

**80<sup>TH</sup>**

*Anniversary*

**ZION CHURCH**

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

MARION, ILLINOIS

**1888 - 1968**

EVERETT LYNCH — PASTOR

OBSERVANCE AND RECOGNITION HELD

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1968

Zion United Church of Christ is drawing near the close of its eightieth year. There is much in its past history to inspire and encourage us to go forward in the Lord, striving to do His will in the world.

*Five years ago a 75th anniversary book was prepared and distributed. By action of the Church Council this supplement has been prepared to be inserted into the previous book to bring it up to date. (Copies of the former are still available at the time of this printing.)*

Among the events of these last five years, 1964 through 1968, a few stand out as highlights: the dedication of historical and symbolic mosaics, the sale and removal of the parsonage, enlargement and surfacing of parking lot, the Leo Schellenberger bequest designated by the congregation for a memorial organ, visits by missionaries, Dr. Biek and Mary Jane Fogal, plans (and revised plans) for church expansion, purchase of property at 933 W. Cherry for future parking, theft of office and audio-visual equipment and consequent policy decision to lock the church at night, payment in full of DuBois Center quota and pledge to Eden Seminary Library, joint Lenten Services with Bethel A. M. E., First Christian and First Presbyterian Churches, study and implementation of all-church emphasis on "The Local Church in God's Mission," and the decision on the part of Louis Fluck to enter Eden Theological Seminary this fall.

Other events during this same period include: The congregation's observance of the pastor's 25th anniversary of ordination and 25th wedding anniversary, the formation of a Young Adult Sunday School Class and Fellowship Group, beginning of year-round dual services, survey of church property, retaining of architectural firm, negotiations with Reuter Organ Company, the decision of congregation to join Chamber of Commerce, attendance at the National Conference on Christian Education at Notre Dame University by Mrs. Oscar Schafale and Louis Fluck, and hosting of Fall Conference. New robes were secured for both choirs and for the acolytes.

In connection with the proposed expansion program the following committees were appointed: **The expansion committee** was headed by Mrs. Gordon Franklin. Other members were Oscar Schafale, Orlie Rue, L. E. Broeking, C. O. Pate, Herbert Kobler, and Walter Pape, ex-officio.

**The organ committee** consisted of Miss Katherine Kaeser, Chairman, Mrs. LeRoy Anderson, Mrs. J. C. Fly, Mrs. Herman DeRossett, Miss Augusta Warskow, Miss Elizabeth Feurer, Mrs. Alma Rix, Mrs. Edwin Soldner and Walter Pape.

**The finance committee** has for its chairman Herbert Kobler, William V. Brown, Dr. John L. Kaeser, Herbert Wohlwend, Walter Pape, Dennis Conley, Larry Feurer, Alma Rix, Albert Kaeser, and Charles Winters.

The committee appointed to plan and carry out the 80th anniversary observance was chaired by Gene Lang. Other members were Mrs. John F. Kaeser, Mrs. J. C. Fly, Mrs. Herbert Broeking, Mrs. Elroy Grounds, and Gilbert Boester.

Statistically speaking, official membership figures have gone from 432 (Oct. 1963) to 489 (Oct. 1968). During this period 157 new members were received, 60 through youth confirmation classes, 42 through adult baptism and/or confirmation, and 56 through transfer or renewal of faith. Losses totalled 100. Of these 20 were deaths, 50 transfers,

and 30 were placed on the inactive list. There have been within the last five years 48 baptisms of infants and young people, 56 weddings, and 68 funerals conducted. Average attendance figures were as follows: 216 (1964), 229 (1965), 253 (1966), and 257 (1967). The 1968 figures are not complete at this writing. Other total figures are from October 1963 to October 1, 1968 and, for this reason, will not necessarily correspond to figures given in the annual report issues of the Zion Herald.

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

The Sunday Church School reports that during the last five years the attendance has remained fairly constant, between 140 and 150 per Sunday. Throughout this period Herbert Kobler has served as superintendent, Emil Feurer as secretary-treasurer, and Miss Katherine Kaeser as children's worker.

