



First Presbyterian Church

124 W. Broadway Street . . . Shelbyville, Indiana 46176 . . . (317)398-8224

History

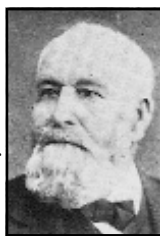
The following history of First Presbyterian Church of Shelbyville was researched, written, and/or updated in the following years—late 1800s, 1924, 1974, 1998 and 2008. Dr. James A. Schumacher, John R. Wetnight, Sr. (deceased), Frances “Tad” Bryant (deceased) updated the history for the 150th celebration in 1974. John Ervin compiled and edited the various accounts for the 175th celebration in 1998; and Carolyn Perry English researched session minutes and the history of Mahala Apple; J. M. “Mac” McKeand assisted Carolyn English in updating the history. All previous accounts have been combined and edited by Emily McKeand Campbell, Bill and Carolyn Perry English, Sandy Learned, and Judy Wasson Mitchell. 2/24/2008.

On the morning of July 7, 1824 the church began in a log cabin belonging to Senah and Zebulon Wallace of Hendricks Township. Shelbyville did not exist as an incorporated town, but Shelby County had been settled for several years. Thought to have met while waiting for the land office at Brookville, Indiana to open, Wallace, Thomas Vaughn, and ten other neighbors saw a need for a spiritual bond in the community they settled.

The organizing pastor of the church was Rev. John McElroy Dickey. In his essay, “Pioneer Presbyterians in Indiana,” Dr. James A. Woodburn describes Rev. Dickey as “the Father of Indiana Presbyterianism”. In 1824 alone, he organized the churches of Columbus, Franklin, and New Providence, near Shelbyville. Living largely on what he was able to earn by farming, Rev. Dickey preached two and often three times each week at a salary of \$80 per year. He could not come every Sunday because he preached in other cabins and formed other congregations. Walking from place to place, he led a horse on which his wife rode. He carried only four books, the *Bible*, a theological *Bible*, the *Catechism*, and John Bunyon’s *Pilgrim’s Progress*. After his wife died young, he remarried and had eleven children, one of whom followed him into the ministry as did a grandson. In addition to preaching, he taught singing, made wills and deeds, surveyed land, and sometimes taught school. A brief but invaluable history of the Presbyterian Church in Indiana is part of his legacy to modern members of that church. Subsequently, Rev. James M. Duncan served the church from 1827-1828.

In 1829, under the leadership of the Rev. Samuel Lowery, the church would be located at the new county seat. The church was moved to Shelbyville and was called, “The First Presbyterian Church of Shelbyville, Indiana.”

Rev. Bush served as pastor for a brief time in 1829 prior to the calling of a resident minister. Then in that same year, the Rev. Eliphalet Kent, or Father Kent, came to the church as the first



Eliphalet Kent

clergyman to have real charge of the church. He was sent by the Home Missionary Society in New York and served other churches in the neighborhood, also. He and his wife came by steamboat down the Ohio River arriving at Madison in the night. He bought a horse, saddle, and bridle for \$35 and started for Shelbyville, leading the horse on which his wife rode. They roomed and boarded with Dr. S. B. Morris for three months before moving into a small brick building where Mrs. Kent opened a school. Of the 700 inhabitants in Shelbyville at the time, only eight families were Presbyterian. There was only one frame house and quite a few scattered log cabins. Services were at first held in homes and then in the schoolhouse—which measured 10 by 26 feet. Finally, they were held in the old courthouse. Father Kent also formed the church at Boggstown. His ministry to the Shelbyville church ended in 1835.

In 1839, the worshipers felt the congregation should have a permanent house of worship. The trustees purchased the entire square of ground bounded by Harrison Street, Jackson Street, and an alley. The money for this project was secured from four gentlemen of the congregation. The corner lots were sold to help defray the purchase price, leaving the center for the proposed church. County historians give much credit to Thomas Vaughn, one of the trustees and an original founder, for the construction of the building. Even though he lived some miles away on the Brandywine River and operated a gristmill and sawmill, he came every day the weather permitted to oversee the progress.

