk in snow. The Wesley Music Auditorium which was built for the choir. After years of not having any designated place for the choir to practice but the sanctuary or fellowship hall, the auditorium was built. The choir practices on Thursday evenings and other times when necessary. This addition is also used for many other things. The third addition built was the River of Life Community Center which is a huge room and can accommodate playing basketball, volleyball, or a second service or special events.



College St. Methodists Buy Touraine as Site for Church



The trustees of the College St. Methodist Church of Newcomerstown have purchased approximately eight acres of land with a large steel and concrete building measuring 50 by 50 feet with an addition 30 by 14 feet from Victor and Joseph Lema. It was announced this week. This action by the trustees followed a quarterly conference of the church which approved the project.

The land is located on N. Col. st. and presents an excellent site for church use, with off-street parking.

The church home of the College St. Methodist Church at the corner of Canal and College sts. was severely damaged by the March tornado and after inspection was found to be unfit for use primarily because of deterioration.

It is planned to use the present building on the premises purchased for worship services temporarily and education and when the new sanctuary is completed the present building will then be used for educational purposes. An architect has been contacted and will examine the present building for the purpose of making suggestions for the new proposed sanctuary.

The Touraine Supper Club will vacate the property this week and the church plans to have their first service in the new quarters Oct. 30th. The building has been inspected and approved and there is very little work to be done before services can be held.

THE WOMEN of the church, the Women's Society of Christian Service has a quota for money. They have raised the money for almost thirty years. The basement of the old church was remodeled with concrete tile and a special gas furnace before the destructive March storm.

In the new church home, the large kitchen with the regular restaurant equipment, which had been purchased by the women of the church, will afford all conveniences in the serving of dinners and banquets by the society.

The report by the College St. Methodists is in line with the progressive thinking of getting away from congested areas and out where off-street parking is available. Curb and sidewalk parking is not in front of the property as soon as feasible, for the convenience of those who wish to walk. Later, the land will be landscaped and made a beautiful spot of which the community will be justly proud.

The present minister of the church is Rev. Henry Holyoak, who has served the local church for over seven years.

The board of trustees is composed of B. E. Reed, Robert Graham, McFarlane, Curtis, Dr. P. L. McCullay and C. L. Pumphrey. The real estate transaction was handled by Peter C. Rock, local Realtor and the legal work by County Atty. Vernon Lee.

FROM CHURCH records and a brief history held by Benjamin Murphy, who has been a member of the church for over forty eight years, interesting items have been found which go back in the early history of the town.

The Union Methodist Protestant Society was organized in 1822 by Rev. David Dally in Mass. Moore's barn. After the organized meetings were held in the Union school house until the erection of what was known as The Little White Church on the site of the present Post Office. This (Continued on page 6)



TRUSTEES of the College St. Methodist Church, which last week bought the Touraine Club for a church site are pictured in the top photo. Left to right, Bert Reed, Robert Graham, Rev. Henry Holyoak, Dr. P. L. McCullay, C. L. Pumphrey and Vernon Lee. Second photo from top is the College St. church which was damaged in the March tornado and third from top is the Touraine Club. At right is Rev. Holyoak.



State st. Work To Start Soon

In a brief session on Monday night, council passed two resolutions which authorize the village to purchase sufficient asphalt for use on State st. Surfacing and widening of the street is to start soon.

Ordinance No. 200 established the position of assistant superintendent of water and sewerage and Ordinance No. 201 established three positions of sewage plant operators at \$120 per hour for hours actually worked.

A resolution was also passed to lower taxes for next year under the budget of the village.

A pay ordinance of \$1645.22 was approved.

Rev. Shurtz Named National Chaplain

Rev. George Shurtz, Cross st., has again been elected national chaplain of the National World War I veterans for the third year, at the national convention held last week at Indianapolis, Indiana.

Rev. Shurtz was the speaker at the veterans' service held on Sunday night.

TO HOLD PARTY

Buckhorn Grange will hold a dance and party Saturday night at the Grange Hall with Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Fisher and Mrs. Howard Caldwell assisting the work.

Grand Jurors Act in 2 Local Cases

Twenty-two grand jurors were indicted by the Touraine county grand jury which recessed Tuesday afternoon after reporting to Common Pleas Judge Clinton Fisher.

The jury also returned several indictments and dropped charges which had been filed against 12 citizens.

