



Church History

In 1831 Illinois had been a state for only 13 years. Palestine had barely outgrown being Fort LaMotte and now was a pleasant little village of less than 400 people. These pioneers were hardy souls who had helped to push the frontier westward, traveling by wagon, horseback, or riverboat up the Wabash until they found a likely location in which to settle and make new lives for themselves. The little village was surrounded by forests to the south and a prairie to the north; roads were merely trails; malaria and cholera were prevalent; and living was crude. But these were people with vision and courage, determined to make their settlement a good place to live.

Palestine had one church by this time. It was a Methodist Church established about 1828. Itinerant preachers from the Eastern States, inspired by great revival movements of the time, were beginning to reach the frontier settlements. Samuel T. Scott, the first settled Presbyterian minister of Indiana, came to Vincennes in 1806 and made missionary tours on both sides of the Wabash River. Later came other worthy men who sowed the seed that prepared the way for the organization of the Palestine Church.

In May of 1831 Rev. Isaac Reed, from New York, and Rev. John Montgomery, from Pennsylvania, held a three-day meeting in Palestine — May 14, 15, and 16. Twelve persons, members of Presbyterian churches before coming to Palestine, requested to be 'set apart and constituted into a Presbyterian church to be called the Palestine Presbyterian Church.' After due inquiry and examination this was done. Those twelve persons were: John Houston, Nancy Houston, Jane Houston, Eliza Houston, Mary Ann Logan, Wilson Lagow, Nancy Lagow, Alfred Lagow, James Eagleton, James Caldwell, Phoebe Morris, and Anna Piper. The following day the names of Margaret Eagleton, John Malcom, Ann Malcom and Hannah Wilson were added. John Houston and Wilson Lagow were duly elected elders.

For the first six years worship services were held in the school building (academy) on the northeast corner of Main and LaMotte Streets. During this period 31 new names were added to the church roll including one Negro lady — Betsy Barnett. These faithful few came with great dedication through all kinds of weather, some as far as eight or ten miles on horseback or foot or by farm wagon over often almost impassable roads.

The Illinois Synod was also organized in 1831. It was first called The Palestine Synod and included the territory from the White River north. Synod meetings were often held in Palestine. Early session records deal with arrangements made in preparation for these meetings. Questions of church government and slavery were the

pressing problems of the day which threatened to split the church.

In 1837 the congregation purchased a carpenter shop on Grand Prairie Street, near Pike Street, and fitted it for worship. This building was used for twelve years, until 1849.

A Presbyterian Church was established at Darwin about six weeks after the Palestine church was started; and churches were soon founded at York and Marshall. These four churches shared ministers for some time. Interesting stories are told of these hardy ministers. Isaac Bennett was the pastor in 1833. "His zeal knew no bounds. After a hard day's ride from another of his churches he reached the school house, preached to an audience of 20 by dim, mellow light of two tallow candles for nearly two hours, went home with a family of the congregation for the night and counseled with them until one a.m. He boarded among the families. To gain a little privacy from the usually numerous children in the family, he would fill his pockets with bread crusts from the breakfast table and, with his Greek Testament under his arm, retire to the woods. (All ministers were required to be able to read Greek. Presbyterian ministers have always been notably well educated.) He wouldn't be seen again until nightfall."

The Rev. Erastus Thayer, according to the Springfield Journal, offered himself as a candidate for "the most destitute field in the state." He was sent to the Wabash country where there was a settlement of infidels. He was ordained in Palestine 1840, with another appointment 20 miles distant, where he remained for eight years.

The Rev. John Crozier, who came in 1852, is described as "a strong man, a vigorous thinker, fearless to rebuke, an earnest defender of the faith." Of necessity, these were virile, militant, Calvinistic preachers who stamped their character on the early sons of Palestine.

The church made itself felt in every aspect of the lives of its members. Session records for the first fifty years deal in detail and with force with discipline of the flock. For a misdemeanor, reported by "common fame," a member could be brought before the Session, face a trial by the church jury; and if found guilty, be suspended from the communion and fellowship of the church until he could show satisfactory evidence of repentance. In the event of an appeal, the case might be referred to Presbytery. Numerous instances are recorded of individuals being called before the Session to answer charges of unchristian deportment: dancing, fiddling, encouraging or participation in drinking, and other boisterous conduct such as the use of vulgar or profane language, partying until nine or ten o'clock at night, card playing, working on Sunday, using undue

pressure in collecting debt, fighting, and other scandalous behavior. All these reasons and more were sufficient cause for suspension. Church members were required to take the temperance pledge. Sermons were full of fire and brimstone and revival meetings of three to five days duration were held each year. One instance of suspension concerned a man suspected of drinking. For meeting after meeting from 1848 until 1855 he was called before the Session. Finally a witness said he had been helping clean out Mr. Bristol's cellar. He saw the suspect 'drink from a bottle, stagger, and talk foolishly,' so he was confident he was drunk. The suspension lasted until there was evidence of repentance. Another instance deals with a young man who threw a celebration party after his father had won in a local election. He was reprimanded for breaking his Temperance Pledge and using profane language.

In 1846 fifteen members asked to be dismissed to attach themselves to a new Presbyterian Church about to be formed in Robinson. This move was premature, however. The church was not strong enough to continue. After struggling along for nine years, it was dissolved by Presbytery, and the fifteen members again joined the Palestine congregation.

In 1849 the local congregation was strong enough to raise \$1150, which aided by \$150 from the Church Extension Fund of Presbytery, was sufficient to build their first church. This building, 40 by 50 feet, was erected on the southwest corner of Main and Market Streets. It must have seemed like a grand edifice when completed. It was equipped with high-backed red plush-pulpit chairs, ingrain carpet on the rostrum, aisles laid with red-striped hemp carpeting, and large chandeliers with kerosene lamps with trimming of royal blue and silver reflectors. A rostrum was built across the entire rear end of the church for the choir and for special entertainments. Improvements were added throughout the years. In 1871 the church purchased the first reed organ which was sometimes loaned to the Methodist Church for special occasions. Later it was given to the United Presbyterian Church at Duncanville, who eventually gave it to the Morea United Presbyterian Church. In 1875 an extra eight feet was added to the length of the building.

The original old-style windows were replaced with small panes of Gothic style, glazed with red-stained glass. However, this proved a doubtful improvement. Light coming through the stained glass gave an unearthly appearance to the ladies' complexions and costumes. Some of the more irreverent men suggested that it reminded them of a saloon. Finally the ladies raised money and put white chipped glass in the lower sashes. By 1900 the kerosene lamps were replaced with electric lights and a hot air heating plant was installed. Palestine Presbyterian felt equal to any city church in grandeur.

Not the least in importance was the church bell. The bell, handsomely decorated with a wide band showing angelic figures, was cast in the Buckeye Bell Foundry in Cincinnati in 1849 and brought to Palestine by steamboat via the Wabash River. It is still in use in the present church. It has a clear, beautiful tone which has been heard as far as Merom or Hutsonville on clear days. Its ringing has marked many of Palestine's memorable days — worship services, weddings, New Year's celebrations. An early custom of the church was the tolling of the solemn funeral knell, the first one being for Mr. William Wilson in 1850. The last one tolled at the hour of death was for Mr. George W. Highsmith in 1903. The bell was also tolled for funeral processions. It would be tolled the number of corresponding years of the deceased's age. The last funeral possession the bell tolled for was Mrs. Rachel Kitchell in 1919. A favorite story tells how boys of the town would watch for the sexton to leave the church to go down town. The boys would run in and toll the bell, then hide behind the big sycamore tree in the church yard and watch the frantic sexton run back to the church.

Another interesting story deals with an idea the visiting ladies brought back from the cultured East. It was the custom there for each family to purchase at auction its own pew. The idea was considered and thought worthy; so the auction of the pews was held. One member, a man of some wealth, bid in the first five pews. The sale was halted for a conference to learn his intentions. He said the first pew was for the boys, the second for the widows, the third for spinsters, the fourth for the poor, etc. The fact was that he was against the whole procedure. He was financially able to buy all the pews, and he felt that they should be free. This stopped the sale, and pews have always been free in the Palestine Presbyterian Church.

One of the most highly esteemed ministers of this period was Rev. S. J. Bovell. He had come to Palestine in 1857 to take charge of a literary institution known as the Palestine Academy. He served as a supply minister during the time that the regular minister was serving army duty. He served again as minister in 1880 and was noted for his humorous, dry jokes. He came from Scotch Irish descent of the Blue Stockings.

