FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
HISTORICAL MARKER DEDICATION
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2016
1:30 P.M.
900 S. ENNIS ST.
BRYAN, TEXAS

First Church 1868 – 1907
Order of Events

Welcome

Mr. Henry Mayo
Chair, Brazos County Historical Commission

Invocation

Reverend Jesse Myers, Pastor
First Christian Church

Recognition of Guests and Dignitaries

Ms. Ann Pittman-Thompson, Chair of the General Board of the Church

Brief History of First Christian Church – facing page and continued back of program

Unveiling and Presentation of Historical Marker

Mr. Ron Colbert, Chair of the Elders and Ms. Andi Scott, Chair of the 150th Anniversary Committee

Blessing of Historical Marker

Rev. Jesse Myers, Pastor

Closing Comments Mr. Henry Mayo

Song  The Church's One Foundation  led by First Christian Church choir

The Church’s one foundation
Is Jesus Christ her Lord,
She is His new creation
By water and the Word.
From heaven, He came and sought her to be His holy bride;
With His own blood, He bought her
And for her life He died.

Funding for Historical Marker donated by the Drs. Arthur and Nancy Wright and John and Troy Wright-Gilbert families. Installation of marker donated by JaCody Construction.

Brief History of First Christian Church of Bryan/College Station

1866  County seat moved from Boonville to Bryan anticipating the arrival of the Houston and Texas Central Railroad linking Houston and Dallas through Bryan. The years of 1866-1867 saw the establishment of several churches in the community.

First Christian Church was organized in Bryan.
Two prominent organizers of the congregation were Colonel J. S. Proctor and Judge Spencer Ford. Judge Ford also served as a member of the local committee which in May 1871 convinced the Texas Legislature to locate the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas south of town.

1868  First building for First Christian Church was erected of red brick and was located at the corner of 27th and Dallas streets (later College Avenue and now Texas Avenue). The building was known for its steeple and bell which pealed forth every Sunday. The lot for the building was deeded to the church by W. J. and Cornelia Proctor.

1876  The Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas opened.

1907  First church building razed for a new church to be built in the same location. During the interim, the congregation worshiped in the Old Opera House.

February 1908  New church building dedicated with approximately 750 people in attendance. This new structure was built at a cost of $15,000.

December 1925  Church building destroyed by fire with small insurance coverage and the loss of all church records. The old communion table was rescued and is displayed in our gathering space today.

1926-1928  Services were held on the ground floor of the Masonic Lodge Building until the basement of the third church building was completed where services were then held until the sanctuary was completed in 1928.
January 1929  Third church building dedicated. The architect for this building was Mr. Ernest Langford, head of the Department of Architecture at the A&M Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas. The construction cost was $50,000.

1950's  By the mid 1950's it became obvious that the First Church Christian Church on the corner of 27th and College would be compelled to move its location because of the encroachment of apartments, businesses and commercial buildings, the First Baptist Church and Wiley's restaurant. The church had built a Sunday School annex behind the sanctuary building and rented a room in a residence for the Women's Bible Class across the traffic riddled College Avenue.

October 1952  Lots 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 purchased in the Winter's subdivision (Ennis and Homestead).

March 1961  Building at the corner of Ennis and Homestead dedicated. Worship was conducted in the Fellowship Hall.

September 1974  Present sanctuary dedicated. The total cost for the new building including furnishings was $195,710.

May 2009  New Gathering Space dedicated. This new area connected the educational and fellowship wing with the sanctuary. A 2,218-square foot addition was constructed which allows for a large gathering space for receptions, fellowship and other activities. The total cost for this addition was $630,240. That debt was completely paid off in five years after two successful capital campaigns.

Facts taken from History of First Christian Church written by Elizabeth Wilson Cook published in 1974; Sesquicentennial History of Brazos County Published in 1986; Documents in Safe Deposit Box of First Christian Church; Compiled by Ann Pittman-Thompson November 2016