

*A Brief History of
Union Hill
Church
Crommertown, Missouri*



History of Union Hill Church

(Crommertown, MO)

(The following is taken from a paper we found in the church)

On the second Sunday in June 1882, a group of God's earnest workers joined together to form a church.

Elders Silas Parker, Uriah Stratton and H.H. Stratton organized the church, with seven members. They were as follows: A.H. Moss, J.M. Leach, Sarah Leach, Joseph Wiley, John DeWitt, and George Grisham. The church was named Union Hill.

In 1889, William Crommer and Bob Evans built a sawmill in the community, which was then named Crommertown. The community was thickly settled, the families were large, with many houses lining the creek. Farming and timber work were the main ways of making a living.

The church book with a beginning recording date of 1899 gives the following list as members. Because of the condition of the book, part of the names are not readable and the list is incomplete:

A.H. Moss
Julia Ann Carnahan
M.C. Moss
Alsey Ballard
G.M. Leach
Tieusinda Leach
Cordelia Jariett
J.W. Leach
J.R. Leach
Rhoda Leach
J.R. Moss
Martha Moss
Louisa Robertson
Ella Robertson
Henry Robertson
Eli Condray
William Ballard
Minnie Condray
Roselee Morlan
Charles Leach
John Angle
Belle Angle
Evaline Brown
Ruthey Belle
Netti Hefner
Mary Mann
Pearl Million
Mary Julian
Raney Julian
M.A. Boyer
Fronie Obechawn
Marrie Million
Ida Boyer
Magy Leonard

Emma Leach
Effie Smith
Ellie Morlan
T.J. Morlan
Minnie Carnahan
Cage Robertson
Joshua Brown
Corey Kelley
H.H. Smith
Marvin Carnahan
Roam Million
Cora Day
John Longbottom
Susan Longbottom
Mandy Morlan
A.M. Day
Harriet Leach
Nancy Leach
Charles Moss
Gertie Moss
Thomas A. Carnahan
Anise Carnahan
Jobie Condray
A.M. Link
Lisie Link
Carie Carnahan
Gertie Helton
Richard Carnahan
W.E. Condray
Eda Condray
N.J. Leach
Matilda Carnahan
Pearl Leach
Manda Boyer

Han Boyer
Money Boyer
Rebecca Boyer
Henry Littrell
Green Morlan
Emma Million
Minnie Jett
Charles Bradshaw
Eddy Leach
W.M. Leonard
L.H. Brown
M.J. Carnahan
R.A. Leach

J.J. Moss
J.C. Leach
James Boyer
H.H. Stratton
Lily Robertson
George Link
Mary Jett
Sam Sisco
Mrs. Sam Sisco
Myrtle Morlan
A.H. Sisney
Luly Sisney

One church was built on top of the hill, which is now called the Doug Hill. The building, which is now being used, was built in 1927. It was built in the valley in the midst of the population.

On June 10, 1962, Union Hill celebrated its 80th Anniversary. At this time, A.S.J. Carnahan spoke about the influence that Brother Hamp Stratton had had on the church. An offering was taken to buy a marker for his grave, in appreciation for his long years of service.

H.H. Stratton, "Brother Hamp," was one of the founders of the Western Union Association.

On June 12th, 1977, the church celebrated its 95th anniversary, and on June 13th, 1982, celebrated its 100th birthday. And today, June 7th, 1987, the church is celebrating its 105th birthday!!!

(This addition was made to the bottom of the page) Several years after the church disbanded, on June 14, 1998, an all day service was held with Bro. Bob Wilson preaching, with dinner and singing in the afternoon. This was the last service held at Union Hill Church.

Some of the early congregation

Albert and Elma Moss family
Lee and Anna Cates and boys
Ralph and Revah Tyree
Clarence and Lillian Condray family
Zelma Brown and family
Luin and Pearl Leach family
Ed and Myrtle Leach family
John and Lora Stratton family
George and Edna Ballard family
Viola Ballard family
Millions: Arthur and Viola, Shelby, Phoebe, and Sally
Minnie Smith family
Carrie Moss and Eva Smith
More people began attending church in later years.

Early Pastors and Clerks

(note: dates as accurate as possible)

- 1942-43: Elder Maxful Condray; Clerk, Albert Moss
1944-45: Elder Everett Coleman; Clerk, Anna Cates
1949-50: Elder Noah Mitchell; Clerk, Pearl Leach
1950-54: Elder Don Price; Clerk, Pearl Leach
1954-58: Elder Don Price; Clerk, Anna Cates
1958-60: Elder Carl Boyer; Clerk, Pearl Leach
1960-61: Elder Carl Boyer; Clerk, Addie Raymer
1961-62: Elder N.M. Condray; Clerk, Carrie Moss
1962-63: Elder Eugene Middleton; Clerk, Carrie Moss
1963-66: Elder Don Price; Clerk, Albert A. Moss
1967-69: Elder Elvis Kester; Clerk, Anna Cates
1969-70: Rev. Dale Black; Clerk, Anna Cates and Thelma Raymer
1970-71: Rev. Laddie Boyer; Clerk, Thelma Raymer
1972-74: Rev. Elvis Kester; Clerk, Eileen Raymer
1974-75: Rev. Willie Price; Clerk, Eileen Raymer
1975-76: Rev. Willie Price; Clerk, Reoh Cates
1976-78: Rev. Willie Price; Clerk, Josie Webb
1978-80: Rev. John Crowley; Clerk, Effie Bradshaw
1980-82: Rev. Bob Wilson; Clerk, Effie Bradshaw
1982-89: Rev. Bob Wilson; Clerk, Gladys Leach



