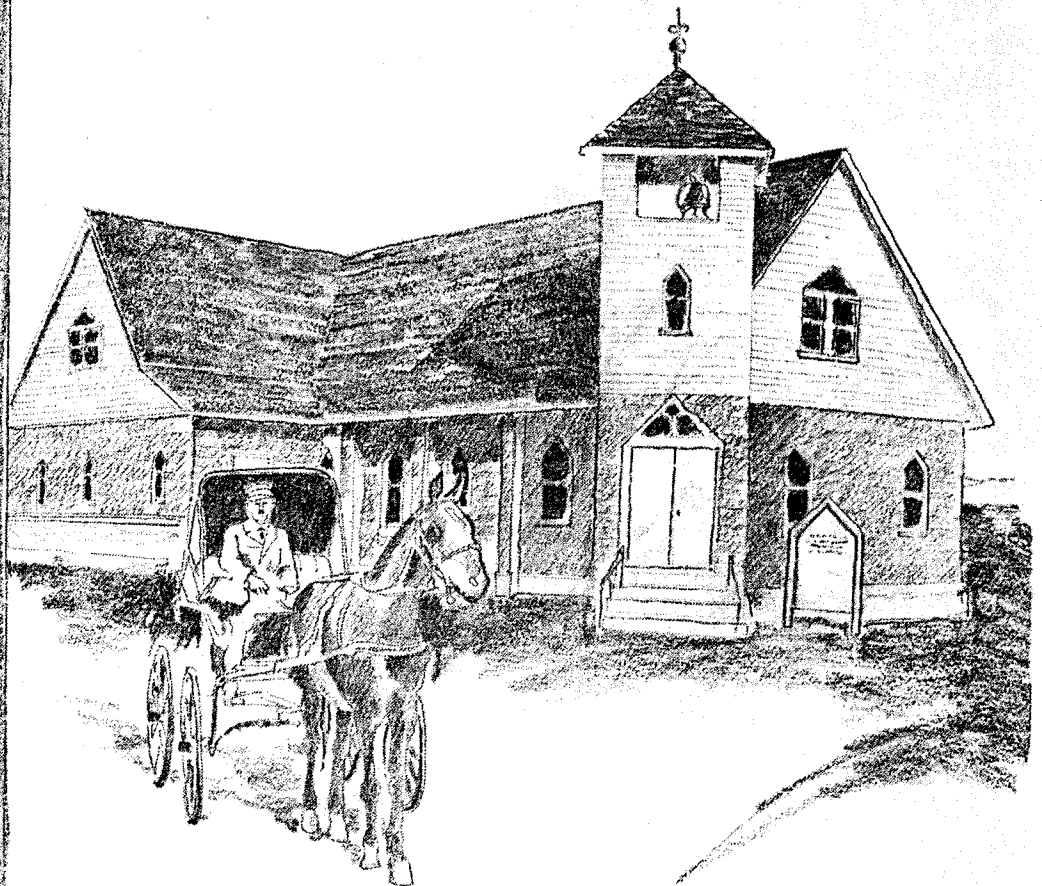


# HENDERSON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

1905 ~ 1995

Preach  
the  
Gospel  
at all  
times,  
and  
only  
if you  
must,  
use  
words



*For the John Ballantyne Foundation 95*

*Through the Years*

*1905-1995*

*Henderson  
Congregational  
Church*

## 1900 - 1910 - 1920 - 1930 - 1940 - 1950

During the years since the founding of the Henderson Congregational Church, many changes have taken place throughout the world. Communications have changed from telegraph to satellite to fiber optics and faxes; transportation, from the horse and buggy to jet planes. Likewise, many changes have occurred in the Henderson community and in the church.

At the turn of the century Henderson consisted of an elementary school, hotel, railroad depot, blacksmith shop, barber shop, cheese factory, general store, the Grange fraternal organization for farmers, and a post office serving a small farming community. The Grange was organized in 1890 and met on the second floor of the Mark Morris General Store east of the Union Pacific Railroad tracks.

