

Trinity Methodist celebrates 100 years

Church and church building still thriving

The Trinity United Methodist church in Cass City traces its origins back to 1860, when Rev. John Baker of the Watrousville Circuit of the Methodist Episcopal church gave a Sunday evening service in the Elkland township log home of Andrew Walmsley.

It was not until 1880 that the members of the congregation were able to build their own church building. Until then, services were held in schools.

This Sunday, the 315 members of the church will be

celebrating the 100th anniversary of their first and only church building on Houghton Street.

The service of celebration will commemorate the centennial of the laying of the cornerstone May 13, 1880.

Guest speaker at the 11 a.m. service will be Rev. James C. Braid, who was minister at the church from 1962-68. He is now the pastor at the Methodist church in Sanford.

Performing at the service will be the senior bell choir of the Alpena United Meth-

odist church and the Alpena Community College Collegiate Singers.

A letter of greetings will be read from Bishop Edsel A. Ammons, the United Methodist Bishop of the Michigan area.

Members are being asked to wear old-fashioned clothing if they wish.

The centennial celebration, according to Rev. P. Thomas Wachterhauser, began Easter Sunday with the first of several vignettes telling of the history of the church.

Another vignette was presented each Sunday, leading to the present.

The youth choir from the First United Methodist church of Midland performed at the April 13 service. The father-daughter banquet April 29 featured old-fashioned games.

Prior to that, at the April 27 service, the cornerstone of the 100-year-old building was removed. It was last removed in 1969, the 100th anniversary of the church's organization.

Inside the box were two newspapers from the 1890s, three books of Methodist discipline from the mid-to-late 1800s and items about man's first walk on the moon in 1969.

This Sunday was chosen for the celebration, Rev. Wachterhauser explained, because it is Heritage Sunday in the Methodist church.

As this Sunday afternoon is the school baccalaureate service, the only event at the church will be the morning service.

The final centennial events will be Sunday, May 25. The cornerstone will be replaced during the morning service, with some new items added. After that will come a picnic for church members in the village park.

Planning of the various centennial activities was done by a committee, chairman of which was Tom Proctor.

HISTORY

The First Methodist church of Cass City was officially organized in 1869. The first minister assigned there, J.E. Withey, had to serve six churches in the area, giving services at three of them every other Sunday.

The church, built in 1880, was enlarged and remodeled in 1893-94. The parsonage was erected next door at that time, at the corner of Seeger and Houghton.

A major renovation of the building came during the pastorate of Rev. Howard Watkins, 1948-51. The chancel was altered into a full divided chancel, new furniture, including a pulpit, lectern, altar and two chairs were added, and a new organ installed.

New cathedral glass windows were installed in 1951.

The modern entranceway, plus additional classroom space and refurbishment of the basement and kitchen, came in 1957.

During the term of Rev. Braid, 1962-68, the inside and outside were redecorated, with new pews and light fixtures added in the sanctuary, lounge carpeted and new library started.

More renovations came during the stay of Rev. Byron Hatch, 1976-79. New ceiling, lights and wall paneling, plus new windows and drapes, were installed in the fellowship hall. The church

Firemen battle blaze

Elmwood-Gagetown firemen spent a total of 5½ hours Sunday and Monday fighting a muck fire about a half-mile north of the village, off Reagh Road.

According to Fire Chief Chuck Wright, the property owner, Richard Emmons, deliberately started the fire in order to burn off the grass and weeds, not realizing the fire would get into the mucky soil.

It did, however, and firemen were there about three hours Sunday night, starting about 10:45. They went back Monday at 6 p.m. to extinguish some still burning spots in the soil and were there about 2½ hours.

The Department of Natural Resources fire officer at the scene Sunday, Wright said, had Emmons disk around the perimeter of the field during the night to keep the fire from spreading. About 30 acres burned.

interior was repainted and new roofing installed on the building and steeple.

