

## **A History of Bakerstown Alliance Church**

### Summary:

The Bakerstown Alliance Church was started about 1890 by Mrs. James Grubbs, who observed children of railroad employees and children of farmers in the area who had no religious training. She held a Sunday School in her home on Sunday afternoons and it grew until they asked the School Board for permission to meet in the school. This was known as the Grubbs School and stood on the piece of ground now used for the church parking lot on Valencia Road.

Some adults attended, so ministers from Bakerstown Methodist Church were invited to speak following Sunday School. A Mr. H.S. Conley of Pittsburgh steel firm came and taught Bible and dispensational doctrine from large charts drawn by the late Rev. E.D. Whiteside of Pittsburgh. (Whiteside was a phenomenal evangelist and church planter in the C&MA.) From then on the work in the Grubbs School came under the direction of the Christian and Missionary Alliance.

In 1916 a piece of ground adjoining the Grubbs School was donated by Mrs. James Grubbs for the purpose of erecting the church that continues to be used as the Bakerstown Alliance Church. The church stands as a monument to the many thousands of dollars of missionary funds which have been sent to the remote mission stations of the work and to the memory of the saints who have gone on before.

Pastors of Present Church

Rev. P. R. Hyde 1915-1923

Rev. W. A. Tenney 1923..1924

Rev. I. G. Hoff 1924-1928

Rev. W. R. MatthewB 1928-1929

Rev. J. M. Broadwell 1929-1935

Rev. George Felmley 1935-1943

Rev. Reed Walker 1943-1949

Rev. John Pugh. 1949

Rev. John Stimmel 1955-1960

Rev. Ralph W. Lindsey, Sr 1960-1968

Rev. George F Kleinhen Jan 1969-Dec 1969

Rev. R. A. MacDonald 1970-1974 \*

Rev. Everett Brownlee Feb 1975-Oct 1976

Rev. Vernon C. Borchert 1977-1985

Rev. Herbert E McClintick 1985-1987

Rev. James W Smith, III 1988-1991

Rev. Timothy Connor 1991-2000 \*

Rev. Daniel Borchert 2000-2002 Youth

Rev. Daniel Borchert 2001-2008

Rev. Vernon C. Borchert 2009-2014

Rev. Richard W. LaFountain 2015-present

Total of 21 pastors since 1915.

2016 will mark the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the church building.

## **The History of the Bakerstown Alliance Church of Bakerstown & Valencia.**

About the year 1890, shortly after the Pittsburgh and Western Railroad, now the Baltimore and Ohio, came through our section of country, Mrs. James Grubbs observed a number of children in the neighborhood who had no religious training. Some were the children of railroad employees and others were children of farmers in the adjacent country. She therefore invited as many as she could contact to a Sabbath School which she conducted in her home on Sunday afternoons. The class grew until it was necessary to ask the School Board for permission to meet in the school. This was known as the Grubbs School and stood on the piece of ground now used for the church parking lot.

Some adults attended, so ministers from the Bakerstown Methodist Church were invited to speak following the Sunday School. Rev. Burrows and Rev. Carpenter were among those who responded to the call. Mr. H. S. Conley of the Pittsburgh Steel firm, known as "Ritter and Conley" came in the winter months to the Grubbs home. He taught Bible and dispensational doctrine from large charts drawn by the late Rev. E. D. Whiteside of Pittsburgh.

From then on the work in the Grubbs School came under the direction of the Christian and Missionary Alliance. New centers were established for worship and religious instruction; one at Bakerstown, one in the hall above the general store of R. M. Gibson in Gibsonia, and one at Valencia.

In the year 1895 meetings were held in the Valencia school house under the direction of Rev. E. D. Whiteside.

In the year 1900 a Mission located at Myoma, Pennsylvania, was bought, torn down and erected in Valencia on a parcel of ground, Lot #15, Magee Plan, donated by John Staley.

Some of the early families attending this mission were:

W. L. Staley,  
A. L. Cooper,  
J. D. Perry,  
Mrs. Wetzel and others.

Some of the speakers of this mission were:

Miss Macalaree,  
Mr. Rhea,  
Mr. Moore,  
Mr. McConnell,  
Mr. W. Morrison,  
Mr. So A. Renwick,  
Mr. Galbraeth,  
Rev. Charles Van Arsdale,  
Rev. Howard Nelson,  
Rev. Thomas Moseley,  
Rev. E. R. Carner,  
Rev. Paul Rader,  
Rev. P. R. Hyde.

In the year 1916 a piece of ground joining the Grubbs School was donated by Mrs. James Grubbs for the purpose of erecting the edifice which we are now using. The building was started that year and finished in 1917. It stands as a monument to the many thousands of dollars of missionary funds which have been sent to the remote mission stations of the world and to the memory of the saints who have gone on before.

The Charter Members of this church were:

Mr. and Mrs. James Grubbs,  
Mr. and Mrs. Milton McKelvey,  
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Kocher,  
Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Staley,  
Mrs. Wetzel,  
Mr. John Staley,  
Mrs. Fred Burki.

In 1922 Mrs. Mary Waddell donated a piece of ground on the Bakerstown Road, on which was built a parsonage.

Many Christian people throughout the community contributed toward the building of the church and parsonage, and the advance of the kingdom of God. Scores received religious training in these humble beginnings and many have gone on to receive their reward which comes to those who have been faithful in a few things. (Matthew 25:21).