The only religious influence was a Sunday School started in the late 1800's and taken over by Mr. Ralph Byers in 1897. By the end of 1904 Mr. Byers convinced a few people that Henderson needed a church and on March 26, 1905 the following people met to sign the charter:

Mrs. W. A. Yeager	Mr. S. A. Jessup	Mr. Charles Jenison
Mrs. M. L. Miller	Mrs. Nellie Jessup	Mrs. Lottie Jenison
Mrs. Pruda Morris	Mrs. Hannah Diffendafer	Mrs. Mary Madden
Mr. W. K. Clay	Mrs. Hannah Myers	Mrs. Nettie Rucker
Mrs. Sophia C. Clay	Miss Elsie C. Myers	Mrs. A. Weimant
Mrs. Mary Snyder		Mrs. Louise Coffey

The first church services were held on the second floor of Mark Morris' General Store where the Grange also met. In 1907 the church affiliated with the Congregational Church and received a grant from the Home Mission Board to help erect the first church building on an acre of land east of the railroad on what is now 120th Avenue. This land was donated by Mr. Brose McCool. The bell which we still use was given by an evangelist, Jim Norvell, who held special services to create interest in starting the church. An addition to the west side of the church was built in 1920 and provided classrooms for the Sunday School.

Between 1908 and 1920 Mr. W. F. Youngclause, Mr. Norman R. Curtis, and Mr. Ernest A. Blodgett served as pastors. In 1920 Mr. Byers returned and under his direction the addition for classrooms was built and paid for. Mr. Byers retired in 1934 and the congregation selected Mr. Homer Van Loon to replace him.

On April 2, 1948, the members of the church voted to affiliate with the United Church of Christ.

After fire destroyed the Henderson School in February 1949 the church was used for some of the classes. In October 1950 fire struck again - this time it was the church. Damage was confined to the rear of the chapel, but the entire interior of the church had severe smoke damage and had to be redecorated.

Mr. Van Loon's occupation, other than preaching, was a painter and his expertise was invaluable when the church needed repainting. Much of his time was donated. The sanctuary had folding doors which divided the building into the sanctuary and the classroom addition. These doors, as well as balconies in both sections, were finished to resemble expensively grained wood. Newly acquired used pews were also

finished in this manner. The table in the present family room is an example of his work as well as the table in the minister's office. He was noted for having long, long programs on special occasions. With each department of the Sunday School taking part in music and/or memorization work, along with special music, leaving little time for his sermon. Daily Vacation Bible Schools were conducted during the summer with 70-80 attending. Sunday School picnics were held at Denver City Park.

Following Mr. Van Loon's resignation, late in 1951, Mr. Earl Bethurum was called as the pastor and served through 1957. He was instrumental in establishing a youth group.

In January of 1958 the church called Mr. Reinhold Klein who served for five months. Rev Klein was the first ordained minister to serve at Henderson.

Mr. LeRoy G. Allen, former Assistant Superintendent of the Colorado Conference UCC, started his pastorage in June, 1958.

Furniture in the present church that was from the old church includes the piano and pulpit located in the upstairs fellowship room, the marble topped table in the lobby, the parlor table in the family room, the tall pulpit chairs in the fellowship room and in chancel, as well as the mahogany chairs in minister's study and chancel. The table in the minister's study. The primary benches, chairs and primary classroom tables (all oak). The small cross on the wall in the north narthex was above the folding doors in front of the sanctuary of the old church, and a picture of the old church is below the crossarm of the cross. The pictures of the head of Christ and Christ and the Children were from the old church and reframed and placed in the family room.

1960 -

Early in 1960 during Mr. Allen's ministry, the members decided to build a new building. After services on August 14, 1960, ground was broken for the present building which was constructed around the old church. The first services were held in the new building on the second Sunday in December, and the new church was dedicated on January 7, 1961.

Maundy Thursday and Ceremony of Tenebrae Services were initiated in 1962 during Holy Week.

The bell tower was erected and the bell again rang on Sunday morning in 1963.

The General Synod was held in Denver in 1963 with several guests attending services at Henderson.

At the time of Mr. Allen's resignation in 1964 the membership voted to call a full time pastor. This was a major change in idea and responsibility that took time for adjustment. During the ensuing year the church was served by Mr. Jeffrey Hoy and Mr. Emil Pietz. From March through August interim ministers filled the pulpit. In August 1965 a parsonage was purchased in the Hazeltine Heights subdivision. On November 21, 1965, Mr. David Felton began a new era for Henderson as its first full time minister.

