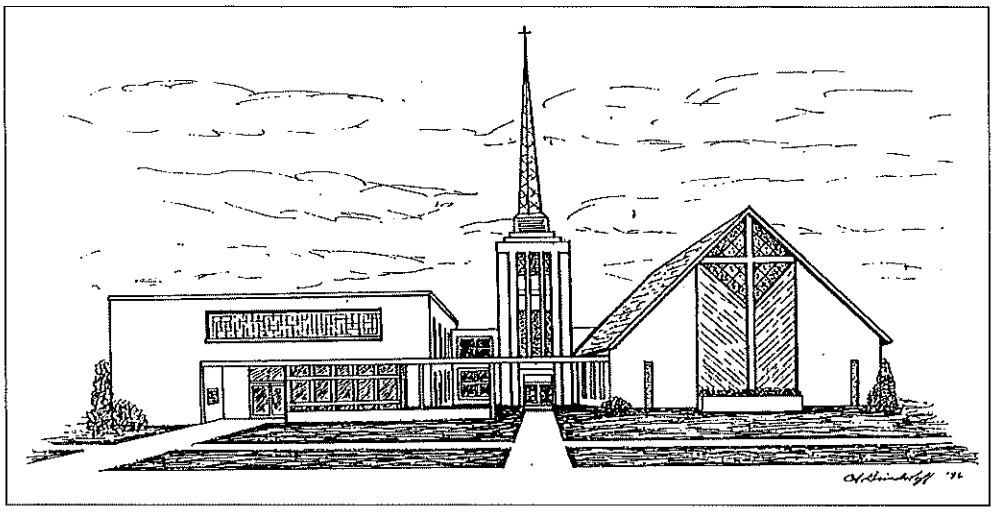


~Sketch by Chuck Grindstaff

Trinity United Methodist Church

135 Adams Street, Port Clinton, Ohio

Port Clinton, Ohio was founded in June 1828. There is evidence that Methodists were in this area as early as 1829. The first Methodist meetings in Port Clinton were held around 1834, six years after the founding of Port Clinton.

The first preachers were circuit riders who came from the Lower Sandusky Circuit [now Fremont, Ohio] to Port Clinton, Catawba Island, Danbury and the Marblehead peninsula. They also reached seven miles up the Portage River embracing twenty-two different appointments and requiring three weeks to cover the one-hundred mile route. These preachers traveled by horse-back moving among the early settlers in every community where services were held in homes, school houses, in forest arbors or wherever possible to get a group of worshipers to meet. If traveling in inclement weather they at times would take shelter with friendly natives. They often slept at night by fires of their own kindling lit with flint and tinder, with saddle bags for pillows and their cloaks for covering.

In Port Clinton, some of the early meetings of the Methodist Episcopal Church were held in the home of Joseph Sylvester. As early as 1833, Reverends Austin, Wilcox and Allen visited this community as part of the Lower Sandusky Circuit. From 1834 such services were held regularly in Port Clinton.

Port Clinton's first schoolhouse was built in 1838 [on lot 5 block 11]. Meetings were held there. In 1840, the first courthouse was erected where the present courthouse now stands. The court-room became a place for Sunday services for more than a decade. When Wesley Wells was the minister in 1838, the church had seventy-six members and the village had fewer than sixty homes.

The first church building was erected in 1852 on the northeast corner of Second and Lower Mar-ket Space [now Adams Street] which is the site of the present church. The lot cost $200 and the cost of the church building was $1,500. Much of the labor was donated by members. It was a single room without a basement and like all pioneer churches was for preaching only. It was

heated by two wood stoves and lighted by kerosene lamps. The bell was placed on a platform on the ground. It was rung by treading with their feet. Joseph Sylvester and others shared that obligation. It was not until about 1873 that the vestibule and steeple were built. The bell was then raised to the tower and put in place by Capt. William Duff. The original deed was dated October 10, 1853. The church was dedicated on August 5, 1853. It is unknown why the church was built before the deed was made.

The first parsonage was built south of the corner of the present church at 211 East Market Space [now Adams Street] where St. John Lutheran Church now stands. This served as the parsonage until another one was built north of the church in 1875. The first parsonage was then sold July 1, 1873. The house was a two-story home that was cut into two one story houses that were relocated to Walnut street. It is likely the second parsonage was ready for occupancy a few months later, rather than the 1875 as stated by one writer.

