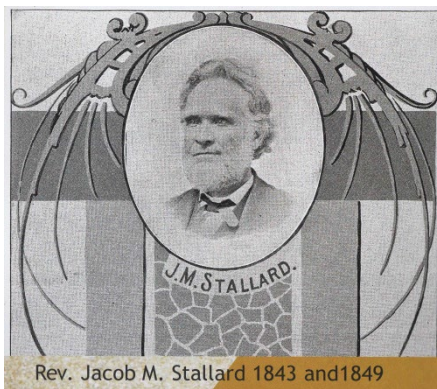


“Brookston United Methodist Church History”

Before the first churches were built, itinerant ministers of the Gospel, called “Circuit Riders” made the rounds on horseback in Townships and preached to small gatherings of the faithful in every settlement. Among these were Adam Best and Aaron Yarnell, both Methodist clergymen. ¹

The honor of being the religious pioneers of Brookston, IN is accorded to the Methodists, who held their first services at the house of J. C. Moore, the farmer, builder, and inventor, probably about 1840. The meeting house was near the residence which he built later, after Brookston was platted.

In 1844 the Methodists erected their first church building known as “The Prairie Church”¹. It was a little frame building, 36 by 42 feet, and was located about two miles southwest of Brookston, near the Tippecanoe county line. The Reverend Mr. Stallard was the first minister to hold services in it.

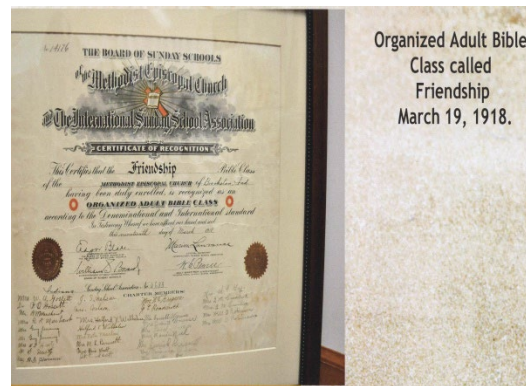


Rev J. M. Stallard-First Pastor of The Methodist Church built in Prairie Township, White County, Indiana.

With the founding and growth of the Town of Brookston it became evident that the center of the Methodist activities should be there, and the first church of 1866 was therefore erected at that place.



Located at 4th and Wood Streets



Methodist Episcopal Church issued.

SERVICE

During the first 150 years of community service to the Brookston area, eighty-one ministers were stationed at this charge. The Brookston congregation shared, at various times, its pastoral services with Pine Grove, Chalmers, Idaville, Camden, Buck Creek, Mt. Zion (Tippecanoe County) and Reynolds churches.

Brookston Methodist Women's Groups

The women of the Methodist Church began their services as far back as 1844 where a "class" decided to become the Prairie Methodist Church.

After the church move to Brookston in 1866, the women's group was delighted with the possibilities of reaching out and, as the saying goes, touch someone.

In 1878 they formed the Women's Foreign Missionary Society and in 1890 the Women's Home Missionary Society was formed. At that time meetings were held in the homes. The two societies were commonly known as Ladies Aid. They formed the social arm of the church that reaches to anyone who needed help. In September, 1940, the group was formally organized into the Women's Society of Christian Service (W.S.C.S)



The ladies cooked meals, helped the less fortunate, supported various homes for children and shut-ins, and local schools; purchased items for our church and those in need.



In 1968, the organization name was changed to the Women's Society of Christian Service and the Wesleyan Service Guild Auxiliary for the Methodist Church.

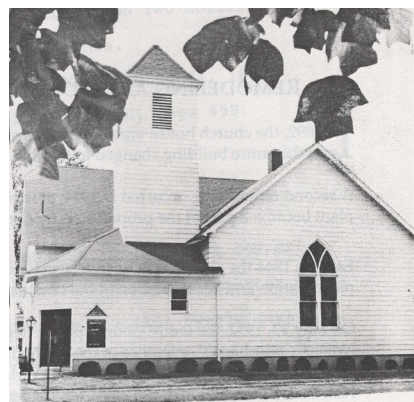
In 1972, the Methodist Church merged with the United Brethren Church and the ladies name changed to the United Methodist Women (UMW).

The organization has been maintained since, Rev. E. O. Chivington being the pastor both of the Methodist Church at Brookston and at Chalmers.²

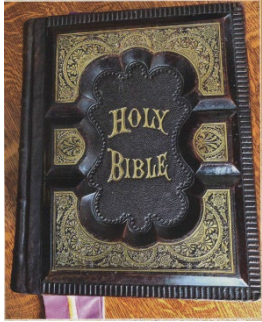
In 1892, the church house underwent extensive remodeling, classrooms were added, and the entire building changed to face the west. Early in 1944 further structural improvements were made and 1952 a redecoration of the sanctuary and adjacent rooms were completed.¹



1978 after renovation



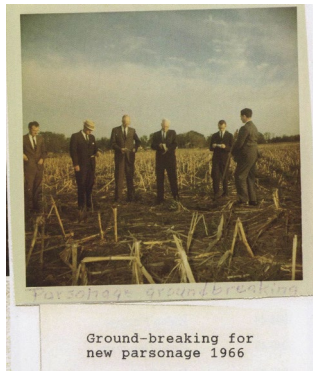
On May 13, 1952, the entire Church properties came under the ownership of the Northwest Indiana Conference of the Methodist Church.



