

## R-096

### The History of the Methodist Church in Campbellsport

Entered on computer by Sherrie Wittkopf, September, 2006

*This folder contains the following material on the history of the Methodist church in Campbellsport:*

- *a short page in Mr. Reese's handwriting*
- *an article by Mrs. Edw. Senn.*
- *A copy of a warranty deed*
- *A history written in 1959 by Mrs. Ray Hendricks, written on Mayville Methodist Church letterhead*

The Methodist Church of Campbellsport was established in December of 1862. Services were first held in the Old log Carter Schoolhouse just off the junction of Sunset Drive and county trunk V North. The Christian Yancy's hall was directly across the street from the present church. It was moved or razed sometime after 1875. The present church is on Lot 1 of Block-4 of the Original Campbells Plat. The church was erected in 1875 by the Committee at a Cost of 3,200. The land was donated by a Quit Claim Deed by Stuart Campbell the founder of the Village of Campbellsport.

The German Deutsche Bisch church which location is in the S ½ of the NW ¼ of Section 27 of the Town of Ashford. It was established in 1849 and was used until it was deeded back to the John Senn farm on September 7, 1871. They joined the Campbellsport Methodist Church at the time which is on the NW corner of Fond du Lac Avenue and Martin Street in Campbellsport. The Cemetery on the west side of the old church was cleaned up and recordings were made of the graves by the Fond du Lac Genealogical Society in 1978. From 1849 to 1866 the Church was a log structure.

#### METHODIST TO CELEBRATE 90<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY SOON Mrs. Edw. Senn

The Campbellsport Methodist church will be 90 years old in December 1952, having been established in December 1862. Services were first held in the old Carter schoolhouse, and later in a hall on North Fond du Lac Ave. across from the spot where the present church now stands.

According to the earliest historical record we have, The History of Fond du Lac County, Illustrated, which was published in 1880, the first building was erected in 1875 on this present site, at a cost of \$320.00. (*\$3,200. listed above*) The land was donated by Stuart Campbell, a member of the family after which the village was named. The deed and organization papers, however, were not recorded until May 10, 1881. The church was formally organized March 15, 1880, and the signers were J.N. McSchooler, W.L. Andrews, John B. Hughes, Fletcher Roscoel, W. S. Hendricks, Stuart Campbell, and John R. Denniston. The first pastor was Rev. McFarland, and the first trustees in 1862 were: J. N.

McSchooler, president; W.L. Andrews, William Dusenbury, Stuart Campbell, W. S. Hendricks, and M. Saemen.

The union Sabbath School began in 1882 at the Carter Schoolhouse the first choir was organized in 1865 by Israel Chesley; the Ladies Aid Society was started in the 1890's. The Epworth League was organized in 1904.

Early in the year 1904 it was decided to build a new church. The old church was sold at auction and the new church erected under the ministry of Rev. A. N. Henne. A parsonage was built in the 1890's, this was sold in 1920. The last pastor to occupy it being Rev. Ira Ellis and family, who served Campbellsport, Cotton St., Fond du Lac and North Fond du Lac for one year. From 1917 to 1931 the Campbellsport Church was served by supply pastors and from 1931 until 1947 it was part of the Oakfield, South Byron and Cambellsport charge, served by Rev. I. A. Mielenz, 1931 [*this paper said 1391*] -1937; Rev. A. E. Attwood, 1937-1940; Rev. W. P. Kramer, 1940 to September 1941 when he was called to his heavenly home; Rev. Lyle D. Stephenson served the charge from November 1941 until May 1947, Rev. Alvin Briggs from May until November 1947, Rev. L. M. Douglas from November 1947 to May 1948, Rev. E. T. Holland from June 1948 until June 1951 until the present time.

The roll call of pastors serving this church would include the following: McFarland, Knight, Jones, Stone, Nuss, Pengilly, Moulton, Henne, Harris, Cole, Corr, Reykdahl, Ellis, Gadreaa, Siedenspinner, Motz, Christie, Olson, Zoerb, Koeller, Mielenz, Attwood, Kramer, Stephenson Briggs, Douglas Holland and Winter. The roll call of faithful laymen without whom these pastors would have labored in vain is already entered in another book on whose pages the ink will never fade and no names ever be forgotten.