Early Deacons of Union Hill Church (1952-1980)

Frank Hilton
Tommy Carnahan
Edd Leach
Lawrence Cotton
Russel Moss
Ernest Turner
Albert Moss
Walter Webb

Various Early Resolutions

(And their years and changes, up to 1985)

1. That the church look after the spiritual gift of the brethren and encourage them in the ministry by liberating them to the work of the Master as long as they remain orthodox and orderly and remain true to the St. James version of the Bible. (1942-1968)
Later added: Also that all ministers recommend and preach the need of witnessing to lost souls outside the church as well as inside. (1969-1985)
2. That we stand out solid against Sunday baseball games and advise our churches and members to shun and preach against such practices, as we are taught to shun the appearance of evil and stand not in the way of sinners. (1942-1944)
(This was elaborated on a bit in 1945: That we condemn all worldly amusements such as baseball, croquet, visiting lemonade stands, or anything calculated to injure the worship of God. And if any members of our churches indulge in such on the Sabbath Day, they should be dealt with as the churches see fit.)
3. Be it resolved that any person or persons that we find indulging in any wrong doing of any kind or nature, be dealt with in their respective churches as the church deems best. (1944-1985)
4. Resolved we stand solid against every worldly pleasure that will interfere with our churches. (1945-1985)
5. Be it resolved that we pay one-tenth of our income to the Lord.(1942-1945)
(Changed in 1951 or before to: Be it resolved that we recommend tithing to our churches. [1951-1985])
6. Resolved that we will not use nor recommend to be used any other version of the Bible than the King James translation. (1947)
7. We also earnestly ask all the churches of this association to close their doors against anyone preaching on inbred sin, or the second definite work of grace, or heresy in any form. We endorse all resolutions with these amendments. (1945-1958) Changed to; Resolved that the members of the Western Union Association earnestly urge the churches of this body to close their doors against all persons preaching or teaching heresy and all fashions of modernism and they adhere to the General Baptist landmarks, namely the thirteen Articles of Faith and the Constitution. (1959-1985) (Around '68, added: That we also not accept the preaching or teaching of false doctrines such as once in grace always in grace and second depths of grace. [This was found in '68 only.]
8. Be it resolved that we use our greatest efforts to exclude the subject of evolution from being taught in our schools, and that we employ Christian teachers to teach our children. (1945)
(Similar in 1955): Be it resolved that this Association do all in its power to create in the minds of our school boards the necessity of employing Godly men and women to teach in our schools when it is possible to do so, and furthermore that we, ourselves, resort more and more to the study and teaching of God's Word in our homes and churches. (1959-1985)

Church Covenant

Having given ourselves to God, we now give ourselves to His church and covenant with it and with each other, as also with God—

1. That we will forsake all unrighteousness, even the appearance of evil. We will abstain from all questionable pursuits and pleasures; we will forego all hurtful habits; we will avoid all evil associations; and we will touch not, taste not, handle not, any unclean thing.
2. That we will follow earnestly after righteousness and true holiness in the fear and love of God. We will seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, trusting that all needful and helpful things will be added to us; we will seek entire consecration to God; we will live a life of prayer; we will seek the constant abiding of the Divine Life within us; and we will be satisfied only when we have evidence that we please God and are accepted of Him.
3. That we will faithfully improve all the means of grace. We will attend and support the services of the church, the preaching, the social services, the business meetings; we will contribute freely of our means for the advancement of the Gospel; and we will cooperate with our brethren in every enterprise having for its end the glory of God and the salvation of men.
4. That we will be Christ-like in all our deportment. We will be tender and affectionate toward each other; we will be careful of each other's reputation, thinking no evil, and backbiting not with our tongues; we will return good for evil; we will be just and honest, truthful and honorable in all our dealings; we will do unto others as we would be done by; we will be meek, loving and forgiving as we desire and hope to be forgiven.
5. We will be faithful Christian workers. We will do whatever Christian work comes to hand, shunning no cross, shirking no duty; we will even seek opportunities to do good, glorify God and save souls; we will study to win our associates, our neighbors, our families, all whom we may influence, to become Christians; we will count it more than our meat and our drink, more than all things else, to do the will of our Father in heaven, to lead souls from sin and death, and lead them to God and heaven.

