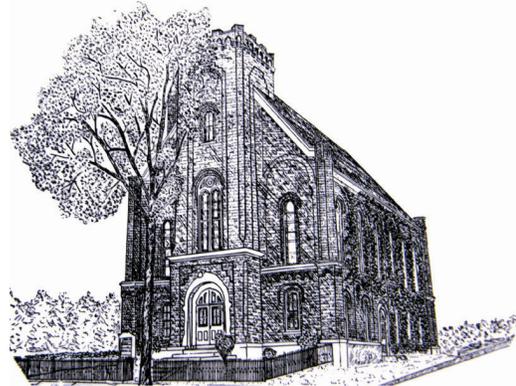


1833

175th

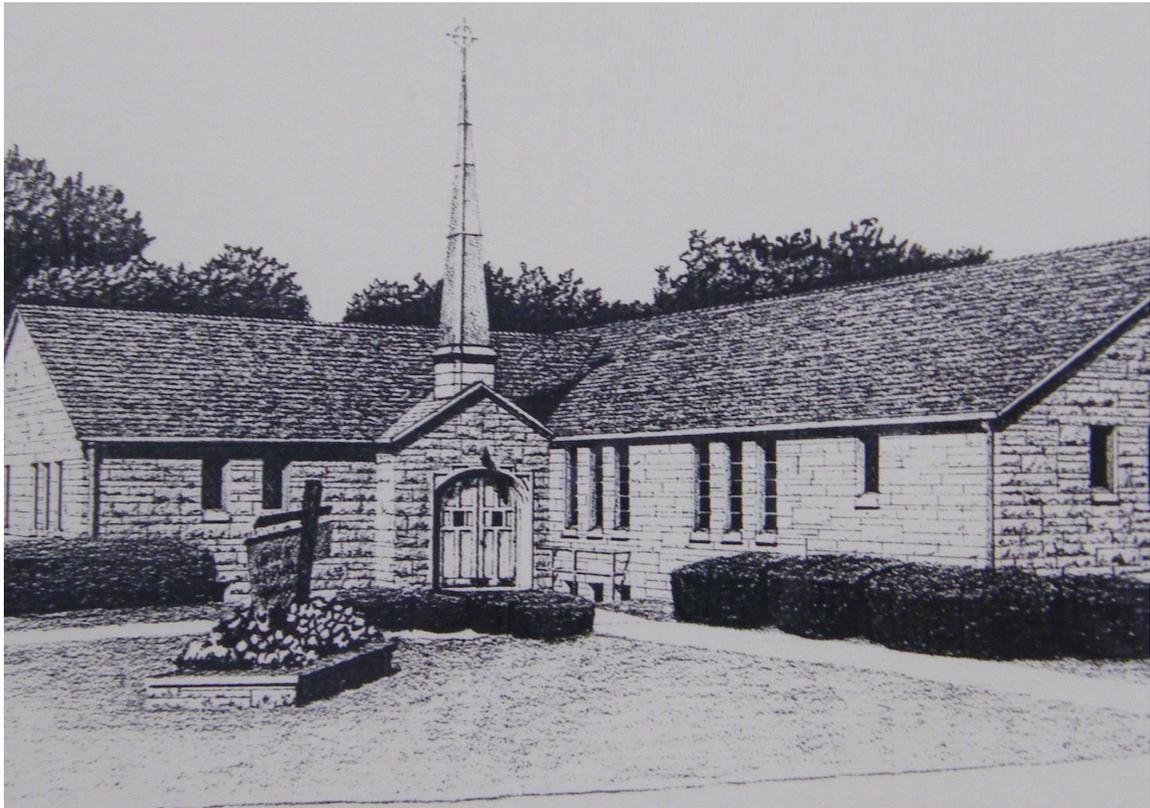
Anniversary



9th and College: 1871-1951

2008

Bloomington United Presbyterian Church



Bloomington UPC Today: 2nd and Eastside, since 1952

WHEN IT ALL BEGAN

The year was not just any year, 1833. The people, their cause, their church that is our church, their chosen town that is our town, the university that they helped nurture from infancy, all are what we celebrate with this 175th anniversary of the founding of what we know and cherish now as United Presbyterian Church, 2nd and Eastside streets, Bloomington.

