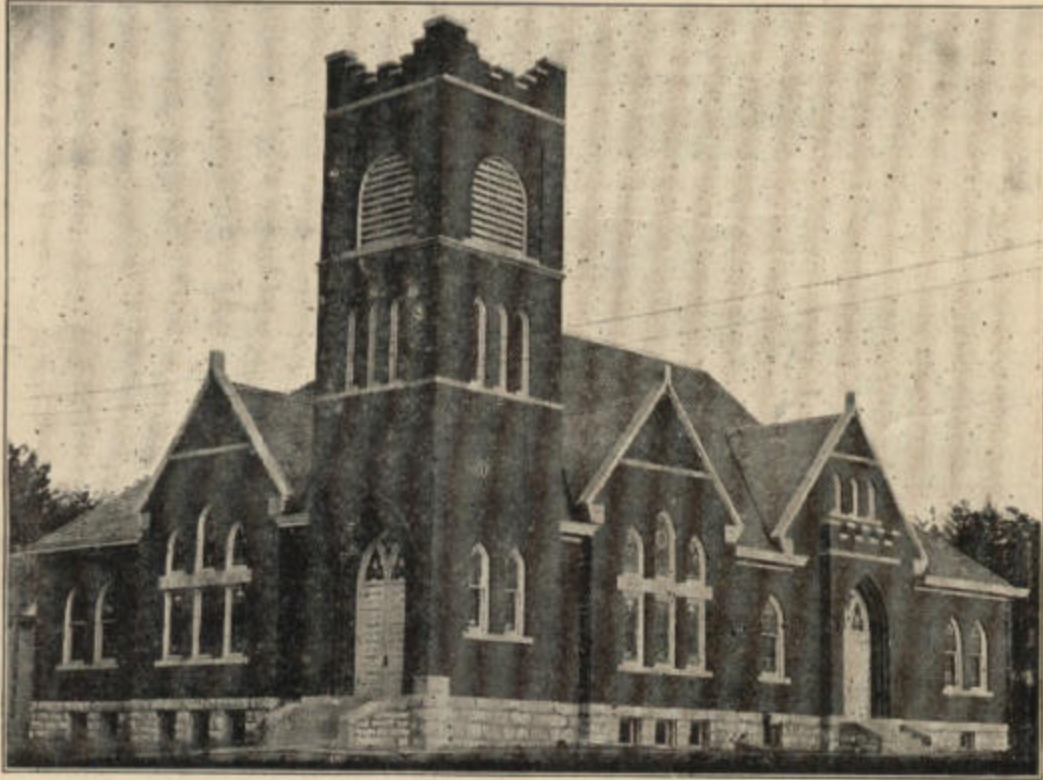


***A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
of THANKSGIVING
and REDEDICATION
for the
PERRY CHRISTIAN CHURCH***



OUR PRESENT HOME
Erected In 1904

**Perry Christian Church
Madison and Salling Streets
Perry, MO 63462**

September 19, 2004 at 3:00 p.m.

Perry Christian Church Dedication

100 Years of Service

1904 – 2004

Everyone knows that we could have worship services sitting on a log in the middle of the woods, or sitting on a bench in the city park, or even in secret inside window-covered homes. But somehow we choose buildings set apart from other buildings, buildings that reflect our ideas about God's relationship to us. Today, we come to review the beginnings of the Perry Christian Church and to rededicate this building to the work of our Almighty God.

In the beginning people who lived along Lick Creek worshipped there in the Ely Schoolhouse. Later, the congregation was composed of members of the Presbyterian, Baptist and Christian churches who met in a church made very much like a log house. The building was a five-cornered log house with a chimney in one corner. Boards laid atop of logs served as the congregation's pews.

In a few years, the Presbyterians and Baptists established churches of their own or joined other congregations. In 1830 Elder Thomas formed an organization for this remaining body of believers. Years later, land was purchased south of Perry, Missouri, from William and Matilda Harrison Biggers and a church was built in June 1860. William Biggers, a farmer, and his son, Joseph, a stone mason, cut and laid the foundation, assisted by James McKinney and John Monks. Lumber for the building was hauled from Hannibal with teams and wagons. The framework was mostly oak of the best grade and put together with wooden pins. Mr. John Brown did the framing. Mr. McClenen was foreman; Mark LaFrance, John Milton Hurley, John Moss and others assisted with carpentry skills.



The congregation named the church Lick Creek Christian (the old mother church), and they built where Lick Creek Cemetery is located now. Some of the elders and deacons were Alfred Menefee, Longly Richards, John Hall, James Abbey, William Biggers and James Ely. John Milton Hurley (father of Howard Hurley and grandfather of Tom Hurley, Sr. and Mary Lou Reiser) and Mrs. Mary Ely (mother of Ben Ely) were charter members. The following pastors served at different times at the old mother church: Elder Jacob Koons, George Waters, Mr. McSwain, Alfred Wilton, William Masson, Mr. Brooks, Mr. Brown, Joseph Ehret, Forest Sidner, Dr. John A. Brooks, Mr. Featherstone, Mr. Rice, Mr. Hook, Mr. Redd, Elder William Roe, Mr. Henson and Mr. Harbord. Lick Creek Christian was also the parent church of Prairie View, Pleasant Grove and Union Chapel.