Our 60th anniversary was held on November 21st in conjunction with Reverend Felton's installation.

A Christmas Eve Candelight and Communion Service was initiated in 1965 and was held at 11:00 P.M.

In 1966 a Family Night was held in September. The nursery was held during the church services with women in the church volunteering. Over 800 were served at the Annual Roast Beef Dinner with adult tickets for \$1.75. Jim Malcom and men of the church built the planter and sign around the bell tower. Pfitzers and trees were planted with memorial funds.

Also in 1966 Breakfast was served by the Deacons following Easter Sunrise Services. Services were held at 5:30 A.M. and again at 11:00 A.M. The annual Spring Ham Dinner was served by the Harmony Workers in April with tickets selling at \$1.50 for adults. Donna Ammons was named as choir director. The Ladies' Aid furnished cookies for the first day and juice all week for the Migrant School in Brighton.

The "Post Office" for Christmas cards was established in 1967 by the youth group for card distribution to members. Money received was donated to the Denver Inner City Parish. The Church Picnic was held at Denver City Park. The first Annual Family Christmas Workshop was held with Kats and Mary Yamada helping make wreaths and center pieces. Children made ornaments.

The resignation of Reverend Felton was accepted in 1968. He had attempted to draw Henderson Church into closer participation with the Colorado and Metro Conferences and their activities. The membership felt a full time minister was not feasible and was discontinued. The parsonage was rented and listed for sale. Keeping up the building was becoming prohibitive.

Reverend Martin Murray was named as Interim Minister. In 1969 the Youth Group had charge of the Easter Sunrise Service, with the minister having charge of the 11:00 service.

1970 -

The Parsonage was finally sold in 1971. A note in the Christian Education report showed that Fancis McConnell had completed his 17th year as Sunday School Superintendent. Reverend Mettling was installed as our new minister in 1971. The Mother-Daughter Mother's Day Breakfast was first held, financed by the Harmony Workers.

In 1972 new chimes were installed in the sanctuary. We held the Burning of the Mortgage with Gene Rucker and Jim Fry who held the note for the loan doing the honors. We tried, unsuccessfully, to have a bus to transport persons to church and Sunday School. The Youth Group presented recordings of "Jesus Christ Superstar" during Lenten services. The choir was reorganized under the direction of Steve Miller.

The newly redecorated chancel was dedicated in November of 1973. This was a memorial gift from Bill and Georgia (Rucker) Miller and was designed and completed by Reverend Mettling, Willard Myers and Darrell Ryden. Members brought lilies to be dedicated at the Easter services.

Also in 1973 - Sidewalks leading to the front door were repaired so water would not stand after storms! (Alas, it did not work and repairs were again made in the '80's and '90's.) The Annual Church Picnic was held at Camp LaForet in the Black Forest at Colorado Springs. Church Services were held in the chapel.

One acre of land was purchased in 1974 adjoining the church to the west and north. Purchase price was \$6,000. Randy Henderson, a student at Iliff School of Theology, was hired as an Associate Minister. Funds were allocated by the Trustees for the Mother-Daughter Breakfast.

Mr. Robert Kinsey was called as pastor in April 1976 and served through mid-January 1979. The 1976 U. S. Bicentennial celebration was to include ringing of church bells throughout the nation for two minutes at noon. Reverend Kinsey stayed and rang our bell following our service (which was held at 10 a.m.) and the rest of us went home to watch the nation's celebration on T.V.

A Seder Service was sponsored by the youth fellowship on Maundy Thursdy of 1977. Rev. Kinsey performed the service. An addition was dedicated on the north end of the building as a memorial from the Frank Madden estate in 1977. This was to provide easier and stairless access to the main floor of the building as well as a drive through in inclement weather. Drapes for the fellowship room and kitchen were made by ladies of the church under the direction of Mary Reasoner. The lawn and sprinkler system were installed in 1977 by Francis McConnell and his family.

In 1978 Ted Barnhart was hired for four months to coordinate the Christian education program. Connie Colgate succeeded him. Both were students at Iliff School of Theology.

Also in 1978, a new well, 470 feet deep, was drilled at the northwest corner of the church building. The well and pump cost \$6,000. with members and friends in the community donating, pledges and memorial funds raising the entire amount.

