

From 1879 and early 1880's there was a great "tidal wave" of dancing sweeping over the community, both young and old, and efforts were made to warn members of the church about the deliverances of the General Assembly against indulging in this fascinating and pernicious practice.

Rev. Sherrard served until 1880 when Rev. George Benaugh was installed. He remained about four years and resigned in November 1884.

Rev. L. Y. Hays came under agreement to supply the church for one year effective June 1, 1885. Upon termination of this agreement he was called and installed as Pastor on Thursday evening, October 14, 1886. During the pastorate of Rev. Hays the church purchased a lot at Lemon and Third Streets and built the present handsome and substantial house of Worship.

The dedication service was held on January 23, 1887 with Rev. Hays being assisted by two former pastors, Rev. Sherrard and Rev. Benaugh. The morning service was conducted by Rev. Hays, the afternoon service by Rev. Benaugh and the evening service by Rev. Sherrard. At the conclusion of the morning service Rev. Hays presented the question of the extinguishment of the church debt which had been reduced to about twenty four hundred dollars. Under his skillful presentation the question subscriptions rolled in so quickly that within a period of half-hour the debt was extinguished. The building and equipment cost about seventeen thousand dollars.

Several interesting events occurred prior to the dedication. On Thursday evening, January 20th, the organ committee arranged for a organ recital to properly introduce into service the magnificent new pipe organ that had recently been placed in the new building. Admission was 50 cents, Reserved seats 75 cents, proceeds were used in paying for the organ. The recital was given by a quartette of singers and an organist from Harrisburg. Also, a lecture was held Tuesday evening, November 16, 1886 with Rev.

J. H. Mathers speaking on Russia with proceeds for the pipe organ for the new church.

On Friday afternoon, January 21, an auction to purchase pews was held. Everytime a pew was put up and sold, the buyer had the right to select his pew from number that remained unsold. A total of fifteen hundred and fifty dollars was raised. After the sale of the pews, the Chapel on Washington Avenue was sold to the GAR Post for two hundred and twenty - two dollars including the pews.

Rev. Hays was succeeded in the summer of 1890 by Rev. J. R. Henderson who remained until January 1, 1895.

Rev. Alfred N. Raven was called April 7, 1895 and entered duties as pastor in November. He resigned in 1900 and left soon afterward for Seattle, Washington.

Rev. John B. Rendell served as pastor from 1900 to 1904. He married Miss Nellie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. I. D. Musser, of Mifflintown, all members of our church. The Rev. C. E. Hills was installed in 1904 and served until 1913. Rev. Hills and his family lived in the Manse which was on Front Street, in the house now occupied by the Daniel Brown Family. A Rev. A. F. VonTobel came in 1913 and remained only a year. The church was without a pastor from 1914 to 1916.

Rev. John C. Ely Jr. came in 1916 and served until his death on February 14, 1919. In the spring of 1917 much damage was done by the fire that started in the rafters in center ceiling. The smoke and water damaged the main auditorium. There was a congregational meeting held September 29, 1918 to purchase the former home of Colonel J. K. Robison on Washington Avenue from William H. Manbeck for \$4,581.04 to be used as a Manse. After Rev. Ely, the Rev. John C. McConnell was called and served until 1925.