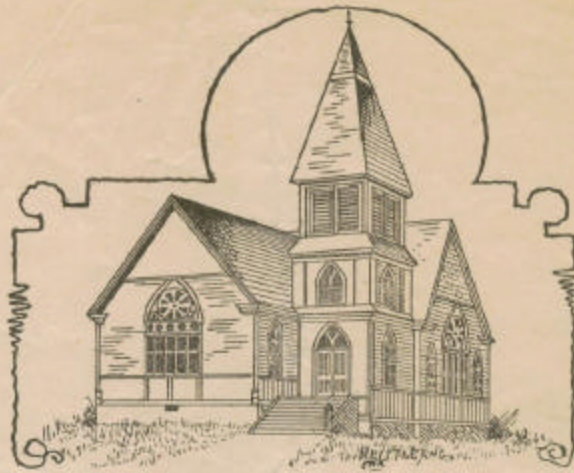
Special services like funerals, Memorial Day, etc. were held in the old mother church after the congregation moved to town. The building was deemed unsafe for use in 1927 and was sold to the highest bidder, C. P. English, for \$305.00. The seats and

furniture were sold bringing the total to about \$400.00. The money was added to the endowment fund of the Lick Creek Cemetery Association and the surrounding cemetery is still in use today.

The Christian Church then was moved to Perry where more people lived. Elder Roe, who was pastor at the time at Lick Creek, approved and assisted in the promotion of the project to move the congregation to town. They fellowshipped in the town hall (Tom Gill Hall) over Richards Store, presently known as Lick Creek Antiques. The officers of the new organization were Martin Alexander, father of Hugh Alexander; Hugh A. Barr, father of Martin Barr; Henry Myers, father of Mark P. Myers; E. H. Ralls; Marion Richards, father of Gill and Floyd Richards and Mrs. J. W. Caldwell; J. Alva Clark and S. C. Gill. The Ladies Aid Society led the effort to build a church and purchased two lots on the present site for \$400.00. Begun in the fall of 1891, the wooden structure was completed by December 1st. In 1892, they held a dedication service with 400 present. The Ladies Aid headed the list of pledges with \$200.00. Before the close of the afternoon session they raised the \$2,220.25 needed to clear the debt for the building.

The church had a strong ministry. Elders J. B. Corwine, E. J. Wright and Holly Hale served as pastors. For many years Sunday school met in the afternoon with M. Richards being one of the first superintendents with about 60 or 65 in attendance. Junior Endeavor then started meeting in the afternoon with Mrs. Annie Richards and Mrs. Alice Armstrong as president and vice president. The Senior Endeavor met the hour before evening services.

This house of worship served the congregation for nearly eleven years. Things, however, changed suddenly on Sunday morning, October 12, 1902. The Perry Enterprise reported that "lightning struck the southeast corner of the belfry. Lightning first struck the steeple, ran down the inside and set fire to the bird nests and timber."



(Christian Church, Perry, Mo., which burned Oct. 12, 1902.)

PERRY, MISSOURI, Nov. 27, 1902.

Dear Sirs:—

The Ladies of the Christian Church, of Perry, Mo., propose to conduct a Manufacturers' Sale, and respectfully invite you to contribute any articles that you advertise in papers or magazines; also any advertising matter that you wish to send will be used to the best possible advantage. Proceeds from the sale of your donations will be used in rebuilding the church which burned Oct. 12, 1902.

Trusting that this may receive your favorable consideration, and we kindly request that you address all packages to any one of the committee at Perry, Mo., before December 15th.

