

Chapter 4. 1933 – 1959

Pastor Charles B. Osgood 1933 - 1934

During Pastor C. B. Osgood's short nine months of ministry several things happened. Lucille Janisch Rogers records, "It was during these depression years another church debt was facing the congregation, and even the interest was hard to pay! That fall of 1933 by having several public dinners, the principal was paid off, and the lender canceled the interest. That was a happy day when that mortgage was burned! This payment was recorded November 9, 1937." It is unclear why the debt was fully paid in 1933 and not recorded until 1937. Lucille also lists this quote found in Orval Peterson's book; "In 1933 the church celebrated its 80th anniversary under the ministry of Pastor C. B. Osgood." (The fact that this celebration is recorded is strong evidence that those closer to first-hand history felt that our church began in 1853.)



Pastor Charles B. Osgood and wife Cordelia ("Delia")

PASTOR OSGOOD'S ARRIVAL

Rose (Pittman) Johnson contributed, "The church was without a pastor again. In 1933, one Sunday morning (I don't remember this, but my sister Marie tells it this way) the doors between the foyer and sanctuary opened, and in walked in five people, all dressed in white. Marie said that for a moment she thought they were angels! They were a minister and his family who were traveling through and heard that Castle Rock was without a pastor and decided to visit our church. The minister's name was Charles Osgood, his wife and two grown daughters, Julia and Ruth; also a foster son, Elwood. They found out that the church was without a pastor, and they were asked to stay.

"Rev. Osgood was a good pastor and did a lot of good for the church. Everyone loved him and his family. One thing I especially remember about Pastor Osgood was his thick, white hair. After reading my notes, my sister said that the Osgoods were the nicest family she has ever known.



The great flood of 1933. Note the Castle Rock High School building in the upper right hand corner of the picture under water. (Courtesy of the Cowlitz County Historical Society).

“Just about the time that the Osgoods arrived, a Pentecostal church had started in Castle Rock, and several families were leaving the Christian Church to attend the Pentecostal Church. It was causing quite a lot of trouble among the people. Pastor Osgood’s daughters had been Pentecostal for a long time, so he understood about them wanting to go to the Pentecostal church occasionally. Julia and Ruth were excellent with the children and young people of the church. They had something special for us all the time.

“I still remember Julia teaching us to sing ‘Power in the Blood’ in the Indian (India) language, I believe. I can still remember part of the words. Ruth had a gift of making me feel special. I corresponded with her and Cal for a long time after they left Castle Rock. I really wanted her to sing for my wedding but at that time, they were pastoring in Missouri. I loved to hear Ruth sing. Julia had a good voice also.”

Some additional information that has not been previously known about our history is revealed in this Rose (Pittman) Johnson quote: “The Christian Church Sunday School was having a contest between the Reds and Blues. Someone invited Calvin Guier. It wasn’t long until he became a Christian and fell in love with Ruth, and his life was completely changed forever.

“Pastor Osgood’s time at the church was very short. It was spring, and the weather was really mild compared to Minnesota where he had lived. He had been going around all winter and spring without a coat and hat. He developed pneumonia (in those days, it was very often fatal) which caused a heart attack or stroke and he died. It was a horrible shock to his family and the congregation.”

PASTOR OSGOOD’S OBITUARY

Judging by the list of pastors in the years from 1932 to 1934, Castle Rock Christian Church experienced some difficult times. Researching Pastor C. B. Osgood’s ministry during 1933-34, we found the following information dated May 24, 1934 in his obituary in the *Cowlitz County Advocate* newspaper:

Pastor Charles Benton Osgood had a life desire to be a missionary but was prevented from ever accomplishing this due to poor eyesight. Mission boards often held strict requirements in those days. Pastor Osgood attended Hiram College and the Ohio Wesleyan University. Prior to coming to Castle Rock, Pastor Osgood was Regional Secretary of Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota for 18 years. He held a short pastorate in the Audubon church in Indianapolis, Minnesota before coming west to Castle Rock for his wife’s health.

His wife was named Delia Coit, and they had two daughters, Ruth and Julia, who lived at home and a son, Howard Coit Osgood, missionary to Chi Tien Li Kiang, Yunnan China.