Saturday, Sept. 7, 1833, fourteen members and two elders participated in the charter meeting for the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in downtown Bloomington.

Downtown *was* Bloomington. The city's history says Bloomington began in 1818 when a public square – 92 yards on each side, surrounding streets 27½ yards wide – was laid out in a wheat field. By January 1819, 30 families had bought lots at public auction and taken up residence. Stores, taverns and industries, the first log courthouse with a library next door, all were in place by 1821, and the southside lot designated by federal action for establishment of an institution of public instruction, Seminary Square, was being readied for business. Indiana Seminary, with 12 students and one teacher, opened in 1825 and became Indiana College in 1829.

The next year, 1830, Tom Lincoln moved his family with 21-year-old son Abraham from less than 100 miles from Bloomington in southern Indiana to Illinois. And then came 1833. On Jan. 1, the word “Hoosier” was first used in print as a name for Indiana residents. Just west of the northwestern tip of the land that had been laid out as the state of Indiana, the city of Chicago was founded Aug. 12, 1833, on three-eighths of a square mile occupied by 350 people. On Aug. 20, 1833, the “Hoosier President,” Benjamin Harrison, was born.

And all the while, the cause for which Abraham Lincoln later won everlasting renown, paid for with his life, was arriving in Bloomington, Indiana, and making historic impact on the town, its young college, and what became United Presbyterian Church.

It came in what Thomas D. Clark, in Volume 1 of his four-part history of Indiana University, called a “colony of stern Reformed Presbyterians who emigrated from Chester, South Carolina.” In her nomination of the Millen family house (more familiarly known as Raintree House on North Bryan Street) from that period for National Register recognition, Katherine Roberts called the émigrés “a group of Scotch-Irish Presbyterians who migrated primarily from Chester County, South Carolina, to settle in early Bloomington. They came in protest to slavery, Abolitionists the name given to fellow believers.

“The greater part of this migration was complete by 1834,” Katherine Roberts wrote. “Presbyterians from the uplands of South Carolina who came to southern Indiana in this period were divided into three groups: Reformed Presbyterians, or Covenanters; Associate Presbyterians, or Seceders; and, thanks to a union of most members of these two groups in 1782, the Associate Reformed Presbyterians.

“As historian James A. Woodburn has shown (in a paper published in 1910), key members of these groups migrated together, intermarried, helped transform the economic fabric of the community, were active in the formation of Indiana University, and were anti-slavery in spirit. Some of these settlers aggressively defended the lives of escaping slaves, offering their homes as stations along the Underground Railroad.”

That is the length, the breadth and the depth of the legacy that our celebration in 2008 recognizes and reveres. It is that which we hand forward to those who will be leading the church in a bicentennial observance just 25 years from now, in 2033.

(This and following material came from a number of sources, foremost of which was official church records carefully maintained and preserved through the years. In addition, L C. Rudolph of Indiana University was of invaluable assistance with his depth of historical knowledge. Nancy Hiestand of Bloomington Mayor Mark Kruzan’s office also offered great assistance.)

HISTORY OF THE CHURCH(ES)

Early Presbyterians had a history of free expression, and moving when necessary. Protestantism dates to Martin Luther, and Presbyterianism to John Calvin, through John Knox. Calvin's doctrines differed sufficiently from Luther's that Calvin in Switzerland developed a new form of church governance that defines Presbyterianism, which was developed on its own in Scotland under Knox, still in the 1500s. Poor living conditions forced many to move to Northern Ireland, hence the "Scotch-Irish" lineage of the later descendants who came to South Carolina, then for many, on to Bloomington.

It was in Ireland that Presbyterianism itself split, over the issue of interference by the British royal government in church administration. The Reformed Presbyterians (nicknamed "the Covenanters") believed their church operated under a covenant with God that no man, or government, could alter. Another group called the "Seceders" broke off in objection to how ministers were appointed and paid. In 1782, the two groups officially merged into the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, but not all "Covenanters" or "Seceders" accepted the merger, so there were three groups, all represented in the Abolitionist group that came to Bloomington and set up three churches.