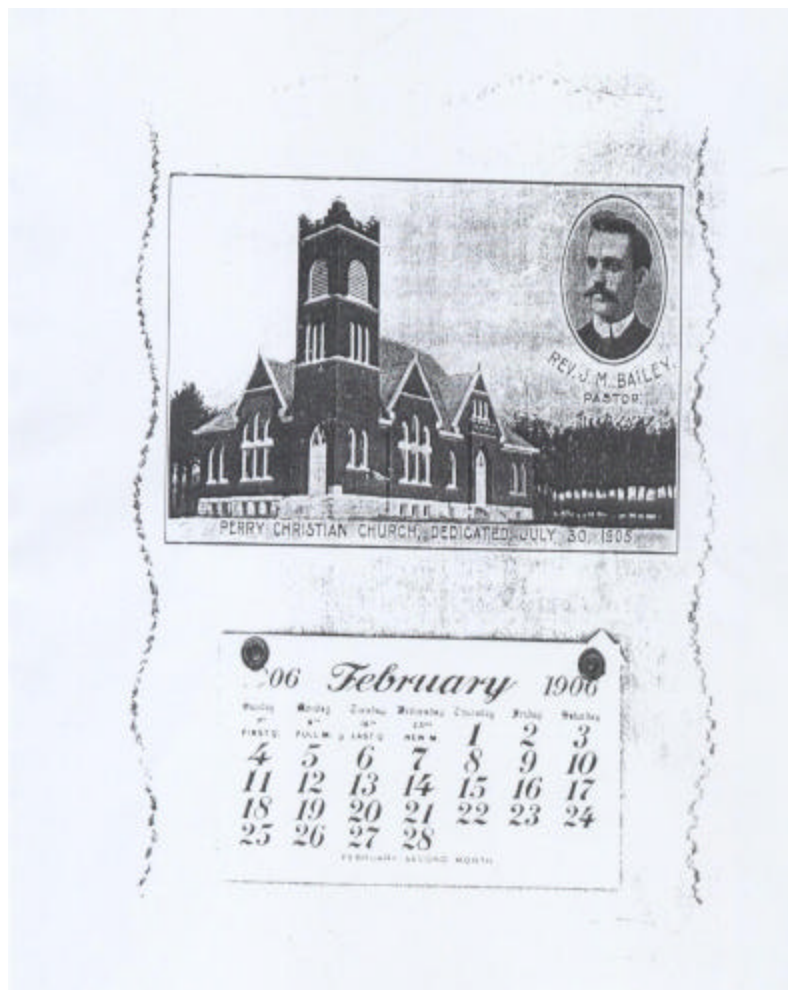
Respectfully,

MRS. S. C. GILL,
MRS. J. A. CLARK,
MRS. ALICE ARMSTRONG. } Committee.

According to the article, “almost the whole populace of the town was alarmed, and ran excitedly through the downpour of rain to the doomed church. People ran excitedly in every direction trying to devise some way in which to save the church, but the fire was so high up that all hopes were abandoned to quench the maddened and destructive blaze.”

Church was again held in the town hall (later known as the Perry Opera House) over Richards store as before and the congregation tried to piece things back together after the fire. In June 1903 the construction for the present church building began. In the spring of 1904 the corner stone was laid with impressive ceremonies, and the building was completed, ready for use in November 1904, at a cost of \$11,000.00. This structure was built on the New Akron plan, and could seat 300 with an expansion to 500 by using

the Sunday school area. On July 30, 1905, Elder Rains was called to deliver the dedicatory address, assisted by Pastor J. M. Bailey



Through the years the church has prospered under the leadership of untiring ministers. The ladies of the congregation, through the Ladies Aid Committee (later known as the Willing Workers) have always done great work for the church. Mrs. Russell (Leona) Itschner offered that there were 3 divisions at one time. Division I, which began meeting at night, is still a working division. In the past, as many as 50 to 70 members met in a general council in the homes of Margaret White and Mrs. J. R. Jones. CWF has sponsored money raising ice cream socials, oyster suppers and served large organizational meals. Mrs. Itschner continued, “Me Maw” Richards was a staunch leader whether cooking in the kitchen or doing any other activities. Lucy Deckerd and Mrs. W. E. Boyd were designated as special biscuit makers.

The Ladies had the money for this land as well as for many other church projects such as giving to shut-ins and needy families at Christmas. They have had the time to serve meals for families in bereavement, to teach Sunday school classes, and to serve on the Church Board and working committees. Later came the work of adding items to use

in worship and a maintenance program. Mary English took time to gather a list of things seen and used weekly and tabulated the efforts to keep the present church in tip top shape:

- | | |
|------|---|
| 1902 | Protracted meeting held in October in the moonlight on October 11th
Struck by lightning on Sunday, October 12 th |
| 1903 | Foundation completed for the present church building |
| 1904 | Cornerstone laid in April – special train for visitors |
| 1905 | Dedication in July, F. M. Rains, Cincinnati, OH, special train
Hired J. M Bailey |
| 1908 | Purchased 50 Christian Church hymnals @ 40 cents each
Bought pump for baptistry
Purchased piano from John Dye for \$260.00 |
| 1920 | New roof and new panes for windows |
| 1923 | Purchased parsonage from Miss Bettie Armstrong
Erected water closet <i>For Ladies Only</i> on grounds
Made improvements to basement, including heating |
| 1924 | Exchanged parsonage for D. A. B. White property |
| 1947 | CWF paid for redecorating |
| 1948 | Installed heater in baptistry |
| 1951 | Ellen Elam painted the mural behind the baptistry.
This was made possible by Mr. & Mrs. O. R. Jackson and Mr. & Mrs. James Davis who commissioned the mural in memory of their parents, Mr. & Mrs. M.V. Davis.
CWF served large dinner for Eastern Star Convention held at the school at which Mary Jane Truman, President Harry S. Truman's sister, presided as Worthy Grand Matron. |
| 1952 | Had 20 th anniversary for Brother John W. Golden
July – Elam baptistry painting dedicated |



Dr. Dale Jorgenson, inside Perry Christian Church.

