

## A Brief History of Snow Creek Church (from a handout for the 131th Anniversary of the Church)

Since 1860 to 1872, the Primitive Baptist Church was the only one at Snow Creek and all who were members of any church held membership there. In the late 1860's a group of interested citizens secured a small plot of land, one square acre in size, across the road from Benjamin H. Tatum's office to build a church. Progress on the building was very slow due to the undeveloped country and the lack of money and tools.

The Methodist and Christian (Disciples of Christ) Churches and the Masonic Lodge went together and built a two-story structure. It was a long time being built and was almost destroyed by fire during the building process. The churches used the first floor and the masons the upper floor.

The Christians and Methodist always worked together congenially. It meant so much to see them willing to work and build a union church. They undoubtedly had the proper Christian spirit. In the early years, services were held only once or sometimes twice a month. Among the pastors serving this Church, there was none more beloved to the people than the Rev. William C. Clark, who served in this capacity for forty years.

The early 1950's found the building in urgent need of repairs, as well as inadequate for the growing congregation. The building fund was started with a dime found by Mrs. Cooke (Fannie) in the church parking lot along with the Christian Missionary Society. The churches bought out the masons share of the old building and a new brick structure was built and dedicated in June 1954.

In 1967, under the leadership of the Rev. W.M. (Mike) Stump the congregation built their parsonage valued at \$25,000.00.

The progress made in the United States during the 1950's and 1960's was felt in the church along with the rest of our society. With this progress the life of the church changed with the Methodist group declining and membership of the Christians increasing. In the fall of 1969, the two denominations became one affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The Christian Church called for its minister, Berlin Hanks in the spring of 1968. He began his ministry here on June 11, 1968. Therefore the late 1960's found the new building of 1954 again inadequate for the teaching and witnessing ministry of the church. Thus in October 1970 with the combined efforts of the members, another building program was begun, and this time completed. It was dedicated on July 9, 1972 as part of the Centennial celebration.

In 1979, we began the enlarging and remodeling of the sanctuary which was dedicated on the second Sunday of July 1980 at our homecoming. The picnic shelter was built in 1991 and given by Ada Barbour Morris in memory of Sally and Charlie Barbour. Today we celebrate the 131st Anniversary of the Snow Creek Christian Church.