

1957

2007

**THE
FIRST
50
YEARS**

A BRIEF HISTORY



**CHURCH OF CHRIST
OF
FREMONT**

General History on The Church Of Christ of Fremont

To fully know the beginning of the Church Of Christ of Fremont, we will have to go back to the Newark Church of Christ. In 1952, members of the Hayward congregation who lived in Niles and Centerville wanted a meeting house closer to home. They began meeting September 21, 1952 on the lower floor of the Miller Building in Centerville with 28 in attendance. Late in 1953 they purchased a building at their present location at 5880 Thornton Ave., Newark, California.

In the early part of 1957, some of the members of the Newark church decided to establish a congregation in Washington Township in Fremont. They also rented a room in the same Miller Building in the heart of Centerville, but in an upstairs room. The Miller Building is located at 130 Main Street. Today, 130 Main Street is 37371 Fremont Blvd.



The first Sunday morning the group met (March 10, 1957) there were about 41 present & the offering was \$102. This group was basically held together by Avery Grace, Roy Ward, and Ray Tucker. Roy Ward was the minister at the time until they could hire a full time minister. Ross McGinnis, the first full time minister, preached for one year, leaving in December 1960.

In 1957, the population from Mission Peak to the San Francisco Bay was only 22,000, but many new homes were being built in the Fremont area. Per the 2000 Census, the population in this area was well over 300,000.

By California law, to establish a congregation in California, the first requirement was to form a corporation, select trustees, and adopt by-laws. An “Articles of Incorporation” was filed Oct. 15, 1957.

The men who signed the “Articles of Incorporation” (Oct. 31,1957) were also selected the first trustees (Oct 27,1957) and adopted their first by-laws (Dec.7, 1957) for the Fremont congregation of the Lord’s Church.

Marge Dotson, who has been one of the faithful members here at Fremont, was asked to keep a record of our very first service in the old Miller Building. Below are the attendance and contribution numbers for our first five months.

Date	Attendance	Contribution
Mar 10, 1957	41	\$102
Mar 17, 1957	47	\$ 91
Mar 24, 1957	60	\$ 85
Mar 31, 1957	53	\$ 75
Apr 07, 1957	56	\$ 92
Apr 14, 1957	66	\$ 96
Apr 21, 1957	61	\$ 95
Apr 28, 1957	56	\$ 81
May 05, 1957	72	\$122
May 12, 1957	71	\$103
May 19, 1957	66	\$113
May 26, 1957	53	\$103
June 02, 1957	60	\$ 98
June 09, 1957	63	\$117
June 16, 1957	67	\$126
June 23, 1957	76	\$117
June 30, 1957	61	\$101
July 07, 1957	69	\$101
July 14, 1957	63	\$100

**Copied from the Articles of Incorporation of
The Church Of Christ of Fremont**

Article I

The name of the corporation shall be
Church of Christ of Fremont

Article VI

In **WITNESS THEREOF**, for the purpose of forming this congregation, under the laws of the State of California, we the undersigned constituting the corporation, including the persons here-in-above as the first directors, who are to be known as trustees of this corporation, have executed these articles of incorporation this 15th day of October, 1957.

Luther R. Tucker	John B. Dotson	J.W. Wilson
Roy R. Ward	John B. Tedford	Avery Grace
Oliver W. Harman	Halton G. Lacy	Arthur L. Koch

The by-laws adopted and signed on Dec. 7, 1957 call for 9 trustees and Luther Ray Tucker was selected as temporary Chairman. Later he would become President of the Trustees and John Burl Dotson was the Secretary/Treasurer. Ray Tucker had served as Trustee for 43 years and as Elder 41 years.

Trustees Who Served the First Four Years

1957	1958	1959	1960
Luther Tucker	Luther Tucker	Luther Tucker	Luther Tucker
John Dotson	John Dotson	John Dotson	John Dotson
Avery Grace	Avery Grace	Avery Grace	Avery Grace
Roy Ward	Roy Ward	Roy Ward	Roy Ward
J.W.Wilson	Ray Overton	Ray Overton	Ray Overton
Arthur Koch	Arthur Koch	Bob Harman	Cecil Tucker
Oliver Harmon	J.T. McDaniel	J.T. McDaniel	J.T. McDaniel
Halton Lacy	Halton Lacy	Halton Lacy	Halton Lacy
John Tedford	John Tedford		Martin Faulkner

A short time after meeting in the Miller Building, the church was growing and the congregation realized they needed a larger place to worship. Eight months later, in November 1957 they purchased property at 4303 Baine Ave.

**Below are the minutes copied exactly as written,
from the Trustee and General Business Meetings,
prior to buying land for the church.**

June 1957

The men discussed buying some property for the church building and Bro Tucker suggested that we elect a committee to see into this matter. Bro Grace, Bro Bob Harman, and Bro Tucker are to see into this.

July 1957

Bro Tucker said that he had driven around trying to find some property for the church building. He also suggested that the men drive by and take a look at some property on Order Ave.

Aug 1957

Bro Tucker went to see the lawyer about setting up a corporation and to get a seal. He suggested we should have at least two acres of land for the church.

Sept 1957

Bro Wilson said he thought there were some lots on Santos Rd between the Township Hospital and Highway 17 for sale. It was decided that the men go and see about them.

Oct 1957

The men discussed the lots in old business. Bro Grace said that the lots had not all been seen. He said the one on Santos Rd had not been sold yet. The men talked about property by the cannery. Bro Tucker asked if each man could drive by and look at the property.

