

Building For God

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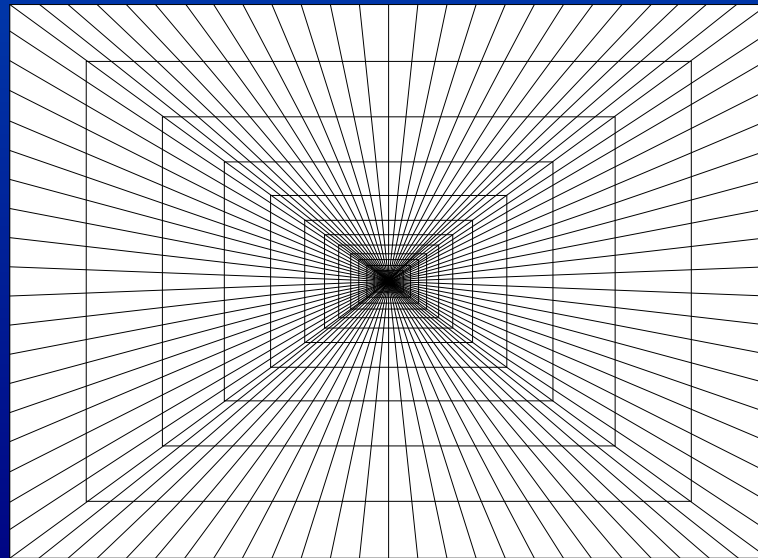
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BUILDING FOR GOD

A PICTORIAL REVIEW OF BUILDING AND REMODELING AT GENEVA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OVER THE YEARS



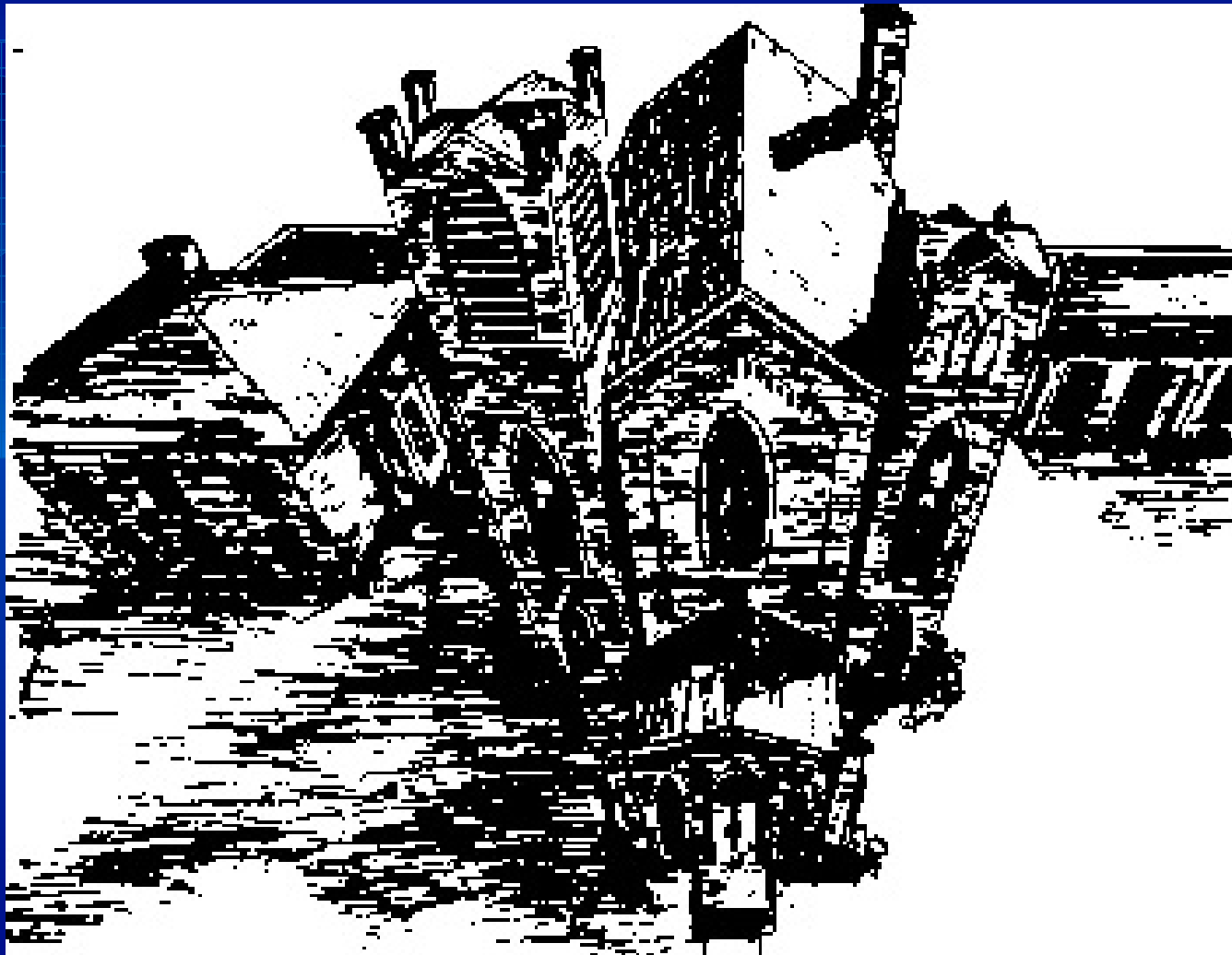


Disclaimer

This slideshow covers multiple decades, and is meant to be a chronological look at the Geneva United Methodist Church's building and remodeling projects.

Since we did not want to destroy the historical significance of the events depicted, we have made no attempt to update names, employee positions, etc. when adding later building/remodeling projects to this slideshow.

This slideshow is updated periodically. You can download the latest version from our Website at any time.



An aerial drawing by George Spencer,
showing the old Office Building



Geneva First United Methodist Church

From Past to Present

Drawings and Pictures Provided
By The History and Archives
Department, as well as by
individuals who took
“in progress” photos.

The first sermon by a Methodist “circuit riding preacher” was in 1816.

The first Methodist class was formed on the South Ridge, another class was formed in 1823 at the little hamlet of North Center.

In 1832, the two classes joined and the first church was built .





Geneva's original Methodist Church stood on the N/W corner of Park Street and S. Broadway. Although there are no pictures available of that structure, we do know it was dedicated on February 8, 1833. One Hundred years later, that corner took on a new use.

This church was the first home of the North Center Methodist Church.



In the early North Center Church, there were two doors and three windows in front.

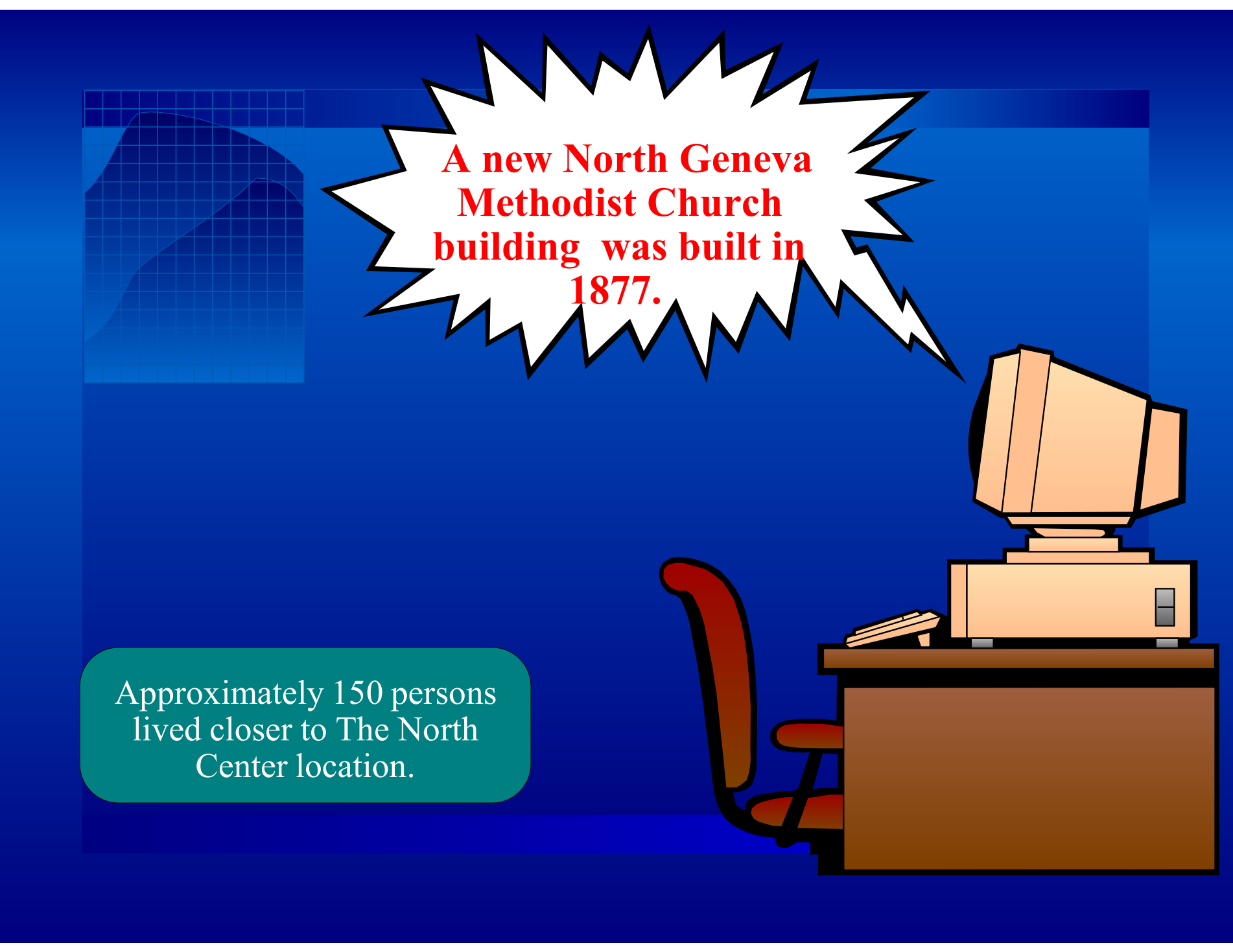
One door was used by the male portion of the congregation...

...the other by the female portion.

There was no opportunity to pass from one aisle to the other, except in front of the altar.

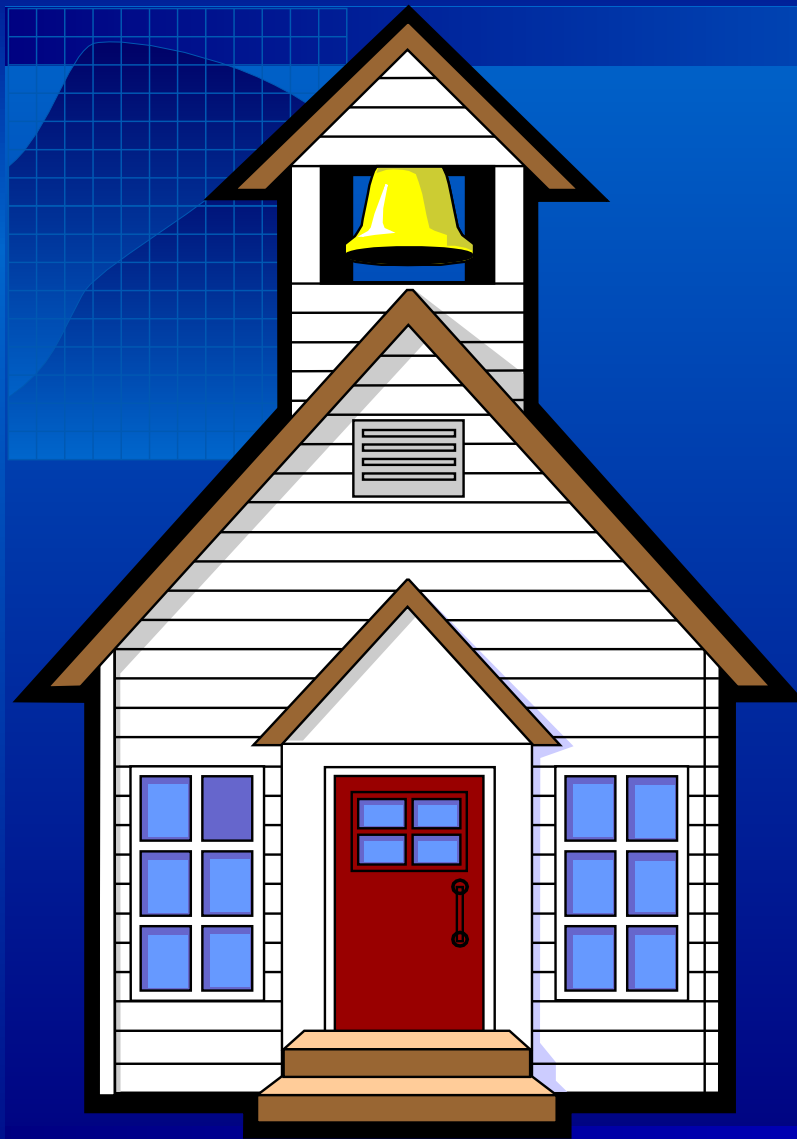
c. 1877, the church was
moved to the spot
where Park Street
Christian Church now
stands.





