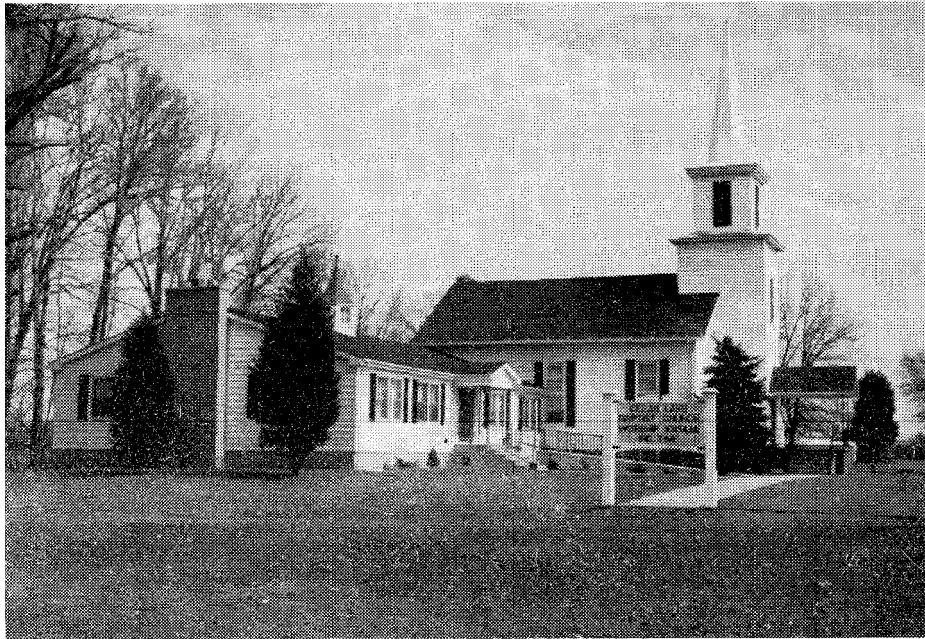


The Historic

Clear Lake Baptist Church



1864 - 1989

HISTORY
OF THE
CLEAR LAKE BAPTIST CHURCH

CELEBRATING 125 YEARS

Founded July 2, 1864



ANNIVERSARY DATE JULY 2, 1989

by
Warner Reed

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BAPTIST
Celebration
'89

On July 2, 1863, the United States was in a great Civil War. It was the second day of fighting at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

One year later, on July 2, 1864, at Clear Lake, Indiana, 8 men and 9 women formed the First Free Regular Baptist Church of Clear Lake, Steuben County, Indiana. It was later to be known as the Clear Lake Baptist Church.

This group of white settlers was living in a wilderness that had been settled in 1836. The small group met in the local schoolhouse called the Sand School. It was located where the present Baptist parsonage is now - just a few yards west of the Clear Lake Baptist Church house of worship

Some years later, the school building was moved to the site of the present St. Paul Roman Catholic Church building by the Four Corners.

Before the white people came to this area, it was inhabited by Indians. The most famous was Red Jacket. He was the Chief of the Baubese Tribe. He was killed on June 30, 1833. That happened during a fight with the Wyoming Indians.

In March of 1836, John Russell came to the area with his family of 7 sons and 2 daughters. They built and lived in a log house. That same year on March 7, 1836 he purchased land from the United States Government. That land is immediately south of the Clear Lake Church. On October 26, 1837 he deeded it to Ebenezer Bowen of Monroe County, New York and his brother, James Bowen of Washington County, Ohio.

The Bowen brothers plotted the land, set up street names and dedicated the new town of Bowensburg on 11-7-1836. One can stand on the Baptist Church front steps and looking south, and see where Bowensburg used to be. The northwestern most point of the town is the present Clear Lake Baptist Church Cemetery.

The town was sold to Benjamin McLouth on 12-8-1853. He later became the 21st member of the Clear Lake Baptist Church.

In 1835, a year before Mr. Russell came to Clear Lake (known then as Lake John), the area of Ray, Indiana was settled by John, James and Adam Duguid. Samuel Stewart was the first settler there. In 1836 the Alexander McNaughton family came by the area on their way to Iowa. They decided to stay in the area and some of the descendants are still living in the area. The families soon intermarried. Mr. Lee Duguid is now 77 and resides in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. Many of the McNaughtons are still at Clear Lake and Lena Mae McNaughton is currently a member of the Clear Lake Baptist Church. Several Duguids were also church members, but most of those families were Presbyterians, for their backgrounds began in Scotland.

Both of the families have done much to keep the history of the area alive and accurate.

The Ray, In. area is almost gone now and the 700 acre Cedar Lake, that was near it is all vanished. It was drained to save Scott Township. The site can be seen if you stop on Ray-Clear Lake Road where the railroad tracks cross the road near Ray-Quincy Rd. that comes south out of Branch Co., Michigan. The land is just south of the Ray-Clear Lake Road.

The Clear Lake area was a wooded area and it had a large number of mosquitoes because of the abundance of swamps. Fish and game were plentiful and the Indians did not create any problems for the white folks who settled here. Most of the settlers were from Ohio, New York and the New England States. Highway 120 was a very famous road that connected Toledo, Ohio to Chicago, Ill. It was known by other names also, such as Vistula Road.

It was then 28 years after Bowensburg, In. was dedicated that the Clear Lake Baptist Church was formed. One month after the first meeting, the first baptismal service was performed. Horace Heath, Martha Handy and Lydia Hamer were the first to be baptized. In 1939, Mrs. Hamer died and she was the last survivor of the first church members.

The charter members were Samuel Hamer, Samuel Hamer Jr., George Handy, Cyrus Handy, John Whaley, William N. Welker, Lorenzo W. Welker, Adoniram Judson Welker, Charlotte Hamer, Rhoda Whaley, Martha Hicks, Mariah Handy, Lydia Covey, Adelia Chapman, Mary Ann Welker, Loretta Welken and Mary Gowthrop.

William N. Welker was selected by the young church to be the minister. That was done on 1-28-1865. The first Church Clerk was Cyrus Handy and the first Deacons were Samuel Hamer Sr. and George Handy. George's daughter married a Duguid. Daughter Lydia married Dr. McTaggart of Ray, In.

There is only one descendant of the charter members still in the Clear Lake Baptist Church. That is Margaret (Mrs. Ronnie) Smith.

Margaret nee Handy Smith had no siblings. Her children are Fred Smith and Bonnie Parsons. The children did not have any offsprings. Bonnie resides in Sylvania, Ohio.

Cyrus Handy was the father of Hiram Handy, who was the father of Frank Handy. Frank is the father of Margaret nee Handy Smith. She joined the Clear Lake Church on 7-8-1928, which is 61 years ago.

One of the Handy decendants was a President of Tri-State College.

One year after the church was started, the group formed a "Mite" Society. It was the beginning of what is now known as the Women's Missionary Society. That began on 11-4-1865. That Society is still active today, some 124 years later. Mrs. Harold (Marjorie) Dull is the current president.

The word mite comes from the Bible and was one-sixteenth of a penny, a very small amount! The Mite Society sought to raise money at a rate of 5¢ a member for mission work. The nickel was to be given each month.

The history of the church indicates that the lack of money was a constant and continuing problem for the church. Presently, thanks to many fine supporters, money is not a problem.

For some time, the new church met in the homes of the members and also in the Sand School, which is the current site of the parsonage. In 1860 the government sold land for schools for \$2 and \$4 each. The township people built the school buildings and the town used them for many things other than for educational purposes.

The first church meetings were called Covenant Meetings. The members agreed on a common statement of faith and practice and that was called the Covenant. Usually the sessions were on a Saturday, once a month.

Three other tenets had to be accepted by any potential member. First, they could not be a slave holder, nor one who supported slavery. Secondly, they could not be a member of a secret society, such as the Masons. Finally, they could not use or sell alcohol.

Currently, only the alcohol clause is in the church constitution. The slavery issue soon ceased after the end of the Civil War. The secret society issue stopped when a minister that the church wanted to employ was a Mason himself. Of course, none of the 3 tenets were biblical, but were important because of the time of the nation's history.

It will help to remember that at the time of the beginning of the Clear Lake Church, a Civil War was going on. President Abraham Lincoln was the 16th President. Slavery was a hot issue that divided the new nation. The damaging consequence of the abuse of alcohol was well known. Some other churches were investigating secret societies and alarmed when a well known Baptist was reported as missing while doing his investigation.

Later Baptists learned the wisdom of letting believers make up their own minds in any matter of behaviour that was not addressed in the Bible.

Four months after President Abraham Lincoln was murdered, William N. Welker was selected as the first pastor of the Clear Lake Church. That was on 4-14-1885. John Wilkes Booth had just come from a local bar in Washington before shooting the President.

