# LAKEWOOD COMMUNITY CHURCH CHURCH HISTORY

**COMPILED BY:**

**Norine Enz/Joanne Jackson**

**recently edited by Norine**

**2023**

Joanne Jackson is our longest attending member today. When I came here in 1960 there was the Jackson family, the Eckardt's, the Flessner's, and the Enz's, who still attend today. There were others but they were all related to these families so if you were new, you needed to be very careful about what you said.

What most don't realize this was a German settlement, so the service and Sunday School was in German.

Originally in 1866 the church was called the Evangelical Association. The first church was built 2 miles east of Woodland. Across from the farm where Brendt Eckardt lives today.

By 1886 the congregation decided they needed a more centrally located building. 80 square rods of land were bought from the Fred and Jacob Eckardt families at the price of $1.00. A brick veneer building was erected, and the old church sold. It had a very tall steeple with a spire. In 1906 the church was remodeled, and the steeple was taken down and replaced with a more modern looking cupola belfry. This church was located on the east side of the church which stands today.

In 1891 the Evangelical denomination suffered a great change and finally split into two denominations. They were The Evangelical Association and the United Evangelical Church of which we remained the Woodland Evangelical Association.

In 1902 the Rev. Kern was sent to minister at Woodland. His children did not speak German, so Mrs. Kern taught an English Sunday School for her children and Rev Kern preached in English on Sunday evenings much to the displeasure of the German members.

On August 23, 1910 the church was struck by lightning and destroyed. A church was built on the same location to the cost of $5,188.67. Worship services were held in the Eckardt school which stood on the corner of M50 and Clark Rd while the new church was being built. A special feature of this church was a huge stained-glass window at the front of the church. It was bought by the young people's group and took many hours of work for them to raise the money to buy it. Today, thanks to Mike Warrick, he was able to design it so we could incorporate it into the Gathering room of our church.

In 1922 the two split denominations reunited and became the Evangelical Church. In 1946 the Evangelical Church united with the United Brethren Church, and we became the Woodland Evangelical United Brethren Church. From 1952 to 1957 Rev Burch was the pastor and he was grandfather to Chuck Armbruster. Chuck and Peg moved here in 1964.

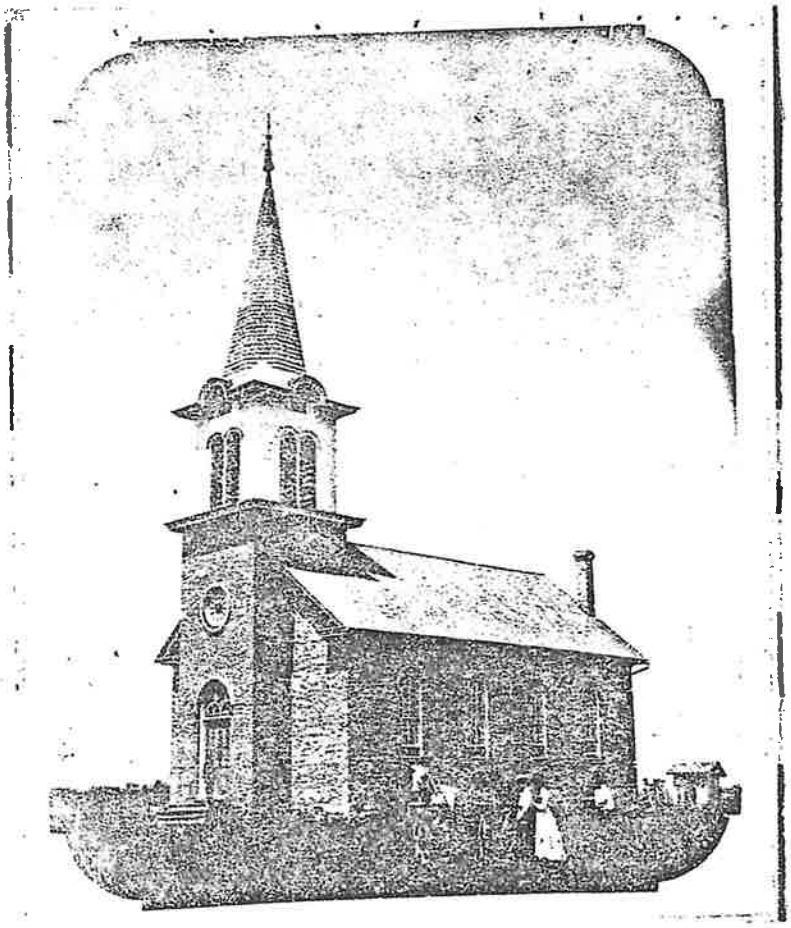
In 1958 the church bought the Olga Eckardt farm consisting of 39 acres west of the church for $9,500. This land was for use of the house as a parsonage. Andy Armbruster lives in that house today. The original parsonage located in Woodbury was sold. The summer of 1958 also marked the year Drive in Services began in the church parking lot on Sunday nights. In 1959 a 10 x 20 building was built to hold the choir and speaker. A few of us still remember being able to bring the little ones in their pajamas so they were all ready for bed by the service was over.