The first church building was constructed in 1840 on a site which would now be behind the bank at 102 S. Harrison Street. The 40’ X 50’ frame building was constructed for \$2,500. It was set on wooden blocks five feet high to raise it above the swampy ground. A flight of wooden steps nearly as wide as the building



1840—1853



(History of First Presbyterian Church of Shelbyville continued)

led to the door. The exterior was of unplanned lumber. A plain cupola adorned the roof housing the first church bell in Shelbyville. The bell, cast by C. W. Coffin in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1849, is the same bell ringing today in the present building at 124 West Broadway.



1849—Present

From 1835 to 1850, the church was served by a number of preachers: William M. Woods, Wells Bushnell, Joseph Monfort, Charles McKinney, Samuel Orr, Abraham Thomas Hendricks, James Gilchrist, and John Wampler. Hendricks was a brother of the U.S. Vice-president and a graduate of Hanover College. He was one of the first preachers to receive training west of the Alleghenies.

The congregation prospered such that in 13 short years the building was deemed insufficient. Again the trustees decided to build if enough money could be raised, and again Thomas Vaughn pledged \$500. However, Samuel Hamilton subscribed the largest amount. An Irish immigrant, he had become prominent with his furniture factory. Because many in the congregation wished the new church to be on a corner, the lot at the corner of Harrison and Jackson Streets was repurchased. Rev. John C. Caldwell led the church (1851-1856) at the time that the second building was constructed. In 1853, a new, larger Greek Revival church was built at that same location.



1853—1885

A building contract, totaling \$4,000, was awarded to Malone and Baker, and it took almost two years to complete and pay for the building. As always, women of the congregation did their share and raised some \$500 for the purchase of furniture and other needs. The new building was dedicated on September 1, 1853.



Rev. C. Caldwell

From 1856-1857 Rev. William Bishop presided over the congregation, followed by Rev. Charles P. Jennings that same year. Others followed, and during the Civil War, the Rev. James Smythe was the pastor, adding many to the membership. During his term the building was repaired and improved when heating stoves



Rev. Jennings

gave way to a furnace, and a pipe organ was installed at a cost of \$1,030. Rev. Jennings returned in 1866-1869 to again lead the congregation.

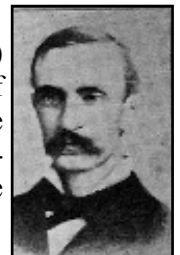
For a period of years our city had a Second, or German Presbyterian Church. Organized in 1867 by Rev. Francis F. Friedgen, the German Church conducted services for a while in the original First Presbyterian Church sanctuary. In 1872, the German Church erected a brick building at 268 East Washington Street. As time passed and the members learned English, need for a German-language church diminished; the two Presbyterian groups merged in 1908. The original building still stands today but is no longer known as the German Church. It is used by a Methodist group.

In 1870, the Rev. James Walker was pastor and the first manse was purchased. Under Rev. Sluter the church was redecorated and a Sabbath school library of 700 to 800 books was acquired. During his nine-year stay, nearly 100 were added to the membership.

In the years, 1824-1874, the church grew from its infancy into full-blown maturity. The Spirit of the Living God and the faith of the early settlers grew during these years.

Rev. George Sluter, A.M., who served as pastor during the period of 1871-1880, is regarded as Shelby County's first historian. He assisted in the compilation of the first "History of Shelby County," an unpublished work completed in 1876. In 1880, Rev. Sluter provided the text for a "Shelby County Atlas," the first published work dealing with local history.

Rev. George Marsh (1880-1883) laid the groundwork for movement of the church from downtown Shelbyville to its present location at 124 W. Broadway. He is the only pastor to die while serving the congregation.



Rev. Marsh

In 1884 the First Presbyterian Church built, furnished, and supported a Mission Chapel on the east side of town to provide a place of worship and church school for the residents in that area. It is still standing at the corner of Vine and Franklin Streets and is used by a Methodist group.

The present building at 124 W. Broadway began with a congregational meeting on April 15, 1884. At first, the decision to move was met with opposition from some of the congregation who felt it was too far out in the country and away from where most members lived. However, the new church was built in a little over nine months at a cost of \$22,000 and was dedicated in April 1885. The dedication service included ministers from many of the Shelbyville



(History of First Presbyterian Church of Shelbyville continued)

churches. In the afternoon at least 800 people attended Sabbath School. All other Sabbath Schools in the city were dismissed. Father Kent, the first full-time minister, was in attendance.