### **CAMPBELLSPORT METHODIST CHURCH**

Warranty Deed

Rec. May 16, 1881 @ 1:45 P.M. Vol. 92 of Deeds, page 449.

Deed was dated, March 15, 1880.

Grantors: Stuart Campbell & Julia M. Campbell, his wife.

Grantees: J. N. McSchooler, Wm. L. Andrews, John B. Hughes, Fletcher Roscoe, Wm. S. Hendricks, Stewart Campbell and John Denniston, Trustee of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Campbellsport, Fond du Lac County, State of Wisconsin.

Consideration: \$200.00

Recites: Lot No. 1 and East half of Lot No. 2 of Block 4 of the Village of Campbellsport, according to the Plat of said Village recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds of the County of Fond du Lac, State of Wisconsin.

In trust that said premises shall be used, kept, maintained, and disposed of as a place of divine worship for the use of the ministry and membership of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of America: Subject to the Discipline, usage and ministerial appointments of Said Churches as from time to time authorized and declared by the General Conference of Said Church, and the Annual Conference within whose bounds said premises are situated.

## HISTORY OF THE CAMPBELLSPORT METHODIST CHURCH

**(Written by Mrs. Ray Hendricks, in 1959)** [*written on stationary of The Methodist Church, Telephone 29, Furnace and Buchanan Streets, Mayville, Wisconsin, James R. Collins, Minister, 366 North Main Street, Telephone 14, and Miss Eva Steinhorst, Church Secretary, 313 Bridge Street, Telephone 575*]

The Campbellsport Methodist Church will be 97 years old in December 1959, having been established in December 1862. Services were first held in the old Carter Schoolhouse, and later in a hall on North Fond du Lac Avenue, across from the spot where the present church now stands.

According to the earliest historical record we have, the History of Fond du Lac County, Illustrated, which was published in 1880.

The first building was erected in 1875 on the present site at a cost of \$3,200.00 The land was donated by Stuart Campbell, a member of the family after which the village is named. The deed and organization papers however were not recorded until May 10, 1881. The church was formally organized March 15, 1880, and the signers were J. N. McSchooler, W.E. Andrews, John B. Hughes, W.S. Hendricks, Stuart Campbell, and John R. Denniston. The first pastor was Rev. McFarland, and the first trustee in 1882 was J. N. McSchooler, president, W. L. Dusenberry, Stuart Campbell, W. S. Hendricks and M. Saemen.

A Union Sunday School [*this is where Mrs Edw. Senn's information –above begins to differ, calling it a Sabbath School in 1882*] began in 1862 at the Carter Schoolhouse the first choir was organized in 1865 by Israel Chesley. The Ladies Aid Society started in the 1890's. The Epworth League was organized in 1904.

Early in the year 1904 it was decided to build a new church. The old church was sold at auction and the new church erected under the ministry of Rev. A. N. Henne, at a cost of \$3,129.72. A parsonage was built in the 1890's. This was sold in 1920. The last pastor to occupy it being Rev. Ira Ellis and family, who served Campbellsport, Cotton Street Fond du Lac and North Fond du Lac for one year. From 1917 – 1924 the church was supplied by Rev. James E. Garrett, from 1924-1926 by Rev. C. A. Seidenspinner, 1926-1927 by Rev. Perry Olson, 1927-1928 by Rev. F. Zoerb, 1928-1931 by J. P. Koeller [*?spelling*].

