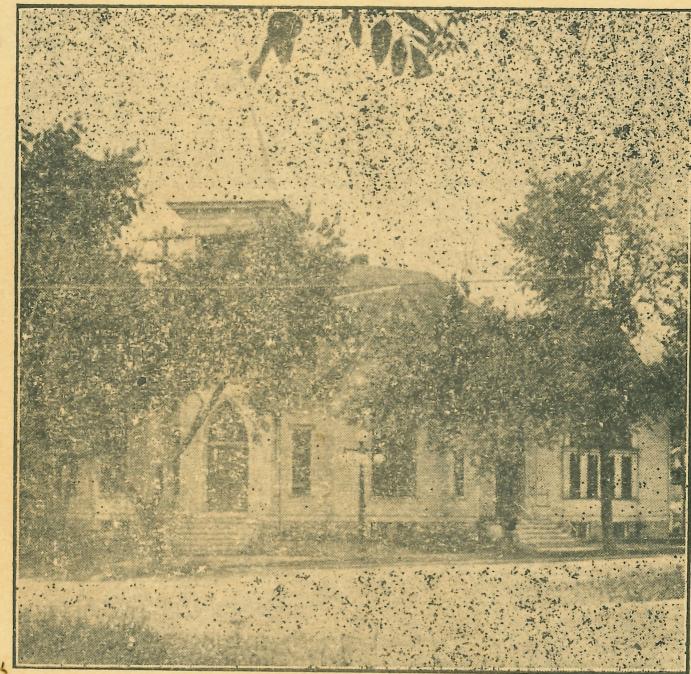


Fortieth Anniversary
First Congregational Church



Friend, Nebraska

Wednesday, September 15th, 1915

1875

1915

10

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List of Pastors

B. G. Page, June, 1875–June, 1878
Fred Alley, July, 1878–October 1878
B. J. Chase, November, 1878–June, 1879
Jacob Wenslow, October, 1879–March, 1883
Orville Clark, July, 1883–May, 1885
Sidney Strong, August, 1885–May, 1887
Wm. E. Davidson, October, 1887–May, 1888
James Sharrett, October, 1888–April, 1889
E. F. Dada, June, 1889–June, 1894
Amos N. Dean, October, 1895–January, 1896
Wm. E. Payne, October, 1897–October, 1900
W. W. Hart, October, 1900–April, 1903
P. A. Sharpe, June, 1903–June, 1906
J. S. Hamilton, October, 1906–April, 1910
Edwin F. Wright, August, 1910–June, 1914
H. H. Price, September, 1914

Historical

(Note:—As there are as many histories of our church as members, friends, and enemies, this short account of the Friend Congregational Church, past and present, is seen just from the viewpoint of the writer, Frank T. Hamilton.)

At a meeting held in the school house at Friend, or Friendville, as our town was then known, May 15, 1875, the following persons expressed a desire to unite in the formation of a Congregational Church in this place: Mr. and Mrs. Anson Paine, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Harrison, Mr. and Mrs. Hermann F. Moeller.

Messrs. Moeller and Paine were appointed a committee to co-operate with the pastor, Rev. B. G. Page, in calling a council of neighboring churches to consider the expediency of a church organization, and if thought best to organize, to organ-

ize the same with appropriate exercises. This action seemed especially desirable because there was no other church organization in Friendville.

On June 15, 1875, a meeting was held by call of the committee at the Frantz Hall, Rev. H. N. Gates acting as chairman, and Rev. B. G. Page as scribe. Anson Paine was elected as deacon of the church. By a unanimous vote it was declared expedient to organize a church and that it should be a Congregational church, with the following charter members: Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Harrison, Congregational Church at Exeter; Mr. and Mrs. Hermann F. Moeller, Congregational Church at Gape Grove, Illinois; Mr. and Mrs. Anson Paine, Congregational Church at Dorchester; and Henry Harrison on profession of faith in Christ.

On the afternoon of the same day the congregation met in the school

house with the representatives of nine churches in council, Plymouth, Wilber, Beaver Crossing, Pleasant Hill, Fairmont, Dorchester, Crete, Milford, and Exeter. Rev. H. N. Gates was elected moderator, and Rev. Fred Alley, scribe. The minutes of the proceedings in regard to the formation of a Congregational Church, together with creed, covenant, and constitution, were submitted to the council, read, and approved by unanimous vote.