This donated Bible was published in 1885 and is located under a protective fiberglass cover in the Narthex. The ribbons were originally in the last readings taken by Mr. and Mrs. Street; purple ribbon Job Chapter 32, white ribbon in Hebrews Chapter 8. Weekly, a church designated servant rubs the leather binder with their hands to lubricate the leather.

Looking to the Future

In 1962 a building committee was formed and decided to relocate the parsonage. In 1966, land for a new parsonage was purchased, along with 6.33 acres along State Road 18 West, adjacent to the cemetery. Later 4.33 acres was returned to I.O.O.F cemetery, keeping 2 acres with the proposed parsonage. A new parsonage was constructed and the old parsonage was converted into church school classrooms.



Ground-breaking for
new parsonage 1966



Church parsonage
1972

Nursery School

In 1979 a nursery school was started and housed in the old parsonage. Families were struggling financially during the 1980s, and the women's groups again offered scholarship funds for the community's boys and girls needing the care and instruction.

In 1984, a committee was formed and recommended:

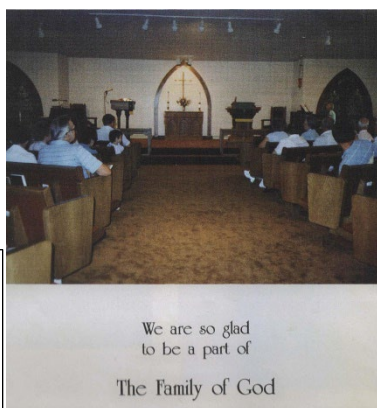
1. building a new sanctuary
2. converting the old sanctuary into a fellowship hall with full kitchen
3. remodel or build a new education building.

In the same year, a new sanctuary was constructed and connected to the existing church.



Construction of the new Sanctuary 1985

July 21, 1985, congregation has moved into the new Sanctuary.



We are so glad
to be a part of
The Family of God

The home to the north of the new Sanctuary was purchased by the church, to address the property line setback, which required at least 20 feet. According to Charles Roth, Ken Moore was given rights to occupy the home, until the need for him to vacate the property. Since his dining room window looked directly on the construction site, Mr. Moore kept a close eye on the contractor's progress. Members considered him a valuable (unofficial) Superintendent of the build.

In 1986, the old sanctuary was converted into a fellowship hall with a new kitchen for the church.



Left: UMW making apple pies in the new kitchen to sell at the annual Brookston Apple Popcorn Festival.

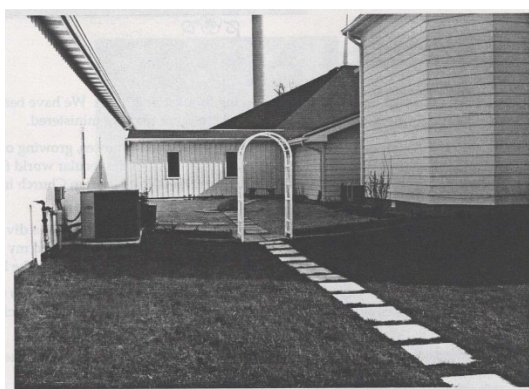
Right: sharing a meal in the new Fellowship Hall



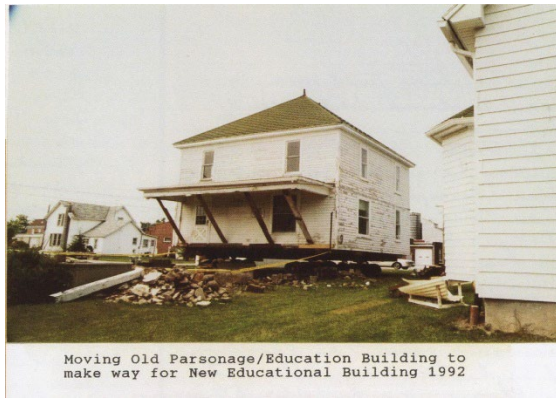
In 1992, a building committee decided to build a new education building on the site of the old parsonage/education building.³



The new education wing with offices and library.



Hallway to new classrooms, Library, and offices. Memory Garden beyond archway.