**A new North Geneva
Methodist Church
building was built in
1877.**

Approximately 150 persons
lived closer to The North
Center location.



The church stood
near the N/W corner
of Rt. 534 and
Maple Ave.

**We have no
pictures or
drawings of it.**





That's true...

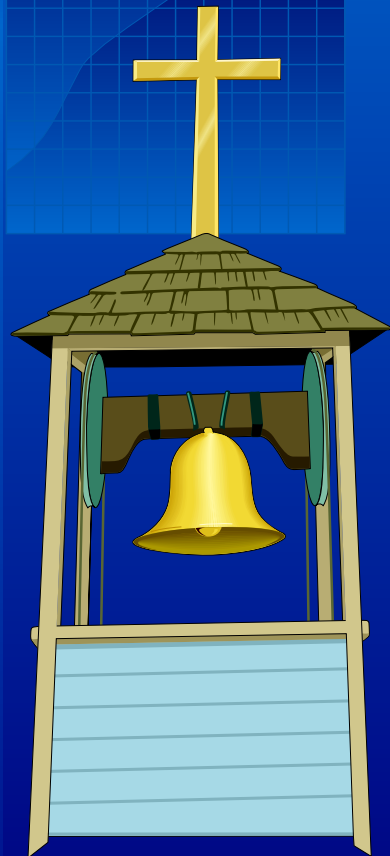
**...but part of it was
preserved...**

The bell from the old North Geneva Methodist Church now stands on our South lawn.

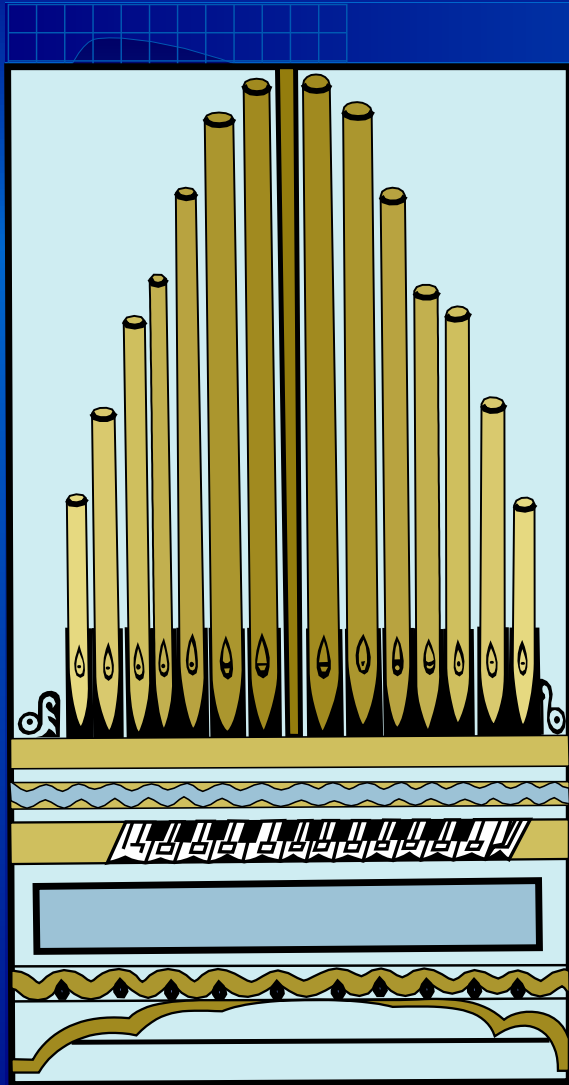


According to the March 30, 1956 Geneva Free Press, it was moved here in 1937 when the last members transferred to our church.

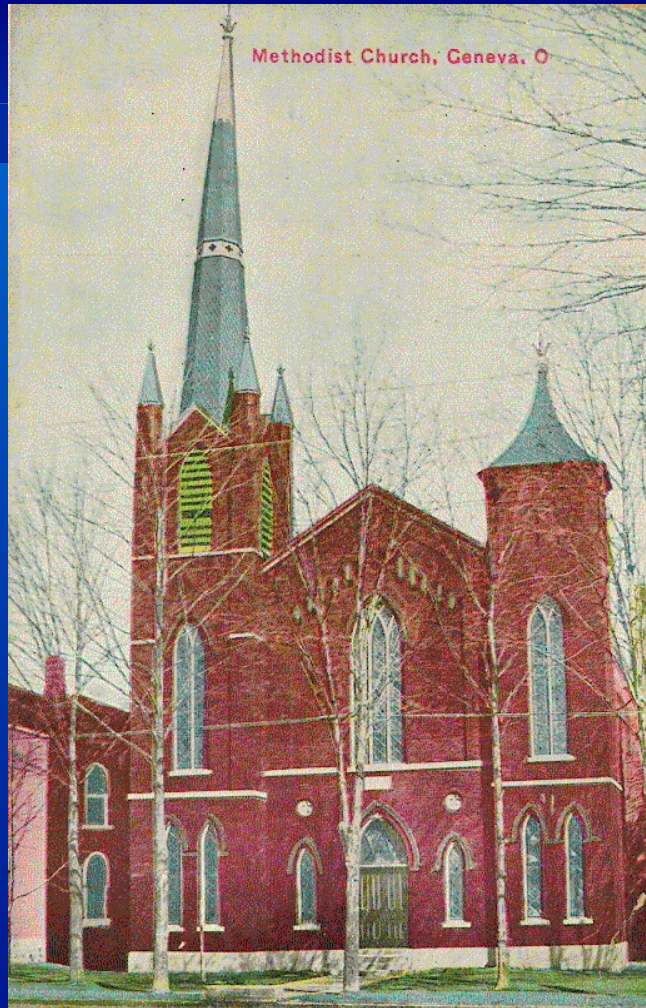
A new 1500 lb. bell
was hung in the current
building on
January 12, 1867.



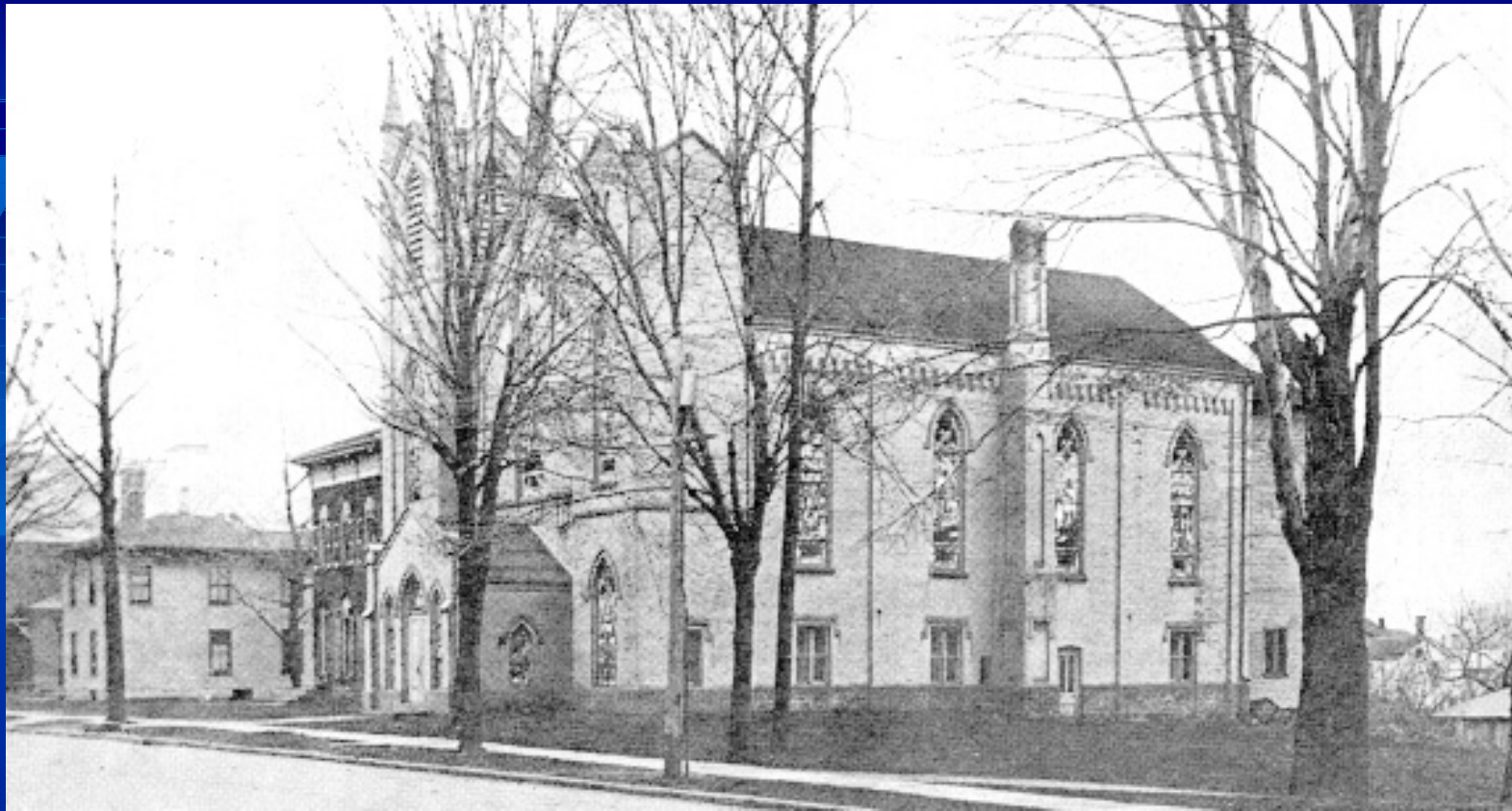
According to the March 15, 1964
“Commemorative Gifts” booklet,
the prior bell had caused a
problem because it sounded like
the Baptist bell (now the United
Church.)



Extensive remodeling of the church took place in 1886; and a new organ was purchased and dedicated in December, 1886. It was replaced in the remodeling of the early 1960's.



1900 - From an old post card, currently in History and Archives. This building was dedicated April 2, 1867 and had a 114' spire; and the front door opened directly into the Narthex.



The Parish House had been built in 1877. c. 1932 - there was no Annex (Fellowship Hall), and the front stoop had not yet been added to the Parish House. Sometime prior to this, the church had been painted white.



1933 - A new Post Office rises
across the street where the original church
stood.



1933 - The new Post Office foundation goes in. Note that there is no stoop on the parish house, and the driveway was between the house and the church.



Early 1950's - Church Front - note the wood garage at rear of Parish House. Also, the stoop is now on the Parish House, and the driveway has been moved to the north side of the parish house.



1950's - Children gather at
the front stoop of the Parish
House



In the late 1940's or very early 1950's, the exterior brick on the church was painted white, again.



Early 1950's - Another View of the
Church Front, Parish House and Annex

Parish
House
1952



Teenagers clean and paint to use for
Youth Fellowship

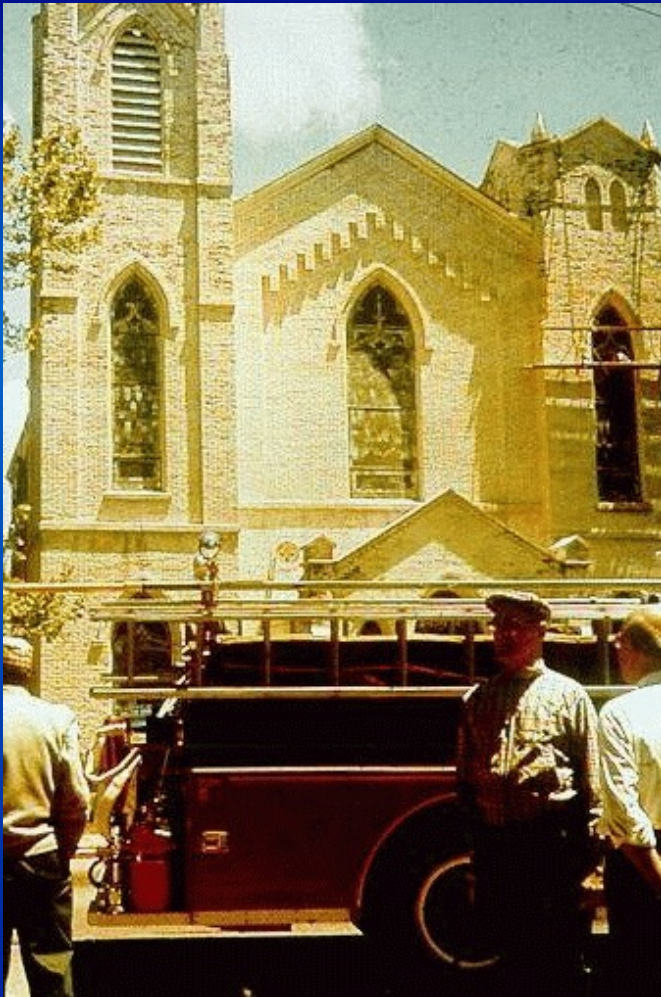


September, 1958 -
painters' scaffolding
shrouded Sunday
morning worship.