It was the Associate Reformed group that opened its Bloomington church with charter ceremonies on Sept. 7, and first services the next day, Sunday. They first worshiped in the courthouse on that downtown square, then – their number up by 53 eight months later – they built a church on the site of their cemetery that still exists on Bloomington's west side today. The cemetery, accessible from West Seventh Street, was taken over by the city in 1914 – called United Presbyterian Cemetery until a change of name to White Oak Cemetery in 1983.

Another of UPC's root churches, Associate Presbyterian Church, was organized in Bloomington in 1834 and reorganized Nov. 16, 1836, with 24 members. Their first small log church southeast of Bloomington was replaced in 1839 by a frame church on East Second, near what has been preserved as Wylie House – named for Andrew Wylie, the Presbyterian minister who was Indiana University's first president.

In 1858, at the national level, the Associate Presbyterian Church and the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church merged to form United Presbyterian Church of North America. Five years later, the two congregations in Bloomington merged, worshipping together at the ARP church on 8th Street.

The Reformed Presbyterian Church, organized in Bloomington Oct. 10, 1821, met in a log cabin on the farm of Enos Blair, located on what is now West 10th Street. In 1833, the congregation of about 120 divided into "Old Side" and "New Side" Reformed Presbyterians (sometimes referred to as "Old Light" and "New Light"). The Old Side was so insistent on separation of church and state that its members did not vote and would not serve on juries. Their worship included singing the psalms, not the hymns that are

common today. The Old Side congregation remained separate and survives today in Bloomington as Reformed Presbyterian Church, First and Lincoln streets.

The Old Siders maintained Covenanter Cemetery, at Hillside Drive and High Street, and many from the 19th-century congregation are buried there. A City of Bloomington report says, "In the Covenanter Cemetery, some of Bloomington's earliest uses of limestone and stone carving can still be seen. A wall, constructed of fieldstone without mortar, surrounds the plot and gravestones are simply carved in traditional styles and motifs. Later in the century, stonecarvers applied their imaginations and skills to the creation of gravestones in more complex and artistic designs."

The New Side congregation, more liberal in participation in local government, worshiped in members' homes until 1838 when they built a wood frame church at 9th and College. There, they called as their pastor Theophilus Wylie, a cousin of Indiana University's first president, Andrew Wylie. Wylie remained pastor of that church through 1869. During that time, Associate Reformed Presbyterian also had one minister, William D. Turner. The Associate Presbyterian pastor from 1839 to 1843 was I. N. Laughead.

In 1869 the New Side Covenanters, at the urging of Pastor Wylie, were absorbed into the Bloomington United Presbyterian Church that had formed six years earlier with the merging of the Associate and Associate Reformed Churches. Their wood frame church at 9th Street and College Avenue was dismantled and replaced with a larger brick church that could accommodate the three congregations that had joined together to become one with a combined membership of 212. Rev. William P. McNary was pastor when the new church was dedicated in November of 1871. He served as pastor until 1884. Rev. McNary was another staunch abolitionist. In his younger years he had acted on his anti-slavery beliefs by enlisting in the Union Army at the start of the Civil War. He served honorably for the duration, participating in nine battles and achieving the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

First Presbyterian Church (221 East Sixth) was the first church in Bloomington, according to detailed information in a history put together by IU Journalism Professor Owen Johnson. It was founded Sept. 25, 1819, by nine people who met in the log home of Dr. and Mrs. David H. Maxwell with the church's first minister, Isaac Reed, a Presbyterian home missionary.

First Church was one of 16 churches founded in Indiana by Presbyterian pioneers between 1806 and 1820. It was from the Presbyterian USA denomination, apart from the churches that were part of United Presbyterian Church of North America. First Presbyterian's present building in Bloomington, with a 1,000-capacity sanctuary, was built at a cost of \$27,094.34 and dedicated June 23, 1901. Seven years ago, the centennial of the present building was observed. Membership has been as high as 861, achieved in 1967.

Mergers at the national level have led to First Presbyterian and our United Presbyterian Church finally being in the same denomination. The first step was, in 1958, United

Presbyterian Church of North America merged with Presbyterian USA to form United Presbyterian Church in the USA, including both First and United Presbyterian churches in Bloomington. The official denominational name became the present Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA) after another national-level merger in 1983 brought in the Southern Denomination, which had broken away during the Civil War.

