

Blackwater Christian Church

Township:	T-49-N	Organized:	1890
Range:	R-19-W	Disbanded:	1949 - Building Razed
Section:	34	Active:	No
Latitude:	38.990000	Longitude:	-92.980000
Map:		Updated:	March 8, 2020

Cemetery: There is no cemetery associated with this church.

Area: Blackwater, Missouri

Records: The location of the records of this church is unknown at the present time.

History:

Churches Have Long Played Important Part in Blackwater From "Memorabilia of Cooper County", 1990

The first religious services held in Blackwater were conducted in a hall on the second floor of a frame building adjoining the old hotel. This building burned and was replaced by a brick building now serving as a hotel and Hurst pharmacy.

These services were held approximately a year before the Christian church was built and were union services. There was no regular pastor but ministers of the various denominations who were near came and preached at various times.

Christian Church

Scott and Cooney owned a large tract of land in Blackwater township and a portion of this was secured for a town site. Scott and Cooney gave the lot upon which the Christian church was built. The deed was made to A.F. Collins, who was in business here and H.G. Fray was made trustee. The church was built in 1890.

Mrs. Riley Holman and Mrs. H.G. Fray drove many miles with horse and buggy soliciting donations from this community and neighboring towns. Funds were turned over to A.F. Collins, who deposited the money in a bank and checked it out as work progressed on the building. At the insistence of John A. Fray, Mrs. Holman let the contract to Bud Livingston for the sum of \$1400, he to furnish all material for the building. Quite a number of bazaars and ice cream socials were given before the church and furnishings were entirely paid for.

The Rev. Samuel McDaniel was the first pastor and delivered many sermons here. Some of the pastors were the Rev. C.Q. Shouse, Rev. Hulett, Rev. McAllister, Rev. Russell, Rev. Weldon, Rev. Lee Larkin, Rev. McCall and others.

Among the charter members were A.F. Collins, Mr. and Mrs. B.A. Fray, Mrs. H.G. Fray, Mrs. Riley Holman, Mrs. Charley Rucker, Mrs. J.G. Staples, Mr. and Mrs. C.P. Hudson, Misses Mollie, Laura and Grace Plummer, Mr. and Mrs. Johns and son. There were others.

The church grew in membership and interest for many years followed by a few years of inactivity after a number of the members had moved away and several had died. In July, 1925 a Sunday school was organized and since that time the Bible school has been active. A short time later a Woman's Council was organized and it, too, has been active.

In 1933, the Rev. Kring Allen reorganized the church board, elected elders and deacons. Since then the Reverends John Mill, Lee Laken and H. C. Clark have preached.

The golden anniversary of the church was celebrated August 25, 1940 at the church. A large crowd was present at both morning and afternoon service. The Sunday school class of the various churches here had been invited to attend the Christian Sunday school that morning. The invitation was accepted and the hour proved to be such an interesting and beneficial one that the Christian, Baptist and Methodists have held union Sunday school since, alternating the use of the three churches month by month.

by Miss Clara B. Harvey

Blackwater Christian Church
From "Memorabilia of Cooper County", 1990

The first Church in Blackwater was the Christian Church which was built in 1890, on land donated by Scott and Cooney. The deed was made to A.F. Collins, a businessman in the town, and H.G. Fray was named as trustee. The church building was built by Bud Livingston at a cost of \$1400. A newspaper article stated that Mrs. Riley Holman and Mrs. H.G. Fray drove many miles with horse and buggy soliciting funds from the community and nearby towns for donations, for the new church. There were many bazaars and ice cream socials held before the church building and furnishings were paid for. The church grew in membership and interest for many years. They celebrated the golden anniversary in 1940. But a number of members moved away and older leaders died, so no services were held after 1949. The church building was razed in a few years. The last pastor was the Rev. H.C. Clark.

by Mary C. Davis
