



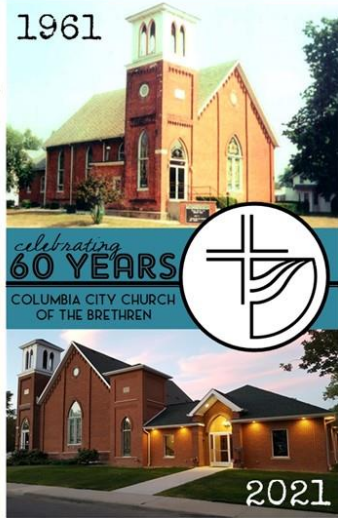
“Worship through the Decades”

July 18, 1976

July 18, 2021



Honoring the
Veazey,
Brumbaugh &
Burkett families



One Sunday each month from June through October of 2021, we'll be revisiting worship services from all of the first five decades of our church as we celebrate our 60th anniversary this year. Today, we revisit July 18, 1976.

Everything printed in the inside of your bulletin is exactly how the bulletin looked on July 18, 1976. Current info, announcements, and joys & concerns are listed on both inserts. In the 1976 bulletin, you'll see that our current moderator was then our pastor. Even if you haven't attended our congregation very long, anyone who has attended Indian Springs Middle School will note the birth announcement which celebrates the birth of Kent Longenbaugh, teacher at ISMS. His father, Lowell, was also a teacher and attended our church during that time.

Another aspect of this special series “Worship through the Decades” is highlighting families who have remained active in our church nearly all 60 years. Today we honor the legacy of LeRoy & Lilah Veazey which also includes Bill & Joyce Brumbaugh, and then Paul & Carol Burkett.

LeRoy & Lilah Veazey and their four daughters, Alberta, Roedean, Delores, and Dixie, have been an integral part of the congregation's success throughout the years. LeRoy, Lilah, Roedean and Dixie were charter members. LeRoy served as our very first Disbursing Treasurer and Roedean the first Church Clerk. Also in those early years, LeRoy stoked the furnace with coal for the worship service,

mowed the yard, cleaned the church, and removed the snow. Lilah served as the first president of Women's Fellowship and in that role organized the cleaning of the church before the first services took place in May 1961. She also hosted the first Christmas auction (now our fall auction), for which over the years she baked dozens of loaves of bread and dozens of rolls. Roedean's husband, Keith, was among the ten people who were the first to be baptized on December 10, 1961.

The Veazey family remained faithful to the congregation following a late 1963 split in the congregation when the pastor and a quarter of the congregation left due to a change in the Annual Conference statement on how transfer members could be received without trine immersion. Dixie recalls in the 50th Anniversary history book, "my parents worked so hard to keep this church open and never gave up on it. They loved this church." In 1964, LeRoy & Lilah gave the church a brand-new Wurlitzer organ - the church's first organ. The organ was purchased for Dixie's wedding in October, the first wedding the congregation hosted. The extended family remains a part of the congregation as 4th generation Evan Peterson, son of Kelly Peterson who is the daughter of Dixie Alexander, attended Camp Mack just two weeks ago.

In 1992, memorial funds in memory of LeRoy & Lilah, as well as Harry Jagger, Sarah Shively, and Melvin & Velma Brumbaugh were used to purchase copies of *Hymnal: A Worship Book*, the hymnals we use today.

Which brings us to the connection with the Brumbaugh's. Lilah was born Lilah Brumbaugh and was a brother to Melvin Brumbaugh. Melvin & Velma were active in the life of the church and parents of four sons, the youngest of which was Bill. Bill & Joyce have been very active in the life of the church since returning in 1973 after five years attending the Lincolnshire Church of the Brethren. Bill has served as Treasurer, both receiving and disbursing, at various times the past 40+ years. Both Bill & Joyce have served as Deacons, Sunday School teachers, and in various positions on the church board. Bill also sings in the choir and served on the various building committees helping to build our addition in 2017. Joyce has volunteered for many years with Women's Fellowship.

In April 1987, LeRoy Veazey went home to be with the Lord. Later that same year, Maury & Alberta Malcolm, LeRoy & Lilah's oldest daughter, transferred their

membership to our church. Maury & Alberta quickly became part of our church family.

Jake and Janet Brumbaugh joined the congregation in 2011. Jake is a cousin to Bill.

The other family we honor today is the Paul & Carol Burkett family. Paul & Carol are charter members, even though they didn't become members until September 1961. This new church was one of the things that attracted them to move to Columbia City from Greenville, Ohio. Paul & Carol became very involved in the life of the church, especially with the young people. For many years, they hosted pool parties at their house on 200 South. They served as Deacons, Sunday School teachers, choir members, and several positions on the church board. Carol was a regular piano player and also played the organ. Paul wrote several renditions of the church's history and kept statistics of church attendance. Paul & Carol's three sons, Jim, John, and Kent, all grew up in the church, with Jim & Mary Jo attending once again. Jim led Bible Study in the fall of 2019. Fourth generation, Milo Burkett, attended National Youth Conference in 2018 and participates with the youth group. Most recently he helped clean up the church offices after the tree fell last summer.

We might not be the church we are today without the dedication of LeRoy & Lilah Veazey and Paul & Carol Burkett and their families. Today, we celebrate their ongoing legacy.

- *Written by Pastor Dennis Beckner, with info from "Columbia City Church of the Brethren - Celebrating 50 Years: 1961-2011" Church History, written by Mary Helfrich, 2012.*

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