In 1968 a new church building was started on the land west of the older church. The description was a building 120x54, including a sanctuary to seat 250. A kitchen, bathrooms, secretary's office and additional classrooms. Total cost was approximately $92,000.00. On June 8, 1969 the first service was held in the new church. ( the fellowship hall we use today was the sanctuary) We still used the old church for Sunday school

During the years between 1969 and 1978 many special things happened in our church. The youth put on a musical "Tell It Like It Is" and was attended by317. They also went to a couple of other churches to perform. The Women's Society constructed many kits to send to Bangladesh. The second Lay Witness Mission was held in March of 1974; Junior Church was started for the younger children. The first U.M.W. mission bazaar was held, earning $926.40. This was donated to the Red Bird Mission in Kentucky. Many bazaars were held after this. The women's society was very active in raising money for missions. It was also the first year the youth attended Ichthus in Willmore Kentucky. They attended this for many years after. In June of 1975 over 80 people attended Family Camp. We were and are a very active church with many concerns for others.

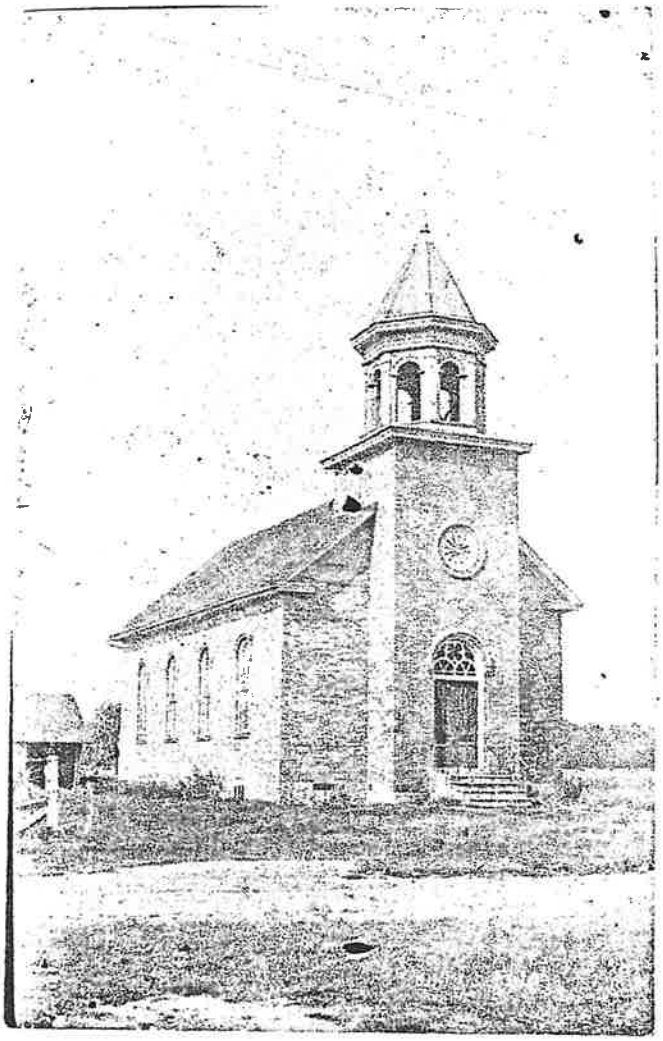
By 1978 the congregation had grown to 180. There were many groups in our church such as basketball and baseball teams, Women's Society, Men's group, Sunday morning coffee.