The Osgoods had two adopted children, Elwood of “This city” which we would think means Castle Rock, and Mrs. L. C. Davis of St. Louis, Missouri.

FUNERAL IS HELD THURSDAY FOR REV. CHARLES B. OSGOOD

CASTLE ROCK, May 25-Funeral services for Charles Benton Osgood, who passed away Tuesday, were held Thursday afternoon in the Christian church, conducted by Rev. H. O. Wilson, pastor of the Longview Christian church. C. A. Johnson, pastor of the Christian Church at Chehalis, read the scripture lesson, W. F. Furner, Seattle secretary of the United Christian Missionary Society offered prayer and gave a eulogy of the departed brother. Members of the church choir sang his favorite hymn “Wonderful Words of Life” and the last song he sang at the close of the service last Sunday night, “Softly and Tenderly,” and two request songs. Miss Cleone Crabb played the piano accompaniment. Honorary pallbearers included Christian church ministers from nearby towns, E. L. Wood, Woodland, Don Ross, Kelso, S. L. Jackson, Longview, M. A. McQuary, Centralia, and Rev. H. J. Harding, pastor of the

local Methodist church and Charles Berry, pastor of the Gospel Mission: J. K. Conger and F. E. Van Horne, church elders. Acting pallbearers were Percy Affleck, James Boyd, Robert Shulke, Luther Hurst, C. N. Miller and Wesley White. Rev. H. O. Wilson conducted the graveside service in the Scholz and Hubbard addition to Whittle cemetery. The floral tributes were many and beautiful. Members of the King David boy's class of the Bible school, which Rev. Osgood had taught, attended the services in body and also members of the eighth grade of which Elwood Osgood was a member attended.

PASTOR OSGOOD'S FAMILY

Rose Pittman continues her story: "Soon afterward, Cal and Ruth were married and went to California so that Cal could attend Bible School. Mrs. Osgood who hadn't been well while they were in Castle Rock, went with them.

"Julia married John Meikle, a member of the church and a confirmed bachelor-he thought. A year later Julia gave birth to twin girls, Faith and Bertha.

"Eighteen months later, another baby girl, Grace was born. Since Julia was forty years old when she married, she didn't see any need to waste time acquiring her family – three little redheads."

According to this information, we have another "Timothy" in Calvin Guier who was a member of our church, married Ruth Osgood and went into the ministry! Even in the midst of all the turmoil of changing pastors three times in three years it would seem that the church enjoyed considerable success in the middle of those difficult depression years.

CHARLES OSGOOD'S DIARY

One of the greatest insights into life in Castle Rock in 1934 is found in Charles Osgood's personal diary. Typewritten copies were supplied to the Osgood family compliments of Frank R. Hubbard, Castle Rock mortician. We are very thankful to Pastor Osgood's granddaughter, Grace (Meikle) Collins, for sharing the personal daily accounts recorded in his diary covering a period from January 1, to his death on May 22, 1934. It appears as an appendix in the back of this book. Grace (Meilke) Collins did the pencil drawings.

These brief but definitive entries give us great insight to his ministry, the life of the church and the dedication of the members.

Pastor Edward R. Rogers 1934 - 1940, 1943 - 1945

In 1934 the elders turned to Edward R. Rogers who apparently brought some stability to the church. At the time Pastor Rogers was ministering to a small group at Jackson Prairie, which was located north of Toledo on the Jackson Highway. According to Jean (Affleck) Shulke, Pastor E. R. Rogers was a good Bible teacher and well respected in the community. Several people who were interviewed still remember him, and everyone has nothing but compliments about his ministry. He was a quiet man, exemplified the scriptural virtue of self-control, a pleasure to spend time with, and called a real “gentleman.”



Pastor Edward Rogers

His starting salary was \$25.00 per month plus use of the parsonage. This was very much a part-time salary, and it was necessary for him to drive a school bus. Pastor Rogers earned as much driving the bus as he did as pastor of the church. This was in the middle of the depression, and times were hard. Many folks had no cash to tithe and would stop by the parsonage and give the pastor something from their garden or farm.