- 1954 Laid new floors and installed new carpet
- 1955 Repaired windows for \$610.00 – St. Louis Art Glass
Presidents of CWF and Divisions I & II made board members
- 1956 CWF redecorated basement
- 1957 CWF gave scholarship to Don Slaughter
Installed new furnace \$1,100.00
- 1958 New church doors
Bulletin board in yard given by Cum Double Class
- 1959 First Candlelight Communion held
- 1960 First oyster supper held
Winners Class widened front steps
- 1961 Men of church held ham and bean dinner
CWF purchased new chairs for basement
Held ice cream supper
Purchased new organ in December. Mary English was promised 10 free lessons! As of 2004, she's only had 1!
- 1962 CYF painted kitchen
Installed telephone
Hung drapes in front of baptistry
Held ordination services for Don Slaughter
- 1963 Organized Division III for young, married women
Installed hand rail on front steps

1964 Bought new tables for basement
 Purchased mimeograph
 Parsonage dedicated July 26th
 Nativity scene purchased in December
 1966 New steps built at side door
 Choir robes made for the children
 Garage doors installed on parsonage
 Built wall between living room and kitchen in parsonage
 1973 Redecorated church much as we see it now
 1975 Purchased choir robes
 1976 Bought lot adjoining church
 1979 Laid new carpet
 1980 Fixed church roof
 1981 Church was tuck-pointed
 1982 April, termites discovered in Mary Young's classroom
 Fans put in church, project for the women's groups
 December, Russell Itschner and Tom Hurley, Sr. installed the fans.
 1983 November, top of auditorium insulated
 Basement windows repaired
 1984 February, paint/touch up on wet spots from leaking roof
 April, a 4-day revival – 16th through 19th
 December, Jason Yancey presented plans for sound system \$1707.50
 1985 July, roof and belfry replaced by Gene McCurdy \$9,680.00
 September, west doors replaced \$1,118.20
 November, a post in basement replaced
 1989 Charles Liter Memorial purchased new hymnals
 1991 March, front steps fixed \$1,200.00
 September, new dehumidifier purchased
 1992 September, stained glass windows restored
 1993 March, new pew cushions \$4,238.00 paid for by Lela Cleaver, who always felt the church needed cushions
 June 23, new furnace backflow valve installed \$281.36
 September, shed east of the church removed from property
 1994 Ramp added to the west entrance in memory of J. D. Quinn
 May, closed up cellar on east side of church
 1995 May, upstairs bathroom installed
 June, tuck-pointed again \$13,527.00
 July 9th, Rededication Celebration for 90th Year
 October 1st, 50 year members and older honored
 1996 June, 2 new ceiling fans installed
 1997 April, office ceiling repaired and painted
 September, air conditioning the church was discussed.
 1998 April 7th, air conditioning passed, cost was \$5,135.00

\$2,500.00 was donated from Mildred Long's Memorial Fund for the AC
May 5th, AC in and working
October, tuck-pointing & bell tower repair, \$2,700.00
December, steeple repaired

1999

January, furnace repaired
May, replaced basement bathroom toilet

2000

June, replaced front and side doors
April, ramp built, closet built and walls finished in the basement
September 12, Dr. Gail B. Dunning, former Professor of Counseling and Educational Psychology at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, presented slides about and model of Solomon's temple, an accurate model based upon the instructions given in the Old Testament.
December, Fire damage to front entry from candle left burning at the Christmas Eve service

2001

April, new carpet \$1,788
July, insulation in church attic \$3,367.00

September, new stoves in kitchen

2002

February, new flooring in room off kitchen

2003

January 19, 2003, Chosen Ones Youth Group began

October, dirt purchased to bank against building to prevent leaks in the basement

October, The Great Boiler From Above!!! Contractors mistakenly ripped out our boiler and replaced it with a new one while Russell Walton patiently waited at the Baptist Church for their boiler to arrive. To which Dr. Dale Jorgenson wrote one of his many eloquent poems.

November 9th, Culver Stockton College Chamber Choir performed during morning worship followed by carry-in. The boiler was not yet fixed from October's mishap. Many church members and Culver Stockton students wore coats and gloves during the church service! It was a little warmer down in the basement for the dinner, however, due to the stoves working.

November 23rd, Hazel Kinder with "His Light" ministry performed before annual Harvest Supper

2004

April 4th, Kingdom Players presented worship drama called
“Where He Lies”

June, rod iron hand rails replaced, handmade by Scott
Ulrich

June 29th, Sound Solutions installed wireless microphone

THE UNLIKELY SAGA OF PERRY’S BOILER MIX-UP

In Perry, a town near a lake
there’s a story which sure takes the cake:
The story is true
just as I’m telling you,
and we’ll all have to say, “Goodness sake!”

The churches in Perry are four,
a Baptist, a Christian, two more:
But folks from the city
(who caused this whole ditty)
just can’t tell a church by its door!

