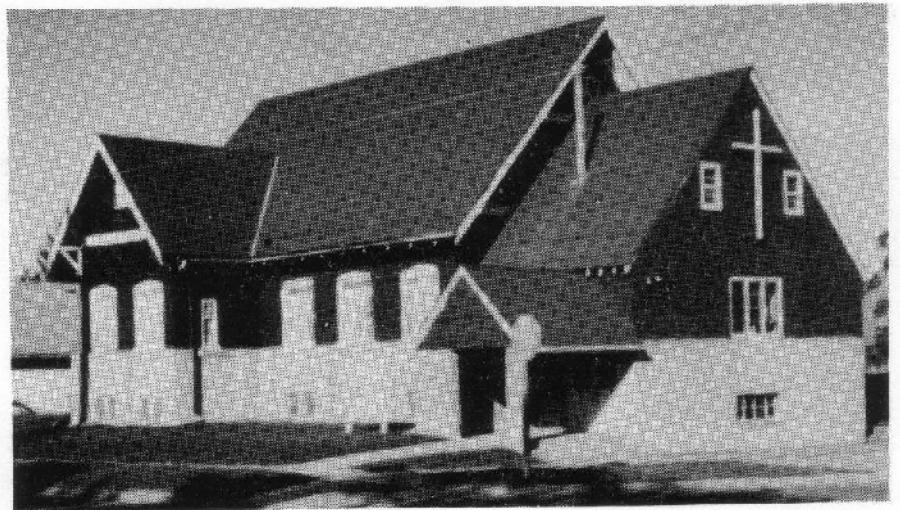




1914

75 Years



1989

Leon Brethren Church

Leon, Iowa

“Leon’s Little Brown Church”

(at the corner of Northwest Church and Northwest 7th Streets)

[515] 446-7576

LEON BRETHREN CHURCH

604 N. MAIN STREET
LEON, IOWA 50144

October 22, 1989

It is with joy that we welcome you to this 75th Anniversary Celebration of Leon Brethren Church. We are thankful that you made the effort and took the time to join us in thanking God for His goodness to our church.

I feel like the apostle Paul as he wrote, "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all" (Philippians 1:3 - 4). It is our prayer that through the activities of this weekend, our Lord Jesus Christ will receive all the honor, praise, and glory.

I praise the Lord for the excellent work of the 75th Anniversary Committee. They have spent many hours planning and arranging details. A special thanks goes to the chairman of that committee, Oda McKern. I am so grateful to Jesus, for the many who have decorated, prepared meals, cared for housing, and made sure that a multitude of other tasks were handled timely and efficiently.

All the praise for this excellent congregation goes to God, our Father. Your love during the past two years has been great. Your patience and encouragement have been a constant blessing.

Whether you are currently a member of Leon Brethren, a former member, or simply a good friend of the church, we are thrilled as you share this time with us. We praise the Lord for helping to make this a time to glory in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

In His Great Love,

Pastor Russell Betz, Kay, Timothy and Peter



Phone: 515/446-7397

Pastor: RUSSELL BETZ

Psalms 136 - 1

O Give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever.

Sunday, October 22, 1989

2:00 p.m.

PROGRAM FOR 75th ANNIVERSARY RALLY

Prelude	
"To God Be the Glory"	#127
Welcome and Prayer	Pastor Russell Betz
Special Music	Men's Quartet
History of Leon Brethren Church	
"The Way of the Cross Leads Home"	#402
Announcements	
Offering	
Testimonies From Our Guests	
Special Music	Women's Quartet
Special Recognitions	
"The Church in the Wildwood"	#367
Special Music	Brethren Choir
Message from God's Word	Pastor John Aeby
"Have Thine Own Way, Lord!"	#387
Prayer of Dedication and Benediction	
Postlude	

Special note — The hymn, "The Way of the Cross Leads Home" was sung at the original dedication Sunday, October 25, 1914.

Pianist — Sharon Durell

History of Leon Brethren Church

The Brethren Church was started near Schwarzenau, Germany, in 1708, when eight determined believers met together and decided to fully follow and practice the teachings of the New Testament. By 1719 religious persecution became so severe that many in the original group sailed to America and established the first church in Germantown, PA. From this point the church scattered across America.

The first Brethren Church was constructed in 1874, six miles northeast of Leon and was known as Franklin. In 1883 there was a division of the church over the question of uniformity in religious garb. The liberal members joined with the Presbyterians in building a Union Chapel at Crown.

In 1913, the Crown Chapel Church made plans to hold revival meetings in Leon. These meetings led the people to see the need of a church in Leon. Cars were making transportation easier and several of the young people were in the Leon High School. Following the revival a Sunday School was held over a store building in Leon. The present Leon Brethren Church is an outgrowth of this Sunday School started by George Ronk. After much prayer and consideration it was agreed to purchase the lot of W.A. Alexander, known as Hoffines Corner. The price for the lot was \$1000.00. This was Oct. 11, 1913. Plans were drawn for the church building by Pastor Ronk and work was soon underway. Most of the charter members came from Union and Crown Chapel Churches. Much of the work was done by the members.

Although the building was not finished, it was dedicated Oct. 25, 1914.

The church continued to grow under the ministry of Pastor Ronk. In July of 1916, F.G. Coleman was ordained as an elder to assist Pastor Ronk and the two country churches. Brother Coleman assisted until 1917 when he resigned and S.R. and J.F. Garber were chosen to assist until a full time pastor could be secured.

In August of 1919, G.T. Ronk was again called to be the pastor.

At a business meeting, July 25, 1920, a decision was made to consolidate the 3 congregations of Leon, Union, and Crown Chapel under one church head. These three groups were united September 20, 1920 and G.T. Ronk was elected as pastor at a salary of \$100.00 a month. After another year of serving the Lord faithfully brother Ronk left and Sam and John Garber again filled in as pastors until a full time pastor could be secured.