In that same bar, also consuming alcohol, was the body guard of the President. He had taken a break from his duties and went to the bar where Booth was drinking!

Lincoln's body was finally taken from Washington to his final resting place in Springfield, Illinois. A reward of \$100,000.00 was offered for the capture of Mr. Booth. He and others involved in the shoot were eventually captured.

On Feb. 11, 1861 Lincoln left Springfield for the last time and he was on his way to Washington. He made his last stop in Illinois at the home of his beloved grandmother in a little town of Farmington, Illinois on Fort Hill Street. He returned to Illinois on 5-4-1865 in a coffin and was laid to rest.

For a long time, the members of the church at Clear Lake were aware of the need for a building to conduct Sunday School and worship in. On September 2, 1871 the small group decided, "We the undersigned agree to pay the sum of money set opposite our names to the Trustees of the First Regular Baptist Church and Society of Clear Lake, In. for the purpose of erecting a House of Worship for the afore named church; said house to be built during the spring and summer. Said house to stand within 40 rods (6½ feet a rod) east of the school house." So the church business meeting notes read .

Immediately \$280.00 were pledged. Other area citizens contributed to the fund. In a short time a thousand dollars were raised. The list of givers is still in existence. Gifts ranged from 2 to \$100. One was not a gift of money, but of lumber and nails worth \$5.00 from Silas Doty, a well known criminal of the local area.

Some local historians think that Mr. Doty stole the nails and lumber, but that is not likely true, since at that time he would have been 72 years old. Most felons give up their life of crime before reaching that age.

Finally, \$1,800.00 were raised and the church signed a contract with the Strunk Brothers of Montgomery, Mi. to build a house of worship. That building is the present sanctuary for the Church even today, 117 years later! It was a one story building without a basement. It was heated with two wood burning stoves in the back of the church. There wasn't electric lights in those days.

The site for the building was sold by Wilbur McLouth and Mrs. P. P. McLouth of Ovid, Mi. for \$10.00. This goes back to the Bowensburg days when the family purchased the land composing the town.

Trustees at the time were George Handy, Cyrus Handy, Samuel D. Houser, John Betts, William Welker and John Ramsey. The site was 10 by 12 rods. Later, additional land behind the building was secured.

After the building was finished a spire was added to the top, but in a strong wind storm, it came loose and fell to the ground. The church members picked up all the pieces and put it all back together again. In 1986 a new aluminum spire worth \$5,600.00 was put in the place of the original spire. It is 24 feet tall.

Years later, a furnace was installed in the building. On 10-11-39 Hubert Strawe, a graduate electrical engineer wired the building for electricity. He was the son of George Strawe, a strong supporter of the church.

Hubert died in Lansing, Mi. in 1988. His sister, Edith married Tony Wanholm, who is still a member of the Church. Edith passed away on Christmas Day of 1986. Her brother Lewis passed away one day after Easter Day, 1987. His wife Francis nee Masters (her mother was a Ramsey) now resides in Auburn, Washington, with her two sons. This was a very strong church family. Francis was a piano teacher and all the Strawe sons were known for their educational abilities.

The second pastor of the church was Rev. P. J. Ward, former pastor of the South Whitley, Indiana Baptist church of Whitley County, In. He came to the area on 1-19-1884.

The church records indicate that this was a great occasion, for the Welker family had moved to Michigan and for the first service in the house of worship, "A goodly number of 27 were present." By 11-9-90 the church had 36 members. The second church clerk was Samuel D. Hamer and the third clerk was A.J. Betts. A Betts descendant, Wilma Betts McDonald is residing in Montgomery, Mi. and is Mrs. Leroy Anderson.

Everything in the church did not always go smoothly. The church regularly and intensely guarded its members. Church attendance and abiding by the covenant was stressed. The first recorded trouble happened on 5-11-87 when Mrs. Edward Robbins complained to the church about her husband Edward and his relationship with the minister's daughter, the young Miss Welker. After an internal investigation, the church concluded that Mrs. Robbins was not fulfilling her christian duty by failing to inform the Welkers about their daughter. They disfellowshipped her along with Edward, for his unchristian discretions. The minister's daughter was found guilty of acting improperly, but without any bad intentions!

After the first withdrawal of the Right Hand of Fellowship, the church did not get any new members for 6 months. Prior to that there were new members added each month.

The first ordination by the church was on 1-6-95 when William Betts was set aside by the church to, "Improve his talents of exhortation."

The first church member to die was George Handy on 11-1-1918.

As the early years rolled by, the church struggled with having a resident pastor and with lack of funds. Retired pastors were very common. Young, unexperienced college students were often hired. Membership and attendance fluctuated constantly. Many became discouraged, but the church doors were never closed. The young people moved away to the larger cities for employment and for educational benefits. Nowadays, people get a good education and a good job and try to obtain enough money to move to the Clear Lake area!

In 1937, Viola Maugherman was selected as Church Clerk. The church struggled and such families as Strawe, Waltz, Guise and Hobart kept the faith going. The Depression was hard

It is very difficult for members today to comprehend their troubles. We have the benefits of carpeting, heating, air-conditioning and padded pews. Imagine benches, wood heat and no lighting!

The property used to have a 40 foot horse barn to house the horses of the worshipers. A U drive used to go behind the building and two outhouses were their toilet facilities.

The church basement was damp and dirty. A wise lady church school teacher knew the importance of first impressions and she was deeply concerned that the children of the area got the wrong impressions when attending the Clear Lake Church. She began a building fund in the early 1950's and soon a gentleman by the name of George Merrill desired to construct an educational unit for the church and pay the entire cost of \$59,000. Rimer Bryan and Tony Wanholm supervised the work and it was completed in 1959.

At a business meeting member Norman Boyer moved to accept Mr. Merrill's generous offer and a new facility was built. Even today, Mr. Boyer spends many, many hours keeping the buildings in good working condition.

George Merrill married a local girl, a Borton, and after her early death, he desired to have a lasting memorial in her honor. Many hundreds of people have benefitted from his kindness and concern. He was with us in the summer of 1987 and received a big hand of applause from an appreciative congregation. He was so pleased to see the church full to the limit on his last Sunday here. He died in Toledo, Ohio in 1988.

Decendants from the Borton family still live in Clear Lake. Ruth nee Borton Forester has a daughter, Betty (Mrs. Richard) Oxenger in the Clear Lake area. Her daughter, Judy (Mrs. Gary) Johnston is a very active member. The Johnstons have three children, Tracy, Tyson and Charles. Tracy attends Hillsdale College.

Throughout the history of the Church the securing and keeping of a pastor was a constant problem. Most could not subsist on the low salary. Some were city people and had adjustment problems to the rural life.

Some of the pastors thought their innate abilities would be better used in a larger situation and in a bigger community. One fine young man in 1937 came to the church as the pastor. He was a 24 year old single college student at Hillsdale, Mi.

Stanley Coon was a freshmen and from a little town of Atlas, Mi. just outside of Flint. In a fall, while swimming and diving, he broke his neck. Thirty members of the church drove to Flint for the funeral. Of those 30, only 2 remain here today-Dorothy nee Emrick (Mrs. Jerome) Newbauer and Tony Wanholm. Mrs. Lewis Strawe also attended.

The first pastor to reside in the parsonage was Rev. Slaybaugh. He was killed in an automobile accident. He was a retired pastor.

William Schobert died while serving the church. He is buried in the church cemetery. His wife died in Stevens Point, Wis. and her ashes were spread on the cemetery grounds here. Mr. Schobert was a well known and loved pastor in the State of Michigan.

In the church cemetery is a Civil War Vet by the name of Everett Nichols. He was a member of the Clear Lake Baptist Church.

The church parsonage was constructed in 1949 and the money was a gift from the Lowery's of Oak Park, Illinois. They gave \$5,500 for the construction and it was in honor of Eva nee Phillips Lowery. Her husband was Frederich. The children were present for the dedication. Eva's father was Josiah Phillips. They were church members here. In 1969 they presented the church with an organ. That organ is in the Fellowship Hall now.

The property for the parsonage was donated by Dr. and Mrs. O. I. Laird. Their parents were early residents of Clear Lake. The Doctor and his wife spent most of their lives in Michigan, but retired at Clear Lake.

In 1962, the church had some foundation work done and a new entry was constructed.

In 1969, \$2,589.00 were spent to remodel the church sanctuary. A dark paneling was used on the walls and doors. That same year, Margaret nee Tervol Boyer (Mrs. Norman) became the Church Clerk. Later Vivian Dale, Judy Johnston and Lori Boyer took terms as the Clerk. In 1983, Jane Reed became the Clerk and presently, Joan nee Scott (Mrs. Carl) Unger is the Clerk. She began her duties on January 18, 1989.

