

HISTORY

For over 40 years Cliff Drive Care Center, as a social ministry of the Free Methodist Church, has been used by God to protect, love and contribute to the lives of children and their families. This ministry, as well as the church, came about through the vision of a handful of families that gave of

themselves for a greater good—both sacrificially and with personal dedication.



The Free Methodist Church began its ministry in **1963** as Cliff Drive Nursery School

On the original Cliff Drive property, there was a very old and dilapidated two story house, an oil well, a very sloping grade and a virtual creek from the runoff of the newly constructed state highway, Cliff Drive. The property was cleared, the oil well

capped, dirt was brought to level the land and construction began.

The main sanctuary building with preschool was constructed in 1963 for approximately \$57,000. During those early years, the Cliff Drive Nursery School was established, directed by Avis Snellenberger (b.1914-d.1973). It is to Avis that we have a bronze name plate dedicated in our Pre-School.

In a day when preschools were a brand new idea, the Free Methodist Church found itself on the cutting edge of education and ministry.

In June of 1981, the church decided to remodel its smaller former parsonages and add fellowship and office areas; this became known as "Cliff House." Cliff House later became home to our After-School program and Summer Camp

program, and served as a class room area for our Pre-Kindergarteners.

Our Summer Camp program was established in the summer of 1982 and our Pre-Kindergarten and After-School programs in the Fall of that same year.



Originally called, "**Free Methodist Nursery School**," the name was changed because many people thought it was "free!"

In October of 1984, the church began the Fall Family Festival as a

Christian alternative to Halloween and this tradition has stayed with us over the years, delighting children of all ages.



Cliff Drive Nursery School's first director:
Avis Snellenberger

By January of 2000, the church and her ministries had grown so large as to necessitate a much larger renovation. Cliff House, the youth ministries building, the old pre-school playground, and their surrounding parking lot areas were torn down to make room for a much more modern facility replete with a safer playground structure and better parking. This project was completed by March of 2001 and through the very generous, faithful and sacrificial giving of parishioners and CDCC

families, all related debt was paid off by 2003!

Truly, love has become the mark of the church!