The good folks of Baptist belief
thought a furnace might give them relief
from the feet that were cold
(or so we are told)
and the ways in which winter brings grief.

A funny thing happened, however.
It happens this way almost never:
The men with the stove
to the wrong church door drove,
then tore up their boiler forever!

The preacher, they say, was upset
when downstairs the carnage he met.
“What’s going on here?
The worst thing, I fear!”
The man was upset, you can bet!

Then Billie, and Elmer, and Joyce
each added their thought with one voice:
“If we may be so bold
it soon will be cold
and a new boiler would be our choice.”

God moves in a way quite mysterious.

(This time it seems almost delirious.)
The Christians, indeed,
had long felt the need
for a boiler would soon be quite serious.

But the Baptist folk, right down the street
did not find the story so neat:
They have to wait still
(a quite bitter pill)
for that furnace to cure their cold feet!

'Tis better to laugh than to cry,
for we all cry enough, by and by.
We just go with the flow
for, in fact, we do know
that God's love shines on us all from His sky.

From two interested (and amused) bystanders,
AKA Dr. Dale Jorgensen and Mary Lee

In 1994 began a great period of culture for our congregation, for the town of Perry and for Ralls County. Reverend Jorgenson, minister of Perry Christian Church from 1993 to 2003, brought together singers and other musicians from different churches of this area, statewide, nation-wide and international communities. All the churches of Perry assisted in underwriting the cost of production that came to be known as the Perry Passion.



Perry Passion

Music lovers packed the Christian Church in Perry Sunday night to hear the annual performance of the Perry Passion Symphony Orchestra and Chorus. This year the group performed Johannes Brahms' *A German Requiem*, under the leadership of Dr. Dale Jorgenson.

Annually on Palm Sunday, Dr. Dale Jorgenson conducted full chorus and orchestra missing only the year of 2002. Following is a list of what was performed at the Perry Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

The Messiah	1994
The Messiah	1995
Elijah	1996

The Creation **1997**

The Requiem **1998**

(This oratorio was produced in memory of Bill Trower, Perry's Mayor, and of Becky Jorgensen, Pastor Dale and Mary Lee's daughter-in-law.)

The Messiah **1999**

Elijah **2000**

Gloria and Selections of The Messiah **2001**

The Messiah **2003**

Through the years every church hopes to inspire some of its congregation to become ministers. As some members of the first Lick Creek Church moved west they helped organize other Christian churches in California and Arizona. From this building most recently, this congregation has sent Don Slaughter, Don Schutte and Paul Young to become ministers.

The Christian Church choir has always been an important part to the congregation. Several years ago, there was a very large choir of adults and even a children's choir. Mary English guided these choirs as they continued to grow. Following Mary English was Debbie Carey and she directed the singers for many years. At present, Arlen Provancha joyfully administers his guidance to yet another growing choir.

The Youth Ministry at the Perry Christian Church, like many congregations, has waxed and waned during the years. Without the efforts of those with children in mind, this ministry would not have come about. Shirley Levings, Martha Harrison and Joyce Coleman witnessed to and taught the youth for many years when their children were young. The group took a trip to Six Flags, went roller skating, saw movies and enjoyed hayrides while they learned about Christ. Glenna Johnson, Joyce Coleman and Kathy Laird did so much to encourage the youth in the 1990s. Our young ones grew up and left us somewhat short in youth for a while, but in 2003, Dr. Dale Jorgenson, Pastor of the church, Cheryl Cunningham and Barbara Cunningham took a vision and made it a reality. January 19th marked the first meeting of the Chosen Ones. The youth in this group at the time of the 100-year dedication are:

Elizabeth Yancey (daughter of Jason and Kristy Yancey)

Abby Parsons (daughter of Mark and Sherry Parsons)

Megan Kuda, (daughter of Danny and Kelly Kuda)

James Parker (son of Alisha Fierge)

Bradley Moss and Shelby Andrews (son and daughter of Claudette Moss)

Thomas Cunningham (son of Charles and Cheryl Cunningham)

Kiley, Kayla and Kirkland Cunningham (daughters and son of Craig and Barbara Cunningham)

Zach, Kaylee and Seth McCurdy (sons and daughter of Tim and Tracie McCurdy)

Karlie Hayes (daughter of Karen Sheffield)

Danni Sharp (daughter of Gerald and Carol Sharp)

Erin Walden (daughter of Tom and Dee Hurley)

Sarah McClain (daughter of Herman and Becky McClain)

Kasey Bland (daughter of Peta Bland).

The adults assisting are Cheryl Cunningham, Barb Cunningham, Kristy Yancey, Kelly Kuda, Alisha Fierge, Dee Hurley, Jeanie Gay, Claudette Moss, Pastor Hal Rogers, Debra Rogers and Glenna Johnson.

Bible school continues to be a community effort in Perry and all denominations are welcomed during Bible school week. The host church alternates between the Perry Baptist Church and our church. There are so many with a servant's heart who help and the Church is very blessed.