After a series of revival meetings in the Leon Church Rev. Claude Studebaker was called to be the pastor. He accepted and moved to Leon with his family in Sept. of 1924. Pastor Studebaker ably cared for the flock until May, 1929, when he accepted a call to go to Pittsburgh, PA.

After much prayer and consideration a call was extended to Miles Taber. The Lord led him to accept the pastorate and he and his wife arrived in Leon, June 9, 1929, and the Tabers were blessed almost immediately with a baby girl.

At a called meeting, Oct. 25, 1929, a constitution was adopted, the first the Leon Church ever had.

The Tabers left Leon for a pastorate in Fillmore, CA, in July, 1934.

Conard Sandy was called to the ministry here and took up pastoral duties Aug. 23, 1934. Sandys were here just one year and Rev. Henderson accepted a call to Leon. This ministry continued until he resigned in 1937.

Again, Miles Taber was contacted and it was a joyous occasion when they accepted and returned to Leon in April, 1938. The church grew under his ministry and there is evidence of real spiritual growth. The church celebrated its 25th anniversary Oct. 25, 1939, with a special program commemorating the event.

During the years from 1936 on there was dissention at the school in Ashland, Ohio. The trouble was caused by several professors in the college and seminary who were not Brethren and consequently there were opposing viewpoints among the teachers concerning the practical application of the scriptures and worldliness among teachers and students. The outcome of this was the establishment of a new seminary at Winona Lake, IN. It was decided that the Leon church would cast their lot with the new group forming at Winona Lake.

In July of 1943 the property belonging to Grace Hutchison was purchased for a parsonage. Pastor Taber was working at the Leon Post Office and he gave half of his salary each month in payment on the parsonage.

July 30, 1945, Miles Taber received a call to Winona Lake to be editor of the Brethren Missionary Herald. He resigned his pastorate and helped the church secure Rev. Paul Davis as pastor. The Davises ministered until Nov.,

1946. A call was extended to R.H. Kettell who had previously held meetings for us. He accepted and was soon on the field laboring for the Lord. The church grew under the faithful ministry of Pastor Kettell.

Marion Gates was called to be our pastor in 1952 and served until 1954.

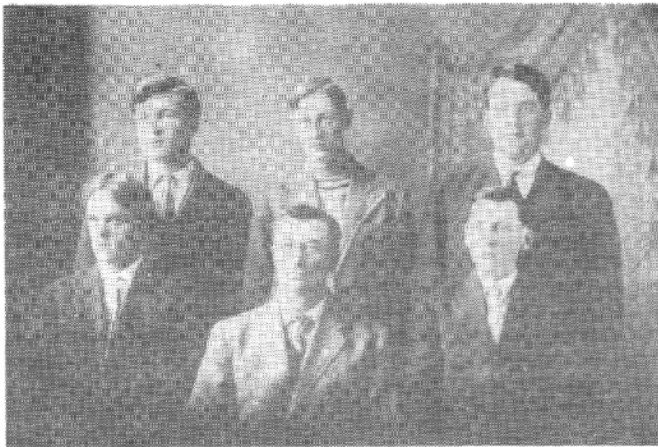
Ronald Robinson was called to be pastor in 1955. About this time a lawsuit was instigated against us by George Ronk and a few followers in an attempt to get the church property into the hands of the liberal Ashland, Ohio group. The Lord used Ronald Robinson and many friends from Winona Lake and throughout the brotherhood in the legal battle that followed. The Lord graciously allowed us to keep our church building as our place of worship.

Ronald Robinson resigned in January, 1959, and we were without a pastor until September. Glen Welborn accepted the call to carry on the Lord's work in the Leon church. During his pastorate the front of the church was remodeled and two gas furnaces were installed and many other needed improvements with Pastor Welborn furnishing much of the labor and advice. A new parsonage was constructed at 604 N. Main. The Welborns moved to that address in 1964. The Welborns' ministry continued until June, 1987. This completed almost 28 years of caring faithfully for the flock, the longest of any pastorate of the church.

Pastor Russell Betz began his ministry with us in mid-June, 1987, and is preaching the word and caring for the flock at the present time.

We have two long time missionaries, members of our church, in full time service for the Lord. They are Miss Angie Garber, working among the Navajo Indians in New Mexico and Rosella Cochran, missionary in Africa. Glen Welborn, our former pastor, is also serving as interim pastor in Kenai, Alaska.

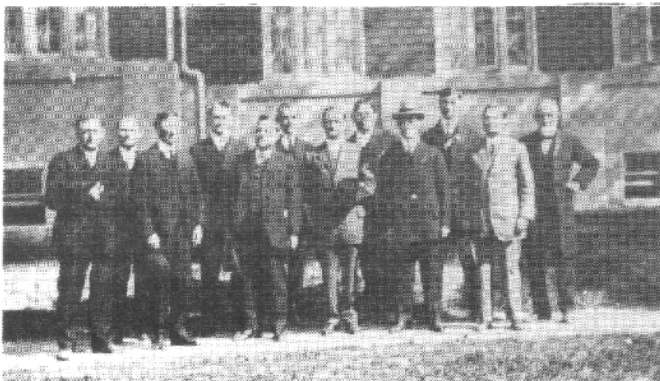
A glance back over the years reveals many human shortcomings and failures, but our Lord has been faithful. To Him we give all the praise, honor, and glory.



Crown Chapel Sunday School class of 1914. Front row, Irving Goodman, teacher; Malachi Hart and Calvin Ryan; back row, Harry Plummer, Ralph Ridgway and Claire Long. The remains of this church are located on the farm of Willie Vanderflught in Center Township.



1916 Sunday School class - Crown Chapel
Back row: Josephine Garber Dale, Wilma Garber Myers, Georgia Garber Ridgway and May Hughes; front row: Julia Hughes Cox, teacher; Mrs. Anna Long, Gladys Wright ?, and Eunice Long Boyd.



