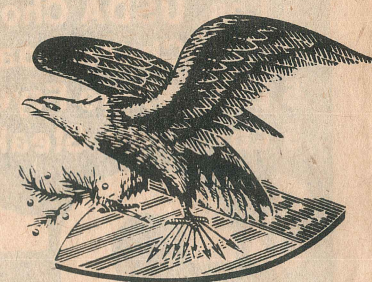


MADRID

AREA

BICENTENNIAL

1776-1976



"Rememberances of Days Gone By"

History of St. Paul's United Church

Because the wife of a minister of the Christian faith wanted to visit her sister, the First Christian Church was formed. The wife was Mrs. A. D. Kellison and her sister was Mrs. G. W. Kearby.

Tradition has it that the visit was purely social in nature but other circumstances indicate that it may have been planned and that while the tie of sisterhood was strong this may not have been the only consideration.

A family known as Summerbells was a prominent factor in the Christian denomination and they had been sent to Iowa around this time, 1856. Whether Rev. Summerbell had inspired the visit of Rev. and Mrs. Kellison to Swede Point at this particular time it is not known, however, Summerbell made several visits back to this area to deliver the Sunday address.

In any event, the Kellisons came and Rev. Kellison set about holding a revival service in the ancient school building which stood at what is now the corner of South Second and South Market streets. The services apparently roused the latent spirits of a few for there were many Christians eager to form a new church.

The church was organized on Sept. 9, 1856 with seven charter members: Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Rohr, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Stover, Mrs. Sallie Murphy, Mrs. Phebus and Mrs. Weir.

The Stovers, Rohrs, and Mrs. Murphy remained faithful disciples as did their descendants and it was through their tenacity that the organization was destined to reach down and maintain hearty allegiance.

Kellison remained as pastor of the new church for the next three years and even though the pay was small, the spiritual enjoyment was notably rewarding.

Times were hard for the newly founded fellowship and for part of the next years they could not support or procure a pastor. During these times, an occasional visit from an itinerant minister were the only services held. But they managed to hold on until the 1860's when two brothers named Neal came to the community and opened a store. The two brothers were spiritual men of deep faith and abundant energy. They actively sought in every possible manner to energize and respiritualize the membership. Tradition has it that one was an ordained minister, but both were diligent workers in the church.

Watch next week for the history of The Evangelical Free Church.



This photo shows the Christian Church as it looked in 1899. This was the second church built and it still stands today.

Through their efforts the determination to build a house of worship of their own grew. The Neals interested public spirited citizens financially and obtained a small loan from the general conference. Thus in 1862, during the dark days of the Civil War, the church building came into being. It stood on lots 6 and 7 of the original town plat at what is now the corner of South Sixth and Main Streets near the entrance of Edgewood Park.

The Neals left the area in 1865 and what became of them is not known. Their enthusiasm and spirit enabled the church to carry on with a vigor it previously had not had before.

There were other dark periods in the life of the church when the way seemed dark and the future uncertain. Something seemed to happen each time, however, as though it was being watched over by a higher power than that of man.

Work in church stopped from 1871-1878 when there was no regular pastor. But in 1879, the Rev. W. B. Golden came to hold revival services and this seemed to revive the church. Rev. Golden became the next pastor and the members provided him a home just east of the original church at the corner of South 6th and Water Streets.

From that time on the church appeared to move forward, sometimes slowly and sometimes with great vigor, but there was no time when the church became inactive.

By 1899 the congregation had apparently outgrown the original church home and was determined to build a new and larger one. This was during the second pastorate of Rev. J. W. Ackley. The new church was dedicated on November 26, 1899 with Rev. Carlyle

Summerbell, grandson of the Summerbells spoken about earlier, delivering the dedication address. Extensive remodeling took place on the building around 1913.



The Christian Church, as it looks today is shown here. New red carpeting and new front doors have been added since this photo was taken.

The parsonage for the church was not built until 1908 and it too has been remodeled and changed from the original structure.

During the first 100 years of the churches organization, 31 men have served the church as pastor. Some of those who have manned the pulpit throughout the years include Dr. Clarence Defur, Rev. F. E. Rockwell, Rev. A. H. Bartter, Rev. Frederick Cooper, Rev. B. T. Schwab, Rev. Dale Brown, Rev. Everett Rhoads, Rev. Homer Perry, Rev. Robert Kurtz and Rev. Lynn King.

History of the United Methodist Church

The First Methodist Church, like that of the Christian Church, joined together with the Union of the St. Paul's United Church, but no history is complete without at least of mention of this long established church in the Madrid Community.

Church records show that the church dates back to 1857 when it was organized under the direction of Rev. Enoch Wood, an early evangelistic pioneer minister.

According to the early records, the church was organized in the first school house in the town and it was here, that many of the early meetings were held. In later years, up to the time the first church was built in 1895, the meetings were held in the Baptist Church.

Construction on the first church in the community began in 1895 when A. D. Ellett was pastor. The foundation was laid at this time, but it took almost three more years to complete the structure.

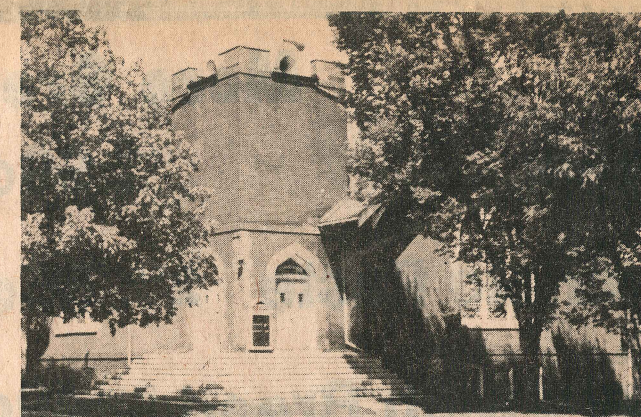


This is the Methodist Church as it looked back in 1903 when this photo was taken. A fire in 1905 completely destroyed this structure.

In the year 1896, Rev. A. N. Rusk was appointed to the local church and in that following year, 1897, Rev. W. J. Stratton succeeded him at the pulpit. The dedication of the church took place on Nov. 20, 1898 while Stratton was still pastor. The first church cost approximately \$5,000 which included the ground necessary for the site.

Annual conference records dating back to 1866 show that Rev. P. H. Barby was appointed minister to Swede Point and that the Des Moines conference, to which the church belonged, comprised the entire state with Fort Dodge as head of the district.

The circuit head soon changed to Boonesboro and shortly after a tabernacle meeting was held in Madrid under the direction of a Sister Libby which really was the beginning of the permanent work in the city.



This is the Methodist building as it looks today. It was built following the 1905 fire, and is virtually unchanged from that day.

The first church was destroyed by fire on January 1, 1905, with an overheated furnace starting the blaze. The parsonage also burned but even before the smoke had cleared the members united together to secure funds for the reestablishment of a building and parsonage. With public support the present church was dedicated by Dr. Forbes in 1906 during the ministry of Rev. J. D. Cain. The parsonage was built in 1907 and still stands today.

In the church's first 100 years, over 43 ministers manned the pulpit. Rev. Lynn King, now pastor at Aurelia, was pastor at the time of the joining of the Christian and Methodist Churches into St. Paul's Church.