CHURCH REPAIRS

Under Pastor Rogers’ leadership, along with elders Robert Shulke, Percy Affleck, Clarence Taylor and Hozy Drew, a building fund was started because the building was then in dire need of repair. In 1936 the church sanctuary was completely remodeled. The old belfry was lowered, a new roof was put on, and both church and parsonage were painted. The pastor and members donated all the labor, working every day hard and long. When it was completed, the bills were all paid from the fund and donations, so no indebtedness remained.



Pencil Sketch by Jennifer Seals, great, great, great granddaughter of William Huntington



Daily Vacation Bible School 1938

Back row, from left: Mrs. Edward Rogers, Charlotte Chapman, Lenor Woodard, Dorothy Brown, Roberta Pier, Lottie Pier, Marjorie Rogers, unknown lady

Third row: Two unknown girls, Marjorie Brown, unknown boy and 2 girls, Campbell boy

Second row: Garth Little, 2 unknown boys, unknown girl

First row: Barbara Weber, Margaret Pier, Clinton Chapman, George Frost, Bobby Campbell, unknown boy

In 1940 the average attendance in Sunday School for the year was 151. The enrollment was 181 with 17 teachers and Mrs. Hozy Drew as superintendent. Percy and Cora Affleck both taught Sunday school and supported many of the church ministries under Pastor Rogers' leadership.

Pastor Rogers had one of the longer ministries of all of the pastors to that date, and we still have folks who personally remember him and have given first-hand reports of his ministry.

Pastor Rogers' first pastorate here was from 1934 to 1940. He left Castle Rock for about three years, returned in 1943 and left again in 1945 to begin a new ministry as caretaker of the Firs Bible Conference grounds near Bellingham, Washington. He was there for about 30 years before moving back to Chehalis.

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Pastor Rogers maintained a long-standing friendship over the years with Floyd and Jean Shulke and Lucille Janisch Rogers who had very positive memories of him. Floyd and Jean were very involved in the church at Coal Creek, and invited him to teach Sunday School there. As he was over 80 years old, in the interest of safety he drove the back roads from Chehalis to Coal Creek to teach his class each Sunday for three or four years.

We learned that Edward Rogers actually ended his ministry conducting Bible studies with friends and acquaintances who lived with him in a nursing home and maintained this ministry until just a few weeks before his call to be with the Lord.



Sisters Nona (Gore) Little and Myrtle (Gore) Stephenson July 15, 1938, with the old Castle Rock Bank building in the background.

Pastor Roy Pittman 1940 - 1941



Pastor Roy Pittman with wife and son John

Directly following Pastor Rogers, we believe that the church hired Roy Pittman. We have little information about him, except this picture of him, his wife and three-month old son. We think he was here only about one year sometime around 1940.

Lindarae (Caldwell) Hovde says that after seeing his picture, she recalls his family at Bible Rock Camp where many members of the Christian Churches spent time together for both summer and winter camps.

To insert a point of interest, this camp was near Cle Elum, Washington. It was a rustic old logging camp on the Teanaway River operated by old time logging camp preacher and well-known Christian Church evangelist, Teddy Leavitt. During this time Teddy was pastoring the Thorp Christian Church and operating a home for boys. Castle Rock often had fairly large groups attend these camps in the middle 1950's and early 1960's.

Pastor Lafy P. Nebelung 1941 - 1943

We have had a difficult time finding much first-hand information about Pastor Nebelung. Loren Carnahan said that he remembered him as a real people person. Gary Horsley said that his father shared rides to work at the Weyerhaeuser Longview sawmill site where they both worked, indicating that Pastor Nebelung was a part time pastor. Vic Holcomb remembers visiting with Pastor Nebelung at Weyerhaeuser's cafeteria on night shift, also confirming the likelihood that he was a part-time pastor.

The National Historical Society sent us three pieces of information concerning Pastor Nebelung.

There is a note stating that Pastor Nebelung closed his ministry at the Prosser Christian Church July 24, 1941. It would seem that he then came to Castle Rock. We have no dates as to when Roy Pittman left Castle Rock.