Some of the causes to which the church school has contributed are as follows: The Migrant Workers Project, Share our Substance, Heifer Project, Incorporated (baby chicks), American Bible Society, The John Milton Society for the Blind, and Vietnam Orphan Relief. Individual classes have supported still other causes.

Annually the Church School has conducted a Daily Vacation Church School, and also has given Revised Standard Version Bibles to children entering the Lower Junior Department each fall. Classes are held for all age groups, including four classes for adults.

### **MEMORIAL COMMITTEE**

The following special additions and improvements have been made from the memorial funds since the 75th anniversary celebration; scholarship gifts, plaques for various gifts to the church and the educational building, new stoles to match altar cloths (in memory of Rev. Lynch's mother), a record changer and additional speakers for the basement area, new lamp and outlet for piano, an altar, cross, and candleholders for youth department (in memory of Mrs. Atlanta Knobloch Crosson, given by her daughter, Mrs. W. J. Gerwitz), a Viewlex projector (in memory of Walter Soehrman), a light weight tape recorder, \$300.00 to missionary support (Mary Jane Fogal), a new projection screen, replacement of a damaged pulpit scarf, an altar desk (in memory of Sophia Becker by husband and daughter), a new memorial book, a brass kneeling bench (in memory of Mr. and Mrs. William Fries by son and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Leo Fries), \$50.00 altar flower fund (balance of memorial gift for Mr. and Mrs. William Fries), \$325.00 choir robe fund, \$99.00 for Junior Choir robes.

Many memorials have been given and designated for building fund, organ fund, air conditioning fund, and DuBois Center. The bulletin board in front of the church was given by the Kaeser family in memory of Mr. Fred Kaeser.

We want to thank Robert Feurer for his work in buying and installing additions to our sound system, Adolph and William D. Dahmer for electrical work, Harry Sparks for his advice and recommendations in the purchase of the tape recorder, his sons for taping the church service each Sunday, and John and Elsa Kaeser for taking the recordings to shut-ins.

## **EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE WOMEN'S GUILD**

The Executive Board is the group through which the different women's organizations work together. Its purpose is to unite all the women of the congregation to promote the total program of our church, to carry out the purpose of The Council for Lay Life and Work of the United Church of Christ, which is "to assist all men and women in the church to grow to full stature as mature Christians; to develop and coordinate programs which will deepen and strengthen their Christian witness; and to help men and women understand and participate in the whole task of the church."

Some of the accomplishments of the women of the church through their Executive Board since the 75th anniversary are as follows: donated to a missionary couple, purchased stainless flatware for the church, contributed to and cooperated with Church Women United in their programs and with their special events, such as the Japanese Tea and May Fellowship luncheons, purchased coffee maker for the church, sponsored mother-daughter dinners for the last three years, purchased a filing cabinet for benefit of all circles.

The board meets at least twice a year to plan any special event, which may be deemed necessary to unite all the women of the church, and to reorganize with new officers at the end of each year. The Board each year is made up of the President and Vice-President of the women's groups in the church.

## **MARTHA CIRCLE**

The Martha Circle is the senior group of the Women's Guild with forty-one members at present. They are best known for their quilting through the years since organized as the "Frauen Verein," November 3, 1898. Because of failing eye sight and health of some of the members, it was decided last spring that they give up the quilting. Still young of spirit and soul, they keep up with their interest in our church and the needs in the world and around us.

Freewill giving has been encouraged through the years and the results are gratifying. Offerings and quilting receipts have totaled \$2125.25 in the last five years. This has been used for the following projects: Hoyleton Children's Home (plus cookies for Thanksgiving), DuBois Center, Missionary Couple, Women's Guild Challenge, church parking lot improvement, and other gifts too numerous to mention. The new dishes and tableware have been enjoyed by those who have dined with us at various meetings. Ten dollars per month is given to the church treasury toward the janitor's salary.

