

HISTORY OF THE EVANGELICAL ASSOCIATION CHURCHES IN THE NORTHERN PART OF INDIANA COUNTY.

Isaac Johns, from Butler county, visited the German settlement in North Mahoning township, in the year 1843, and preached several times for the people in private houses. The first service was preached in John Piffer's house, and afterwards in the houses of John Reoder and Martin Zirkel. Isaac Johns being only a local preacher, could not attend to the work properly. He therefore notified Revs. Simon Heis and _____ Howard, who visited the new appointment.

Late in the winter of 1843, the first congregation was organized under the pastoral supervision of Simon Heis. It then consisted of John Piffer, Eva Piffer, Martin Zirkel, Catharine Zirkel, John Reoder, Catharine Reoder, Andrew Piffer, Elizabeth Piffer, and Margaret Piffer.

In the spring of the year 1844, the congregation was supplied in connection with other appointments located in Jefferson and Armstrong counties by Revs. Rishel and Trubey. When they arrived they found the little congregation actively engaged in church work, holding prayer-meetings and class-meeting and visiting among their German countrymen. During the year the following list of members were added to the congregation: Philip Sutter and wife, Jacob Sutter and wife, Nicholas Loos and wife, John Beam and wife, Conrad Zener and wife, and Elizabeth Feitt. After the above addition was made to the church the members went to work at once to make preparation for the erection of a house of worship.

In March, 1845, Jacob Rank and G. W. Cupp were sent by Conference to serve the charge. Under the administration of Jacob Rank the church was completed during the year. The house was built half a mile northeast of Covode, in North Mahoning township, on a lot of land owned by Martin Zirkel. The church edifice is a plain log building 24x24, and was at first seated with slabs, but later was furnished with more modern pews. The house at present has quite an ancient appearance, but is still used as a house of worship by a small congregation, who worship exclusively in the German language. Five of the original members still remain, but the membership has decreased to thirteen. Andrew Piffer, one of the original members, is class leader, and Jacob Feitt is exhorter. Philip Sutter and C. C. Sutter are the trustees.

In 1846, Rev. Sill and Rev. Brown were sent by the Conference to serve the congregation, which was then attached to other appointments, and was called Mahoning circuit. The circuit then comprised all the appointments of the Evangelical Association in the counties of Indiana, Jefferson and Armstrong.

In 1847, Rev. Sill was again returned to the charge, with C. Lindaman as his colleague.

In 1848, Rev. George Dellinger and J. Weikewl served the circuit; in 1849, George Dellinger was returned to the charge, with Rev. Kelly as his Colleague, and in 1850, Daniel Long succeeded Dellinger and Kelly.

Jacob Rank served the work in 1851, and in 1853 H. Hample; in 1854, B. L. Miller; in 1855, George Dull; in 1857, J. M. Zirkel; in 1858, John Piffer; in 1860, A. R. Teats; in 1861, J. H. Shaffer and J. J. Bernhart.

Under the administration of J. H. Shaffer, a new church edifice was erected in Canoe township. The society was a branch of the Log Church congregation. The church is a plain frame building, 30 by 35 feet. It was formally dedicated as the "Salem Church of the Evangelical Association" by the Rev. George Piffer. The congregation at present has a membership of ninety-three members. It supports a Sunday school; the average attendance is fifty. The northern class of this congregation also conducts a Sunday school in a schoolhouse near Mr. Larry McQuown's, which has an average attendance during the summer of forty scholars.

The officers of this congregation are as follows: Class leader – Absalom Dehaven and Daniel Stiver. Exhorters – Emanuel Rishel and Charles Mackel. Trustees – Daniel Stiver, Chas. Hefflich, Mathias Smith, Christian Rishel and Martin Wineberg. The services are conducted both in the German and English languages.

In 1862, the work was served by Jacob Honecker, and under his administration the circuit built a parsonage in the village of Marchand, which the minister in charge of the work occupies. The circuit was then supplied as follows: In 1863-4, Christian Stauffer; 1865, L. B. Demmies; in 1857, John Piffer, and in 1868, Henry Rhoads. During the conference year beginning in March, 1868, and ending in March, 1869, the society in the vicinity of Marchand built the Evangelical church in Marchand. The building committee consisted of John Piffer, John Beam and Philip Enterlein. The first board of trustees consisted of John Gall, John Beam, John Piffer, John Dorn and Conrad Zener. With successful management and incessant labor, the work was pushed to successful completion in November, 1869. The church is a frame building, 38 by 56 feet, and cost \$3,000. It has a well-proportioned steeple and a fine sounding bell. On the 14th of

September, 1869, the church was formally dedicated by Bishop J. J. Escher, of Chicago, Illinois, as the "Emanuel's church of the Evangelical Association." The pastor, Henry Rhoads, and the congregation, had a just cause for being grateful for their success.

In 1870, G. Foch took charge of the work and served it two years. In 1872, he was succeeded by N. Yoder and W. D. Orditz; in 1873, J. Vogel and S. Millison served the charge; in 1874, J. S. Seip; In 1875-6. G. Froch was again seated in the circuit. During the conference session of 1875, the name of "Mahoning circuit" was changed to "Marchand station." In the years 1877-8, J. Dick served the work, and in March, 1879, Theodore Bach took charge of the work, and in the present incumbent. The congregation that meets in Marchand church numbers seventy-five members. The worship is conducted in the German and English languages. The congregation supports a Sunday school, which is in a thrifty condition. During the summer an organ was purchased for the school. The school has an average attendance of 60 scholars. Its present officers are: Superintendent, John Piffer; Secretary, J. J. Gall; Treasurer, John Rener; Librarian, John Kohlepp. The church officers are: Theodore Bach, pastor; leader of the German class, John Piffer; exhorter, John Beam; leader of the English class, John Zener; exhorter, J. W. Piffer; trustees, John Dorn, John Piffer, John Beam, Conrad Zener and John Zener.

The following ministers have served as Presiding Elders on the charge since its organization: Revs. _____ Longsdorf; M. Smedlinger, J. Rank., G. W. Cupp, J. Weikel, J. D. Hollinger, G. S. Domer, J. J. Bernhart, and J. A. Grimm. John Bishop, a member of the log church congregation, entered the ministry in the year 1849, and was sent to Bedford county, where he died during the year. George Piffer, also a member of the same congregation, entered the ministry about twenty-five years ago, and is at present one of the presiding elders of the Kansas conference. J. M. Zirkel and John Piffer also served a number of years in the itinerant ministry in the Pittsburgh conference. The former has retired, and is now living in Freedom, Allegheny county, Pa., and the latter has also retired from the active work, and is living in Marchand, Indiana county.