THE FIRE AND THE PRESENT

The downtown church that for almost 80 years was the home for Bloomington United Presbyterian Church burned on July 3, 1951. Faulty wiring was ruled as the cause.

Rebuilding on the charred site at 9th and College was ruled out. The congregation elected to move east, nearer the Indiana University campus, to the current site at 2nd and Eastside. Just over eight months after the fire, ground was broken for the new building. Indiana University president-emeritus William Lowe Bryan, in his 91st year, and his sister, Mrs. Mary Belle Phillips, in her 100th, turned the first shovels. Robert E. Watt was chairman of the Building Committee. The church was completed Oct. 12, 1952, and in 2002, a 50th “birthday” was observed with a ceremony that included participation by Rev. Dr. Fahed Abu-Akel, then Moderator of the General Assembly of Presbyterian Church USA. The first person of Palestinian descent to hold the highest office of PCUSA, Dr. Abu-Akel attended in response to an invitation by Bloomington Dr. Fadi Haddad, a UPC elder whose family origins also are in the Middle East.

Increases in congregation size led to an expansion project in the 1960s, increasing the size of the sanctuary and adding office and classroom space. The basic layout of the church has been basically unchanged since then.

The church membership, however, was altered radically in 1976 when David Faris, after 13 years as minister resigned and led in formation of a new Evangelical Community Church about a half-mile east of UPC at 2nd and High streets. Nearly 90 percent of the congregation went with Rev. Faris or left the church, but a strong core stayed and kept UPC together.

The following years were unsteady, three full-time ministers serving short terms and the Rev. Allen B. Layman, retired after a long and distinguished career with the Presbyterian church, twice served brief periods as interim pastor before, in 1992, the Rev. David A. Bremer began the service that continues through to now. Pastor Bremer, a native of Shelbyville, is a graduate of Earlham College and Princeton Theological Seminary. He also studied at the Universities of Oslo and Copenhagen and New College, Edinburgh University, Scotland.

A hallmark of Rev. Bremer’s years has been encouragement of diversity within the church. More than 20 nations and four continents have been represented in 21st Century UPC membership and attendance, many of those people brought to Bloomington by the global appeal of Indiana University.

The diversity carries through into church leadership positions. The present Session includes Dr. Alejandra Haddad, a native of Colombia and a graduate of the Presbyterian Lay Academy. Her husband, neurosurgeon Souheil Haddad, is a native of Lebanon. He and his brother, oncologist Fadi Haddad, also have served on Session. The director of the children’s choir, Jeeyoon Kim Cocchiarella, is a native of Korea.

UPC TIES WITH EARLY BLOOMINGTON AND IU

James Blair was a member of the Legislature-created first Board of Trustees at IU in the 1830s. He also was ordained with the first elders of Reformed church in 1833.

He and 34 other Blairs are listed among the earliest members of what is now United Presbyterian church. So are Samuel Harbison and 44 other Harbisons, William Fee and 32 other Fees, William Moffat Millen and 15 other members of the Millen family.

Blair, Harbison, Fee (for whom Fee Lane apparently was named) and Millen are among the early-Bloomington business leaders cited by James A. Woodburn, in a 1910 research paper, and by Katherine Roberts, in her nomination form seeking National Register designation for the Millen family house in Bloomington (more commonly known as Raintree House, on North Bryan Street).

Roberts wrote: “William Moffat Millen and his first wife, Martha Bonner, came to Monroe County from Chester District, South Carolina, by 1834. In May of that year they were received as members of the Union Congregation of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian church in Bloomington. According to church records, William’s younger brother, James, and more than a dozen other settlers from South Carolina had formed the congregation the previous year. William Millen, fellow migrants from South Carolina, such as Samuel Harbison, James Blair, William Fee, and others would establish successful farms close to Bloomington ...

“The Millen family had arrived in Monroe County during a period that saw Bloomington grow from a small frontier county seat with about 700 residents and a tiny seminary to become a prosperous small city with the state university. ... William M. Millen, at least six of his nine siblings, and his uncle, who also was named William, were part of the economic transformation of the area. By 1835, one of the two Williams opened a steam-powered sawmill with William Fee, the first elder of the Millens’ Associate Reformed Presbyterian congregation. In 1843 the two business partners added a grist mill to their enterprise (Blanchard, 1884).

