

Pentecostal Church in Kinmundy
An Interview with Mrs. Evalena Perry
January 28, 2008

Laurence and wife, Evalena Perry moved from Oscaloosa to Kinmundy on July 6, 1972. The two of them had taken over the Pentecostal Church at Oscaloosa in 1955 and they shared the ministerial duties there before making the move to Kinmundy. The first Sunday school held here was July 9, 1972. Mrs. Evalena Perry tells of purchasing the first building from Mrs. Phyllis See who had for several years had a beauty shop there. Before that it was Doolen's Electric owned by Earl and Lorraine "Splinter" Doolen.

Mrs. Evalena Perry tells us she first wanted a young Christian couple to take over the church here after the old building was torn down and a new one built about five years later. The new building was finished on January 2, 1977, with many decisions to be made on its construction. Mrs. Perry says she argued with the Lord, if she should step aside, which she wanted to do, but he spoke to her and persuaded her to remain as minister and make the decisions on construction of the new church. She told the Lord, "I am your servant." The furnace in the old building was too small for the new building, so she called Grover Veteto at Fedder's in Effingham and said, "Give me a good deal on a furnace for our new church building." Members of the congregation did a lot of the work but they had to hire someone to lay the blocks for the walls, as no one was capable of that. The concrete floor was finished and although all went well there was an existing debt of \$200, and after Evalena's prayer to the Lord, Mr. B.F. Linton appeared with a check for that amount--\$200.

Among other ministers at the Pentecostal Church were Bro. Warren Davis and wife and Brother and Sister Sampson. Bro. Dave Belcher is the present minister and has been for two years. He, along with the other area ministers of all faiths took part in our Sunday service in the Kinmundy Park for Kinmundy's Sesquicentennial Church Service. That service was well attended and a blessing to be remembered.

Mrs. Evalena Perry lost her eyesight about six years ago due to glaucoma. She, however, is an inspiration to all who know her, accepting her loss of eyesight and thankful to still be able to attend church. Mrs. Perry is blessed with family who care and who include her in their fishing trips to Canada where she generally catches more fish than any of them! They are all getting ready now for a trip to Florida where other family members live. That will include fishing, too!

Evalena's sons Herman, Glen, and Dennis have a country band called "The Golden Nuggets" which are much in demand for dances in the surrounding area. Evalena also had musical talent, playing the guitar, herself. Mrs. Perry will have her 92nd birthday in March of 2008.