Clear Lake changes at a slow pace. In 1870 the population was 455. In 1880 the number grew to 519 but slipped to 379 in 1954. Now there are about 525 cottages on the Lake. In the winter about 135 are inhabited.

More churches have been added to Clear Lake since the beginning of the Baptists. In 1937 the Lutherans built a church. In 1941 the Roman Catholics constructed a building.

At least 40 men have been pastors of the church. Some records are missing and the number is not exact. One man, Chester Newcombe was pastor here twice. He passed on in 1987 while living with his wife Mable, in Putnam, Conn.

Since 1981, the church facilities have been improved and the membership and attendance have increased. These blessings have come from our Lord Jesus Christ and without Him, nothing would have been accomplished.

The parsonage has been fixed up, painted and reroofed. Black shutters were added to the house. It is now rented since the pastor lives in Coldwater, Michigan. The garage was reroofed and also painted.

The church education unit and sanctuary have been improved with vinyl siding, insulation, storm windows and shutters. A new energy efficient furnace was added as well as air-conditioning for all the building. New carpet and padded pews add to the quietness of the sanctuary. The nursery has a well padded carpet for the toddlers .

The inside of the sanctuary was restored to its original shape and the stairway to the basement was closed off. Six beautiful chandeliers were added for better lighting.

A new piano and organ have brought new, beautiful music to the worship services. In the winter, the new heated, concrete ramp provides easy access to the building for all.

Recently an underground, automatic lawn watering system was added along with new shrubs. A large church sign easily identifies the church building for those passing by the church building. Twelve road directional signs also assist the locals and visitors in finding the facilities.

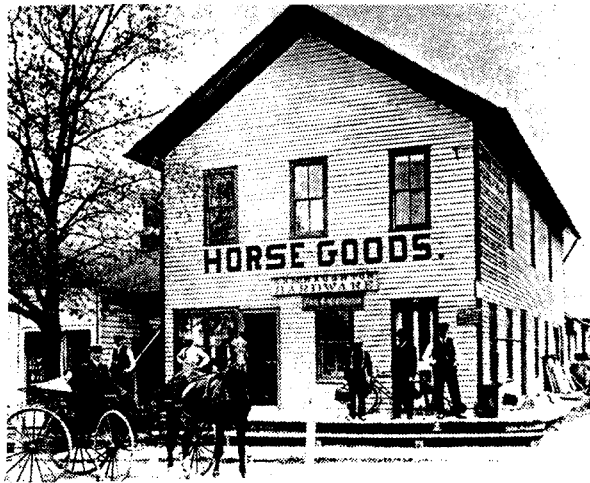
Minor improvements, though small, also add to the facilities and let the people know that the church cares enough to do its best.

Bright new white curtains make the building look cleaner. A VCR and color TV are beneficial for the church programs and educational goals. Six foot candleholders are used for weddings and night services. A new microwave is a benefit for the kitchen needs.

Currently the church has 45 active members. In 1989 they gave the largest amount of money to the ministry ever given. A total of \$28,000.00 was given. Church mission giving is at a new high. The percapita giving is one of the highest in the Michigan Baptist Convention. Total membership is now 75.

The present church fellowship is changing and it is sad to loose some of its older members through death and illness, but the church is also happy for their faith and support in the many years past. Their witness was strong and the benefits continue to be with us today. They did a great job in witnessing to the Good News of the love of Jesus Christ in the Clear Lake area.

We of today thank those of the past and we of today pledge our faith and lives to continue what 17 people began in 1864.



McNaughton Hardware Store

A LISTING OF KNOWN FORMER MINISTERS

<u>BEGINING DATE</u>	<u>CLERGYMAN</u>	<u>END OF MINISTRY</u>
1-28-1865	William N. Welker	2-3-1877
1-19-84	P.J.Ward	1-19-85
11-14-84	W.H. Bassett	11-10-88
3-2-89	S.B.Conrad	1-4-90
4-22-93	O.E.Eggy	Unknown
5-16-96	Mr. Honigh	1-21-1900
10-3-08	E.Severence	Unknown
3-31-16	Mr. Linestrum	Unknown
1916	E.M. Rhoades	1918
5-1-19	Everett A. Kelford	5-25-24
1924	Isham H.Ferris	4-26-25
5-3-25	N. M. Bodenholm	4-1-28
1931	J. A. Burroughs	Unknown
1935	C. A. Ehrhardt	1936
5-1-37	Stanley Coon	9-5-37
4-3-38	Oral Duckworth	1938
9-15-40	Ronald Rice	7-12-44
8-6-44	James W. Burgess	12-9-45
1-6-46	John McCullem	Unknown
1948	Mr. Small	Unknown
7-13-49	Leonard S.Slaybaugh	1949
1-8-50	Mr. Remein	1-1-51
10-11-51	Chester Newcombe	5-18-55
8-8-55	Kenneth Brouse	7-27-58
9-2-58	Richard Nyberg	5-24-60
1-1-61	Ferris Liske	9-18-63
11-11-64	John Kerr	1-17-68
6-5-69	William Schobert	4-7-71
5-9-71	E.Robert Waterhouse	4-8-73
12-12-73	Chester Newcombe	5-20-78
8-27-78	Norman Melser	2-10-80
6-18-80	Arthur Corcoran	1981
4-1-81	R.Warner Reed	Current
1-31-02	Gary Hoffman	5-30-05
6-1-05	William Case	Present

SIGNIFICANT YEARS IN UNITED STATES HISTORY

- 1836 Clear Lake area sees first white settlers. Texans were massacred at the Alamo.
- 1857 U.S. Supreme Court rule in the Dred Scott Decision that blacks are not human beings. Dred Scott was a black.
- 1860 Abraham Lincoln elected 16th President.
- 1861 Civil War begins.
- 1863 North defeats South at Battle of Gettysburg, Pa. Emancipation Proclamation signed.
- 1864 Clear Lake Baptist Church formed.
- 1872 Clear Lake Baptists build a house of worship. Yellowstone becomes the first park.
- 1873 Clear Lake Cemetery established.
- 1889 There are now 38 states in the Union.
- 1895 First Church member, William Betts, was licensed to preach.
- 1898 Spanish-American War begins
- 1916 Yearly expenses for the church were \$156.67.
- 1917 World War I begins.
- 1920 Women's Suffrage.
- 1925 Mrs. William B. Ross first woman governor. She ruled Wyoming.
- 1926 Church creates basement under the house of worship.
- 1927 Lindberg flies the Atlantic, non-stop.
- 1929 Stock market crash.
- 1935 President Roosevelt signs Social Security.
- 1938 Clear Lake Church builds cover over the basement steps outside.
- 1939 Church gets electricity.
- 1941 World War II begins.
- 1945 U.S.A. drops atomic bombs on Japan. The War ends.
- 1947 Church ceases to be a mission church of the Michigan Baptist Convention.
- 1948 Church spire repaired.
- 1949 Lowery family of Oak Park, Ill donate an electric organ to the church. They also provide for a new (first) parsonage.

- 1950 Korean War begins with N.Korea.
- 1959 George Merrill builds an educational unit for the Church in honor of his wife.
- 1961 Alan B.Shepard makes the first U.S. manned space flight.
- 1962 Church adds new entryway to the front of the church house. Cuban missile crisis with the USA and Russia.
- 1963 President Kennedy assassinated in Dallas, Texas. President Johnson involves USA in Vietnam War on a false report of the firing upon the Maddix ship by North Vietnam Navy.
- 1966 Church remodels inside of sanctuary.
- 1969 USA puts a man on the moon.
- 1974 President Nixon resigns due to pressure of Watergate events. Abortions made legal .
- 1981 Present pastor begins ministry at Clear Lake Church.
- 1982 Major church remodeling and other improvements begin.
- 1989 Church celebrates it's 125th Anniversary. George Bush becomes President of the United States. Church receives an invitation to the Inauguration Service in Washington, D.C.



CLEAR LAKE BAPTIST CHURCH
AN AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCH

The local church began in 1864 as the First Free Regular Baptist Church of Clear Lake.

Later the name was shorten to the Clear Lake Baptist Church.

Today the church is in the heritage of the American Baptist group of churches.

The Clear Lake Church is a community church. It is also an official member of the American Baptist Convention, Valley Forge, Pa. and the Michigan Baptist Convention.

Who are the American Baptist? Where did they come from and where are they going?

