

NORTH METHODIST CHURCH

OUR PRESENT CHURCH IS THE DIRECT DESCENDENT OF AN EARLIER ONE THAT GREW FROM A COTTAGE PRAYER SOCIETY HOUSED IN A BRICK SCHOOL BUILDING ON WEST HUDSON STREET NEAR WHAT IS NOW NEIL AVENUE.

THIS GROUP INVITED REV. T.A. TURNER, A METHODIST CIRCUIT RIDER TO TAKE CHARGE AND THE GROUP AFFILIATED WITH THE METHODIST CHURCH. IN 1882 THE CONGREGATION DECIDED THEY NEEDED A CHURCH OF THEIR OWN. THEY INVITED THE CLINTON CHAPEL CONGREGATION TO JOIN WITH THEM AND TOGETHER THEY RAISED FUNDS TO BUY A LOT AND ERECT A BUILDING ON THE SOUTH EAST CORNER OF DUNCAN AND HIGH. THE BUILDING COST \$3,000.00 AND WAS COMPLETED ABOUT 1884.

THE CONGREGATION RAPIDLY OUTGREW THIS BUILDING AND IN 1896, THEY MOVED TO THEIR NEW \$14,000.00 RED BRICK CHURCH ON THE CORNER WHERE OUR PRESENT CHURCH STANDS. THE PARSONAGE STOOD NORTH OF THE CHURCH AND FACED EAST AVENUE AND IN ADDITION TO HOUSING THE PARSON'S FAMILY SUPPLIED WATER AND AN OUTSIDE TOILET FOR USE OF THE CHURCH.

TOMPKINS STREET AND HIGH STREET WERE THE ONLY PAVED STREETS IN THE AREA AND THE HORSE CARS ON HIGH STREET HAD ONLY RECENTLY BEEN CHANGED TO ELECTRIC. MOST OF THE AREA EAST OF HIGH BETWEEN NORWICH AND PATTERSON WAS PASTURE LAND ON A WOODED HILLSIDE. THE ORIGINAL RED BRICK CHURCH ON THIS SITE SAT CLOSE TO THE CORNER OF THE LOT AND WAS ENTERED THRU TWO DOORS ON TOMPKINS STREET AND ONE ON EAST AVENUE. ALL DOORS WERE AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH SO YOU ENTERED FACING THE ALTAR IN THE NORTH EAST CORNER. THE ALTAR WAS A SLIGHTLY ELEVATED PLATFORM WITH THREE LARGE ORNATE CHAIRS FOR THE MINISTER AND VISITING DIGNITARIES. THERE WAS A PODIUM IN FRONT AND A HIGHER ELEVATED AREA BEHIND THE ALTAR FOR THE CHOIR

AND ORGAN. THE ORGAN COULD BE OPERATED BY FOOT PEDALS OR HAND BELLOWS. USUALLY A BOY WAS PAID 5 CENTS TO WORK THE BELLOWS.

THE CHANDELIERS WERE THREE TIERED KEROSENE LAMPS WITH ORNAMENTAL GLOBES. THERE WERE A NUMBER OF LARGE LOVELY STAINED GLASS WINDOWS THAT CREATED A FINE RELIGIOUS ATMOSPHERE. THE FLOOR WAS COVERED WITH GREEN CARPET AND THERE WERE FOUR TRIANGULAR SECTIONS OF OAK PEWS.

ABOUT 1904, WE WERE ABLE TO BUY FROM BROAD STREET METHODIST THEIR USED ELECTRIC ORGAN AND WE ACQUIRED USED WILTON CARPET FROM THE OHIO SENATE CHAMBER. THE MORTGAGE OF \$14,000.00 WAS PAID OFF ABOUT 1901 UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF REV. BILLY MILLER.

ABOUT 1907, A NUMBER OF FAMILIES LEFT OUR CHURCH TO FOUND THE GRACE METHODIST PROTESTANT CHURCH AT MAYNARD AND INDIANOLA.

THE PERIOD STARTING ABOUT 1911 WAS A PROSPEROUS AND BUSY PERIOD FOR OUR CHURCH. THE AREA WAS GROWING IN HOMES AND POPULATION. THE OLD PARSONAGE WAS SOLD AND REMOVED TO MAKE WAY FOR A TWO STORY SUNDAY SCHOOL ADDITION WITH CLASS ROOMS AND A MODERN KITCHEN AND DINING ROOM. A NEW PARSONAGE WAS CONSTRUCTED ABOUT THE SAME TIME. THE COST OF THE TWO BUILDINGS WAS \$18,300.00. THE CHURCH IN THIS PERIOD HAD A VERY LARGE MEN'S BIBLE CLASS AND A 25 PIECE ORCHESTRA.

ABOUT 1912, THE LADIES AID SOCIETY ESTABLISHED A LUNCH STAND AT THE OHIO STATE FAIR. THEY USED A TENT AND GASOLINE STOVES AND SERVED SANDWICHES, COFFEE, MILK AND PIE. THE PROJECT WAS SO SUCCESSFUL THAT THEY LEASED LAND AND BUILT A PERMANENT TYPE BUILDING. IN 1941, THE LADIES RELINQUISHED THIS OPERATION AND RENTED THE BUILDING TO THE WAR DEPARTMENT. AFTER THE WAR THEY NEVER WENT BACK.

