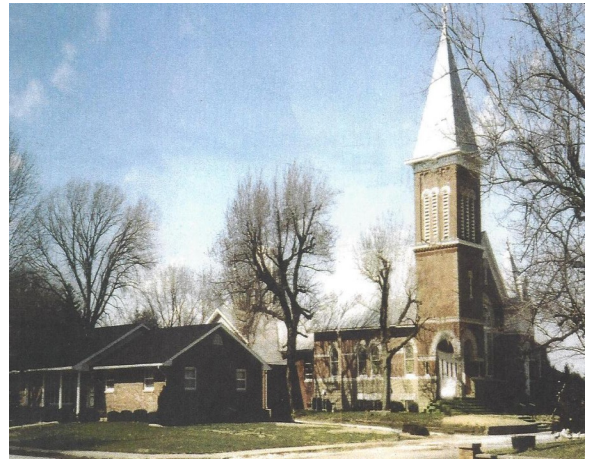


**Oaktown Christian Church
Founded 1866**

**P.O. Box 360
Oaktown, IN 47561**



In the late 1860's, evangelists from the State Association of the Christian Church were sent out to develop Christian Churches in Indiana. One of the evangelists, Benjamin C. Sherman, came to Oaktown and led a meeting that resulted in the Oaktown Christian Church on May 5, 1866. The church faced serious questions, difficult challenges and early divisions but grew over the years with the development of Sunday School, a women's group, and development of its buildings.

The current building was dedicated in 1906 with the addition of a Fellowship Hall, kitchen and classrooms in 1961. With a long list of ministers with short tenures, the lay leadership was strong and led the church through wars and depression. The land adjoining the church was purchased and a parsonage built in 1936. It was moved to a new location and replaced with a newer parsonage in 1975.

The church has been blessed by a long list of ministers through the years and at some times even shared ministers with the Carlisle Christian Church. Our current pastor, Rev. Todd Barnhizer, has been with us since August 2002.

In recent years, we have seen an expansion of our ministry within the community. We have offered space for tutoring, developed a community youth ministry, a food ministry and enhanced our worship experience with updated audio and video equipment. We have also supported the outreach ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and co-sponsored a subscription to the publication "The Parish Paper" so it can be accessed online by every Disciple congregation in the region.

The closing paragraph of our most recent History begins with these words:

*"Thus ends an abbreviated account of 143 years
of history of the Oaktown Christian Church.
Henceforth, we will make history,
rather than write it."*