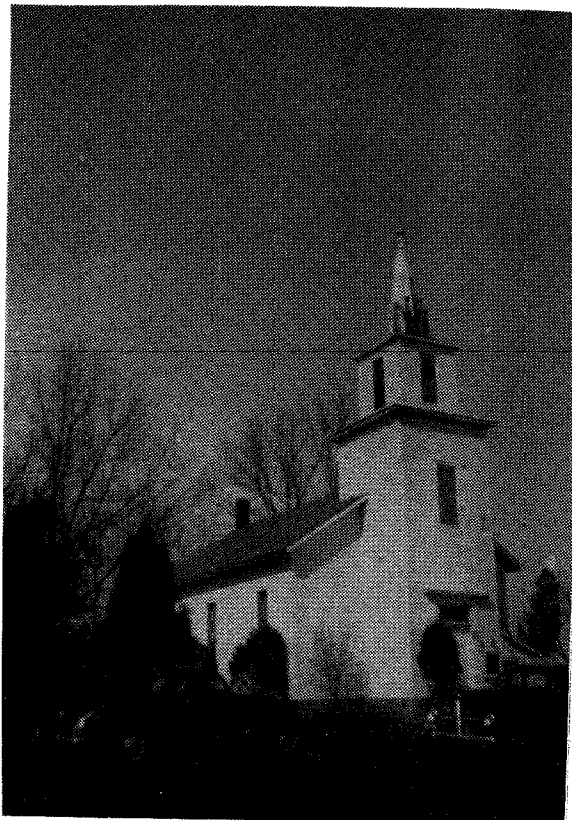
We are one of 1.6 million American Baptists. They have more than 5,800 congregations in the USA and Puerto Rico. We are the 4th in size of the 25 different types of Baptists.

60% are White, 37% are Black and 3% are Hispanic and Native American.

American Baptists are not a "creedal people" and no binding statement of Baptist belief exists. Even so, there is a considerable agreement among American Baptists about what they believe. Some of the commonly held beliefs are:

1. The Bible is the Word of God. All of it is divinely inspired and true. It is the only source of authority for the believer.
2. Baptism is for adult believers and the manner is by immersion. The Holy Spirit is in each believer and He places the believer in the Body of Christ.

3. The two church ordinances of the church are the Lord's Supper and Baptism.
4. The local church is free from any other church or denomination and all church business is done by vote of the membership. One person, one vote. It is local autonomy and of a democratic nature.
5. Full cooperation to the most is encouraged among all Christian Churches.
6. Religious freedom is for all people. It is the best protection from the State.
7. All members are of equal importance and all have equal responsibility. The pastor is the servant of the Body.
8. The mission of the church is to all the peoples of the world so all may come to know Jesus Christ our Lord.



current pastor of clear lake baptist church

The present pastor of the Clear Lake Baptist Church is R. Warner Reed. He began his ministry here in April of 1981 as a substitute, guest preacher. The Reverend Bill Harrington, Area Preacher for the Michigan Baptist Convention, was assisting the church until it was able to obtain a new pastor. The last pastor, Arthur Corcoran had retired. For some reason, now forgotten, Mr. Reed returned again and has been here ever since. He has now been the pastor for a little over 8 yrs.

Warner Reed was born on November 17, 1934 in Farmington, Illinois, the 12th child of Cyril Evans and Bertha nee Alpaugh Reed. He has 6 sisters and 7 brothers. One sister and two brothers, as well as his parents have passed away.

He attended high school in Farmington and then entered the University of Illinois and received a B.S. degree in Education and Science, with a minor in Social Work. That was 1957. Next he attended Northern Baptist Theological Seminary in Chicago, Illinois and obtained a Master's degree in 1960.

While attending the graduate school, he married Jane Beth Lounsberry of East Lansing, Michigan, who was a student in the undergraduate school at Northern. He served as the Assistant Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Berwyn, Illinois while a student. After graduating as the Senior Class President, he became a Home Missionary for the American Baptist Home Mission Society. He pastored 2 churches in Northern Michigan. These recreational area churches were St. Helen and South Branch Community Baptist Churches.

In 1961, Mr. Reed became the pastor of the First Baptist Church of Corunna, Michigan. During the 9 years there, the Church built a new facility and parsonage on 8 acres of land.

In July of 1970, the Reed family moved to the First Baptist Church of LaCross, Wisconsin. All the family hated to leave the lovely church congregation in Corunna, but the Lord led the family to another state to serve. After 3 years, the LaCross Church was able to get out of a huge financial debt and became one of the leading churches in the Convention in missionary giving.

Coldwater, Michigan became the new home for the Reeds in 1973. He became a probation and parole agent for the Michigan Department of Corrections, working in Branch County.

From 1973 to 1981, the family served and fellowshiped with the Christians at the Coldwater First Baptist Church. On some occasions, the Michigan Convention would have Mr. Reed do some pulpit supply in some of the Michigan churches.

The pastor's clinical education was done in the State Mental Hospital at Ypsilanti, Michigan for a 3 months residential program.

Jane and Warner Reed have three children. Joy Lynne (Mrs. Jeff) Sauser is a Special Education teacher in the Caro, Mi. School System. Michael Victor is completing his degree in Education and will begin teaching in the fall of 1989. He resides at home. Douglas Scott is in Newark, Delaware and married Antoinette Strogon. He is a family counselor and she is a Special Ed. teacher of the deaf and blind. Joy's husband, Jeff, is a math teacher and boys varsity basketball coach.

Currently, the pastor is a full-time Probation Agent for the Third District Court of Branch County, Coldwater, Michigan. The church work is a part-time position.



Clive Guise, Tony Wanholm,

1947

Ray Hilderbrandt, George Strawe



Dr. and Mrs. O.I. Laird-
Provided for land for
the parsonage.

ALPHABETICAL LISTING OF MEMBERS
BEGINNING JULY 2, 1864

- A Auspaugh, Willard
- B Bailey, Louisa
Bailey, Orange
Baker, Jay
Baker, Mrs. Jay
Baldwin, A.
*Balish, JoAnn
*Balish, Tracy
Barber, Mary M.
Bassett, Rev. William H.
Bates, Jane
Beach, Florence (Mrs. William)
Beach, William
Beard, Joe
Beckworth, Gladys
Betts, Amy
Betts, Arthur
Betts, Chase
Betts, Clare
Betts, Edwin
Betts, Elmer
Betts, Ettie
Betts, Florence
Betts, Iza
Betts, John
Betts, Lizzie (Married Rowe)
Betts, Mary (Married Sparks)
Betts, Mary
Betts, Myrtle
Betts, Sarah
Betts, Teter
Betts, Welcome
Betts, Mrs. Welcome
Betts, William
Berry, Donald, Sr.
Berry, Donald, Jr.
Berry, Maxine
Berry, Susan

*Current member

- B Billings, Dr. Charles
*Billings, Lois (Mrs. Charles)
Bodenholm, Rev. William
Bogden, Asa
*Botts, Sharlene (Charlye)
Boyer, Edith (Mrs. Donald)
Boyer, Grace (Mrs. Wayne Binkley)
*Boyer, Ivan
*Boyer, Kristi
*Boyer, Lori nee Frey (Mrs. Mark)
*Boyer Margaret nee Tervol (Mrs. Norman)
*Boyer, Mark
*Boyer, Norman
*Boyer, Steven
Brouse, Jean (Mrs. Kenneth)
Brouse, Kathy
Brouse, Rev. Kenneth
Brown, Charles
Brown Elliott M.
*Bryan, Madaline
*Bryan, Rimer
Burroughs, Rev. J. A.
C Canfield, Sarah N.
Canfield, Seneca
Carothers, Inez
Case, Beatrice
Cass, Charles
Cass, Lewis
Cass, Loueinda
*Cassabon, Lon
*Cassabon, Rose
Chapman, Adelia
Chapman, Charles
Chestnut, Maggie
Clark, Eveline
Clark, George
Clark, Marge
Clark, Ruth
Clark, William
Cockwood, Walter
Coke, Ms.
Cole, Mrs. Beth
Cole, Edna
*Collins, Audrey
Colton, Almon
*Closson, Steve
* Current member
___ Charter member

- C Colton, George
Colton, Harriet
Colton, Henreetta
Colton, Isac E.
Colton, Mary A.
Coon, Rev. Stanley
Cooney, Carol nee Linebrink
Covey, Lydia
Crawford, John
Crawford, Laviona, (Mrs. John)
- D Dale, Joseph Boyd
Dale, Vivian nee Swick (Mrs. J.B.)
Davenport, Charles
Davenport, Elizabeth
Davenport, Ellen
Davenport, Hanna
Davenport, Lusina
Daville, William
Davis, William
Deller, Wayne
Deller, Mrs. Wayne
*Dietrich, Cindy
*Dietrich, Ilene (Mrs. Ronald)
*Dietrich, Ronald
Donahue, Hulda E.
Dowing, Elizabeth
Duckworth, Rev. Oral
Duguid, Frederich
Duguid, Lida
Duguid, Mildred
*Dull, Marjorie (Mrs. Harold) nee Walker
- E Eaggy, Rev. Oliver E.
Easterday, Edward Joseph
Easterday, Eleanor (Mrs. Edward)
Eglement, Charles
Eglement, Mrs. Charles
Ellis, Moses
Emrich, Ray
Esterline, Harry
Esterline, Viola (Mrs. Harry)
- * Current member
___ Charter member