Nov 1957

Bro Ward commented a while on what the banker had to say about getting a \$7,400 loan to purchase the lot on Baine Ave. He said that the men would have to give two men the authority to act in behalf of the congregation to sign legal papers. It was decided that Bro Ray Tucker and Burl Dotson would do that.

Bro Jack Wilson suggested the contribution that was received on each and every fifth Sunday would be set aside for a building fund only, this was accepted by the men.

Bro Avery Grace made the motion that, we the trustees and the congregation known here as the "Centerville Church of Christ", purchase the two acres or less on Baine ave. Said motion was passed. Bro Ray Tucker suggested that each and every man that made a loan was to receive a typewritten statement to the amount of loan and the amount payable on demand of the holder. The land was purchased Dec.10, 1957 with a \$3,200 down payment to August C. Garcia, the owner.

Jan 1958

It was suggested that we contact the congregations over California to help us with the building fund, Hal Lacy is to take care of this.

Feb 1958

It was decided that Bro Bob Harman will present the building plans to the sub-contractors and will see what our cost will be.

March 1958

Ray Tucker asked Bro Grace to announce what he had found out about the loan for the building fund. Bro Ray Tucker typed up a letter to the congregations asking for financial help. Bro Ward suggested that we get in touch with the Elders of Hayward, East Oakland and Campbell. He said he would make the appointments.

It was agreed that if we could get the money at 6% interest we would. Bro Harman drew up the plans and had them blue printed.

April 1958

Motion was made that we discuss the letters to the other congregations. The San Leandro congregation donated \$600 dollars for the building fund.

Bro Harman gave the report on what he found out about on contacting the Elders of the other congregations at this time. They would not give us much help in our building fund.

May 1958

Bro Tucker said he had contacted the loan co. in Texas and they said in two months they would have an office in California and they would contact us then.

The men discussed the building of the Church, Bro Lacy is to write a letter to the San Leandro congregation thanking them for the contribution.

June 1958

Bro Harman gave a report on bids he had received. The Taylor Roof Co will put up the roof structure.

July 1958

Bro Byrd said the union said it would be all right for the men to go ahead and work on the building, and for each man to get a permit from the local.

It was agreed that Cecil Tucker would take care of the plumbing and sewer lines. Hal Lacy made a motion that Ray Tucker and Burl Dotson be given the authority to sign the necessary papers regarding the loan from Doctor Levette. (\$10,000) It was agreed by all.

Aug 1958

Bro Tucker stated that we must have \$1000 by Aug 1959 to pay on the loan. It was decided to wait until the next business meeting to discuss this.

Sept 1958

Bro Harman made the motion that we take \$1000 out of the checking and put it in the building fund.

Bro Cecil Tucker made a motion Bob Harman could not draw out \$1000 for the Aug 1959 payment. Bro Harman gave a report on the building, so far we have spent \$1,019.

Oct 1958

Bro Harman gave a report on the building fund, so far we have spent \$5,070 on the building. Bro Jack Wilson suggested that we hire a carpenter full time. The men discussed the motion and Bro Harman and Bro Overton second the motion.

Bro Tucker suggested that we get lights in the building so we'll have light at night to work. Bro Overton said he would take care of that.

Nov 1958 Special Meeting

It was decided in this meeting by the men to transfer \$1000 we have in the building fund to the general fund so that it may be used to complete the church building.

Note: In the minutes this was written, "Building Fund to General Fund", it was probably "General Fund to Building Fund".

It was agreed that the 4th Sunday's contribution would continue until this fund was back to the \$1000 level, furthermore, the 4th Sunday contribution cannot be used for anything else until the \$1000 is replaced.

Bro Grace made a motion that the \$1000 not be transferred to the Irvington fund but to the general fund. This motion passed by the majority of the men

Nov 1958

Bro Ward made the motion that the building committee to determine as to when the carpenter should be laid off. Motion was agreed.

Motion was made by Bro Harman that we let the electrician go ahead with the PA system. It was agreed Bro Harman also gave the building financial report. Bro Ward made a motion that we transfer all except \$1000 out of the general fund to the building fund.

Bro Hal Lacy is to send a letter of thanks to the Campbell congregation for their contribution.

Dec 1958

Bro Ward said that we should get a pulpit from San Leandro next weekend, or two weeks at the most. He suggested that the men look around for a carpet for the platform.

Jan 3,1959

Ray made the motion that we get the inspection at the building Tuesday and if it passes we give up the hall, and if not we rent it for another month. Bro Grace and Bro Faulkner said they would meet the inspector Tuesday, Ray made the motion that all the men meet at the new building 7:30 Sat. night if we move in Sunday.

We moved into the new auditorium January 19, 1959.



Land and Building Funds

1957 Land 2 Acres

Bank of America Loan	\$ 9,500
Building Fund	<u>\$ 3,167</u>
Total Cost of Land	\$12,667

1959 Original Auditorium

Loan from Doctor Levette	\$10,000
Building Fund	\$ 4,000
Loan from Ray Tucker	<u>\$ 1,000</u>
Total Cost of Building	\$15,000

1959 Original Classroom Building

Loan from Will Reeves	\$ 3,000
Building Fund	\$ 4,400
Special Contribution	<u>\$ 1,000</u>
Total cost of building	\$ 8,400

1963 Preacher's House

Planned to Build	March 1963
Plans Submitted to City	April 1963
House Completed	October 1963
Loan Approved With Western Guarantee Title	
Approximate Cost	\$ 6,500

1967 New Classroom Building

Borrowed \$65,000 from Church Loans & Investments Co. to pay off existing loans and to construct a new two-story, 24 classroom building. Twenty-two members participated in purchasing bonds.	
Total Cost of Building	\$ 46,854

1992 New Auditorium

Opening day December 20, 1992	
Borrowed \$400,000 from Bonds Program	
January 31, 1993 Contribution went toward the purchase of pews.	
Cost of Pews	\$22,000
Total Cost of Building	\$743,000

Classrooms / Classroom Buildings

In the past 50 years, we have been blessed with many men and women who have spent their time to prepare lessons to teach the Word of God to our children, teenagers, and adults. It hasn't always been easy for them. When the church first worshiped upstairs in the Miller Building in 1957, there were no individual classrooms. The meeting place was just a large hall, and the classes were held in the corners of the large hall with no partitions. There were rooms in the building, but the owners would not let the church use them. The men purchased a three-sided curtain to be used for a nursery.

