

Northern Kentucky Views Presents:

History of the
Monterey Christian Church

by

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History of the Monterey Christian Church

This history of the Monterey Christian Church, Monterey Christian Church, Monterey, Kentucky, has been taken from "History of the Monterey Baptist Church" written by Mrs. Margaret Kersner Murphy. Her information was gathered from the Minutes of the Concord Association, the Minutes of the Owen County Baptist Association, the History of Kentucky Baptists by J.H. Spencer, the History of the Concord Association by J.W. Waldrop, the News Herald (Owenton, Ky.), the Owen County Baptist, 1914, the Baptist News, 1924-5, various histories at Southern Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky, as well as many older members of the Monterey community.

In 1840 the Concord Association made its first effort to supply the people on its territory with preaching, by appointing ten protracted meetings, and nominating preachers to conduct them. The churches were advised to contribute to the financial support of the preachers.

In 1867 the Association appointed a board to conduct its Association's mission. Some mission points were established this year. Monterey became a Mission point of the Concord Association in 1867.

Truthfully, we could begin with, "Once upon a time," or "Long, long ago," because no one actually knows when or where it all started. But we do know that convictions began

to grow in the hearts of men and women, the need of a place of worship.

I've been told that the first church building was a small log structure, located on the Pond Branch Road, at Monterey, to the left of the Old River Road. This location was below the present site of the town, and not very desirable as it was often inundated by river floods. There are no records to verify this.

There wasn't a regular minister during the four years as a mission. Visiting preachers occupied the pulpit frequently. The early preachers rode their faithful horses across the country to their preaching appointments and rested at night with the members, preaching to the faithful and seeking the lost. The most mighty among the early pioneers in Kentucky were the lowly preachers. To these disciples of the Master, and to their self-sacrificing devotion to their Master's cause, do we owe the planting of the first churches in our state.

The mission church where ever it might have been, was replaced by a large frame building. We remember it today, as the Christian Church. In the late 1800's it was called the Union Church, because the other denominations existing in Monterey at the time, all worshiped there, on their designated Sunday to worship. Every fifth Sunday was a special meeting. Dear to the hearts of all Monterey people was the Old Union Church---the Baptist, the Christians, and the Methodists.

In 1900, the Baptists built a new church, leaving

the Old Union Church to the Christians. From 1900 the Old Union Church was known as The Christian Church. This church building burned in October 1953, after having served the Monterey community for some 86 years.

Within a short time, the Disciples (Christians) and the Masonic organization jointly built a new structure on the site. This new church (with Masonic hall upstairs) has been in regular use ever since.