Early Men's Group on west side of church

Psalms 145 : 17

The Lord is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works.



Frank Garber - Pioneer member of the church

PASTORS OF THE LEON BRETHERN CHURCH

1914 - 1917 and 1919 - 1924

1917 - 1919

1924 - 1929

1929 - 1934

1924 - 1935

1935 - 1937

1938 - 1945

1945 - 1946

1947 - 1951

1952 - 1954

1955 - 1959

1959 - 1987

1987 -

George Ronk

Pulpit filled by John and Sam Garber

Claude Studebaker

Miles Taber

Conard Sandy

Henderson

Miles Taber

Paul Davis

R. H. Kettell

Marion Gates

R. R. Robinson

Glen Welborn

Russell Betz



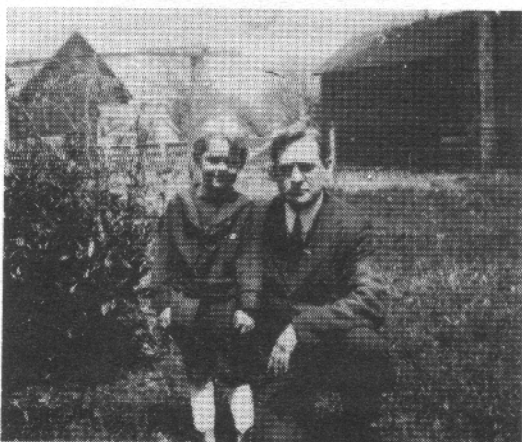
Samuel R. Garber - Interim - Pastor 1917 - 1919



Miles Taber upon his arrival in Leon 1929



Dr. and Mrs. Whitcomb. Served as interim pastor, summer 1954



Rev. G. T. Ronk and Walter



Rev. and Mrs. Conard Sandy and Jennie Manchester



Mrs. Claude Studebaker

I Corinthians 16 : 14

Let all your things be done with love.

OUR PASTORS



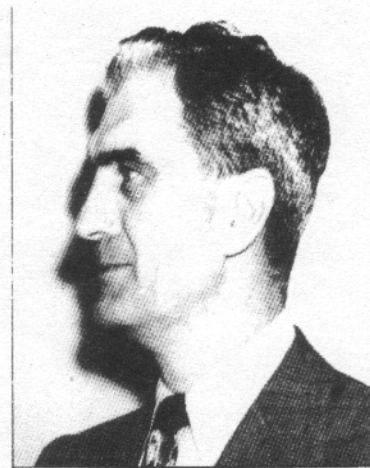
G. T. Ronk
1914 - 1917
1919 - 1924



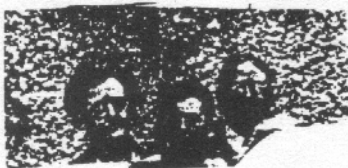
Claude Studebaker
1924 - 1929



Miles Taber
1929 - 1934



Conard Sandy
1934 - 1935



Rev. Henderson
1935 - 1937

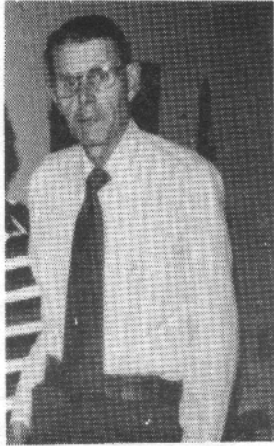


Miles Taber
1938 - 1945

I Corinthians 10 : 31

Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

OUR PASTORS



Paul A. Davis
1945 - 1946



R. H. Kettell
1947 - 1951



Marion D. Gates
1952 - 1954



R. R. Robinson
1955 - 1959



Glen Welborn
1959 - 1987



Russell Betz
1987 -

Ephesians 6 : 11

Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Dedication Souvenir
of the
Leon Brethren Church
Leon, Iowa



"Except the Lord
build the house,
they labor in
vain that build it."

Sunday, October twenty-fifth
Nineteen Hundred Fourteen



WH. H. BEACHLER

Pastor of the First Brethren Church, Waterloo,
 Iowa.
 Moderator of the Brethren National Conference
 1914-15.
 President of Iowa State Sunday School Asso-
 ciation 1914-15.
 President of the District Mission Board 1914-17.

who delivers the dedicatory
 sermon.



G. T. RONK
 Pastor-Evangelist

Romans 8:14

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the Sons of God.

Original Dedication Program

Sunday, October 25, 1914

Fellowship Service---Sunday Afternoon---2:30 o'Clock

Prelude

Song: "Loyalty to Christ"

Scripture, Rev. Jacobs

Song: "The Touch of His Hand on Mine"

Prayer, Rev. Fansher

Announcements

Chorus: "Harvest Time"

Short Addresses by Visiting Pastors

Song: "Way of the Cross Leads Home"

Benediction, Rev. Johnson

Building Commillee

J. F. Garber

F. A. Garber

Milton Manchester

Ed Kemp

Miss Mollie Sears

Frank Gettinger

W. W. Gammon

S. F. Sears

G. T. Ronk

Secrelary

Miss Mollie Sears

Treasurer

W. W. Gammon

Superintendent of Construction

G. T. Ronk

I Corinthians 14 : 40

Let all things be done decently and in order.



Designed and Constructed by G. T. Renk

Brethren Church, corner of Church and Sixth Streets

A Brief Description of the Building

The church is of a distinctly new type, being a modification for religious purposes of what is known as the bungalow style. There are but few churches built along this line in the country and none known to the writer of so distinctly the bungalow type; the chief variation being in the steeper pitch of roof made as a compromise with convention and also necessary to maintain the symmetrical lines and give that airy appearance which is the chief distinction of this building.

Though the structure is quite large it appears small and dainty. One would not suspect from its appearance that it is 78x50 feet at its greatest dimensions and almost 40 feet high to the ridge roll, with a capacity of about 400.