This arrangement went on for about 21 months until January 19, 1959 when the congregation moved into their new building at 4303 Baine Ave. When the new church building was built it was a large rectangular building and had four individual classrooms.

The church was growing and just nine months after being in the new building, more classrooms were needed.

Below are notes taken from the Trustee Meeting Sept 5, 1959

Bro Avery Grace brought up the problem of crowded classrooms. He suggested we should make some arrangements for more classrooms.

Brother Ray Tucker brought a sketch of classrooms to be added to the side of the church building for the men to look at and consider. Everyone liked the idea and Bro Cecil Tucker made the motion that Bro Bob Harman be given the plans for an estimated cost and possibility of taking action toward the construction of the rooms. Motion passed.

After the plans were drawn up and the permit given, the men started the classroom building. The plans called for a 16' X 85' 1344 sq ft building containing six classrooms, and a storeroom. As a congregation that loves to have fellowship and potlucks, the classroom near the storeroom was converted into a kitchen in 1961. The building had removable partitions dividing the rooms. The partitions could be pushed back when the congregation needed a larger room for potlucks, etc. The cost of this building was \$8,400.

Minutes of the March 5th 1960 Elder's & Deacon's Meeting

Ray Tucker reported what the new classrooms have cost up to date, and by the report we are short about \$1,000.

It was suggested by Bro Faulkner, the Elders call a meeting of all the men after services Sunday March 6th 1960 to present the problem, and ask them to donate \$35.00 each to finish the new classrooms. There were two Elders and two Deacons that promised to donate \$35.00.



This old 1960 classroom building which has served us very well for over 31 years when we really needed additional classrooms was also used as a gathering place for potlucks, anniversaries, wedding receptions, Toga Party's or any such thing in getting the members together for fun and games, and fellowship. Progress came and the old building had to come down. In May of 1991 demolition started and an end of an era had come.

By 1967, the Sunday morning attendance averaged 206 and another plan for a larger classroom facility was in order. In Sept. 1967, the church obtained a \$65,000 15 year loan from Church Loans and Investments Co. in order to payoff the existing loans and to construct a two-story 24 classroom education annex. This loan was paid off in 1982.



The Eldership of the Church

Two years after the church had been worshipping in the old Miller Building, the church felt they needed Elders and Deacons.

The following was written in the April 5, 1958 Men's Meeting

The men talked about Eldership for the good of the congregation. Bro Ward suggested that the men select Elders and Deacons. Bob Harman made a motion that each man fill out a slip as to how he felt on the Eldership.

March 7, 1959

Elders and Deacons were selected. The Elders are Jim Earp and Ray Tucker, the Deacons are John Tedford, Bob Harman, Avery Grace, Cecil Tucker, Martin Faulkner, and Hal Lacy.

Jan 1961

Jim Earp withdrew from the Eldership and since Ray Tucker was the only remaining Elder, Ray stepped down from the Eldership. Two years we had Elders and now we had one year without Elders. Jan 1961 to Feb 1963.

June 2, 1962

Bro Joe Straton made the motion that we try to find men qualified to serve as Elders and Deacons. Seconded by Bro Murry Norman, Motion carried.

Sept 1, 1962

Comments were made about Elders. It was discussed by men to put names before the congregation for a period.

Bro Joe Straton made a motion we hold all male members of the congregation after Sunday services, Sept. 2, to nominate men for Elders and Deacons. Also, to be carried to the following Sunday for those members who had not a chance to submit names. Seconded by Bro Jim Earp. Motion carried.

Bro Spangler made a motion that the names that have been submitted be posted the evening of Sept 9. Motion seconded by Jim Earp. Carried.

Austin Hart made a motion that the top three men in number of votes for Elders, the top five in votes for Deacons be posted for a three week period.

These men are to be installed on the third Sunday, if not scripturally disqualified on Sept 30. Motion seconded by Delbert Reedy and carried.

Feb 2, 1963

ELDERS Ray Tucker, John Spangler, Avery Grace.

DEACONS Delbert Bomer, Hoke Crumpler, Delbert Reedy, Cecil Tucker, Bill Means

Our Elders

1957 – 1959	No Elders
1959 – 1960	Ray Tucker, Jim Earp
1961 – 1962	No Elders
1963 – 1966	Ray Tucker, John Spangler, Avery Grace
1966 – 1967	Ray Tucker, John Spangler
1967 – 1971	Ray Tucker, Ben McCain
1971 – 1972	Ray Tucker, Ben McCain, Bob Brady
1972 – 1983	Ray Tucker, Jim Cross, Bob Brady
1983– 1994	Ray Tucker, Bob Brady, Bill Means, Harvey Rockwell
1994 – 1997	Ray Tucker, Bob Brady, Bill Means, Harvey Rockwell, Larry Cheeves, Orval Welch
1997 – 2001	Larry Cheeves, Bill Means, Orval Welch, Harvey Rockwell, Ray Tucker
2001 – 2003	Larry Cheeves, Bill Means, Orval Welch
2003 – 2004	Larry Cheeves, Bill Means,
2004 – 2006	Larry Cheeves, Bill Means, Brett Roby
2006 – Present	Larry Cheeves, Brett Roby

Our Deacons

Over the years we have had many men willing to serve as Deacons.