A committee, consisting of Messrs. Gross, Bates, and Smith, was appointed to arrange for the service of recognition to take place immediately. Rev. Mr. Gross reported as follows: Rev. Simon Barrows, of Osceola, who was present, was invited to preach the sermon, Rev. Mr. Gates to read the covenant and prayer, Rev. Mr. Bates, the charge to the church, and the right hand of

fellowship to be extended by the Rev. Mr. Gross. The benediction was pronounced by the Rev. Mr. Page whose labors had been blessed in the organization of this church.

In the forty years following this church organization, the congregation has stood for the Old Gospel without any abridgment by modern Bible critics. The people were always hungry for a positive gospel, not for the doubts of the up-to-date seminary.

The church has always taken an open stand on the liquor question, and at the first annual business meeting it was voted unanimously that the clause "You promise to abstain from all intoxicating drinks as a beverage" be inserted in the covenant.

The Friend Church has had about the usual vicissitudes of a pioneer church. With great effort and sac-

rifice on the part of a few people, a place of worship was built in 1878, but was not formally dedicated until December 5, 1880.

Sometimes the financial question was difficult to meet, and it is related that a deacon or trustee once hauled a load of wheat to market to pay church accounts when the general collections were small.

In 1883, when an addition was built to the church to be used "for prayer room and pastor's study," we read the following in the church records: "Robert Sands, Sr., and H. F. Moeller, trustees of the church, this day negotiated a loan with Mr. L. E. Southwick for \$225.00 with 10 per cent interest in advance for one year, giving their personal note for \$250.00, to pay for the building attached to the church."

At the beginning the church did not enjoy so many occasions to wor-

ship, nor did it have so many societies to carry on the work as now. Preaching services varied from one every two weeks to once a Sunday. For about eight months in 1897 the congregation was without a pastor, and H. M. Smith, H. F. Moeller, and Dr. H. W. Hewit read the Sunday sermon alternately.

On one evening in the spring of the year 1878, the pastor, Rev. Mr. Page, while going to the store of E. Slagg and the home of Mrs. E. J. Hurlburt to arrange for some church singing, fell into an open cellar way. He never recovered from his injuries, and died the following autumn.

For a number of years it was the custom of the church to write from time to time to the absent members about their spiritual life. If a church member was absent for two years and could not give a satisfa-



Rev. B. G. Page,
the first pastor
of the church.

Mrs. Harriet A.
Moeller, only char-
ter member still
living.



Dr. H. H. Price, Present Pastor.

tory reason, he was dropped from the church roll, which action is in accord with the constitution of the church.

Several times persons have been excommunicated from the church, but not always by church trial. A few people have gone back into the army of the enemy, but to a large majority of the members, the Christian religion has been a source of hope and comfort.

For a number of years some of the most untiring workers in the various departments of the church never formally joined the church, and among them were trustees, choiresters, choir singers, Sunday School officers, music committees, building committees, and workers in the Ladies' Aid Society.

Some of the happenings of later years might be chronicled: In August 1891, at a special meeting it was

voted to build a new church edifice. The building committee was as follows: H. A. Johnson, chairman, Messrs Brickley, Hewit, and White, and the trustees of the church, Messrs Fred Burleigh, A. Wood, and J. H. Phillips. On Sunday, September 21, 1902, the new church building was dedicated, Rev. Sidney Strong making the address. A free-will offering was taken which left the church free from debt. On March 22, 1903, it was voted to make an effort to unite the Baptist and the Congregational churches into one body, but no agreement could be made. In the spring of 1904, mid-week prayer service was changed from Thursday evening to Wednesday. In 1905 a pipe organ was bought for the church. In 1906 a new parsonage was built, and in 1907 a new lighting system by electricity for the church was installed.

PASTOR
H. H. PRICE, D. D.

DEACONS

MR. WILLIAM CURRIE, Senior Deacon.
MR. GEORGE TAYLOR. MR. JOHN CARNAHAN.

TRUSTEES

MR. FRANK PTAK, Chairman.
MR. JOHN KREBS. DR. FRANK T. HAMILTON.
DR. W. S. WARDER. MR. DAVID M. SPENCE.

LADIES' HOME CIRCLE

MRS. AGNES STEWART, President.
MRS. DAVID SPENCE, Secretary-Treasurer.

HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY

MRS. WM. CURRIE, President.
MRS. FRANK T. HAMILTON, Treasurer.
MRS. G. J. KAHM, Secretary.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

MR. J. C. NEWCOMB, Superintendent.
MR. JOHN KREBS, Assistant Superintendent.
MR. CHAS. BLANCHARD, Secretary-Treasurer.

