

The Holt County Sentinel.

46TH YEAR.

OREGON, MISSOURI, FRIDAY, MAY 20, 1910.

NUMBER 2.

IN THY NAME, OH, LORD!

Dedication of New Christian Church at Oregon, Sunday, May 15, 1910—Impressive Ceremonies.

The church of God—the grandest institution among men—beautiful because of its inherent excellencies; its mission is the uplifting of humanity; it is the forerunner of organized philanthropy; its society means the companionship of the good. The home is the unit of all society, and to be a strong moral factor in the world, must have in it an altar with an open Bible upon it. The church has an individuality all its own, and in the reward which God gave to his Son on the morning of the resurrection: You may join social organizations and be uniformed; you may enroll in temperance societies and be reformed; you may join the "club" and be deformed, but you must put yourself within the influences of the church to be transformed. This great moral agency carves its pillars out of the quarry of sin. Like Paul, it stands head and shoulders above its fellows.

On Sunday last, April 15th, 1910, the first services in the new home of the Christian denomination were held, beginning with the usual Sunday school exercises. The weather was extremely unpropitious—the rain of the night previous made the roads so bad that those from a distance—Mound City, New Point, Forest City and other points were unable to attend, and while this put a "damper" on the exercises to the extent of omitting some features of the prepared program, it did not mar the interest, nor prevent the new and handsome home from being filled with friends of the church, and those of other denominations which had kindly adjourned their morning services in respect to the occasion of dedicating this church.

The dedication services proper began at 11 a. m. by an orchestra number, composed of Harvey Evans, cornetist; Gideon Kunkel, 1st violin; Abbie Greene, bass violin and Miss Mayme Greene, piano, who gave several numbers throughout the day's services.

The church choir, consisting of Perry Brooks, director, is composed of: Sopranos, Mesdames R. B. Bridgeman, Al Brooks, Bert Maple, Perry Brooks, Miss Myrtle French and Mr. Tice Speer. Altos, Mesdames Hugh Harsha, Robert Hatch, Frankie Hinde, B. H. Dawson, Tenors, Robert Hatch, Bert Maple, H. E. Denny, Al Brooks, Basses, F. L. Zeller, Hugh Harsha, B. H. Dawson. They were accompanied by the church orchestra, composed of Gideon Kunkel, violin; Abbie Greene, bass violin; James Huntsman, cornet. Mr. Tice Speer sang "The Cross of Love," a baritone solo, so acceptably that he at once became recognized as having one of the best voices in our community, and is an addition to our musical circles that will be greatly appreciated. The music, both vocal and instrumental, was an especially strong feature of the dedicatory services. The invocation was offered by Elder W. H. Hardman, and following this came the dedicatory sermon by Elder C. M. Chilton, of St. Joseph, who is recognized as one of the most brilliant and forceful pulpit orators of the state, and we regard it as especially fortunate that the organization secured his services for this occasion. He chose for his text, "Upon This Rock I Will Build My Church," and after pleasing words, relating to the beauty, tastefulness and simplicity of the edifice, he hoped that it would continue to be the center of worship and for the upbuilding of men, women and children—some were not interested in the church, believing that they could do good out of it; could live good lives and be honored citizens, and while they could do these things out of the church, it would not give eternal life. The word Christ would make you a good man and a christian home. Christ teaches love, truth, fidelity. The ordinances

of the church are your inspired obligations to the church.

All teachings of inspiration demands of man to be faithful to the church. God does this to elevate man. For our spiritual welfare we need the church.

Some men may be satisfied to think they are animals, but none are willing to think of mother as an animal. Christ built his church to complete man. It was adapted to the highest needs of man. All could find comfort and consolation in the Gospel. The church was the place in which to bring up your children—there was no place in the lodge room for them.

Can you imagine what this world would be without the church and its influence—desolate indeed. Take from the world all that has been inspired



ELDER C. M. CHILTON.

by Christ and his teachings, and you remove all that is worth a thought.

If perfection was man, we would have no need for the church; being imperfect we need the church. Christ's labors here was to put his stamp on the church. The church is the body of Christ through which He works. Through our work for the church, we show our love for Christ.

Concluding the very able sermon, Elder Chilton announced that the obligations of the church amounted to \$1,200, and asked for subscriptions to enable the payment of the debt. This was answered most liberally, by not only friends of the church, but we believe that friends of other denominations subscribed.

The benediction was offered, and



ELDER B. H. DAWSON, Pastor.

the large congregation adjourned to Sterrett's opera house, where dinner was served, and this over, they reassembled at the church and communion services were conducted by Elder Chilton, after which he announced that \$1,207 had been subscribed, \$107 beyond the liabilities of the church, and thus freed from debt. Every heart in that large audience swelled with pride and gratitude on this announcement, and deep down they silently uttered: "Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow."

The pastor, Elder B. H. Dawson, has been with this charge since January, 1908, and his selection by this organization has in every way proven a wise one—full of zeal and earnestness, with energy that prompts to be always busy in the interest of his church. He is approachable, and free from that conventionalism that re-

repels, and enough to put him in touch with the masses: sufficient dignity always to impress one with his great calling. By reason of his many splendid qualities we feel that he has found the field for his life work.