### **ARPA CIRCLE**

Since the Arpa Circle organized in 1930, they have taken responsibilities upon themselves to further the work of the church. In keeping with the meaning of their name, "Arpa" (harplike), they continue to assist in the musical endeavors of the church by having the choir robes cleaned and donating toward choir music. They continue to be responsible for seeing that Altar Flowers are provided each Sunday. Young mothers are glad to leave their children in the Nursery under the watchful care of the "Arpas."

Two more mosaics in the Fellowship Hall were completed in 1965. At Christmas time the decoration of the church is always a delight and adds to the Holy Season. A basket of food sends cheer to a needy family on New Year's Day, used Christmas cards are sent to missionaries in Ghana, Africa, and old eyeglasses are sent to "Eyes for the Needy." They sponsor the "Depth Bible Study" as one outreach to the community. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Ash are the hosts. That the annual Easter Sunrise Service and Breakfast is becoming more popular is shown by the increased attendance every year.

The present membership is thirty-eight.

### **DEBORAH CIRCLE**

The Deborah Circle membership has changed little during the past five years. During the 1967-68 year, it added parties for the Mattingly Nursing Home in Herrin, in addition to the regular goals of giving toward the challenge, missionary, church cleaning, and valentines for the children at Hoyleton Home.

Some of the goals for the 1968-69 program year will be a drive for new members and to get substitute teachers for Church School.

### **MISSION STUDY GROUP**

The Mission Study Group has approximately twenty members. Usually from ten to fourteen members attend each meeting.

In the past five years the group has studied six books on Missions, viewed five films, read letters from missionaries selected from "Best Letters of the Month," sent letters to Senators concerning the Civil Rights Bill, sponsored two family night pot-lucks at which mission programs were given, recommended that the \$1800 in the church's budget be given toward the support of the Mute Clinic in Talas, Turkey (1 year), another year it recommended that \$1800 (half-support) be given to D. Douglas Schneider at Orissa, India, and contributed a total of \$463.00 to the following projects: Mary Jane Fogal for African work, Indian Mission, Rural Life Work in India, DuBois Center, Intercity Missionary work, Mission Church at Cahokia, Flood Relief in Taiwan, Mustard Seed, Inc., Taiwan.

In the missionary letters read, the missionaries expressed the thought that it would not be possible for them to be where they are, doing their work, if it were not for the the churches and friends standing behind them at home.

### **CHURCHMEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

Since our 75th anniversary celebration, the "Men's Brotherhood" has a new name which is "Churchmen's Fellowship." It has continued to be active with regular meetings and good programs. They have observed Laity Sunday and attended the annual meeting of the Illinois South Federation each year. Some also have attended the Men's Retreat at DuBois Center in 1967 and 1968.

Some of their projects are as follows: financial aid to the Apra Circle on the murals in Fellowship Hall, installed by Walter Pape, Walter Stahlhut and Gilbert Boester; Marion Scouter Award presented to Gene Uselton, Scoutmaster of Troop #21 for several years; purchase of paneling for south end of Fellowship Hall, helped provide Torgonol for floors in rest rooms at DuBois Center, contributed toward a scholarship fund for students at Eden Seminary, donated money and labor (William Kunkel and Walter Stahlhut) toward new staff house at DuBois Center, which was dedicated September 8, 1968, gave to community social service projects, a summer camp project for young people in the slums of St. Louis, and to Hoyleton Home. Members of the Fellowship carried out theme on "Beautification" at their May, 1967, meeting by painting floor and walls of church basement. They have on several occasions furnished coffee and donuts to those leaving for service, with Rev. Lynch conducting short devotions.

### **THE ADULT FELLOWSHIP GROUP**

The Adult Fellowship Group was organized in March 1965. The primary purpose was to arouse interest in a young adult Sunday School class and to promote fellowship for post-high adults and young married couples. The Sunday School class was formed. Mr. Louis Fluck was the teacher until he entered Eden Seminary this year. Mr. Charles Forcum is now in charge.

This group also meets for fellowship on the second Sunday evening of each month. During the summer months, the group enjoys various outdoor activities. During the winter, the group each month holds a potluck supper, followed by a program, in the church basement.