Palestine became the mother of churches. In 1861 she released 26 members to form a new church on what is now State Route One, about ten miles southwest of Palestine. This was the Beckwith Church. In 1873 she released 44 members to join a second attempt to found the Robinson church. This attempt was successful. Palestine, Beckwith, and Robinson shared a minister for some years. He made his home in Robinson. This division of time hurt the progress of the other two churches. By 1892 Robinson was strong enough to support a minister alone.

In 1899 a United Presbyterian Church was formed in Palestine from about 40 members from the Morea United Presbyterian Church who asked to be constituted. Families represented here were Fifes, Welshes, Hughes, Oldhams, Spencers, Richeys, MacHattons, Beesons, and Johnsons. They met in the building formerly used by the Methodists on Pike Street just north of the present Presbyterian location. The United Presbyterians were even more rigid in discipline than the Presbyterian Churches of the USA. Rent was paid to Mr. Wise Stout to prevent an adjoining lot being used by the local boys for Sunday baseball games. This church disbanded about 1910, most members combining with the Presbyterian Church. Some of the members went to Morea or Duncanville which were both United Presbyterian Churches.

Church membership did not come easily. Session records of 1850 tell of prospective members called to meetings for six consecutive days to be examined and approved.

Session records near the turn of the century indicate a change in emphasis in the church. Less attention was paid to discipline of church members and more emphasis was placed on home and foreign mission support. An important date in the church's history was May 1906 when the Diamond Jubilee (75th) Anniversary was observed. The Rev. C. T. Phillips was installed at that observance — a minister who was greatly admired and who remained with the church until forced to retire, due to poor health, in 1914. The Diamond Jubilee was a three-day celebration. Miss Martha Patton gave an account of ministers who had served the church. Mrs. J. A. Ikemire gave a summary of the current work of the church and its prospects for the future. She related that the Sunday School had 90% attendance. The Christian Endeavor (young people's organization) had fifty members, and the Missionary Society was active with semi-monthly meetings. She concluded by stating, "Palestine is a favorable location for churches. The town is growing in population, in its industries, and its wealth. The surrounding country is rich and well able to liberally patronize the town. It is free from saloons and gambling houses — two great enemies of the church. We enter the last quarter of our first century with bright prospects." The Palestine Reporter carried an account of the celebration. Advertisements in that issue gave an interesting insight into the economy of the day. A one-year subscription to the Reporter cost \$1.00. The Chicago market listed prime cattle at \$4.00 to \$6.15; hogs at \$4.00 to \$6.55; and corn at 48¢ to 50¢ per bushel. W. H. MacHatton's store listed men's two-piece all wool suits at \$3.98, plaid percale at 4¢ per yard, and children's overalls at 25¢.

By 1911 the congregation began to feel the need of a newer, larger and more modern building than the once-grand edifice that they had occupied for the past 63 years. On May 31, 1911 the Session met to "consider

plans, appoint committees, and do the business necessary for erecting a new church, selecting and purchasing a site." It was resolved that the committee be empowered to solicit funds, secure plans, let contracts, convey property, and all other business essential until completion of the new church edifice. The committee consisted of Dr. J. A. Ikemire, C. A. Patton, Dr. D. J. Hughes, J. A. Wright, Robert Fife, Richard Jennings, and Nell Smith. Clerk of Session was Ira Bussard. Dr. O. G. Taylor was the moderator, and Rev. C. T. Phillips was the minister.

The old building was needing repairs. In June 1912 it was decided to offer at auction all church property. The local paper carried the advertisement for "disposal of the Old Church House and site...corner of West Main and Market, Lot 95m (E ½ of SW ¼)." Matthew Fife offered the highest bid of \$1,340. Fife later moved the building about 75 feet farther west on Market near livery barns owned by Fifes. It was used for a time as a warehouse and later as a voting center. Many years later it was torn down by George Dickinson, Jr. and the lumber used in construction of his home.

Worship services were held from that time until completion of the new building in the church house formerly occupied by the United Presbyterian Church during its brief existence from 1899 until about 1910, and originally occupied by the Methodist Church.

In June 1914, the congregation resolved "that the trustees of this church are hereby instructed to purchase lots 7 and 8 in the Original Town of Palestine, Illinois, belonging to David Fife and Alta Fife, his wife, for the sum of Two Thousand Dollars." Mr. J. W. Gaddis of Vincennes submitted plans which the congregation "thought real well of." The cost was estimated to be less than \$10,000. By August donations of \$6,480 had been collected — a sizable sum for a time when good land was valued at \$20 to \$25 per acre. A Ladies Aid was organized to help raise funds. Markets, bazaars, quiltings, and dinners were held for that purpose.

The familiar maple trees, planted a half century before by Rev. John Crozier, were removed from the front of the lot to facilitate street improvements; and on November 4, 1914, members of the congregation gathered at the new site for the laying of the cornerstone for the new church. Miss Nancy Patton, the oldest member present, turned the first spade full of earth. With Rev. J. S. Stevenson in charge, a copper box was placed in the cornerstone. The contents of this box included a Bible; a Confession of Faith of the Presbyterian Church USA; a history of the Presbyterian Church of Palestine; a roll of its members of that time; a copy of the Palestine Semi-Weekly Register containing an account of the church's Diamond Jubilee Anniversary; a copy of each of the town's newspapers plus the Chicago Herald of that day's issue; and photographs of the old church and plans for the new.

Rev. C. T. Phillips, now retired, gave a fitting address.

Like most projects, the final cost ran higher than expected. But sufficient money was available, with a small balance remaining, to cover the complete cost — \$25,622.87. The United Presbyterian influence was evident in the design — a small stage and narrow, off-center aisles. The United Presbyterians believed that weddings or entertainments should not take place in the church. The beautiful stained glass windows, many given in memory of loved ones, were purchased from the Jacoby Art Glass Company of St. Louis at a cost of \$805.50. The pure-toned bell was moved from the old church to the belfry of the new one. The new church was dedicated by a proud congregation on May 16, 1915, on the 84th anniversary of its founding. Worship services were held each night for the following week with special music by Laota Wright and Kate Thompson.

The first manse had been purchased while Palestine was still sharing a minister with Beckwith Prairie. This was on the corner of Market and Steele Streets and was later sold to Dr. J. A. Ikemire. The second manse was purchased at 310 West Market Street and later sold to Chester Mills. In 1922 a manse fund was started by a donation from the Patton sisters. The lot just east of the church, already church property, was the natural location. It had been used as the minister's garden plot. Rev. Curry planted it to peanuts. This seemed the logical location for a new manse. Everett Seaney was asked to draw and submit plans to the church board for a six-room and bath with porch in front and back, nine foot ceilings, size 32 by 44 feet. He agreed to prepare the plans within a week or less. Another bid was also submitted; but Mr. Seaney's bid was lower with \$4,852 for completion of the manse, including the furnace, plumbing, guttering, painting and connecting up with sewer and water. The contract was, therefore, let to Seaney and Duncan, Contractors.

Trustee reports of that time indicate that money came in as pledged for the manse. However, a balance of \$1,800 was needed for curtains, light fixtures, etc. It was voted to borrow this amount from the bank. Another interesting story just preceding the erection of the manse tells of a minister who overstepped his authority by renting a house for \$25 per month. His agreement with the trustees was for \$20. When he pled his case he was told that was more than the church would stand for. They negotiated to \$21.50. Any more than that the minister would have to pay himself. The minister's salary in 1914 was \$1,000 per year — double what it had been in 1901.

In 1926 Mr. Luke Wilson, of Kansas City, made a generous gift to the church of a new pipe organ, valued at \$4,000, in memory of his mother, Hannah Decker Wilson, wife of Isaac Newton Wilson. According to Dr. John Taylor who remembered the installation of the

organ, it was disassembled at the factory and shipped in crates on three freight cars to Palestine. (The Robinson Baptist Church bought an identical organ at the same time.) The crates filled so much of the sanctuary that no church services could be held for the two months it took to install the organ. This involved some rearrangement of the sanctuary. Two rows of pews had to be removed from the front to make room. A beautiful stained glass window in the east end of the building was covered by the 545 pipes. (The pipes we see are only for effect.) The area behind the pipes had been used for the church orchestra and the stained glass window illuminated the choir and orchestra. The lattice work covers the rest of the area.