This building has been the home to many ministers over the past 100 years. Most served only a year or two and most were part time. The Reverend James Beahan was part time minister for 17 years. Dr. Dale Jorgenson ministered this flock for 10 years with his lovely wife, Mary Lee. One who served for 25 years was a "church leader of unconventional and remarkable style." This is according to Ben Cleaver in his "A Brief Sketch of the Christian Churches of Ralls County, MO and the Ministers There From" written in 1965. Mr. Cleaver states that John Golden virtually "rescued weak, discouraged, and declining rural and village churches. He had no set salary in most places and preached for the collection. He preached every weeknight, sometimes including Saturday, often four services on Sunday, winter and summer he rode the ridges." He had a popular radio program called the "Old Ridge Runner". During his ministry, he faithfully served more than 20 congregations. He baptized and married many people in Ralls and surrounding counties.

LOCAL ILLINOIS

'Old Ridgerunner of Radio' Travels 37,600 Miles Annually—Has Worn Out 22 Automobiles in 28 Years.

Special to the Post-Dispatch.

HANNIBAL, Mo.—The Rev. John Golden has traveled 37,600 miles a year and worn out 22 automobiles in the past 28 years serving Missouri's rural churches.

Right now he's pastor of 24 churches in five counties around Hannibal. Easter Sunday he preached to 962 people in six different church audiences and reached his goal of 1000 in Sunday schools of all his charges.

And Monday through Friday, as the Old Ridgerunner, he gives a daily radio talk including news, philosophy, sermon and prayer. He's been doing it for nine years and has passed his 1300th consecutive broadcast on Hannibal Radio Station KHMO. Before beginning that series, he had 264 consecutive broadcasts on a Quincy station. He has lived in Hannibal 53 years.

Pastor Golden was born in Kansas City but, as he says, "moved his parents to Hannibal when he was 5 years old." He finished the common school grades in Tom Sawyer fashion, then went to work for the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy railroad. He stayed with the railroad until the strike of 1922, when he accepted a job with Standard Oil. It was at this time that he began his religious work with missions in Hannibal's poorer sections. He became convinced that he should teach the abandoned and forgotten folk and preach to them. Then he decided he needed more education. With \$1.79 in his pocket, he went to Culver-Stockton College in Canton. While he did not stretch the \$1.79 into a degree, having to leave college before completing his work, he has managed with the training he got there and has become a confident, educated man.

While driving along highways and country roads, in the course of his work with Standard Oil, he noticed the many abandoned churches. Young people were leaving the rural communities to seek jobs as well as the gaiety and the charm of urban living. Older people were passing on and leaving few to care for the rural church or to be concerned with its passing. A few faithful ones stood by the church as long as some preacher could be induced to come to the community and hold services. Then even the supply of itinerant preachers ran out. The church door was locked, the windows boarded up, weeds grew rank in the churchyard.

After day, weighed heavily on the young oil salesman. Unlike many who only talk about the situation, he decided to do something about it. He realized that he couldn't solve the problem on a state, or national or world basis, but he could do his part.

When a community showed interest, Pastor Golden opened the closed church, organized a Sunday school, and began preaching regularly once a week or once or twice a month. At the end of five years he realized he must give up his position with the oil company for his religious work. He did, and for the past 23 years he has devoted his time and talents to abandoned churches.

He preached 452 sermons last year, and has averaged more than 200 sermons each year for the past 23 years. He has preached a total of 3296 funerals during his ministry—239 last year—and has performed marriage ceremonies for 3399 couples.

"Sometimes I wonder if I am doing any lasting good," he says. "Maybe the country church, like the country school, has lived out its day."

"Yet, when the community school and church is gone, what is left to hold the community together? And we are told that America is a nation of communities, welded together in a common cause—democracy. I know that a nation can not be stronger than its communities. If we let our communities rot, morally and socially and spiritually, our nation rots with them."

Then he smiles, confidence and enthusiasm back in his voice.

"Anyway, this is my work, and these are my people. I couldn't do anything else. A man must serve his own generation."

In doing that, Pastor Golden has driven Fords—model T's, A's and "Barnabes", the V-2—a total of 1,000,000 miles. "Eras" was his name for the model A's. He has put more than 50,000 miles on "Gilas", the Chevrolet.

While Pastor Golden is a member of the Christian Church—Disciples of Christ—his 24 churches include several denominations. He does not emphasize denominationalism. His son is the Christian minister at Kahoka, Mo., and his daughter teaches in the Hannibal public schools.

Pastor Golden is no long-faced practitioner; he likes a joke, he likes graceful living, but, above all, he likes people. He believes in the rural church; he believes it can be saved, and he is point-

Hannibal Man Who Set Out to Aid Rural Churches Is Pastor of 24



The REV. JOHN GOLDEN ready for a radio broadcast.