From 1931-1947 it was part of the Oakfield, South Byron and Campbellsport charge, served by Rev. Irving A. Mielenz, 1931-1937, Rev. A. N. Attwood, from 1937-1940, Rev. A. P. Kramer from 1940-1941, when he was called suddenly to his heavenly home. Rev. Lyle Stephenson from 1941-1947, Rev. Alvin Briggs from May to Nov. 1947. Since November 1947 until the present time it is a part of Mayville and Campbellsport charge, served by Rev. L. M. Douglass from Nov. 1947-1948. Rev E.T. Holland from 1948-1951. Rev. K.R. Winters 1951-1953. R.B. Weirer from 1953-1955. Rev. Arthur M. North 1956-1958. Rev. James R. Collins the present pastor since October 1958 to the present time. May -1968. (Note: Nov. 1958-June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1960. J. R. Collins.) Rev. Clifford and Olsen-May 1968-1975. The roll call of the Pastors serving this church would include the following:

Rev. McFarland, M.K. Knight, R.N. Jones, Stone, A.N. Nuss, Pingilly, Moulton, A.N. Henne, Harris, J.B. Cole, W.J. Corr, T.J. Reykdal, Ira Ellis, J.E. Garrett, C.A. Seidenspinner, I. Metz, Perry Olson, F.C. Zoerb, J.P. Koeller, I.A. Mielenz, A.N. Attwood, W.P. Kraemer, Lyle Stephenson, Alvin Briggs, L.M. Douglas, E.T. Holland, Kenneth R. Winter, R.B. Weirer, Arthur M. North, James R. Collins. The roll call of faithful laymen without whom

these pastors would have labored in vain is already entered in another book on whose pages the ink will never fade and no names ever forgotten.

On Sunday, October 20, 1929, more than 200 persons including many former parishioners attended a homecoming and Silver Jubilee held in celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the erection of the present Methodist Church. Services were held in the *moring* [morning], afternoon, and evening. Dinner and supper were served in the church dining room. Several former pastors were present and had part in the services, including Rev. T.J. Reykdal of Neenah, Rev. and Mrs. C.A. Seidenspinner of Oconomowoc, the Rev. M.F. Knight of Idaho who had served the congregation 47 years ago, The Rev. and Mrs. R.N. Jones of Sharon, Rev. and Mrs. J. Walker of Greenbush, Rev. and Mrs. Chook of Oakfield, Rev. and Mrs. Isaac Johnson of Fond du Lac, Dr. and Mrs. J.P. Leek of Green Bay, a former Dist. Supt. The speakers of the day were: the Rev. Messrs Jones, Zoerb, Johnson, Seidenspinner, Leek, Knight and Reykdal.

On Sunday, December 16, 1945 for the first time in the history of the church a Bishop, Schuyler Garth visited this church and preached the sermon.

On November 4<sup>th</sup>, 1954 the Fiftieth Anniversary of the erection of the present church building was observed, A banquet was held in the social rooms of the church with over 70 [?] pastors, friends, and former members of the church present. Mr. Ray Hendricks was the toastmaster.

A service in the auditorium followed at 8:00 o'clock. Bishop Clifford Northcott gave the principal address of the evening, being introduced by Dist. Supt. Alvin Lindgren. The Mayville choir rendered an anthem and a solo by Mrs. G. Stellmacher, "Bless This House". A social time followed in the League room. Punch and cookies were served.

Four former pastors, Rev. J.P. Koeller of Oshkosh, Rev. A.E. Attwood of Melrose, Rev. and Mrs. Mielenz of Fall River, Rev. and Mrs. K. Winter of Cisco, Ill. were present. Messages and telegrams from Rev. Seidenspinner, Rev. Reykdal, Rev. Olson, Rev. Briggs, Rev. Holland, and Rev. Stephenson were read.

#### Improvements

In 1937 new Hymnals were donated to the church.

In Jan. 1948 a new altar and fixtures were dedicated in memory of Mrs. Minnie Trentlage. A new roof was put on the church.

In the fall of 1950 new cupboards and a new sink were installed in the kitchen and city water and sewage connected.

In 1954 a new oil burner furnace was [as] installed, also two rest rooms. The basement walls and floors were painted, also the auditorium was redecorated.

Landscaping the church property by planting trees and shrubbery [*shrubbery*] was done in 1955.

Some of these improvements were made possible by legacys and Memorial gifts.

(Copy of this History, May 30, 1960, J.R. Collins.)