

The Mt Zion Church was organized in the Fall of 1838 by Rev. Michall Long who joined Sandusky Conference in 1836 and who suffered more privations and traveled longer in the conference than any other worker, living or dead, and succeeded in bringing thousands into the church. He retired in 1886 and died on November 17, 1891.

The first services were held in the first log school house on the Blanchard River in section 22 of Marion Township, about four miles east of Findlay and about one-fourth mile south of the present High Banks school house.

The principle members and organizers of this church, as far as can be ascertained were: John C. Bright, class leader, who was converted in a camp meeting held by Reverend M. Long, celebrated evangelist, and at once expressed a desire to enter the ministry and he was granted a quarterly conference license. In 1841 he united with the Sandusky annual conference and was appointed to a circuit. He served as preacher and presiding elder until 1851 when he was elected secretary of the denominational Home, Frontier and Foreign Missionary Society, serving faithfully and successfully for four years. A nervous breakdown necessitated his ceasing active work for a few years, after which he again rendered splendid service as a pastor and presiding elder until he death on August 6th, 1866. He was buried at Columbus, Ohio. Major Bright and wife, Allen Wisely, Amelia Wisely, Nimrod Bright and wife, Owen Roberts, Samuel Essex, who became a United Brethren Minister and labored for 23 years, dying April 11, 1877, aged 59 years, Charity Essex, Edward Mains, Miss Burges, Anabell Baker, Elizabeth Maise, Elisabeth Naarteeck and others.

The first church building, a frame structure, was erected on land donated by John Bright and located in section 24 of Marion township. The deed of the land recorded in Volume 14, page 213 of the Hancock County records states that John C. Bright and Mariah Bright, in consideration of \$2.00 deeded, forever, to Nimrod Bright, Ambrose Jackewavay, Michall Cramer, trustees for the United Brethern in Christ, land in section 24 township 1, north of range 11, Marion township, size 7 rods by 11 rods of the Bright farm. Date July 18, 1854. Recorded October 21, 1858. I.J. Baldwin, Recorder.

This frame building was used for about 30 years, when a new church location was secured a short distance to the east and a brick building erected. The pastor of the church was Reverend George Bender who served from December 1884 to May 1886. The contractor was Phillip Adams and the construction cost was about \$2900.00. Walnut lumber from the old building was used as trim in the new structure.

The second location was in section 24 township 1 north of range 11 beginning at a stone located 30 feet north of the center of the New Haven road on a line between land owned by Andrew Bish and Levi Bright, then running north 5 rods and west 10 rods and south 5 rods. The deed recorded in Volume 33, page 308, was given August 23, 1884 by Andrew Bish and Nimrod J. Bright in consideration of \$10.00 to Levi Bright Sr., William Bright, John S. Rese, John C. Jaqua, and Milton Robinson, trustees of the United Brethern Class, a church organization of the denomination of the United Brethern in Christ of Salem circuit - -to be used by said class as long as the same continues to exist and when not in use by said class, to be used by any orthodox Christian denomination which may seem best for the use and benefit of the orthodox Christians of the neighborhood, but if thereafter a U.B. church desires possession they shall have it. Not to be sold or disposed of for any other purpose. The trustees are the sole and lawful owners of said premises. Quit claim deed recorded September 11, 1884. John B. Feltz, Recorder, by Albert S. Powell, Deputy.

The brick church building was dedicated in May 31, 1885 by Reverend Lewis Davis. The size of the building is thirty five feet by fifty feet.

A furnace was installed in the building in 1907, under the pastorate of H. L. Snyder. Electric lights, which replaced gasoline lights which have been in use some twenty five years were installed in 1933 under the pastorate of L. W. Biddle. The Mt. Zion Community Club made this possible financially. The board of trustees was J. Arthur Stahl, President, S. B. Rose, Hyatt Roberts, Lester Bright and Ralph Peters.