

The Shorter Chapel A.M.E. Church, Greenfield

The A.M.E. Church in Greenfield was organized in 1840. A log church building was constructed in 1843 on Fifth Street. In 1865, after the Civil War, they purchased the building of the Free Presbyterian Church at their present location at the corner of North and Second Streets.

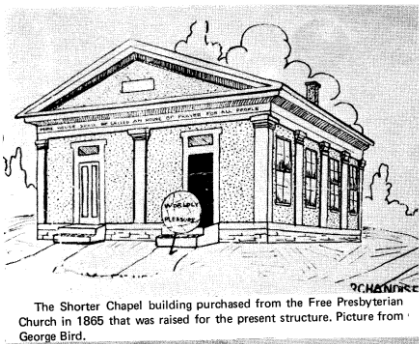
The Free Presbyterian Church in Greenfield had been organized in 1848 by twenty-one members of the First Presbyterian Church to promote the principle of the abolition of slavery. Rev. John Rankin served as moderator in its organization, and Rev. A. L. Rankin was the first pastor, also serving a similar church in Ross County. With the closing of the Civil War the purpose of the church had been fulfilled.

The first pastor of the Shorter Chapel Church was Rev. M. N. Clark. The first trustees were Edward Rains, Thomas Bird, and Solomon Turner. Edward Rains had two sons in the Civil War; Aaron E. and William Wesley Rains. Thomas Bird had a son, John, in the Civil War; and a grandson, George, now attending services in the church over ninety years of age.

A list of pastors includes: M. N. Clark, Watkins Lee, Atcheson, Ishman, Samuel Wells, Samuel Racliffe, Watkins Lee, James Paine, William Newman, T. A. Wood, J. Dillon, Cooper, E. Wright, J. Dillon, William Morgan, C.R. Greene, William Davidson, N. Mitchell, E. Cumberland. The minister in 1892 was G. W. Jackson.

A later pastor was Rev. John Butcher Harewood. He was born in Barbados of the British West Indies; and his wife, Maude (Simmons) Harewood, was born in Hamilton, Bermudas. They served in Washington, C.H., Lancaster, Cambridge, all in Ohio, before coming to Greenfield, where Mrs. Harewood died. Rev. Harewood later served in Rendville, Ohio, where he retired. Their grandson, Rev. Wendell Harewood, was the recent pastor of Shorter Chapel Church and is now pastor of the Wayman Chapel Church in Hillsboro.

The present pastor of the Shorter Chapel Church is Rev. Robert Settle, who comes each Sunday from his home in Cincinnati.



This article is from "All in the Same Spaceship". (Wayne L. Snider), 1974.