**YOUNG PEOPLES' CHRISTIAN
ENDEAVOR SOCIETY**

MISS MABEL JEWITT, President.
MISS BERTHA SPENCE, Secretary.
MISS ISABEL KREBS, Treasurer.

Present Members

Ahl, Mrs. Sarah Carnahan, Ethel
Alldritt, Edith Lyle Carnahan, John
Ames, Mrs. Belle Carnahan, William
Ames, Roy Chipman, J. P.
Andrew, Chas. H. Cogswell, Mrs. Geo. H.
Andrew, Mrs. Chas. H. Connell, Mrs. Archie
Andrew, Mrs. Lula Connell, Irving
Andrew, Mrs. Mary Currie, Florence
Barth, Mrs. Chas. Currie, Thomas
Bartlett, Mrs. Elmer Currie, William
Birdsall, Miss Katie Currie, Mrs. William
Blackmore, Mrs. Thos. Dine, Mrs. Sarah
Blackmore, Arlien Easley, Guy
Blanchard, Bessie Easley, Mrs. Letha
Blanchard, Chas. A. Easley, Ogden
Blanchard, Mrs. Chas. A. Farquharson, Chas.
Blanchard, Earl Farquharson, Mrs. C.
Blanchard, Mrs. James Farquharson, Florence
Blanchard, W. Gallup, Ella
Blanchard, Mrs. W. Gallup, John
Bowby, Mrs. C. E. Gallup, Mrs. John
Brickley, Mrs. H. E. Gamble, Richard
Bumgart, August Gamble, Mrs. Richard
Bumgart, Mrs. August Gibson, Robert
Burleigh, Lillford L. Gibson, Mrs. Robert
Burth, Bernhard Gifford, William
Burth, Mrs. Bernhard Goggin, Eva R.
Busse, Herbert R. Gordon, Mrs. Elma
Busse, Mrs. Herbert R. Graham, William
Butcher, James Graham, Mrs. William
Butcher, Mrs. James Hall, Melvern

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|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Hall, Ruby Cecilia | Krebs, John |
| Hamilton, Dr. Frank T. | Krebs, Lucile |
| Hamilton, Mrs. Frank T. | Krebs, Mamie |
| Hartman, E. F. | Krebs, Tillie |
| Hartman, Mrs. E. F. | Larsen, George |
| Hayes, Mrs. Carrie | Luff, Jennie |
| Hill, Mrs. Maude | McAlpin, Annie |
| Hodges, Hazel May | McAlpin, Ethel |
| Humphrey, Libbie | McAlpin, Katharine |
| Hurlburt, Mrs. Annie | McAlpin, Margaret |
| Hurlburt, Mrs. E. J. | McAlpin, Robert |
| Jensen, Mrs. Fred | McAlpin, Mrs. Robert |
| Jewitt, Mrs. Emma | Martz, C. O. |
| Jewitt, Mabel | Martz, Mrs. C. O. |
| Jewitt, Mildred | Miller, Francis |
| Jewitt, Ruby | Miller, J. E. |
| Johnson, Mrs. Harriet | Miller, Mrs. J. E. |
| Jones, Mrs. Caroline | Moeller, Arthur H. |
| Kahm, Emanuel | Moeller, Mrs. Harriet A |
| Kahm, Mrs. Emanuel | Newcomb, J. C. |
| Kahm, George J. | Newcomb, Mrs. J. C. |
| Kahm, Mrs. George J. | Newcomb, Mary |
| King, E. F. | Newer, Mrs. Carrie |
| King, Mrs. E. F. | Nelson, A. J. |
| King, Grace | Nelson, Mrs. A. J. |
| King, Maud | Odwarker, Mrs. Chas. |
| Kissinger, Miss Ida | Odwarker, Julia |
| Klein, Chas. L. | Packard, Mrs. Mary C. |
| Klein, Mrs. Chas. L. | Parks, R. B. |
| Krebs, Alene | Parks, Mrs. R. B. |
| Krebs, Augustus C. | Phillips, Mrs. Ella |
| Krebs, Isabel | Phillips, Genevieve |
| Krebs, Mrs. Jacob | Phillips, Gertrude |