Among those indicted were James C. Moody, formerly of Newcomerstown, charged by trick on a charge filed by Herbert Keith, that Moody bought a saddle from him for \$50 and didn't pay for it but later sold the saddle in Virginia.

Weldon F. Shilling of Zanesville, grand larceny in connection with the theft of a pick-up truck from the L. H. Barnett Co. last Feb. 3. Shilling was secretly indicted by the April grand jury, but later it was learned he was a juvenile and the indictment was quashed. While home on leave from the Air Force, he was arrested and arraigned before Judge Ralph Finley, who bound him over.

FORGET-ME-NOT SALE

Mayor Loren D. Gadd has declared Saturday, Sept. 26 as For-

Unite During Church Repair

The College Street Methodist and Trinity Methodist Churches of Newcomerstown will unite for services during July and August. Sunday, July 3, the College Street choir under the direction of Mrs. Charles Yingling, will supply the music and Rev. Henry Holyoak will deliver the message, "The Cloak of Righteousness." On July 10, Trinity Methodist choir, under the direction of Mrs. C. C. Baxter, will supply the music and Rev. E. R. Haines will deliver the message.

The Sunday School of College Street Church for all youngsters under the age of 12, will meet as usual in the Parish House on College Street. The Youth and Adult classes will meet at Trinity church. The hours of service are: 9:30 a. m. Sunday School and 10:30 Worship service.

Methodist Pastors Are Returned Here

At the conclusion of the East Ohio Conference of the Methodist church held last week at Lakoside, the pastors of the local churches, Rev. Henry Holyoak, College St. church, and Rev. E. R. Haines of Trinity were returned.

Rev. Holyoak returns for his eighth year and Rev. Haines for his second year.

Workmen Start To Tear Down Local Church

A Newcomerstown landmark is about to disappear. Workmen this week started the task of tearing down the College St. Methodist Church.

Ray Shaffer of the Plains, near Athens, Ohio, has the razing contract.

Rev. Henry Holyoak said that the bell will be preserved and possibly used as a memento. Chancel furniture has been moved to the new church on N. College st. Pews were sold.

Under the contract, the building is to be leveled to one foot below the grade line.

Church records show that the campaign which culminated in the erection of the present structure was started in 1877

Thursday, October 6, 1955

Church Plans First Services In Newly Acquired Property

Dr. W. B. Robinson, superintendent of the Canton District of the Methodist Church, will be the speaker 10:30 Sunday morning when College Street Methodist Church holds its first service in the newly acquired property on College st.

Dr. Robinson has served a number of pastorates in the North East Ohio Conference: in 1942 he became pastor of the Main St. Methodist Church in Akron, O., in 1948 Superintendent of the Steubenville District; in 1952 he was appointed to the superintendency of the Methodist Children's Home in Berea, O., and in 1955 to his present position.

Last Sunday, the pastor, Rev. Henry Holyoak administered Holy Communion at the Masonic Temple as a fitting climax to six months of services, since the College Street building was declared unfit for worship. During this time the Masonic Order and the Trinity Methodist Church have offered their facilities to provide a meeting place for the congregation.

The months of July and August services were held in Trinity Methodist church. This was a period of close cooperation between the two Methodist Churches, the two ministers shared in the morning worship hour and during vacation periods each took total responsibility of the two congregations. The remaining months the morning services were held in the Masonic Temple. This organization willingly opened their doors and changed plans to give the church a place to meet.

THE SUNDAY School which has been divided since the storm of March 11 will be united again this coming Sunday at 9:30 a.m. The past months have been spent between the Parish House for the children under 12 years of age and the Masonic Temple for youth and adults. The Parish House was made available immediately after the storm due to the fact that the congregation was at that time finishing a new home for the minister. The new parsonage being almost completed the pastor moved in and made available the space necessary for the continuance of the Sunday School.

The music which was heard over the Tower System of the church has been silent since the storm. Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. it will again be heard across the community calling people to worship and study.

October 9 will be a great day in the history of the church. It becomes the new opportunity for forward movement in the church. It will be Loyalty Sunday — when members and friends receive the opportunity to make pledges and contributions toward the set goal of \$24,000, the amount needed to pay for the new building and land. A large gathering of persons is anticipated for this first service.



Dr. W. B. Robinson

God Builds No Churches

God builds no churches. By His plan
That labor has been left to man.

No spires miraculously arise
No little mission from the skies
Falls on the bleak and barren place
To be a source of strength and grace.
The humblest church demands its price
In human toil and sacrifice.