Whence comes he? From Kentucky. He was born in Lyon county, August 22, 1878, and after graduating from the Princeton, Kentucky, high school; he taught school for five years and then took a five-year course in the Lexington, Kentucky, Bible college. His first charge on leaving the Bible college was in this city, and we believe we but speak the universal opinion of his people when we say he has in every way made them an ideal pastor. April 2, 1909, he was married to Miss Nettie A. Kay, of this city, and they now have a baby daughter.

EARLY DAY HISTORY.

The Disciples, or Christians, were first gathered together in this county in 1841, by Evangelist Cartwright, and he preached to them at their various homes, then at the old Mill Creek Baptist church, alternating with the Regular Baptists, who erected their little house of worship in 1845, just south of the Mill Creek school house. Judge Samuel Watson, now deceased, was the builder. These two organizations abandoned the Mill Creek church in 1858, and the Baptists erected a brick structure just south of the Oregon school house, near the cemetery, which was jointly used by these two organizations, until 1875, when it was razed by reason of being regarded as an unsafe structure. Stephen C. Collins bought the material, and much of it was used in the construction of his residence, now occupied by R. C. Benton.

Following the work of Elder Cartwright, and alternating with him came Elder Duke Young, who held meetings for the Disciples, and at times held meetings at the home of Israel Beeler, just north of Oregon. Elder J. W. Kelsey also came and held regular meetings, and as a thorough and completely organized body in Oregon dates from 1858 under the services of Elder Young, in the little brick church just south of the school house. William D. Fields, who in the '70's resided some 6 miles north of Forest City, filled appointments here and elsewhere. Prince L. Hudgins, Andrew county, one of the most brilliant orators of his day, often filled appointments here and at other points in the county; Elders Wm. Trappland J. W. Tate, the latter from Graham, held meetings here, the former organizing a class in the Fairview district in 1868—in 1894 it became known as the New Point church.

From 1875 to 1877 the body was without a place of worship, and on special occasions they were granted the use of the Presbyterian church, and the court house, for their regular semi-monthly meetings. During the building of the structure they now dedicate they again used the court house.

Elder J. W. Kelsey then came and took up the work here, at Forest City, Minnesota Valley, Chambers, Forbes and at other points. In 1874 Elder Wm. A. Gardner, afterward the circuit clerk of this county, took the charge here, and elsewhere in the county. He afterward went to California, and became the state evangelist, and was regarded as one of the most powerful divines of the Pacific slope. He remained in charge of the church here until 1879. He died at Watsonville, Cal., April 5, 1900.

In 1875 Elder Gardner reported that the church had organizations at Forest City, Oregon, Burr Oak, Minnesota Valley, Chambers, Mound City and Forbes, with a total enrollment of membership of 400. Elder Gardner, also served this charge during 1880-2. It was through his efforts that this denomination erected its first house of worship, which was completed October 10, 1877, and although unfinished, meetings were held in it from time to time, and its furnishings were put in January 17, 1878, and it was dedicated February 3, 1878, by Elder R. C. Barrow, of Nebraska City, Neb. Elder J. W. Kelsey opened the services and read the scripture lessons, and Elder Gardner conducted the communion services.

The ladies' aid society of the church obligated itself to the amount of \$350 in aiding the construction of the



EXTERIOR NEW CHRISTIAN CHURCH, OREGON MISSOURI.

church, in 1878, and the society of today raised \$403 for the same purpose.

Among the liberal subscribers to the first church were the Springer's, the Curtis', James' and Thomas', W. A. Gardner, A. J. Dooley, O. C. Hill, W. O. Noble, Wm. Baskins, Jno. Loudy, Jas. B. Payne, Henry Nies and others. Many of these are now dead, while a few are still here helping again with liberal subscriptions for the new structure.

Prof. O. C. Hill, who was at the head of our school from 1876 to 1882, often filled the pulpit here and at other points in the county, thus enabling those in charge here to fill other appointments. He died at Hiawatha, Kan., June 30, 1899.

This data brings us down from the earlier day struggles of this organization, and beginning with Elder Gardner's pastorate, and the erection of its own house of worship, we give the roster of those pastors in charge of the church here:

Wm. A. Gardner	1874-79
P. K. Dibble	1879-80
Wm. A. Gardner	1880-82
W. T. Maupin	1882-84
A. Hardman	1884-86
L. Roberts	1886-87
L. P. Tandy	1887-88
Horace Siberell	1888-91

