



**EMDEN CHRISTIAN CHURCH - 1903**

## HISTORY OF THE EMDEN CHRISTIAN CHURCH

In 1873, the year of the great financial panic, a union Sunday School was organized in the school house in Emden with E.L. Carnahan as superintendent, which was the only religious organization here at that time. In 1878, in addition to the Sunday School, Gospel temperance meetings were held in the school house on Sunday evenings, both of which were well attended by the parents and children in town and the surrounding community, and had a strong tendency in molding public sentiment in favor of religious instruction and divine worship. Soon after, sermons were delivered in the school house occasionally by leading ministers, among whom were Elders G.W. Mineer and Baily Chaplain, besides others who had regular appointments at Bethel and would preach on Saturday evening. Emden had been constantly growing and developing during these years, and the population continued to increase. North of town were a number of families, among which were the Bennetts and Davidsons, who had formerly belonged to the church at Antioch in Tazewell County, and in Emden were a number of persons who held membership at Bethel, all of whom were waiting for an opportunity to unite in one organization that they might concentrate their efforts and wield a greater influence in the community. The opportunity arrived in the autumn of 1888, when Evangelist W.H. Bowles held a three weeks meeting, during which time fifty-three persons united with the church, and at the close of the meeting a temporary organization was effected, in which Luke Bennett and E.L. Carnahan were chosen elders, and G.W. Miller, J.L. Searl. and K.E. Carnahan deacons.

Under the leadership of these men, the congregation began immediately to provide for a permanent meeting place and in May, 1889, a lot was purchased from Philip Ward and the present building erected. This work was made possible largely by the liberal contributions of Mrs. Elizabeth Bennett and G.W. Miller.

Dedication Day, the third Sunday in September, 1899, was a day of great rejoicing. The church was free of debt and a revival began resulting in 35 additions to the church.

Sometime between the erection of the building and the year 1922, the building was raised and full basement, furnace, kitchen range and other conveniences for comfort and social times were installed. Also the Ladies' Aid built a commodious addition to the building, which is used as primary room for the Bible School. For a while it was used as a work room for the Aid Society.

**PARSONAGE:** During the year 1912, a lot was purchased, and November 29th of that year the foundation for the first parsonage was begun, the building being completed and ready for occupancy January 23, 1913. The building was a semi-modern two-story frame consisting of six rooms and bath, with closets and pantry, and full basement with furnace and fuel rooms. Later (before 1922) electric lights were installed. The total cost, including lot, was \$2,150 of which the Ladies' Aid paid \$800. The building was free from debt, the work of the Ladies' Aid, which was largely responsible for launching the project, by 1922.

**LEADERS IN THE CHURCH IN 1922.** The church officers are as follows: Advisory Elder, E.L. Carnahan; Elders: K.E. Carnahan, C.H. Scholtz, Ricus Wiekert; Deacons: Oscar Rogers, James Short, Oscar Garber, William Whittaker, Columbus Bennett, Edwin Zumwalt, Mr. William Rippey, Elton Hamilton, George Siuts; Honorary Deacons: Joseph Garber, James Zumwalt; Deaconesses: Mrs. Jennie Bowles, Mrs. Martha Brown, Mrs. Mary Hamilton; Mrs. Emaline B. Carnahan, Mrs. Fannie Short, Miss Verna Zumwalt; Trustees,

James Short, Columbus Bennett, K.E. Carnahan.

The Church School used graded work in the primary and junior departments and used the International Lessons in the other divisions. The officers were: Superintendent, Mrs. C.R. Bowles; Assistant Superintendent, R. Wiekert; Secretary, Miss Kathryn Brown (Jeckel); Assistant Secretary, Clarence Heineken; Treasurer, Mrs. D.A. Brown; Pianist, Rosa Heineken; Chorister, Vivian Mickle.

The teachers in the Bible School were Mrs. E.C. Hamilton, Mrs. B.M. Barringer, Miss Anna Wiekert, Miss Vivian Mickle, Mrs. Dan Brown, Mrs. George Myers, W.W. Kratzer, and K.E. Carnahan.