Reverend Kinsey resigned in January 1979 and Reverend Harris E. Heverly began as interim minister and was called in December of 1979 to serve as our minister.

1980 -

The 75th Anniversary of the Church was celebrated under the leadership of Reverend Heverly in 1980.

In 1981 supporting walls were necessary and placed beneath the kitchen and north end of the Narthex. The Annual UNICEF Halloween Party was begun. Several members of the congregation presented a passion drama "In The Shadow of the Cross" on Palm Sunday evening. Youth Fellowship sold lilies for Easter Services. New aisle carpet was installed and pew cushions added.

Reverend Heverly initiated the Love Box in 1982 to be placed at the back of the sanctuary to receive volunteer donations with use for special needs as determined by the minister. Carpeting was installed in the hallways, classrooms, family room and the minister's study. The annual Church Picnic was held at the Adams County Regional Park at Henderson.

The Big Snow of '82 resulted in cancellation of Sunday church services three times during the winter. The Christmas Eve Service, and Church Service on Sunday, December 26th, were cancelled because of the snow.

The Roast Beef Diner served between 500 and 600 in October 1982, but the Harmony Workers organization was terminated effective December 31, 1982.

Fifty students attended Vacation Bible School under the direction of Mary Jo Cooper. Joy Scellato was named as organist to replace Claudene Ryden. Claudene had served for nine years after Mary Reasoner resigned because of ill health. Claudene assumed the position of choir director.

Several travelogue programs were presented during the Lenten season. The Choir presented a Christmas cantata, "Night of Miracles," under the direction of Claudene Ryden in 1983.

In 1984 Reverend Heverly resigned.

Overgrown pfitzers on south side of sanctuary were removed and replaced with creeping juniper. The Food Bank was begun in 1985 under the direction of Elsie Brown. The first Heritage Award - to Francis McConnell, and Lay Person of Year Award to Elsie Brown were established. Nursery care with a paid attendant was organized.

The 80th Anniversary of the church was celebrated in 1985 together with the installation of Timothy Merrill as minister.

The addition of a Day Care Center in the church was proposed in 1986 but was later voted down in a special congregation meeting.

In 1987 the church was enlarged with the addition of a new classroom on the second floor above the garage. This room would also be used for additional seating at the Roast Beef dinner. Memorial poinsettias and lilies added to the Christmas and Easter services.

In October 1989 Reverend Merrill informed the members he had accepted a call to the Wheatridge UCC effective February 1, 1990.

1990 -

Reverend Marty Drew was called to replace Reverend Merrill. Memorial Blue Spruce trees were planted along the northeast property line. Three new furnaces were purchased, and a burglar system was installed in 1990. A huge garage sale was held in the spring at the church. The youth group was reorganized in 1991.

Following the tragic death of Reverend Marty Drew in the spring of 1991, Reverend John Gaudreau was called in September to serve the Henderson Church as interim minister. Five months later in March, John was called as our 20th pastor. In the summer of 1992 Pastor John was ordained and installed. This joyous occasion was followed by a "down home" western bar-b-que celebration. That year a new organ was purchased from the Rockland UCC.

In 1993 a Pancake Breakfast was served to the members by Lonnie Hagel, Roger Hargadin and their families prior to church services. A roller skating party for the members was begun. A new sound system was installed in the sanctuary. Perennial flowers were planted in 1993 by Shirley Fagan to enhance the area east of the sidewalk where the overgrown pfitzers had been previously removed. A Spaghetti Supper and Square Dance was initiated in 1993 by the youth group. This activity serves as their primary fund raiser.

1994 found new flooring installed in the restrooms, kitchen, and south half of the fellowship hall with carpeting completed in the sanctuary, the nursery and the north portion of the fellowship hall and classroom.

The Ladies' Aid was terminated in 1995 because of diminished attendance.

Since its creation, the Henderson Congregational Church has been known for its warmth, compassion and traditional values. The membership continues to grow with many young families who are strengthening the future of the church. Our church's identity can be seen in the warm fellowship of our worship, the outreach of the food bank, the vitality of the Christian Education Program, and the many social activities we sponsor throughout the year.

