

**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.

