

Look at MAUMC Past

By Debby Hyde

There are three big events many Hoosiers celebrate in May: Mother's Day, Memorial Day and of course the running of the 500. For our newsletter I would like to talk about Mother's Day and the women of MAUMC.

God Bless Our Mother's and the women of the church! As we all know they nurture us as children and they are the backbone of any church.

Women's groups have been instrumental in the creation of MAUMC with the start of a Bible study class at the home of Miss Clara Haucks' in 1889. Before Women's Rights and the privileges we know today, creation of Bible Studies and Charitable Organizations were the only way women could participate in the running of a church. On May 21, 1895 *The Women's Foreign Missionary Society* was created by Mrs. Baker and Mrs. Dan Davis for the women of the church. *

In the early 1900's the church entered an era of social service and evangelism. Several local missions were established, as well a Boy Scout Troup (in 1913) and the Senior and Junior Epworth Leagues (later known as MUYF). They even had an active drama club.



*Do you recognize any of these women or children? The picture was taken by Mr. Martin of Martin's Photography (1905-1976). No date was on the picture, please contact Debby if you know the date or anyone in the picture.

It was on Easter Sunday in 1913 when Terre Haute was hit by a devastating tornado, on Tuesday of that week the levee broke south of Maple Avenue and west of Center Street. The entire area flooded. Women's and men's group from the church organized food supplies, drugs and clothing for the people made homeless. The women developed classes for the small children and when people returned to their homes too soon and a typhoid epidemic broke out the women of the church helped distribute food and necessities to the area.

In an article from The Tribune Star, September 18, 1992 on the 100th Anniversary of MAUMC, Clarissa Petty, a church member, was interviewed. She talked about the May Day Breakfast that the church ladies did every year.

“At 4 o’clock in the morning you could see ladies pulling coaster wagons with coal oil stoves, skillets and cases of eggs, biscuit makings, bacon, coffee pots and so forth”. She further stated she had helped and “We served up 35 dozen fried eggs, coffee and good fellowship for 50 cents, as well as the pleasure of seeing our children in the Maypole Dance.”

In the 1920’s a Mother’s Club was formed and in the year 1939-1940 the Woman’s Society of Christian Services was created and the Wesleyan Service Guild was established for women that were employed.



** It is believed this is part of the Mother’s Club. No date was on the picture, possibly late 1940’s or early 1950’s. Please contact Debby if you know anyone in the picture or the date of the picture.

We have several very active Women’s Groups at MAUMC today. They include Circle 1 (Mary White, Chairperson), Rachel/Joy Circle (Naomi Summerlot, Chairperson), Mary/Martha Circle (Donna Royse, Chairperson) Crochet & Knitting Mission (Sue Muncie) as well as the Ladies that organize and run the Rummage Sales (Margaret Scott, Chairperson) and Christmas Bazaar (Marcia Myers, Chairperson). Several dedicated women (and a few men) are active in preparing meals for funerals and lend a helping to Arnie Karagis and the 12 Points Meals (the fourth Wednesday of each month).

Information taken from: The Women’s Foreign Missionary Society minutes 1895; Memoirs of a Church MAUMC 1969; Maple Centennial Celebration 1992 (written by Lois Nickel) and History of MAUMC (no date)