The Christian Endeavor (Young People's Society) was a valuable auxiliary to the church in instruction and training the young people for active Christian service. They made contributions to various benevolences of the church. The officers were President, E.C. Hamilton; Vice President, J. Willis Kratzer; Secretary, Miss Jacobine Lessen; Treasurer, Mrs. Marie Hamilton; Pianist, Miss Rosa Heineken.

The officers of the Ladies' Aid at this time were: President, Mrs. Patterson Short; Vice President, Mrs. Jennie Bowles; Secretary, Mrs. Kate Simpson; Treasurer, Mrs. F.B. Zumwalt.

During the World War the following boys from the church served their country in various branches of the service: W.O. Mickle, C.C. Brown, John Zimmer, Clarence Simpson, Lorin Bennett, John Rohlfs, Richard Earl, John Fries, William Acuff, Lawrence Short, Ralph Garber, George Taylor, Harry Bowles.

**LADIES' AID.** The Ladies' Aid was organized October, 1893, during the pastorate of Brother J.W. Porter.

On March 8, 1916, a group of the church ladies organized themselves into a group called The New Hope Sew and So Society. Their purpose was to benefit the church. The Society started out with 15 members and elected Verna Zumwalt President. The first meeting was held at the home of Fannie Short, March 15. \$100 was paid every year to the church. Also they furnished the dining room at the Community House with tables, table cloths, dishes and silverware to serve 200 at a time. They also furnished the window draperies and lighting fixtures for the dining room. In 1922, the Society had 23 members. The officers were Cora Short, President; Rachel McCormick, Vice President; Fannie Short, Secretary, and Ella Gupton, Treasurer.

1937. According to a record made in 1937 by Carroll Langston the minister at that time, the Christian Church in many places was facing the trial of the social Gospel, modernism, forsaking Biblical doctrine, denying divine inspiration, and substitution of convenience and secular ideas, and such organizations as the U.C.M.S. (United Christian Missionary Society).

The young people were still having Christian Endeavor meetings. They met on Sunday evenings an hour ahead of the preaching service. The congregation was an unusually young one. Most of the leaders were between the ages of 30 and 40. There were 83 members at this time. The church celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1938. Young people were attending Christian service camp during the 3 years 1936-1939: Mary Glen and Rachel Rogers, Weldon Eeten and Vivian Knaak, Junior Bartels and Harold McGrady.

The church building was roofed, painted, and repaired, and a new furnace put in. Part of this was made possible by the bequest of \$1000 by Mrs. Mary E. Judy. The church steeple was removed in June, 1938, because of its unsafe condition.

During the winter of 1937-38, the town's ministers engaged in giving special Christian education to school children. The schools co-operated and grades were given on report cards.

All Missionary offerings at this time were in support of independent mission.

church held its first Vacation Bible School. It ended with a picnic for the children. This was the first VBS in town and was held in union with the Methodists. Union services with the Methodists were held on Sunday evenings also at this time.

**WOMEN'S COUNCIL.** Mr. Porter and his wife were instrumental in organizing the Women's Council to take the place of the Ladies' Aid. Mrs. B.M. Barringer served as President for four years and resigned at that time on account of her health. Mrs. Harry Whittaker was chosen to take her place. Mrs. C.E. Bowles was selected for vice president; Mrs. Clarence Heineken, secretary, and Mrs. R.L. McCormick, treasurer. In its first years, the Council painted the parsonage, had a new roof put on and chimneys rebuilt. The Council's practice was to pay the church treasurer, C.E. Bowles, \$100 a year toward the expenses of the church.