The installation of the organ, at a cost of \$1,000, was completed in time for Palm Sunday 1926. The organist from the movie theatre in Robinson played for Palm Sunday services. Dr. John Taylor and Dora Dickinson were taking lessons and played after that. The church wiring was not strong enough to accommodate the added demand. If the organ was played at night, all church lights had to be turned off. The organ was dedicated June 6, 1926, with an organ recital by Mr. John S. St. John, organist of the First Presbyterian Church of Vincennes. Rev. M. E. Prather was the minister at that time.

The One Hundredth Anniversary was observed on May 15, 1931, during the ministry of Rev. J. G. Curry. Special music was furnished by talented children of the church: Bobby Magill, Marcia and Betty Jane Prather, and Shirley and Betty Dickinson. Dave Templeton gave a historical paper and Rev. John Farrell, a former minister, gave the sermon. Total membership in 1931 was 150.

Subsequent anniversaries have been observed: in 1951, for the 120th and as a farewell for Rev. Samuel McNeille; in 1956 for the 125th; in 1971 for the 140th; in 1981 for the 150th; and now we observe the 175th.

In 1958 the United Presbyterian Church and the Presbyterian Church USA merged into one denomination — the United Presbyterian Church in the USA. A yoked parish was formed in 1965 between the Palestine Presbyterian Church and the Pleasant View Congregational Christian Church. Members of the Morea Church were welcomed into the congregation in 1968 when the Morea Church was dissolved; and in 2005 several people from the Robinson Presbyterian Church were also welcomed into the congregation when that church was dissolved. Several items from the Robinson Church were given to the Palestine Presbyterian Church at that time.

We celebrated our 150th anniversary on May 3, 1981. Assisting in the service was Reverend Jean Huffman of Good Shepherd-Faith Church, Manhattan, New York; Interim Pastor Rev. Michael Shuff; and Ruling Elder Terryl Postlewaite. During the service the introduction

of guests was made and special music was sung by the choir. After morning worship service a carry-in dinner was served. The program for the afternoon consisted of a pictorial history from the time the Presbyterian Church was founded, presented by the Koinonia Class. Special music was presented by the Max Fulling Family and a style show of wedding dresses from the earliest around the turn of the century were modeled by the women of the Variety Pack Class. The celebration ended with an Ice Cream Social giving friends time to visit one more time.

Music has always been important in our church, but during the eighties there seemed to be a special emphasis on it. There was track lighting placed over the choir loft in 1984; and in 1986, The Moeller Organ Company was authorized to update the organ at an estimated cost of \$11,107 with the congregation donating \$8,140. In 1987 another beautiful gift of a Yamaha baby grand piano was given to the church by the John C. Fulling Family. In 1989 new robes were chosen for the choir and a new sound system was placed in the sanctuary.

Other purchases made during the eighties were an outdoor bulletin board placed in front of the church and a TV and VCR. These items along with many others have been purchased through the years from the Memorial Fund which was established in 1956. The nursery was remodeled in order to make a classroom for one- and two-year-old children.

There were both spiritual and physical improvements made during the nineties. Our Yoked Agreement with Pleasant View was revised and updated in 1992. A women's fellowship was formed with 15 to 20 people who met regularly. Our mission program was quite active. Kemmerer Village, Peacemaking, Oklahoma Bombing, Malawi Shallow Wells, Habitat for Humanity, and the Local Food Pantry were some of the needs that we supported. Several people from our church participated in the Inter-Cambio Mission.

Physical changes made during the ten years were numerous. Carpet was installed in the church and the floor area around the organ was leveled for \$15,000 in 1990. Pew cushions were donated for the pews throughout the church adding to the beauty and comfort of all. The choir room was redecorated and refurnished into the Michael K. Magill Library.

In 1991 Rev. Jim Nealeigh retired from our church. He served us faithfully for ten years. Dr. Ruth Dunn was the interim pastor. In 1997 the church hired co-pastors Revs. Ronald and Esther Pfeifer to lead us. We continued with both the church and manse landscaping in 1997 and 1998. The Elders started monthly breakfasts, and a web page for the church was started by Jim Ellis. The major improvement was the elevator installed in the southwest corner of the church at a cost of \$31,045. Preparing the area for the elevator including concrete

and masonry work, electrical wiring, and building the enclosure (chamber) for the elevator was done under the direction of local contractor Clifford Adams. The elevator equipment was installed by ADA Total Access, Inc. from East Peoria, Illinois.

In the 2000's the church was very involved in its outreach and mission work. We participated in the first community communion service. About 300 were present. Jim Bryans attended the General Assembly as the representative of Southeastern Illinois Presbytery. It was quite an honor for a young man. We also had seven women from our church attend the Presbyterian Women's Churchwide Gathering in Louisville, Kentucky.

In November 2001 the women of the church hosted the Southeastern Illinois Presbytery for an all-day meeting. As far as we know nobody had done this before. Undertaking another big project, the Koinonia Class refurbished the nursery. In 2002 we took on the sponsorship of the After School Program which has been a big success.

Missions rose to the fore in 2003. We participated in the Heifer Project and Marion Medical Mission providing three wells and three hearing aids for the people of Malawi. Two important things happened in 2004. First was the remodeling of the kitchen by the Koinonia Class with the help both financially and physically from all the Sunday School Classes. It was a big job but well worth it. Secondly was the resignation of Eric Fulling as choir director after 25 years. Linda Ryan-Catt assumed the position. In 2005 our church helped send nine members on the Inter-Cambio Mission trip to Mexico. Co-pastors Ronald and Esther Pfeifer gave their resignation. Their last service was July 3. Rev. Tom Akers is now serving as interim pastor until the pulpit is filled.

Four young people from this church have entered the ministry. Margaret Jean Huffman was ordained and has worked in the field of Christian Education. She was the Assistant Pastor of the Good Shepherd-Faith Presbyterian Church in New York City until her retirement. Charles Richey was a minister with several scattered churches in the oil country surrounding Busby, Alberta, Canada. Harold Fuller, a Baptist minister, is presently serving as chaplain at a hospital in Gresham, Washington. Kevin Buchanan was ordained. He has resigned his pastorate and is now a counselor for the Presbytery of Northern California. In 1999 Karren Greene and Tom Sherman took two years' training to become lay ministers.

Dates and histories fail to give appreciation to the many devout and dedicated people who have spent their lives in Christian living and to the influence they have exercised upon their church and community. The Palestine Presbyterian Church has been a force for good for 175 years. In 2006 we have a total membership of 171 and are blessed with numerous people who devote countless hours to their home church including the

Elders, Trustees, Sunday School teachers, choir members and musicians as well as many others who serve behind the scenes on various committees within the church and help with activities involving the community churches such as Vacation Bible School. With God's help, much good may be accomplished in the years ahead.

In 1956 when our church celebrated its 125th Anniversary, a historical paper was written by Mrs. E.W.

Mills. Her concluding comments state, "We enjoy our church life together and hope to strengthen and deepen our understanding of God's will for us and our commitment to His service. Perhaps the 100th Psalm most clearly expresses our joy and thankfulness for the gift of our church." Her statement is still applicable today. Therefore, the 100th Psalm is printed below just as Mrs. Mills did 50 years ago.

Psalm 100

*Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.
Serve the Lord with gladness:
Come before his presence with singing.*

*Know ye that the Lord he is God:
It is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves;
We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.*

*Enter into his gates with thanksgiving,
And into his courts with praise:
Be thankful unto him,
And bless his name.*

*For the Lord is good:
His mercy is everlasting;
And his truth endureth to all generations.*

In 1981 when the 150th Anniversary was celebrated, the church history was written by Kathryn Walker Herning from historical accounts written by Mrs. Ola Taylor, Miss Edna Paull, the Patton Sisters, Mrs. J. A. Ikemire, and Mrs. Fred Richey. The history of our church has been updated and written by Mrs. Dorothy Magill and Mrs. Mary Ann Coulter assisted by Mrs. Mary Ellen York and Mr. Paul Postlewaite who researched church history for events of the last twenty-five years.



Ministers

The First Presbyterian Church of Palestine, Illinois was organized May 14-15-16 in 1831 by the Rev. Isaac Reed, a missionary from New York, and Rev. John Montgomery, from Pennsylvania. Samuel T. Scott, the first settled Presbyterian minister of Indiana, came to Vincennes in 1806. He made missionary tours on both sides of the Wabash River. He and other missionaries had sown seed that prepared for the establishment of a church here. There were sixteen charter members. Following is a list of ministers who have served the church throughout the years.