Men call the church the House of God,
Toward which the toil-stained pilgrims trod
In search of strength and rest and hope,
As blindly through life's mists they grope.
And there God dwells, but it is man
Who builds that House, and draws its plan;
Pays for mortar and the stone
That none need seek for God alone.

The humblest spire in mortal ken
Where God abides was built by men.
And if the Church is still to grow,
Is still the light of hope to throw
Across the valley of despair,
Men still must build God's House of Prayer.
God sends no churches from the skies.
Out of our hearts they must arise.

Edgar A. Guest

1902 - 2002

First Baptist Church Newcomerstown, Ohio

100 Year Anniversary April 21, 2002



Photo by Randy Norman

"A Century of Faithful Service"



First Church Building 1905-1915

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:16-20

PASTORS SERVING FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - NEWCOMERSTOWN

1902-1904	Rev. W. H. Taylor
1904-1906	Rev. W. J. Thompson
1906-1908	Rev. C. Malley
1909-1910	Rev. E. N. Long
1910-1912	Rev. A. K. McCall
1912-1913	Rev. Faubian, Clifton, Bridges, Supply
1914-1917	Rev. R. L. Wilson
1917-1919	Rev. L. L. Lightner
1919-1922	Rev. W. B. Godsall
1922-1929	Rev. Harley C. Fletcher, Rev. L. M. Copeland, Rev. E. L. Greer, and Rev. I. L. Basford
1930	No Pastor
1931-1935	Rev. E. C. Thompson
May to November 1935	Rev. L. J. Ramsey
1935-1939	The church worked with New Philadelphia in having one pastor serve both churches
March 10, 1936-September 1939	Rev. Rodney C. Gould
November 9, 1939	Rev. Paul G. Smithson
December 1944	Rev. B. A. Wilson
1945-1952	Rev. John H. Bradbury
1953-1957	Rev. Ralph Dovenbarger
1957-1961	Rev. Douglas Peters
1961-1962	Rev. George Shurtz, Interim
1962-1965	Rev. Fred Wakeling
1965-1969	Rev. Harold Kidwell
1970	Rev. Walter Wilson, Interim
1970-1973	Rev. Tom Gamblin
1973-1975	Rev. Ray Schlader, Retired Interim
1975	Rev. Edgar Wollams, Retired Interim
1975-1985	Rev. Donald Glasgow
1986	Rev. Sturman Moore, Interim
1986-1993	Rev. Bruce Weaver
1993-1994	Rev. Zane Wilson, Interim
1994-1998	Rev. Jerry Broschart
1998-1999	Rev. Don Silverthorne, Retired Interim
1999-	Rev. John Fraser

The little group was fired with enthusiasm and did their work while interest was high. On June 30, 1901, the little society met for worship and immediately after the sermon, they proceeded to organize by electing A. W. Haliday, President; J. C. Carr, Secretary; and Levi VanSickle, Treasurer. An executive committee was appointed as follows: J. M. McCollum, Alpha VanSickle, and M. D. Norris plus the Pastor and secretary. Announcement was made that day that the Sunday School would be organized the following Sunday.

On July 4, 1901, the executive committee met and appointed the Pastor and J. C. Carr to act as a committee to rent a room in which to hold services. Meetings were held regularly, and interest and attendance mounted steadily, so on January 1, 1902, a meeting was called for the purpose of organizing the Baptist Church at Newcomerstown. This memorable meeting was called to order by the Pastor who used Romans 8:32 for his devotional text and spoke briefly regarding the willingness of God to grant us what we ask in Jesus' name.

The various organizational committees were appointed. This preliminary work continued until February 2, 1902 when the following resolution was signed by those present who became charter members of the church: "We the undersigned, members of the Baptist Churches in this vicinity, four elsewhere, now residents of Newcomerstown, feeling our need of binding ourselves together for the purpose of better fulfilling the command of our Savior for the upbuilding of His Kingdom, do feel it our duty to arrange a Baptist Church at this place."

Those signing this document were: A. Gibb and wife, Maggie McMillen, Dr. W. R. Hosick and wife, Charlotte Hosick, Laura Hosick, J. C. Carr and wife, Mary Carr, Nelle Carr, Harry Carr, Ernest Carr, Charles Carr, Samuel Coshran and wife, Deacon Haliday and wife, Mrs. Will Art, Will Starts, Mary Peoples, and A. R. Adams and wife.