Deceased Ministers of the Western Union Association

(As of 1982)

*Rev. H. Keener
Rev. J.T. Winder
Rev. Uriah Stratton
Rev. I.J. Hines
Rev. John Harvey Spratley
Rev. Jim Bounds
Rev. A.H. Moss
Rev. Sam Woaler
Rev. L.T. Carnahan
Rev. G.M. Leach
Rev. George Gresham
Rev. B.Z. Gossett
Rev. A.V. Freer
Rev. George Sheets
Rev. S.M. Harris
Rev. B. Ragsdale
Rev. C. Johnston
Rev. Silas Parker
Rev. J.G. Burns*

*Rev. Jack Gowers
Rev. Henry Bradshaw
Rev. Alex Barrett
Rev. S.D. Freeman
Rev. D. Rollins
Rev. Jim Brames
Rev. Claud James
Rev. H.H. Stratton
Rev. W.S. Collins
Rev. J.N. Leach
Rev. H.C. Whitcanack
Rev. Ray Morlen
Rev. Don L. Price
Rev. Sam Sisco
Rev. George Anthony
Rev. George Sinks
Rev. James Cook
Rev. Travis Young
Rev. Mac Condray*



Deceased Deacons of the Western Union Association

(As of 1979)

Ellsinore—

*Bro. Fred Darby
Bro. C.W. Leach
Bro. C.T. Leach
Bro. E.M. Parks*

IJames Hill—

*Bro. Jess Wisecarver
Bro. Casper Randall*

South Van Buren—

Bro. O.L. Rogers

Union Hill—

*Bro. A.H. Moss
Bro. Jim Leach
Bro. Jeff Leonard*

*Bro. T.A. Carnahan
Bro. Lawrence Cotton
Bro. J.R. Moss
Bro. Edd Leach*

Yount Memorial—

Bro. Tolman Dawson

Harmony—

*Bro. John Sutton
Bro. Joe Leach
Bro. Joe Crowley
Bro. Shelly Leach
Bro. Tommy Roark
Bro. Jaint Wood*

*And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me; Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth. Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors and their works do follow them.
(Rev. 14:13)*

*Raymond & Sylvia
Miller, Crommertown.
July 25, 1951*



Baptism of Mike's Grandparents in the creek in front of the church in 1951.

Former Congregation (Mid 1980's)



Top three couples: Albert and Gladys Leech, Mr. & Mrs. Wilmer Raymer, Joe and Essie Bradshaw. Center couple: Bro. Bob and Sis. Jean Wilson. Lower couple: Kenny and Anthabelle Condray. Elderly ladies, left to right: Carrie Moss, Phoebe Million.

Top, left to right: Ilene Raymer, Todd Moeller , Benny and Linda Wilder, Maud Emerson. Center: Sis. Jean and Bro. Bob Wilson, Zelma Brown, April Wilder. Bottom: Eddie and Patsy Ballard, Jeff Wilson.



The building as it appeared in July 2008



Straight Paths Bible Church
First Service Held on November 30, 2008

Straight Paths Bible Church was started in January 2008. We started with two families. The Millers: Mike, Teresa, Daniel, Esther, and Elisabeth. The Watsons: Robert, Becky, and Lori. Melba Brinkley (Teresa's mother) is also a part of the church since we started. We met in our homes for several months before learning about the old Union Hill church building. Through some friends we were put into contact with the trustees and they were kind and gracious enough to allow Straight Paths Bible Church to use the old building as our meeting place.

It took a lot of fixing up to get it ready to have services in again, but we took it as a blessing from God and went to work. We had to drive a new well in order to have water at the church. The old well had become unusable, but the good thing is the live creek nearby which makes the water table not very deep there and so we have plenty of good water now. It is piped into the church and protected against freezing.

There were lots of wasps and mud daubers that had taken over the building since people quit using it 18 years or so before – not to mention the mice, squirrels, and birds. Several windows were broken out or gone and there were other openings into the building from outside that made it easy for the critters to get in and out. We finally got all the mess cleaned up and the windows and holes fixed and began having services there on November 30, 2008.

This old place holds a lot of memories for a lot of folks around here. It has special meaning to us as Bro. Mike's Dad went through the 8th grade at the old school house here. Also, his grandparents were both saved here and baptized in the creek that runs by the church. Teresa's great-grandfather (J.H. Spratley) was a preacher in the Western Union Association around 1900 and most likely preached here, also. We wanted to put together this little booklet to honor the folks that have labored and sacrificed to give of their time, money, and themselves over the many years since a church was first formed here.

It is important to us that God be honored here also. We believe in the old-fashioned Gospel that saves sinners and gives them a new life here and now – not just a home in heaven bye and bye. This is the Gospel that was commonly preached over 126 years ago when a church was first established here. This is also the Gospel that the Bible teaches. We are looking forward to what God is going to do here. We believe He lead us into this and therefore we trust Him to use us and this place as a well where thirsty souls can get a drink.

We sing the old hymns and preach the old Gospel. We have lots of singing and playing by our families. Come and visit us and let God work in your life. Tell others about us, and please pray for us.

You can see more about us on our website at www.straightpaths bible church.com.

You can also listen to the messages preached here and the special singing. There is also our statement of faith and lots more information.

(Heb 12:13) And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.

Straight Paths Bible Church

Pastor Mike Miller

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Radio broadcast:

Tuesday and Thursday at 9 AM

89.5 FM – Poplar Bluff, MO.

*(John 1:23) He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness,
Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias.*