We have an entry in the *Christian Standard* stating the following: "One addition in short meeting led by Teddy Leavitt, L. P. Nebelung is minister." This information was found in the January 31, 1942 issue.

Another report states the following: “Reports from all departments of church showed an increase over last year. Twenty-one were added. General offering was \$2,361.31, and of this \$216.51 was given to missions. With all bills paid; \$623.51 remained in treasury. Church was without regular minister for several months and L. P. Nebelung took up work August 28. Since then 7 have been added to church and there have been 7 weddings and 1 funeral.”

We also have a report for the year of 1942 which states that “During 1942, 25 were added – 16 by primary obedience and 9 by statement. Minister L. P. Nebelung performed 15 weddings and officiated at 19 funerals. Minister’s salary was increased, and about \$600.00 was given to missions. All bills are paid, and church has balance of \$1,350.00 in treasury. Twenty-five boxes were sent to boys in service at Christmas time.” We have no picture of Pastor Nebelung, and no further information about him other than he left in 1943 and Pastor Rogers returned for a second time of ministry.

We learned from Wendell Small that L. P. Nebelung had been pastor of the Prosser Christian Church, and Wendell replaced him as pastor in 1953. L. P. Nebelung’s next pastorate was at Cottage Grove, Oregon, the home church of Wendell’s family. L. P. Nebelung conducted Wendell’s mother’s funeral. Wendell had a very high regard for Pastor L. P. Nebelung.

Pastor Maynard Grandlund 1945 - 1946

Maynard Grandlund came to us from the Evangelical Free Church at Battleground, Washington. He was here for only about a year before he resigned and moved to Orland, California where he was employed as a bookkeeper for a lumber company for a few years.

He later served as a part of the staff of the Mt. Herman Conference Center for many years. He now is retired. He and his wife Edith have maintained a long-standing friendship with Dorothy Adams. Dorothy reports that they have just celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.



Maynard Grandlund

Teddy Leavitt, Evangelist and Man of Great Faith



Teddy Leavitt

Although Teddy Leavitt never served Castle Rock Christian Church as its pastor, we mention him here because he had a strong influence on the church beginning in the 1940's.

Teddy Leavitt visited the Castle Rock Christian Church perhaps five times during his ministry and left a lasting impact on our doctrinal foundation. Many came to the Lord during his meetings. A few folks who heard him remember his fiery spirited preaching.

His first visit to Castle Rock was when he held a short evangelistic meeting here in 1942. The next time was eight years later when, according to Ken Davis, he held two weeks of meetings with Wendell Small.

There is a record of Teddy visiting when his son Don came with him about 1951 or 1952.

At first a person might have thought this guy put on quite a show, but soon everyone could see that he was a man who really knew God and fully believed the Bible to be the divine Word of God down to every letter.

Wilma Brazier still remembers his meetings from the 1950's, and recalls some of the same memories common to all who knew or heard Teddy. You could feel the spirit of God in the room. He would sometimes leave the pulpit, walk down the aisle, slap someone on the shoulder, or on the knee, exclaiming, "**Praise God**" or "**Hallelujah**" then relate a story or two about the past.

He could be telling a sad story and be weeping real tears as he told it, and then just as quickly shout for joy, as he would tell about someone who was healed, or came to know Jesus.

Joan (Little) Anderson recalls Teddy's dramatic preaching style that she saw more than 52 years ago, and it is still vivid to her today. She relates how he walked down the aisle pretending to drag a heavy chain, illustrating how we as Christians unnecessarily hang onto our chains of sin and how the heavy burden of our sins keep us from experiencing true victory in Christ. She says this demonstration seemed so real and effective.

(At that time a three or four-week long series of meetings at a church was common. The evangelist might speak two or three times a week. Church members would invite friends and family and often the church would gain some new members.)

Les Greene reports that Teddy paid us another visit about 1961 when Martin Lee invited him to come speak to a men's group that met in the basement of the old building.