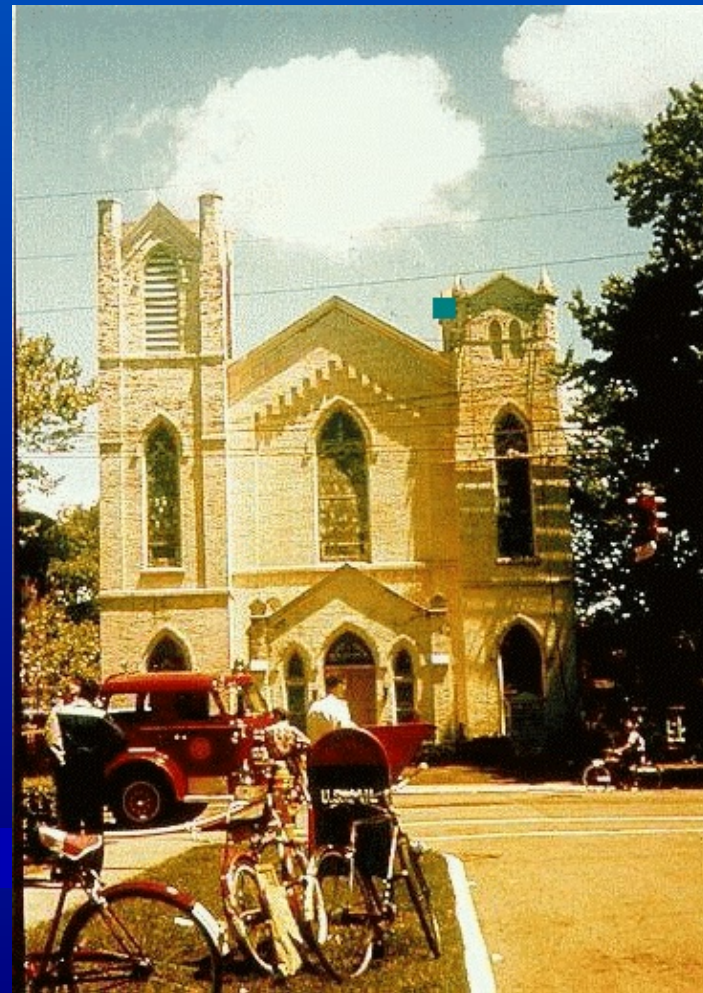


The white paint was sand-blasted off in the late 1950's, and the brick was re-pointed.

One result of the sand-blasting was a small fire in the roof ...

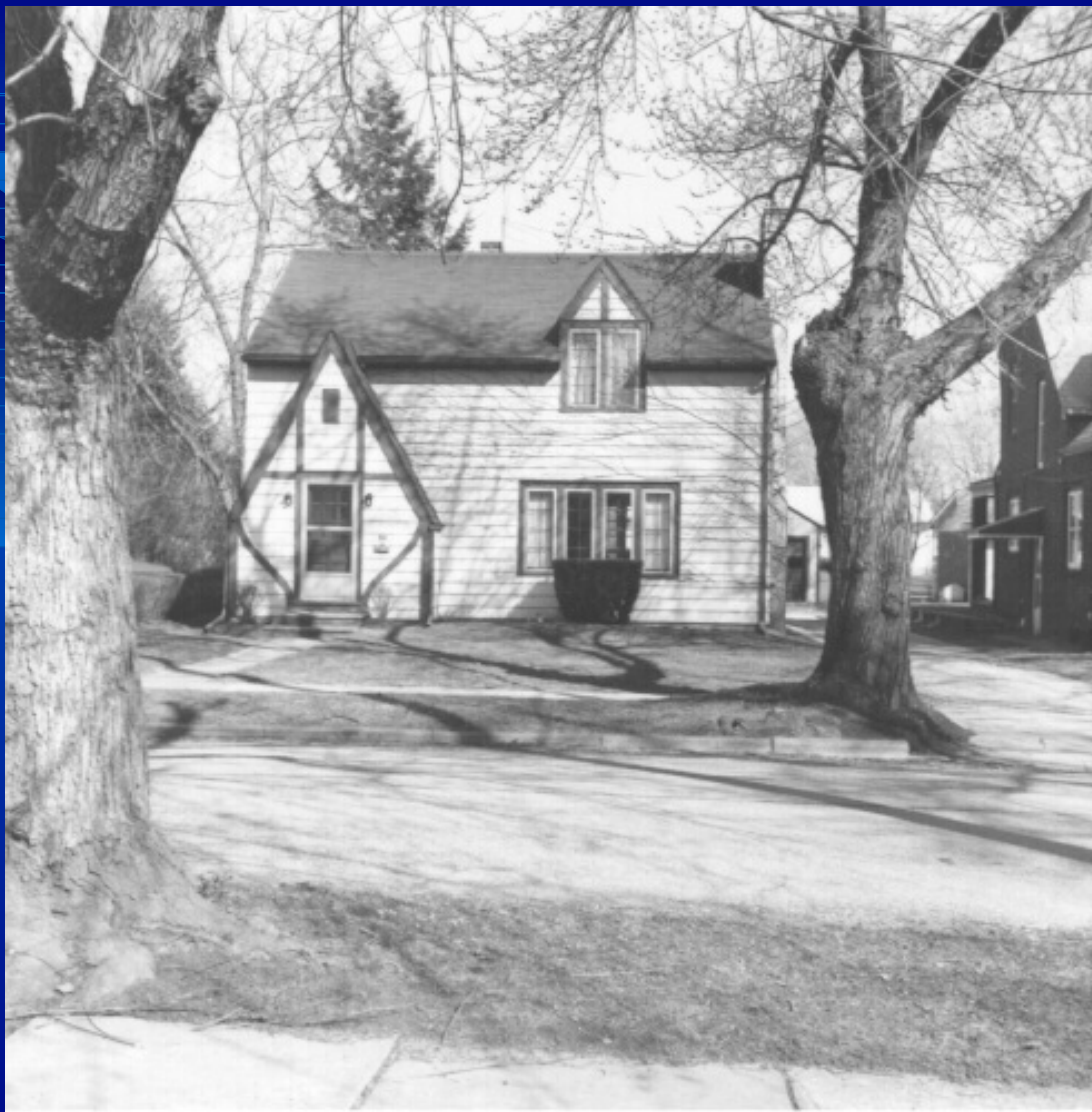


... which was quickly extinguished as passersby watched.





1959 - WOW! Look at the number of
MEN in the choir!! There were 980
church members at the time.



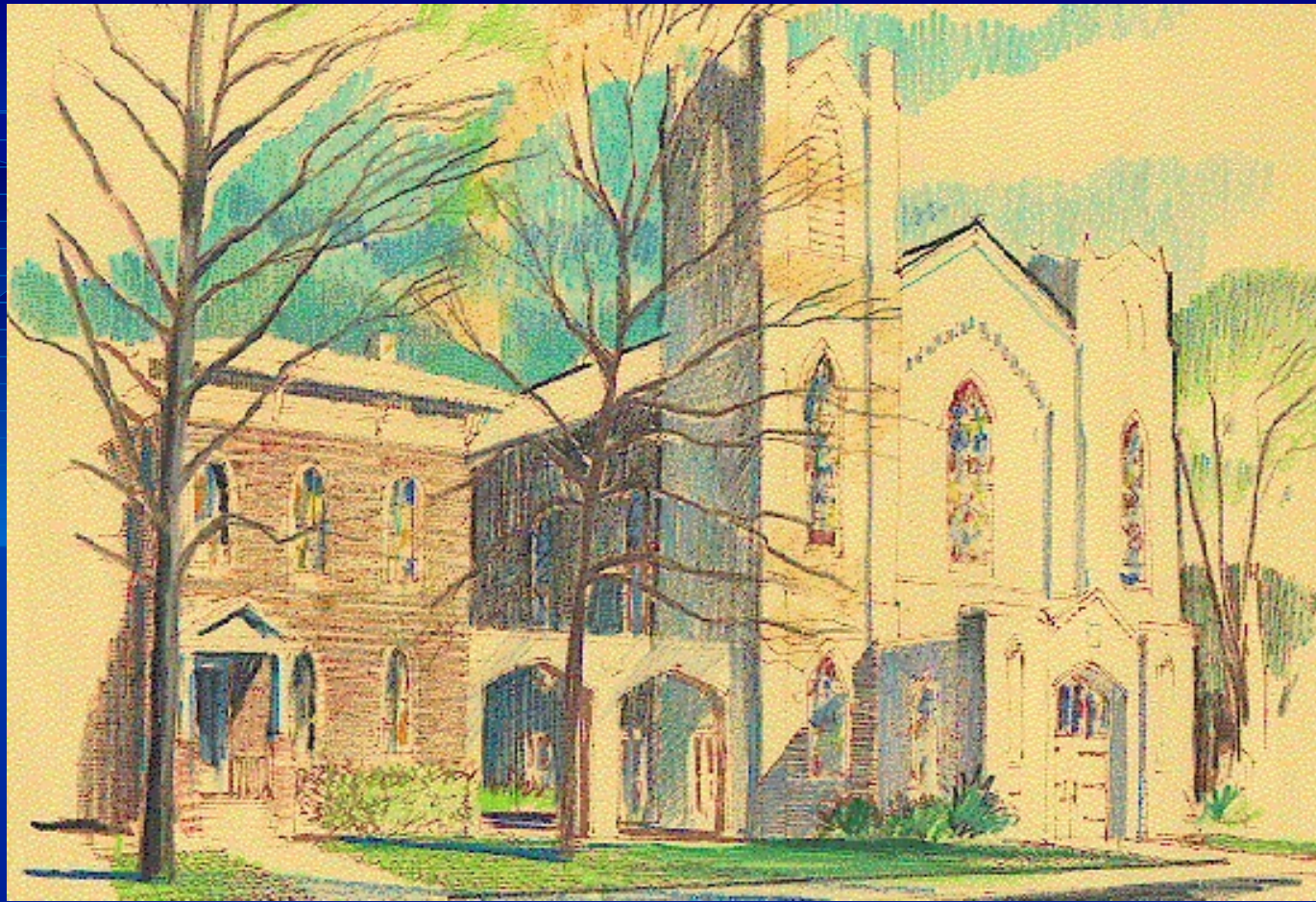
1960 - The Old Parsonage on
Cummings Avenue



c. early 1960's

The Annex was added in 1932.

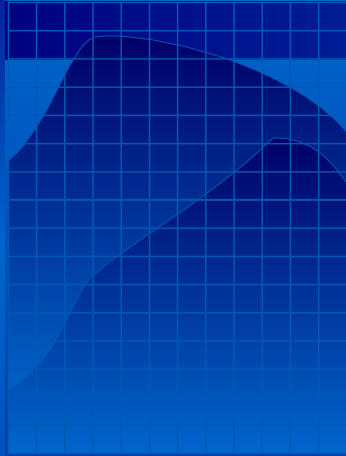
It was renamed "Fellowship Hall" in the 1990's.



1960 - Original Architect's Water Color for
Remodeling the Church - the Arches were
never built.
(Showing Entry to Old Parish House)



The 1960 Architect's drawing included an additional stairway from the North entrance to the third floor of the Parish House. It was never added.