The committee on resolutions reported and their suggestions as to what officers were needed and how they should be elected, as well as their duties, were discussed fully and were unanimously adopted.

As they were now a church and no longer a mission, they could no longer expect the mission pastor to preach for them so "On motion, rules were suspended and Brother W. H. Taylor was called by acclamation." Mr. Taylor was the pastor who had labored so sincerely all during the days of struggle and organization.

So now, even though the youngster isn't very old he is beginning to walk alone.

On March 17, 1902, a "Declaration of Faith and Rules of Order" was read and adopted by the church. Those declarations are very interesting and timely even now. In the book of minutes prepared by J. C. Carr is written this Declaration of Faith. In it is included their beliefs "of the Scriptures", "of the True God", "of the Fall of Man", "of the Way of Salvation", "of Justification", "of the Freeness of Salvation", "of Grace in Regeneration", "of Repentance and Faith", "of the Perseverance of the Saints", "of Baptism and the Lord's Supper", "of the Christian Sabbath", "of Civil Government", "of the Righteous and the Wicked", and "of the World to come". Then follows the Rules of Order which sets down rules for reception of members, candidates for baptism, the duties of the members and of the officers.

For the development and spiritual growth of the child in those early days, much credit and honor is due Deacon Haliday, Deacon Carr, Deacon Hosick, Treasurer S. J. Cochran, their families and others.

The Reverend W. H. Taylor had been laboring faithfully, especially among the young people, organizing them into a B.Y.P.U. on September 17, 1902, with Mrs. Emma Moore Johnson as President. Mr. Taylor closed his work in Newcomerstown early in 1904.

On June 8, 1904, the Reverend W. J. Thompson was called as pastor. Since the time the mission was started, services had been held in several buildings, but none of them was very satisfactory. During Mr. Thompson's pastorate in 1905 the church bought a lot with a small building on it which had been used for a meat market. Some of the members with a great deal of help from the Pastor, "Who like Jesus was a carpenter" transformed the little meat shop into a House of Worship, which served as a church home until 1915.

On August 23, 1905, the church was admitted to the Cambridge Baptist Association. In April of 1906, the Reverend Thompson, feeling that his work here was finished, resigned to accept a call of service in Barberton, Ohio.

The Reverend C. Malley from Chesterville, Ohio, accepted a call to the work in June, 1906. He served the church for two years. During this time Mrs. Malley organized the Women's Missionary Society, which through the years has been a hard working band of women and is still a great help to the church. During the forty-seven years of the organization there have been only five presidents. Mrs. Hosick succeeded Mrs. Malley, then came Mrs. Dova Wilson and Mrs. William Fletcher and now Mrs. A. M. Dull.

During the next several years the little church was led in God's work by several different ministers. Among them were E. N. Long, A. K. McCall, Faubian, Bridges, and others who gave of their time and talents to help the group grow in attendance, interest, and inspiration in our community.

During Reverend L. R. Wilson's pastorate the present church building was erected at the cost of \$5,000.00. This was really a big undertaking, but the little group was full of enthusiasm and was willing to attempt great things for the work of the Lord. In memory of Mrs. Rebecca McCollum, who had remembered the church in her will, a memorial window bearing her name was placed in the church. A dedicatory service was held on November 28, 1915, at which time the Reverend David Morris of Steubenville preached the dedicatory sermon. This was a momentous occasion. . . seemingly the years of hard work and struggle had now ceased. . . because we had reached our goal of constructing a new church building. It was a lovely little red brick church, but the passer-by could only see the brick and stone walls. He couldn't see the love and service which went into those walls. The church was really built of the service and love of those pioneers in the work of their Lord.

Although the Reverend Wilson remained as pastor only until 1917, much credit must be given to him and his wife who labored so earnestly and faithfully in cooperation with the various committees toward the completion of their tasks.

From this time until December 1929 the following men served as pastors of the group: L. L. Lightner, W. B. Godsall, Harley C. Fletcher, L. M. Copeland, E. L. Greer and I. L. Basford, and H. C. Fletcher. During the ministry of Mr. Fletcher the first Vacation Bible School to be held in Newcomerstown was conducted by the pastor. This proved to be a great success and acted as the ground work for future schools.

In 1930 Mrs. Elmer Peoples helped to organize a World Wide Guild made up of high school girls in the Sunday School. This group has continued to serve the church and Sunday School faithfully and is still active and still under the counseling of Mrs. Peoples.