“It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelist, and some to be pastors and teachers .” Ephesians 4:11

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| Rev. John Montgomery, S.S 1831 | Rev. John Farrell, S.S 1899 |
| Rev. Reuben Hale, S.S 1832 | Rev. L. J. Hawkins 1899 – 1903 |
| Rev. James Crawford, S.S 1833 | Rev. Dr. W. S. Pryse 1903 – 1905 |
| Rev. Isaac Bennett, S.S 1834 – 1840 | Rev. F. Schell, S.S. 1905 |
| Rev. Erastus Thayer 1840 – 1848 | Rev. C. T. Phillips 1906 – 1914 |
| Rev. R. K. Lilly 1848 – 1850 | Rev. J. S. Stevenson. 1914 – 1916 |
| Rev. Joseph Platt 1850 – 1851 | Rev. James G. Curry 1917 – 1925 |
| James N. Alexander | Rev. M. E. Prather. 1925 – 1932 |
| Rev. John Crozier 1851 – 1855 | Rev. James B. Muir 1932 – 1934 |
| Rev. Joseph Platt 1855 – 1858 | Rev. C. J. Grimes. 1934 – 1941 |
| Rev. A. M. McFarland 1858 – 1868 | Rev. James W. Rankin 1941 – 1943 |
| Rev. S. J. Bovell | Rev. W. A. Horn 1943 – 1944 |
| (Stated Supply during absence of Rev. McFarland | Rev. Samuel McNeilly 1945 – 1951 |
| serving in U.S. Army) | Rev. Curtis March. 1952 – 1955 |
| Rev. J. C. Thornton 1869 – 1871 | Rev. Edgar Mills 1956 – 1960 |
| Rev. Aaron Thompson. 1872 – 1873 | Rev. Dean Overholser 1961 – 1964 |
| Rev. Thomas Spencer. 1874 – 1876 | Rev. Leroy Persohn, Jr. 1965 – 1969 |
| Rev. John E. Carson 1877 – 1879 | Rev. Richard T. Hartshorn 1970 – 1978 |
| Rev. S. J. Bovell 1880 | Rev. Michael Shuff, Interim 1978 – 1981 |
| Rev. Samuel Lagrange 1880 – 1882 | Rev. James P. Nealeigh 1981 – 1991 |
| Rev. J. W. Knotts 1883 – 1884 | Dr. Ruth Dunn, Interim 1991 – 1993 |
| Rev. J. T. Wright 1885 – 1887 | Rev. Gordon Page. 1993 – 1996 |
| Rev. J. A. Bartlett. 1888 – 1889 | Interim Ministers 1996 – 1997 |
| Rev. Theodore Hunter 1890 – 1891 | Rev. Ronald A. Pfeifer, Co-Pastor. . . . 1997 – 2005 |
| Rev. L. Lish 1892 – 1899 | Rev. Esther K. Pfeifer, Co-Pastor 1997 – 2005 |
| (At this time Robinson and Palestine churches | Rev. Tom Akers, Interim 2005 – Present |
| separated and Rev. Lish went to Robinson.) | |
| Rev. M. H. Ambrose. 1893 – 1899 | |

There have been many other ministers who have served the First Presbyterian Church in recent years during the absence of a full-time pastor. Among them were Rev. John Dunstan, Rev. Frank Finkbinder, Rev. Paul Gettinger, and Rev. Chester O’Neal, as well as numerous lay people.



Ruling Elders

According to the *Book of Confession* an Elder is a Presbyter and “the senators and fathers of the Church governing it with wholesome counsel.” An elder in the earlier days of the Church held the position and served on the Session for life or until they requested to be relieved. Rev. Curtis March changed this with the permission of the church members to the more modern rotation system. Now a person is an elder for life but only serves as an active elder on the Session for a three-year term.

*“Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.”
I Corinthians 12:27*

Elders Prior to 1919

- John Houston, Charter Elder
- William Lagow, Charter Elder
- James Eagleton
- Dr. E. L. Patton
- Findley Paull*
- Andrew McCormick
- Judge James C. Allen
- Joseph M. Windsor
- James H. Richey
- Dr. J. S. Brengle
- J. C. Raney
- H. T. Beam
- E. C. Haskett, Sr.
- George W. Highsmith
- Ira H. Bussard
- John T. Fulling
- Dr. J. A. Martin
- E. H. Burr ridge
- James Hughes
- Robert Fife
- H. O. Smith
- Dr. D. J. Hughes
- Dr. J. A. Ikemire

Elders From 1919 and Year of Ordination

F. L. Freeman	1919		
Fred Richey	1919	Dr. John R. Taylor	1939
Continuous Service until 1953		Continuous Service until 1954	
Frank Huffman	1930	Lester K. Magill	1942
Continuous Service until 1954		Continuous Service until 1955	
Arthur R. Dorsett	1939	Virgil Hughes	1942
Continuous Service until 1953		Continuous Service until 1955	

Elders and Year of Ordination

Walter Smith	1953	Jane Goodwine	1981
Emerson Walker	1953	Mary Green	1981
George Dickinson, Jr.	1954	Evelyn Magill.	1984
Everett Houser.	1954	Marjorie Dickinson	1985
Robert Magill	1955	Joan Fulling	1986
Charles C. Moore.	1955	Steve Pifer	1987
L. M. Thompson	1956	Donald Magill	1988
Leo Herning	1957	Johanna McCarty	1988
J. D. Highsmith	1958	Sandra Bryans	1989
Regina Houser	1959	Jeff Shaner	1990
Ocie Seeders	1960	Lois Pifer	1991
Arthur Schulz.	1961	Kenneth Remington	1991
Elizabeth Smith	1962	Kyle Fulling	1991
Leath Postlewaite	1963	Ann Williamson	1993
Max Fulling	1964	Melinda Pifer	1994
Mary Gettinger	1965	Linnie York	1994
Paul Postlewaite	1966	James Ellis	1995
Wendell Laughead	1966	Deedra Shaner.	1995
Charles Hout	1967	Donald Winter.	1997
Carolyn Biggs.	1969	William Kiracofe (Installed 1998)	N/A
A. Lawrence Lowe III	1969	Linda Russell	1998
Harold Burner	1970	Sandra Ellis	1998
Earl Bledsoe	1971	Mary Bush	1999
John C. Fulling.	1971	Thomas Sherman	2000
Margaret Goodwin	1972	Lynn York (Installed 2000)	1959
Jerry Russell	1972	Larry Biggs, Jr.	2001
Jean Manuell	1973	Karren Greene	2001
Jesse A. Godwin.	1974	Michelle Goodwine.	2002
Glenn Judge	1974	Paul Rosenberg	2002
Dorothy Magill	1975	Rebecca McNary	2002
Kathryn Herning	1976	Larry Miller	2003
Joseph Bush	1977	Janice Judge	2004
Catherine Freeman	1978	Dawn Willis	2005
Ruby Hardesty.	1979	Eric Fulling.	2006
Terryl Postlewaite.	1980	Marilyn Henderson (Installed 2006) .	1990

*Mr. Findley Paull served over 49 years on the Session and as Clerk of Session for 44 of those years. According to Session records, he missed only one meeting during that period of time.



Membership

Each member is the church in the world, endowed by the Spirit with some gift of ministry and is responsible for the integrity of his witness in his own particular situation. He is entitled to the guidance and support of the Christian community and is subject to its advice and correction. He in turn, in his own competence, helps to guide the church.

