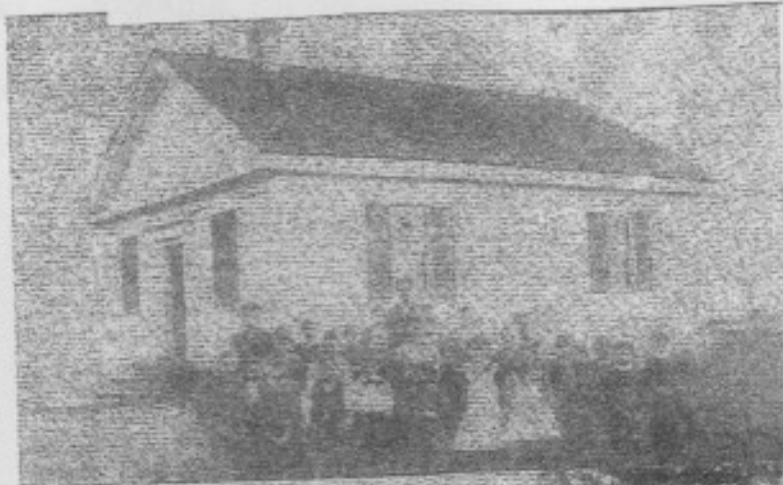


AU SABLE GROVE

Presbyterian Church



170 Years

1848



2018

FEB.

25th

2018

AU SABLE GROVE
Presbyterian Church

AU SABLE GROVE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
YORKVILLE, IL.
1848-2018



Diana Hester

Au Sable Grove Church.....170th Anniversary

February 25, 2018

February 26th, 1848 is the day that our church; then called the Congregational Church, was formed. It consisted of Rev. Daniel Chapman, Mr. & Mrs. A.K. Wheeler, Mr. & Mrs. Noble Graves, Mr. and Mrs. Rollin Wheeler and Dr. & Mrs. Townsend Seely and son, Edmund.

Since there were no other churches in the area at that time, the Seely family held services in their log cabin home near here. Rev. Chapman was the minister from Plainfield. He preached every other Sunday at the newly formed church, as he also had a church in Plainfield. The house soon got too crowded in bad weather so they moved into the Union School House. It was located about one-half mile West of the church's current location.

The original Au Sable Grove Church was built by local farmers and others in 1848 and has been rebuilt, added on and remodeled over the years to make it what it is today.

We have had over 50 pastors in this time. The love, kindness, sharing and working together have been rewarding points for many years. Potluck dinners and ice cream socials were very popular in the past. Today, we still have group gatherings, social events and money making events to help assist others.

In the past 20 years many things have happened since our last brief history report.

Some are:

In 2004 we were so fortunate to receive Commissioned Lay Pastor - Pastor Patrick Demerath....He was full of life, fun, loving, informative and just pleasant to be around. He was a very talented musician who brought music to the congregation. He played the saxophone many times during church with his daughters and encouraged everyone to play or sing their specialty for the enjoyment of all.

After sharing more than 10 years of service with us, he passed away peacefully on April 24th, 2014 at his home. This was so sad to everyone. He is still greatly missed. Patrick left behind many - many friends with very good memories.

We are blessed to have Rev. Betty Weidert and Pastor Laurie Walker preaching our Sunday Services bi-weekly until a Lay Minister can be found. Our children are growing in numbers and so is our membership. Several weeks we have passed the 100 mark in attendance. We are very fortunate to have these two wonderful ladies guiding us with our spiritual and personal needs.

We have had many improvements in the past twenty years, because of very nice gifts left to the church, other donations and hard work by our members.

An elevator was added to help those who cannot maneuver the stairs very well and to assist those carrying heavy loads down to the Sunday School rooms.

The big old furnace was replaced including new thermostats in every room.

A little porch area by the back parking lot door was constructed with new steps and a roof for an easy entry in bad weather.

New chairs were purchased in Fellowship Hall from a donation specifically left for padded warm seats to replace the cold metal ones.

The bathrooms have all been beautifully remodeled during the past few years also from a donation left to the church.

The kitchen was remodeled in 2016 with new counters, sinks, stainless steel worktable, 2 new stoves and 2 new refrigerators.

New CO2 and Carbon Monoxide detectors were installed in the manse. We also remodeled the laundry and bathroom and removed the chimney. All fixtures and flooring were replaced. The walls were insulated and pipes replaced and moved to inside walls. No improvements had been made in the manse for about 30 years.

We have held a fall Heifer Hay Day event in October, with Heather Westphall coordinating it for the past 10 years.

Patti Schobert started a parking lot garage sale a few years ago in the fall.

We have also held a few Christmas Bazaars, with Linda Fitzgerald and Marcia Karol directing these.

Volunteers of all ages have donated and helped work at these events and others. They have helped us greatly in our mission and local work, while having fun.

The little church that was built by local farmers and friends, back in 1848 is a pretty good size country church today. We are very proud of this church that many of our ancestors started and dreamed of. We have come a long way and need to keep going for all to enjoy. These progress reports prove the warm Sunday Services, and all the group activities are very important for the success of our church!

Taken from old records on the history of our church....Karol I. Bundv

Current Positions in the church:

Ministers:

Rev. Betty Weidert
Pastor Laurie Walker

Sessions:

Donna Beitel
Dave Stewart
Jessica Anderson
Lynn Dubajic
Linda Fitzgerald
Marcia Karol

Trustees:

Linda Wissmiller
Jack Westphall
Kurt Schobert
Mark Schobert
Dan Alltop
Doug Fitzgerald

Nominating Committee:

Jessica Anderson
Donna Beitel
Mark Schobert
Francine Konow
Dean Bundy
Dan Alltop
Pat Demerath

Personnel Committee:

Lynn Dubajic
Dave Stewart
Dan Alltop
Claire Wilson

Farm Committee:

Dave Stewart
Kurt Schobert
Judy Sleezer

Offices:

Treasurer
Financial Secretary
Asst. Financial Secretary
Christian Ed Superintendent
Pianist
Sexton

Jean Alaniz
Laura Schobert
Sheryl Franzen
Karol Bundy
Carole Griesinger
Linda Wissmiller