The Reverend E. C. Thompson began his pastorate in January 1931, and retired from active ministry in March 1935. Mr. Thompson was a scholarly and deeply spiritual man; and he, with his faithful wife and grandson, Clark Garra, worked hard and with little remuneration during those four years of financial stress, to keep the church up to standards of the Master.

About this time our church as well as many others was having quite a struggle to raise finances; so the Baptist Church in New Philadelphia, Ohio, very graciously consented to share their pastor with us. So the

Reverend L. J. Ramsey and the Reverend Rodney Gould served both their church and ours until the Fall of 1939.

On November 9, 1939 a call was given to Paul G. Smithson who accepted and began his work in the community immediately. He was ordained in the Newcomerstown Baptist Church on January 22, 1940 with Reverend Paul Judson Morris of Granville, preaching the ordination sermon. Under Reverend Smithson's guidance our little church managed to get back on its feet financially and grew in numbers and enthusiasm. A very outstanding program during his ministry was the 25th anniversary of the dedication of the church building. At this time the Reverend Morris who spoke at the original dedication of the building came and lead us in our worship and rededication.

B. A. Wilson came to us in December of 1944 and was only with us a few months. However, it was during his short stay that the church took another big step and purchased a parsonage at 605 E. State Street. John H. Bradbury and wife were pastors of the group until October 26, 1952. The little child was continuing in growth and size, and had long since broken away from the help of its foster parents.

At the present time Ralph Dovenbarger is leading the group into an even greater service in the community. Mr. Dovenbarger accepted the call to our church on March 15, 1953, and since that time he and his wife have worked faithfully in all the work of the church. Interest is continually rising and attendance has steadily increased. Mr. Dovenbarger has worked faithfully with the Sunday School Superintendent, Harold Johnson, and now it seems our child is literally bursting its seams. Now we are very much concerned about getting more room for our Sunday School and Church. We would like to build an addition to our church, and several suggestions have been made. We are working now to find out just which is the best way to enlarge and improve our building so to continue to serve God, our people, and our community as we have in the past.

The child which was conceived in the minds of those folk so many years ago has grown and grown and served faithfully. We can truthfully say the Faith of our Fathers is living still, because this child is continuing to grow and serve. Our prayer today is that our children will carry on the work started at the turn of the century and continue to bring a bit of God's kingdom to Newcomerstown.

written circa 1957

He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all - how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

Romans 8:32

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

November 5, 1825	White Eyes Plains Church organized in home of Isaac Evans, Oxford Township, Coshocton County
August 26, 1900	Meeting called in White Eyes Plains Church to consider starting a Newcomerstown Baptist Mission
September 9, 1900	First meeting of Newcomerstown Baptist Mission in the town hall
June 15, 1901	White Eyes Plains Church and Pleasant View Baptist Church pledged support to Newcomerstown Baptist Mission
June 30, 1901	Began organization to be Chartered
July 7, 1901	First Sunday School organized
January 1, 1902	Church changed from Mission to Regular Baptist Church
February 2, 1902	Charter signed
September 17, 1902	Rev. W. H. Taylor organized first B.Y.P.U.
1905	Mr. Logan McCune's meat market purchased and made into a House of Worship until 1915
August 23, 1905	Church admitted to the Cambridge Baptist Association
1906	Women's Missionary Society organized
1914-1915	Brick church building erected. Cost of new building was \$5,000.00
November 28, 1915	Dedication of church building
1922	First Vacation Bible School held in Newcomerstown during the pastorate of Rev. Fletcher
July 1930	World Wide Guild organized Mrs. Mary Peoples, Counselor

October 18, 1944	Purchased first parsonage at 605 E. State St. from Mr. and Mrs. Ed Henning
February 1, 1955	Purchased the Ernest Carney house next to our church for a Sunday School annex
1962	Ground purchased from Bell Telephone Company and additional property to be purchased from Cecil Haver
1964	Proposition to build a new sanctuary and Christian Education building
July 24, 1966	Last service held in the Old Church
August 1, 1966	J. A. Raeder Company of Dover hired as contractors. Demolition of old church building. During construction of new church building, services were held in the East School building and Prayer meetings were held in the community room of the Nation Bank of Dover in Newcomerstown
August 1, 1967	A \$90,000.00 promissory note signed for 20 years
November 19, 1967	Dedication of new church building
July 1968	Purchased property on north side of the church for a parking lot
1971	Purchased the Cecil Haver property on the south side of the church
1975	Purchased the Riverside Drive parsonage
August 21, 1983	Mortgage Burning Service
1999	Renovated the front of the sanctuary
August 27, 2000	Established a building fund for an addition to the building and an elevator
October 19, 2001	Purchased the property of Dr. Arvind Shaw at 117 S. River St. at a cost of \$5,000.00