In 1984 we broke ground for a new wing for a larger sanctuary, class rooms and offices. Remodeling for a new kitchen and fellowship hall was completed in 1985. Through the years many things have taken place, many friends have come and gone but our faith in the Lord is stronger than ever.



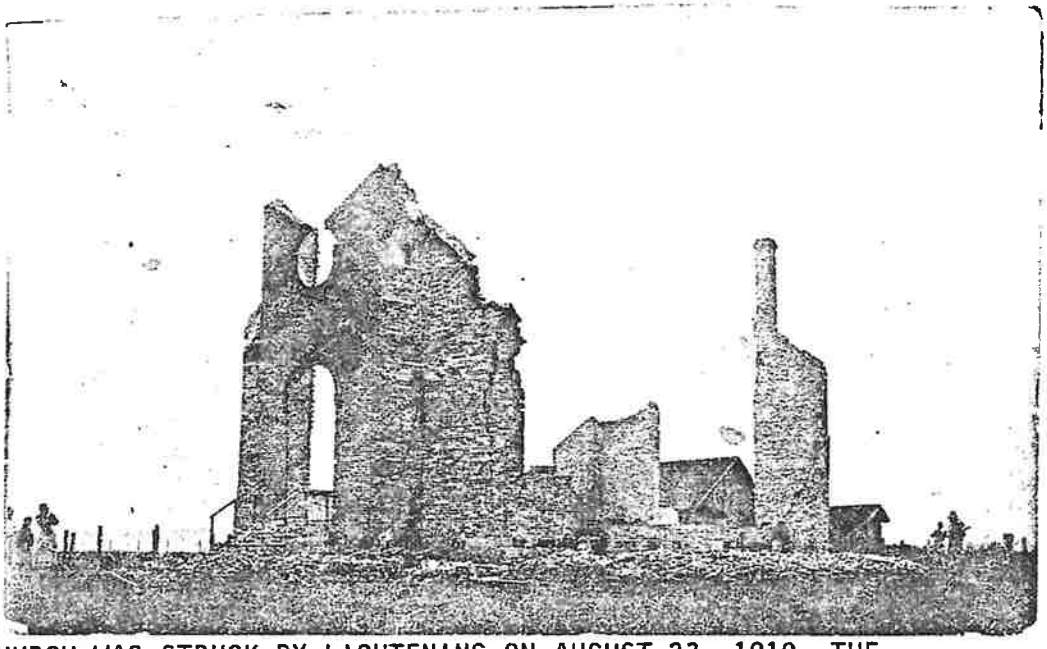
This is the tall spire that was replaced with a more modern one

There is no picture of the Church on Clark Rd.