The old building was sold and moved across the alley. (First home behind MOC)

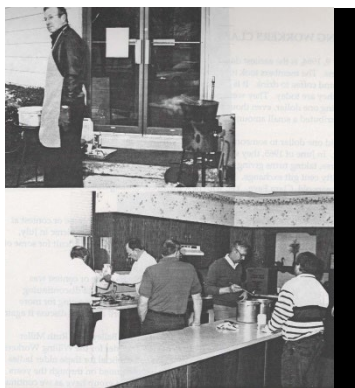
Brookston United Methodist Men (BUMMS)

The Brookston United Methodist Men, as they knew it, wasn't in existence in the early days of the church. During the 1950s and early 1960s, a man by the name of Pat Halstead persuaded Piggy Lambert, Purdue University, to speak at several men's meetings. Breakfast meetings were frequently held when Donald Stillwell, Donald Bowman and Steve Burris were pastoring the charge. One of the speakers during this time was a young man from their own church, David Logan, who had recently returned from Vietnam. In addition they hosted a group of 40 men from local churches. A program was presented in relation to the desirability of a public park for the children and families of Brookston. At this meeting, mind-seeds were planted in which about 30 years later came into fulfillment.

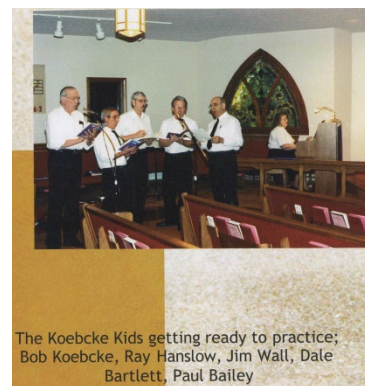
Over the years the Methodist Men served the church in many ways, by assisting other community churches, working on church camps, Children's Homes and their own facilities. At times some unselfishly helped build churches in foreign lands.

When the men's group reorganized they adopted a new name, BUMMS, taken from Brookston United Methodist Men's Society. The group worked on redoing the church basement, helped on three building and remodeling projects, as well as painting and repair of the parsonage, along with many other projects. They also worked on scholarship funds, held regular meetings, and provided support to various programs of the church and the Boy Scouts. Their dedication was for one purpose alone which was Bringing Men to Christ. (This article is a summary presented by Paul Bailey during 1990s)

BUMMS prepare breakfast and grill delicious food for their fellow members. They were enjoyed by many when they entertained the congregation with special music. ⁴



BUMMS at their best, whether feeding the flock or entertaining them.

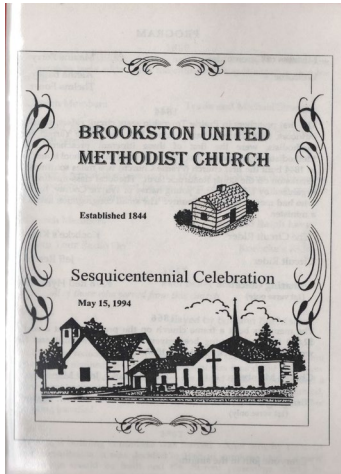


The Koebeke Kids getting ready to practice;
Bob Koebeke, Ray Hanslow, Jim Wall, Dale
Bartlett, Paul Bailey

1985 the men and women teamed up to serve at the Farm Progress Show. It was a very large event for our community and an opportunity to raise funds for our church and areas of need. ⁴



Serving at the 1985 Farm Progress Show.



1844 - 1994



Darla, Luke, & Jesse Mansfield



Ralph & Sue Levy



4

During the Sesquicentennial celebrations, many members enjoyed entertaining the congregation by performing skits about the early years of the church.



Pastor Jan Dimmick and director Barbara Gagnon were awarded a \$500 grant from the White County REMC for BASE.

In 2002 Brookston after School Experiences (BASE) offered help with homework, treats, and activities for children from Frontier Elementary. Along with BASE, many pre-elementary age children attended our church's Bright Beginnings preschool.



Bright Beginnings Program
Preschool age children received instructions to prepare for Kindergarten; along with helping each of them grow in the understanding of Jesus Christ's redeeming love. Instilling in them that as children of God and members of our Christian community they will grow in faith and love for others.



Methodist Outreach Center (MOC)
4TH and South Streets

In 2010, the above building was purchased and gifted to the church. The building was later remodeled and named the Methodist Outreach Center. It was used for various purposes, including The Boy Scouts of America.

As our church began to recognize local families and individuals dealing with food insecurities, a Food Pantry was founded. In February 2017, with the assistance of Linda Roy and our community, the Brookston United Methodist began meeting this need of so many.

Each day that passes is another day of our history. With the Lord's blessings on our church and community may we continue to do God's Will.

¹ Brookston Indiana Centennial Book ² ingenweb.org/inwhite/history/chxxviii.htm ³ The Life and Times of the United Methodist Church, Vol 1; ⁴ Albums 1967-2014