

History of Fairfield Baptist Church

The Fairfield Baptist Church of Lorain, Ohio was founded in 1948 by the Rev. William Robert Dickerson Sr. and Mrs. Goldeen Dickerson: children-Burrell, Booker T., William McKinley, William R. Jr. Clayton Roger, Goldeen, and other charter members. A few of the names remembered were Rev. and Mrs. Howard Holman, Deacons Charles and Harry Atkinson, Deacon and Mrs. Willie Fenderson, and Mrs. Minnie Flanders.

Services were held at the Wesley United Methodist Church in Lorain, following their Sunday services until the members were able to purchase land to erect a building. Total commitment of service, time, money, and above all, prayer was expended in the building of this church. One of the members, Sis. Hattie Julia Shumate recalled how the foundation was cemented with prayer. She stated that Rev. Dickerson prayed over each stone of the foundation.

After the initial structure, to accommodate the growing congregation, it was expanded. Deacon Herbert Robinson and son, James, along with the pastor and others were all instrumental in building the extension. A two-room house was moved to the site to serve as the kitchen and dining area.

Rev. W.R. Dickerson went home to be with the Lord on June 5th, 1974, his wife, Goldeen, was called to rest on December 23rd, 1969. Rev. William C. Bacon of Cleveland, Ohio was elected to the pastorate in October of 1974.

During his tenure, the present edifice was renovated, and the second extension of the church (east wing) was erected. This wing houses the pastor's study, a baptistery, the kitchen and dining room.



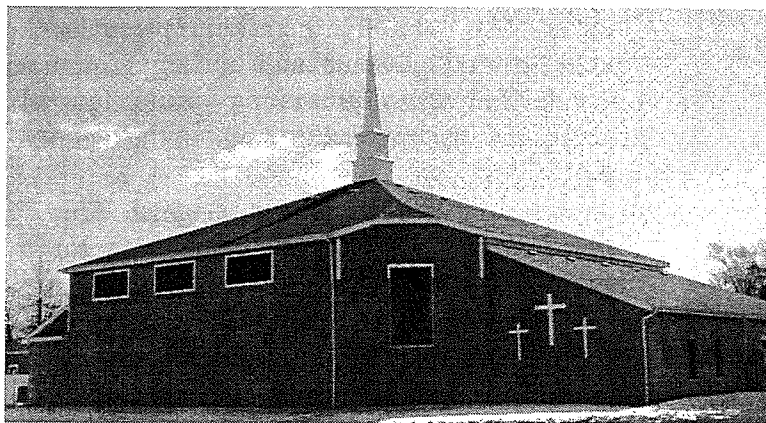
Rev. and Mrs. Joan Bacon, minister of music, organized the Fairfield Baptist Combined Concert Choir in 1976. Presently, this choir represents 60 churches from the Lorain and Cuyahoga Counties. It is in its 26th year of presenting ~ annual gospel concerts, and has traveled throughout the country.

In January of 1988, Rev. Bacon resigned. **Rev. Frank Echo is, of Lorain**, was called as pastor in May of 1989. Under Pastor Echols leadership, Rev. Dennis Johnson was called to be the assistant pastor in September 1992. Pastor Echols was responsible for making many additions to the church building such as central air, carpeting in the pulpit, and the purchase and installation of the pews and pulpit furniture. Pastor Echols humbleness, meekness, and dedication to service encouraged the Fairfield family to KEEP EXPRESSION ON. Pastor Frank Echols departed this life on April 19th, 1994.

The fourth pastor of the church is **Pastor Dennis R. Johnson, Sr.** after serving faithfully as assistant pastor under Pastor Echols; the church saw fit to call him as pastor June 8th, 1994. During the time that Pastor Johnson has served, much emphasis, has been put on prayer and Bible Study. He has instituted mid-week service and prayer. His focus has been on the children as **"THE CHURCH OF TOMORROW"** giving *"Prime Time"* which is a special time set aside for the children in the Sunday morning worship service.

Under the leadership of Pastor Johnson, God had blessed the church spiritually and financially. The membership has grown which has enabled us to purchase and pay for a 15 seat passenger van. Twenty-one acres of land has been paid for in Sheffield Township that is the future site of a housing development and spiritual retreat along with purchasing 2 ½ acres of land in South Lorain.

In 2002, Pastor Johnson was able to fulfill his Godly vision by using the acreage in South Lorain to build a new house of worship and praise. The members of the Fairfield Missionary Baptist Church along with Pastor Johnson felt it was time for new beginnings. Therefore, the name of the church will be changed from the Fairfield Missionary Baptist Church to the Fairfield Christian Center of Worship and Praise. Our desire is to be Christ centered. Pastor Johnson's emphasis is on:



Above the front of Fairfield Christian Center of Worship & Praise International Ministries located at 2002 East 28th Street, Lorain (South Lorain).

The back of Fairfield Christian Center below.



KINGDOM WORK VERSUS CHURCH WORK!!!

First Lady Beverly Johnson



Pastor Dennis R. Johnson, Sr.