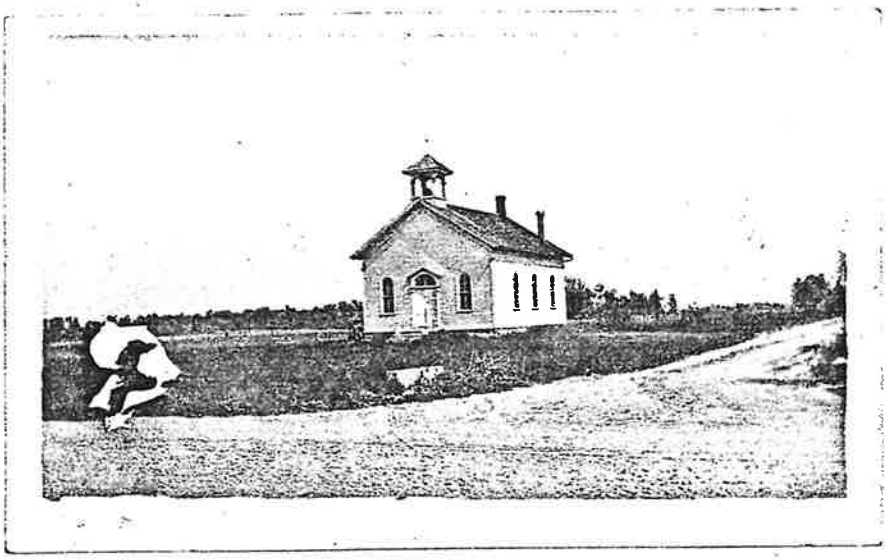


THE NEXT CHURCH WAS BUILT IN 1886, ON A CORNER OF THE FREDERICK ECKARDT FARM

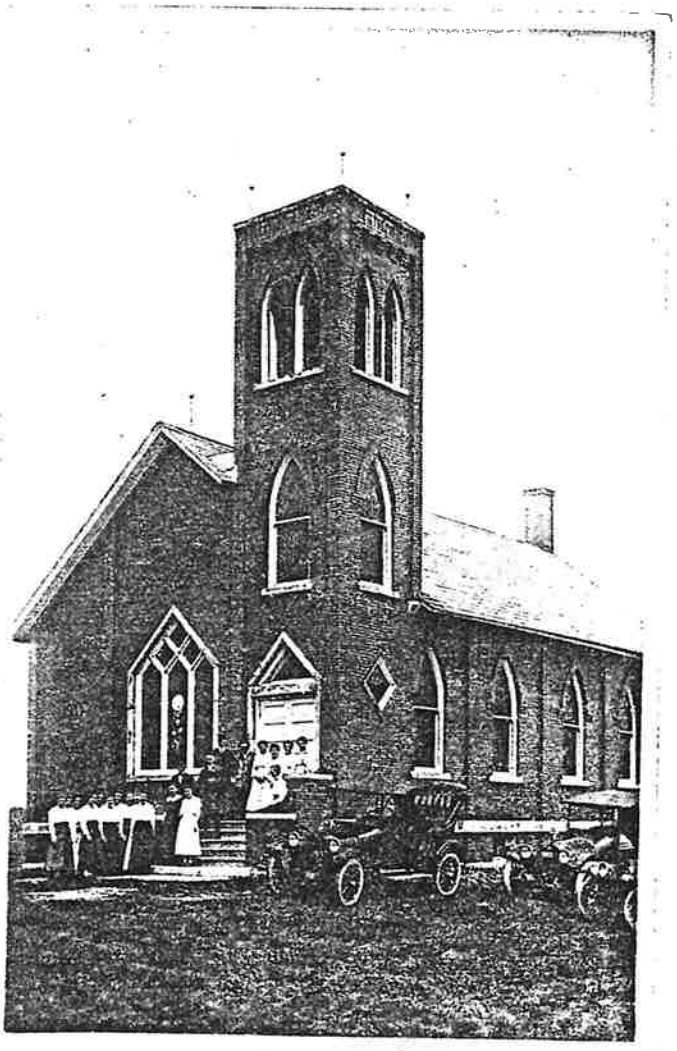
FIRST ORGAN WAS PURCHASED IN 1888
FIRST PASTOR REV. J. R. KIRN



THE CHURCH WAS STRUCK BY LIGHTENING ON AUGUST 23, 1910, THE



WORSHIP SERVICES WERE NEXT HELD IN THE ECKARDT SCHOOL WHICH STOOD ON THE CORNER OF WHAT IS NOW THE ELMWOOD HENNEY FARM, ON WHAT IS NOW KNOWN AS M50 (BROWN ROAD) AND CLARK ROAD, WHILE THE NEW CHURCH WAS BEING BUILT.



THE NEXT CHURCH WAS UNDER CONSTRUCTION IMMEDIATELY AND WAS DEDICATED JULY 16, 1911.

Pastor at this time was Rev. W. Bergy

# Joy reigns at Lakewood United Methodist



"Celebration" was the theme for the day as the Lakewood United Methodist Church held its first service in their new sanctuary on Sunday, Jan. 27, at 9:30 a.m.

The congregation proceeded from the old sanctuary, carrying the symbols and led by a trumpet. The symbols were then placed on the altar of the new sanctuary. During the service, memorials and gifts were presented. These included pews and other items for the new sanctuary.

The Building Committee was recognized and thanked. These included Gary Black, chairman; Don Eckman, Joanne Jackson, Steve Barnum, Ron Coppess, Tammy Mattice, and Lester Yonkers. A key was presented to Dave Hummel, who represented the trustee's of the church.