In 1943 the parsonage was sold to David Behrends and the church purchased, from Harry Bowles, the house next to the church building. This house was used as the parsonage until April, 1965 when the congregation decided to build a new one. The lumber from the old house was given to Jacob G. Eeten in exchange for his work in tearing it down. Because of donated labor from the congregation, the total cost of the building amounted to only \$13,500. The house was valued at \$27,500. Open House was held in March, 1966, shortly after the Leon Langston family moved into it. The house is a three-bedroom, centrally air-conditioned one with 1½ bath and attached garage. At present, (1970), the church is free from debt on the buildings.

The church helped to finance John Hasty's mission work in the Philippines in 1956 and contributed to the expense of Richard Jorgenson's tour of the Holy Land in the summer of 1962.

During the 1960's the church took the necessary measures to prevent the Disciples of Christ from claiming us in their organization. This was necessary to prevent them from billing us or from laying claim to any of our property.

The leaders of the church in 1970 include Edward B. Jeckel, Herbert Rogers, C.E. Bowles, and Darold Lynn, Elders; Champ Plank, Wayne Detmers, Earl Ruben, Wayne Rogers, Scott Broaddus, and Dale Frantz, Deacons; Margie Detmers, Gladys Aper, Ethyl Bennett, and Jeannette Bergold, Women's Council officers; Gladys Aper, Sue Lynn, Charlotte Lynn, Manie Smallwood, Herbert Rogers, Nelda Rogers, Margie Detmers, Jack Bowles, Juanita Ruben, Darold Lynn, and Dean and Barbara Cripe, teachers. The church has hired an architect to draw up plans for a new church building with necessary educational facilities. There are 97 resident members. Sunday School attendance averages are in the 50's and church attendance averages 75-80. The minister's salary is partly paid from the interest from bonds left to the church in 1959 by the Carnahan estate.

**MINISTERS OF THE EMDEN CHRISTIAN CHURCH** - W.H. Bowles, Evangelist; Sam A. Malone, Jan. 1868 - Jan. 1890; J.W. Porter, Jan. 1890-June 1892; J.C. Hall, Jan. 1893-Jan. 1895; T.F. Weaver, Jan. 1895-Jan. 1897; T.T. Holton, Jan. 1897-Jan. 1900; DA. Lindsey, Jan. 1900-Jan. 1901; A.J. Armstrong, Jan. 1901; Jan. 1903; G.M. Good, Jan. 1903-Jan. 1905; Hugh A. Orchard, Evangelist; J.N. Harker, Jan. 1905-July 1907; C.A. Sitser, July 1907-Jan. 1909; Henry Burgess Jan. 1909-Jan. 1912; Rochester Irwin, Evangelist; Joell Burgess, Jan. 1912-Jan. 1913; R.E. Stephenson, Feb. 1913-Jan. 1916; T.C. Reid, Mar. 1916-Jan. 1917; J.E. Stout, Evangelist; John Crow, Feb. 1917-Jan. 1919; Burl Chandler; Mar. 1919-Mar. 1920; Lew D. Hill, Mar. 1920-Jan. 1921; W.W. Kratzer, Jan. 1921-Sept. 1922; Philip Welch, Dec. 1922-Oct. 1923; Ed. D. Goller, Nov. 1923-May 1925; L.H. Hooe, Evangelist; Carol Moss, June 1925-June 1928; Milo J.

Nethercut, Oct. 1928-Oct. 1930; C.R. Porter, Jan. 1931-Feb. 1935; D.G. Lehr, May 1935-June 1936; Carroll L. Langston, Nov. 1936-Aug. 1939; C.M. Stuitts, Evangelist; Earl Hargrove, Evangelist; Gayle Hollingsworth, Sept. 1939-Dec. 1942; T.W. Overton, Mar. 1943-Apr. 1949; John Webb, May 1949-July 1953; John Hasty, Sept. 1953-July 1956; J. David Lang, Aug. 1956-Sept. 1959; Richard Jorgenson, Jan. 1960-July 1964; John Witt, June-Sept. 1962; Gary Boyd, Aug. 1964. Dec. 1965; Leon Langston, Mar. 1966-Feb. 1969; V. Dean Cripe, Feb. 1969 - Mar. 1971; Don Green - April 1971 -