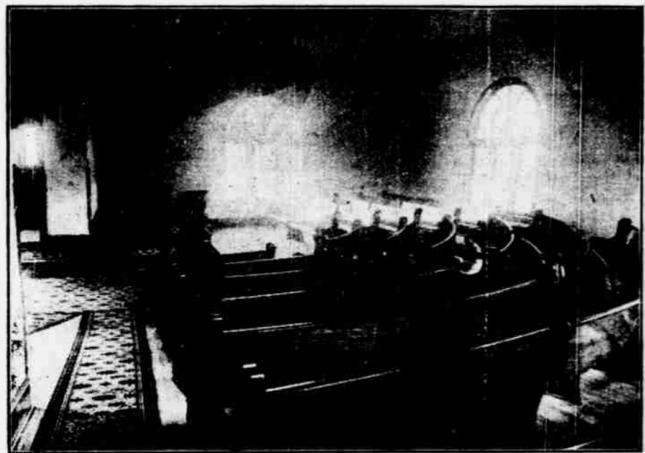
dedicated February 3, 1878, by Elder Barrow, of Nebraska. The new one was thrown open to the public and dedicated on Sunday last, April 15, 1910, by Elder C. M. Chilton, of St. Joseph.

Characteristic and in touch with the progress of our people, since the coming of the railroad to our little city, this little band of zealous, earnest workers, in the cause of their Master, got busy, and the word went forth, "Let us Build;" let us erect and add, too, that they might have one of the most roomy and neat houses of worship within the boundaries of Holt county. To look within and without, one is compelled to admit that in every phase and from every view point, this loyal band, though small in numbers, but colossal in will and determination, have made good, and today they can "point with pride" to their handsome and beautiful structure, whose doors will swing outward and the invitation ever open to all to come and worship with them. "Come unto me all ye that are weary and heavily laden and I will give you rest."

It was no easy task to undertake this enterprise. At times it seemed most discouraging, not because the people were not in full sympathy with

24x32 feet, including tower on the north side, which includes vestibule, Sunday school room and baptistry rooms.

Both the old and new part have elevated floors and dished toward the pulpit, and seated with circular oak veneered seats, which are separated by a main aisle 6 feet and side aisles 3 feet. The baptistry is located under the former pulpit, and is provided with a cover that rolls back under the raised platform, east of it, when the baptistry is in use. The Sunday school room, 24x20, is to be separated from the main auditorium, 32x60 feet, by a rolling partition, which is to be installed later, making the entire room or seating room 50x80 feet with a seating capacity of approximately 500, which we believe is about the largest of any similar house of worship in the county. The pulpit and choir platforms have an elevation of 18 inches. It has five large, three-cover stained glass windows, 8x10 feet, furnishing a beautiful blending of light. The entrance to the structure is through a vestibule 12x12 feet. The inside finish is in natural hard pine. The total cost of the structure



INTERIOR NEW CHRISTIAN CHURCH, OREGON, MISSOURI.

A. G. Alderman	1891-94
M. McFarland	1894-95
Clyde Darsey	1896-98
W. T. Maupin	1899-00
J. F. Bickel	1902-03
Frank McCallon	1904-
W. A. Haynes	1904-05
R. B. Robertson	1906-
J. W. Wesley	1906-
T. B. Knox	1908-
B. H. Dawson	1908-

Elder Alderman died in Monterey, Old Mexico, September 23, 1903; Elder McFarland died in St. Louis, in 1905. P. K. Dibble died March 20, 1890, at Santa Rosa, Cal.

There were but five persons present at the dedication Sunday, who attended the church near the cemetery. These were Hiram Hershberger and wife, of Eskridge, Kan.; Mrs. Emma Dibble-Martin, James B. Payne and William Risk.

THE NEW HOME.

The original structure, as we have stated, was completed in 1877 and

the cause, but by reason of the fact, that they had only a short time before been called upon for \$60,000 to build their railroad. But fail—ah, no; there was in the hearts of that little band of earnest disciples the determination to succeed. The responsibility came to Elder B. H. Dawson, R. C. Benton, F. L. Zeller, Dr. W. S. Wood and Judge G. W. Murphy. They began their efforts in the summer of 1909, by having plans and specifications and estimate made by Contractor Tochterman, and the price, \$3,600, was deemed reasonable, they set to work and succeeded in securing sufficient means to justify the beginning of the work, and in September, 1909, when its official board entered into contract with Andrew Tochterman through its building committee, Messrs. Perry Brooks, G. W. Murphy and B. H. Dawson.

The contract provided for the removal of the tower and balcony from the old part, new floors and windows, erection of an addition on the north,

is estimated at \$3,214, divided as follows: Construction, \$2,612; seats, \$427; furnace, \$175. In addition to these, the carpeting came through the efforts of the ladies' aid society of the church, at a cost of about \$150. A more earnest, zealous band of church workers cannot be found anywhere than the Ladies' Aid Society of the Oregon Christian church. A handsome piano has also been added. It is lighted by electricity and the latest and most improved lamps are installed. When all of the incidentals are added, its total cost will approximate \$3,800.

Aside from the chaste and simple beauty of the church, both interior and exterior, two things are striking and impressive, one is the absence of immense chandeliers in lighting and the second is the splendid acoustic properties of the building.

The decorations were in every way in keeping with the simplicity of the interior, here and there about the chancel were potted plants and ferns.

Oregon, Missouri, Chautauqua, July 30 to August 7, 1910