



Barkley Church and Parsonage
1950.



McCoysburg Church
October, 1950.



⁴There are different kinds of gifts, but
the same Spirit. ⁵There are different
kinds of service, but the same Lord.

Trinity M. E. Church

1889

Trinity United Methodist Church

BARKLEY CHURCH

On land given by Henry Barkley for a cemetery and church, the Barkley Methodist Church was built and dedicated in the Spring of 1885. Assisting in the dedication was Rev. Granville Moody, great-grandfather of Betty Johnson, Mary Jane Levandowski, and the late Granville Hall - all present or past members of Trinity United Methodist Church.

Some of the charter members who have descendants in the Trinity United Methodist Church and community are the Moore's, Parkison's, Culp's, Gratner's, Randle's, and Moody's.

In 1900 a parsonage was built beside the church. Improvements were made on both in later years. In 1962, an addition was made to the church, consisting of a fellowship hall, classrooms, kitchen and restrooms.

Much hard work went into money-making projects to finance this building. Most noteworthy was the annual chicken barbecue held for several years. As many as 700 people enjoyed the savory meal and fellowship with friends in the rural outdoor setting of the church yard.

Over the years, the church was associated with the Independence and Rosebud Churches. For many years the Barkley, Lee and McCoysburg were on a circuit together, sharing a minister.

In 1974 Brushwood Church joined with the above three churches. An associate pastor was added. This 4 church organization was known as the United Methodist Covenant Parish. From this unity, "The Covenant Singers" group was formed. Joy Stowers directed and Helen Teach was accompanist.

Many ministers served the church from its beginning to its closure. Rev. Ron Bowman was minister when the church celebrated its Diamond Anniversary (75th year) in 1960. Present at this event was Mrs. Mary Moody Dunn, mother of Betty Johnson. She had the rare honor of being present also as a girl of 10 at the dedication of the original church built in 1885.

Due to a small congregation, it became more and more difficult to maintain a healthy, thriving Church. There was a bittersweet conclusion to the existence of Barkley Church. On June 16, 1985 the Barkley Church observed the 100th Anniversary of its beginning. Ironically, it was also the last day for a service in the church. There was sadness with the closing and in the memories of the many dedicated workers and their contributions to the church in the century it served Barkley community. Mr. & Mrs. Fred Markin and daughter, Mary Markin Arnott, who is a member of Trinity, were faithful workers for many years. Mr. & Mrs. William Kupke, parents of Helen Teach of Trinity were supporters of Barkley Church in past years. A happy, positive note, though, was in the minds of some who looked forward to strength in numbers as they planned to join Trinity United Methodist Church. Barkley members felt a warm welcome by Trinity congregation and are happy to continue serving the Lord with a larger church family!

McCOYSBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The pattern for much of Indiana during the last half of the nineteenth century was for small communities to spring up, five to ten miles apart. Then the average distance a person could travel in an hour was five miles. This limitation structured much of the economic, social and religious life of people who lived in rural America. In each of these small communities one could almost be assured to find a store of some kind and a school. The school building played an important part in these communities. It was not only the place where one learned "readin, writin and rithmetic", it was also the local meeting place.

One of the uses of the local school building was to serve as a religious meeting house. On Sunday the furniture would be rearranged and Sunday School and sometimes a worship service would be held.

Much of the history of the McCoysburg Church has been lost. It would seem that the church began as a community church sometime in the last half of the nineteenth century. Very likely this happened close to the time of the building of a school in the McCoysburg community. On Sunday mornings there was Sunday School. In the evenings the church would invite ministers from various religious backgrounds to come and hold services. Russell Willits remembers the minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Rensselaer, traveling to McCoysburg on the milk train on Sunday afternoons, holding services in the evening, staying over night, and then returning to Rensselaer the next morning on the train.

In 1906 the congregation which met at the McCoysburg School was organized as a Methodist Episcopal Church. The Rev. Ray C. Ballard was the first pastor, David Culp was the first Sunday School Superintendent. The church was a part of the Hammond District of the Northwest District of the Northwest Indiana Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. It was on a circuit with Barkley, Gillam and Lee. Throughout most of its history the church was to remain connected with the Barkley and Lee Churches. At various times the relationship was broken and the McCoysburg Church was associated with other congregations, but Lee and Barkley remained the prime connection.