By 1888, the membership had grown to one hundred fifty-three and a new church was needed. The old frame church was moved across Adams Street and placed in the Market Space [now the Adams Street Park] for use while a new brick church was being built on the old site. After the congregation moved into the new church, the frame church building was sold to George St. John and it was removed to the Portage riverfront and converted into a storehouse. It was later destroyed by fire. One hundred bricks which were to go into the new building were sold for 50 cents each to help raise money for the new church building.

The new Methodist Episcopal Church was dedicated November 10, 1890. It was built of stone and brick, handsomely finished in oak panels and ceiling 55' x 75' in size, and could seat six hundred people. The cost was $12,000. The old bell used in the first church served the new one also. The entire debt was paid in six years. 1888 also was the year the Ladies Aid Society was organized. The Epworth League was organized in 1891.

In 1902, during Rev. R.F. Mayer's tenure as pastor (1897-1903) a new parsonage was built at 309 East Second Street. This parsonage was later razed to provide parking. The church purchased the Underwood home at 317 East Second Street and it is still used as the parsonage.

For nine years, Dr. Wilbur Buzzell, played a reed organ, then in 1899, ten years after the new church was erected, a pipe organ was purchased. It was dedicated March 3, 1899. Guest organist, Prof. L.L. Renwick, came from the University of Michigan for the event. An admission price of twenty-five cents was charged and the house was packed.

In 1937, the name Methodist Episcopal Church became Trinity Methodist Church by a vote of the congregation. The pastors were Reverend Leonard Hall and Reverend Mulligan.

By 1942 strong demands were being heard for improvements on the church - roof, basement floor, paint the whole interior of the church (the plaster was falling off). After complete redecorating and repair the church was rededicated on January 17, 1943. The largest firm of church decorators in the Midwest did the work. Walls were painted, balcony fronts covered with Prestwood, roof repaired, pews refinished and basement floor and walls were redone.

In 1958, a small group of local businessmen and clergy thought it would be a nice idea if they held a weekly meeting for fellowship and prayer. Led by Rev. Paul Reese, Earl Adams, Lyle Mayhew, Mayor A.W. Chapman, Dave Homer and Eddy Edwards who invited a large number of Port Clinton's business leaders. No monetary contributions were required although nearly every man attending participated in a freewill offering. This offering paid for the food and the proceeds left over were distributed to nine charities at the end of each year. Sixty-five men gathered for coffee and donuts at Trinity. Earl's wife, "Tootie", offered to fix breakfast for them. Thus began the Ecumenical Men's Prayer Breakfast as an outreach ministry. The breakfast was held at every Tuesday morning at 8 a.m. and was attended by large groups of men of all ages. The food was lovingly prepared by Trinity women. The format was to have breakfast, offer prayer for people who had needs that they knew about and listen to a speaker, usually a local clergy or social service agency representative. The Men's Prayer Breakfast celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2008. On April 3, 2018, the last Men's Prayer Breakfast was held after 60 years of service which included 3,000 prayer breakfast meetings, more than 100,000 meals served, 30,000 hours of support staff, $60,000 donated to local charities, and 135,000 prayer concerns given.

In 1959, the 8:00 a.m. Drive-in Church was inaugurated as an Outreach Ministry. This was initially held at the drive-in theater on State Route 163 east of Port Clinton. Between 70 and 100 cars would be in attendance each Sunday during the summer. Today the Drive-in services are held in the parking lot of Mon Ami Restaurant on Catawba Island. The Drive-in services are held at 8:00 a.m., then regular services are held in the church sanctuary at 10:30 a.m. The Drive-in service is popular with "summer" residents in the area. After the summer season, the 8:00 a.m. services are held in the church sanctuary.

This old brick church was razed and the present church building was dedicated in 1964. Goodbye to the old church was said on January 16, 1963 at a service of deconsecration. During the years 1954 to 1961 while Reverend Paul Reese was pastor the Fellowship Hall was built on the north side of the church. The new educational building was constructed, completed and in use by June 1, 1958. This building, from January 23, 1963 until May 10, 1964, became the temporary sanctuary during the demolition and removal of the old church until the new church was completed. June 30, 1963 the groundbreaking ceremony for the new church building was held.