Our Lord Jesus asked that we love one another as He loved us. We accept the challenge; we assume the privilege and in Christ's name welcome you.

Most recently feelings of anxiety have fallen upon the church at the beginning of 1995 with planners for Adams County studying the widening of 120th avenue from Highway 85 east to the newly opened airport. Some of the proposed road locations would mean our church would be relocated. Other plans will affect several families in the church. Will this be the end of our church at Henderson? Who knows what the next decade will find? No one knows, but with our brother Jesus as our constant companion our church will continue, not just to survive but to flourish as it cares for the family, the community, and the wider church. This we believe!



## ORGANIZATIONS -

Through the years many organizations have been an integral part of the church. Most of these organizations no longer exist, but the results of their labors are still in evidence in the current workings of the church.

One of the organizations which was a vital part of the church was the Theta Beta Class, which was first organized by Mr. Byers as a young ladies' Sunday School class. At the same time the young men's class was known as the Invincibles. Later the two combined to become the Theta Beta Class. This organization continued to meet once a month as an adult Bible study and social group until the early part of the 1950's. Another organization which has not been active for many, many years was a Sunday School class for the older women, many of whom were the founders of the church. This class was known as the Ne Plus Ultra. Charters showing the early organization of the Church School classes are on the wall of the copy machine room.

New members joining the church in the late 1950's and 1960's formed a service and social organization called the Harmony Workers. This group was organized in 1961 and filled the void left with the disbanding of the Theta Beta. John A. Rucker was the first president of this group. A need was felt and a financial chairman was established within the group to supervise the annual dinner as well as other projects which helped with the maintenance of the church properties. Financial Chairmen of this group included Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. Steve Evanoff, Mr. and Mrs. Claude Chasteen, Mr. and Mrs. Darryl Ryden, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Conway, and Mr. and Mrs. Francis McConnell. This group was disbanded in 1982.

The Theta Beta organization also sponsored the first organized youth group with Mr. Bennett as sponsor. The group became active in 1909. During the following years the youth groups were under the direction of the ministers, the Sunday School superintendents, or parents and volunteers.

The Home Department was organized by Mr. Byers and Mrs. McDonald. Printed educational material was furnished to shut ins and members and friends of the church in nursing homes or who could not attend regular church services. Mrs. Tessie Snyder was very active in this organization, followed by Mrs. Rose McDonald in 1963, Mrs. Edna Latorra in 1976 and by Mrs. May Bishop in 1978. The group was disbanded.

The Ladies Aid was organized by Mrs. Nettie Rucker shortly after the organization of the church in 1905. Its major function was to raise money for the minister's salary. It contributed to the support of several missionary projects and helped financially with members in need, or having special celebrations. The Aid initiated the annual church dinner and bazaar. The first dinners were chicken pie. An auctioneer auctioned off handcrafted items by the members, rag rugs and tied quilts as well as baked goods and other homemade items. This practice was discontinued in 1957 at the request of the minister. The dinner was later resumed under the direction of the Harmony Workers organization in the form of our annual roast beef dinner, and the Ladies Aid again made handcrafted items for the bazaar. Prior to our new church the dinners were held at the Hazeltine School and at the Henderson Grange Hall. One of the primary functions of the new kitchen was for the dinners. Large stoves and ovens would allow meat to be baked in the church rather than in the homes of the members. Warming tables were installed along with dish washing facilities. The organization disbanded in January 1995.

Many of the improvements and additions, both inside and outside of the church, have been made possible by gifts and memorials from various families and friends of the church.

Our Sunday School has had a number of faithful leaders over the years. In addition to the original organizer, Mr. Krager, and his successor, Mrs. Ralph C. Byers, others were Mr. Ray McConnell, and Mrs. Pruda Morris. Mrs. Morris organized the Sunday School into departments about 1915. Many who grew up in the church were taught in Sunday School by a number of very dedicated teachers. Among them Mrs. Jennie Bundy, Bernice McConnell, Edith Nyholt, Glen Bostwick, Ward and Lelia Fagan, Mrs. Clara Sutton, Mrs. Dora Fuller and Mrs. Ora Sears. Mrs. Sears taught from the time she was 17 until she was nearly 80.