Originally, the congregation faced Jackson Street. Those entering from Broadway came into the rear of the sanctuary. The area of the present chancel, between the two Broadway doors, was a large open Sunday School room for boys. Girls at that time were not allowed to go to Sunday School. The large stained glass window, which we can see now only from Broadway on the outside, was visible from within. The floor was level and the pulpit was on the north side, where we now enter the Sunday School building.



1885—Present

Rev. Marsh's successor, Rev. Thomas L. Hughes (1883-1892) assisted greatly in the completion of the sanctuary in 1884 at a cost of \$22,000.

Rev. Hughes devoted considerable energy toward the cleanup of local politics and delivered several sermons on the evils of vote buying, betting, and boodling (bribing). Incidentally, in 1886 when another church issued a call to Rev. Hughes, the church voted NOT to break its pastoral ties with him—a rather unusual development.



Rev. Hughes

About this time, our church decided to do away with "family pews" and opted for a democratic seating arrangement.

When this church building was constructed, members of the congregation made donations to purchase the church pews. The people got into their heads that they owned a certain pew. When they came to church and someone was sitting in their pew, they would make the people move. The minister had to explain from the pulpit several different times that "no one owns these pews."

Following Rev. Hughes were Rev. Albert Pfanstiehl (1892-1894), Dr. John C. Caldwell (1894-1899), Rev. Martin Luther Tressler (1899-1902), Rev. Walter E. Price (1903-1906), and Rev. L. O. Richmond (1907-1910).

It is interesting to note that in 1902 the total expense budget was \$3,451.22. An additional \$1,751.00 was contributed to benevolences, which indicated a strong support of that program on the part

of the membership.

On April 5, 1905, the congregation discussed the need for a Sunday School addition. The Sunday School treasury had a balance of \$1,252 which might be used for such a facility. Nothing was decided until the next congregational meeting on April 4, 1906. At that time, F. C. Sheldon reported he had made a rough sketch of a possible Sunday School room and asked architect D. A. Bohlen of Indianapolis for a cost estimate.

On May 1, 1906, a special congregational meeting was held to hear the report of the building committee. The rough draft had not yet been finalized, but the committee reported that \$5,700 had been secured. Sentiment was not in favor of a new church school building, so a motion was made and passed to receive the report but to disband the committee.

At that point, there was an earnest appeal from the minister and moderator, the Rev. Walter W. Price, stressing the need of a new facility for the church school. Following that appeal, Mr. Enos Porter made a new motion saying, "that the church officers again appoint a committee of five to procure plans and specifications for the proposed building which is to be the Sunday School building erected on the lot behind the church and that said committee make a thorough canvass of the members of the congregation for funds to erect said building and that the committee report the results of the canvass in six weeks to the congregation. If ninety percent of the estimated cost could not be subscribed, the matter would be dropped." The motion was passed.

The problem concerning funds was solved when Mahala Apple, widow of Daniel Apple, made known the intention of her will: "All residue of my estate both real and personal, I direct that my executor (F. C. Sheldon) shall convert into cash, and the proceeds thereof after the payment of debts and the cost of the execution of my will and the administration of my estate, I do will and bequeath absolutely to the First Presbyterian Church of Shelbyville, Indiana;



Apple Sunday School Entry

that the same shall be used and expended by the trustees of said church, in the erection of a Sunday School building. I desire and direct that when said building is completed, it shall be known as 'The Apple Memorial Sunday School Building'."

Mrs. Apple was born in Ohio, but lived most of her life in Rush County. The Apples had three children, all of whom died at a very early age. At the time of her husband's death, she moved to Shelby-



(History of First Presbyterian Church of Shelbyville continued)

ville where she lived at 162 West Hendricks Street. Besides her home, she owned a 200 acre farm in Rush County at the time of her death in 1916 at the age of 89.

With the assurance of funds, the project was completed in 1909 at a cost of \$22,000. On the main floor and balcony there were 20 classrooms, a cloak-room, and a secretary's office. An auditorium faced north and spanned the central portion of the main floor with classrooms around the outside of that area.. The basement contained a new kitchen and fellowship hall. In addition, a new pipe organ was installed



Sunday School Auditorium



Upstairs Sunday School Rooms



"Roll-top" divider between the Sunday School auditorium and the back of the sanctuary

and other alterations were made to the existing building including removal of the east stairway (by the Apple entry) extending from the basement to the balcony.