When the McCoysburg School closed in 1920, the McCoysburg Church continued to meet in the building. In 1921 the church purchased the building from the township trustee. At various times work was done on the building. In 1944 the building was wired. In 1945 Walter Jordan did some remodeling to the church. In August of that year folding chairs were purchased. During the pastoral of Dale Hamilton, 1949-1952, the inside of the sanctuary was redecorated. 1957 saw the installation of new pews in the sanctuary.

Two major additions were added to the original building. About 1935 a basement was put under the church. There was other major additions: the kitchen and the rear of the main floor. Also at this time, plumbing was installed in the building. This work took place in 1956.

With the merger, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South; and the Methodist Protestant Church in 1939, the McCoysburg Church became the McCoysburg Methodist Church. At the time of the church merger the Barkley circuit paid their pastor \$800.00 of which McCoysburg share was \$160.00. The church had 34 full members, an average attendance in Sunday School of 30, and paid \$74.00 in benevolence.

In 1968, the merger of the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church to become the United Methodist Church.

For the McCoysburg Church the merger of 1968 was to have important implications. In 1974 the Barkley, Brushwood, Lee and McCoysburg churches joined together to form the United Methodist Covenant Parish. The first pastor of the new parish was the Rev. C. David Hogsett. Just as the church has responded to changing needs in the past, so once again it has responded to the challenge of a new day.

The last church service at the McCoysburg United Methodist Church was held on the 3rd Sunday of May, 1985. The McCoysburg building was sold. Most of the McCoysburg members joined the Trinity United Methodist Church.

IROQUOIS MISSION/TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1833-1993

On October 22, 1833 at a conference held in Madison, Indiana Rev. Enoch Wood was appointed to the Delphi Circuit. This circuit included what was called the Iroquois Mission. Enoch was to minister to the white settlers and Indians living along the Rockwise (Iroquois) River. How many visits Enoch made we do not know but we do know that soon thereafter a Methodist class was organized becoming the first religious organization in Jasper County.

The first meeting was held in the home of George Culp and he became the first class leader. He was responsible for conducting the services when the circuit rider could not be present. Mr. Culp's home was in the Forks Settlement near where the Pinkamink joins the Iroquois. Descendants of George Culp are - the Frances Jordan family, the Ken Culp family and Dorothy Porter who are active today at Trinity.

The church services were held in homes for seventeen years. In 1850 a frame church 35' by 57' was built on the southeast corner of Rutsen and Cullen Streets. This church was used for forty years. On January 24, 1890 the brick building on the corner of Cullen and Angelica Streets was dedicated. In 1911 the church was remodeled adding a basement, restrooms and what is now the overflow, Tobias Lounge, choir room, choir loft and library. The educational wing was added and dedicated in 1958.

Our church was considered to be an outstanding facility and it was decided that it would be an excellent place to hold the Annual Conference of 1902.

A parsonage was built on the lot just south of the church in 1900. It was demolished in 1983. In 1968 the parsonage on West Washington Street was purchased in order to provide a more comfortable and modern home for the minister. In 1991 a parsonage for our associate pastor was purchased in Sherwood Forest.

Two big things happened in 1985. We installed an elevator and we welcomed many new members from the Barkley and McCoysburg churches. These new members have accepted responsibilities and are among our most active members.

Music has always been a part of Trinity's heritage. When the choir was officially organized no one knows but there has been a choir since the early 1920's if not before. In 1915 the pipe organ was installed, a gift from George Hosmer. In 1956 Schulmerich Carillon chimes were given in memory of Emiline Randle McKeever. In 1976 five octaves of handbells were given to the church in memory of Sabina Iliff. At one time there was a Sunday School orchestra under the direction of Ross Rowen. Trinity knows how to "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord."

We started as a mission church 160 years ago and we try to keep in mind that it is our heritage to carry on spreading the WORD in our local community and in the world.