

Northern Kentucky Views Presents:

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A Brief History of the Carrollton  
Christian Church

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A BRIEF HISTORY  
OF THE  
CARROLLTON CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The date of the organization of the Carrollton Christian Church has not been established. It is understood the first services were irregular, and itinerant evangelists would visit the congregation at infrequent intervals and preach for a week or longer. Three letters appearing in the Millennial Harbinger give evidence that a congregation was in existence by 1850.

"Carrollton, Kentucky, 1850

My congregations continued gradually to increase and in May we had, in the church at Carrollton, 9 additions. I then went to my appointment at Ghent, eight miles above Carrollton. Here I found Bro. J. L. Thornberry who had commenced a meeting a day or two before my arrival. On Sunday we had five additions. I then went to my home near Paris and Bro. Thornberry went to White's Run. After several days we returned to Ghent and continued there for a short time, and the result was several additions more.

Affectionately yours,

C. B. Tharp"\*

"Ghent, Kentucky. Aug. 23, 1850

Brother Campbell: There have been about 200 added to the congregation within fifteen miles of this place, during the past summer - Ghent, White's Run, Carrollton, Napoleon, and New Liberty.

J. Lindsay"\*\*\*

"Carrollton, Oct. 23, 1850

Brother Campbell: A few weeks ago we were favored with a visit from our good Bro. J. T. Johnson, who spent some days with us, and while he was laboring with us, we had, in all, 13 additions to the churches at Carrollton and Ghent. Bro. Johnson, although sixty-two year of age, appears, in his preaching, to possess all the vigor of thirty.

C.B. Tharp"\*\*\*\*

Before the construction of a house of worship, services were conducted in various homes, among them, the Robert Darling home, now the office of Dr. T. J. Beggs, the Amelia Lampson Salyers home and the Court House.

The land on which the present building stands was purchased from Robert Darling and wife, Mary Darling, in February 1866. The deed shows the trustees for the congregation were Allen Hanks, J. T. Guthrie and O. W. Coburn.

\*Millennial Harbinger, 1850, Page 536

\*\*Millennial Harbinger, 1850, Page 655

\*\*\*Millennial Harbinger, 1851, Page 57-58



The foundation and the lower set of joists were laid in place and some brick delivered on the ground. Nothing else was done toward a building for several years. The work was resumed in 1870. Some of the joists were decayed and unfit for use, but finally after many struggles, a very plain substantial building was erected, consisting of one room and a vestibule with the gallery. In 1892 the vestibule and gallery were torn out leaving four plain walls; also new seats were installed to take the place of some that were in need of repairs. Another interesting note concerning the raising of money for the construction of the church comes from the Apostolic Times, February 15, 1872:

"This is to certify that I have received of Sister Lucy Wilkins \$1,015.00, it being the amount collected by her for the purpose of building a house of worship, in the town of Carrollton, Carroll County, Kentucky.

Nancy Hanks, T.C.C."

A notation from the Carrollton, Kentucky, Town and School Annual, 1888 gives the membership of the church to be one hundred and seventy five at this time.

During the ministry of Lawrence Williams, 1902-1906, remodeling of the sanctuary took place. This included the installation of colored glass windows, the filigree above the baptistry, installation of back drapes, the construction of two odd shaped rooms on either side of the pulpit.

The first addition of Sunday School rooms was made during the ministry of George Collins, 1915-1917.

The parsonage located at 407 Sixth Street was purchased September 15, 1921 from Mrs. Elizabeth Searcy for the sum of \$4,500.

The ground on which the present educational building is located was purchased November 21, 1935, from Mrs. Ida Goslee for the sum of \$300.

During the ministry of Rev. Ira Paternoster, 1937-38, various improvements were made such as the purchase of the carpet and drapes, the installation of new lights, and a new roof.

During the ministry of Rev. Charles G. Roe, 1938-1947, a building fund for the educational unit was begun. Also a Hammond organ was purchased.

It was during the ministry of Rev. Oren Bollinger, 1948-1951, that the educational building was constructed, and dedicated on January 15, 1950. The total cost of the building was \$21,500.

In 1953 during the ministry of Rev. John Norton Williams the sanctuary was remodeled, new floors and new ceiling, replastering, painting and pews repaired and refinished, and a new green dorsal curtain was added. The sanctuary was rearranged resulting in a semi-divided chancel and center aisle. The constitution and by-laws were written and adopted. The church is now operating under this constitution with the exception of certain amendments. Rev. Williams also organized the church under the functional program.



Our present Pastor, Rev. Roger I. Amason came to us in 1955. During this period the outside of the church has been painted, and remodeling has taken place in the educational building. He has carried on a very active program in the fields of religious education, missions, and youth work. The Christian Women's Fellowship was organized in 1957. A new piano was given to the church as a memorial to Mr. and Mrs. Perry Lanewal. A new Baldwin organ was given to the church from the J. Gex Williams family in memory of Mr. J. Gex Williams. The operating budget and the missionary giving have doubled. The resident membership of the church is three hundred and twenty five. The church has been strengthened and the spiritual life has been deepened.

During the history of the church there have been many struggles, but there have also been many loyal and brave Christians who have stood by, sustained and built up the church, spiritually and financially.

A list of ministers who have served the church through the years are as follows:

Previous to 1880 - C. B. Tharp, J. L. Thornberry, William Pinkerton, Sr., F. G. Allen and a Mr. Vawter. Also there were Elder Hughley, Dr. J. W. Barbee and Robert Giddens.

Joseph Taylor - 1880-1882	H. H. Moore - 1911 - 1914
H. W. Elliott - 1882-1884	O. H. Greenwell - 1914 (Sept.) 1914 Dec.
Charles Trout - 1885 -1887	George Collins - 1915 - 1917
George Nutter - 1888 - 1889	Price Christian - 1917 - 1919
William Pinkerton - 1890 - 1891	E. J. Fenstermacher - 1920 - 1923
D. T. Buck - 1892 - 1894	J. L. Darsie Oct.-Dec. 1923
George M. Anderson - 1896 - 1897	H. O. Sabin - 1925 - 1926
W. J. Loos - 1898 - 1901	C. G. Ribble - 1927 - 1937
Lawrence Williams - 1901 - 1906	Ira Paternoster - 1937 - 1938
W. J. Clarke - 1907 - 1908	Charles G. Roe - 1938 - 1947
J. B. Yager - 1909 - 1910	Lester Niles - 1947 - 1948
W. C. McCallum - 1910 - 1911	Oran Bollinger - 1948 - 1951
	John Norton Williams - 1951 - 1954
	Roger I. Amason - 1955 -

The Reverend John Norman of Lincoln, Nebraska, is the one minister the church has sent out.

For a century or more the influence of the church has been felt in the life of this community, and through out the world. The lives of men and women, boys and girls have been enriched and blessed. May the fires of Christian witness and service always burn bright.

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