—Book of Confession

“But you, O Lord, sit enthroned forever; your renown endures through all generations”

Psalm 102:12

May, 1831 Sixteen Original Members

John Houston
Nancy Houston
Mary Ann Logan
Eliza Houston
Wilson Lagow
Nancy Lagow
Alfred Lagow
James Eagleton
James Caldwell
Phoebe Morris
Anna Piper
Jane Houston
Margaret Eagleton
John Malcom
Hannah Wilson
Ann Malcom

Other Members Added During 1831

Alexander Logan
Holley White
Martha White
Larritta Morris

- 1832** Jesse Jones
Phebe Vandeventer
Delila York
James Wilson
Jarita Smith
Margaret White
Ann Stewart
Milley Stewart
Abigal Delap
Jane Wilson
Lidia Fritch
Laura Bunton
Robert Morris
George Wesner
Mary Long
Elizabeth Smith
Mary Ann Price
- 1833** Hugh Lenn
Mary Morris
Andrew White
- 1835** Wm. Finley Paull
Wm. Andrew McCormick
Ann McCormick
- 1836** Betsy Barnett
Joseph Everingham
Mary Logan
Ebenezar L. Patton
- 1838** Eliza Logan
James M. Logan
John M. Malcom
Sarah Everingham
- 1839** Elizabeth Wesner
Caroline Everingham
George Keller
Elizabeth Keller
Elza McGahey
Margaret Gullett
- 1840** Elizabeth Wilson
Lyse Donnell
John Grimes
Jane Grimes
Hortise Mullody
Louisa Mail
Sarah Donnell
- 1841** Wm. Grimes
Rosana Grimes
Elza Ann Patton
Nancy Alexander
Susan Winter
- 1842** Mary Wilson
Rebecca Donnell
Osmond McGahey
Levina Organ
Polly McDowell
Alice Harper
Abigail Harper
Mary Curtis
Sophia Curtis
Hannah Wilson
Ann Nichols
Wm. DeVore
Docus Misner
Frederick Fulling
Margaret Holland
Alexander Logan
- 1843** Nancy Grimes
Alice Young
Fidellia Shepherd
Mrs. Eliza Logan
Ruth Beckwith
Sarah Beckwith (Caroline)
Thomas Grimes
- 1845** Abigail Wilson
Nancy Netherton
Ellen Allen
Sarah Lilly
A. B. Winslow
Harriet Winslow
Laura Buntin
- 1846** Sarah Ann Preston
Juliet Preston
Jonah M. Dodds
- 1847** Jane Bristow
Harriet McGahey
- 1848** Rebecca Kendall
Jonas Ward
_____ Phelps
- 1849** Winnie Cox
James Allen
Ellen Allen
Curtis Fulling
Sarah Fulling
John Hutchings
David Logan
James Henderson
Eliza Jane Martin
Mary E. McCormack
Martha McCormack
Ellen Hutchings
- 1850** Mary Boatright
Seretta Wilson
Luna Wheller
John Buntin
George Mills
Ellen C. Wilson
Julia Ann Wheeler
Nancy Donnell
Sabra Vermillion
Mariah Wilson
Jane Dubois
Sarah L. McGahey
Cyretta Donnell
Wm. Preston
Samuel I. Gould
- 1851** Wm. Ritchie
Elizabeth Darling
Harriet Crozier
Cynthia Murphy
Lucy M. Norton
Wm. Stewart
- 1852** James Wilson
Martha Wilson
John A. Martin
James Ritchie
A. H. White
James A. Wilson
Henry Lanston
- 1853** Harriet Crozier
John Floyd
Margaret Floyd
Joseph Winsor
Sarah Winsor
- 1854** Mrs. Axy Gould
Mary Dodds
Mary McGahey
Dyer Fitch
Susy French
Charles Ruddell
Polly Ruddell
Madison Cawood
Catherine Cawood
Margaret Cawood
Nancy Ann Westner
Terissa Duncan
Mary Ann Westner
Susanna Westner
Mary Eliza Wilson
- 1855** Elizabeth Newlan
Sarah Ann Scantlett

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>1855 Araline Westner
Cornelius Daugherty
Naomi Daugherty
James Duncan
J. A. Wilson
Nancy Alexander
Ann Smith</p> | <p>Henry S. Floyd
Henry Beam
Nancy Mosey
Jennie McFarland
Catherine Stewart
Jane Beach
Esther Ann Goram</p> | <p>Elizabeth VanEaton
J. H. Wilkins</p> |
| <p>1856 Mary Eliza Wilson
James Crozier
Wm. O. Wilson
Cassandra Wilson
Martha Jane Daugherty
Azaline Alexander
Allen McGahey
E. W. Lagow
C. C. Lynn
Susan Lynn</p> | <p>1859 Martha Jane Wilson
Ann Eliza Bunting
Ann Tremble
Mary Virginia Harper
Isabella Richardson
Rachel Wilson
Electa Bull
Mary E. McGahey
Rhoda Ann Harper
Augustus C. Furst
George B. Everingham
Henrietta Wilson
Sue Wilson
Amanda Beam
Julia Dills
Sarah D. Condit
Salina Plymell
Nancy Patton
James Floyell
Richard Bristol
Margret Jane Plymell
Martha Jane Patton
Margarette A. Frasier
Baxter Logan
Hannah Logan
Martha J. Evans Robb
S. Ann Condit
Sophia Beckwith
McCallester Kritt
Mary Kritt
Wm. Cawood
Susan Cawood
Emily Gould
Elizabeth Parker
Dr. W. C. Dickson
Robert Delzell
Isaac Newton Wilson
Mary F. Coppers
Eliza Murphy
Elizabeth Burger</p> | <p>1862 Willie Hutchins
Minerva Hutchins</p> <p>1864 Catherine Sweet</p> <p>1866 Mary Beach
Elnora Beach
Nancy Kitchell
Chas. Logan
Sally Condit
Hannah Steel
Mary Legg
Anna Paull
Josephine Hutchins
Sarah Donnel
Theodore Beach
Ama Condit
Sarah Kitchell
Mary Fox
H. M. Bristol
Jane Bristol
Mary Gilmore
Wm. Dickson
Caroline Dickson
Eliza Haskett
Sarah Johnson
Eliza King
Joseph Alexander
Lydia Alexander
Margaret E. Gilmore
George Plough
S. E. Moore
Mary Moore
Wm. Hunter
Rachel Hunter
Franklin Robb
Ersula Nichols
Wm. Gould
Isabella Gould</p> |
| <p>1857 Margaret Grogg
James Baird
Eliza Baird
Sam Adams
Mary Adams
Mrs. E. K. Alexander
Mrs. M. I. Richey
Mrs. A. M. Hollister
Dr. I. S. Brengle
Mrs. Y. C. Brengle
David Alexander
W. I. Cravens
Mary Cravens
A. O. Delzell
Mrs. M. E. Delzell
Wm. Delzell
G. B. Delzell
Mrs. S. C. Delzell
Willie Thomson
Mrs. W. E. Thomson
Mrs. S. W. Duncan
S. B. Shannon
Mrs. E. Shannon
James Eagleton
M. Eagleton
Mrs. L. King
Mrs. S. Richey
Mrs. R. Richey
Mr. & Mrs. Kendell
John Shaw
Mr. & Mrs. Jonas Ward
Susan E. Lynn</p> | <p>1860 Caroline Vaughn
Archibald Gould</p> <p>1861 Martha Newlan
Melvina Name
Mary Agnes Mattison</p> | <p>1867 Rufus Lull
George Biggs
Elcy Biggs
Nancy McGron
Wm. Wilson
Samina Fulling
Sarah Cain
Samuel Logan
Merrit Nichlos
Elizabeth Nichlos
Elisha Bunting
Clarenda Bunting</p> |
| <p>1858 Martha J. Bovell
Mary Reed
Stephen Bovell</p> | | |