Old Ridge Runner' linked lots of couples

LOCAL LEGACIES

By Mary Lou Montgomery

The Rev. John Golden is probably "the most crying" preacher to have served Hannibal. In more than 34 years he served as a minister, he formed 3,341 weddings. Easy people now celebrating their wedding anniversaries were married by Golden, often at his home.

The period of time that Rev. Golden served Hannibal included that of the Depression and World War II. People didn't have the money for big weddings, and Golden was willing to marry anyone — regardless of their religion.

In fact, he served most religions. He was affectionately known as "The Old Ridge Runner," and obituary on Aug. 17, 1969 reported he served 43 churches — 22 of them at one time.

The records he kept indicated he conducted 8,642 sermons and 1,359 baptisms in addition to the weddings.

Golden became especially famous in the area daily radio broadcasts he made throughout his career. The number of broadcasts totaled 4,569. Throughout the years they were called "Through Garden Gate," "Window of Life," and "Through Gates of Gold."

The Sept. 11, 1948 edition of the Courier-Post described the radio broadcasts. "Rev. John W. Golden soon will broadcast the 1,500th program in his current series 'Looking Through the Window of Life.' The Old Ridge Runner's 15-minute broadcasts of friendly philosophy and down-to-earth thought was inaugurated on KHMO Jan. 3, 1943 and has been an early morning favorite through the years.

"A thought on the spur of the moment by Rev. Golden produced the program title. It was just a few minutes before air time on the morning of Rev. Golden's first Hannibal broadcast. The announcer on duty reminded him that he didn't have a title for the show. The Old Ridge Runner, glancing out through the studio's glass windows, said, 'Just tell them that John Golden is looking through the window of life'. And that was that. The title for one of KHMO's most popular programs had been

born."

This particular program was aired at 7:45 a.m. Monday through Friday. He opened the program each day with, "And so we come from the rest of the night to look once again through the window of life — with ears to hear and eyes to see what today has in store for you and for me." Golden spoke of his own personal experiences and those of others. He often focused on hopes, lives and dreams of the people he had met.

Golden was born Aug. 2, 1891 in Kansas City and moved to Hannibal when he was about 4 years old. He married Fay Sullivan Nov. 7, 1913 at New London. They had two children.

Before he began work with the ministry, he worked for Miller and Worley Dry Goods Store and later for the International Shoe Co. He left the shoe factory in 1906 and was employed until 1923 with the CB&Q Railroad. At that time, he began working for Standard Oil Co. He traveled during the week and served as a minister on Sundays. In 1925 he devoted full time to the ministry.

Golden died Aug. 16, 1969 after suffering a heart attack at his home at 1713 Grace. The week he died he conducted five funeral services.

Continued from the Courier-Post

Pastor was a friend to all

Dear Editor:

"And so we come from the rest of the night.

To look once again through "The Window of Life."

With ears to hear, and eyes to see, What today has in store for you and for me."

I wonder how many people remember beginning their day hearing these familiar words on the morning radio program by the self-styled "Old Ridge Runner," the Rev. John Golden, who was born Aug. 2, 1891 in Kansas City, and who died Aug. 16, 1969, in Hannibal.

Truly an evangelist, a man of God, he pastored 43 churches, many in rural areas, and often without a resident minister, many times asking for only "a free-will offering." Those in Lincoln County included the old red brick church, Disciples of Christ at Louisville.

He was a friend to everyone. In his pastoral life he performed 3,341 wed-

dings, conducted 8,642 funerals and 1,359 baptisms, often having three or four services each Sunday, also holding annual revival meetings.

His radio program began in 1943 as he related many of his experiences on the road and in the pulpit with prayers, quoting poems, scriptures with that inimitable wit which endeared him to audiences, weaving it all into an inspirational message.

We wonder how many thousands of miles he traveled on highways, gravel roads, dusty country lanes, sometimes in mud, always in the service of the Lord.

One of his special friends was Clarence "Kak" Hinds who owned a filling station on U.S. 61. (Hinds) saw that Rev. Golden's gas tank was always filled.

We were grateful to be a part of his flock, feeling secure and warm in his company.

Roscoe and I treasured the time spent with him as we repeated our wedding vows in his home on Jan. 30, 1932.

The world is a much better place for having known and loved this dear man, a servant of God. His death left a void in the lives of his many

friends."

9/14/94
Evelyn G. Brandon
Bowling Green



Our pastor at the time of our 100 Year Dedication is Dr. Hal Rogers and his wonderful wife, and church organist, Debra. She replaced Mary English, who had faithfully played the organ for worship service and nearly every wedding and funeral to take place there. She also played the piano for choir practice early every Sunday morning for 50 faithful years. This demonstrated a true labor of love.

