

Mentor United Methodist Church Bi-Centennial Moment March 18, 2018

Today we continue describing the life of the sanctuary built in 1906, where the Chapel now stands. Following the dedication on February 4, 1906, the sanctuary of the Mentor Methodist Episcopal Church, as it was known then, continued to serve the Lord without any major changes until 1914 when a pipe organ was added. The cost was approximately \$2,000.00. The following year, in 1915, it was determined that additional space was needed for classrooms. Members of the church dug out, wheelbarrow by wheelbarrow, space under the sanctuary. The old covered sheds, used for horses when the church opened, were removed around the year 1920.

The sanctuary saw the church continue to grow in membership as the Mentor community grew. The sanctuary was there as our country experienced two World Wars and the Great Depression. There was also a name change. Following the merger of three different Methodist bodies, which were the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Protestant Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, the Methodist Church was established in 1939. We became known then as the Mentor Methodist Church. The congregation celebrated its 125th anniversary with a service in 1943 which included Bishop Lester Smith and pastor Clarence Achberger. The choir director was Marcella Phillips and the organist was Erwin Schultz.

The church expanded in 1951 with the addition of a fellowship hall and a new kitchen. Some of you remember these facilities that were located near today's bride's room. The cost of this construction was around \$44,000.00. Another addition occurred in 1957 when an education wing was added. This wing also included a parlor, church offices, restrooms as well as classrooms. Four 60 foot wide lots along Southwood Drive had to be purchased to create room for the new structure. Both of these additions were done during the pastorate of Rev. Richard Pettit. The parlor was later named the Pettit Room, a room many of us remember.

The 1906 sanctuary served the congregation and the community well. But by the 1960's the time had come for a new larger facility. We will discuss this in our next bi-centennial moment.