Jerry Baxley	Jack Hairston	Earl Pinson
Delbert Bomer	Bob Harman	Pat Ranoa
Bob Brady	David Harrison	Delbert Reedy
Larry Cheeves	Hank Helmholz	Brett Roby
Keith Confer	Garland Howard	Harvey Rockwell
Jim Cross	Don Irvin	Glen Stone
Hoke Crumpler	Laurence Kauk	Bob Smith
Burl Dotson	Hal Lacy	Keith Stanley
Martin Faulkner	Bill Means	John Tedford
John Fouts	Ben McCain	Cecil Tucker
Avery Grace	J.T.McDaniel	Lew Wade

Ken Welch
Orval Welch

Jack Wooling
Pat Yocom

Our Ministers

Roy Ward	Mar 1957 – Dec 1959	Part Time Minister
Ross McGinnis	Jan 1960 – Dec 1960	First Full Time Minister
Joe Helf	Mar 1961 – Aug 1963	
Morgan Taylor	Aug 1963 – Aug 1964	
Jerry Lefevers	Jun 1966 – May 1970	
Bob LeCroix	Aug 1970 – Mar 1973	
Jim Henry	Jul 1973 – Mar 1977	
Joe Helf	Apr 1977 – Mar 1985	
Jack Wooling	Nov 1980 – Mar 1982	Co-pulpit minister
Doug Threet	Apr 1985 – Jun 2004	
Roger Gean	Jun 2004 – Present	

Youth Ministers

Ron Clelland	Glen Kauk	Kevin Wilkerson
Randy Flynt	Kirby Whitrock	

Our Teachers

If we were limited to write only one thing about our history, it would have to be about our teachers. It is impossible to name all the teachers over the past 50 years, but God knows each and everyone of them, and loves them for teaching His Word.

On Wednesday night we have our Midweek Bible Study, but every Wednesday morning there has always been the Ladies Bible Class. Some of the ladies who have taught that class have been; Peggy Henry, Lenora Brady, Francis Geyer, Lorraine Adams, Billie Stanley, and Mary Kauk.

Mission Work

We have over the years, supported many Missionaries. We helped start and support a congregation in Warm Springs (Milpitas) with \$100 a month. The Main Street Church of Christ in Warm Springs started meeting in the Warm Springs

Elementary School Nov. 13, 1966. This support stopped in June of 1967 because we were building our new classroom building.

Missions

Herald of Truth - Since 1958

World Christian Broadcast

Lets Start Talking: Zac Luben, Christy Cheeves - Russia

Mandy Roby - Latvia

Benevolence

Vacaville Orphans Home - Since 1960

(Sierra Children's Home)

Missionaries

Italy Truman Scott

China Daniel Hung

Brazil Glover Shipp

Argentina Rich Howell

Nigeria Jack Wooling

Italy Harrell Helf

Philippines Rogelio Barroga

Brazil Gary J. Curro

Trinidad Joe Pitts

The Preachers House

The congregation built a preachers home in 1963 to allow preachers a place to stay while working with this congregation, however it has been occupied by only three preachers. Morgan Taylor was the first. He lived in it for only one year in 1965. Jerry Lefevers lived in it from 1966 to 1970. Roger Gean and family moved into the house June of 2004.

Besides an unknown renter who rented the house for the year 1964, there have been some of our members who have lived in the house over the years. Bob and Lenora Brady moved into the house Dec.1972, and lived in the house for 25 years. Others have been, Gary & Barbara Hawthorne, Kevin & Jenny Wilkerson, and Eric Clayton.

Story Book Hour Pre-School

In Dec 1971, volunteers from the Fremont Church conducted a weekday storybook hour. This class was started and planned for Thursday morning, but after a couple of years, the class was so successful that it was held on Tuesday also. The name of this class was “Bible Story Book Hour”, “Tiny Tots Bible Story Hour” and sometimes called “Tiny Tots School”. The time of the classes were from 10:00AM - 11:30AM.

This school was for the neighborhood children that lived near the church building. The purposes of the class was:

- (1) to teach God and his love to children who may not get to know him without the school, and
- (2) to give mothers of the children an hour-and-a-half break.

There was never any charge for student enrollment. The teachers for this school were Lenora Brady, Carolyn Hairston, Wynonna Clelland, Corinne LeCroix, Sandy Darr, Barbara Loud, and Sue Eisenbrandt.

In 1975 the school had 50 students, but in the later part of 1975 we had to discontinue the school due to complications.

First Friday Youth Fellowship (FFYF)

FFYF began in 1971 by the Hayward Montgomery Street Church of Christ. The meetings were well attended, and they were held at San Felipe Park in Hayward. Stan Johnson, J.D. Cannon and his wife Mildred were the major teachers from Hayward. Attendance during the ‘80s and ‘90s were 175 to 250.

In the summer of 1981, the Hayward congregation could no longer support FFYF, and since the largest number of kids were from Fremont anyway, Fremont took over as the host congregation for FFYF.

Glen Kauk was the youth minister at Fremont, and was the driving force of FFYF for many years. It was then passed on to Larry Cheeves when Glen moved to Redwood City.