- E Esterline, Amelia (Mrs. W.E.)
Esterline, William E.
Evans, Agnes (Mrs. George)
Evans, George
- F Falkry, Frances
Falkry, G.W.
Fansler, Abbie Jane
*Fansler, Basil
*Fansler, Beverly nee Gibbeny
Fansler, Edith
Farrah, Eva
Ferris, Rev. Isham H.
*Fikel, Barbara nee Skiles, *Carrie Fikel
*Firestone, Douglas
*Firestone, Gwyn nee Shaw
*Firestone Todd
Fleming, William
Fletcher, Martha June
Flora, Basil
Flora, Margaret (Mrs. Basil)
Frey, Faith
Frey, Ronald
- G Gilbert, William
Gowthrop, Ben
Gowthrop, Fammy
Gowthrop, Franklin
Gowthrop, Joan
Gowthrop, Louisa
Gowthrop, Mable
Gowthrop, Mary H. (married Betts)
Grant, Permill
Green, Betsy
Green, Frances M.
Green, Sally
Greenamyer, Earl
Greenamyer, Lois
Grey, nee Colton Cornelia
Grey, Jane
Grove, Clara
Guise, Bessie, nee Priest, Gibbeny
Guise, Clive Orletus
* Current members
___ Charter member

H Hall, Daniel
* Hall, Eric
* Hall, Erica
Hall, Mary
* Hall, Nancy (Mrs. Eric)
* Hall, Patrick
Hamer, Charlotte
Hamer, Lydia
Hamer, Samuel
Hamer, Samuel Jr.
Hamer, Sinia
Hamlin, Catherine
Hampshire, Delores
Handy, Bertha (Married McNaughton)
Handy, Burton
Handy, Cyrus
Handy, Dora (Mrs. Frank)
Handy, Douglas
Handy, Elizabeth B.
Handy, Frank
Handy, George
Handy, Henry S.
Handy, Hiram
Handy, Homer
Handy, Lida (Married Duguid)
* Handy, Margaret (Married Ronnie Smith)
Handy, Mariah
Handy, Martha
Handy, Mary (Married Dr. McTaggart)
Handy, Matilda (Married Peck)
Handy, Nellie
Handy, Sarah A.
Handy, Spencer
* Hardy, Margaret (Mrs. William)
* Hardy, Max
Hardy, William (Bill)
Harner, Sylvia
Harner, Davilla (Mr.)
Hayner, Elaine
Heath, Charles
Heath, Esther, J.
Heath, Eugene
Heath, Horace
* Current member
 Charter members

- H *Held, Heidi
Heath, Mary June
Heath, Polly, C.
Heath, Truman
Helkey, Frances
Heller, Daniel
Hicks, Martha
Hilderbrandt, Aretha (Mrs. Ray)
Hilderbrandt, Ray
Hilderbrandt, Vera (Mrs. Ray)
Hobart, Rev. E. Clyde
Hobart, Ethel (Mrs. E. C.)
Homan, Bob
Honigh, Rev.
Huffman, Annie
Huffman, Caroline
Huffman, John
Huffman, Via
Hull, Dorothy (Married Melchi)
- I Iverson, Peter
- J Jones, Maggie (Married Chapman)
Jones, Robert
Johnson, Katherine
*Johnston, Gary
*Johnston, Judy, nee Oxenger (Mrs. Gary)
*Johnston, Tracy
*Johnston, Tyson
*Johnston, Charles
- K Kast, Bob
Kendell, Fred C.
Kendell, Mrs. Fred
Kerr, Rev. John
Kerr, Mrs. John
King, Alice (Mrs. Cyrus)
King, Cyrus
King, Mrs. Erma
Kint, Carl
Kint, Fannie
Kitchen, Mrs.
Kurt, Margaret
- L Laird, Alice
Laird, Hazel B. (Mrs. Dr. O. I.)
- *Current member
_____ Charter member

L Laird, Maude
Laird, Dr. O. I. (Ora Irving)
Lang, Ann E.
*Lantzer, Larry
*Lantzer, Tim
*Lantzer, Sue (Mrs. Larry)
Legg, Nancy
Lincoln, Louie
Linderman, Lavian (Mrs. J. Crawford)
Lindstrom, Rev.
Linebrink, Calvin
Linebrink, Carol
Liske, Karen (Mrs. Ferris)
Liske, Rev. Ferris
Lockwood, Charles
Logan, Robert
*Lounsberry, Doris (Mrs. Harry)
Lowery, Eva nee Phillips (Mrs. Fred)
Loxley, Katherine

M Mann, Alberta
Mann, Lloyd
Martz, John
*Masters, Francis (Married Lewis Strawe)
Masters, Mary nee Ramsey
Maugerman, Ross
Mauk, Hershel
Mauk, Pearl (Mrs. Hershel)
McClure, Catherine
McCombs, Mrs.
McConnell, Alice (Mrs. C.H.)
McConnell, C. H.
McDonald, Hazel
McElhenie, Freeman
McLouth, B. B.
McLouth, Wilber
McNaughton, Bertha
*McNaughton, Lena Mae nee Mulchahey
*McNaughton, Alexander
*McNaughton, Christine
*McNaughton, Elizabeth
*McNaughton, Joseph
*McNaughton, Pamela (Mrs. Earl Ford)
McTaggart, Mary (Mrs. Dr. McTaggart)
McTaggart Dr.
Melser, Cathy
Melser, Rev. Norman

Merrill, Miss (first name unknown)
Merrill, Mr. R. H.
Merrill, Mrs. R. H. (Theresa)
Merrill, Thursa (Mrs. William)
Merrill, William
Mowery, David
Mowery, Hanna

N Neeley, Carol
Neeley, Diana
Neeley, Joe
Neeley, Herman
Neeley, Myrtle
*Newbauer, Dorothy nee Emrick
Newcombe, Rev. Chester
Newcombe, Mable (Mrs. Chester)
Nichols, Bert
Nichols, Mrs. Bert
Nichols, Edna
Nichols, Effie
Nichols, Everitt (Civil War Veteran)
Nichols, Florence
Nichols, Marvel
Nichols, Suffrania E.
Nichols, Will
Nichols, Mrs. Will
Nivison, First name unknown
Nivison, Matilda
Nivison, Nathan
Nodine, Martha
Nyberg, Rev. Richard
Nyberg, Mrs. Richard

O Oberst, Daniel
*Oberst, John
*Oberst, Wava (Mrs. Keith)
Overguard, Debbie (Mrs. Rick)
Overguard, Rick
*Oxenger, Betty (Mrs. Richard)

P Palmer, Arzilla
Palmer, Nelson
Peck, Matilda nee Handy
Percy, Margaret nee McCombs
Petrie, Charles
Petrie, Lorinda
Phillips, Eva (Married Lowery)
Phillips, Josiah
*Current member

P Priest, Bessie
Priest, Minnie

R Ramsey, Almira
Ramsey, Elizabeth A.
Ramsey, John
Ramsey, Laney
Ramsey, Rachel
Ramsey, Robert
Ramsey, Sapheama
Ransani, Elizabeth
Rasley, John
*Rathbun, Debbie
*Rathbun, Robert
Ready, James
*Reed, Jane Beth nee Lounsberry
*Reed, R. Warner
Rhoades, Belva
Rhoades, Rev.
Richards, Helen
Robbins, Agnes A.
Robbins, Edward T.
Robbins, Harriet
Rogers, Ashbury
Rogers, Besty
Rowe, Albert
Rowe, Emma
Rowe, Lael
Rowe, Lizzie nee Betts

S Schobert, Bill
Schobert, Mable (Mrs. William)
Schultz, Lucille
Schultz, Robert
Shaw, Danny,
*Shaw, Gwyn (Married Firestone)
*Shaw, Dreva (Mrs. John)
*Shaw, John
Sheets, Elizabeth
Sheets, Jesse W.
*Current member

S Sherman, Maggie
*Skiles, Hugh
*Skiles, Theresa
Slaybaugh, Rev.
*Smith, Margaret nee Handy (Mrs. Ron)
Sparks, Austin
Sparks, Charles
Sparks, Mary (nee Betts)
Struble, Frank
Struble, Mrs. Frank
Strawe, Beulah
Strawe, George
Strawe, Lewis-*Frances Strawe
Stroh, Helen
Sutton, Delores
Swick, Donald
Swick, Lyle
Swick, Mary
Swick, Tom
Swick, Barbara Jean
Swick, Vivian

