

# Look at MAUMC PAST

By Debby Hyde

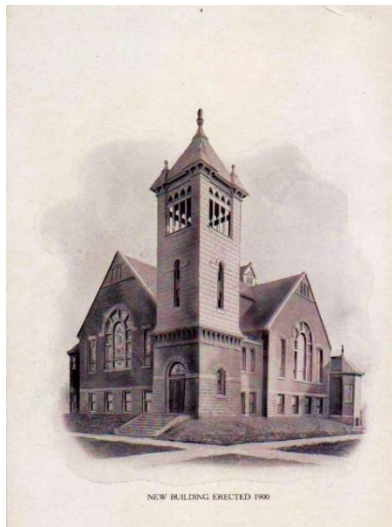
We all know that change and growth is inevitable. It is part of life. Over the years there have been many growth spurts and physical changes of the church building at MAUMC.

The church started out as a small Sunday School group in 1889 in the house of Clara Houk at Linden Street and Lafayette Avenue. By 1890 the group had grown and moved to the Petri Building at Thirteen and Lafayette (former saloon and home of John Petri).

As interest grew a little white framed church was built at the corner of North 12<sup>th</sup> and Maple on property donated by Mr. W. W. Cliver and was dedicated as the Maple Avenue Protestant Union Church in 1890.



January 24, 1892 is the actual birthdate of MAUMC. There were 25 members but this quickly grew to a membership of 80. Reverend A. T. Briggs, Associate Pastor at Centenary Methodist Episcopal church served as the Pastor at Maple Avenue. By August 1894 the church became an independent entity with its own Board of Trustees.



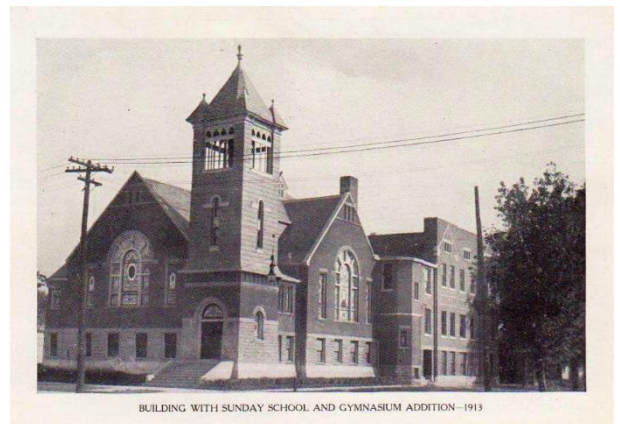
Under the Leadership of Reverend Edward S. Schumaker, a new brick structure was began and the cornerstone was set in September 24, 1900. The new sanctuary and Sunday School classrooms were dedicated on December 14, 1902.

The cost of the building was almost \$18,000.00. All the pledges made in December 1902 were paid by December 8<sup>th</sup> of 1907 and a mortgage burning was held in celebration of paying off the church's building debt.

Also during 1905, 1906 and 1907 several other building projects for the church were underway. They included building of the parsonage at 2122 North Eleventh Street in 1905; building of a Sunday School mission at Seventeenth and Lafayette in 1906 and the establishment of the Third Street Mission was built at the corner of North Third Street and Maple Avenue.

In 1912 and 1913 MAUMC constructed a three-story addition, which included an assembly room, twenty additional classrooms and a gymnasium to meet the recreational and educational needs of the community. This was under Reverend Albert E Monger's ministry and was completed under Reverend Charles C. Ford's pastorate.

On June 22, 1913 the new addition was consecrated and Reverend Edgar A. Blake (later Bishop Blake) was the speaker during the event. On December 22, 1914 the church celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Sunday School which was established here.



In May of 1919 the church purchased the house and lot east of the church on Maple Avenue. This house became the home of the custodian. Also in 1919 the main building was reroofed and the tower was remodeled. In 1922 the \$8,000 mortgage was burned. At that time the church had 1042 members, 66 of which were still on the membership rolls in 1968. In 1926 the exterior of the church was repaired and the sanctuary was remodeled and refurnished with the exception of the organ and pews.

January 25, 1931 the church celebrated their Fortieth Anniversary. Former Pastor and now Bishop Edgar Blake, former Pastor and the present District Superintendent Reverend Albertus T Briggs, Pastor John Emmett Porter and Pastor Emeritus William B. Rippetoe presided over the event.

The 1940's was a busy time for the church. The Golden Anniversary was celebrated during the week of October 5 through 12 in 1941. March 6, 1944 the debt incurred in 1926 was paid off and there was another mortgage burning at MAUMC. March 25, 1945 a dedication was held to celebrate the newly decorated Prayer Chapel which was built on the southeast of the sanctuary. December 1947 a fire threatened to destroy the entire structure, the sanctuary was very badly damaged. Services were held at Garfield High School until the church was repaired.



The 1950's were a time of missionary growth as well as growth of the church. Easter, April 5, 1953 saw an attendance of 1026 and three services were held. By April of 1959 discussions began on remodeling the church with an eye for building a new sanctuary on the corner of Maple Avenue and Twelfth Street.

The 1960's it was decided that a new sanctuary should be built. The Education Center had been remodeled and on March 17, 1963 it was consecrated. January 10, 1965 saw another mortgage burning ceremony. By 1967 plans had been made for a new sanctuary. The last service to be held in the building was July 30, 1967. Consecration Sunday was held February 16, 1969 for the new building.



I hope you enjoyed the brief synopsis of the first seventy-seven years of MAUMC .

*Like most stories the best is yet to come.*

\*\*\*\*\* Special thanks to Pastor David Rockhill for the scanning of the pictures you see here today and the folk that did such a wonderful jobs putting previous MAUMC Celebration together. I have drawn heavily from your efforts.

An extra special thanks goes to Charles Compton and Rich Curtis for the photos and story boards from the 1992 Centennial that appeared in the church office. \*\*\*\*\*