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Iuka Church of Christ, Battleground Drive, Iuka, Mississippi 38852

The Iuka Church of Christ dates back to 1882 with about 26 members; it currently has over 250 members. Meetings were first conducted by B. F. Manire, who was an evangelist working in the Tishomingo County area at the time. Mansel Kindrick has also been credited with establishing the congregation in 1889. Services were held in the courthouse, later at the Presbyterian Church in 1890 (presently used as the local radio station), and finally in 1963, the current church facility on Battleground Drive was built. Past ministers of the congregation were: Elvis Bozart, Roy Vaughn, C.M. Tuttleton, Hudson Nichols, James Pilgram, James A. Jones, Eural Wade, John Gardner, Rex Buford, Jerry Westmoreland, Perry Taylor, and Lance Foster.

Source: Perkins, Jim (Dr.). "Iuka Church of Christ." *In: Down Memory Lane: A History of Iuka, Mississippi, 1915-1983*. Vol. II.

Original church records have this to say of the organization of the church: "Meetings were conducted by Bro. F. F. Manire, an evangelist laboring in Northeast Mississippi embracing the 5th Lord's on January 1st; in February the 4th; and 5th in April; and the 4th in June 1882; at which time the few disciples living in Iuka were brought together and four persons added to the membership by confession and baptism. Those having given themselves to the Lord then gave themselves to one another to keep the ordinances of the Lord's House and live as the scriptures direct."

The roll of members for 1882 was as follows: Dr. J. H. Clopton, Mrs. S. E. Clopton, Miss S. W. Clopton, Miss D. W. Clopton, Miss Irene Clopton, Harney Hill, Mrs. Harvey Hill, Dr. Pugh Houston, John D. Houston, J. D. James, Mrs. S. L. James, Mrs. M. A. Price, A. P. Reid, Mrs. I. A. Reid, Mrs. L. C. Adams, Mrs. L. A. Adams, Mrs. C. C. Rutledge, Miss Jessie Rutledge, Miss Ida Drake, Miss Mollie Moss, Mrs. A. M. Coffee, Mrs. Lawson, Mrs. Emma Anderson, J. J. Moore, Miss May Allen.

The above named 26 are supposed to have been the charter members as the next entry in the original book gives the date of 1885 and the church was not completed until 1890, services being held in the meantime sometimes in the courthouse and sometimes in the Presbyterian church.

The original church book contains no entries from 1882 to 1891 save the one entry of G. R. Wimbish who joined in 1855.

The lot on which the church building now stands at one time belonged to D. P. Hammerly. The first deed to the land, dated March 1890, is still in the hands of one of the church members. It was signed over to the church in 1947 by Mrs. Mae A. Jackson, the only living trustee at that time. Witnesses were Mrs. Houston and a Mrs. James.

Members of the Christian Church and the Church of Christ met jointly until 1904. Some of those attending the Christian Church were Sam P. Reid, Miss Annie Reid, Mrs. Sid Smith, Mrs. Mollie Webb, T. M. McDonald, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Storment, and Miss Jessie Rutledge.

In 1948, the congregation, numbering about 25, began meeting in the present building. The old building was raised and all of the heavy framing material and some of the doors were used in the new building, now kept in a good state of repair.

In 1955, the church purchased a parsonage, this being the home formerly owned by the late Willie Vaughn. The first full-time minister employed by the church was Roy L. Vaughn, who was served as pastor in 1957. Membership of the church in 1957 was over 100.

The above information was compiled by Mrs. Lyla McDonald and published in The Vidette (Iuka, Mississippi), July 4, 1957.