T Tarker, Alviea
*Tervol, Margaret (Married Boyer)
Tervol, Tommy
Tompkins, Julius (Duke)
Trim, Delphinin
*Troll, Robert
*Troll, Judy nee Rody

U *Unger, Joan nee Scott

V *Van Aken Cheryl
*Van Aken, Dennis
Van Aken, Sue
Van Voorhis, Dorothy

W Walworth, Reta
Waltz, Betty Lou
Waltz, Charles
Waltz, Mrs. Charles (Bessie)
Waltz, Jean
*Waltz, Robert
*Current member

W Waltz, Dan
*Wanholm, Tony (Wife Edith-see Strawe)
Warren, Mary W.
Warren, W.
Waterhouse, Christy Marie
Waterhouse, Ellen Robin
Waterhouse, Mary
Waterhouse, Rev. Robert
Waterhouse, Robert Jr.
*Watson, Fran
*Watson, Peggy
*Watson, Walter
*Weaver, David
Weaver, Reta
Webber, Ms.
Welker, Adoniram Judson
Welker, Eveline
Welker, Francis
Welker, Lorenzo W.
Welker, Loretta
Welker, Mary Ann
Welker, William N.
Whaley, Earl
Whaley, John
Whaley, Lucy
Whaley, Rhoda
Whaley, Stella
Woodcox, Mae
Wright, Earl
Wright, Leona
*Webber, Amber
Z Zeiter, Elva



Pastor Slaybaugh-1st resident of new parsonage.

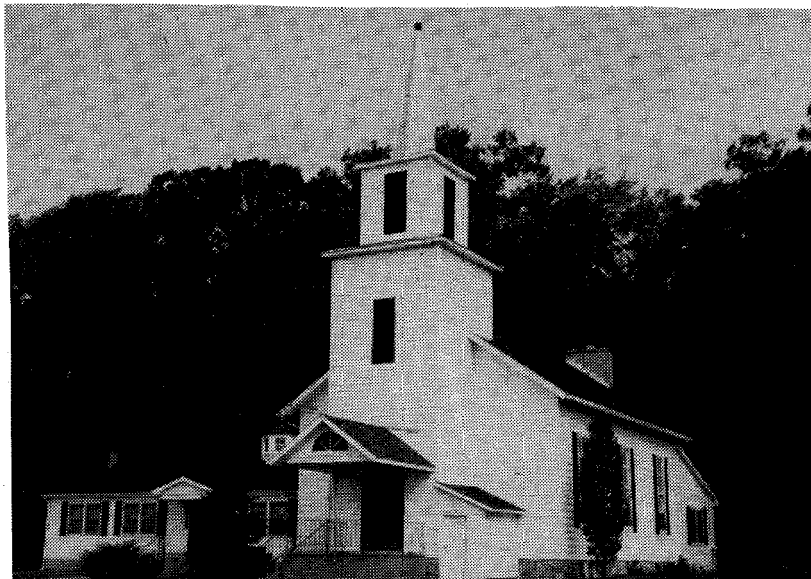
RESOURCES FOR FURTHER READING ABOUT CLEAR LAKE

HISTORICAL SKETCHES, a 3 volumn set of early history of the area by Lee S. Duguid. He now resides in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. It is in the Branch Co. Michigan library and in the library in Angola, In.

STEBEN COUNTY HISTORY, a volumn in the library at Angola. It has articles by Dr. O. I. Laird, Earl McNaughton and a history of the Borton Family and Bowensburg.

CLEAR LAKE -50TH ANNIVERSARY, a booklet that celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Clear Lake area.

HISTORY OF CLEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP by Keith Oberst. He is the oldest person in Clear Lake Township who has resided here all of his life. He was born on May 13, 1898. His son John and his wife Wave nee Huss are current members of the Clear Lake Baptist Church.



LAND PURCHASES BY THE CLEAR LAKE CHURCH

The Church property is composed of the site for the church sanctuary and education along with parsonage and church cemetery.

The site for the church sanctuary and education buildings was obtained for \$10 from Wilber and Mrs. P.P. McLouth on 5-25-1872. At that time, they lived in Ovid, Michigan.

On 2-19-1873, William N. and Mary Ann (his wife) Welker sold land for the Clear Lake Baptist Church Cemetery. The cost was \$20. Mr. Welker was the first minister of the Clear Lake Church. The cemetery is located across the road from the parsonage. It contains the remains of many former church members. A church member and Civil War veteran, Everitt Nichols is buried there. Mr. Josiah Kellogg is a Civil War veteran and he is buried there.

Land for the church parsonage was obtained from William E. and Amelia Esterline. The couple sold the site to the church for \$100 on 12-2-45.

The last piece of property that the church purchased also came for the Esterline family. On 3-18-52, they sold a strip 5 rods wide and 32 rods long. It is the land that is behind the church building and the parsonage. The cost of the extra land was \$100.

The total cost of all land was \$230.00.

All the various sites total 576 square rods. An acre is 160 square rods, so the total land owned is about 3.6 acres.

CONNECTIONS TO OUR HISTORIC PAST LIFE

By Bob Waltz

In the 1930's Roy Brown who was pastor of the Ray church also pastored the Clear Lake Baptist. He had middler daughters the ages of my sisters.

During the time (1925) Bodenhorn exchanged pastors from Pleasant Lake, In. The men of the church, including my father, used horses and slip scappers excavated beneath the church to construct the basement. Prior to that time the heating consisted of a wood burning upright. The men took turns going early on Sunday to get the fire going.

Lewis Strawe, Vere Kint and Chester Borton (George Merrill's brother-in-law) used to play Dicky on the Rock behind the church. At that time there was a L shaped horse stable to the west and north of the church.

In the 1890's my grandfather, Wilson Waltz lived on a farm north of the Sand school, which is now the site of the catholic church. My father, a teenager, and his sisters came to the Clear Lake Baptist Church. My mother, Bessie Cook, although living in Michigan on our present ancestral acres, along with her five sisters, were brought to the church in a buggy by my grandmother. It was there that my father became acquainted with my mother which later resulted in marriage. Of course, my parents graves are in the cemetary across the road.

CONNECTIONS TO OUR HISTORIC PAST LIFE

By Norman Boyer

The proudest moment was to see my mother and oldest son Mark baptized on October 9, 1966. Mom was 52 and Mark 14. The service was held at Banker's Baptist Church.

I remember the work bees by the men of the church. The men I recall were Tony Wanholm, John Oberst, Ray Hilderbrant, Basil Fansler, Charlie Waltz, Bob Waltz, Harry Esterline and of course some I forgot.

We painted the church 4 or 5 times and cut wood more times too. I wired the basement of the parsonage and Basil and I worked till 3 a.m. one Saturday laying flooring time and repainting the kitchen so the minister could live there.

When I put sanctuary lights on 3 way switches, I found one-eighth inch bronze tubing running to 4 spots. Later I found out from Tony what it was for. The church had gas lights from a crude deal out back where they would mix carbide and the water to make gas. It was a little better than the kerosene lights it replaced. The kerosene light holder was up there too. It had a rope to lower it down to light and fill. It had 4 or 5 arms with a light at each arm. I remember building fires for Sunday services. Tony did it for years and years. I offered to help after I joined the church. I always rushed the fire and would have the furnace red hot, so Tony left me have Jan. and Feb. Tony would start his fire at 4 a.m. and mine would be 5-5:30 a.m.

Boyer

I stayed right with the fire and would bring a fan from home to blow the air over the only register to heat the church. About 8 a.m. I would go home and get my family, changed my clothes and come back for Sunday services to a warm church. One of the first things we bought for the church was a new fan. It is still here-it has a melted grill from the red hot furnace. I forgot and got it too close to the furnace once.

We had a preacher, Mr. Schobert who wired the parsonage basement with TV wire to run a small wood shop.

Some of the other men who helped on work bees were Mr. Locksley, Will Nichols and Jay Baker.

I miss the garden type flowers that Tony and Edith always brought to church every Sunday, all summer long for 30 years. I guess we all will have to get old too. I was baptized and joined the church on September 2, 1956 by Ken Brouse the pastor at Laird's Landing at Little Long Lake.



Pastor Liske
1961-1963
Wife Karen.
Children -
Deborah,
Karl and
Mary

CONNECTIONS TO OUR HISTORIC PAST LIFE

By Lois Billings

The first time we were at the church, the Hardy's invited us to the Fellowship Supper during the time Ferris Liske was here. We came into the church by letter during the ministry of Mr. Kerr.

Our daughter, Teresa was married to David Gardiner on August 15, 1970 at the church. Rev. Bill Schobert was the officiating minister at the time.