IN 1913, THE EASON FAMILY MOVED INTO THE NEW PARSONAGE AND THE CHURCH

ACQUIRED A DEACONESS, MISS OCTAVIA HICKS, WHO WORKED WITH YOUNG PEOPLE AND CALLED ON THE SICK.

ABOUT 1920, THE PRACTICE OF SUNRISE COMMUNION ON EASTER MORNING WAS BEGUN AND IS STILL CARRIED ON. BETWEEN 1915 AND 1930, DURING REV. BICKEL'S MINISTRY WE HAD SEVERAL EVANGELISTS INCLUDING GEORGE WOOD ANDERSON AND BILLY PHIFFER. THESE MEETINGS WERE VERY WELL ATTENDED.

DURING THE FIRST WORLD WAR THE CHURCHES WERE CLOSED FOR SEVEN WEEKS TO SAVE FUEL.

ON SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 1929, OLD NORTH CHURCH WAS DESTROYED BY FIRE! THOSE IN CHURCH THAT SUNDAY SPOKE OF THE EXTREME HEAT IN THE SANCTUARY AND NOT LONG AFTER EVERYONE HAD GONE HOME FIRE BROKE THRU THE CEILING OF THE FURNACE ROOM AND SOON ENVELOPED THE WHOLE BUILDING. IT WAS A TOTAL LOSS.

FACED WITH THE QUESTION OF THE FUTURE OF THE CHURCH THE MEMBERS, AFTER MUCH SOUL SEARCHING, DECIDED THAT THEY WANTED TO MAINTAIN THE IDENTITY OF THE CHURCH AND REBUILD. THE CONGREGATION MET FOR A TIME IN THE NORTH HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM. IN 1930, REV. BICKEL WAS TRANSFERRED TO DAYTON AND REV. JOHN LEWIS BECAME OUR PASTOR.

ON MAY 16, 1931, EXCAVATION FOR THE NEW BUILDING WAS BEGUN AND ON OCTOBER 11, 1931, THE CORNER STONE WAS LAID. DECEMBER 27, 1931, WE MOVED INTO THE BASEMENT PENDING COMPLETION OF THE SANCTUARY WHICH WAS DONE ON A "PAY AS YOU GO" BASIS. ON APRIL 21, 1935, THE SANCTUARY WAS USED FOR THE FIRST TIME FOR SERVICES AND THE NEW ORGAN, GIFT OF THE LADIES AID SOCIETY, WAS DEDICATED.

IN 1936, REVERAND CHARLES HARRISON BEGAN HIS LONG TENURE AS OUR PASTOR AND

ON SEPTEMBER 27, 1942, OUR CHURCH WAS COMPLETED AND FREE OF DEBT. THEN IN 1952, ZINN HALL, THE CHILDREN'S CHAPEL WAS DEDICATED. IT WAS THE GIFT OF J. HARVEY AND EMMA ZINN IN MEMORY OF THEIR TWO INFANT SONS. THE BUILDING COST OVER \$40,000.00. IN 1954, THE NEWLY RENOVATED KITCHEN WAS COMPLETED AT A COST OF \$8,500.00.

ON NOVEMBER 21, 1982, THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION WAS OBSERVED WITH A FELLOWSHIP GATHERING, CHURCH SERVICES AND A DINNER PROVIDED FOR MEMBERS, FORMER MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH.

MEMBERS FOR THE HUNDRED YEARS OF OUR EXISTENCE AS A CHURCH WERE:

REV. T.A. TURNER	THE CIRCUIT RIDER	1880-1882
REV. H.L. WHITEHEAD		1882-1884
REV. E.A. NICHOLS		1884-1887
REV. JOHN L. JONES		1887-1889
REV. LOUIS POSTLE		1889-1894
REV. THOMAS CLARK	PRESENT SITE PURCHASED	1894-1897
	CHURCH BUILT COST \$14,000.00	1896
REV. JOSEPH CLARK		1897-1899
REV. HERBERT SCOTT		1899-1901
REV. WILLIAM MILLER	RAISED MONEY-PAID OFF MORTGAGE	1901-1903
REV. CHARLES LAUGHLIN		1903-1906
REV. N.C. CREAMER		1906-1908
REV. L.C. HADDOX		1908-1911
REV. J.N. EASON	STATE FAIR LUNCH STAND	1911-1915
	FIRST TENANTS NEW PARSONAGE	
REV. J.C. BICKEL	WAR YEARS-EVANGELISTS	1915-1930
	CHURCH FIRE-SUNRISE SERVICE	
REV. JOHN LEWIS	NEW CHURCH BEGUN	1930-1934
REV. FRED RILEY		1934-1936
REV. CHARLES B. HARRISON	CHILDREN'S CHAPEL	1936-1960
	WAFFLE SUPPERS	
REV. WALTER EYSTER		1960-1962
REV. CHARLES LOVELL		1962-1968
REV. RAY C. GREENE		1968-1970
REV. HOWARD BUCKLEY		1970-1978
REV. STEPHEN HOARD		1978-1980
REV. JOSEPH HENSON		1980-