In 1968, the Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren churches merged. Trinity Methodist Church then became Trinity United Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church became Faith United Methodist Church. Faith United Methodist Church is located on the corner of Jackson and W. Sixth streets in Port Clinton.

Around 1978, Boy Scout Troop 360, became a Charter Scout Troop with Trinity Methodist Church, and remains one to date. They currently meet weekly at the church and occupy a room that contains all their troop and individual rewards. Each year, on Boy Scout Sunday they participate in the worship service.

In 2000, the lounge, located on the second floor if the Educational Building, was redecorated in memory of Clara Livingway and Col. Archie and Dorthea Marshall King by Don and Sue Doell, Victoria King Heinsen, Ron and Carolyn McMaster, Walter and Susan Myers, Vivian Reighard,

and the Sarah Circle of Trinity UMC. Special thanks to the Memorial Committee and the Trustees of Trinity UMC.

A Narthex addition was added to the east side if the Sanctuary in 2005 that also included an expansion of the second-floor area over the Narthex addition, which created multiple classrooms. This classrooms are used by Trinity committees and church groups for meetings and other activities. The classrooms area also used by outside groups for similar activities. A member of Trinity United Methodist Church, Edward 'Tiny' Miller, made a substantial contribution to the Narthex addition.

No church has been more transferred about from one conference and district to another than Port Clinton. Here is the entire picture.

1834-1835 - Ohio Conference
1836-1839 - Michigan Conference
1837-1852 - Tiffin District
1840-1867 - North Ohio Conference
1868-1891 - Central Ohio Conference
1892-1911 - North Ohio Conference
1912 - North East Ohio Conference

1834 - Portland District
1835-1836 - Norwalk District
1853-1867 - Sandusky District
1868-1869 - Defiance District
1870-1872 - East Toledo District
1873-1882 - Findlay District
1883-1891 - Toledo District
1892-1911 - Sandusky District
1912 - Norwalk District

1969-today East Ohio Conference

2005-Today Firelands District

Past Ministers

First Methodist Episcopal Church

1834-J.B. Austin, C. Goddard
1835-J.T. Kellam, J.M. Goshorn
1837-L. Parker (Port Clinton Mission)
1838-Wesley J. Wells
1840-Alexander Campbell
1841-T. Thompson, D. Dodge
1842-S.P. Shaw, Edw. Grumlee
1843-S.P. Shaw, H.P. Ward
1844-Jos. F. Kennedy, Wm. C. Huestis
1845-Sam'l Fairchild, Wm. Huestis
1846-J. Jones, J.S. Calpes
1847-Joseph Jones
1848-Jos. Reese, Jas. Elliott
1849-Sam'l M. Beatty
1850-(seven total ministers)
1851-Stephen Fant, Wm. H. Taylor
1852-Leonard Hill (Mulligan)
1853-Henry Warner
1854-55-John McKean
1856-Nelson B. Wilson
1857-58-John W. Thompson
1859-60-Thos. J. Gard
1861-Jacob A. Brown, Andrew Pollock
1862-John S. Haldeman, Andrew Pollock
1863-John S. Haldeman
1864-Geo. W. Dunn, Orlando Pearce
1865-A.P. Jones, B.A. Disney (also 1866)
1867-John McKean
1868-69-John Sites
1870-Valentine Staley, Myran Hoag
1871-John Bradbury, Richard Duvall
1872-John Parlette
1873-Phillp A. Brown
1874-75-Parker P. Pope
1876-77-Adam C. Barnes
1878-80-John W. Miller
1881-82-Ambrose Hollington
1883-84-Nathaniel B.C. Love
1885-87-Greenbery H. Priddy
1888-90-Chas. W. Taneyhill
1891-T.N. Barkdull
1892-93-J.F. Brant
1894-96-C.D. Patterson
1897-1903-R.F. Mayer
1904-06-W.M. Reese
1907-19-W.N. Robertson
1920-25-C.W. Kennedy
1925-26-N.E. Butler (one year)
1926-Perry Nelson (six months)
1926-27-A.R. Elliott
1928-29-L.A. Easley
1930-34-Jos. W. Cleland
1934-36-S.A. Stephen
1936-37-P.J. Reid