Dr. Charles Billings, my late husband, passed away in 1973 after a long illness. Rev. Chester Newcombe had just come back here and they and the members became my support family. I love this church.

Lois Billings.



Building prior to new entryway

CONNECTIONS TO OUR HISTORIC PAST LIFE

By Lee S. Duguid

George Duguid was born in 1884, the son of Wilson and Lida Duguid. George married Edna nee Miller Duguid. He died in 1907. His son was Frederick.

George and Edna Duguid had Frederick born to them in 1905 and Mildred in 1907. They lost their father at a very early age.

I know Fred attended school in Ray and maybe Mildred too.

Knowing Aunt Lida (a Baptist) and a real humanitarian--she would have helped greatly in rearing the children. AND - that they would have been in attendance at many Clear Lake Baptist affairs. I myself attended in 1920 and remember Lida and Wilson having been in attendance. Wilson was a COVENANTER!

I want to meet you (Pastor Reed) one day. Maybe when the Tri-State Seniors congregate at your church.

Sincerely,

Lee S. Duguid

P.S. Fred and Mildred lived in Charlotte, Mi. area.

CONNECTIONS TO OUR HISTORIC PAST LIFE

By Mrs. Flossie (Emrich) Fansler and the
Emrich Families.

My memories of Clear Lake Baptist Church go back to the late 1920's and the early 30's when I was a grade school student at Sand school. The school was located where the Catholic Church now stands, about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile west of the Baptist Church.

I remember going to Sunday School and church during the winter when everyone gathered around the big heat register at the front of the auditorium. The building was heated by a giant gravity furnace directly beneath the register. Many folks walked to church, so this was our way of getting thawed out. No one claimed the back rows in those days.

I remember the Sunday School superintendant W.E. Esterline who almost always opened the service by asking the folks to turn to page 175 in the hymnal. "Around the Throne of God in Heaven" was the title. Mrs. Esterline was the teacher of the class I was in. We all loved her.

I remember, before the days of electricity, the church was lighted by gas lamps. Seems I remember three lamps being on each side.

In those days, while attending Sand School, as the teacher Edna Pocock was preparing for the annual Christmas program, she would dismiss the children an hour or so early on certain days, so we could go down to the church to practice. The program was always given at the church. Parents and friends filled the church to watch our efforts as we portrayed such programs as Charles Dickens "Christmas Carol".

Fansler

There was always a Christmas tree, treats and gifts. Every child received some small gift from the teacher, maybe a pretty hanky, bottle of perfume, or a knife. I don't know what other gifts the boys received. It was always a most joyous time for everyone.

All this time the folks who had come in a buggy or wagon, had their horses tied in the shelter for the purpose on the west side of the church.

Sometime later we formed a young peoples group and had meetings each Sunday evening. It was called BYPU (Baptist Young Peoples Union). At one time Clive and Bessie Guise were our sponsors. We had banquets, game parties and rollerskating parties for entertainment.

The most important event for me at Clear Lake was in 1936 when Rev. J.M. Wells of Hillsdale College held special meetings at the church. That was the time I accepted Christ as my Savior. He later held a baptismal service at Reading Baptist Church. Several young folks were baptised.

The song "Precious Memories" comes to mind as I reminisce about the memories I hold dear of Clear Lake Baptist Church.

Note: Flossie had a brother Ray Emrich, a sister Margaret Swick and a sister, Dorothy (Mrs. Jerome) Newbauer. Dorothy is still an active member of Clear Lake Baptist.

CONNECTIONS TO OUR HISTORIC PAST LIFE

By John Oberst

The cemetery lies across the road from the parsonage and the church. It is the final resting place of some of the dedicated and faithful members and leaders of the church, namely Charles and Bessie Waltz, O.I. and Hazel Laird, Frank and Dora Handy and one of our pastors, William Schobert died while serving here on April 7, 1971.

There are other burials there, but these I mention because I was acquainted with them and have a happy memory about them.

Many other faithful members are buried in the Ray cemetery - now known as the Covenant-er Cemetery, located 2 miles west of the Clear Lake church. Namely - the earlier Handy family, Duguid family, Mulchahey family, Strawe-Wanholm family, Clyde and Ethel Hobart, W.E. and Amealia Esterline, the Huffman family and the Crall family, Lloyd and Belve Rhoades and others. Also the Anspaugh family.

Lena May McNaughton (Mulchahey) has told me that children who died in the late 1800's or early 1900's from scarlet fever were buried in the cemetery, without a stone, just a wooden cross. They were in the Clear Lake Baptist Church Cemetery. There are markers now for the families of Dull, Haines, Handy, Johnson, Kellogg, Laird, McLain, Nichols, Schobert, Springer, Waltz and Welker. According to the stone, the oldest grave is a Lorenzo W, son of W. N. and M.A. Welker - August 22, 1872.

The latest burial was that of Bessie Waltz, December 1972.

CONNECTIONS TO OUR HISTORIC PAST LIFE

By Margaret nee Handy (Mrs. Ronnie)Smith

My earliest memories of attending Sunday School are in the early 1920's, when I was about 4 or 5, but I'm sure I'd attended before that with my mother and father, Frank and Dora Handy. The church and the old steps faced south at that time. I can recall climbing the big steps while my mother drove the horse and buggy around to the north side of the building to the stabel where the horses were kept during services. The outdoor plumbing was behind the church too, his and hers!

I can remember going to Sunday School by bobsled, or simply walking in fair weather, a distance of a mile or so.

Inside the church two round, oak stoves at the rear of the sancutary provided the only heat. The lights, called carbide lamps, were lighted by a torch. Later a furnace was installed and on cold winter mornings, one surely hoped Tony Wanholm had been there early and built a fire. The original pews were made of light oak. When our church was remodeled not long ago, the pews were removed and sold. My son, Fred Smith, restored one and it is a delightful heirloom and conversation piece.

Some of my family ancestors were co-founders and workers in establishing the church. My grandparents, Hiram and Nell Handy were regular attenders. One had to have a sound reason to stay home from Sunday School, as my grandmother was strong! In the early years the school for the youngsters was in the basement.

Smith

The first Sunday School teacher I can remember was Mrs. William Esterline. She and her husband were very active in the church. Other members I recall were the George Strawe family, Charles Waltz family, Mrs. Lila Duguid and her sister from Ray, In., Mrs. (Doctor) McTaggart, Fannie Kint and her son Vere. Awhile later, the Will Nichols family was also active, as were Rimer and Madalyn Bryan.

I'm sure Frank Handy, my father, was one of the first organists in the church. He played the pump organ, the kind where you play the keys and pump the foot pedals at the same time, a far cry from today's organ.

Many years ago, we were in the midst of our Christmas entertainment when there came a long groaning sound, then a sharp "crack" and the floor at the front of the church dropped away underneath us, sending the piano sliding away toward the center of the floor. A great cloud of dust arose, and a few of the fuller figured ladies, swiftly made their way to the back of the church. The men rushed down to the basement to see how it happened. They discovered that one of the old iron support posts had rusted through and collapsed into itself. With the extra weight of Christmas churchgoers and the bustling activity, the strain had been too much. The floor had dropped a full 8 inches.

One fine summer morning, we were having Sunday service with special musical entertainment by a tall, distinguished gentleman. He settled himself on a chair in the front of the congregation and began a somewhat lengthy program comprised of playing his cello

with broad,rasping strokes of the bow across the bass strings,interspersed with dramatic poetic recitations of his own composition. This continued for quite some time. After services,he informed us he had demonstrated his musical and poetic talents to a bonafied "critic" who had pronounced him a "natural." Truer words were never spoken. Obviously,his cultural accomplishments were beyond our humble scope of understanding.

I've made a few mistakes myself in the music department. For one service,I began to play a hymn in a common key, while the congregation was trying to sing it in another key,the one written in the hymnal. Years back,the local Farm Bureau held its regular meeting in our church. A lot of local talent was displayed for entertainment. Some of us gained much experience from that.

At special times of the year,programs were put on with much practice.A couple of names come to mind here, Mrs. Beverly Fansler and Mrs. Maxine Barry. We also enjoyed monthly suppers in the basement.

Through the years there have been many faithful people who have donated much time and effort to the church. I can recall being acquainted with 16 different ministers,each doing his job in his own time and way. Our edifice has been richly blessed by people who were willing to serve God and man with their financial and spiritual support and labor. For this, we all say , "Thank you."

We are privileged to have our minister from Coldwater,Michigan,Pastor Warner Reed,and his wife Jane Reed. They have dedicated themselves to the upbuilding of our sanctuary,and more importantly,to the spiritual uplifting of our members.

To them we say, "Much praise and love."
They are truly dedicated to God's grace.