Rev. Louis O. Richmond served two separate terms; the first from 1907 to 1910. Between his calls, the Rev. Earl North (1910-1916) and Dr. Albert F. vonTobel served.

Rev. Earl North served the church until he left to become Chaplain of the Michigan City State Prison. It was about this time that Mrs. Mahala Apple bequeathed \$25,000 to the church, and the Sunday School entrance on the east side of the church was erected.

Rev. North was followed by Rev. Albert F. vonTobel, who served until 1925, when Rev. Richmond was called for a second time to the pulpit of the church, Mrs. vonTobel led the choir, and was considered a very accomplished musician.

It is interesting to note that an Automobile Sunday was held on the first Sunday of June, 1917. Those members who had "machines" parked in front of the church and Dr. vonTobel preached an appropriate sermon. Then on the first Sunday in July, all members met at 10:15 with their "machines" into which the entire congregation squeezed and all went to a

grove about six miles away for a pitch-in dinner and worship.

During the pastorate of Dr. Albert vonTobel, the church celebrated its first one hundred years on July 7, 1924.

The next year, Dr. vonTobel resigned as pastor, and Dr. Louis O. Richmond was once again called. He had previously served the church from 1907-1910 when a fine organ was installed and the Sunday School building was constructed at a total cost of \$22,000. During Dr. Richmond's second term (1925-1934), the church reached one of the highest membership peaks in its history with 664 members. Also during this term, the pews were turned around to face Broadway and the floor was raked or slanted to afford a better view of the minister and choir. This also made the rear of the sanctuary the same level as the new addition. Dr. Richmond was one of the best loved of all pastors to date. In 1933, a special congregational meeting was held and his resignation was read. The church refused to release him from his duties, but a little later the congregation gave in tearfully. After retiring and returning to Shelbyville to live, he was elected Pastor Emeritus.



Dr. L. O. Richmond

Did you know that during the Depression the church had a play shop? The "Broadway Players" helped keep people busy, as there was not much money to spend. Marian McFadden was one of the production directors. One of the actresses was Lela McKeand, who was a member of this church from 1930 until her death in 2001. Graham Lemmon built and furnished the sets and was stage manager. In December 1932 their productions were "Far Away Princess" and "Indian Summer."

In March 1934, Dr. Charles Bowler was elected to be pastor. The church inherited the John Tindall Farm of 191 acres located on east State Road 44, and the sanctuary was completely redecorated at a cost of \$1,105. In 1940 Scout Troop 202 was formed and then met regularly at the church. The new manse on West Washington Street near the hospital was bought in 1947 for \$22,000. The entire outside of the church as well as the steeple were repaired, and the original stained glass windows were sent to an Indianapolis firm for restoration at a cost of \$2,766.25.



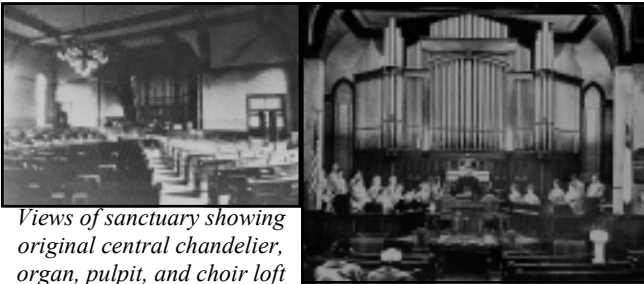
Dr. Charles Bowler

During Dr. Bowler's stay, a beautiful cross was



(History of First Presbyterian Church of Shelbyville continued)

given by the Sheldon Bible Class, and a silver tea set was donated by an attorney, Herbert Jones, in memory of his wife. The Emma Reimann Class gave the church an acousticon with four head phones. A new communion set was bought at this time as well as new choir robes. At that time the choir consisted of a paid quartet, made up of members from as far away as Indianapolis. Mr. Enos Porter underwrote the expense of the musical program, which thrived during this period of the church's life.