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|------------------------|------------------------|
| Price, Rev. H. H. | Stewart, John |
| Price, Mrs. H. H. | Stewart, Mrs. John |
| Ptak, Frank | Taylor, George |
| Ptak, Mrs. Frank | Taylor, Mrs. George |
| Ptak, Fred | Taylor, George A. |
| Ptak, Mrs. Fred | Taylor, Hazel |
| Rineheimer, Mrs. Thos. | Theilen, Mrs. Jacob |
| Rockel, Alex. | Wagner, Mrs. Julia G. |
| Rockel, Mrs. Alex. | Walston, Mrs. Arthur |
| Roehl, Mrs. William | Warder, Dr. W. S. |
| Scamman, Harry | Warder, Mrs. W. S. |
| Scamman, Mrs. Harry | Warner, William E. |
| Schmidt, Mrs. Belle | Warner, Mrs. Wm. E. |
| Schmidt, Mrs. Edith | Wells, Mrs. Abbie |
| Sims, Mrs. Margaret | Widick, John |
| Southwick, Mrs. H. J. | Widick, Mrs. John |
| Spence, Bertha | Widick, Mrs. Josephine |
| Spence, Clarence | Winslow, Mrs. Lavina |
| Spence, Mrs. Clarence | Wood, Mrs. R. B. |
| Spence, David M. | Wyld-Brown, Gladys |
| Spence, Mrs. David M. | Wyld-Brown, Mabel |
| Spence, Mrs. Elsie | Wyld-Brown, |
| Stewart, Mrs. Agnes | Mrs. Helen |
| Stewart, Mrs. Hugh | |

Fortieth Anniversary Program
Wednesday, September 15, 1915

4:30—Communion Service

5:30—Social Recreation

6:00—Supper

8:00—Services in the Auditorium

Hymn, "All Hail the Power of Jesus'
Name."

Invocation

"Founding of the Church," Rev. H.
Ross, Lincoln.

Male Quartette, Messrs. Schmidt, Mill-
er, Thompson, Farwell.

"History of the Church," Dr. H. W.
Hewit, Lincoln.

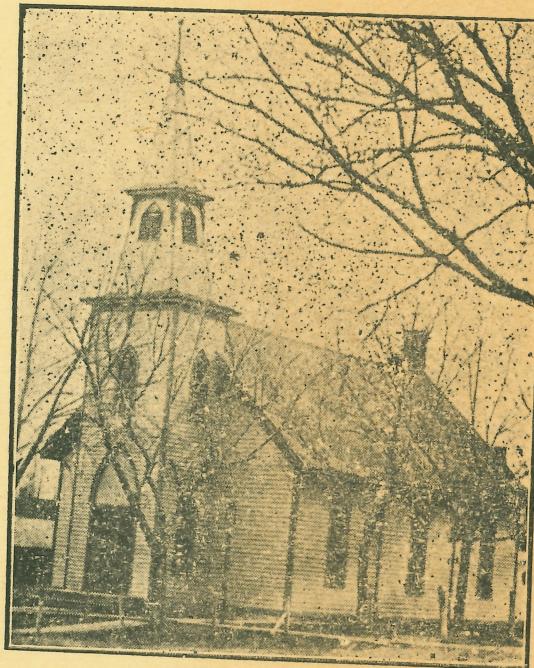
Duet, Helen Widick, Vera Kahm.

"One of the Chapters," Rev. Wm. E.
Payne, Cortland.

Quartette, Misses Odwarker and Mc-
Alpin, Mesdames Warder and Barth.

Messages From Former Pastors, Rev.
H. H. Price.

Hymn, "Blest Be the Tie That Binds."



The First Church Building.

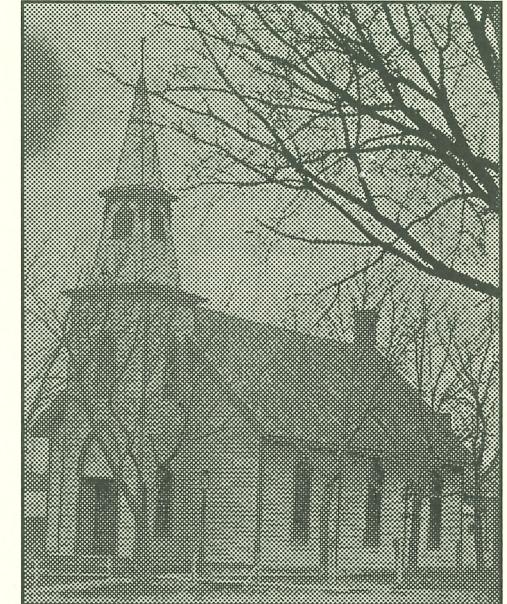
TELEGRAPH PRINT, FRIEND, NEB

Celebrating

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Years

1878



*United
Church of
Christ*



1913

*Friend
Nebraska*

2000