“William M. Millen’s sister, Eliza Chestnut Millen, was married to one of the most prominent Covenanters in Bloomington, James K. Hemphill. And when James K. Hemphill, also one of the city’s foremost early merchants, passed away in 1837, it was William M. Millen and James Blair, another prominent Covenanter, who administered his estate and liquidated the merchandise from his store.”

* * *

One of the church’s first members was mathematics and physics professor Ebenezer Newton Elliott, one of the South Carolina Presbyterians who migrated to Bloomington. He was one of four men on the first Indiana University faculty, before he left to become president of Mississippi College (and to serve during the Civil War as a surgeon in the Confederate Army).

During the years that Theophilus Wylie served as pastor of Reformed Presbyterian Church (1838-1869), he was also a professor (of chemistry and natural philosophy) and university librarian, serving in that role longer than any other librarian in IU history. He authored the first IU history, *Indiana University, Its History*, in 1890.

Wylie served just over a month as IU's interim president, a diary entry in *The Life and Diaries of Theophilus A. Wylie*, shows. Under July 25, 1875. Wylie wrote: "Trustees had a meeting in Indianapolis – Could not find a President – Dr. (Cyrus) Nutt resigned – They appointed me formally President interim – Hope they will find the right man." Baptist minister Lemuel Moss, IU's sixth president (and sixth and last ordained minister), took office in September.

The Civil War occurred during the Wylie pastorate, with these poignant diary entries:

"28 January 1861 – Great excitement prevailing on acc(oun)t of the news of a threatened attack on Washington. Davis with 20,000 men said to be within 18 m(ile)s of the city. Can think of nothing else."

"11 August 1861 – Monday last went to Indianapolis to see Dick (19-year-old son Richard Dennis). The camp a vile place. Dick had been mustered in & will have to go. Turn away all evil, O Lord."

"10 November 1861 – Heard last Monday Nov. 4 of the death of our dear Richard, at a place about 10 miles south of Otterville (Florence, Mo.). ... We are stricken, smitten of God & afflicted."

"16 April 1865 – Yesterday the whole nation was saddened by the news which rippled over the wires, that Lincoln has been assassinated about 10 o'clock Friday evening while in the theater & had died about 7 a.m."

"30 April 1865 – President Lincoln's body lies in state today in Indianapolis. Several have gone from this place to witness the procession & the services."

* * *

The Bryan family first came to Bloomington in 1855, in answer to a pastoral call. John Bryan was born just over the Ohio line in northwest Pennsylvania. He and wife Eliza had four children when they arrived in Bloomington in 1855 to begin his pastorate at Associate Presbyterian Church. Five years later, their fourth son and sixth child, William Julian, was born. John Bryan served the Bloomington church through Oct. 11, 1862, and spent the next 19 years serving in stated supply and home missionary roles before retirement in Bloomington, where he died in 1887.

Another distinguished 19th-century Associate Presbyterian pastor was Samuel Ross Lyons, born in South Carolina and pastor in Bloomington from 1885 through 1898. He served as a trustee of Indiana University during his pastorate and left Bloomington to become president of Monmouth (Ill.) College.

* * *

Some family names from United Presbyterian Church's first 100 years have carried through to the present. Of the current membership, three persons worshiped in the church at 9th and College and, after the 1951 fire, were part of the move to the present building: Mildred Wible Harrell, Mary Eloise Sipes, and Wayne Chipman.

Mary Eloise remembers the fondness always felt toward William Lowe Bryan, the pew "reserved" for him near the front of the old church, equipped with electronic aid that enhanced his ability to hear.

From Mildred's family, Charles Wible was ordained as an elder in 1931 and served two terms.

Andrew Stewart Asdell was installed as an elder in 1926. The Asdell family's connection with the family remained strong through the turn of the century, with George Asdell, a long-time leader of the church and an elder, and his wife, Ruth, one of the first women to serve as an elder. Ruth was the last to carry the Asdell name in membership. She died in January this year.