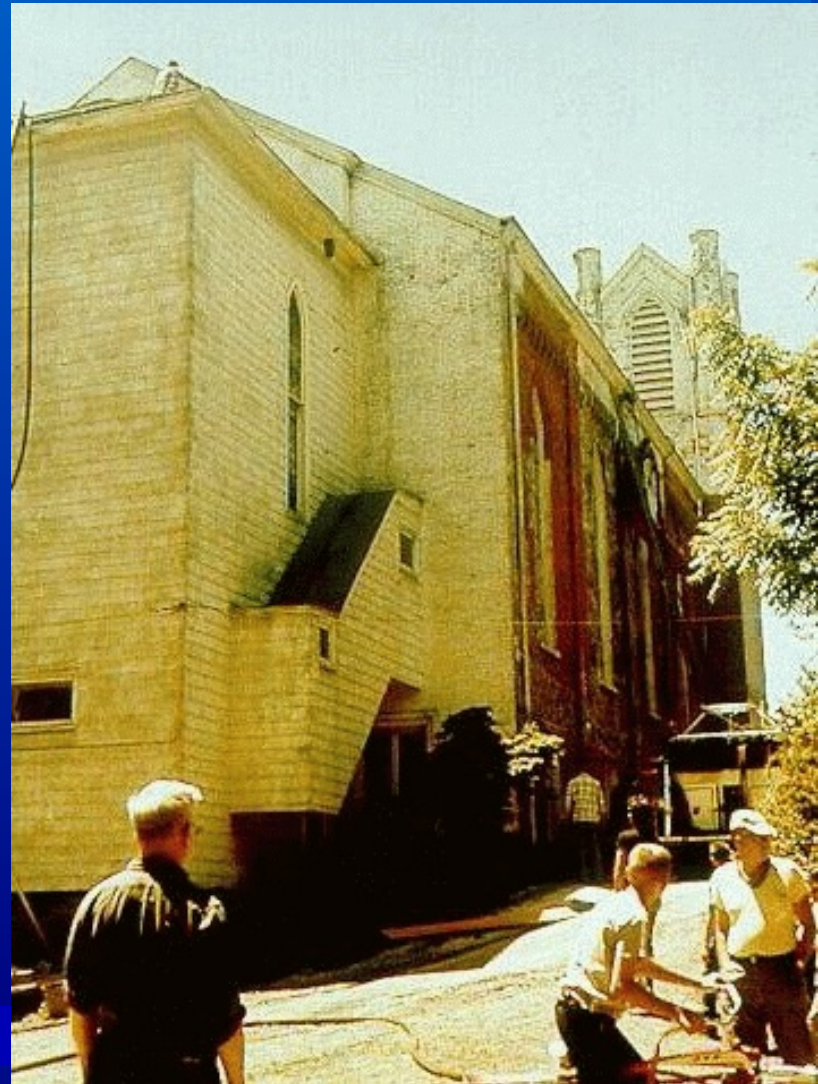


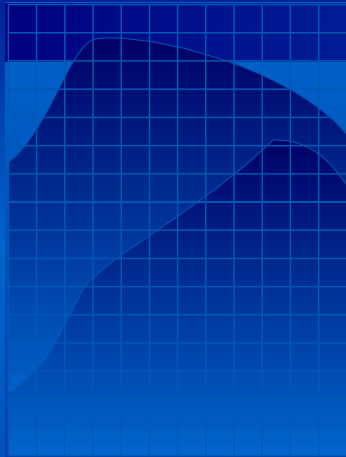
When the early 1960's remodeling was in the planning stages, consideration was given to tearing down the Parish House.

The architect at the time estimated a remaining useful life at 35 years.

1996 - Well, we got a couple extra years out of it, but what a prophecy!

1962 - An old wooden structure was removed from the back of the church to begin construction of the new education wing.





The current chancel area occupies this space today. Notice the stairway? The door to the stairway exited approximately where the right side of the organ console now sits. This is where the choir entered the chancel.

The top portion
housed the organ
pipes.

The small room on
the left on the bottom
portion housed the
organ blower ...



...the room on the
right, the choir robes,
music, etc.

Down it comes ...

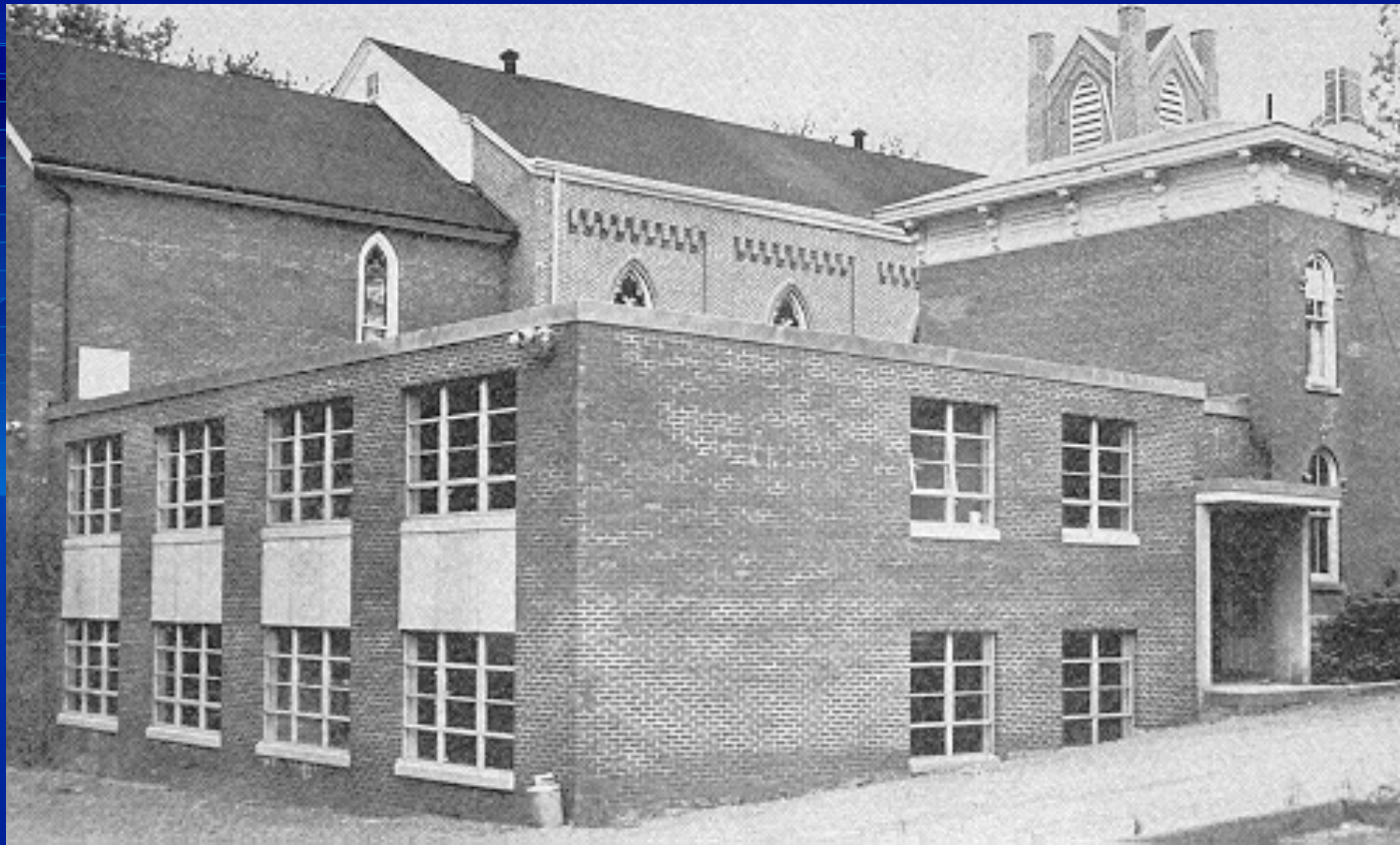




Up goes the new
education wing.

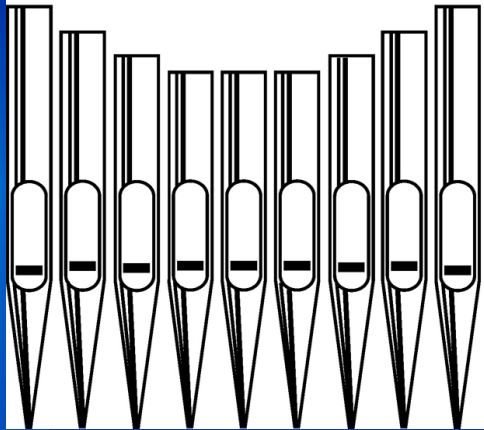


The new North door goes in ...



1964 - The new education wing is complete, with classrooms on the ground floor, and Parlor, Choir rooms, and Chapel above.

PIPING



As part of the remodeling of 1964, a new pipe organ was installed. The new Schantz organ was built by the Schantz Organ Company of Orrville, Ohio.

The new organ, comprised of 21 ranks with three divisions (Great, Swell, Pedal) is one of the finest pipe organs in this area of Ohio. Cathedral Chimes were donated in 1974 by Clarence “Curly” Carter in memory of his wife, Jean Ann Carter. They were located inside the pipe chamber.

In 2005, the chimes were replaced by the Carter family in memory of both Jean and “Curly”. The new chimes were mounted in an exposed position in the chancel, and the Carter family requested that the former chimes be donated to any Western Reserve District UMC which can and will use them.



The new exposed chimes.

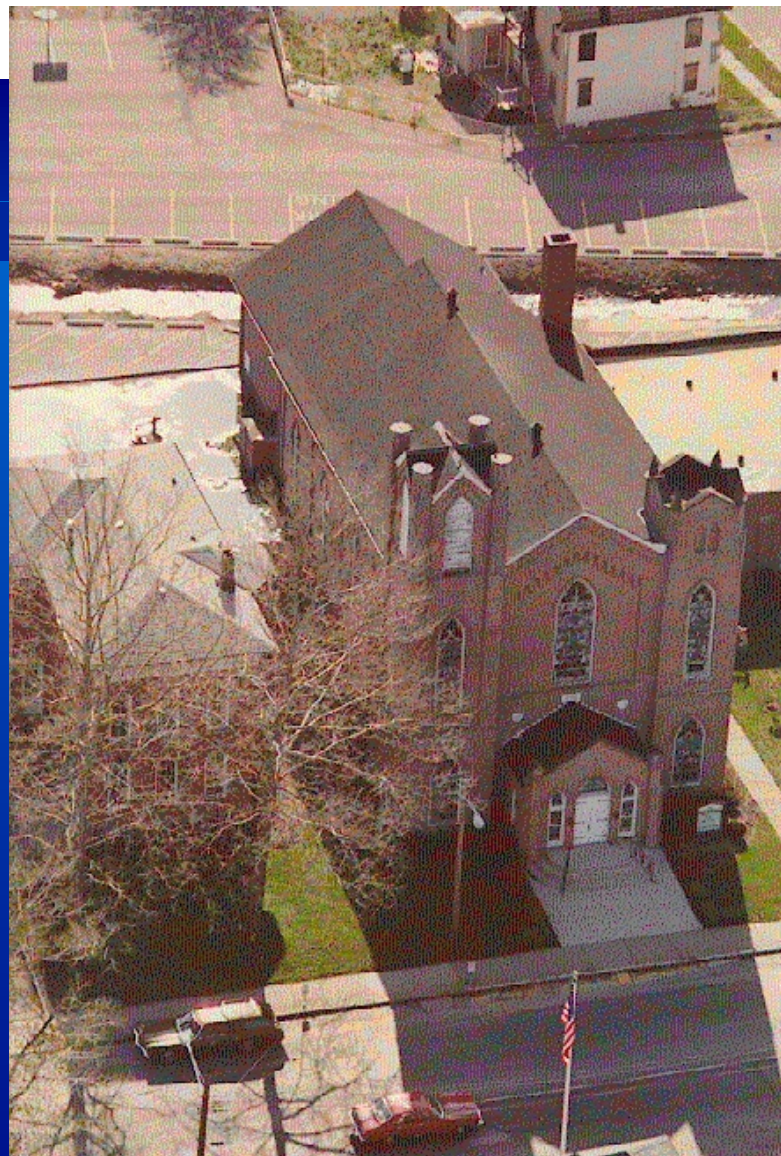


The original chimes, boxed and ready to go.....