The building is frame, covered with stucco and shingles, built on a very heavy foundation of concrete and paving brick with hollow tile. The basement wall varies from thirteen to twenty-two inches in thickness.

The stucco forms a belt seven feet wide around the building, reaching to the water table at the window line. The shingles on the sides and roof are stained a beautiful golden leather brown. Ridge roll, cornice and all trimmings are in pure white.

The windows are specially designed with a series of three casements and a transom sash above, all opening out. The glass is a uniform grade of green opal on a white and amber base.

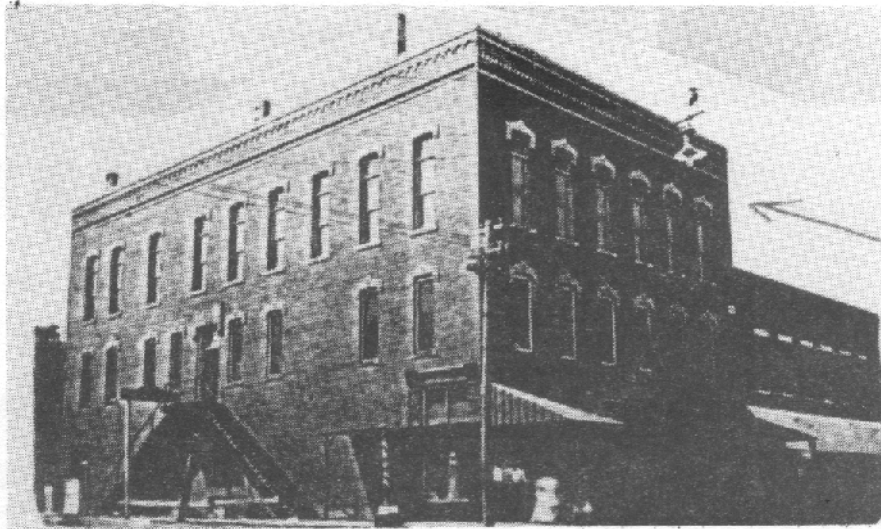
The front is of the over-hung gable, inset porch effect with pergola beamed ceiling. The front doors are oak slabs in six-paned bungalow style. Four pillars support the gable.

Inside the building a stairway leads from the small entry to the basement. The main auditorium has a drop floor and heavy oak beamed ceiling with walls balanced by picture rail and chair rail. The ceiling is painted cream, the walls light tan and the base from the chair rail down a dark tan. Beautiful electric fixtures in classic design at the beam intersections hold large moonstone reflectors. All light is diffused. The shape of the building in the form of a cross is carried out in the panels of the large doors which divide off the three Sunday school rooms from the auditorium, yet allow the whole building to be converted for auditorium purposes. The aisle and platform carpet is tan and brown set off with green.

The pews are straight with shaped backs and seats and massive modern ends. The large oak settee in genuine Spanish leather is the gift of the "Boosters" young men's class at Crown Chapel.

The basement is still unfinished, but will be completed the following season. There will be wood floor over waterproof cement. The walls will be plastered and tinted and eight Sunday school rooms provided, besides two dressing rooms, furnace room, fuel room.

The building is heated with low pressure steam plant. Ventilation is provided for by transom sashes and ceiling ventilator. It is comfortable and attractive throughout and well meets the three great requirements of beauty, utility and economy of construction and maintenance.



First Sunday School was probably held here in this building in downtown Leon (now Coast to Coast Store). The third floor was removed several years ago.



Church under construction - early 1914

A note from Himena Frost - January 28, 1989

I remember when Rev. and Mrs. Ronk first came to Leon to establish a "Progressive Brethren Church." My father, a carpenter by trade, helped from the beginning of the building. My father was well up in years and we lived quite a distance from the church. Mother would make him a hot lunch and I would carry it to him. I was 13 or 14 at the time and in this way father could rest during the lunch period.

James 1 : 22

But be ye doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving not yourselves.

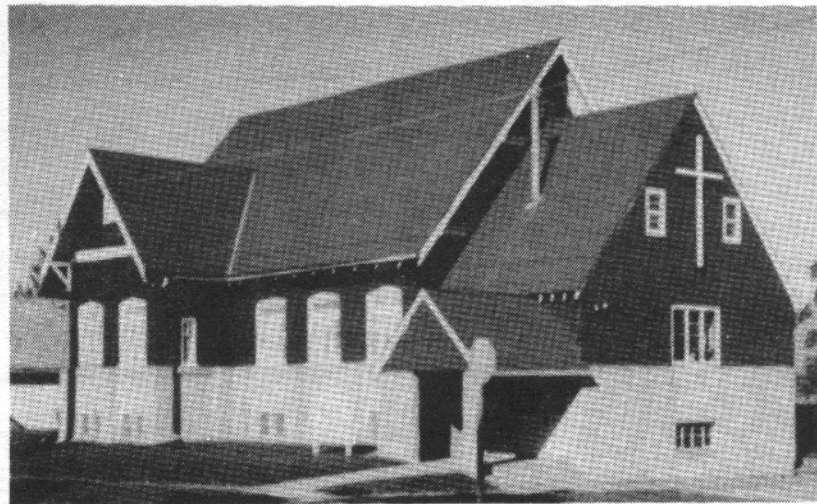
Original Crown Chapel



Lynn Bruce purchased Crown Chapel for around \$100 and moved it to his farm in 1932 or 1933 to its present location. Mr. Bruce lived north about a mile. Willie B. Vanderflight is the present owner of the farm where the building is located. A house mover, Bill Rumley, moved it. It took 3 to 4 Cats with steering wheels to move it. The building was pulled over a strawberry bed and they picked strawberries from inside the church, Mr. Bruce recalls.



1914



1989

Colossians 3 : 3

For ye are dead, and your life is hid in Christ.

**Copy of Dedication Program
1961**

Dedication Program

For the New Addition to the
LEON BROTHERS CHURCH
Leon, Iowa

Sunday, March 19, 1961

2:30 p. m.