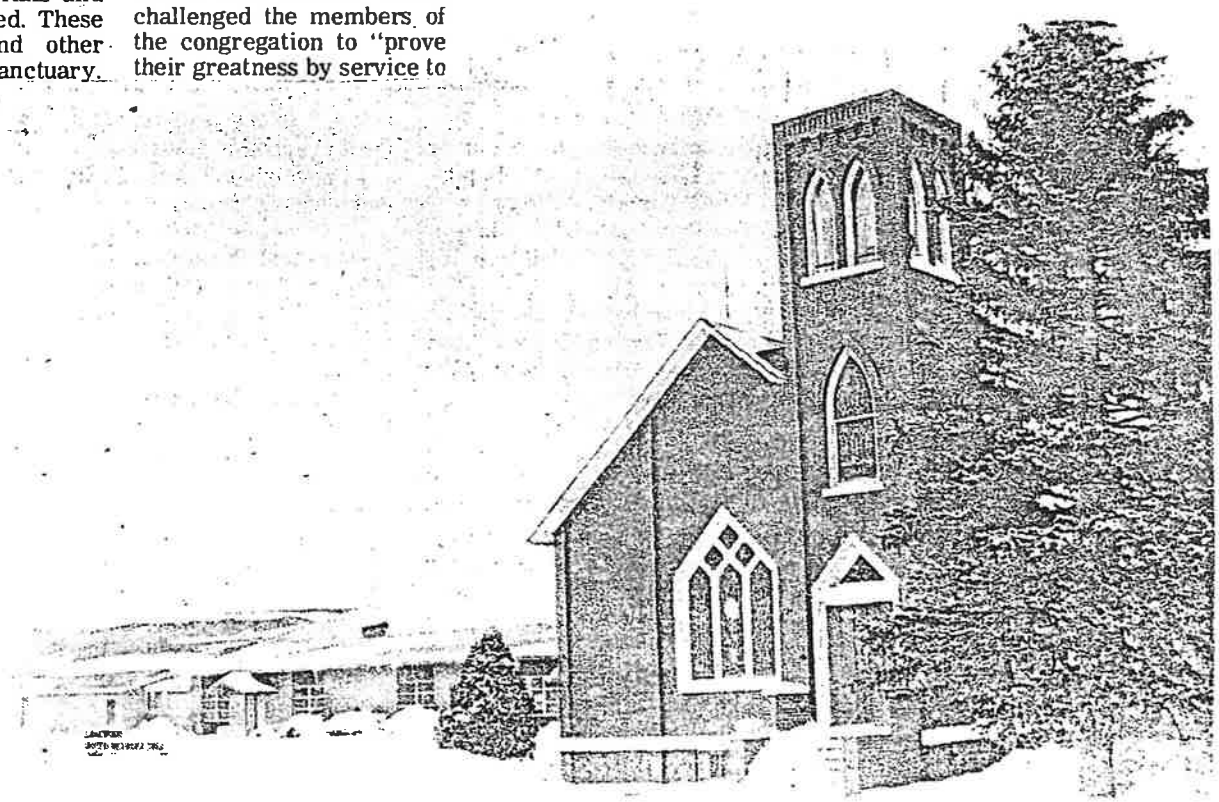
Great singing rained forth showing the joy of the occasion and Pastor Hulett challenged the members of the congregation to "prove their greatness by service to God, congregation and community." A time of fellowship followed.

The new facilities have been under construction since early July.