- | | | | | | |
|-------------|--|-------------|---|-------------|---|
| | Mary Mitchell
M. R. Overstreet
Celia Overstreet | | Harvy Wilson
Thomas Smith
Wm. Beam
Geo. Farrell
Hiram Williams
Joseph Martin
John Merick
E. C. Sweet
Harry Allen
Winfield Martin
Henry Fulling
Geo. B. Sweet
James Alexander
Lydia Norton
Martha Gould
Bertha Gould
Henry Erft
John Kitchell
George Erft
Elizabeth Erft
Sally Miesenhelder
Anna Miesenhelder
John Thompson
Erastus Logan
Carrol Erft
John Misenhelder
John Cawood | | John Maxwell
Mary Maxwell
Alice Maxwell |
| 1868 | Jonathan Raney
Charlotta Raney
Robert Farrell
Mary Farrell | | | 1883 | Eula Logan
Maggie Raney
Hattie Murphy
Eva Steel
Molly Steel
Ella Steel
Bell Harper
Blanche Haskett
Lucy Harper
E. R. Alexander
Allie Raney
E. C. Haskett, Jr.
H. H. Wilson
Fred Alexander |
| 1870 | Wm. Campbell | | | | |
| 1871 | Miss E. Browning
Mrs. H. M. Thompson
Mrs. D. A. Allen | | | 1887 | Elizabeth Carver
George Sweet
Amanda Kitchell |
| 1872 | Mrs. E. C. Haskett
Maggie Martin
Miss L. Martin
Mrs. A. M. Hedden
A. H. Keldon
Mrs. A. H. Keldon
Mrs. M. Thomas
Mrs. L. Ruddle
A. C. Caldwell
Mrs. A. C. Caldwell
Miss A. P. Caldwell
Miss M. A. Caldwell
J. F. Caldwell
Wm. C. Wilson
H.E. Legg
Mrs. H. E. Legg
C. W. Thomas
J. C. Thompson
Mrs. E. J. Murphy
C. Allen | | | 1888 | Ann Eliza Logan
Lucy Loughry |
| | | 1874 | A. H. Martin
Dr. H. L. Godden
Caroline Godden
Nancy Patton
John Mail | 1889 | Mary Jane Martin
Mary Adeline Alexander
Dena L. Ingersoll
Lida Mattingley
Lara Mattingley |
| | | 1876 | John Shields
David Roach
Mary Roach
Geo. Thompson | 1890 | Faytie Alexander
Anna Kitchell
Adda Logan
Carrie Logan
Sarah Haskett
Rosanne Hotchkiss
Hannah J. Steel
Horace Miesenhelder
Lena Kitchell
James K. Ingersoll
Isaac N. Vantruse
Mary Catherine Vantruse
Franklin Lindsey
Mary Lindsey
Jennie Higgins
Leroy Higgins
Maud Higgins
Wm. C. Paris |
| 1873 | Miss. M. J. Legg
Thomas C. Alexander
Geo. M. Highsmith
Angeline Alexander
Hannah Patton
Lizzie Alexander
Hannah Allen
Sarah Alexander
Jennie Cunningham
Mary Patton
Susan Gould
Mary Farrell
Charles Harper
Catherine Harper
Hattie Hill
Fannie Haskett
Kitty Purcell
Phebe Martin
Nellie Sweet | | | | |
| | | 1877 | Cyrus Fullerton
Margaret Fullerton
Mary F. Carson
John Carson
Laura Carson | | |
| | | 1878 | Harriet Wilson
Margaret Mills
Minnie Beam | | |
| | | 1879 | Wm. Mills
Joseph Loughery
John Fulling | 1891 | J. W. Reed
Louna F. Reed |
| | | 1881 | Eleanor Paull
Mary Gerham | 1894 | Susan Parris
Harry Alexander
Lydia Alexander |
| | | 1882 | Nancy Logan | | |

- 1894** Margaret Alexander
Estella Wilson
Maud Dickinson
Wm. Lindsey
- 1895** Ella Douglas
Frank P. Thompson
Frank N. Maxwell
Miles Hotchkiss
Dr. J. S. Thompson
- 1896** George Highsmith
Mrs. S. E. Highsmith
Nancy D. Logan
Charles Mills
Vola Mills
Maria Darby
Nellie Bussard
Norman Martin
Bertha Carver
Chester Mills
Charlie Martin
Bessie Kitchell
Vernia Corbin
Nelle Haskett
J. W. Martin
Ruth Robinson
Bessie Alexander
W. E. Darby
Adolphus Westerfield
C. W. Wilson
Cliff Alexander
Frank Alexander
Hattie Patton
A. H. Ambrose
John Carver
C. E. Patton
James Martin
Elizabeth Martin
Orville Mills
Hattie Williams
Roy Johnson
Perry Carver
Roy Ambrose
David Fife
Alta Fife
Ira Bussard
Ola Taylor
Dr. O. G. Taylor
Edward Beeson
Jennie Bussard
Elizabeth Houser
- 1898** Elva Bishop
Katherine Wilson
- 1899** Nancy Patton
Robert Bussard
- 1900** Joseph Doak
Clara Doak
Mrs. L. J. Hawkins
Emily Patton
Mary Fuller
- 1901** Lucinda Fox
M. A. Smith
Martha Smith
Clarice Hawkins
E. E. Mattox
Alta Bussard
Verde Bishop
Dr. D. J. Hughes
Mrs. D. J. Hughes
Alta Darby
- 1902** Ethel Doak
Mabel Fulling
- 1903** Hattie Martin
Ruth Patton
Julia Highsmith
Emma Wilson
Russell Horning
Earl Horning
Florence Martin
Laura Carver
Ada Catterton
Hallie Carver
Everett Houser
Herman Houser
Bert Pryse
Ella Pryse
Jessie Pryse
- 1904** E. H. Burr ridge
Mary Burr ridge
Lyle Burr ridge
Ida Mills
- 1905** Dr. John Ikemire
Louise Ikemire
Belle Bagshaw
Harry Alexander, Jr.
- 1906** Nellie M. Phillips
Mignone Phillips
Ray Phillips
Pearl Evans
Cecil Burr ridge
Clara Burr ridge
Richard Jennings
Clara Jennings
- Myrle Erft
Dessa Martin
Rena Newland
Esther Alexander
Ethel Mills
Nellie Catterton
- 1907** Sam Bussard
Jean Burr ridge
Kate Sweet
Mrs. O. F. Schell
Jean Patton
Elizabeth Miesenhelder
- 1908** Mrs. A. C. Witte
Fern Witte
Sophie Witte
Laota Wright
Margaret Witte
Harvey Urban
Carrie Urban
C. S. Sharritts
Mrs. C. S. Sharritts
Wilbur Sharritts
Ruth Sharritts
Ralph Sharritts
Sarah Sweet
Helena Ross
Ruth Patton
Edna Paull
Elizabeth Milner
Winona Martin
Katharyn Martin
Sarah Hardesty
Mrs. Augusta Feldman
Frances Feldman
O. W. Condrey
Allen Cobb
Goldie Camblin
Alice Bunt
Sarah Apple
Edith Adams
- 1909** Frederick A. Hartshorn
Elizabeth Blanche Hartshorn
- 1910** Wm. S. Wilson
Nannie Russell
Ronald Ross
Sadie Ross
Margaret Martin
Robert Fife
Inez Fife
Matthew Fife
Ora Fife
James O. Cooper

	Harriet Cooper Nannie Carrico Mary Bussard	Dorothy Shifler John Richey Sarah Richey Ruby Martin Frank Huffman David Hughes Mrs. H. S. Hamilton Abner Freeman Roland Fife Jean Alexander Elizabeth Alexander Paul Alexander	Lloyd Mercer Geneva Walker Gwen Walker John Taylor Ralph Richey Paul Parkhurst John Parkhurst Maurice McCormick Catherine Fisher
1911	J. Wesley Eva Wright Jessie Woodworth Wm. E. Wood Audie Wood Henry Smith Portia Smith Steele Smith Solomon Swope Mary Swope Laura E. Smith Kathryn Miesenhelder Dwight Mills Cleo Mills Gertrude Mercer Ray Martin Marjorie Ikemire J. E. Houser Ena M. Houser Mary Beth Houser James Hughes Martha Hughes Virgil Hughes Miles F. Hughes Russell Hughes Hunter Garrard Fannie Garrard Harry Garrard Henry Garrard Lelia Garrard Rhoda Garrard Harold A. Fife Wm. Fife, Sr. Martha Fife Wm. Fife, Jr. Eunice Fife Helen Fife Emily Edgington Rebecca Dickinson Clara Bishop Hazel Bussard Abbie Beeson	1916 May Patton D. L. Jones Mrs. D.L. Jones	1921 Henry Tewel Fay Tewel Dr. B. F. Price Dema Price Mayme Houser Regina Houser Louise Fife George Dickinson Dora Dickinson Beatrice Butler
	1912 Verde Bishop	1917 Helen Johnson Catherine Freeman French Freeman Mrs. J. G. Curry Mary Apple	1922 Edna Schifler Catherine Green Beulah Curry
1913	Adeline McGahey Pauline Beck Louella Barker Phyllis Barker Avis Barker	1918 Glen Welsh Paul Welsh Mae Welsh Lois Welsh Hazel Welsh Marie Schifler John Kitchell Eugene Russell Emma Probst Cecil E. Mills Isaac Laughead Kate Laughead Nellie Laughead Carl Jones Paul Hughes Sarah Hughes Max Houser Ritchie Beeson Wm. E. Beeson	1923 Helen Smith Martha E. Fife Agnes M. Fox L. Paul Curry
1915	Maxine Woodworth	1919 Mary Waters Sarah Schifler Emma Partridge W. C. Johnson Mrs. W. C. Johnson Anna Dickinson Mary E. Dickinson Noble Brown Damon Barker Deloris Barker Max Mills	1924 Emerson Walker Martha Kathryn Walker Vera Tewel Winifred Pifer Frederick Cassleman
		1920 Morris Mills	1925 Lois Walker Catherine Tewel James Tewel Flossie Saunders G. F. South Julia South Levi Russell Harold Prather Almyra Prather Eunis Parkhurst Dora Parkhurst Leona Prather Nelle Prather Addie Longdon Edward M. Jasper Otto H. Darley Wm. E. Darley Mariah Darley Mrs. French Freeman Cuma Huffman