Teddy came to Castle Rock the last time to take part in G. V. Mathai's ordination service. One of Teddy's last major efforts was helping G. V. Mathai lay the groundwork to establish the India Evangelical Mission. See Chapter 11, page ?? . Many of Teddy's closest friends felt it was as if he was handing off his baton in a great track race as he guided G. V. in selecting the charter members for the board of the mission. Teddy's son Don Leavitt was one of the charter members of the board, and still serves on it today. Teddy's strong faith and belief in "God can do anything" is evident in Dr. G. V. Mathai's ministry until this very day`. There is more information about Teddy Leavitt and Bible Rock Camp in the appendix, The Ministry of Teddy Leavitt.

Pastor Wendell Small 1946 – 1953

Wendell Small came to Castle Rock Christian Church as our pastor in 1946, and was with us until 1953. We still have several members who remember his ministry first hand. One of the first things that everyone remembers about Wendell is that he cut off a finger chopping wood for the wood furnace that heated the church each Sunday morning.

(Vic Holcomb took over the janitor job at that time, and he and Dollie did it until his retirement January 1, 2003.)



Pastor Wendell Small

The church was still burning wood for its heat, and the pastor had to work the janitor's job as well as preach and meet the spiritual needs of the congregation. Without being too hard on some of the folks in leadership at the time, it should be noted that they had experienced the great depression, and many of them had to work very hard for what they had, and felt that the pastor should earn his pay!

So when the issue of the pastor's compensation came up, there was always a controversy. Some believed that for the pastor to be a pious man, he should not be overpaid. According to some of the memories of table talk that went on around various homes, the pastor's pay was a major issue when considering Wendell's salary each year. Wendell, not being a demanding man, had agreed to do the janitor work as well as the pastoral duties of the church to meet the financial needs of his family.



The Small family - Gene on Wendell's lap, Wendell, John on Virginia's lap, and Carolyn on the far right.

Wilma Brazier has fond memories of the family nights that Wendell held at the church once a month. All of the church would come together for fellowship and singing and games. Each night Wendell would lead all of the kids in a pretend Lion Hunt. Wilma said that was the highlight of her evening.

Ken Davis reports that Wendell Small baptized him, his mother and his sister. Ken also stated that Wendell Small was one of the greatest influences on his life and had much to do with influencing

him to attend Bible College and go into the ministry.

SOME RECOLLECTIONS

In a recent telephone conversation, Wendell Small related that the congregation had been taking prayer requests and had written them on a blackboard. As the answers came in they would put them in the answered column. The answered column became very impressive and was a blessing to many. He then mentioned that Warren Tucker was the first person to accept Jesus Christ under his ministry at Castle Rock. Warren had been the town drunk, and the change in his life was a big testimony to the community. He was very vocal about his conversion and healing from alcoholism telling people "that God was worth hooking up with."

Wendell also told us that Hervy Abercrombie, president of Central Washington Bible College, held evangelistic meetings which were very successful and resulted in the conversions of Peggy Jarrett and Bill Prather, both of whom went on to be some of the strongest Christian witnesses in the church for the rest of their lives.

After Wendell left Castle Rock, he spent several years pastoring the Prosser Christian Church.

After his ministry in Prosser, Wendell and his family returned to the Longview area where he worked as a car salesman at Bud Clary's and as a janitor at Catlin Elementary School. He worshipped with us at Castle Rock, and at times filled the pulpit for Martin Lee. He was a good singer and often shared in the music ministry.

He was a wonderful example of a man who lived his faith. Lindarae Hovde says she will always remember his smile and how happy he was no matter his lot in life. He always had a twinkle in his eye, as he cracked a smile, and had an infectious laugh, and if he was by himself you would most likely hear him whistling a happy tune. Wendell pastored the Toutle Community Bible Church from about 1970 to the fall of 1984. Castle Rock Christian Church was honored to have Wendell Small as our pastor.

Pastor Kenny Holsinger 1953 - 1955



Left to right, Marie and Kenny Holsinger, holding Lynette. Front left, David, Steven and Carolyn Holsinger

Kenny Holsinger was our next pastor. To this day people still remember his amazing ability to memorize and quote entire chapters of scripture. His arrival here was just in time to help celebrate our 100th birthday. An article retrieved from the *Cowlitz County Advocate* is copied here:

Christian Church, One of State's Oldest, Has Homecoming

The Castle Rock Christian church, which is one of the three oldest churches in the State of Washington, observed 100 years of church work in the community, Sunday, with a homecoming dinner and all day program.

