
Broadway Christian Church



The building housing Broadway Christian Church was erected in 1871 by the Methodist Church. Originally known as West Wayne Street Methodist Church, the structure was purchased by the Broadway Congregation in the fall of 1973. Pastor Robert Yawberg was frustrated when finances were not available to expand the North Highlands Church of Christ on Archer Avenue. Out of space, leaders prayed daily at 5:30 A.M. for an answer.

During that time, Mayor Ivan Lebamoff challenged a group of pastors in the city; he pleaded with them to look at the need in downtown Fort Wayne for leadership and influence. Churches and businesses were leaving the area. As he spoke, the Lord laid on the heart of Pastor Yaw-

berg the empty church building at Broadway and Wayne. He drove there following the meeting to find the one hundred year old structure for sale. Entering the sanctuary, he beheld the same floor plan and arrangement they had planned to build in the suburbs.

The vision of preaching Christ in downtown Fort Wayne burned in Pastor Yawberg's heart. He issued a call for those who would follow to start a new congregation at the central city location. Three hundred believers responded to the call. Twenty-three years later, five services were being held at two location and 1,500 people attended on a wekkly basis. Racial and denominational barriers were overcome as hurting people came from across the city and beyond.

The church became known for her ministry to the poor and hungry, and they came often for loving, personal care. Utility bills were paid, clothing given and food made available -- all in the name of Christ. Global missions became a priority as well, many were sent to various parts of the world. Eventually people came to 910 Broadway from all parts of the city. Buildings on adjoining property were purchased and renovated to house the ever-growing congregation.

After twenty-three years leading and developing this ministry, Pastor Robert Yawberg asked to be released to serve pastors in the church-at-large. Broadway Christian Church continues to be an oasis of light and love to the city. Jason Baeuerle, who attended the church as a young adult, now serves as Senior Pastor.