Some of the singing groups that have sang at FFYF have been:

**Joyful Noise
Take One**

**Acapella Vocal Band
Sweet Deliverance Soul**

**The Nature Company
The Good News Singers**

Third Friday Youth Fellowship (TFYF)

In 1977 with the bus ministry going strong, and having so many young people, that we started programs just for them. Hayward already had FFYF for the Junior High to College Age, but Fremont wanted something for their own.

In Aug 1977, Randy Flynt was selected as the Youth Coordinator and that was the beginning of TFYYF AND TFYF, and TTYF. Unlike FFYF, this group met on the third Friday of each month. The third week of each month was a very busy time for the young people of Fremont.

Sonseekers (Juniors Fellowship)

During the late '70s we were blessed with a large group of children in the 4th, 5th, & 6th grades. Ken & Shirley Welch, Lew & Janie Wade, Bob & Lenora Brady, and Pat & Jane Yocom put together what was called the Sonseekers. After these children went into the 7th grade, they joined up with the FFYF which were the 7th grade to college age group.

Ken Welch was the Preteen Coordinator. Just like the big kids, the Sonseekers had Bible competitions, went on fun outings, went to the zoo, had overnight camp outs, and went to the Hillview Lodge to sing to the elderly. Ken & Shirley Welch moved to Modesto in 1986 at which time Glen Kauk became the Coordinator.

The Sonseekers started out in Oct 1979 with only seven children, but grew to the point in Feb 1982 when they had their record attendance of 60 children. Other congregations came to be with them; San Francisco, Vallejo, Livermore, Milpitas, and San Jose. There is not much information about the Sonseekers after Oct 1984.

Third Friday Young Youth Fellowship (TFYYF)

Third Friday Youth Fellowship (TFYF)

Third Tuesday Youth Fellowship (TTYF)

Sometimes the groups were mixed; the 4th to 6th grades or the 4th to 8th grades or the 4th to 10th grades. There was always Bible study.

Bus Ministry

On March 24, 1976, a chartered American Airlines plane left Oakland Airport for the 1st Annual Tulsa Workshop with a number of our members on board. After

the workshop, in May of 1976, four of our couples went to Montana to pick up our first bus for \$2,594. In Oct 1976, Jim Cross, Lew Wade, and Ray Bowman went. And in Jan 1977, Cled Gower and Lew Wade flew to Wichita, Kansas to pickup two more busses. The equipment used for our bus ministry was three GMC busses, one International Bus, and a Dodge van.



Lew Wade, who was a Bus Captain, Bus Driver, and a Bus Teacher wrote the following item:

The first bus run we took was a practice run at 6 am Sunday morning to make sure we could run the route in the time frame to make sure we could get all the kids to the church on time. Well, the funniest thing happened, we got to the first house about 6:15 am, stopped, waited about 45 seconds (that is what we figured it would take the runners to run up to the door and get the kids and back to the bus). Well, we are driving down the street and stopped and all of a sudden Cled stopped the bus and pointed behind us, and there were about six kids running down the street crying in their pajamas. They thought they had missed the Joy Bus. We had to stop and take them back home and explain that we were just practicing and we would be back at 8:00 am to pick them up for church.

Cled Gower wore many hats with this program. He bought buses, was a driver, did the maintenance, and was a Bus Director.

The first day of our bus ministry was October 17, 1976.
The last day of our bus ministry was in 1992.

There were 54 baptisms as a direct result of the bus ministry in the first five years of this outreach, of these, 9 were adults, and 45 were youth.

Bus attendance for the first month was:

Sunday	13	18	29	36
Wednesday	18	24	29	

We had our record number of bus riders on March 4, 1979 with 208 riders.

Bus Directors

Cled Gower
Bob Brady
John Hicks
David Loud
Andrew McKewan
Larry Cheeves

Drivers

Jeffery Anderson
Dave Harrison
Brent Means
Jim Pugsley
David Aguirre
Jim McMenemy
Bill Keagle
Jim Stout
Wendle Darr
John Hicks
Pat Yocum
Andrew McKewan
Cled Gower
Lew Wade
Randy Flynt
David Scott
Aron Neilson

Children's Bible Hour

Written in the December 19, 1976 Bulletin

Like many congregations with a growing "Joy Bus" program, we are going through experimentation for the least disruptive worship arrangements. Beginning next Sunday, December 26, 1976, and in anticipation of our second bus in operation after the first of the year, the Elders announce that Children's Bible Hour will begin at 11:00 AM.

Children's Bible Hour was not only for the bus kids, but also for our own kids from 4th to 6th grade.

The ideal behind CBH was an effort to teach the Bible to young children in a way which will train them for proper worship attitude in the assembly at the same time they are learning God's will.

Bob Brady and Lew Wade were the adults primarily involved with CBH. When Lew Wade moved to Modesto, Jim Ferguson took over as the CBH leader followed by his brother Gary Ferguson.

Children's Bible Hour had a long run, but came to an end April 23, 2005.

Puppet Ministry

When CBH started, the puppets were a big item in teaching God's Word. In the beginning, Bob Brady taught the Bible stories, and Lew Wade was the straight man as a puppet. This lasted a month until Lew took over. The original puppeteer's were Jeff Brady, Eric Carter, Paul Carter, Alan Gower, and Sandy Welch.

Reprinted From July 1979 Bulletin

Our puppet ministry is designed to teach God's Word and the application to life. People of all ages watch puppets and we are pleased that so many here are involved in this ministry. Lew Wade is our Puppet Ministry Director. He is working primarily with the teens. Sharon Estrada is working with students in grades 3-6. About 30 young people are signed up for training. To qualify, puppeteers must be regular in attendance, good Bible students, and of course, must be able to adequately handle the puppets.