During the afternoon program, granddaughters of William Huntington

who founded the Christian Church here were introduced. They were Mrs. Agnes Watkins and Mrs. John Wyant. Mrs. Wyant gave a history of the church and the Huntingtons and named some of the early-day pastors. Mrs. Martha

Jackson and Mrs. Lewis Jackson gave a talk on "The Responsibilities of the Church." The pastor, Kenneth Holsinger, read messages from some of the former pastors, including Ted Goodwin, Prineville, Ore., Edward R. Rogers, Bellingham; Wendell P. Small; and Maynard Grandlund. The charter members of the Church were named. Many of the early church records were lost years ago when the home of Mrs. Frank Studebaker burned. Three families with four generations were present; Huntington, Frost, and Gore.

The Sunday School attendance was 168 with 16 teachers. Mrs. L. B. Davis led the singing of the S. S. assembly. Mrs. Davis played the piano for morning worship, and Mrs. Lillian Showalter led the choir. The morning message of the pastor was taken from John 3:16. His subject was "For God So Loved The World." Mrs. Davis introduced a program of music and songs following the dinner. Fruit and vine decorations were arranged on the tables.

The following article appeared in the State paper:

"Castle Rock: Kenneth Holsinger, Minister, Combined Homecoming Day, September 27, 1953 with a 100 Year Anniversary of the beginnings of their work. Bible School 168; house filled am; fellowship dinner; afternoon address by Mrs. Esther Leavitt of Thorp; grandchildren of pioneers presented; charter members named. William Huntington came from Missouri in 1852; services held in homes in 1853; in a school house formerly a fort in 1873; church bldg. Erected in 1877; present bldg. Started in 1899;(Note: this date should be 1889) church organized in 1894; parsonage built in 1903-4. New Furnace now enjoyed. Building expansion discussed."

According to a foreword that Lucille Janisch Rogers wrote for a cookbook that was published sometime in the 1980's, in 1953 someone donated a new Baldwin organ to the church. "After 51 years the church returned to organ music for worship services."

PROPOSAL TO CHANGE NAME OF CHURCH

Being affiliated with the Churches of Christ, Pastor Holsinger and Elder Elmer Barnes and some other folks brought a proposal forward to the church for a vote on changing our name to Church of Christ. There was a prevalent belief that it was scripturally necessary to call our body the Church of Christ, and some of the more adamant brothers in the Church of Christ movement were teaching that if you were not named the Church of Christ you were going to hell. This matter was taken to a vote and was rejected by the voting body in a highly charged atmosphere.

This may well have been a defining moment for our church's future and direction. Even when we moved into our new building on Huntington Avenue, Elmer still longed to change our name to Church of Christ. We remained an independent Christian Church.

Soon after this vote, Kenny Holsinger resigned as pastor and moved to Dos Pabos, California where he took a pastorate at a small church. He also led a small group of believers in evening services in nearby Chow Chilla, California. After about nine months Kenny and his family moved back to the Longview area, and he was involved with ministries in Clatskanie, Oregon.

Elmer Barnes went on to be a valued and faithful and much-loved elder to this body until 1981 when he resigned because of failing health.

Kenneth Holsinger had 12 years of ministry pastoring the Longview Church of Christ in Longview. He worked as a janitor at the Kelso High School and was also employed by Weyerhaeuser Company at the Longview mill log debarker to supplement his income while he continued ministering the gospel to groups that were unable to pay a living salary. Kenneth Holsinger passed away at age 71 in Vancouver, Washington on August 6, 1988.

Pastor Larry Morley 1955 - 1959



Pastor Laurence Morley

According to the August 9, 1959 *Cowlitz County Advocate*, Pastor Laurence S. Morley began his pastorate in 1955 and was here four years, leaving August 9, 1959. This was his first pastorate, and while he was here it is reported that stewardship doubled and several building improvements were made. Alvin Janisch related the following information. When he and Donna went to Pastor Morley to be married, he had to arrange to be ordained in order to perform the ceremony.