Rev. Vernon Schrock

Waterloo, Iowa

Dedication Speaker



Rev. Vernon Schrock

Glen Welborn, Pastor

— PROGRAM —

Song Director — Rev. Forrest Jackson

Doxology

Invocation Rev. Paul Schroeder

Hymn, "Lord, I Adore Thee" No. 2

Scripture and Prayer Rev. Paul Unruh

Special Music Dallas Center Church

Announcements

Dedication Offering

Special Music, "Balm In Gilead" Mr. and Mrs. Jim Scott

DEDICATION MESSAGE Rev. Vernon Schrock

Act of Dedication Pastor Glen Welborn

Dedicatory Prayer Rev. Ray Kettell

Hymn, "Take My Life, And Let It Be" No. 189

Benediction Rev. Keith Motherhead

A great deal of thanks goes out to Vernon Schrock throughout the years. Many, many occasions, he and his wife came to minister to us, sometimes on short notice, in the absence of our pastors.

We truly respect and appreciate his ministry and counsel.

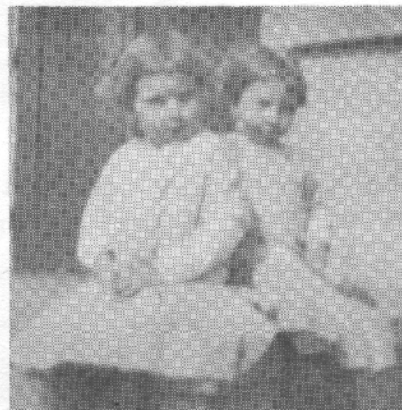
I John 4 : 19

We love him, because he first loved us.

Memories through the Years



Bible School Program - 1936



Alice Garber Peer and Angie Garber -
Twins early childhood



Mrs. G. T. Ronk & ?



Young People's picnic - early 1940's



Young People's Group - Summer 1943. It was necessary to meet in the Leon High School Gym as there was not sufficient room at the church. Sunday School attendance was over 200.

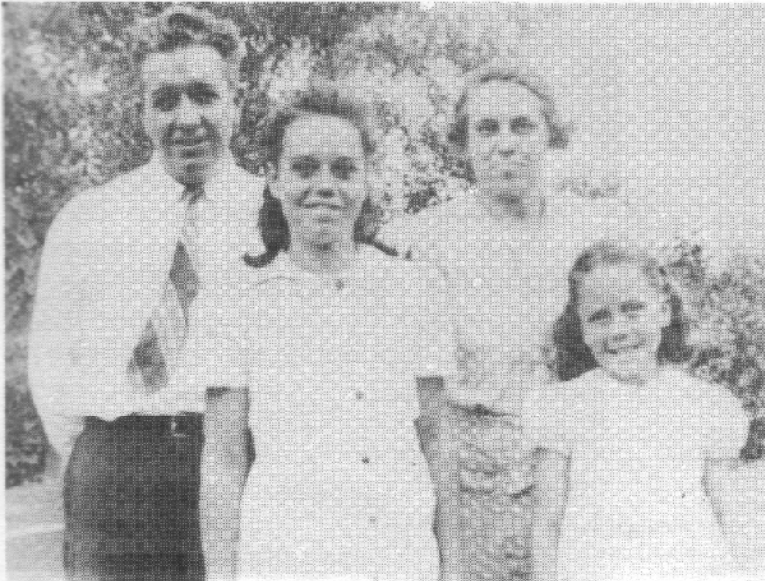
James 1 : 8

A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

Memories through the Years



Congregational Picture - August 1944



Miles and Virden Taber and daughters Bettie and Helen

Proverbs 10 : 12

Hatred stirreth up strife; but love covereth old sins.



The Kettells



Paul and Helen Davis

Memories through the Years



W.M.C. Group - 1954



Rosella Cochran and Edisene Whitcomb - 1954



Dr. and Mrs. John Whitcomb



Mrs. Ronald Robinson and Paul - late 1950's



W.M.C. making a friendship quilt - 1954



Sisterhood Group - Mid 1960's

II Timothy 3 : 5

'Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof, from such turn away.

Memories through the Years



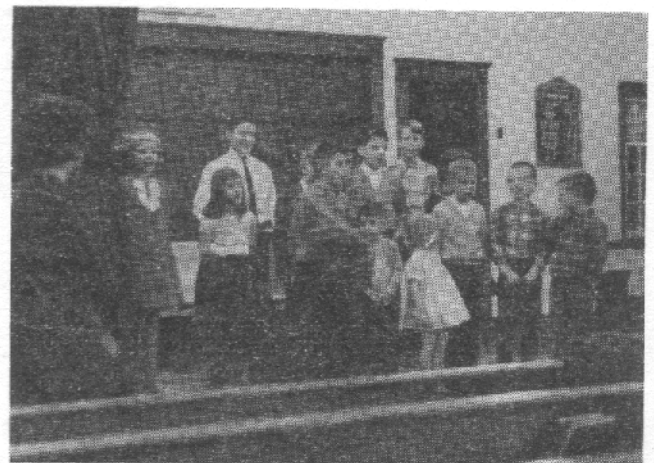
Sunday Basement School Classes - Winter 1962



Junior Sunday school and teachers - 1936



Young People's Group - mid - 1960's

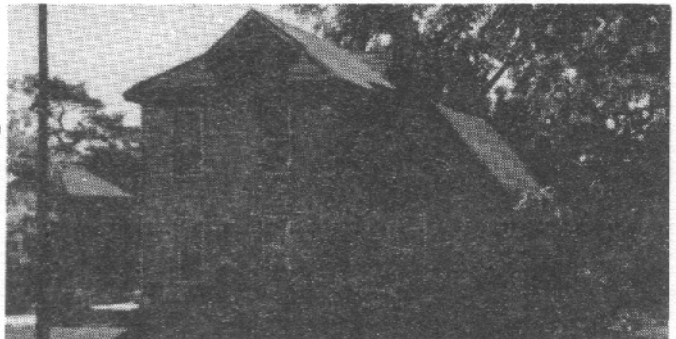


Sunday School program - late 1960's



10th Anniversary for Angie Garber at Navajo Mission - 1961 Glen Welborn, Angie and friend Joan

Church parsonage
1943-1963 -
403 NW 6th.



parsonage
1963-1989 -
604 N. Main



Proverbs 27 : 1

Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.