Greeters for the 10:40 worship service have been provided. There have been donations of money to a Vietnamese Orphanage and to the Bethel AME Parsonage Fund. This group has helped finance our missionary, Mary Jane Fogal, and prepared "Treasure Boxes" for the Nursing Home in Johnston City.

### **YOUTH FELLOWSHIP**

The Youth Fellowship (grades 10, 11, and 12) has had the following projects during the past five years: Maundy Thursday breakfast and erection of the cross followed by decoration of the cross with flowers for Easter Sunday morning each year, tutoring high school students (1966), participation in the local United Christian Youth organization, observance of Youth Sunday by conducting morning worship service, carolling for hospital patients and other shut-ins, the annual baseball trip to St. Louis, and the Pounds Hollow picnic each year. A number of young people have also served as teachers, assistant teachers, nursery attendants, choir members, and pianists.

The last several years this group has enjoyed meeting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William V. Brown, who, together with Mrs. Alma Rix, serve as sponsors of the fellowship.

## **JUNIOR HIGH FELLOWSHIP**

Although no formal attendance records are kept, the average attendance for the Junior High Fellowship's meetings has climbed to around twenty-five in the past five years. Anyone in the seventh, eighth, or ninth grade is welcome to attend either regularly or occasionally. Officers are elected each fall. The sponsors for the past five years have been Mr. and Mrs. Walter Pape.

The members participate annually in the UNICEF and Cancer Fund drives and one year also participated in the Heart Fund drive. They took Christmas presents to the children at the Hoyleton Home three of the past five years, and each year they have presented the offering taken at a family night program to the Hoyleton Home.

For the past three years, the Senior High Fellowship has joined the Junior High Fellowship on a trip to St. Louis to see a Cardinal ball game in June; and each of the past five years, the two groups have enjoyed an August outing, which has usually been at Pounds Hollow recreation area. Other times throughout the year, there have been joint programs after which each group had its own business meeting. At various times both groups have joined in meetings with the youth of other local churches.

Many parents have assisted by providing refreshments, transportation, facilities for hayrides, and assistance at supper meetings and out of town trips. They and their children have helped make the Junior High Fellowship what it is — an opportunity for young people to engage in Christian service as well as Christian fellowship.

## **SCOUTING**

Zion Church continues to sponsor Boy Scout Troop #21 and Cub Pack #21 with present membership of 35 Boy Scouts and 15 Cub Scouts. Gene Lang is still serving as Institutional Representative.

During the past five years the following people from Zion Church have served in the Cub Scout program: Cubmaster, Leon Strohmeier; Den mothers, Claire Travelstead, Helen Opel and Ida Mae Chandler; Committee members: Dennis Conley, Bill Kunkel and Wilson Giles. Mrs. Lois Browder has served as secretary for the Cub Scouts since 1955. She is responsible for getting the pack registered each year.

Those who have worked in the Boy Scout program in the past five years are as follows: Assistant Scoutmaster, Gilbert Boester; Committee member: Walter Pape, Gilbert Boester, and Sam Houston.

At this point in the life of Zion Church we pause to thank our Heavenly Father for His love and mercy, for His watchful care, and for His infinite patience.

We pray that in the years that lie ahead, we of Zion Church may be led by the Holy Spirit to become a more vital force in the work of the Kingdom. We pray that we may be forgiven for our indifference and our complacency, and that we may be more responsible to the will of God.

It appears that a period of growth and development for our community and our church lies before us. May we also—and primarily—grow in the Spirit to the end that we may truly be God's chosen people to do his will and to witness for Him in this troubled world.

As we look to the years ahead, "let us lift up our hearts to the Lord of our lives in gratitude and praise and rededication:

That His strength may pilot us,

That His power may preserve us,

That His wisdom may impress us,

That His hand may protect us,

That His way may direct us,

That His shield may defend us,

That His hosts may guide us against the snares of the evil one and the temptations of the world,

That His love may increase in us true religion and nourish us in all goodness,

That His Spirit may make us strong in the faith and enable us to help others face courageously whatsoever the future may bring forth."

—F. Fagan Thompson.