The 1966 Sesquicentennial

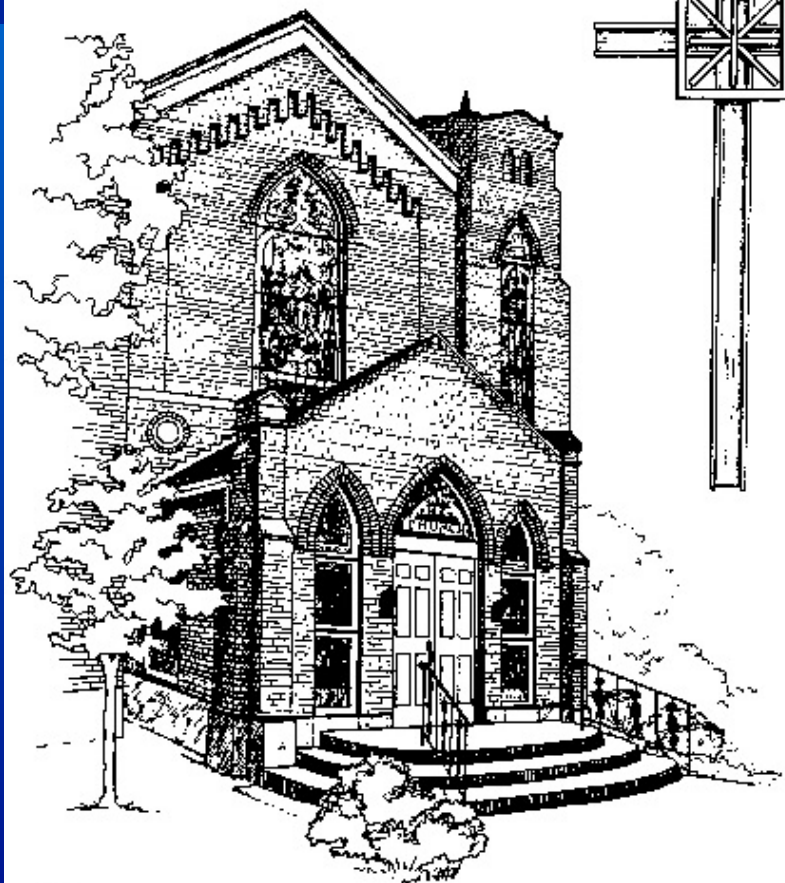
150 Years - Methodism in Geneva
100 Years - Church Building



View from Above
November, 1977



Another View from Above
November, 1977



*Geneva United Methodist Church
Geneva, Ohio*

Late 1980's - Drawing By
Jeannette DeJesus

Painting the Sanctuary

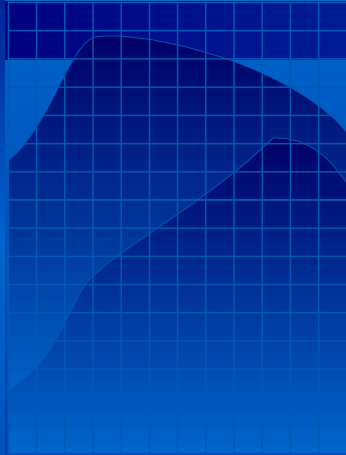
1994

In early 1994, a great deal of discussion took place in Administrative Council about repainting the Sanctuary.

- One of the chief discussion points was the “color”.
- The final decision was “light blue walls with white ceilings,” mainly to get rid of the institutional green ceiling.

One of the discussion points on the subject of repainting dealt with the “maroon” pew cushions, and how they would look against blue walls...to say nothing of the bright “red” choir robes.

As it turned out, the choir was in the process of purchasing new choir robes. They had already decided the color: “Light blue with medium blue trim.” Acolyte robes were later purchased in contrasting color/trim: “Medium blue with light blue trim.” End of discussion.



Total cost to paint the
Sanctuary?

\$5,020.00

!

Total cost of the new choir robes to the church: \$0.00
Each member contributed what they could to the cost of their
own robe, and two members donated the remainder.

Remodeling the Kitchen

During the period from February thru September 1994 the kitchen off the Fellowship Hall was completely remodeled to meet current needs, as well as health and licensing requirements.

- The total cost (approximately \$36,500.00) was paid through grants, donations, pledges, and matching funds.
- The first use of the newly remodeled kitchen was for a Kiwanis pancake breakfast on September 17, 1994.



Remodeling included:

- New dishwasher, sinks and steam table.
- New stove and grill.
- New refrigerator and freezer.
- Cupboards for dishes, pots and pans.
- New flooring, and new lighting.
- New commercial ceiling fans.
- New ice machine.
- New coffee maker.

Purchase of Grand Piano & Relocation of Organ Console

In 1993, the Director of Music proposed that a new grand piano be purchased for the Sanctuary.

- As part of the recommendation, it was proposed that the piano only be purchased after the entire cost was raised, and that no operating funds be used for the project.

- Initial “seed money” was provided by the Packard family in memory of Mary Lou Packard, a long-time member of the choir.
- An additional \$1,000.00 was provided in honor of the 80th birthday of the donor’s aunt.
- The remainder of the funds were raised through the figurative *sale* of the “keys” of the piano, at the rate of \$145.00 per key.
- The final “key” was purchased at Coffee Hour in March, 1994, and the piano was ordered.
- Through the generosity of local musician and owner of Savarise Music in Ashtabula, Buddy Savarise, the K. Kawai Artist Grand Piano was purchased at near his cost.
- Sufficient funds were left over to relocate the organ console from the south to the north wall of the chancel. The new piano was located at the south wall, but may be moved throughout the chancel.
- The piano was dedicated on Mother’s Day, 1994. A dedicatory recital was played that afternoon by James Tannenbaum, professor of piano at Cleveland Institute of Music.
- The entire project was fully funded before the piano was purchased. A memorial plaque in the lower hallway reflects the donors’ names by key.

Other projects in 1994

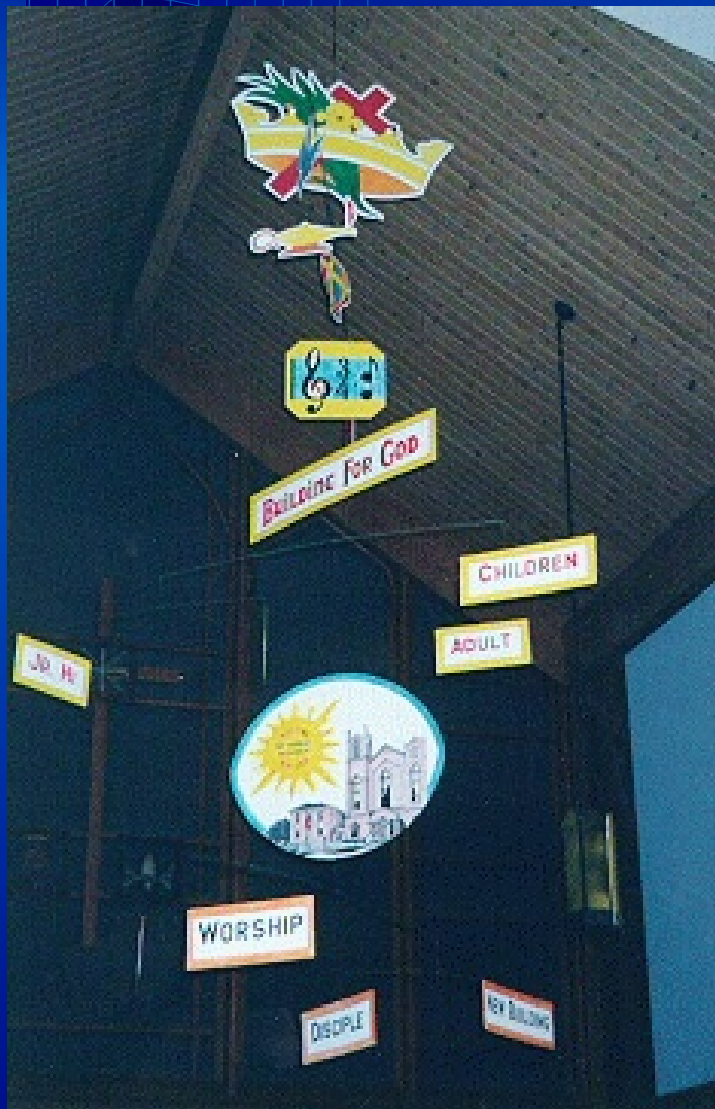
- Playground fencing enlarged.
- Pastor's study in old parish house remodeled.
- Landscaping started.
- Bell Tower repaired.
- Nursery re-painted and re-carpeted.
- Parsonage kitchen carpeted.

In 1995, a new furnace
and air conditioning unit
were installed for the
Fellowship Hall.



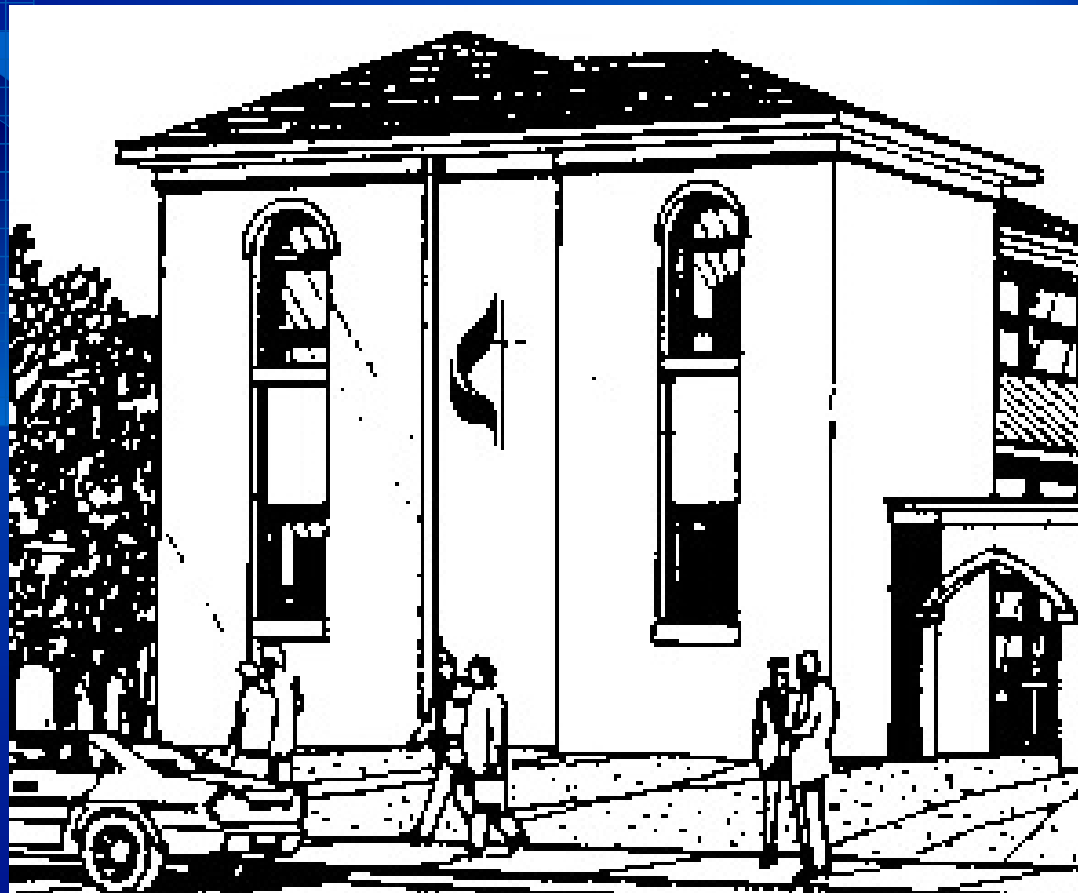


November 13, 1996, 3:30 a.m.
Ooops! Old Man Winter pays an early visit
and the roof of the Office Building implodes
from the weight of the snow.

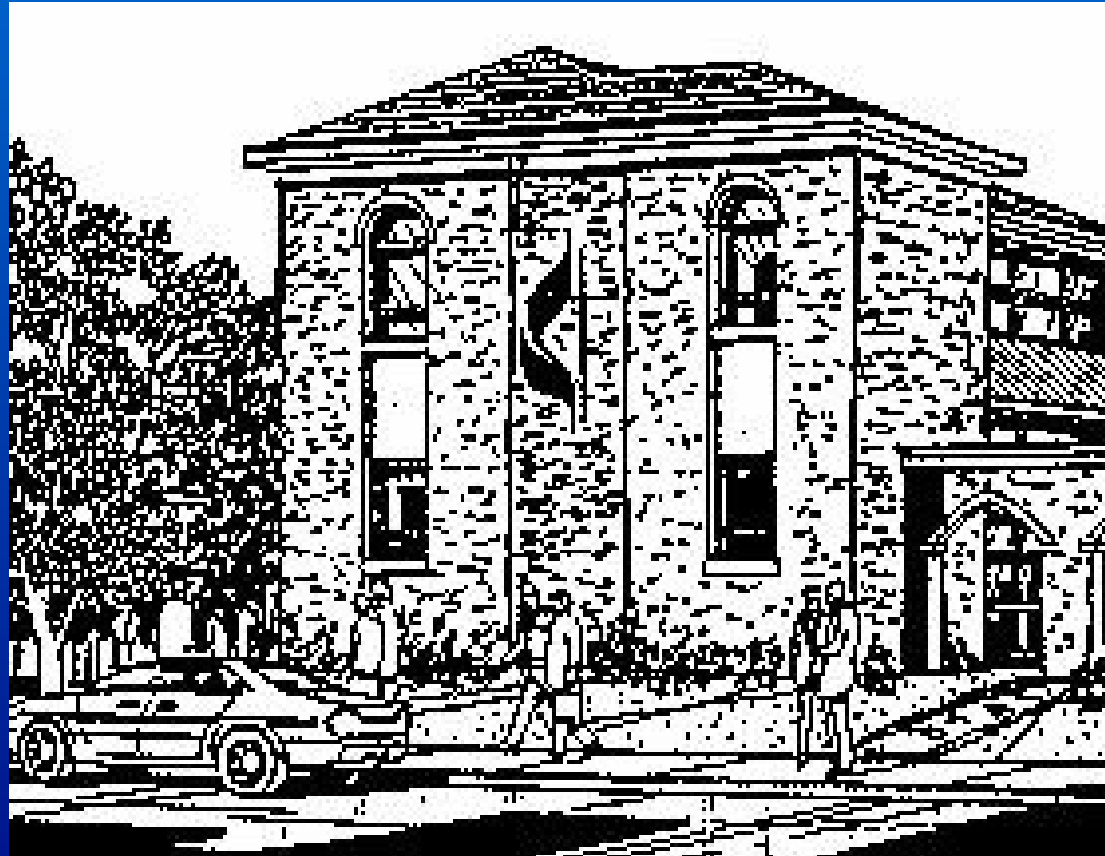


Sunday, April 27, 1997
The decision is made to
tear down the old Office
Building.