Following Mrs. Morris' service as Sunday School Superintendent, Mr. Wm. E. (Bill) Fuller served from 1930 until his death in 1952. Many remember Bill for his work with the youth groups and love for the children. He was succeeded by Mr. Francis McConnell who served until 1964. Since that time we have had Mrs. Jane Tannehill Miller, Mrs. Judy Mowery Chasteen, Mrs. Sherrill Pollard Conway, Mrs. Dianna Templeton Kremheller, Mrs. Mary Jo Cooper, Mrs. Susan Sands and Mrs. Debbie Thuener who is presently serving as director.

Music has always been an important part of the Henderson Church. Mrs. W. A. Yeager formed the first choir. During the following years Mrs. Ethyl Rucker Ferguson, Mrs. Kathryn Fuller Layton, Mr. Melvin Thiesen, Mrs. Donna Ammons, Mr. Steve Miller and Mrs. Claudene Ryden have served as choir directors. Mrs. Mildred Snyder and Mrs. Ora Sears served as pianists for our services (remember the old pump organ?) followed by Mrs. Mary Reasoner and Mrs. Claudene Ryden as organists. Mrs. Joy Rucker Scellato and Mrs. Kay Reitzenstein presently serve as pianists/organists. Mrs. Betty Noffsinger made choir robes for the church. Many members have served as assistants in these areas, and many have shared their musical talents with special music, programs and work with the church school. The music committee is active in the selection of hymns and special music for church services. Henderson has been known to others as a "singing church."

## MINISTERS -

Ralph C. Byers.....	1905-1909
W. V. Youngclause.....	1909-1910
Herman R. Curtis.....	1910-1915
Ernest A. Blodgett.....	1915-1919
Ralph C. Byers.....	1920-1934
Homer E. Van Loon.....	1934-1951
Earl Bethurum.....	1951-1957
Reinhold Klein...January-May..	1958
LeRoy G. Allen.....	1958-1964
Jeffrey Hoy (Interim).....	1964-1965
Emil Pietz (Interim).....	1964-1965
David K. Felton.....	1965-1968
Martin Murray, Jr.....	1968-1970
Samuel Foos.....	1970-1971
Leonard Mettling.....	1971-1975
Robert Kinsey.....	1976-1979
Harris E. Heverly.....	1979-1984
Timothy Merrill.....	1984-1990
Martin E. Drew.....	1990-1991
John V. Gaudreau.....	1991 - Present

Number of Members at Time of Organization.....	17
Membership at Dedication of Church.....	55

Although the church at Henderson is a member of the United Church of Christ, it is also considered a community church. Many friends of the community have contributed to its fellowship and growth throughout the years. Many of these people, although not of this denomination, have considered the church at Henderson as a part of their heritage and as their church home.

## MEMORIES OF THE OLD HENDERSON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Written By "the Foster Twins", Dora Fuller and Ora Sears

In August 1960 at the Ground Breaking Ceremony

Sunday Services Were Held in Henderson School Prior to Moving  
Into the New Building in December 1960

"This is the last Sunday we have to worship God in this church, and most of you will remember it as it has looked in recent years. There are a few of us who remember how it looked fifty years ago. Then we were very happy with our new little church, and I think the whole neighborhood rejoiced with us as most of them had given money to help build it.

The original church was the east end, The Sanctuary. The west end of the room was all wall. The walls were unpainted, plain white plaster. The woodwork was painted grey.

We had chairs instead of pews. They were a blonde looking wood. They were like theater chairs, the seats folded up. They were fastened together three or four of them in a bunch, but they were not fastened to the floor.

There was a rostrum on the west end. The piano and the pulpit were on the rostrum, a low rostrum, one step up. Mr. Brown, a member of our church, built the alter. We are still using it. (In 1995 it is located in the fellowship hall).

Not long after the church was built the members thought we should have a shelter for our horses. It seemed rather cruel to tie them to a fence post and leave them there in a snow storm while we were inside nice and warm.

So the old men and young men got together and built a shed along the north fence. I remember one day while they were working, the women folks brought a pot-luck dinner to the church for them. I believe they fixed a table in the hall with saw horses and boards. They really did enjoy their dinner, especially the pies. They all liked pie.

Some years later there was no need for the shed any more. Everyone had automobiles. I think Gene Rucker bought the shed.