Gladys Asdell Watt, a cousin of George, was among the UPC members who made the move from 9th and College to 2nd and Eastside. Mrs. Watt's son, Robert D., was a beloved church leader and choir member, serving several terms on the Session. He was the congregation's stated clerk when he died in December, 2006. It was from his preserved possessions that his wife, Phyllis, found the lumber – from pews that survived the 1951 fire – that was used to make commemorative crosses that are a special part of the 175th anniversary observance.

* * *

Also to be noted at this anniversary time are long-time, beloved members Ralph and Ruth Young, who on Aug. 11 celebrated their own 74th anniversary – as man and wife: Ruth at 96 and Ralph 95.

* * *

UPC's "South Carolina emigration" did not stop in the 19th century. Another native of the state, Mary Lou Rhoades, and her husband, Bill, are longtime leaders of the present church. Bill Rhoades, an Ohio native, is a retired IU mathematics professor, still active nationally and internationally in his field. In 1999, the Mathematics Assn. of America gave him its Certificate of Meritorious Service.

WILLIAM (JULIAN) LOWE BRYAN

In the long and parallel histories of Indiana University and Bloomington, the most distinguished link of town and gown is the Monroe County native who served longer as IU's president than anyone who ever held the office: William Lowe Bryan.

The same pious, unabashedly Christian man is the most distinguished patriarch of the first 175 years of the United Presbyterian Church.

Its roots made it Bryan's church from birth to death at 95; from his days as young Will Bryan through his decision to predate modern mores by changing his middle name from the christened Julian to Lowe when in 1889 he married his life partner, Charlotte Lowe. The UPC building at 9th and College was his church through his record 35-year presidency of Indiana University (1902-1937); through years when he taught Sunday school and preached some funerals as a pillar of the church; through the 1951 fire that destroyed the downtown church. He followed UPC to its relocation at its present 2nd and Eastside site, much closer to his beloved Indiana University campus. At 91, he and his 100-year-old sister, Mary (Phillips), turned the first shovels of dirt for construction of the new church.

Bryan's father, Pennsylvania native John Bryan, had been pastor of a UPC root church, Bloomington's Associate Presbyterian Church, for five years when, seven months into the Civil War, son William was born Nov. 11, 1860. The family residence was two miles east of the city limits then. Young Will, fifth of eight children, was home-schooled in the classics by his mother Eliza and his father. He joined the IU faculty after graduation in 1884 but did have some years of study abroad. He is the most recent IU president whose undergraduate degree was from the school, the only IU president who was born and raised in Monroe County, the only one who won an IU athletic letter (baseball, 1884).

Thomas D. Clark devoted virtually the entire second book of his four-volume history of the university to the Bryan years, during which enrollment rose from 1,300 to 10,000. Early in his presidency, he led IU to its most significant victory ever over Purdue: prevailing through the courts, the legislature, the press and the court of public opinion to land for Indiana University the Medical School – a key, Clark feels, to IU's survival in Bloomington. Clark credited Bryan with making IU “a university in fact,” funding, staffing and developing a vast expansion that includes the present schools of music, business, journalism and the basic graduate school system. “It was Bryan's vision, dogged determination and loyalty to standards that projected Indiana University into the future,” Clark wrote.

Bryan's years spanned some of the worst crises in city, state and university history: continual water shortages, World War I and a national flu outbreak in the 1910s, the Ku Klux Klan and the Great Depression in the '20s and early '30s. He led in the upgrading and expansion of faculty, facilities and academic departments, and the integration of women and African-Americans into the student body and faculty. He inherited IU's turn-of-the-century entry into today's Big Ten, and he provided the fieldhouse, stadium and

other facilities for the greatly upgraded athletic program that conference membership necessitated. And he was IU's first president to live and die with its athletic teams.

Through it all, he was a practicing, example-setting Christian whose faith showed up regularly in his frequent on-campus and off-campus speeches and his almost daily columns on the front page of the Indiana Daily Student. He presided through the loose jazz years of the Roaring '20s, through the end of Prohibition, which he supported and personally practiced. His popularity, like that of his successor whom Clark says he hand-picked, Herman B Wells, was universal among students and faculty. A hundred years ago, in the fall of 1908, according to Clark, the Michigan governor told a faculty colleague of Bryan's, "You have a remarkable state of affairs. I have talked with several of your faculty and discovered that you have a president who is *loved* by his faculty (italics Clark's)."

