

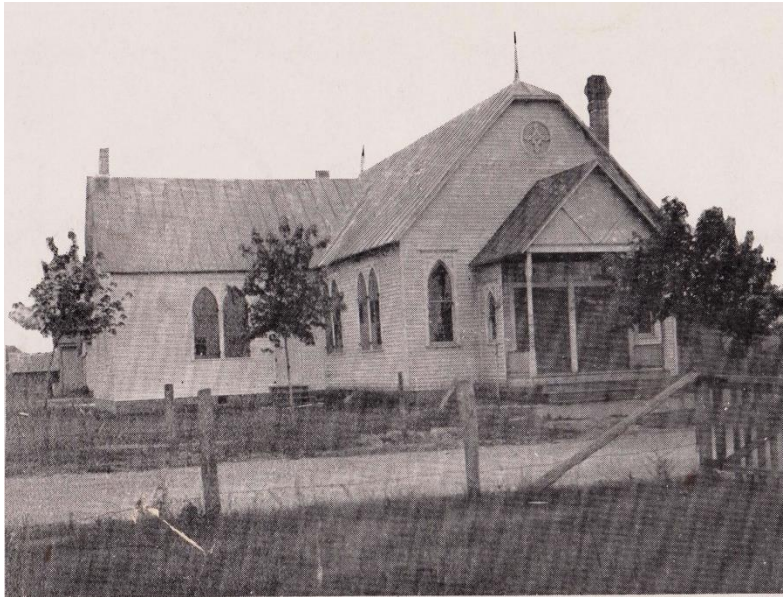
A Note from Debby

I recently attended a Colonial Dames (a genealogy group) meeting with a friend. One of the ladies, at the meeting, mentioned the loss of historical data from one of her local churches.

In finding my way around the office I located a church archive file with wonderful information about the church and pictures through the years. I have always loved history.

On March 22, before the 10:30 service Rich Curtis and I were talking and he informed me this will be the 125th Anniversary of Maple Avenue United Methodist Church.

During the rest of this year I plan on putting possibly a picture and church history into the newsletter. If you have a short story about the church history that you would like to contribute (a couple of paragraphs) please send them to me before the 13th of each month and we will get them in the newsletter, space permitting.



“During 1890 a frame church was built on the present site. The lot was donated by Mr. W. W. Cliver and dedicated as the Maple Avenue Protestant Union Church. The church didn’t prosper as the trustees had wished and the church and parsonage at 2005 N 10th Street were offered to Centenary Methodist Episcopal Church.

The little church was rededicated on January 24, 1892 as Maple Ave Chapel of Centenary M. E. Church. At this time there were twenty-five members but within a

month the membership had grown to eighty-eight. At that time Reverend A. T. Briggs, Associate Pastor of Centenary served as the mission Pastor.

On August 27, 1894 Maple Avenue M. E. Church became a separate entity by transfer from Centenary and had their own Board of Trustees. The membership of the Church and Sunday School continued to grow and by the turn of the century Maple Avenue M. E. Church had outgrown the little white frame church.

Ten years after the original frame building was constructed a new brick structure was begun at the corner of 12th and Maple Avenue under the Leadership of Reverend Edward S. Shumaker. The laying of the cornerstone ceremony was held on September 24, 1900.

The new building cost was nearly \$18,000.00, the pledges from 1902 covered this and the mortgage was burned on December 8, 1906.



1st picture is a copy of the original church from 1890.

2nd picture is a copy of Maple Avenue and the church from 1900, taken from the 12 Points Slide Show. Picture from the Thomas Sipes collection.