The 1998 Rally Day
Theme becomes
“Building (for
children, as children)
For God”



Architect's Drawing of New
1998 Office Building



1998 New Office Building
Drawing Enhanced by Jack Ruhl to
show brick-work.



Church and 1998 New Office Building
(Architect's Drawing Enhanced by
Jack Ruhl to show brickwork.)



GROUND-BREAKING DAY

June 28, 1998

L to R: Cliff Henry, Lay Leader; Ford Behm,
Finance Chairman; Dave Johnson, Building
Committee Chairman;
Rev. Charles Oplinger, Pastor.



General Contractor, David Graper (middle)
joins Rev. Oplinger and Dave Johnson on
Ground-breaking Day



Sidewalk Superintendents gather to
observe the passing of the old...



A big chunk of the
old building is
gone!

It doesn't take
long...



Almost down....



And in a puff of
dust....



... Reduced to a pile of rubble.



The dawn of a new day ...



Steve occupies
“construction central”



A solid
foundation.

Ground-floor
block is up!



First floor
block is
laid.



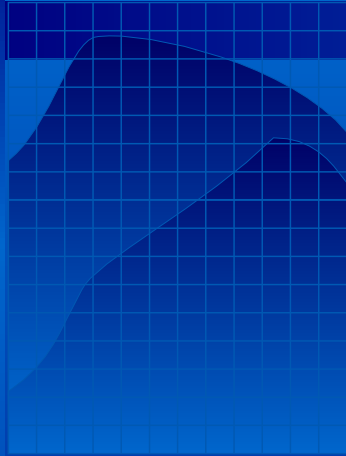
Movin' on up!



“Mission Control, we are under roof!”

STEEL studs
frame the interior walls.



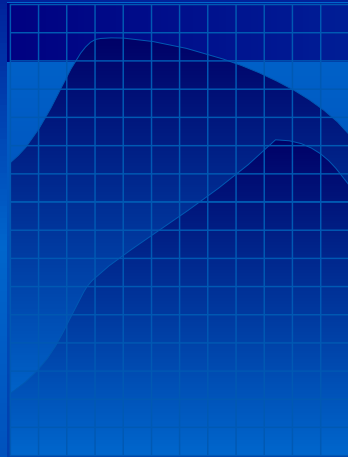


Meanwhile, there were other
projects under way, also.

The new
access drive is
prepared ...

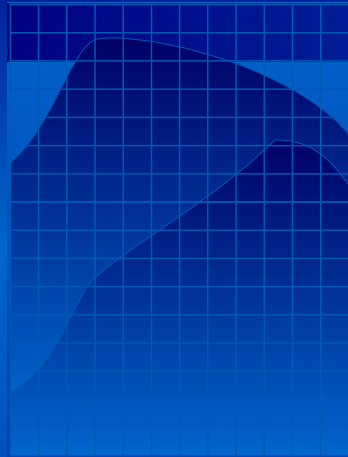


... and poured.



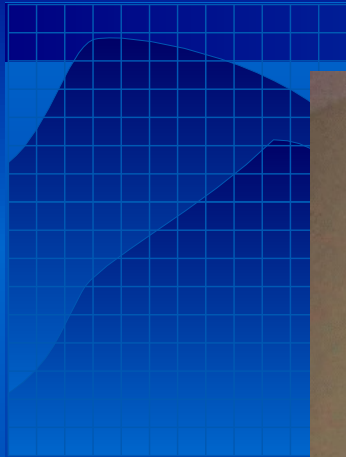
The Elevator
begins to take
shape ...



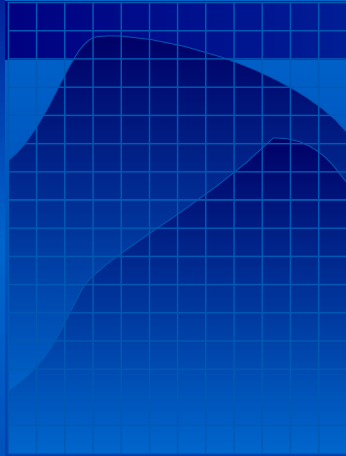


And ready for
use ...





In 1997, new stage drapes
were hung, donated by the
Growth Foundation



Meanwhile, back at the
construction site ...



Brick-work is well on it's way.

Just a little bit more to do on the front!





Remember those arches leading to the garth
that were on the 1960 Architect's drawing?
39 years later ...



Done and ready for occupancy.



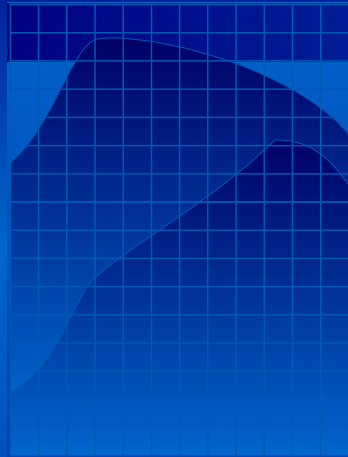
The New Look on South Broadway



Saturday, April 10, 1999 ... landscapers scurry to prep the grounds.



And new life will spring up...



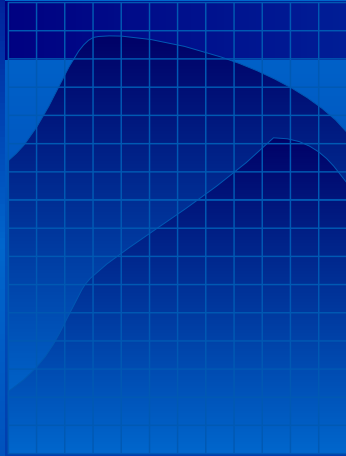
April 11, 1999
Dedication Day
Rev. Paul White, District
Superintendent, delivers
greetings from the
Painesville District



“Tear Down” decision day,
April 27, 1997

The congregation
arriving on
Dedication Day,
April 11, 1999





Let's take a brief trip through the
new building.



New Building, New Office, New
Workspace...what more could a secretary ask for?
Say "Hello", Mary Lou



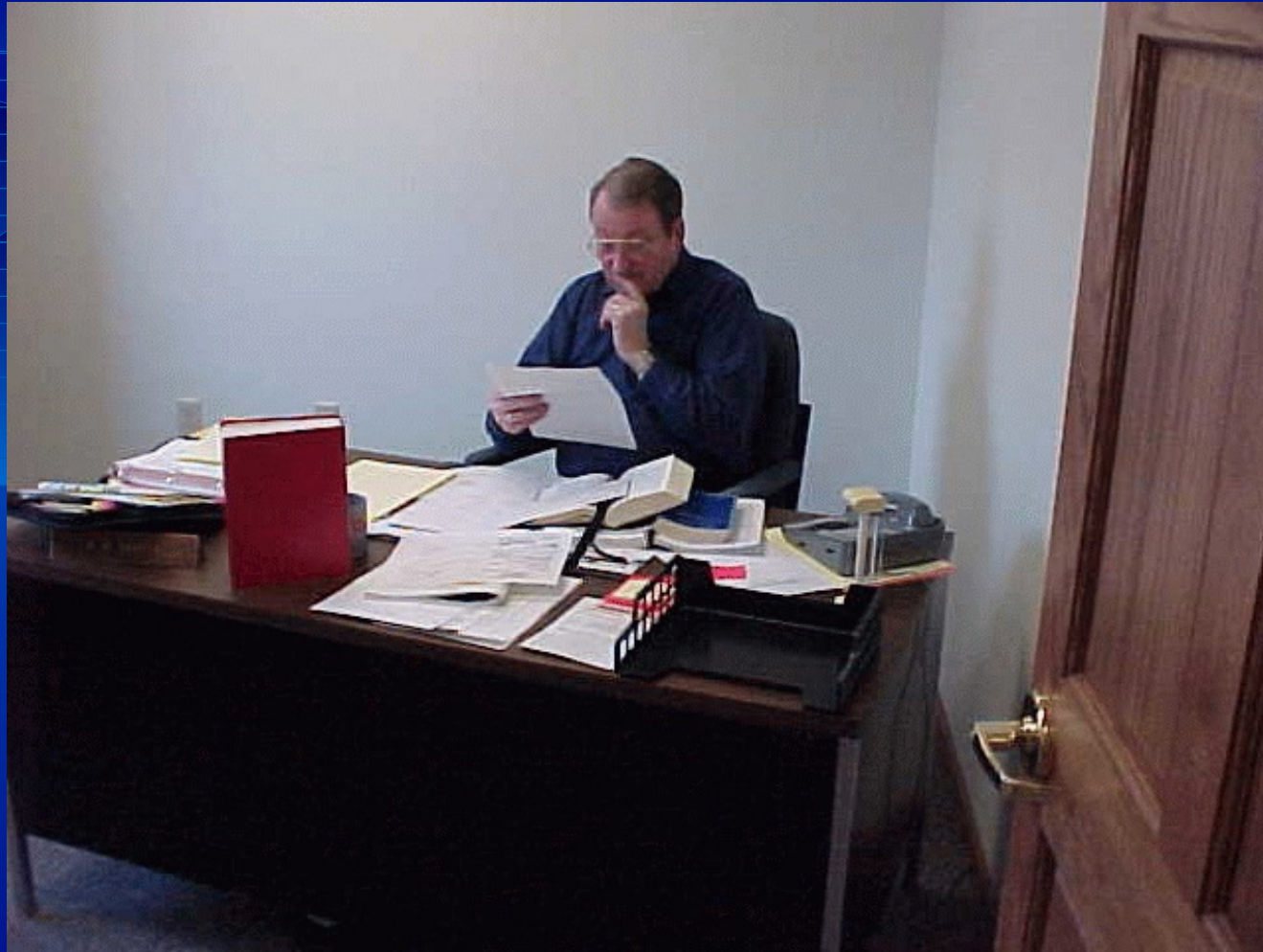
Rev. Chuck's at home in his new digs.



The nerve-center of every office ... the
COPY MACHINE



Day-Care, Pre-School Office.
“Hi!”, Joan.



Assistant to the Pastor, Dick Cheney,
catching up on the mail.



The Archives & History Room doubles as The Communicator distribution center.



The old Senior High room becomes
the Library



Second Floor Hallway . . .



... and Lounge Area



The new Sr.
High Room ...

... and Jr. High
Room.





... and this room is ... yet to be
designated.



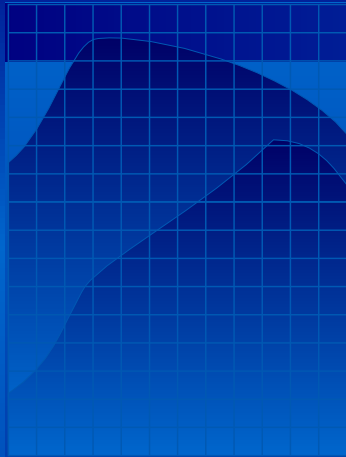
The Ground-floor hallway ... a few things haven't found the right home yet!



A new meeting room ...



A kitchenette ...



Doorway leading to the garth ...

The new garth, as seen from the arches at the front of the building ...





... from the second floor windows ...



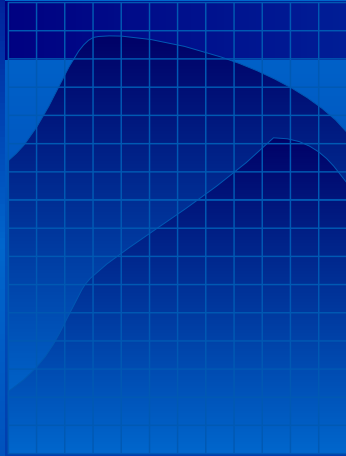
... and from the Library







Allez avec Dieu!



**Another project was also
underway in the Sanctuary ...**

PRESERVING OUR WORKS OF ART FOR
FUTURE GENERATIONS

OUR BEAUTIFUL
STAINED GLASS
WINDOWS

www.genevafirstumc.com

A separate slideshow is available through our web site which includes donor information, history, and preservation of the Stained Glass Windows.