Memories through the Years



Bible Class - 1988 annual get-together



1989 Church Trustees



W.M.C. - Meeting at Christmas time 1988



Young People's Group - 1988



Bible School Program - 1989



Outstanding? cooks for WMC banquet (waiters and dishwashers)

Proverbs 3 : 5

Trust in the Lord with all thy heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

Two of Our Church Members In Long Full Time Christian Service



Rosella Cochran

The Leon Brethren Church has played an important role in my life. I arrived at Leon in 1948 and took my first job as an R.N. in the Decatur County Hospital. I was a new Christian, looking for a Bible-teaching church. I was directed to the Brethren Church. Pastor Raymond Kettell helped me to get sound biblical teaching for the next few years. It was there, during an evangelistic meeting with Pastor Bob Ashman that I surrendered my life to the Lord for missionary service in Africa.

I went to Grace Seminary in 1952 and after two years there I found myself in France for one year, then in Central African Republic for almost 35 years. During these many years in Africa, God's called-out ones here in Leon served the Lord faithfully by giving of their money toward my support on the mission field. And they prayed. Without prayer, we on the foreign field would labor in vain.

I am ever grateful for the Leon Brethren Church. May this "little brown church" on the corner continue to be a lighthouse as it has been for 75 years.

Rosella Cochran

Matthew 28 : 19

Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.



Angie Garber



Angie making fry bread

My first memories of our new church were smelling the new lumber as I was carried up the basement stairs. George Ronk was the pastor and we would sit on his lap on the cement runners bordering the outside steps.

He would get up at four o'clock and fire up the furnace. The radiators would hiss as they heated. I enjoyed looking out the open windows in the spring when everything was fragrant with lilacs and spring flowers.

Easter was a joyous time when we would have sunrise prayer meeting in the basement kneeling at the chairs circling the walls. The boys would see how many eggs they could eat at the breakfast which always followed the prayer service.

It was a special treat to sit on the little red chairs in our Sunday School class. The first teacher I remember was Nancy Kemp. Grandpa Bunch used to sit on the back seat and we would sit by him until he gave us pink wintergreen candies, then we would go up with our parents.

It was always a joy to go to church whether we went in our old Model T, in the big wagon, single buggy, one horse sleigh or on foot. We had lots of friends and relatives there to join in our worship and praise to our Lord.

I especially loved the three weeks of revival meetings held each winter. It was a thrill to see people leave their seats and go up to the front to accept the Lord. Many were faithful until they died. What a blessing to grow up in such a church where we learned early of the One who is still our greatest joy.

Angie Garber

Angie went to the work of the Grace Brethren Navajo Ministries at Counselar, NM in 1951 and is still serving the Lord with over 38 years of faithful service to these people and the Lord.

Matthew 28 : 20

Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always even unto the end of this world.

Letters of Past Memories

April 28, 1989

Dear Friends,

Congratulations on your 75th anniversary! The Lord has been so good to us over the years. My earliest memories are of the happy days spent there at the Brethren Church.

It seems all of our life revolved around the church. How I loved the Sunrise services on Easter. I remember the breakfast at the church afterwards and how the ladies boiled eggs in big copper wash boilers.

The children's programs were an event to look forward to as we spent hours on the platform practicing our drills.

When we grew older we were promoted to a class in the west room upstairs and thought we had attained. We even elected class officers!

As we progressed we also had the privilege of attending classes in the room on the east side and also back of the platform.

I remember the congregation singing "O Happy Day" when I was baptized and afterwards kneeling on the platform as Brother Studebaker and Uncle John Garber put their hands on us and Uncle John prayed for "these little lambs". I have thought of it often and know the Lord has answered his prayer for the "little lambs" as he has protected, led and blessed them through the years. May you continue to bring "lambs" to Christ for salvation as the Lord blesses your testimony and witness in that community.

In Christ,
Alice Garber Peer
Westerville, Ohio

Dear Church Family,

I think of the Grace Brethren Church with many happy memories. I rejoiced because it stood for the Word of God. I was happy to sit under the ministry of the pastor, Miles Taber. Several of our children were saved under his ministry so I had a double reason to rejoice.

I was happy to have taught the Adult Class for several years. I think there were 45 or more in it. I remember I had the quotation, "The prayer meeting is the power house of God", taped to our wall near our class.

We lived on a farm between Decatur and Lamoni and I remember when the roads were so deep with mud that we could not get up the hill in our car, the older children and I would walk over the pastures and hitchhike rides while my husband stayed with the younger children.

I still keep in touch with some of the former members. And when your people came to the Grace Brethren Church in Waterloo, I would go to the conference too, to greet them.

I wish I could be there for your 75th anniversary, but am not able to. Greetings to all who remember me and may it be a great, wonderful day!

In Him,
Beulah Bunting
Waterloo, Iowa

April 23, 1989
410 Nuckols St.
Red Oak, IA 51566

75th Anniversary Committee
Leon Brethren Church
807 NE Poplar
Leon, Iowa 50144

Greetings in The Lord by His Grace and Mercy..

We are Thankful to The Lord for the Blessing and Fellowship with you during the Pastorate of Brother Glen Welborn. The DVBS and Pulpit Supply Ministry were a delight.

May you know God's Blessing as you hold forth His Gospel Message.

Sincerely in Christ Jesus,
Pastor and Mrs. W. LaRoy Anderson
Psalms 34:8

Dear Friends in Leon,

I will never forget the church and the people there. This was the first church my husband pastored after graduating from college and Seminary. You dear people took us in so lovingly and co-operated so well with us. There were some lean years during the days of depression, but you sacrificed right along with us.