Our first Pastor was Rev. Byers. He gave us a good start in our new church. He taught a teachers training course to a group of the young folks which was a great help to all those who stayed with the class. Rev. Byers left us about 1910, I think, and went to a church in Lafayette.

Our next pastor, Rev. Youngclaus, a young man. Then a Rev. Curtis. Then a young man, Rev Blodgett. His wife became ill and he left us before the year was up, if I remember right. We were without a pastor for some time but we had Sunday School every Sunday.

Finally Rev. Byers came back to us, and our congregation grew again. The church as it was did not have room for all the classes. Then we built on Sunday School rooms and the basement with kitchen.

Mrs. Morris was our Sunday School Superintendent, and under her leadership, the school was divided into departments. Our Ladies Aid under the leadership of its president, Mrs. George Rucker, worked wonders for the church. They met every month, made tea towels, pillow cases, sewed on quilts for the bazaar, served lunches at auction sales and many other things. But the main event was the bazaar in the fall when we had a big chicken pie supper. In later years we served turkey and baked ham with all the trimmings.

All the things the Aid had made were put on display for sale. The things that were not sold were auctioned along with foods which were donated. Auctioneer, Dick Ehrlich from Brighton always donated his services. The money made at the bazaar was used to make payments on the church debt.

After Rev Byers' death, Rev Van Loon became our pastor. Our church was beginning to look a little dingy. Rev Van Loon painted the walls in the sanctuary. A little later he stained and varnished the wood work and the pews which we had added along the way. He also finished the floors.

Many of the faithful workers we have had fellowship with in our church have been called to the heavenly home. Always we were left with the feeling, "Who will take their place," but the Lord always provided some one to take over. Now they live in our memories. Soon the old church will be a memory, and we will have a new one to take it's place. If the Lord is willing.

-- Dora Foster Fuller

Reverend Byers, our first pastor, back in the horse and buggy days, drove a white horse to a top buggy. He lived at the parsonage at Riverdale. There was a church and parsonage there at that time. He was their pastor.

He gave us an evening service each Sunday at the Grange Hall.

He became very interested in this community. He organized the church. He believed this was the place for a church building and worked hard to get one started.

The evangelist was Jim Norvell from Steamboat Springs, Colorado. As I remember it quite a number of people came into the church, Several of them young people. Jim Norvell presented us with a bell for our church, which we still cherish, and hope we will hear it ring again from our new church.

Mrs. Yeager was our music leader in those days. She chose the piano we bought for the new church. The one we use now in the sanctuary. (It is located in 1995 in the fellowship hall.) She organized a choir of young people to sing for the Dedication Service. We sang from the balcony. It didn't sound too well. Mrs. Yeager thought it was because the singers were too far from the piano. The real trouble was probably with the singers.

Rev. Byers wanted to organize the young people. At that time they were organizing Sunday School classes. He thought that was a good idea so he organized a class for the young ladies. We named it the Theta Beta's and one for the young men. They called theirs the Invincibles. Mrs. Yeager taught the Invincibles. Mrs. Lillian Damours the Theta Beta's Before long we were one class, the Theta Beta's.

We elected Mr. Bennett for our teacher. He was good with young people. We thought he was lots of fun. He led us spiritually also. We met for a business meeting once a month, and from that time until we disbanded, we met the first Saturday night of the month for more than fifty years. We met in the homes until we built the addition to the church, and had the basement to meet in.

We have many happy memories of those class meetings. A great many people have belonged to the Theta Beta class through the years and have helped us with projects to raise money for the needs of the church and for missions.

A great many of those we invited to come to class meeting later joined the church. Now the Theta Beta class is no more, but the money keeps coming, so the Lord has provided and he will provide for our new church.

This old church has been such a blessing to the neighborhood. What would we ever have done without it?

There have been a great many weddings here. The first couple to be married here was Bill Fuller and Dora Foster on June 7, 1911. (I remember all the details of that one.) Since then many more young people, including our own children, have been married here. The last wedding was that of Joan Tannehill to Clark Wilson last October 9th, 1960.

A great many children have been christened here and others have believed and been baptized.

We thank God for this church and what it has meant to us spiritually through the years, and for the privilege to help in this beautiful new God's house being built for all who will live in the community in the years ahead.

- - Ora Foster Sears