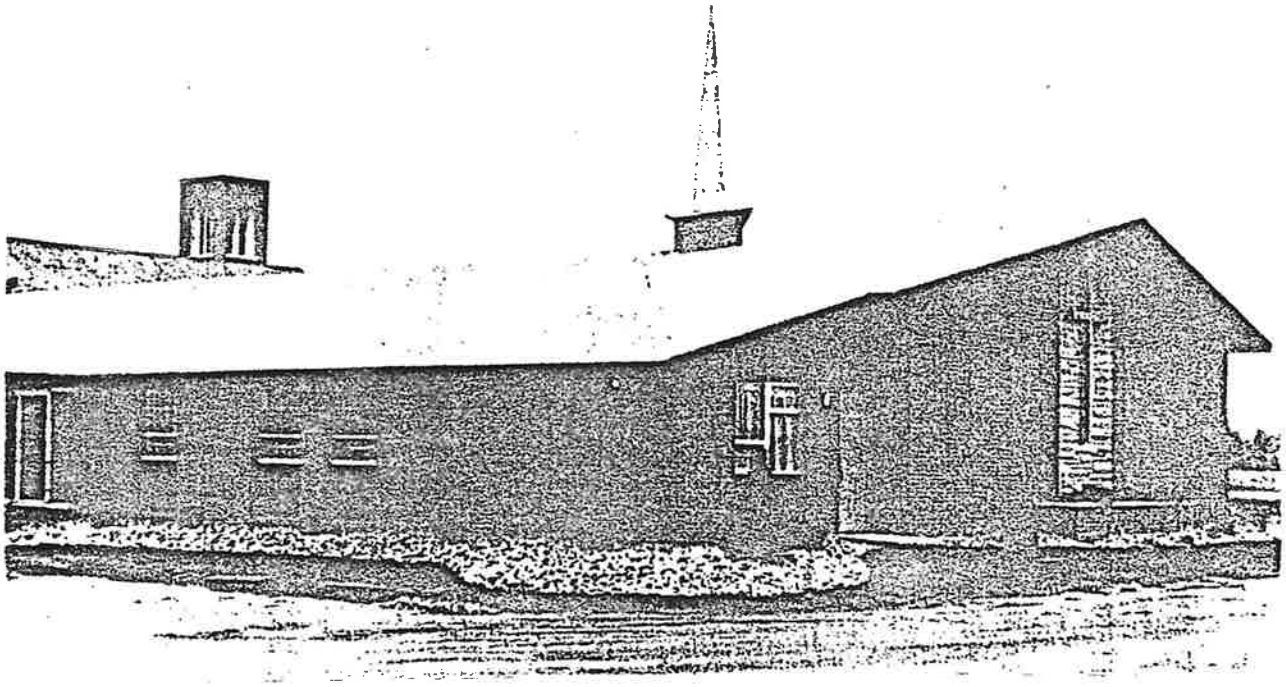
WRITEUP FROM THE
HASTINGS REMINDER 1995

PHOTO
FROM THE
LAKE
ODESSA
SENTINEL

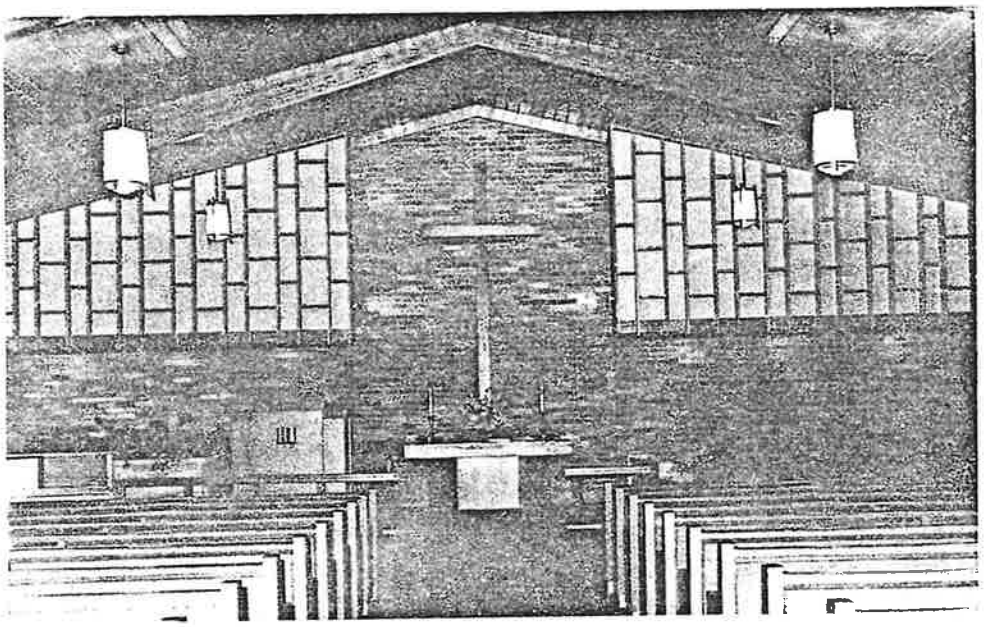
FEBRUARY
1995



The new meets the old as the Lakewood United Methodist Church's new sanctuary is now being used by the congregation.



LAKEWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH BUILT IN 1968-1969



CHANCEL OF THE ABOVE CHURCH BUILDING----------THIS AREA WAS DESIGNED BY THE LATE CARL NOFFKE (ONE OF OUR MEMBERS) AND FROM THE YEARS 1969 thru JANUARY 31, 1985, AND WAS GREATLY ENJOYED BY ALL WHO CAME TO WORSHIP IN THIS SANCTUARY.