Bryan died Nov. 21, 1955. After a rare campus crossing by the Bryan cortege, his funeral was at his home, UPC pastor Franklin MacAllister in charge and Wells a speaker. Bryan was buried at Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis, beside his wife who had died in 1948.

Bloomington honors his memory with Bryan Street and Bryan Park. Since 1937, the IU president's office has been in Bryan Hall.

JAMES ALBERT WOODBURN

Historian Thomas Clark in his official history of Indiana University said the “colony of stern Reformed Presbyterians” who came from South Carolina to Bloomington in the 1830s included “the Woodburn family, which was to be so intimately associated with Indiana University over the years.”

They were all the more associated with United Presbyterian Church and its roots. Three Woodburns (Dorrance B., James, and John) served the Reformed church in Bloomington as elders, four more (including James A., ordained Oct. 29, 1891 – plus Walter E., Walter F. and William, all ordained after 1900) served as elders of the church after merger into the present United Presbyterian Church. The church membership roll for its first 100 years, from 1833 through 1933, listed 37 Woodburns.

Of that family, the most noted was James Albert, a prime representative of the intermingling of the histories of IU, United Presbyterian Church, and Bloomington itself.

An earlier James Woodburn, born in County Derry, Ireland, in 1748, came to America in 1767. He settled in Chester County, South Carolina, where he died in 1812. His son, Dorrance, was 44 when he brought his family to Bloomington in the fall of 1830. The family history written by Dorrance’s grandson, James Albert Woodburn, says of Dorrance, “Originally a member of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, he left that church about 1823 on account of his opposition to slavery and joined the Reformed Presbyterian Church, which was one of the earliest sects to openly condemn slavery.”

Dorrance’s son, James, was the family’s first connection with IU. He was 13 when the family moved to Bloomington, 25 when he got his bachelor’s degree from IU, 28 when he got a master’s. He joined the IU faculty in 1853 as principal of the university’s Preparatory Department of Indiana University.

His son, James Albert, also received bachelor’s and master’s degrees from IU and a Ph. D. from Johns Hopkins University. He first joined the IU faculty as head of the department of composition. That was his role in 1888, when a new university policy required that every graduating senior had to write at least one essay for his evaluation. Clark wrote, “Professor Woodburn must have had his hands full with 273 term papers for each semester.” He was professor of American history at IU from 1890 to his retirement in 1924, achieving state and national recognition.

He was a virtual “vice president” of the university under his close friend and fellow UPC member William Lowe Bryan. When Bryan was out of the country on university business Nov. 11, 1918, it was James A. Woodburn who headed the university’s official celebration of the end of World War I. Beloved by students, his nickname among them in his later years was “Daddy” Woodburn. He was a professor emeritus until his death in 1943.

On the city of Bloomington's near-northwest side are Woodburn Avenue and Woodburn Drive. More notably, one of the most distinguished buildings on campus, on Seventh Street as a gateway to IU Auditorium, is Woodburn Hall – built as the “B&E (Business and Education) Building” in 1941 and dedicated as James A. Woodburn Hall in 1971. A plaque from the dedication calls Woodburn the university historian. The building's primary teaching area now is political science. The building's lecture hall walls include two of the Thomas Hart Benton “Indiana Murals,” prepared for the Chicago World's Fair in 1933. One of the Woodburn murals has stirred frequent campus controversy over the years because, in depicting the state's history, a panel labeled "Parks, the Circus, the Klan, the Press," shows members of the Ku Klux Klan burning a cross. The Klan's involvement in Indiana history is the subject of one of James Albert Woodburn's published treatises.

* * *

Like his longtime friend William Lowe Bryan, James A. Woodburn was an IU athletic letterman – his career unique. IU athletic rolls list him as one of the school's earliest baseball lettermen (in 1874, '75 and '76) – and as a six-time letter-winner in tennis (1884 through 1889). There were no official eligibility rules then. He won his tennis letters while a member of the faculty.