Views of sanctuary showing original central chandelier, organ, pulpit, and choir loft

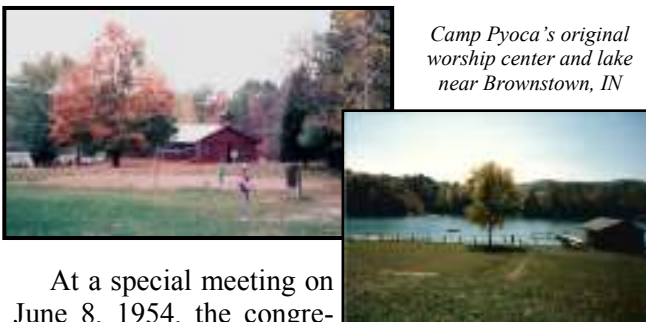
The Trustees' meetings during Dr. Bowler's day were often elaborate dinner parties, which were held at the Elk's Club, the Country Club, and in various homes.

The Bowlers were in Shelbyville for fifteen years and were highly regarded. Dr. Bowler is remembered for his good sermons and excellent book reviews at various clubs and civic functions in the city.

The Rev. Roscoe Wolvington served as pastor of the church from 1949 to 1959. One very important aspect of Rev. Wolvington's work was connected with the development of Camp Pyoca as a major project of the Synod of Indiana. The congregation not only encouraged Rev. Wolvington's dedication to that project but made a substantial contribution toward the building of cabins at the camp.



Rev. Roscoe Wolvington



Camp Pyoca's original worship center and lake near Brownstown, IN

At a special meeting on June 8, 1954, the congregation voted to begin a two-phase program of rebuilding the Christian Education unit and remodeling the church executive offices. The Financial Committee appointed at that time contracted Rivers Associ-

ates Fund Raisers, and in March, 1955, \$84,000 of a proposed \$125,000 was pledged.

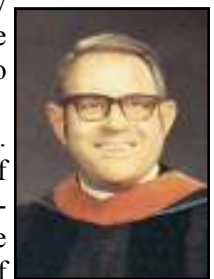
The original arrangement and structure of the pews in the sanctuary allowed limited access down a center aisle between the last four pews in the back of the church only. The remainder of the seating in front of those pews extended across that center area forcing people to retreat and go down either of the side aisles in order to reach the front of the church. When the wedding of Carolyn Perry and Bill English was being planned for summer 1955, the family wanted Carolyn to be able to walk down a center aisle. It was that year that the front pews were restructured to allow an open aisle from the back of the church to the altar for their wedding procession. This configuration is still in place today.

In 1957 at another special meeting an Organ Committee was appointed, chaired by Martin Schulz, long-time organist and music director at the church. After a year of study, the decision was made to purchase an organ from the Schantz Organ Company, Orrville, Ohio for \$37,500. A second canvass of the congregation was made by the Financial Committee and funds were raised for the organ and for remodeling the sanctuary. The remodeling program included new paint, carpet, pulpit furniture and a communion table.

It was determined that the pews were in need of refinishing because on hot summer days clothing would stick to the back of the pews which were covered in several coats of old varnish. Carolyn English recalls that before you could stand up, you had to "peel" your garment from the back of the pew. Mr. John Preidt of Shelbyville refinished the cherry pews one at a time throughout the 1958-59 remodeling project. He would remove one pew to restore and return a completed one. For the entire year there was always at least one pew missing each Sunday. Everyone just hoped it wasn't "theirs".

The three young sons of a prominent member of the church, Jim Matchett, got the idea in their heads that Martin Schulz (music director/organist) was God. Martin always entered the sanctuary from the back and walked quite heavily down the west aisle. On Sunday when Martin was following his regular routine, the Matchett boys said very loudly, "Here comes God!" The whole congregation broke out into laughter.

From 1959 until 1970, the Rev. Ronald E. Felty served as pastor of the church. During Rev. Felty's tenure, a number of members entered the Christian ministry—a direct result of the pastor's dedication to recruitment



Rev. Ronald Felty



(History of First Presbyterian Church of Shelbyville continued)

efforts. Those entering the ministry were: David Bremer, Steven Bremer, Barry Shambach, and John Tobian. In addition, Herb Wasson and Ray Sears were commissioned as lay ministers and preached in area churches.. A pastor with great interest in the media, Rev. Felty broadcast a regular radio program with a wide following here in Shelbyville. Another result of the pastor's involvement with ministerial recruitment was the development of the student intern program. This program has enriched the lives of church members through the contributions of many seminarians to church programs and worship services. Rev. Felty was very active in the Presbytery and was elected to serve as moderator of Whitewater Presbytery. Always interested in the ecumenical movement, Rev. Felty helped to originate a number of inter-faith services and served as president of the Shelby County Ministerial Association.