Trinity United Methodist (name changed in 1937)

1937-39-P.J. Reid
1939-41-John G. Koontz
1941-47-Russell S. Linton
1947-49-William G. Miller
1949-54-Lawrence G. Miller
1954-61-Paul O. Reese
1961-68-John M. Harnish
1968-84-Elmer G. Stratton
1984-86-Charles A. Ready
1986-90-Ronald F. Huff
1990-94-Robert J. Hahn
1994-2006-Robert H. Schwenk
2006-18-Bruce Batchlor-Glader
2018- present-Annette Dimond

Incomplete List of Members & Friends of Port Clinton's First Methodist Church 1834 - 1953

Mr. & Mrs. James Kingham and their children, *Thirza, Clara, and perhaps Dr. James Kingham. Mr. Kingham, who came from England in 1836, was Port Clinton's first postmaster, appointed in July 1840. He was ordained deacon of the church by Bishop Matthew Simpson, August 27, 1854.*

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Sylvester and children, Hattie, Eva, and John. *Mr. Sylvester came from New Jersey in 1831 and became the first school teacher.*

Mr. & Mrs. James Baldwin and family.

Mr. & Mrs. Aretebanus Kirk.

Dr. Wm. Greene and first wife. *Three older children, William, John, and Mary, may have been members. Dr Greene came from Vermont in 1848; conducted a drugstore; was Port Clinton's first Mayor; and served the longest commission as local postmaster.*

Ira Dutcher and family

B.H. Jacobs. Later he married Clara Kingham. *Both devoted their talents to church and Sunday School work*

Mr. & Mrs. I.N. Payne

Edward Holstein

Attorney & Mrs. W.B. Sloan

Mr. & Mrs. L. S. Porter. *Later Mr. Porter became a doctor.*

Mrs. Nearing

Mrs. Lowry (mother of Mrs. Jacob Shook & Mrs. L.S. Porter)

Mrs. Mary Payne (mother of Will, Newton, and Augusta)

Mrs. Elizabeth Hollingshead. *Sunday School teacher many years.*

Mrs. Artemisia Faust. *Later Mrs. Smith.*

Mrs. Johnson

Mrs. Rachel Park

Mrs. John Deter

Mrs. Sylvester Smith

Mrs. Chloe Robinson (mother of John J., Clara, Nannies, and others.) *She later became the wife of Dr. Greene.*

Miss Lillie Hitchcock.

Members of a Later Period

Mr. & Mrs. H.B. Hansen
Mrs. Elijah Baltimore
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Bell & family
Mr. & Mrs. James Thorne & family
Mrs. Henry Cleaver
Mr. & Mrs. H.H. Hesselbart. *Mr. Hesselbart taught a Sunday School class from 1873 to the beginning of his last illness in 1903. Also served as Sunday School superintendent and church treasurer for a long time.*
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Hyde
Mrs. Margaret Cole
Mr. & Mrs. A.W. Fall
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Bobst & daughters, Hattie and Myrta
Mr. & Mrs. Wm. E. Kelly & family
Mr. & Mrs. Lewis Mackey
Mr. & Mrs. R.T. Kirk & family
Mr. & Mrs. J.W. Permar
Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Shook
I.N. Payne, Jr.
Will Payne
Mr. & Mrs. J. R. Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. N.E. Hughes
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Gill & family
Mrs. George B. Heller
Mr. & Mrs. E.C. Paine. *Mr. Paine directed the first church choir for many years.*
Mrs. T.J. Marshall
Mrs. Anna McMunn. *Taught a Sunday School class of boys.*
Mrs. J.V. Lutts - *Taught a class for many years.*
Mrs. Luke Green
Mrs. Nathan Green
Mr. & Mrs. John J. Robinson. *Mr. Robinson served many years of the Church Board.*
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Fall. *Mr. Fall served many years on the same official committee.*
Mr. & Mrs. J.G. Daum. *Mr. Daum also served along time in the same capacity.*
Mrs. Callie Heim *Turned the first spadeful of earth for the foundation of the second Methodist church building.*
Mr. & Mrs. James Hollinshead. *Mrs. Hollins-head taught the Sunday School primary class for many years*
Mr. & Mrs. J.H. McRitchie
Mrs. Fred Camper
Mr. & Mrs. David McRitchie
Mr. & Mrs. Mills Lockwood
Mrs. Lydia Wonnell (later Mrs.Lockwood)
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Quast.
Mrs. N.A. Clemans