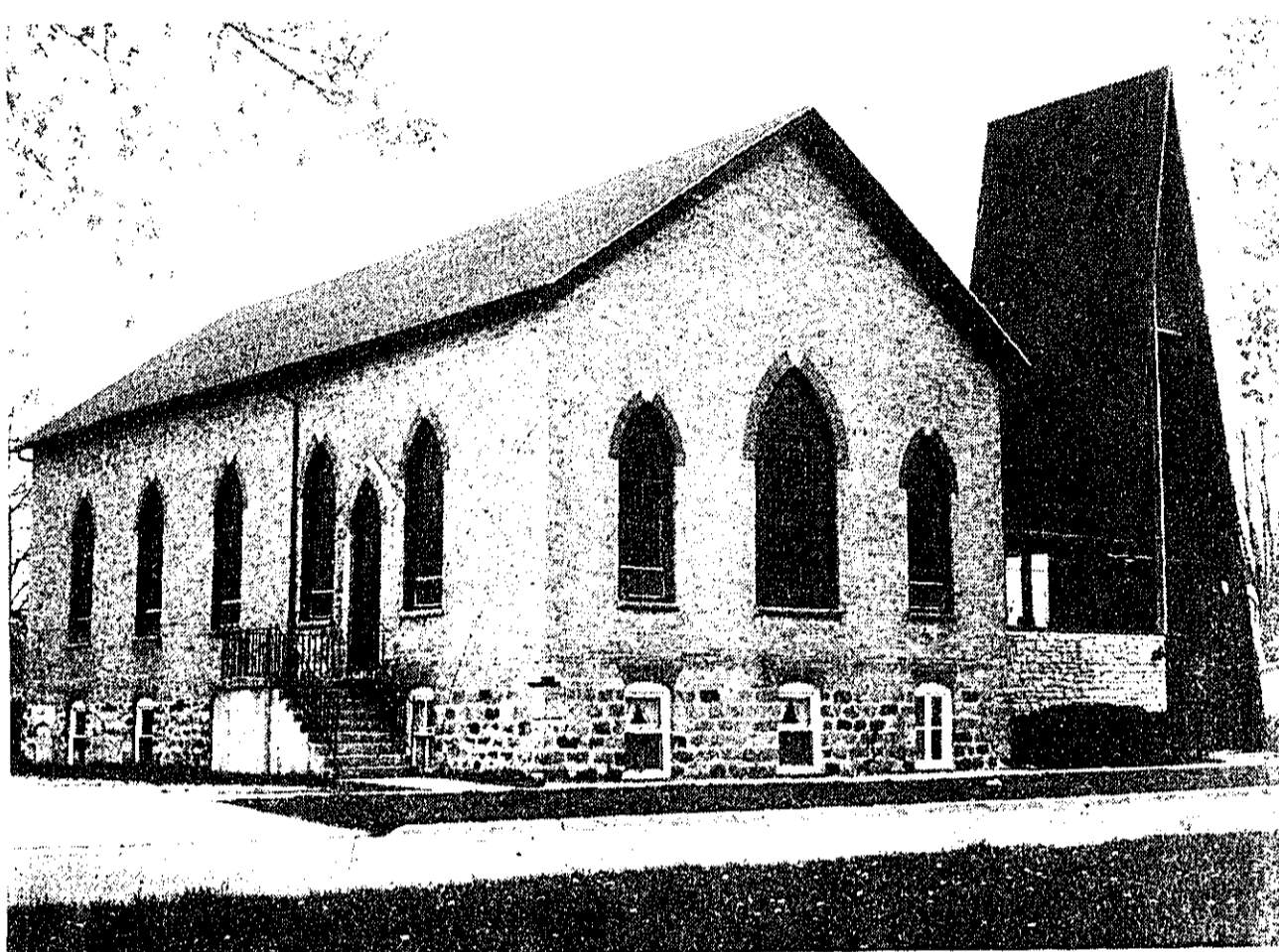
A different change came in 1969, when the Methodist church merged nationally

with the Evangelical United Brethren church. On Easter Sunday of that year, the Cass City Methodist church became the Trinity United Methodist church.

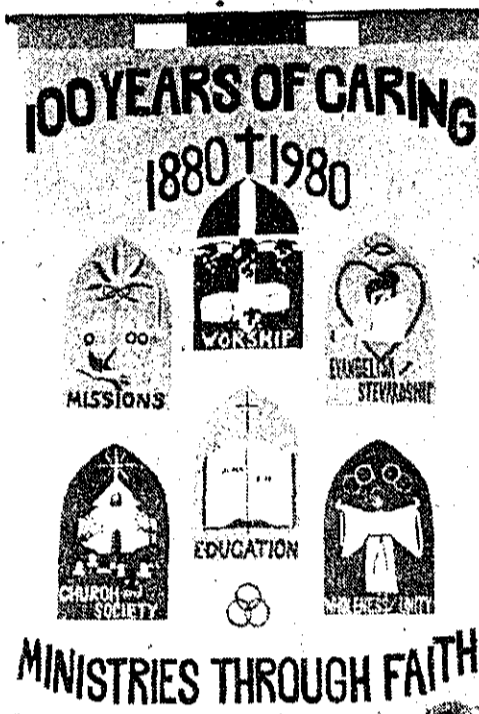
The Salem EUB church in Cass City became the Salem United Methodist church.