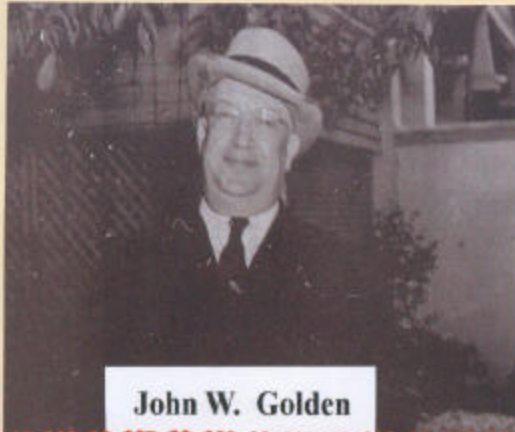


Pastor Hal Rogers and Debra
Current Pastor and his wife
2004

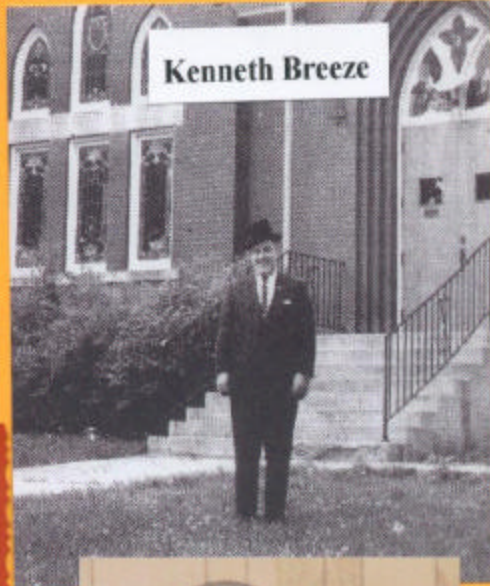
**FORMER MINISTERS
PERRY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)
Perry, Missouri**

J. M. Bailey	1904-1907
J. B. Corwine	1908
R. D. Chinn	1909
J. H. Coil	1910-1916
E. E. Francis	1917

J. D. Powell	1918-1920
George Maxwell	1921-1922
F. B. Ward	1923
J. W. Pearson	1924-1930
Gerald Maggart	1930-1931
John W. Golden	1932-1957
Thomas M. Shrout	1957-1958
Herbert Loring	1958-1960
Melvin Stroud	1961-1962
Ben Stevenson	1962-1963
Toney E. Conley	1964-1965
Kenneth Breeze	1966-1967
Jack Malia	1968-1970
James G. Beahan	1970-1987
Leila Reynolds	1988
Robert W. Swanson	1989
Mycherie Zimmerman	1990
Ray Trotter	1990-1991
Harold Willard	1991
Hartford Inlow	1991-1993
Dr. Dale Jorgenson	1993-2003
Dr. Hal Rogers	2003 to present



John W. Golden



Kenneth Breeze



Jack Malia



James G. Beahan



Leila Reynolds



Ray Trotter

Hartford Inlow



Pauline
Inlow



Dale Jorgenson

Throughout these 100 years there have been so many who did so much to support this body of Christ. One long time member stated in 2004 that to begin mentioning names could be difficult because many donated their carpentry, electrical and plumbing skills. Others worked diligently with fundraising activities while others paid church bills when operating funds were extremely strained.

Carrying out the day-to-day business of the Perry Christian Church lies primarily on the shoulders of the Church Board Members. Some serve many years as deacons, deaconesses, elders and trustees. Some have served as Chairman of the Board for a great number of years. Among these are Dean Harrison, Elmer Coleman, Tom Hurley and Leroy Young. The only fathers and sons to serve as Board Chairman are L. M. English and his son, Jack English and Tom Hurley and his son, Tom Hurley, Jr. At the time of this 100-year dedication, the current board members are:

Tom Hurley, Jr., Chairman & Deacon
Leroy Young, Vice Chairman & Honorary Deacon
Greg Harrison, Treasurer & Elder
William Bumgarner, Secretary & Elder
Elmer Coleman, Elder & Trustee
Dean Harrison, Elder
Joyce Coleman, Elder
JoAnne Bumgarner, Elder
David Levings, Deacon
Melburn Fisher, Deacon
Jim Gay, Deacon
Ronnie Cragen, Deacon
Scott Ulrich, Deacon
Ronald "Slim" McLaughlin, Deacon
Billie Ray, Trustee
Jason Yancey, Trustee
Carol Norman, Deaconess
Barbara Cunningham, Deaconess
Connie Murray, Deaconess
Dee Hurley, Deaconess
Kristy Yancey, Deaconess
Mae McLaughlin, Deaconess
Shirley Levings, CWF President
Raymond Orf, Teen Associate
Kiley Cunningham, Teen Associate
Shelby Andrews, Teen Associate
Wilson Lane, Honorary Deacon
Louise Malia, Honorary Deaconess

With this history, therefore, we dedicate this building in its 100 years of service to the Glory of the Kingdom of our Father in Heaven.



Georgia Belshe, Russell Itschner, Leroy Young,
JoAnne Bumgarner, Mary English, Jeanie Gay,
use of the 44th Anniversary History and
minutes from Board meetings
have compiled this history.