Unsung Heroes

Matthew 26:19 tells us of the most famous meal of all time. The last supper of our Lord was prepared by Christ's Disciples. God could in his magnificent plan have a one on one plan with Him, but he knew we needed to have fellowship one with another. The meal is the center-piece of that fellowship. Our ladies have prepared countless meals over the years for the workers during the construction of all five of our buildings.

We are blessed here at Fremont, because we have the best cooks around. For many years we have enjoyed their delicious dishes. The women have always come through when their craft was needed. For a planned potluck they could plan a meal, often they were asked on the spur of the moment to fix something for the sick, a death in the family, someone's anniversary or just prepare snacks for FFYF, etc. Hardly a week goes by that some lady or ladies will be asked to prepare a dish. Words can't express how much we appreciate our lady cooks.

Our Office Workers

In Jan 1959, just a week after we moved into the new building on Baine Ave, Roy Ward suggested that we have a bulletin each week, and that Maxine Ogle, Margie Dotson, and Sue Tucker should work on this.

Over the years the office workers and secretaries have always been a vital part of the church here at Fremont. They and their helpers have put in countless hours writing up, printing, folding, and mailing out the Newsletter each week. The editors of the newsletter have had a demanding job.

The bulletin is a weekly communicator which we take for granted. It is no easy task to gather, edit, and publish our bulletin each week.

June Hill had worked as our editor for well over fifteen years until 1977. Bena Brazell filled in for June Hill for the year of 1973. We had a number of temporary bulletin editors between 1977 and 1979. They were Gerri Means, Jim & Rose McMenemy, Lena Cowart, and Bob Brady. Bob Brady assumed the job as the Newsletter editor in 1978 and was the editor until Sept 1985 when Gerri Means assumed the job as the Newsletter editor. Gerri Means worked faithfully as the editor of the Newsletter until 2004. Julie Faraimo started putting a news insert into the Informer in March of 2005 until the end of Dec 2005.

Kathy Swicegood started in Jan 2006, and at the present time is still writing the news for the Informer insert. Larry & Lori Cheeves help out when called upon.

It is impossible to name all the helpers who have worked with the editors, but some of them were Shirley Welch, Eunice Tedford, Lew Wade, Marty Pugsley, Sherry, Kenny, and Sandy Welch, Steve Dotson, Darlene Aberts, and April Cowart. Jane and Pat Yocum started helping in Oct 1982 and had worked for well over 20 years printing, folding, and mailing out bulletins.

Our bulletins have been called the “Newsletter” since Jan 1959. Today our weekly news is by way of an insert coupled with the “Informer” which we use as an order of worship guide with the added insert for news. The Informer was first started in Nov 1989.

In the last 50 years, the secretaries have seen a big change in the equipment they have used for their job. The typewriter, mimeograph, ditto machine, and now the laser printer and computer.

Directories

In the Oct 1957 Business Meeting, Ray Tucker suggested that we make a church directory with all the names and addresses in it.

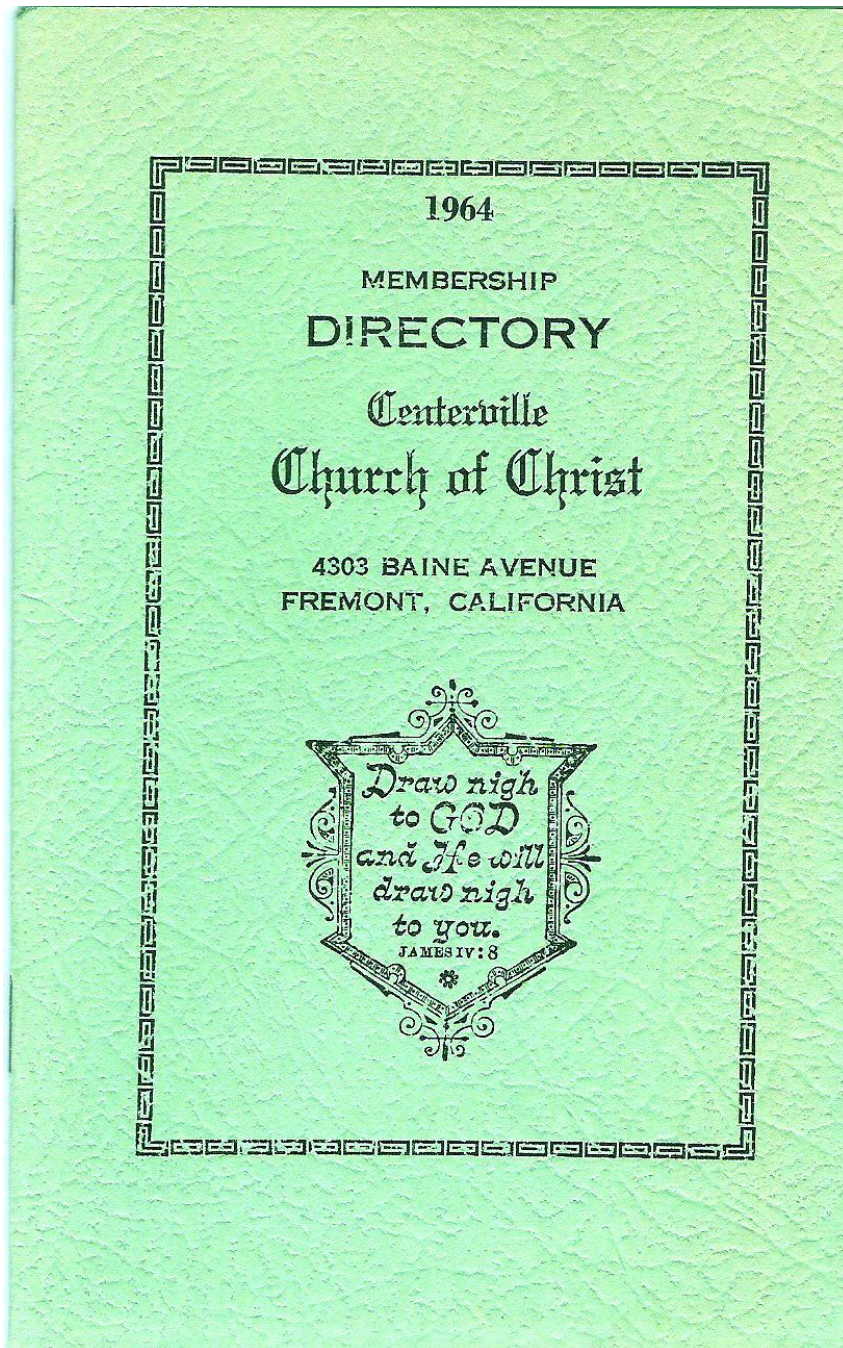
Besides the bulletins, directories have been very useful to allow members to get to know one another, for phone numbers, addresses and sometimes they contained pictures so we could know one another better.