August, 2002

FOOT BRIDGE PROJECT

Over time, the foot bridge over the creek became unsteady, and in need of reinforcement and new flooring.

- Through the generosity of a donor, and with the assistance of Boy Scout Troop 750, the foot bridge was replaced.



Putting down the flooring.



Almost done!



August 25, 2002...ready for
foot traffic!



As time marched on...

It became apparent that the hallway under the sanctuary, and the rooms located off that hallway were in disrepair and needed some serious work.

- Through the generosity of a bequest by former member Pearl Gilliland, a total renovation was undertaken.
- Additional pledges were received, also.
- The project began in earnest in August 2004.



The old UMYF room.



The old women's restroom. Note the exposed pipes, poor lighting, and cramped space.



The old Sunday
School library,
complete with ripped
carpeting.



Out with the old....



In with the new.....



Starting work on the new
women's restroom.

The old UMYF room
becomes part of the
new women's
restroom.





The “long Sunday
School room” is
gutted.

Hardly recognizeable,
the “new” Long
Sunday School Room
begins to take shape.

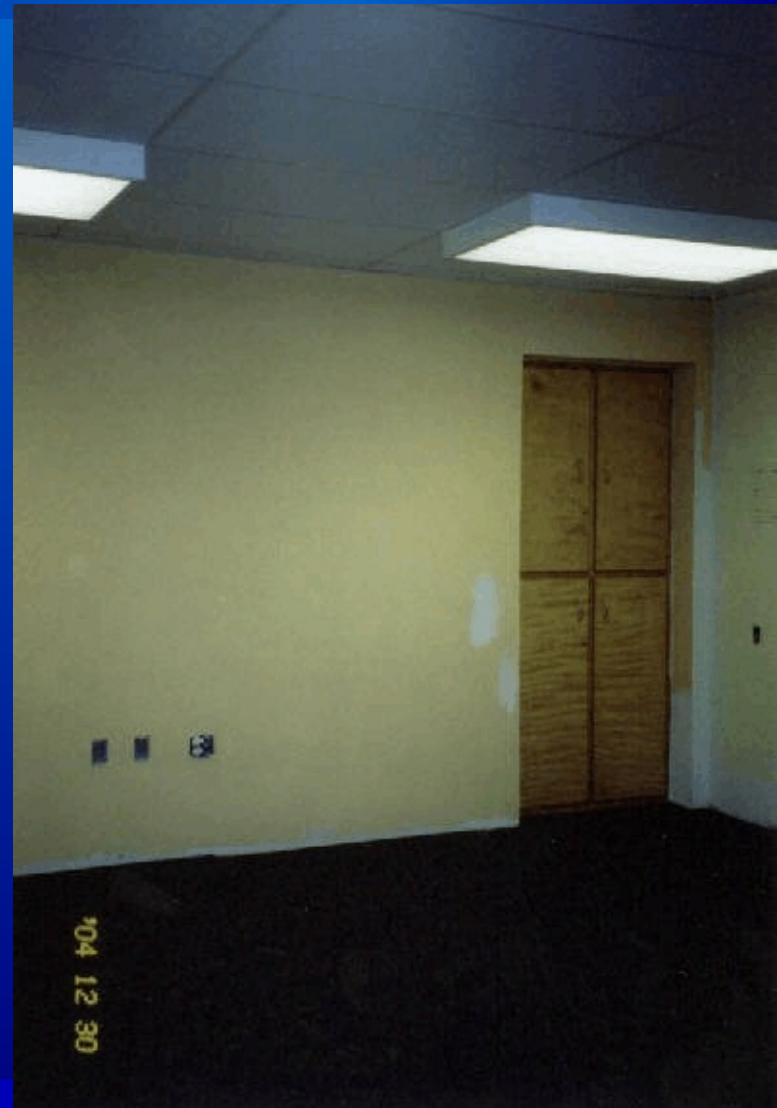




New Cabinets
installed in Long
Sunday School Room

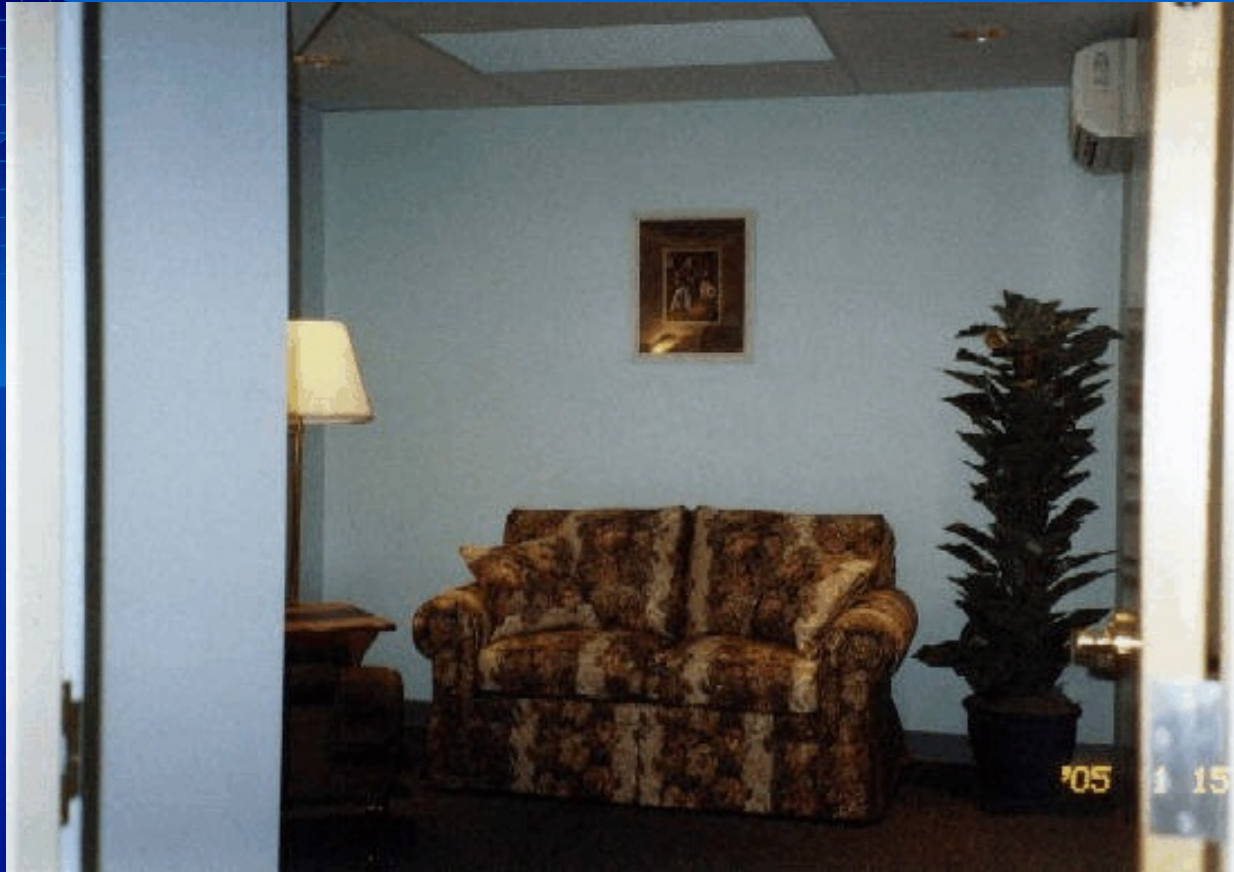
OK, painters...the Long
Sunday School room is
ready for the final
touches.

New lighting, no more exposed
pipes, new lowered ceilings,
new floors.





The beautiful new
women's restroom.



The new women's lounge.



Mid-way through the mess...



Lunchtime for “the crew”.

What a sight the
old men's restroom
was!





A lot of plumbing
throughout the
area had to
be re-routed

What a change!
The new men's
restroom.

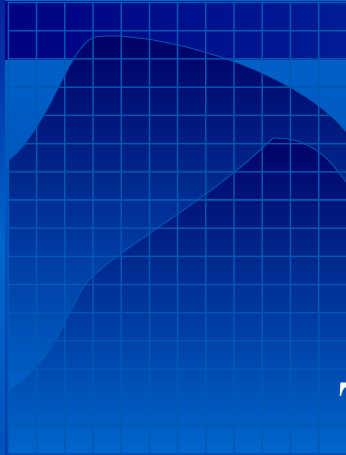




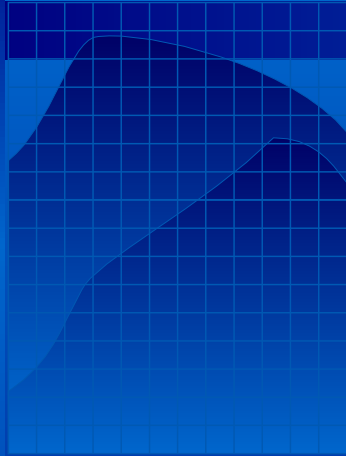
New coat room



Throughout the project, all the concrete floors were poured through the windows.



The entire project took from
August 2004 to
February 2005,
and at the time it was
completed, was debt-free.



Later in 2005, major repairs and renovations were completed in the parsonage, the cost covered by Memorial Funds.

And later in 2005...

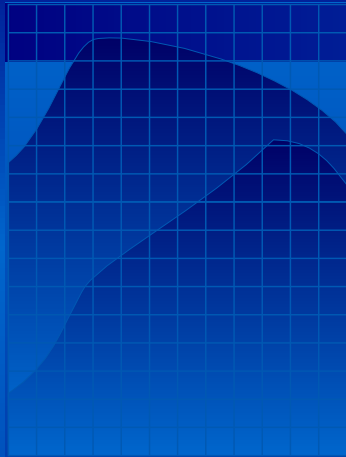
...another project was undertaken to replace all the windows in the Education Wing with new energy-saving windows. Many of the windows were cracked/broken, and most were not weather-tight. Some of the glass was literally held in place with duct tape. At the same time, new window air conditioners were installed in various rooms. The project was completed in October 2005.



Here's what many windows looked like before the project.



New windows,
New Perspective!



In 2006, the windows in Memorial Chapel were replaced with a stained glass window in honor of Carol Wilt-McGuire's mother, Elizabeth Hewitt, her aunt, Mary McKee, and all teachers.

In 2007, Fellowship Hall was upgraded once again.

The primary purpose was to lower the ceiling and install new lighting.



New Grill work begins.



Grill work completed and ready for new tiles.



09/11/2007

New ceiling tile and new lighting are in.



Ready to paint!



Don't drop it.....



Why not? Michaelangelo painted
lying on his back!!



The trimmers in the final stages.



All done...ready for the new chairs;
and.....



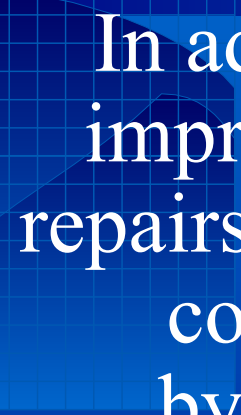
New drapes, courtesy of the Women's Circles



New chairs replaced the old metal chairs.

And, it was all completed in time for the
2007 Grape JAMboree Swiss Steak Dinners

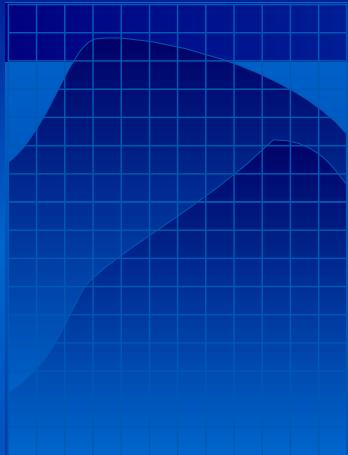




In addition to the Fellowship Hall improvements in 2007, substantial repairs were made to the leather in the console of the Schantz organ by Schantz Organ Company.

Changes were also made to separate the control tabs for the chimes from the couplers, and the rectifier was replaced.

These repairs were fully paid through the Ken Shand memorial funds.

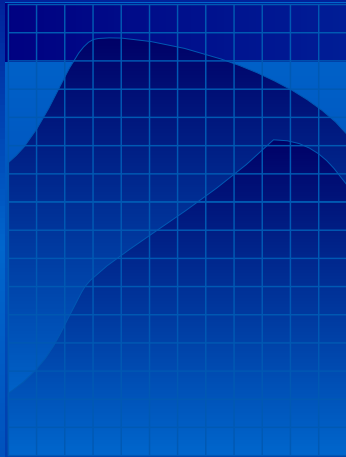


In 2008, further repairs
became necessary to
several ranks of pipes in
the organ.

Tuning had become a major effort due to wear on the felt and leather used in holding pipe caps and plugs in place. Pipes with “caps” are tuned by sliding the “cap” up or down. Wood pipes use a plug, as shown in the following slide, which is also slid up or down to tune the pipe. The pipes had to be removed and taken to the Erie, Pa. workshop for this work.



