

# Lockland

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Going on to other matters, I had the opportunity to meet with Bishop Donald Sorrells to learn about his church, the Christ Temple Apostolic Church on N. Wayne Ave. So begins another of my series on Lockland churches.

The Christ Temple Apostolic Church has been in existence since 1978 when Pastor Sorrells, who at the time was Second Assistant Pastor at the Bethlehem Temple Church downtown saw the need for another church in Lockland.

This church first settled into the building at the corner of Wyoming and Cooper, where at one time there had been a Chili Parlor and which now houses an antique store. Apparently there was some opposition to this and it took a vote of council to settle the matter in favor of the church.

After seven years, the need for larger quarters was noted and a search was begun. That turned out to be the present building which formerly housed the Mt. Zion Baptist Church. Through much prayer and effort, Pastor Sorrells and his flock were able to purchase this building in 1985.

During these years, Pastor Sorrells worked full time at the Veterans Hospital and also ministered to this church. He is now retired from the Veterans Hospital and devotes his full time to the church.

He is a Bishop as he also supervises several other Apostolic Churches. When he is away, his wife, Thelma, fills the pulpit here.

Bishop Sorrells has been a key player in some of the recent redevelopment in the West Lockland area as he serves on the board of the Cincinnati Housing Partners which was instrumental in the recent construction and sale of several new homes on Walnut St. In my conversation with him, he seems to be very dedicated to the rehabilitation of this area.

The church building on Wayne Ave is old, something like 100 years but it has always been and is still a church. He indicates there are approximately 100 members, mostly young families with children. An active Sunday School and Church Service is held each and every Sunday starting at 9:45 AM. An attempt is being made to update portions of the building, but it is a long slow process.

Interestingly, this building had, at one time, an apartment upstairs which served as the pastor's home, long before the present church took over. This space is now unused and needs a major overhaul. Yet, Pastor Sorrells has offered this space as a possible place for small groups to hold meetings or perhaps, as a "Safe Haven" under the Weed and Seed program. A lot of volunteer labor and material donations would convert this unused space into just the right place for a counseling center and informal meetings under that program. The church would offer this space without charge.

The church has an active Youth Group of all ages that meets twice a month on Fridays for fun and fellowship and Bible study.

On May 1, 1999, Lockland honored Bishop Sorrells by naming that date as "Bishop Sorrells Day."

Previous to this, the former Mayor of Cincinnati, Roxanne Qualls, declared July 17, 1998 as "Bishop Sorrells Day" and in January, 2000, he received a "Building Bridges" Award from Cincinnati Bell.

What I find so interesting is the outgoing, open and warm personality of Bishop Sorrells. He is dynamic and speaks with conviction. My short visit with him was a distinct privilege for me.

There are now some new houses in West Lockland, and others are being improved, due in large part to the efforts of Bishop Sorrells. This area is now set aside as a Rehabilitation Zone by Village ordinance which will provide possible tax incentives for continued development and rebuilding.

Christ Temple Apostolic Church on N. Wayne Ave is a beacon for this neighborhood. Take a look the next time you drive by.

And with that, I wish to extend to all of you my Thanks for your continued support and good words during this year. You make my job easy. Since this is the last issue for this year, May you all have a Merry Christmas, and a Safe and Happy New Year! See Ya next year!