Some of the members who have worked compiling directories have been:

June Hill, Bob Brady, Bob & Irene Smith, Jack Hairston, Sue Helmholtz, Bena Brazell, Diane Welch, and Lena Cowart.

Photographs for directories were sometimes taken by outside professionals, but some of our members also took pictures for our directories. Loraine Adams was our church photographer for over 28 years.

David Acquire is our present church photographer.



Some of the older directories were printed as the Centerville Church of Christ, although we did not go by that name officially.

Song Books we have used in our Worship Service

Our First Song Books were donated by the San Leandro congregation.
The First Song Books we purchased were the Majestic Hymnal in 1961.

Christian Hymns #2	(Blue Cover)	1948 Edition
Majestic Hymnal #2	(Gold Cover)	1959 Edition
Great Songs of The Church	(Blue Cover)	1968 Edition
Songs of The Church	(Gold Cover)	1971 Edition
Songs of The Church	(Green Cover)	1977 Edition
Praise For The Lord	(Blue Cover)	1993 Edition
Praise For The Lord	(Blue Cover)	2002 Edition
Paperless Hymnal	Overhead Screen	2005 Edition

Miscellaneous Items

- When the original auditorium was built, the concrete floor was covered with tile. Burt Adams suggested in the general business meeting (Aug 5, 1973) to install carpet in the auditorium for appearance and for deafening the sound. Noise had been a problem for years. The carpet was installed in May 1974, for \$1,970, and replaced again in 1995 after we moved into our present auditorium. Then the old auditorium was refurbished with new restrooms and an updated kitchen to become our new Fellowship Hall.
- Many thanks go to Earl Pinson, Pat Yocom, and Laurence Kauk for doing a magnificent job remodeling of our new kitchen.
- **Feb. 6, 1977** *at the Elder/Deacon Meeting, Bob Brady stated that the 20th anniversary is coming up and requested a "Homecoming" be scheduled, as this falls on our 'potluck' - March 13th. Ray Tucker will chair this event.*
- **March 6, 1977** *Bob Brady suggested we use the zone system to encourage our members to attend and bring food for next Sunday's Twenty Year Anniversary.*
- When we purchased the 2 acres of land, it was an apricot orchard. The trees had to be taken care of and in Dec 1957, Bro Avery Grace had that duty. Bro

Grace found a man to work the trees, and the church got a share of the profits from the sale of the fruit. Bro Bob Harman was in charge of removing most of the apricot trees in Sept 1959, and the remaining trees were removed in Aug 1961. The picture below shows our land and apricot trees when it was first purchased in Nov 1957.



- **Gospel Meetings:** The first three years we were in the new building, we had a gospel meeting. Roy Osborne Feb 1957, Bob Price Sept 1960, and Bob LeCroix in July 1961. Bob LeCroix became our full-time minister in 1970. He worked with this congregation for three years.
- For three years after moving into our new building on Baine Ave., we had gravel for our driveway and parking lot. It was replaced with asphalt in July 1963.
- Besides the Bible classes for our children, our children have always enjoyed Vacation Bible School. Our first Vacation Bible School was in 1962.

- Since the mid 60's, Sierra Bible Camp has long been a place where the children could learn more about God, and still have fun camping out in the high Sierra Mountains. Doug Qualls of Redwood City was the Director of this camp for many years. Other camps that the congregation has gone to many times are Shenandoah West, Daybreak Camp, Yosemite, Mariposa, and now Camp Richardson at Lake Tahoe.
- A special meeting was held Jan 1965 between the Church of Christ and The Assembly of God next door concerning putting up a fence between our properties. The Assembly of God assumed the cost of the fence and then the cost was divided in half between our two groups.
- For a couple months in the later part of 1968, double services were tried, but in November they went back to regular services. Our average attendance for 1968 was 205.
- The old mailing address of 4303 Baine Avenue was changed to 4300 Hanson Avenue in June 1970. The street address was changed after the present auditorium was built and access was from Hanson Avenue.
- One of the largest families, who were members here at Fremont, were related to Marge and Burl Dotson. They were Marge's parents, Troy & Viola McDaniel, her brother Cloy McDaniel, and his wife Harriett, her other brother, J.T. McDaniel and his wife Lillian. Hal Lacy and his wife Bobbie were her cousins, and Sam McDaniel was her nephew. In addition to these were nine children.
- Adult members who met in the old Miller Building (Hall) were:

Burl Dotson
Marge Dotson

Jack Wilson
Verna Wilson

Ray Tucker
Susie Tucker

J.T. McDaniel
Lillian McDaniel

Avery Grace
Myrtle Grace

Cecil Tucker
Inez Tucker

Martin Faulkner
Anna Faulkner

Ray Overton
Sue Overton

Arthur Koch
Junice Koch

Troy McDaniel
Viola McDaniel

Roy Ward
Neva Ward

John Tedford
Betty Tedford

Halton Lacy
Bobbie Lacy

Emma Davis
Joy Plummer

Maxine Ogle
Della Boyce

Hubert Smith
Inez Smith

Al Smith
Lorraine Eaves

Oliver (Bob) Harmon

Our First Worship Service in the Old Auditorium (Present Fellowship Hall)

First Preacher

January 1959 - Ross McGinnis

First Baptism

January 1959 - Harriet McDaniel, Marge Dotson's sister-in-law was the first person baptized in the old auditorium, at the first Sunday morning worship service.

Our First Services in the New Auditorium



First Worship Service

September 6, 1992

First Preacher

Doug Threet

First Sermon Topic

"Answer me Lord" Part 2

First Song Leader

Eric Carter

First Leader of Main Prayer

Jeffery Anderson

First Song in New Auditorium

"Anywhere with Jesus"

First Worship Service Attendance 166

First Wedding

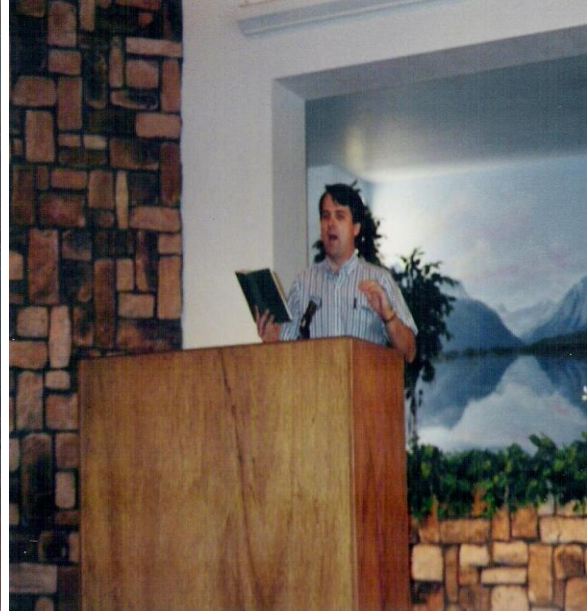
Dean & Starr Baxley Sept. 5, 1992

First Memorial Service

Sharon Ranoa Sept. 28, 1992



Doug Threet



Larry Cheeves

**First “Official” Worship Service
December 20, 1992**

The “Official” service was when the city gave us the final approval to occupy the building.

First “Official” Worship Service	Dec. 20, 1992
First Preacher	Doug Threet
First Sermon Topic	“Put A String Around Your Finger”
First Song Leader	Larry Cheeves
First Leader of Main Prayer	Bert Adams
First “Official” Service Attendance	157
First Month Communion Preparer	Keith & Billie Stanley Jan 1993

Attendance Over The Years

<u>Year</u>	<u>Avg</u>	<u>High</u>	<u>Minister</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Avg</u>	<u>High</u>	<u>Minister</u>
1957	.		Roy Ward	*1983	242	290	Joe Helf
1958			Roy Ward	*1984	231	291	Joe Helf
1959			Roy Ward	*1985	216	248	Doug Threet
1960			Ross McGinnis	*1986	203	234	Doug Threet
1961			Joe Helf	*1987	191	265	Doug Threet
1962	119	149	Joe Helf	*1988	190	224	Doug Threet
1963			Joe Helf	*1989	187	261	Doug Threet
1964			Joe Helf	*1990	191	228	Doug Threet
1965			Morgan Taylor	*1991	197	265	Doug Threet
1967	209	233	Jerry Lefevers	*1992	183	290	Doug Threet
1968	205	266	Jerry Lefevers	1993	179	300	Doug Threet
1969	203	234	Jerry Lefevers	1994	181	250	Doug Threet
1970	210	254	Jerry Lefevers	1995	175	262	Doug Threet
1971	180	230	Bob Lecroix	1996	170	223	Doug Threet
1972	167	208	Bob Lecroix	1997	155	186	Doug Threet
1973	160	194	Bob Lecroix	1998	140	185	Doug Threet
1974	176	205	Jim Henry	1999	126	150	Doug Threet
1975	163	216	Jim Henry	2000	121	152	Doug Threet
*1976	158	210	Jim Henry	2001	113	137	Doug Threet
*1977	179	281	Jim Henry	2002	104	133	Doug Threet
*1978	227	328	Joe Helf	2003	83	109	Doug Threet
*1979	252	382	Joe Helf	2004	71	95	Roger Gean
*1980	281	379	Joe Helf	2005	78	103	Roger Gean
*1981	278	332	Joe Helf	2006	78	102	Roger Gean
*1982	271	333	Joe Helf				

*Active Bus Ministry

In compiling these pages of our church history, it has been a joy browsing through various old documents, church records, and having interviews with long time members of this congregation. It has been a labor of love, and is intended to be as historically accurate as possible. Hopefully, this will be a resource for the future church members in compiling information for future anniversaries. I wish to thank my son Dale, for his technical assistance in the preparation of this project. I also wish to thank my daughter Deanna, for the editing and printing of this project.

Member Since 1974, Jerry Baxley