Pipes ready to ship.

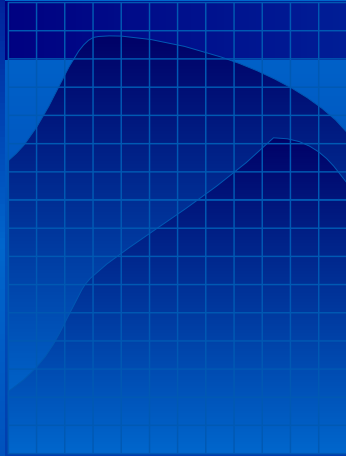


Some of the work....

Re-felting of the caps on metal pipes to prevent them from sliding down once the pipe is tuned; if they slide down, the pipe goes “out of tune.”

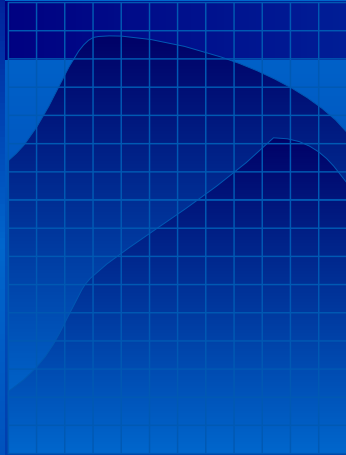


Re-felting of the plugs in wooden pipes to prevent them from sliding down in the pipe, thereby causing the pipe to go “out of tune.”



In 2008, the church was struck by lightning, causing damage to the bell tower, the sanctuary lighting, and the sound system.

Substantial damage was sustained to the cast iron bell, knocking a chunk out of the bell, rendering it unusable.



Also in 2008, the Nursery was completely renovated, including new flooring.

In addition, the Ladies' Rest Room on the second floor of the Education Wing was renovated and updated.

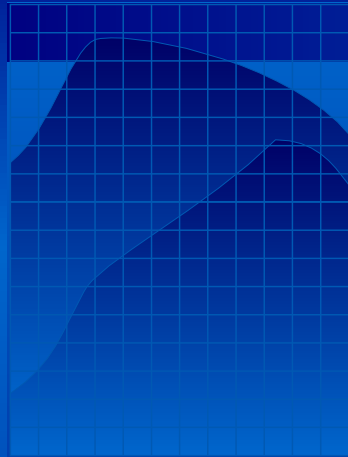
The New Look in the Nursery



Newly painted walls, new flooring, and new furniture and toys.

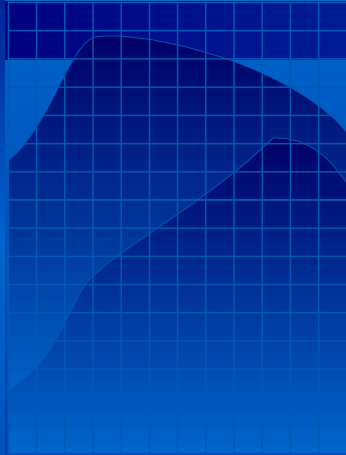


Bright new window treatments.



The Ladies room, adjacent to the Nursery, got a new look, too.






In addition to the Nursery
and the Ladies room,
another project was under-
taken...by the
DayCare/PreSchool:

New flooring was installed,
in the boys' restroom on the
first floor of the Education
Wing, and the room was
repainted.

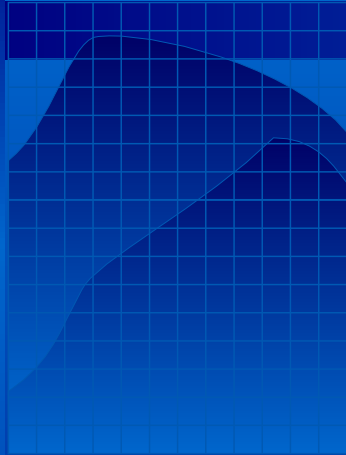
Repairs begin on the
bell tower.





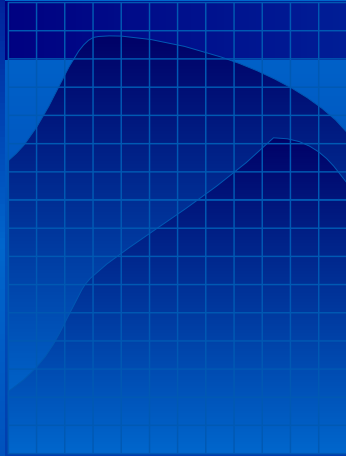
As of October 1, 2009, repairs to the Bell Tower have not yet been completed; and, in fact, the old bell is still in the tower, waiting to be removed.

The plan is to replace the bell with an electronic carillon with multiple bell tones, but in no way competing with the United Church's carillon which plays hymns at various times throughout the day, and strikes the hours.



In addition to the bell tower,
the South Tower has a serious
water leakage problem.

As of October, 2009, this project
is also being investigated.



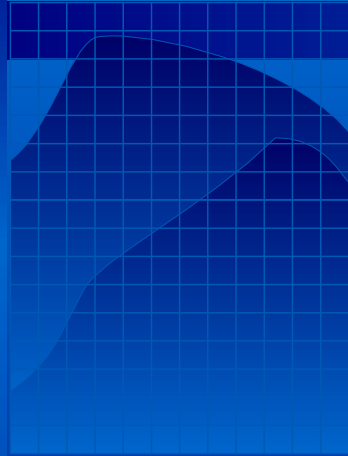
Summer, 2009 - the floors in
Fellowship Hall are stripped,
sanded, and refinished.



After years of scuffing, cleaning, and waxing,
the floors in Fellowship Hall had acquired a
dull, grimy, unbecoming look.



At this point in the process, it was apparent the flooring under all the grime was beautiful. It needed to be allowed to show its true self.



The finished job!!

Look closely. The pattern from the drapes is clearly reflected in the floor.





In 2009, a property on Erie Street, directly East of the church parking lot, became available for purchase.

The Board of Trustees suggested that the property could be purchased, the house demolished, and the property itself used to expand the children's playground, and for other uses.

Upon approval of Church Council, an offer was made; and ,it was accepted.



April 25, 2010.
This was the house on Erie Street,
before demolition began.



April 26, 2010. The “great chomper” arrives.



April 26, 2010.
A major portion has been removed.



And the roof came tumblin' down.



April 27, 2010. All Gone!
Next Phase? Plan, plan, plan.

If you remember, in 2008, the church was struck by lightning. Major damage was sustained to the cast iron bell in the tower.

On May 19, 2010, work was finally begun to remove the bell and place it on a concrete pad in the garth between the church and the office building.

The following shows the extent of the project, which took from May 19th to June 8th to complete, not including rebuilding the tower roof, which was still on-going as of June 20, 2010.



May 19, 2010. Work is begun to
build the scaffolding needed
around the bell tower.



At this stage, the scaffolding is nearly complete; and the chute is partially in place. The chute will carry debris from the tower roof, down to the dumpster below.

Doesn't it look like Cape Canaveral??!!
Note: From 1963 to 1973, it was known as Cape Kennedy; then, reverted to Cape Canaveral when the space center there was named "The Kennedy Space Center".
(Tidbits from History)



Now, the hardest part begins
...getting the bell from up there
to the ground.



Getting the
crane ready.

OK, the crane's
in place. Next
step: hook up the
bell to the crane.



The lift cable is in
the tower.



We have “lift-off”.



Easy! Slowly!

Almost.....



Another foot or
so to “touch-
down”.





Wait a minute here! Where are you taking the bell? Ohhh.....



Up and over.....



A little further....



Yep! Up and over
the office building.



Hey! Ya know...if there's anyone in the office,
maybe they'd feel more comfortable going
elsewhere for a few minutes!!

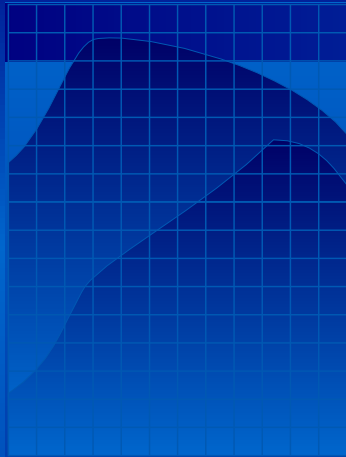


First view after
landing on its pad.





OK, let's get this thing
down and get it back to
the rental place!



Phase Two...get the
bell brackets and
stands to the pad.



The bell, the legs, and the clanger...all in place on the pad. In this picture, you can see the large chunk that was blown out of the bell when it was struck by lightning in 2008.



Next steps?

Determine which carillon we want.

Determine how the carillon will be
operated, from where,
and by whom.

At exactly 10:10 am on Tuesday, June 8, 2010, another piece of history was preserved at Geneva United Methodist Church: the bell was removed from the bell tower, and placed in the garth between the church and the office building.

The bell was cast by Meneely's in West Troy, N.Y. in 1867, and installed in the tower in xxxx; this bell was actually a replacement for the original bell, which caused some consternation locally because it sounded too much like the Baptist Bell !

You'll note that there is a large piece of the bell missing along the bottom rim. This was the result of a lightning strike in 2008. The bell has been silent since then. As you can imagine, with a chunk that size missing, if the bell had been swung (rung), there could have been serious complications with the bell swinging unevenly.

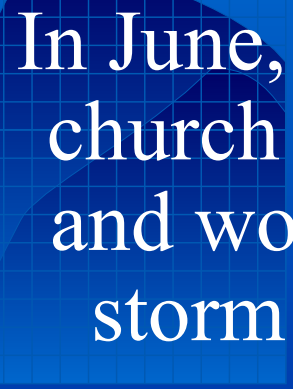
Plans call for installation of an electronic carillon which will have multiple bell tones, suitable for various occasions, such as regular church services, weddings, community events, etc. It will not be used in competition with the bell at United Church, which plays hymns on the hour and intones the hour. Nonetheless, it will have the capability of playing a number of hymns/songs...possibly for special occasions.

The Meneely Bell Foundry of West Troy, NY (now Watervliet, NY) was located about 7-1/4 miles northeast of Albany, NY. It was founded in 1820, and was one of the first and most prominent bell-making companies in America. The last bell produced by Meneely's was shipped to St. Martin's College, Olympia, Washington, in April, 1951. Meneely's closed in 1952.

If it took a crane to get the bell down from the tower in 2010, how did they ever get it up there in 1867? The following drawing will give you an idea of the effort involved.



How to install a bell in a tower in 1867!



In June, 2012, the roofing on the main church building had become tattered and worn. There was concern that a storm could rip off sections of the shingles.

A contract was let to Senita Roofing to tear off all the old shingles and underlayment, and replace it, beginning with the section of roofing over the Pipe Chamber of the organ.



Work begins above the pipe chamber.




In progress.....



Serious work
in progress on
the rest of the
roof over the
sanctuary.



A modern-day
roofing
collection
tool!



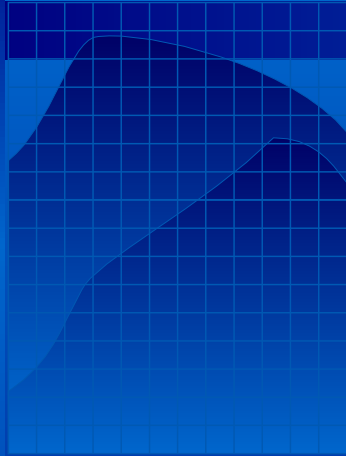
At this point, we should remind everyone looking at this slideshow that the outside temperature during this project was averaging 85 - 90 degrees. Yet, the crew from Senita “kept their cool”, for which we are grateful.



Up, up, up, to the roof.

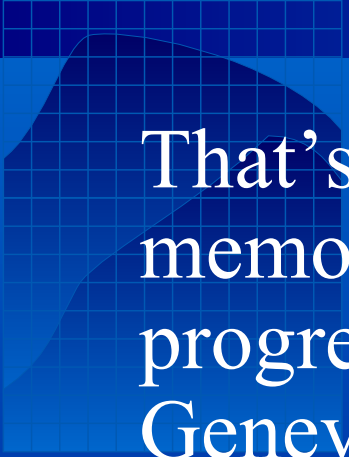


Ah...the end
is in
sight!!



One more big
“Thank You” to
the crew from
Senita Roofing.

AND, a huge “Thank You”
to one family who donated
the funds to complete this
\$24K+ project.



That's the end of our trip down
memory lane, *for now*, showing the
progression of **Building For God** at
Geneva United Methodist Church.

Thank you for watching!

**IF YOU'D LIKE TO SEE THIS
PRESENTATION AGAIN, PLEASE
PRESS "ESC"; THEN, OPEN
THE "pdf" FILE AGAIN.**