Rev. Felty and Rev. Wolvington were both very supportive of Hanover College and encouraged teens to consider attending that private Presbyterian college in southeastern Indiana. During the 1963-64 school year, there was a record set of 10 members from this congregation enrolled at Hanover College, including Jean Gehr, Emily McKeand, Ross Rowland, Liz Thurston, North Thurston, John Tobian, Nancy Wasson, Barbara Wetnight, Becky Whitcomb, and Roger Whitcomb. At the time, the total college enrollment was only 1,000, so it was indeed remarkable that 1% of the student body came from one small church. Following is a partial listing of other church members who attended Hanover College during those two ministries: Barbara Ewick, Bob Ewick, Larry Gehr, Bob Tobian, Pat Patterson, John Wetnight, Jr., and others.

The pastor from 1970-1976 was Dr. James A. Schumacher. Special emphasis was placed on the development of a greater sense of fellowship among the members. The establishment of a Couples' Club and programs for the whole congregation played an important role in the church during his tenure. The church served as an organizing center for the Blue River Mission Council of the Presbytery, and Dr. Schumacher was the originator of the Strategy Committee of the Presbytery. In that time Fellowship Hall was remodeled, air conditioning was added to the sanctuary, and the hymnals received new covers. John Grigsby asked the Session's permission to air condition the building for their youngest daughter Ann's wedding, cannily requesting to leave it on the following Sunday. Though the temperature was suit-



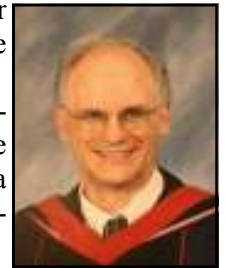
Dr. Schumacher

able for penguins the day of the meeting, Grigsby won the day and air conditioning was installed three weeks later.

Dr. Schumacher initiated an innovative evening Sunday school that brought youths to church. The church continued to play an important part in the inter-church life of the community. Dr. Schumacher served a term as president of the Shelby County Ministerial Association.

In the 1970s the Norman Thurston family donated a baby grand piano in memory of Mary Richmond Thurston. The Thurstons, who retired in Arizona, were long-time members of the church and parents of two Hanover students mentioned previously. Mary was the daughter of Louis O. Richmond, pastor from 1907-1910 and again from 1925-1934. The piano is still in use in the church parlor.

On January 11, 1976, J. M. "Mac" McKeand (1904-1988) was honored with the title of Elder Emeritus after faithfully serving as an elder numerous times since joining the church in 1927.



Rev. Huffman

In April 1977, Rev. Gary Huffman met the call to ministry at the church and remained its pastor for a record-setting 30 years before retiring in April 2007.

Among the programs begun during Rev. Huffman's ministry were

the following: increased mission projects near and far, over-55 fellowship group (CCC), expanded youth programs under the organizational leadership of Jon and Sharon Orem, a clown ministry organized by Margaret Anne Huffman and Dan and Jane Runshe, expanded music programs under the 27-year tenure of Nancy Niemann, stained glass window restoration in 1998, window replacement in the Sunday school wing, and



Restored original stained glass windows in sanctuary

new choir robes. In addition, remodeling was accomplished in the parlor, administrative offices, pastor's study, hallways, choir room, nursery, fellowship hall, and library for which Rev Huffman



Elevator addition, Gothic arches

built the wooden book shelves. In 1988, an elevator, a porte cochere, and entry hall were built at the rear of



(History of First Presbyterian Church of Shelbyville continued)

the Apple Sunday School addition. The portico's Gothic arches repeat the windows in the sanctuary.

During this time, long-time member Mrs. Dorothy Trueb



Dorothy Trueb's Noah's Ark painting

donated stained glass transoms over the sanctuary vestibule doors as a gift in memory of her husband Jack Trueb, owner of Trueb Service

Electric, the electrical contractor for the 1958-59 remodeling program. Dorothy also painted the Noah's Ark mural in the west classroom immediately north of the sanctuary. That room has come to be known as the Noah's Ark Room with the beautiful painting still in tact.

Upon Rev. Huffman's retirement the basement fellowship hall was named and dedicated as Huffman Fellowship Hall.



