

Partridge Community Church

In 1874 The First Church of Christ of Reno Center was organized by Rev. Samuel Dilley. In 1887 the church was moved into Partridge and renamed the Partridge Congregational Church.

The Methodist Church resulted from the effort of the circuit riders and a church was built in 1884. This church was moved into town and was known as the Partridge Methodist Church.

The struggles of the two churches to keep alive both financially and to keep ministers were hard.

Early in the 1900s members of both congregations started discussion on a union. This was accomplished in 1924. October 20, 1926 a new brick church was dedicated under the leadership of Rev. C. A. Esheiman.

In 1962 the members voted to affiliate with the merger of the congregational Christian and Evangelical Reformed Churches. A new modern front entrance to the church was completed in 1963. A new furnace and new organ were purchased. Dedication services for these improvements were held on June 12, 1966.

Land was purchased and a new parsonage was built and dedicated February 25, 1968.

Ministers of the church have been: C. A. Eshelman 1924-1929; Edwin Bruce 1928-1929; Paul Hastings 1929-1934; Frank G. Richard 1934-1953; Julian Johnson 1953-1957; Sadalchl Asai (Japanese American) 1958-1964; Fred Moore 1965-1969; E. K. Bauman 1969-1971; The church rolls indicate a membership of 230.

The 50th anniversary of this community church will be observed in 1974.

Rev. Bauman is a graduate of Washburn College with a Masters Degree from the University of Nebraska. He also attended Iliff Seminary in Denver for two years. Mrs. Bauman is a graduate of the University of Nebraska with graduate work from UCLA and Fernando State in California.

The church will be without a pastor within ma few weeks with Mr. and Mrs. Bauman moving to Hutchinson and into retirement.