PASTORS, BLOOMINGTON UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Reformed Presbyterian*

Theophilus A. Wylie 1838-1869

Associate Reformed Presbyterian*

William D. Turner 1835-1869

Associate Presbyterian*

I. N. Laughead 1839-1843

John Bryan 1855-1862

***Churches merged in 1869 to form United Presbyterian Church.
New church built in 1872 at 9th Street and College Avenue**

United Presbyterian Church

William P. McNary 1870-1884

Samuel R. Lyons 1885-1898

William A. Littell 1899-1901

James D. Barr 1902-1906

Thomas H. Hanna 1907-1917

James L. Kelso 1919-1923

J. Merle Rife 1924-1927

John W. Meloy 1925-1937

Centennial Service 1933; more than 200 attended

Donald E. Zimmerman 1937-1940

Alfred A. Kelsey 1940-1942

Hugh E. Kelsey 1942-1944

J. Marshon DePoister 1945-1946

Carmen C. Decker (part-time) 1946-1951

Vincent Strigas Jr. 1951-1953

Fire July 3, 1951; new church built 2nd and Eastside

Franklin H. MacCallister 1953-1956

Heinrich Eiler 1957-1961

David E. Faris 1963-1976

David B. Brown Jr. 1977-1982

David F. Schafer 1982-1986

Allen B. Layman (interim) 1986-1987

Mickey R. Blair 1987-1990

Allen B. Layman (interim) 1990-1991

David A. Bremer 1992-

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear friends:

United Presbyterian Church was established in Bloomington by men and women yearning to be free. Many left their homes in Ireland and Scotland to escape religious and cultural persecution and later, while in the new world again had to flee threats of death from those who favored slavery. And so they picked up and found their way to a beautiful and rolling land, a blooming land filled with hope. You can see their names in the United Presbyterian Cemetery. Along with long-forgotten names washed away by time and snow and rain on the smaller tombstones of children. Their lives and deaths are the reason we now celebrate our 175th anniversary. It was because of their desire for freedom in Christ and the rejection of tyranny our church was established.

And, to that end of freedom in Christ, United Presbyterian Church has become an international fellowship richly diverse in its faithfulness to Christ. Further, United Presbyterian is an incubating fellowship that already has prepared no fewer than five members or recent members now engaged in some form of ministry.

From our small town in mid-America, we have reached outward – to lead in Bloomington support of the Nyaka AIDS Orphans School in Uganda, East Africa, and to help with funds and grateful prayer the sight-assisting efforts of two former members of our church, Trevor and (ophthalmologist) Valerie Colby, in Honduras.

We have received a legacy of tenacity and love from the founders of our fellowship and witness boldly without regret. So, let this 175th celebration then, not only be a joyful and yes, somber reminder of those who have gone before us, but equally, a time of renewal and regeneration. So much that, in the year 2183, the United Presbyterian Church pastor will recall a time in a blooming and peaceful city, a city in the heart of God and America, and give thanks for the men, women and children of faith who stood up for freedom in Christ.

May it be so.

Reverend David A. Bremer, pastor
United Presbyterian Church
September 6, 2008

UPC in 2008

Pastor	Rev. David A. Bremer
Clerk of Session	Don Root
Treasurer	Darian McBride
Choir Director	Robert Stephans

SESSION

Sarah Cochran
 Alejandra Haddad
 Bob Hammel
 Lance Like
 Rachel Loop
 Melanie Mathis
 Stephanie Worden

DEACONS

Elizabeth Ferenczy
 Aline Haddad
 Bill Schofield
 Robert Stephans
 Renee Stubenrauch
 Nancy Truelove
 Phyllis Watt

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Bob Hammel and Don Root from the congregation co-authored this church history, with ample use of material from sources identified in the text.

Root, an engineer for 43 years, came to Bloomington in that role with Otis Elevator, serving the company in Bloomington for 20 years before retirement. His church role has been multiple. In addition to teaching Sunday School, he was ordained as an Elder and served terms on the Session before succeeding Robert D. Watt as Clerk of Session in 2006. He also is a graduate of the Presbyterian Lay Academy and has preached in both UPC and other churches in the Bloomington area.

For 52 years, Hammel was an Indiana journalist – a sportswriter-columnist the last 40 years with the Bloomington Herald-Times. He also authored 11 books. He is in his third term as an Elder. He has given the church’s Father’s Day message for the last 16 years.