The history of that church goes back to 1865, when the German Methodists in the

Cass City area broke away from what was to become the Trinity church to form their own congregation, for which services were performed in German.



CENTENNIAL -- The original Trinity United Methodist church building dates back to 1880. It was enlarged and remodeled in 1893-94. The modern entrance at right was built in 1957.



THIS BANNER hanging in the sanctuary commemorates the church's centennial. Examining it are, from left, Linda Eisinger, who did most of the work, assisted by her mother, Pauline Brown, Rev. P. Thomas Wachterhauser, and Robert Keating, chairman of the church administrative board. Serving on the banner committee, in addition to Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Eisinger, were Pam Ross, Doris Rawson, Marge Tuttle, and Rev. Wachterhauser. The church youth are also making a banner.

Jury finds Flint woman guilty of attempted theft

A Circuit Court jury last Wednesday found Marilyn D. Ballard, 24, of Flint, guilty of attempted larceny in a building.

Judge Norman A. Baguley, who presided over the two-day trial, scheduled sentencing June 23. Bond was continued.

Ms. Ballard was found guilty of having attempted to steal some clothes from Dancer's Clothing Store in Vassar Sept. 21, 1979.

Monday in Circuit Court before Judge Baguley: John B. Johnson, 21, of 1980 Murray Road, Caro, stood mute to a charge of criminal sexual assault.

A plea of innocent was entered and pretrial hearing scheduled May 27. Bond was continued.

He is charged in connection with an alleged incident in Wells township Jan. 17 involving a 13-year-old girl.

Michael S. Reese, 19, of 2350 S. Kirk Road, Vassar, stood mute to a charge of larceny in a building.

A plea of innocent was entered and pretrial hearing scheduled May 27.

Bond of \$10,000 was continued. As of Tuesday, Reese was still in the county jail, being unable to post bond.

He is charged with stealing drugs from a home on Frank Street, Caro, in early April.

Donald E. Tedford, 40, of 1719 Grander Road, Fairgrove, stood mute to a charge of unlawfully driving away a motor vehicle, the pickup truck of James

Streeter in Akron April 10. A plea of innocent was entered and pretrial hearing scheduled May 27. Bond was continued.

Singles dance Saturday in Bad Axe

The Tip of the Thumb Singles Club of Bad Axe will conduct its next dance Saturday from 8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. in the Bad Axe Methodist church gym.

Music for round and square dancing will be provided by the Lynn Two band. Persons who are at least 25 years old, single, widowed or divorced may attend.

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High-low shag, jute back, gray tones, 12'x12'		\$99.95
High-low shag, greenish blue colors, jute back, 11'x12'		\$109.95
Short shag, brown, jute back, 15'x11'12"		\$193.00
Green, candy stripes, 12'x14'11"		\$73.00
Short high-low, jute back, gray brown, white tan, 12'x20'10"		\$220.00
Mohawk short shag, green, jute back, 12'x12'		\$143.00
Short shag, green, jute back, 13'x12'		\$129.95
High-low shag, light brown, jute back, 12'x16'		\$169.95
Shag, gold jute back, 12'x12'x12'		\$119.00
High-low shag, green, jute back, 18'x12'		\$219.95
Short shag, tan, jute back, 9'x12'		\$99.95
Green colors, kitchen carpet, rubber back, 10'7'x15'		\$99.00
Mohawk, high-low shag, gold, jute back, 12'x11'9"		\$175.00
Shag, jute, earth tones, 12'x19'9"		\$239.95
Shag, jute, brown, 12'x20'8"		\$219.95
Shag, jute, brown, 12'x20'		\$239.00
High-low loop, jute, red, 12'x19'		\$150.00
Shag, jute, red, 12'x18'		\$78.00
High-low loop, jute, brown, 12'x14'12"		\$93.00
High-low loop, jute, green, 12'x12'4"		\$116.00
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