

FRANKLIN SQUARE METHODIST CHURCH--SITUATED IN  
FRANKLIN SQUARE, COLUMBIANA COUNTY, OHIO

Transcript from books One & Two in Leipper Library

The first organization was held in the log school  
house in 1828 AD.

July 1815, Arter and Halverstadt were elected Deacons

Established 1828  
Signed-Frederick Best

On Christmas, December 25, 1836, a Methodist Society was organized  
at Franklin Square with a class of ten members as follows:

David Hamilton  
Mary Hamilton  
Peter Zimmerman  
Catherine Zimmerman  
Ann Zimmerman  
Esther Budd  
Elizabeth Brown  
Rebecca Brown  
Thomas Rakestraw  
John Kenty

David Hamilton was class leader. A short time later Charles Budd,  
Nancy Rakestraw, Sarah Reeves, Elizabeth Reeves, Rhodes Scroggs and  
Elizabeth Cox were added. Eight new members were received in 1837  
making a congregation of 24 members.

On July 17, 1837, a subscription was begun to secure funds to build  
a house of worship for the society. The following amounts were  
subscribed: Methodist of Franklin Square \$92.75, Methodists of  
other places \$75. Contributed by those not Methodists \$192,  
making a total of \$359.75.

In August 1837, David Hamilton and James Holloway were elected  
members of a building committee and Chalres Budd, who was appointed to  
purchase a lot and material and superintend construction of the church,  
then were prominent citizens of the bustling village, which

promised to develop into a transportation center. Accordingly lot 42 in the village of Franklin Square was purchased of Christian Betz for \$25. and deeded to Charles Budd, David Hamilton, Peter Zimmerman, Thomas Rakestraw, James Hurt, Garret Hart and Jacob Carnes, Trustees.

The building was begun in the autumn of 1837, was sufficiently finished to be used during the winter and completed the following summer. Eighty dollars was borrowed to complete with building which was not entirely paid for until 1850.

When the church was first organized it was attached to the Pittsburgh Confernece, Allegheny district, Hanover circuit with 8 to 12 appointments. In 1841 it was transferred to Salem circuit. At this time East Fairfield, Columbiana, Leetonia, and Salem were on the same circuit as Franklin Square. In 1876 this church was Transferred to East Ohio Conference, Canton district, Washingtonville circuit. It is now in Steubenville district, the Canton District having been dividdd in 1924.

In 1841 a great revival began under the pastorate of C. D. Kinnear and James Tribby which lasted nearly two years, during which time between five and six hundred members were added to the circuit. Of this member about seventy were added to the church at Franklin Square. In the summer of 1846 a Sabbath School was organized.

At that time it was the custom to hold Sunday School during the summer months only. In 1840 a revival lasting about three weeks resulted in thirty new members being added to the church. So passed the first years of the church at Franklin Square. The years that followed were for the most part quiet, uneventful years of service.



Thomas Longbottom, Joseph Hamilton, Paul Stewart, G. C. Burbick and Charles Weikart

The Sunday School has an enrollment of 65. Charles Weikart is superintendent, Glen Farrington is assistant superintendent; Olive Weikart secretary; Mrs. Carrie Farrington treasurer; Mrs G. C. Burbick, organist.

Furnishings for the new church were donated by the Ladies Aid Society which was organized when the new church was planned in 1899. Mrs Ida Shinn in president of the society at the time of writing 1934.

In 1923 the Epworth League was reorganized and has the following officers: President, Paul Stewart, Vice President, Mrs Carrie Farrington, Second vice president, Myrtle Burbick, Third vice president, Glen Farrington, fourth vice president, Victor Blender; secretary and treasurer, Juanita Grubbs.

It was again doing a good work among the youth of the church and community. The name has since been changed to M.Y.F.- Methodist Youth Fellowship.

The Franklin Square Church has never had a very large membership. Eighty is the most that could be found going over the records. Sometimes it has been quite a problem. Especially during the depression years. The building needed painted, the furnace was giving out. These things had to be taken care of. At the church board meeting March 3, 195 Rev. Cook appointed Glenn Farrington to get an estimate on the cost of building a basement under the church.

At the June 5, 1951 board meeting Rev. Williams suggested that a finance committee be appointed to make up a budget and set aside a building repair fund.

Rev. Arthur Williams announced at the board meeting Nov. 18, 1951 that he had been called to another charge and Rev. Peterson was taking his place. On Nov. 25, 1951, Rev. Arthur Williams gave his last sermon at Franklin Square to begin his pastorate at a new charge.

March 8, 1956 Rev John Buchanan opened the meeting by reading scripture. The Rev. Theodore Mayer, District Superintendent, told us we must have one-half the amount in cash before starting the basement. A meeting of the congregation was held. There were 25 for and 1 against.

Mallalieu and Ross were given the contract to draw up plans for the basement for \$200.

Galen Zimmerman, John Grubbs, Mrs. Hall, Mrs. Adams, Edwin Exten, were chosen as a planning and finance committee on building the basement. The finance committee was composed of: Donna Grubbs, Mrs. Cox, Nich Blender, Edwin Exten, Blair Adams, and Laurence Wilms.

June 10, 1956, the committee reported that the bulding will be started soon. They want the pledges in.

It was completed the same year, enough that it could be used.

There are two classes go down there for their class period. The ladies have their social dinners there , also turkey suppers, strawberry and ice cream festivals and suppers for Ruritan Club. On Oct. 25, 1964, we celebrated the 60th anniversary. The morning sermon was given by Rev. H. L. Strawn, who worked very hard making it a success. A coverdish dinner was held at noon, and in the afternoon the time was given over to people recalling many things of the past.

Today, Sept. 25, 1966, we are celebrating the very beginning of the Methodist church at Franklin Square which was in 1828, making this our 138th anniversary. It is also the 200th anniversary of Methodism in the United States.

The church stands on a beautiful spot just on top of the hill as you enter the village from the east. It stands there proudly with its tall steeple pointing skyward as a silent reminder to all that "God is in his heaven and all is well with the world".