REJECTING THE TITLE “DISCIPLES OF CHRIST”

Some time toward the close of Pastor Morley’s tenure here the whole church board and the congregation held a meeting to discuss the continued liberalization of the Disciples of Christ. At the editor’s request, Dr. Leffler explains:

While our church never had “Disciples of Christ” on the church sign, most all Christian Churches started out in a loose fellowship and did not have a problem being associated with the title “Disciples of Christ” because it was a favorite term of Restoration Movement founder, Alexander Campbell. In our early history, Christian Churches interchangeably were called Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, and Church of Christ. There were no distinctions among the three names. However, as time passed, those who would align with a more moderate or liberal view of theology would call themselves “Disciples of Christ.”

Our church maintained a loose fellowship with both Christian Churches and Disciples of Christ congregations in the lower Columbia area in the early years. Later, stressful relationships began to manifest themselves as was evident in a letter from Pastor Rogers chastising the Disciples of Christ segment of the cooperative Christian Churches because of their mailings requesting him to join their retirement fund. He finally responded strongly to them saying that he did not want anything to do with them regardless of the quality of their retirement program until they first rid their organization of the Modernists, or liberals.

TIME TO DECIDE

This attitude of liberalism continued to raise conflict for several years until it reached a boiling point in the late 1950’s and early 1960’s when the “Cooperative churches” unified to become an official denomination called the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). These churches, as a group, aligned themselves with the ecumenical movement of Conference on Christian Union (COCU).

Joining this movement caused the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to accept doctrinal positions of other denominations of which many did not and continue to not believe in the authority of Scripture or that the Bible is the divine word of God inspired by the Holy Spirit.

This move caused many Independent Christian Churches to send letters to the denomination asking to have their names removed from the Disciples Yearbook (an official document of the Christian Churches Disciples of Christ that lists their member churches and agencies as well as individuals.)

Castle Rock was no exception. Some time before Martin Lee was called to the church, we had a meeting to decide if we were to stay with the Disciples of Christ or be independent. According to Wendell Small, the Castle Rock Christian Church called the Longview Christian Church Pastor, Jim Whitaker, and asked him to address the church about the matter of being connected with the Disciples of Christ. He informed the church that even though it was difficult for him to make a recommendation against the Disciples of Christ of which he and his church were members, he felt that the Disciples were creating a denomination and amassing too much power among just a few of the leaders.

It was about this time that the Disciples of Christ joined in the ecumenical movement and were accepting many beliefs and practices that did not comply with fundamental scriptural interpretation. At this time a letter was drafted and sent asking that we be disfellowshipped and removed from the Disciples Yearbook. This action took us away from the Disciples denomination and allowed us to remain a restoration movement Christian Church which is totally independent and autonomous from any other congregation or with any denominational ties with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Now the church had clearly defined its doctrinal position thoroughly separating it from the Disciples of Christ. The congregation has continued to build on this independent position but continues to seek fellowship with all believers in Christ.

PASTOR MORLEY RESIGNS

When Larry resigned, he had accepted a student pastorate at Geyserville Christian Church and attended the Pacific School of Religion at Berkeley, California. He was working toward two degrees, a Bachelor of Theology and a degree in Religious Education.

We have record of a church change in 1961 to Livermore, California as a student pastor.

Then in June 30, 1965 according to the record, Larry withdrew from the Disciples of Christ and transferred to the Methodist Church. He accepted a pastorate at the Methodist Church in Hobson, Montana.



Picture of the old church taken by Larry Morley in about 1957



Back row from the left: Evelyn Davis, Lucille (Hurst Janisch) Rogers, Roy Childers, Peggy Jarrett, Myrtle Stephenson, Joe Richmond, Wendell Small, Mrs. Tucker and Warren Tucker, two people in back of them unknown.

Second Row: Elder Elmer Barnes, Clara Barnes, Virginia Small, Wanda (Carnahan) Johnson, Nona Little and Unknown.

Front Row: Marilyn Davis, Carolyn Small, Joan Little and Hazel Carnahan.