I am happy to have been a part of the Clear
Lake Baptist Church and have enjoyed the
friendship of many people, past and present.

Sincerely,

Margaret (Handy) Smith

*Clear Lake Steuben Co, Ind.
July 2nd 1864.*

*On the second day of July 1864 after
reading the articles of faith usually adopted
by Baptist churches together with one dis-
fellowshipping Secret Societies, one dis-
fellowshipping intemperance, and one
disfellowshipping slave holders and their
apologists, a vote was called by Eld. W. V.
Welker, when nineteen persons rep-
resented themselves as willing to as-
sist on the above named articles of
faith at some future time in the
formation of a gospel church, believe
said articles of faith to contain the true
basis of a gospel church.*

*On the thirty first day of July 1864
at the school house three quarters of a
mile east of Clear Lake, a goodly num-
ber of brethren and sisters being present
a vote was called by Eld. W. V. Welker
in which the above named persons*

July 2, 1864 - First Church Clerk's notes



.... THE....

Sunday School Convention

.... FOR....

CLEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP

WILL BE HELD AT THE

✻ BAPTIST CHURCH ✻

Saturday, November 19th. 1898.

✻ PROGRAM ✻

10:00 A. M.—Devotional Service by

Song Service, led by Isa Betts, organist.

Address by the President.

Address by the County President.

Recitation by member of Saints' S. S.

What are the duties of the Superintendant? by
..... John Betts

Discussion.

Essay by Christie Judson Dist. No. 2.

✻ DINNER HOUR ✻

1:15 P. M.—General business and election of officers.

Fruits of the Sunday School. . . . L. C. Stump.

Recitation by teacher or scholar Dist. No. 1.

Recitation by member of Sugar Grove S. S.

What is the Sunday School's greatest need? by
..... Otto Storey.

Recitation by teacher or scholar Dist. No. 3.

Recitation by member of Baptist S. S.

Home Class Department, by Mrs. Mary Gowthrop and Mrs. Mary Robinett.

Recitation by Nettie McNaughton Dist. No. 4.

✻ Bring Gospel Hymns.

DAVID MCELHENIE, President.



L. C. STUMP, PRINTER.

Clear Lake Baptist Church

The Organo is a gift of Mr. F. C. Lowrey

The building of the Parsonage was made possible by
donation from Mr. Lowrey, in memory of his wife,
Eva Phillips Lowrey.

The Parsonage building site was given by Dr. and Mrs. O. J. Laird

DEDICATION SERVICE

Sunday, September 4, 1949

Prelude — "Jesu, Priceless Treasure"
"O, Sacred Head" Bach

Hymn No. 140

Scripture Reading Rev. L. S. Slabaugh

Prayer Rev. E. A. Kelford

Church Choir — "In My Father's House are Many Mansions"

Report on the building of the Parsonage E. C. Hobart

Guitar Trio — "If You Want Joy"
Jo Ann, Janis and Beverly Williams

Duet — "Medley of Choruses" The Williams Twins

Offertory — "Childrens' Prayer" Humperdinck

Dedication of Organo — "When Children Pray" Fenner

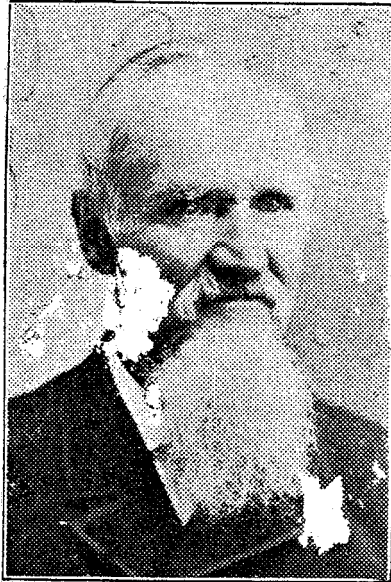
Dedication Sermon Rev. R. J. Karney

Hymn No. 160

Postlude — "Triumphal March" Grieg

ORGANISTS:— Bessie Guise and Richard Hobart

George Handy



George Handy was born in the town of Parma, Monroe county, N. Y., January 6, 1829, and came with my parents to Steuben county, Ind., in the fall of 1851. He lived at Pleasant Lake through the winter, then moved to Rockville, at that time Fremont, local name, remaining there until 1900. Since that time he has lived in the village of Ra-

Picture of
a Charter
Member.

On October 15, 1851, was united in marriage to Eliza Hathaway. To this union were born four children, three of whom died in infancy. Sept. 20, 1858, my wife followed her little ones through the gateway of death leaving me with one child and many friends to mourn our loss. March 9, 1859, I was united in marriage to Martha Brown. To this union were born three children, one of whom died in early life. November 24, 1896, my wife left the world of trials for that land beyond leaving me with two daughters and one son, Henry S. Handy, Lida Duguid and Mary McTaggart with whom I am spending the closing years of his life.

In the year 1864 there was a Baptist church organized in Clear Lake, Indiana, of which I was one of the constituent members and I can say that it gives me pleasure to meet with the few who are trying to hold up the standard of the Lord. I can say with the poet:

I love thy kingdom Lord,
The house of thine abode;
The church our blessed redeemer saved

With his own precious blood.

(Written by himself, Feb. 5, 1906.)

After an illness of fourteen weeks, on the morning of November 1, 1918, with his two daughters and their husbands at his bedside, the "silver cord" broke and his spirit took its flight to meet the loved ones gone before and the Christ whom he had loved and served so many, many years. Aged 89 years, 9 months and 25 days.

He leaves to mourn his departure two daughters, their husbands, one daughter-in-law, his son, Henry Spencer having preceded him on Feb. 22, 1918, six grandchildren and fifteen great grandchildren besides many near relatives and a host of friends.

He was a great temperance worker and a charter member of the prohibition party. His sterling christian character made him beloved by all who knew him.

Funeral services were held at the home Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock, Rev. Mr. Cutler, of Bronson, Mich., a former pastor of the Clear Lake Baptist church officiating, assisted by Rev. E. M. Rhoades, of Pleasant Lake, the present pastor. The choir furnished music. Interment in the ... cemetery.



Y thoughts go to you, my friend, this happy Christmas time, wishing you joy in all your deeds and days; wishing you time for the task, wisdom for the work, peace for the pathway, friends for the fireside, and love for the home.

C. A. EHRHARDT
1935

BOOK MARK

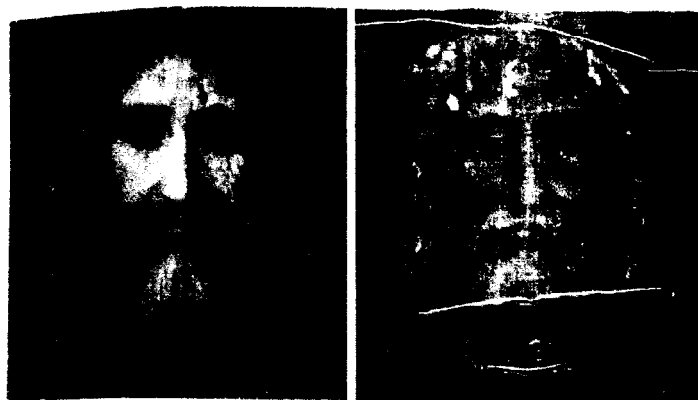
Clear Baptist Church Lake

E. A. KELFORD, Pastor
MOTTO FOR 1930
"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God..and thy neighbor." --Jesus

BOOK MARK



Pastor and Mable Newcombe
1951-55 and 1973-78



An
artist's depiction
of Christ resem-
bles the face on
the Shroud
(right), which
seems to have
served as a mod-
el for artists as
early as the 5th C.

Addendum

In 1992 work began on a new sanctuary and a walk-out lower level banquet room. A special feature of the new addition is the many stained glass windows salvaged from several municipal churches and donated by the First National Bank of Fremont. The new sanctuary was dedicated in July of 1994. Recently the old "Michigan basement" underneath the 1872 sanctuary was "remodeled" to be a "root cellar" –a dedicated meeting area for the youth.

In January 2002, Pastor Gary Hoffman replaced Pastor Warner Reed after 21 years of dedicated service. In June of 2005 Pastor William Case was invited to serve. We welcome Pastor Case and his wife Ann to Clear Lake Baptist Church. Pastor Bill holds a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Master of Christian Ministry degree from Huntington College, Huntington, Indiana. His most recent pastorate was at New Hope United Brethren Church, Camden, Michigan, where he served for 11 years as Senior Pastor and Superintendent of New Hope Christian School.

Pastor Bill has been married to his wife Ann for over 30 years and together have three grown children: Jennie, Mindy and Daniel. Besides being a minister and teacher of God's Word, his interests include personal computer systems, construction and being a private pilot.