I praise the Lord for the workers you sent out into the great harvest field of the world. Just to mention a couple of them, Angie Garber and Rosella Cochran. Angie has served so many years loving and working with the Navajo people and Rosella with the people in Africa.

Our lives were richly blessed while we were with you. I would love to be with you on the 75th Anniversary of the church, but that will be impossible. You have chosen a great servant of the Lord, Rev. John Aeby as the speaker and I know your hearts will be blessed.

I thank the Lord for the health He has given me during the 83 years of my life. My hearing is very bad and I have Glaucoma in my eyes, but I still hear a little with two hearing aides and see to read by using special drops in my eyes. I can do my own work, attend church and drive the car. The Lord is good and meets every need. God bless you.

Christian Love,
Virden Taber

Dear Friends,

I am taking the liberty of replying to your letter with some memories.

I have been a member and attended four other churches since 1950 when I left Leon. The Leon Brethren Church will always be my church home.

I was taught to memorize and read the Bible. I was given the privilege of playing the piano and singing with Archie Coontz, Mark Newlin, Frank Kendall, Sylvester Massey, Alice Larson and Dollie Reynolds at the songfests.

I remember the Bible reading chart on the back wall of the church. Miles Taber and Rev. Kettell influenced my life more than they ever will know.

It is good to look back, but this will also be the gateway to the next 75 years of being a light to the world and serving God in His many mysterious ways.

Elaine Johnson Shenefield
Russell, Iowa

Greetings to All of the Wonderful Folks at the Church!

Trust there will be a large crowd out for the 75th Anniversary of my old church. I remember so well the great times we had attending the church services and what wonderful pastors we were fortunate to have. The Revival Services were great. How wonderful it was to see the Altar filled with folks wanting to accept our precious Saviour, and I was one of them. Then we were baptized in some church in town, that had a baptistry. That was back in the horse and buggy days. I remember how that good Iowa mud would fill the wheels until we had to punch it out so the wheels could turn. Great days I shall never forget. Wonderful people I will always remember! and we will meet in Heaven when the Lord calls us home!! Brother George Ronk, Sister Gibbons, Brother and Sister Flora and still more. I will remember the Anniversary Service in prayer and I know it will be a blessing to all who attend.

Your Sister in Christ,
Esther Garber Dible
R.D. #3, Box 43A
Shelocta, PA 15774

I John 4:11

Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought to love one another.

Letters of Past Memories

February 21st, 1938, Arthur Carey, pastor, baptized me at the Leon Brethren Church.

There was never any doubt then or anytime since but that I am a daughter of the King, the Lord Jesus, the Christ.

Every day I understand more from the Word, the Bible, and have assurance that He is coming for us soon.

May our Lord continue to bring souls unto Himself there and give all of you peace.

*By His grace,
Dorothy Jane Garber*

Dear Friends at Leon, Iowa,

I held a Bible Conference in your church-as near as memory serves me-about 1946 when Paul Davis was minister and again about 1980 when Glen Welborn was minister. I hope we can be present on Oct. 22 to hear our good old friend John Aeby. We live about 100 miles north of Waterloo where the Aebys' home is.

*In God's grace,
Robert Culver
Houston, MN.*

Dear Friends,

I regret that Ed and I will be unable to attend. It would be such a fun time for me.

My memories are very special about the years I lived there. They weren't all easy but God was training me for living today.

I just spoke on the phone with Dorothy (Dottie) Bunting and she even made my desires greater to be there because she is coming.

One of the things that stands out in my memory is the faithfulness of many of God's people. Some of you are still there today and I praise you for your years of service.

For many years we didn't have a piano and so everyday I would go to the church and practice.

I'm glad God allowed me the great privilege of spending a number of years in a small community and the chances to spend some time on the farms of some of the members.

I planted some radishes with two of my grandchildren recently. They have no idea what it is to plant and raise your own vegetables. God allowed me many experiences my children and grandchildren will never have.

Many of you know of my cancer battle during the last six years. Many of those days have been very hard but I'm thanking God for His continuing healing and with that His great peace. Thank you for your prayer support. I'm still going through chemotherapy but healing is again taking place.

I hope and pray that Oct. 21 and 22 will be great days for you and that many will be able to attend.

Ed and I send our love to all of you and prayers for continued years of service for us and you.

*Love,
Bettie Taber Cashman
Cerritos, California*

(Bettie Cashman went to be with the Lord July, 1989.)

Dear Friends,

I hope to be at the 75th celebration of the church. The Lord only knows. Best wishes for you in making up the history of the church.

*In Christian love,
Helen Davis (Rev. Paul's widow)*

Dear Friends,

I was happy to receive your lovely letter in regard to the 75th anniversary at "my old home church." The church was built the year I was born-(guess that's telling my age, isn't it?). I was three years old when my family moved to Leon and started attending that Sunday School and church.

I have many happy memories in regard to that church. There was never a doubt but what my mother and we three girls would be at Sunday School and church when Sunday arrived, and usually at Prayer meeting on Wednesday or Thursday nights. I was also one of the Sisterhood girls until I graduated from high school. When in grade school I always attended the summer vacation Bible School. I learned more about our Holy Bible then than any other time in my life.

My mother (Ella Campbell) and we three girls were all baptized in that church. Rev. Claude Studebaker baptized me-I think I was 12 years old at the time. Rev. Miles Taber officiated at my wedding which was in my parent's home.

So you see all the memories I have of that "Little Brown Church"?

I would love to be in attendance on that very important day, but doubt very much, at this time anyway, that I can be there. Living in the mountains like I do-I could very easily be snowbound on Oct. 22.

But I will certainly be there in spirit.

May God bless everyone of you!