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ISLETA METHODIST CHURCH

(1830-1832)

The Union Methodist Protestant Society was organized in ~~1832~~ (some say around 1830) by Rev. Joel Dalby in Moses Morgan's barn where the first several meetings were held. After the organization, meetings were conducted in nearby Union Schoolhouse. *about 2 miles west of present Mt.*

Some of the charter members were Mr. and Mrs. Moses Morgan, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Mulvane, Mr. and Mrs. John B. Stout, Mr. and Mrs. John Mulvane, Mr. and Mrs. George Leighninger and Catherine Fletcher, Joseph Evans and Jenkins Whiteside. During this time Newcomerstown belonged to the Coshocton Circuit. In 1840 a great revival was held here on the plains. In 1842 Coshocton Circuit was divided, with the Tuscarawas River being the dividing line, reuniting again in 1844 but dividing in 1847 reuniting later in 1852 to be served by the same ministers until 1936.

Some of the first preachers serving our church were the Reverends Baker, Thrapp, Stephens, Hamilton, Hissey, Wells, 1881 50 Fisher and Jennings.

The first record of a pastor's salary was \$100 per year, but by the year 1899 Newcomerstown and Isleta were paying \$825 for a minister. The land for the site of our present church was donated by Henry and William Wolfe, and ¹² building erected in the year 1858. The carpenter was Lewis Combs. Newcomerstown Mission also built a church about this time (1859-1860). This is also called the "Little White Church" and was situated just east of the present Presbyterian Church on Canal St. in Newcomerstown. *where the P.O. is located.*

In 1877 and 1878 the College St. Methodist Church was built at the College St. location. We have been so closely connected with this Newcomerstown church that this explanation seems necessary here. In fact, their church had its origin in Moses Morgan's barn and we held classes, as they were called, as a group until the Little White Church was built and our own church was erected. From the year 1858 until 1900 our church history is rather vague although our membership records seem to be very complete.

In 1909 under the leadership or ministry of Rev. Ezra D.

Beck, our church was remodeled inside and out. The square topped windows were replaced with arched ones; a new floor was laid and seats installed and the walls redecorated. At this time a bell was added and the church named The Isleta Methodist Protestant Church. *modal?*

From 1910 to 1936 the Isleta Church and the Newcomerstown churches were served by the same ministers, the listing of which you will find on another page of the program.

In 1936 a decision was made to withdraw from Newcomerstown church and Rev. O. V. Sharrock, a retired pastor living in West Lafayette was appointed to be our minister and he served us faithfully for four years, having services every Sunday.

In 1940 Rev. C. D. Firster, Fresno, was appointed to this church and was with us the next 10 years. During this time, several improvements were added to the building--that is, raising it and adding a basement, including a coal furnace and kitchen (in 1946 and 1947). From 1950 to 1954 Rev. Ethel M. Reese served our congregation, adding many new names to the church roll.

In 1954 we united with Plainfield as a charge and Rev. Don Yaussy was appointed as pastor, serving both churches every Sunday. Under his ministry a building program was contemplated and plans formed with a building committee being named.

In November 1957 Rev. Floyd S. Stephens came here from Indiana. In the winter of 1958 many members of the congregation felt our church facilities were inadequate and that we should attempt to do something about it. In the Summer and Fall of 1958 plans were completed and an addition was built to the church, on the North and West sides. The addition to the West includes three Sunday School rooms and parlor. The addition to the North includes one Sunday School room, more space for the auditorium and the basement entrance. In the basement, under the new wing, is a completely new and modern kitchen, also an oil fired heating plant and restroom facilities have been added.

Our present building is the result of the efforts of both the pastor and the church members. Present membership is 163 with some in the 6th generation.