In addition to Rev. Huffman's ministry, his wife of almost 25 years, Margaret Anne (1941-2000) contributed greatly to the spiritual growth of the congregation with her eloquent, spiritual, and devotional writing, speaking, and published works.

At the time of this 2008 history update, the Rev. Gerard Kuyk of Bloomington, Indiana is serving as Interim Pastor until a permanent pastor is called.

During the sesquicentennial celebration in 1974, Dr. James A. Schumacher, pastor at that time, made the following comments,

"At our church Sesquicentennial worship service in July, Dr. Charles Bowler commented that the only way rightly to use the past is to get a great future out of it. It is only because there is a future that the past has meaning. Our church has played an important role in the life of the community because it met the needs of people. It is important for us in the years ahead to continue to extend the ministry of Christ to the physical, religious, and personal needs of people. One of the finest attributes of our church is the concern of our members for one another. In times of tragedy, illness, and death, we have stood together—a constant source of strength. May that strength and the faith that makes it possible continue and grow among us through all the years to come."

It is this spirit that has led First Presbyterian Church to continue to meet a variety of needs in the community. It has offered meeting space to numerous organizations over the years including Alcoholics Anonymous and Al-Anon, Turning Point domestic violence center, Scouts, Weight Watchers, philanthropic societies, clubs, Blue River Community Choir, community play groups for mothers and children, exercise classes, community programs, and many more. Mission outreach to a changing world through the years has included such activities as the Clown Ministry which lead worship and visited hospitals and nursing homes, a Share Your Warmth winterization program for elderly residents, a Warm Fuzzy Christmas Tree project supplying gifts for needy families, animal shelter donations, domestic and foreign mission trips, canned food collections, VBS projects, Camp Pyoca, Sanctuary of Shelbyville, and many others.

In closing, one cannot enter the sanctuary of the First Presbyterian Church of Shelbyville with its rich crimson carpeting, walnut paneling, cherry pews,

beautiful stained glass windows, rich notes of the splendid organ and piano, and the dulcet harmonies of the church choir without knowing that God, indeed, is in



His temple. But all the sensory impressions would be nothing without the spiritual leadership to reach out and meet a variety of needs in the community and to organize mission outreach to a changing world. All of these are gratifying for both the congregation and those feeling the love and warmth of a caring church. ■



Then

**First
Presbyterian
Church**



**Established
1824
Erected
1885**



Now

Pastoral Record

Rev. John McElroy Dickey	1824—1826
Rev. James M. Duncan	1827—1828
Rev. Samuel G. Lowery	1828—1829
Rev. Bush	1829
Rev. Eliphalet Kent	1829—1835
Rev. William W. Woods S.S.	1835—1838
Rev. Wells Bushnell S.S.	1838—1839
Rev. Joseph Monfort }	
Rev. Charles McKinney }	1839
Rev. Samuel Orr }	
Rev. Abraham T. Hendricks	1839—1849
Rev. James Gilchrist }	1849—1851
Rev. John Wampler }	
Rev. John C. Caldwell	6/20/1851—8/1856
Rev. William Bishop	1856—1857
Rev. Charles P. Jennings	1957
Rev. James J. Smythe	11/11/1860—1866
Rev. Charles P. Jennings	1866—1869
Rev. James Walker	1870
Rev. George Sluter	1/1/1871—9/18/1880
Rev. George D. Marsh	1880—1883
Rev. Thomas L. Hughes	12/1/1883—2/1/1892
Rev. Albert A. Pfanstiehl	10/1/1892—2/1/1894
Dr. John C. Caldwell	2/1/1894—5/15/1899
Rev. Martin Luther Tressler	9/1/1899—9/1/1902
Rev. Walter E. Price	2/1/1903—10/1/1906
Dr. Louis O. Richmond	4/1/1907—4/1/1910
Rev. Earl R. North	11/1/1910—2/15/1916
Dr. Albert F. vonTobel	10/1/1916—2/1/1925
Dr. Louis O. Richmond	4/1925—1/14/1934
Dr. Charles A. Bowler	5/16/1934—12/31/1948
Rev. Roscoe M. Wolvington	8/14/1949—2/8/1959
Rev. Ronald E. Felty	9/27/1959—1/15/1970
Dr. James A. Schumacher	6/21/1970—1976
Rev. Gary W. Huffman	4/1/1977—4/15/2007
Rev. Gerard Kuyk (interim)	8/1/2007—Present