*Sincerely,
Maxine Willey
Estes Park, Colorado*

P.S. This might be a note of interest to some of the "old timers"-The Williamson family were once members of that church-Eva Lucille and I were good friends. Mr. and Mrs. are long since gone, but I was just recently invited to Lucille's Golden Wedding Anniversary. She lives in Broomfield, CO. Her brother Hal lives in Wheatridge, CO-and Murray lives in Arizona.

September 8, 1989

To the Leon Brethren Church:

Greetings and congratulations to this church God raised up 75 years ago to hold forth the Word of His truth.

I am sorry that Agnes and I are missing the joys of this memorable occasion. This church has been our spiritual home for 30 years, 27 1/2 of which God gave to the pastorate.

Satan does not like a church that seeks to be true to such a motto as we have in our Grace Brethren fellowship... "The Bible, the whole Bible, and nothing but the Bible." Satan has opposed and sought to destroy, but praise be to God who has preserved this witness and testimony to this very day of this 75th anniversary. May He continue to do so until Jesus comes for His saints.

It was not our choice to be away at this very special time. When God raised me up from what was determined by doctors to be my certain death-bed, He must have done so with some definite purpose in His mind. Being in Kenai, Alaska, serving as interim pastor, we believe is part of that purpose.

We believe God led us to purchase a house in Leon and remain as members in this church. We love this church, and trust we can remain members until Christ takes us to our eternal home either by death or by rapture. The later is preferred, for then all of His redeemed company can leave together.

In the hope of that coming, we rejoice with you in loving service for Him, even Jesus our wonderful Lord!

Glen and Agnes Welborn

Psalm 135: 3

Praise the Lord; for the Lord is good; sing praises unto his name for it is pleasant.

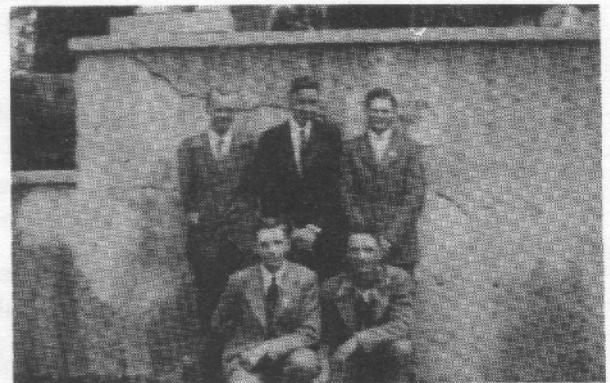
Memories



Congregational picture 1926 or 1927.



Primary Sunday School about 1951



1947 in front of church.
Can you name all of them?



Greetings in our Saviour's name,

We trust your jubilee year will be a blessing to your congregation and a testimony to the community.

We thank God upon every remembrance of the people at Leon.

As we look back we see we served the church for 6 months in 1954 into 1955. Other times for a week or two during pastor's vacations or between pastors.

We have memories of the many homes we were in, as you provided meals, and fellowship for us. The Andrew family turned their home over to us, any time we needed food or rest.

It was a long trip, as we left early before sun-up and returned home next morning, but God was faithful and we felt it a privilege to open the word and we remember decisions for the Lord.

Your congregation has given much in leadership in WMC, SMM, camp, and much more. We think of Angie, and her faithful work and our friendship with her.

Truly God has blessed you and we thank Him for letting us be a small part in the history of your work.

With our love,
Vern - Loreta Schrock

I Thessalonians 5 : 22

Abstain from all appearance of evil.

THE MESSAGE OF THE BRETHREN MINISTRY

1. Our Motto: The BIBLE, the whole Bible and nothing but the BIBLE.
2. The Authority and Integrity of the Holy Scriptures. The ministry of The Brethren Church desires to bear testimony to the belief that God's supreme revelation has been made through Jesus Christ, a complete and authentic record of which revelation is the New Testament; and, to the belief that the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, as originally given, are the infallible record of the perfect, final and authoritative revelation of God's will, altogether sufficient in themselves as a rule of faith and practice.

3. We understand the basic content of our doctrinal preaching and teaching to be:

- (1) The pre-existence and incarnation by Virgin Birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God;
- (2) The Fall of Man, his consequent spiritual death and utter sinfulness and the necessity of his New Birth;
- (3) The Vicarious Atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ through the shedding of His own Blood;
- (4) The Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ in the body in which He suffered and died and His subsequent Glorification at the Right Hand of God;
- (5) Justification by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, of which obedience to the will of God and works of righteousness are the evidence and result; the resurrection of the dead, the judgment of the world, and the life everlasting of the just.
- (6) The Personality and Deity of the Holy Spirit who indwells the Christian and is his Comforter and Guide.
- (7) The Personal and Visible Return of our Lord Jesus Christ from Heaven as King of Kings and Lord of Lords the glorious goal for which we are taught to watch, wait, and pray;
- (8) The Christian should "be not conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind"; should not engage in carnal strife and should "swear not at all";
- (9) The Christian should observe, as his duty and privilege, the ordinances of our Lord Jesus Christ, among which are (a) baptism of believers by Trine Immersion; (b) confirmation; (c) the Lord's Supper; (d) the Communion of the Bread and Wine; (e) the washing of the saint's feet; and (f) the anointing of the sick with oil.

* * * * *

This is historic, Biblical Christianity.

This is what The Brethren believe.

II Corinthians 10 : 12

"Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

THANK YOU

The 75th anniversary committee wishes to convey our sincere thanks to all who have assisted with the many, many details of making this celebration possible.

We also wish to dedicate this publication as both a memory book of highlights of the past 75 years and also a challenge to "keep pressing on with the Word" to the present and future generations.

All of us cherish memories of many departed friends and members of the congregation. These 75 years came about through many faithful stewards in their financial assistance and also long faithful prayer support.

Let's all vow to carry out our motto--

The Bible, the whole Bible and nothing but the Bible for all the world.

Again, thank you.

I Thessalonians 5:18

In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus Concerning you.