ISLETA METHODIST CHURCH
HOMECOMING SERVICE

PRELUDE "Lead Kindly Light" by Pensuti--Grace Anne Hoobler

PROCESSIONAL AND HYMN #280 "Onward Christian Soldiers"

CALL TO WORSHIP.....Rev. Stephens

CHORAL RESPONSE, "Almighty Father".....choir

WELCOME.....Rev. Stephens

SCRIPTURE LESSON.....Dr. Kellogg

PRAYER.....Dr. Williams

CHORAL RESPONSE "Hear Our Prayer, O Lord".....choir

HYMN #239 "Softly And Tenderly"

HISTORY OF OUR CHURCH.....Roy D. Fletcher

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY "Andante Cantabile" by Stickles

RECOGNITION OF OLD AND NEW MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

TRIO--Norma Deich, Grace Anne Hoobler and Kenneth Porcher

RECOGNITION OF FORMER MINISTERS

CLOSING PRAYER IN SONG BY THE CHOIR--
"The Lord Bless You and Keep You"

BENEDICTION.....Rev. Stephens

POSTLUDE "Postlude in A" by Thomas

Postor
1881- *Wells*? - membership about 50

LIST OF MINISTERS SERVING NEWCOMERSTOWN AND ISLETA

1881- *Rev. Wells*

1882-1886 Rev. L. Bowman

1886-1887 Rev. S. A. Fisher Salary \$600

1887-1888 Rev. F. A. Brown Salary \$700

1889-1890 Rev. W. S. Cairns Salary \$700

1890-1891 Rev. W. O. Scott

1891-1892 Rev. M. L. Jennings Salary \$1000

1892-1898 Rev. S. A. Fisher Salary \$875, then \$900

1898-1899 Rev. C. W. Stephenson Salary \$825

1899-1904 Rev. C. E. Sheppard

1904-1905 Rev. Wolfe

1905-1906 Rev. Jackson Salary \$650

1906 Rev. Jackson returned and resigned to take charge of a new church in Iowa.

1907 Rev. George Shurtz filled out the term

1907-1909 Rev. E. D. Beck

Many of the above ministers served both the Newcomers-town College Street Church and the Isleta Church. All of the following ministers served both churches.

1910-1912 Rev. Lafayette Bowman again

1912-1916 Rev. R. P. Hubnall Salary raised to \$1100

1916-1919 Rev. A. E. Black Salary \$1150

1919-1926 Rev. L. C. Momberg Salary \$1300

1926-1927 Rev. I. M. McVey Salary \$1700

1927-1935 Rev. C. E. Jeffers

1935-1936 Rev. J. Cecil Cottrill

It was at this time that the Isleta Church became a separate charge and was served by the following ministers:

1936-1940 Rev. O. V. Sharrock Salary \$300

1940-1950 Rev. C. D. Firster

1950-1954 Ethel M. Reese -

In 1954 Isleta united with Plainfield and became a part of the Isleta-Plainfield charge.

1954-1957 Rev. Donald A. Yaussy -

1957-1960 Rev. Floyd Stephens -

1962- *William N. Buell*

1966- *Larry Hardesty*

1968- *Frank Spencer*

1970- *Robert M. Ford*

1973- *Rollin A. Conway*

1977- *Neil M. Bude*

1978- *John A. Clouston*

1982- *Warren Costello*

1983- *William E. Berchger*

1985- *Robert Stull*

N. C. TOWN PASTOR NOVELIZES SERVICES—ADDS 77 MEMBERS

June 1941

Old-timers' Frowns Turn to Smiles as Rev. Ralph Packs 'Em In

An experiment in church ethics has succeeded in a big way at Trinity Methodist church at Newcomerstown, despite dire predictions by startled old-line church members.

Sunday evening services at the church, at the intersection of River and Church sts., underwent

a radical change under the direction of its new pastor, Rev. W. W. Ralph. Sedate services suddenly became bee-hives of interest as feature after feature was presented.

As for the congregation, first startled, then interested and finally enthusiastic, Rev. Ralph's Sunday evening feature services have been a decided success.

And here's why: 77 new members—more than any other Methodist church in the Canton district—have been enrolled; 1,100 people who never attended Sunday evening services had turned out for such affairs as the "Blackout service," "The Old Fashioned Services," "Say It with Flowers," "Birthday Service," "The Rock of Ages" and "The Voice of Destruction," a review of "Mein Kampf" and many other features.

Incidentally, the church treasurer is wearing a big smile these days, too. His department enjoyed an increase of 100 per cent in the process.

Born at La Grange, Ill., near Chicago, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter W. Ralph, Rev. Ralph recalls that always he was determined to become a preacher. At the age of five, he moved with his family to Albuquerque, N. M., where his father continued his trade as a builder. Thirteen years later, they moved to San Diego, where Rev. Ralph was ordained as a deacon and elder.

