

History of the

ADVENT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

23 Wall Street

Concord, New Hampshire

August 13, 1965

I. The Founding Years:

The Advent movement made a dramatic entrance into Concord in 1842. Rev. Joshua V. Himes of Boston, Mass. assisted by Rev. Charles Fitch, a Congregationalist from Oberlin, Ohio, and by Rev. Josiah Litch of Newburyport, Mass., conducted a great tent meeting in this city. The site upon which the tent was first pitched was the summit of Holt's Hill. During the meeting a sudden gust of wind caused the center pole of the tent to break thus allowing the canvas to fall onto the congregation. Thankfully no one was injured. The center pole was repaired and the tent pitched again, this time on Pine Street, between Holt's Hill and "old Whale Back". Before a service was held a severe rain storm flooded the area and the fire department was called to pump out the tent area.

Subsequent to the tent meetings worship services were held in the Athenian Hall owned by Mr. Lorenzo D. Brown. Later that same year 1842 a chapel was built at 36 North Spring Street. The group held services here for about 14 years.

Early pastors: (1842 - 1855)

Elder Eastman

Elder John G. Hook

Early laymen:

Mr. Eben Lane

Mr. William Gordon

Dr. Charles Thompson

II. The Second Movement:

In the year 1856 Elder Thomas M. Preble of East Weare purchased the former Free Will Baptist Church located on the corner of Center and Green Streets. This was to be the central meeting place for Advent Christian for over 50 years. There were some other meeting places for smaller groups:

the Warren Street Chapel.

the "Bethel" chapel built by Mr. Theodore H. Ford on the corner of Washington and Lyndon Streets.

Pastors of record during this period:

Elder Thomas M. Preble, called the father of organized Adventism in Concord. Began ministry in 1855.

Elder John Couch began 1869.

Elder William C. Stewart began 1874.

(No settled pastor 1875 - 1880)

Elder LaForest Baker began 1881.

Elder Frank Knowlton began 1883.

(No settled pastor 1884 - 1887)

Elder Robert F. Emmerson began 1887.

Elder N.W. Potter short pastorate.
(No settled pastor 1889 - 1891)

Elder Asaph J. Wheeler began 1891.

Elder Roger Sherman began 1893.

Elder Joseph Mielt began 1897.

(No settled pastor 1901 - 1902)

Elder Harry Selby began 1902

(No settled pastor 1903 - 1908.

A Mr. David Jack did preach some in 1905 and 1906.)

Elder J. A. Gardner began 1908.

III. The Church on Wall Street.

In 1911 the property on Center Street was sold to make way for the State Historical Society building. A lot located at 23, 25 Wall Street on which stood a two story brick house was purchased from Pauline L. Evans. The congregation voted to build a church on the lot which would match the house. It was a happy day in 1913 when the new edifice was dedicated.

Pastors of record during this period:

- Rev. Jesse C. Libby began 1911, served 3 years.
The congregation moved to Wall Street during his pastorate.
- Rev. Frank J. David began 1914, served 2 years.
- Rev. George F. Haines, began in 1916, served 5 years.
- Rev. Merton Snow, began in 1922 served 4 years.
- Rev. Burton G. Robbins, began in June 1927, served 5 years.
- Rev. Walter S. Bezanson served from June 1933 to July 1936.
- Rev. Charles H. Savage served from October 1937 until he died suddenly on January 16, 1940. He was 35 years of age.
- Rev. Rolly L. Chambers, served from April 1940 to October 1942.
- Rev. Asa J. Colby, served from April 1943 to September 1946.
- Rev. Wesley Schurman became pastor in January 1947 with Rev. Leslie Mark as Assistant Pastor. October 2, 1947 Mr. Schurman resigned.
- Rev. Leslie Mark became regular pastor, served until he left to be a missionary in India - August 1948.
- Rev. Everett B. Moore, served from October 1948 to September 1952.
- Rev. Leslie Mark for a second term; began January 1953 served to October 1956.
- Rev. Glenwood Jordon, served from February 1957 to December 1962.
- Mr. John Perry served as interrim pastor from January to August 1963.
- Rev. James W. Faulkingham, served from September 1963 and is pastor at time of writing.

Submitted on behalf of the
Advent Christian Church, by
James W. Faulkingham
Rev. James W. Faulkingham

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(No settled pastor 1889 - 1891)
Elder Asaph J. Wheeler began 1891.
Elder Roger Sherman began 1893.
Elder Joseph Wietz began 1897.
(No settled pastor 1901 - 1902)
Elder Harry Sally began 1902.
(No settled pastor 1903 - 1908.
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