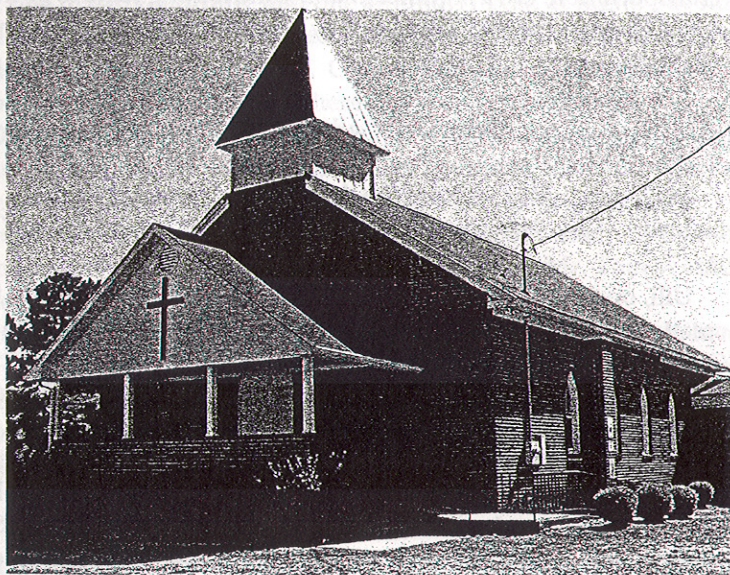


*The Christian Home United Church of Christ
700 Center Street*



C32. [Apex Union Depot] 1914. NR 1983. This is the most significant historic landmark in Apex because it embodies Apex's reason for establishment in 1873 as a stop on the Chatham Railroad. The ornate style depot is a one-story brick building with a bellcast hip roof, a broad overhang with heavy chamfered brackets, and three interior chimneys. The walls are dark red brick veneer and trim is of brown sandstone. All openings have segmentally arched heads and nearly all windows and doors are original. The interior is small, with tongue-and-groove wainscots, molded trim and three



The Christian Home United Church of Christ

Christian Home is truly a historical treasure having been organized in White Oak Township around the settlement of Log Pond (now the town of Apex). This church is one of two Black Christian Churches organized in N.C. in 1854; the second being Broad Creek of Oriental, N.C. The Civil War ended in the spring of 1865, and it is possible that by the fall of the same year many other Black Christian churches were formed in N.C.¹

Reflection on the history of Christian Home has mandated that intense research be conducted. Taken from this research the following findings will enlighten your understanding of what has taken place in the past 147 years of evolution into what we now know as our beloved Christian Home United Church of Christ.

No records have been located for the first fifty years of Christian Home's existence; however, we do document purchasing of the land upon which the present church sits. As of this writing it is felt that this has been the one and only permanent house of worship for the Christian Home members.

Real Estate transactions pertaining to Christian Home's property have revealed many interesting facts about Log Pond and District Number I of the White Oak Township. According to Deeds obtained beginning April 25, 1877, J. Mc. C. Ellington and wife sold to J. W. F. Rogers and his wife, Mary A., 59,411 square feet more or less (located along present day Center Street) for an unknown amount.² On January 30, 1886, J. W. F. Rogers and his wife, Mary, sold the same tract of land to S. J. Henderson, C. B. King and J. J. Edwards, Committee of Public Schools District No I White Oak Township Wake County, N.C., and their successors in office "in consideration" of thirty-five dollars.³ Eleven years later on May 18, 1897, H. C. Olive, Q. I. Hudson and A. B. Hunter, Public School Committee for the white race District I White Oak Township of Wake County and the State of N.C., sold to H. B. Baldwin the original 59,411 square foot tract more or less for the sum of One Hundred and Ninety Dollars.⁴ November 16, 1909 marks a courageous event for Christian Home. H. B. Baldwin and wife, Mary, sold a 9200 square foot parcel taken from the original 59,411 square foot tract to J. H. Mabry, Edward Long and A. Bright, Trustees for Christian Conference of Wake County for an amount of One Hundred and Ninety Dollars.⁵ March 8, 1972 begins a new chapter on the history of what is presently known as the Christian Home United Church of Christ. The N.C. Christian Conference, Inc. under the leadership of Reverend

Charles Samuel, Pres. and Reverend J. H. Little, Sec. deeded the previously referenced property to Elbert Harris, Thonny Ray Jenkins, William Utley and Otha Beckwith, Trustees for the Christian Home Church.⁶

[While reading the previously mentioned deeds, it was discovered that there was not only a public school located on the original 59,411 square foot tract but that also the Normal and Collegiate Institute was in existence on adjoining property.]⁷ Other than this fact, nothing more is known at this time; however research will continue on this project.

Christian Home has been blessed to have had many outstanding pastors, men and women, who have stood for that which is right and righteous. Christian Home remembers some of these pastors . . . the late Reverend D. A. Hargrove, S. W. Albright, J. M. Burwell, Herman Lee, Harvey Hartsfield, and their current pastor, the Reverend Dr. Walter L. Gibson, and two associate pastors, the Reveend Mary Davis and the Reverend Euella Beckwith.

Under the leadership of Reverend Randolph Burwell, who served the church for thirty-one years, the congregation became affiliated with the United Church of Christ. Other milestones under his leadership were; a new roof on the church; walls were straightened, church building bricked, and printed bulletins were used.

The current pastor, Dr. Walter L. Gibson came to lead the congregation on Nov. 5, 1989. Under the leadership of Dr. Walter L. Gibson, Christian Home continued to press forward as: in 1990 the Reverend Mary Davis was ordained by the Southern Conference; July 7, 1991 Dr. Gibson was installed as pastor, July 26, 1992 the church began having worship services every Sunday; 1993 Dr. Gibson was ordained by the Southern Conference; 1994 renovation of Christian Home United Church of Christ took place; in 2000 purchased land and house on adjoining property east of the church (known as the Stewart property) and ordained three new associate ministers, Reverend Frank Walker, Reverend Duane Haskins, and Reverend Clara Payne. On September 16, 2001 Christian Home celebrated its one hundred year plus anniversary and homecoming.

The following are members of longevity in the congregations:

Reverend Mary Davis
Reverend Eulla Beckwith
Mrs. Florence Blound
Mrs. Roberta Campbell
Mr. Laddie Smith
Mrs. Henrietta Cameron

Mrs. Ruth Utley
Mr. William Utley, Sr.
Mrs. Dorothy Bullock
Mrs. Emma Council
Mrs. Martha Petty

Several of the above are descendants of these founding families:

Beckwiths	Harris	Lees
Blounts	Hintons	Mangums
Bullocks	Terrys	McLeans
Camerons	Hammonds	Matthews
Cottens	Hookers	Osbornes
Councils	Hortons	Pettys
Doneses	Jenkins	Seagraves
Gainey	Lawrences	Smiths
Greens	Lassiters, Hargoves, Letts	Utleys ⁸

For one hundred forty-seven years this congregation has been consistent in strong leadership not only in Apex, but throughout the world. Apex is indeed fortunate to have Christian Home Church of Christ as an integral part of our community's history.

- 1 The 136th Church Anniversary and Homecoming Observance, Sept. 16, 200
- 2 Wake County Deed Book 49, p.261
- 3 Wake County Deed Book 92 p.427
- 4 Wake county Deed Book 142, p.160
- 5 Wake county Deed Book 565, p.315
- 6 Wake county Deed Book 2060, p.188
- 7 See footnote 4
- 8 See footnote 1