- 1925** W. K. Gettinger
Wm. J. Fitzpatrick
Anna Freeman
James Freeman, Jr.
- 1926** David Saunders
Luella Shifler
Margaret Knight
- 1927** Elizabeth Garrard
Wm. Sponsler
Sarah Sponsler
Dorothy Parsons
Isabel Mills
Charles Jones
James Hughes
James E. Goodwine
Ary Goodwine
- 1928** Martha Hughes
Knight Houser
Margaret Duncan
Katherine Duncan
Selby Hayes
Bernice Houser
Arlene Smith
Elanor Smith
- 1928** Lucena Chambers
Clarence Phillips
Kent Phillips
Mildred Stine
- 1930** Rosemary Selby
Carol Mercer
Richard Maddox
Mary Frances Maddox
Elizabeth Gettinger
Nellie Babb
Ruby Babb
Ruth Babb
Paul Babb
Faye Babb
- 1931** Maurice Rusher
Bessie Rusher
Sebastian Rusher
Lester Magill
Alta Gough
A. R. Dorsett
- 1932** Robert Magill
E. N. Vane
Mrs. E. N. Vane
- 1933** Will Dickinson
George Dickinson, Jr.
- Wm. Mack Dickinson
Robert Dickinson
Elizabeth Dickinson
Shirley Dickinson
Don Bodishbaugh
Charles O. Walker
James Stout
Alta Seeders
Gertrude Richey
Charles Fred Richey
Martha Ruth Phillips
Mrs. Lloyd Mercer
Mrs. James B. Muir
James Muir, Jr.
Janet Muir
Alice Muir
Charles Muir
Donna Houser
Bruce Houser
Mary Bodishbaugh
Betty Bodishbaugh
Alice Bodishbaugh
- 1934** Rex Goodwin
Russell Fitzpatrick
Bernice Goodwin
Betty Goodwin
Margaret Jean Huffman
Donald Magill
John G. Russell
Betty Stout
Edward E. Stanley
- 1935** Lestie Bruner
Hugh Bruner
Theresa Grimes
Fred Grimes
Loren K. Grimes
Joseph Gano
Olin Goodwin
Eva Goodwin
- 1936** Mrs. Ira Bussard
Sarah Dorsett
Roy Fox
Pauline Fox
Wilma Fox
Paula Fox
Florence Smith Dorsett
- 1937** Mrs. J. A. Ikemire
Rena Jeffries
Hazel Rusher
Freeda Taylor
Mr. E. F. Wilson
Mrs. E. F. Wilson
- 1938** Mary Biggs
James Boyles
Daisy Burress
Ida Apple
Martha Cawood
A. C. Daugherty
Florence Daugherty
Arthur (Kayo) Daugherty
Fred Fulling
Mrs. Fred Fulling
Mina Fulling
Betty Boyles
J. G. Harris
Mrs. J. G. Harris
David Houser
Ruth Houser
Viola Huffman
Betty Lou Jeffries
Grover King
Mrs. Grover King
Margaret Mitchell
Beulah M. Nash
Mrs. J. B. Overburg
Robert Parsons
Hugh Smith
David Smith
Lawrence Stifle
Mrs. Lawrence Stifle
Jacqueline Stifle
Robert Stifle
Minnie Walker
Rhoda Willis
- 1939** Mary Elizabeth Crawford
Eunice Murdock
Ocie Seeders
Ruth Seeders
- 1940** Joan Clancy
Joan Grace Burner
Mrs. Otto Burner
John Crawford
Mrs. John Crawford
Marian A. Garrard
Patricia Miesenhelder
Joe Plunkett
Edith Parkhurst
Mr. Charles Stewart
Mrs. Charles Stewart
- 1942** Helen Gullett
Mrs. James M. Rankin
Josephine Wilbur
- 1943** Paul Brown, Jr.
James Brown

- Marjorie Brown
Marlin Brumley
James Herbert Buchanan
Harry Leo Gullet, Jr.
Ruby Hardesty
James Hardesty
Bertha Horn
Marjorie Ikemire
Robert L. Lockhart
Richard Stout
- 1944** Mildred Austin
Richard Austin
Paul Brown
Marie Brown
Betty Brown
James M. Goodwine
W.K. Gettinger
Mary Gettinger
Wm. Gettinger, Jr.
Joan Horn
Janet Horn
Mary Ellen McCoy
Francine Phillips
Ruby Stout
Charlene Webster
- 1945** Sandra Burge
William Magill
Anna Magill
Jessie L. McNeilly
Samuel C. McNeilly
John G. McNeilly
Lois E. McNeilly
Paul T. McNeilly
Merle Webster
Carl Webster
Kathryn Walker
- 1946** Lester L. Bush
Robert Dollahan
Iris Louise Pierson
Robert H. Hash
Allyne Hash
Marlene Houser
Marilyn Houser
Barbara Houser
Jane Lockhart
Harold L. Pierson
Judith Pifer
- 1947** Nelson Kent
Mrs. Nelson Kent
- 1948** Neal Fox
Philip E. Moran
- Audrey (April) Moran
Virginia McGahey
Janice McCoy
James E. Pifer
Lois Pifer
Helen L. Taylor
Ruth Walker
- 1949** Nelle Bennett
W. C. Brashears
Mrs. W. C. Brashears
Mary Anna Eveland
Harold Fuller
Richard L. Fox
Shelia Hash
Marjorie Dickinson
Dorothy Magill
Mildred Nethery
Marcia Prather
- 1950** Darrell L. Bruner
Farrell F. Bruner
Ernest M. Edwards
Helen Edwards
Dean Edwards
Don Edwards
Catherine Freeman
Mary Gail Gettinger
Clarence Keller
Mrs. Clarence Keller
Robert Musgrave
Mrs. Robert Musgrave
John W. McDougal
Betty McDougal
- 1951** Harold C. Burner
Edith Burner
Gale Clark
Louise Clark
Margaret Kimmel
Clara McDonald
Susan Phillips
Luke Stanley
Grace Wesner
Norma L. Wesner
- 1952** Alice (Polly) Fulling
Dorothy Fulling
Charles R. Hout
Lenore Hout
Leo A. Herning
Helen Herning
Mrs. D. L. Jones
Clinton Eugene Kibler
Anna Mills
Audrey March
- Walter Smith
Beth Smith
Arthur Schulz
Harriet E. Schulz
L. Max Thompson
Barbara J. Webster
- 1953** Gail F. Buchanan
Odin W. Buchanan
Helen Gail Buchanan
Linda Biggs
Floyd V. Correll
Mary A. Correll
Leslie Hash
Charles H. Hess
Louise Hess
Frances B. Kraus
Georgianna Kraus
Charles H. Mercer
Beverly Potter
Oa J. Poynter
Genevieve Poynter
Foy Lee White
- 1954** Wm. R. Beesley
Mrs. W. R. Beesley
Earl J. Bledsoe
Fern P. Bledsoe
Robert Eveland
Betty M. Hout
Karen S. Hout
Judith A. Hout
Barbara E. Hardesty
Lance G. Herning
Luanna G. Herning
Don Holmes
Gertrude Holmes
Mary Hotchkiss
Harry J. Jensen
Mary C. Jensen
Melburn G. Kitchell
Louise Kitchell
Charles C. Moore
Pauline Moore
Evelyn Magill
Luther Miller
Ruth Miller
Larry Miller
Beverly A. McGahey
Nancy J. Kraus
Jane E. Nethery
Floyd Nethery
Mary Ruth Taylor
Fern Watson
Myrna Watson