During the ensuing seven years he was graduated from the University of Southern California, Drew Theological seminary, Madison, N. J., and Columbia university, New York City. In the time he received his A. B., B. D. and master's degrees. He was one of two top-ranking students at Columbia, where for the second time he had to refuse a scholarship to continue his doctor's degree.

His initiation as a minister occurred at Oldwick, N. J. Since, he has held pastorates in Santa

Barbara, Cal., Los Angeles, Lynnwood Cal., where he built a \$50,000 church which was the only building standing completely intact at the end of the earth quake in 1933; Shelby, O., Cleveland and Newcomerstown. The week he was returned for another year.

At one Ohio church he resigned when it was announced by the board that only a select congregation was desired.

"The church," Rev. Ralph states flatly, "is for everybody and everyone must be welcomed. It must be the most democratic institution in the community. I will stay at a church where other ideas prevail."

At Newcomerstown, Rev. Ralph sponsored his revolutionary services, holding fast to the belief that people must form the habit of attending church. Feature services, he declared, attract 100 percent members until they find it like to attend all services. Trinity has lived up to its slogan—"The House of Hospitality."

Remarkable is the fact that a greater increase in attendance has occurred in evening worship. The customary handful of people attending evening services has grown until many have been turned away several times for lack of room.

Forced to preach to congregations limited to certain areas, director of religious education at U.C.L.A.'s church, the pastor is presenting features similar to Ralph. Tentative experiments were successful and here originated the new trend which proved extremely satisfactory all of his churches.

At Newcomerstown he has organized two service groups, Ushers and Hostesses. Rev. Ralph credits his congregation with giving valuable aid to his program, pointing out that cooperation has been excellent and spontaneous.

Comparatively young, Rev. Ralph entertains high hopes for the future. He is a hard, enthusiastic worker, devotes unlimited time and effort to his church, finds time to spend with his boys, Walter 17, and Robert. He married Gladys Miller Pomona, Cal., in 1922.

Glad to meet new people, Rev. Ralph makes it easy for visitors to talk with him in his fully equipped study, where he provides the services which have obviously shook Newcomerstown out of its religious doldrums.

Old Time Worship Service Conducted at Local Church

The pages of religious history were turned back 50 years at the Trinity Methodist church Sunday evening as Rev. W. W. Ralph, pastor, presented an "Old Time Religion" worship service.

Oil lamps furnished illumination for the church, which was literally packed with 297 members and guests. In the congregation were 150 people who had not previously attended an evening service in the Trinity church.

Rev. Ralph opened the service, leading hymns of a distant decade by rote. Mrs. Merton Boyd, attired in bonnet and an old style dress, presided at the reed organ, which was resurrected for the meeting. The choir and members of the newly-formed Hostesses club, who served as ushers, were dressed to conform with the old fashioned theme. Men were seated on one side of the church and

women on the other.

Rev. Ralph's sermon subject was "Old Time Religion" and the pastor described services of a half century ago. The service was ended with the singing of "God Be With You 'Til We Meet Again."

It was announced that similar services will be conducted at the church one Sunday evening each month.

Methodist Bishop To Preach Here Tuesday Evening

Nov 2 5-41

Bishop H. Lester Smith's appearance at the Trinity Methodist church at Newcomerstown Tuesday evening will mark the first time in 25 years that a Methodist bishop has spoken in the village.

Bishop Smith is head of churches in Ohio and the greater part of Kentucky. His visit will be a feature of Newcomerstown churches' current union evangelical services. He will be accompanied by Dr. E. Harold Moha, Canton, Methodist district superintendent. They will be welcomed at Trinity parsonage at 5:15 p. m. Tuesday by Rev. and Mrs. W. W. Ralph of Trinity Methodist; Rev. and Mrs. W. S. Longworth, College St. Methodist; Evangelist, "Tex" Cochrane and other members of the local clergy.

Official boards of county Methodist churches will sponsor a fellowship supper at Trinity church at 6. At 7:30, Bishop Smith will deliver the union revival service sermon. The union choir will be led by Leslie Besst and will feature Evangelist Cochrane as vocalist.

While in Tuscarawas county Bishop Smith will be the guest of the county Methodist union. He will preach at Dennison Monday evening; at Newcomerstown Tuesday, and in New Philadelphia Wednesday night.