- 1954** James Welker
Julia Welker
- 1955** Allen Parker
Doris Parker
Elinor Allwine
Robert E. Allwine, Jr.
Jackie L. Brenton
Cecil O. Brenton
Pauline Brenton
Jim Brenton
Max V. Fulling
Lillie E. Hout
Doloris Jones
Wanda G. Kemp
Bobbie Jo Miller
John J. Martin
Genevieve Patterson
John T. Shaw
June Shaw
Richard E. Shaw
Helen C. Shaw
R. Duane Shaw
Joan Vladar Fulling
- 1956** Barbara Buchanan
Herbert Buchanan
Ada C. Myers
Virginia Mills
Luther Buchanan
- 1957** John D. Highsmith
Zella Highsmith
Berdina Leggitt
Margaret C. Schulz
Barbara E. Taylor
Charlotte A. Moore
Maryleta Henry
Judith M. Leggitt
Margaret Kincaid
Paul Blaco
- 1958** Mable McCoy
Glenn Fair
Paul Postlewaite
Terry Postlewaite
Robert Loughery
Fay Loughery
Paul Rosenberg
Wanda Rosenberg
Kenneth Leggitt
Carolyn Biggs
Elizabeth Alderman
Carl Nye
Shirley Nye
Don Nye
- Kate Nye
Leath Postlewaite
Minnie Postlewaite
- 1959** James C. McGahey
Joanne N. White
Chester Greene, Jr.
Gary L. Greene
Robert F. Greene
Joel G. Herning
Mary Ann Phillips
John C. Fulling
Judith A. Biggs
John H. Burner
John Robert Bruner
John Gerald Russell, Jr.
Sarah Ruth Parkhurst
Sue Ellen Pifer
Judy Hardesty
- 1960** Newton Laughead
Ruth Laughead
Francis Lockhart
Marie Lockhart
Wendell Laughead
Mary Laughead
Brooks Laughead
Lara Laughead
Max McCall
Dixie McCall
Mary Jane Patterson
Leland P. Herning
- 1961** Richard L. Pifer
Thomas W. Pifer, Jr.
Treva Sullivan
Graydon Kincaid
Patricia Kincaid
Paul Kincaid
- 1962** Joseph Bush
Jennifer Rosenberg
Robert Schulz
Donna Shaw
Sharon Walker
- 1963** Jane Goodwine
A. Lawrence Lowe III
Betty Lowe
- 1964** Rick Dollahan
Elizabeth A. Magill
Michael K. Magill
Norma J. Patterson
Janice L. Pifer
Deborah G. Poynter
Susan I. Seeders
- 1965** Suzanne Schulz
Sam Sullivan
John P. Trimble
Judith Trimble
Raymond Biggs
DeEtta S. Dickinson
Gregory L. Magill
Kathryn L. Magill
Douglas M. Pifer
Stephen E. Pifer
John E. Sullivan
Dan E. Sullivan
Melinda D. Walker
Robert M. Walker
Josephine E. Persohn
Josephine A. Persohn
Leroy L. Persohn III
Edwin Richardson
Ruby Richardson
- 1966** Karren Greene
Mary Ann Fulling
Joyce Shaw
Ruby Hardesty
- 1967** Gary R. Hout
- 1968** Mary Louise Bush
Tamara Dickinson
Deanna Holmes
A. Lawrence Lowe IV
Tresha L. Sullivan
Lola Armstrong
Claude Buchanan
Lois Buchanan
Irma Duncan
Ray Welsh
Inez Winter
Roy Winter
Margaret Winter
May Winter
Glenn Judge
Janice Judge
- 1969** Lee Fulling
Patricia Fulling
- 1970** Eric V. Fulling
Elizabeth A. Lowe
Barbara L. Postlewaite
Howard L. Bex
Vera Bex
James Goodwin
Margaret Goodwin
Candace F. Hartshorn
Lois C. Hartshorn

	Jean Manuell Emily Manuell				David L. Prince Debra L. Prince
1971	Linda Russell Sandra Bryans	1980	Mary Green Sandra Ellis Carl Wilson Donna Wilson Michelle Wilson Timothy Wilson	1991	Robert B. Prince Katrina R. Schifler Ashley M. Shaw James R. Bryans Brian G. Mendenhall Stephanie E. Fulling James R. Pifer Mark E. Shaw Jackie L. Shaw Jerry L. Wollam John Dee Sutton Paul Rosenberg Wanda Rosenberg
1972	Diana R. Biggs Bruce A. Fulling Kevin G. Klein Sally J. Klein Curtis Moore Jesse Godwin Foy Godwin	1982	Wayne Johnson Carol Johnson Johanna McCarter Ann Williamson Dawn M. Bryans Marilyn L. Fulling Robert R. Coates, Jr. John A. Postlewaite		
1973	Anna R. Simms	1983	Nancy J. Bex Darrell G. Bex Jeffrey L. Shaner Deedra J. Shaner	1992	Larry B. Biggs Sharon Biggs
1974	David W. Fulling Kyle B. Fulling Miriam D. Hartshorn Todd A. Judge William B. Klein Pamela A. Postlewaite Janice Klein Jacqueline Grove James L. Fuller Cynthia L. Fuller	1984	Rhonda Kirchhofer	1993	Clint Bex Jeremy Ellis Valarie Fulling David Hemrich Elizabeth Hemrich Craig Williamson Margaret Page
1975	E. J. Wiltrout Mrs. E. J. Wiltrout	1985	Emily Vladar	1994	Jenny C. Criss Glenda Fulling Jack Pifer Brian D. Schifler
1977	Robert S. Fulling J. Douglas Goodwine Scott A. Goodwine Cynthia A. Fulling Karen Klein Karen Pifer Maude Thompson	1986	Larry B. Biggs, Jr. Dara L. McCord	1995	Natasha D. Schifler Kristina M. Boyce Gary Williamson Donald Winter Letty Egebrecht Karen S. Hemrich
1978	Edward S. Bratton Margaret M. Bratton Timothy A. Judge Derek D. Shaw Kristen D. Shaw Stephen D. Fulling Cara L. Greene Chester L. Greene Sharon L. Trimble Debra L. Goodwine Amy B. Dart Todd E. Heckler Janice E. Fulling Karren Greene Billie Heckler Ty Heckler Charles Elder	1987	Kenneth Remington Louise Remington Edward Lawrence Miller Barbara Miller	1996	Bonnie J. Criss Ben Pifer Kent Williamson Karren Greene Bradley P. Fulling Jon M. Kent Zachary D. McNair Bradley T. Pifer A. Kent Boyd
		1988	Richard McCarty Charlene Vennard James A. Ellis Jada J. Spinner Pam Preston Laurel Preston	1998	Charles Elder Jesse R. Adams Megan A. Ellis Melinda J. Fulling Lauren A. Kiracofe Leigh A. Pifer Leslie A. Shaner
1979	Kathleen Kinciad	1989	Carl E. McNair Joshua M. McNair Dustin R. Kennedy Tamara L. Fuller Lisa K. Fuller Angela D. Pifer Shannon E. Russell John D. Trimble Amanda L. Trimble Debra E. Fulling Dianna S. McNair William Kiracofe Jane Kiracofe David Winger		
		1990	Linnie D. York Mary Burcham		

1998 Lynn York
Mary Ellen York
Cynthia R. Fulling
David Adams
Teri Adams
Thomas R. Sherman
Diane M. Sherman
Ola Gwen Dickinson

1999 Reese O. Fuller
Jay Dee Garrard
Jeffry J. Shanes
Loretta K. Shanes
Heather M. Shanes
Julia Geraldine Daron
James F. McNary
Rebecca A. McNary

2000 Laci J. Bex
Isaac C. Bond
J. Curtis Goodwine
Kelsey A. Kent
Levi G. Knoblett
Lindsay A. McKee
Kalie M. Schmidt
Hannah L. Shaner
Bryan A. Shanes
Richard Vehling
Wilma Lee Vehling

2001 Linnie D. York
Lugene M. Bond
Carolyn Ripley
Teresa A. Postlewaite
Charles Nickum

Diane Nickum
Marilyn Henderson
Clara Seeders

2002 Gregory Knoblett

2003 Adam M. Fulling
Grant M. Goodwine
Danielle E. Knoblett
Shannon M. Knoblett
Jenna E. McKee

2004 Guileen Manuel
Virginia Price
Dawn Willis

As we observe the 175th Anniversary of the First Presbyterian Church of Palestine, we would like to recognize those who have been long-time members of our church.

Seventy-Year Members

Mary Frances Bush

Donald K. Magill

Wilma Lee Fox Vehling

Sixty-Year Members

Freedra Taylor

Francine Phillips

Mary Ellen McCoy York

Marlene Houser Russell

Virginia McGahey Price

Lois Pifer

Dorothy Magill

Barbara Hardesty Miller

Evelyn Magill

E. Lawrence Miller

Fern Watson Jordan

Fifty-Year Members

Max V. Fulling

Joan Vladar Fulling

Lillie E. Hout