Mr. & Mrs. George Sloan
Mrs. William E. Bense
Mrs. Rachel McDowell
Mrs. J.C. Payne
Dr. & Mrs. Wilbur Buzzell. *Dr.Buzzell was the church organist and choir director for 31 years. He played the reed organ for a time in the first church. The Buzzells came to Port Clinton in the 1880s. She was also very talented and together they were a great help to the church. Many years after her death, Doctor and Emilie Durheim were married. She was an active member in the church's missionary work.*

Friends of the first M.E. Church

Dr. James Hitchcock	E.E. Wenger
George B. Heller	Wm. Kelly
Wallace Cowell	Wm. E. Bense
H.S. Cowell, Sr	John Detlef
George R. Clark	J.F. Harms
George E. St. John	John Helberg
Sylvester Smith	J.B. Mizener
T.J. Marshall (attorney)	O.J. True
J.H. Magruder	S.A. Magruder
J.B. Freehafer (druggist)	Geo. E. Bliss

(No doubt there are many others whose names we do not have.)

Living Descendants of First Members

Mrs. P.K. Tadsen	Miss Addie Lattimore
Mrs. Frank Mackey	Miss Josie Fall
Mrs. John Barnum	Charles Wolfe
Mrs. Rudolph Miller	Edward Miller
Mrs. Frank Quisno	Carl Quisno
Mrs. Ray Denney	Mrs. J.C. Payne
Mrs. Robert Heinsen	Miss Lois Heinsen
Mrs. Joseph Burns	Miss Pearl Cleaver
Mrs. Richard Boldt	Mrs. B.N. Englebeck
Edwin Fall	Thomas Fall
Amos Fall III	Harry Fall
Bert Fall	Mrs. Rollin Smith
Miss Mae Hesselbart	Wilbur Gill
Miss Florence Hyde	Miss Nellie Camper



Mrs. Caroline Heims
Turned the first spade of dirt when the first brick church was built in 1888.

Ottawa County News.

1834-1884.

Semi-Centennial of Methodist Episcopal Churches of Ottawa County, O.

[BY REV. N. B. C. LOVE.]

A half century has passed since the first Methodist Itinerants preached the Gospel statedly to a few small societies of believers on the Peninsula; and a century has passed since the organization of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States; so that it is well to pause and look over the past, and rejoice over successes, and improve in future upon the mistakes that have been made. Failures often teach the best lessons, while success does not always follow success.

Most of the fathers and mothers who braved the dangers incident to Northern Ohio to pioneer life, have emigrated to the Better Land. The children of the heroic dead, and of the lingering patriarchs, can, in the reading of these few pages, receive a new impetus to wisely and diligently cultivate the heritage bequeathed them.

Lakeside Association, so widely known and justly famous because of the great annual convocations assembling upon their grounds, would not have had an existence had it not been for the preparatory work accomplished by self denying men and women, members of Port Clinton circuit and their preachers, for four decades of years preceeding its organization. They laid the foundations well. They had both intelligence and piety. The structure they built thereon is one of strength and beauty. * * * * * *

In 1833, ministers named Austin, Wilcox and Allen, preached occasionally in the cabins of settlers. They traveled the Lower Sandusky circuit, and it extended over Sandusky, Ottawa, part of Huron and Lucas counties. The preachers were, in 1834, John T. Kellam and Wm. Sullivan. The former is alive at this writing. John Peltzel and John Kincaf in 1835. Leonard Hill and Wesley J. Wells, in 1836. Leonard Parker served in 1837. In 1838, A. S. Bissel and B. Blanchard. In 1839, John Brakefield and James Wilson. Philip Wareham in 1840. In 1841, Thos. Thompson and Darius Dodge. In 1842, Samuel P. Shaw and Ed. S. Grumbley. In 1843, brother Shaw and Hib. P. Ward. In 1845, William Huestis and Samuel Fairchild.

In 1846, the west part of the county was attached to Woodville circuit. On the remaining circuit, Joseph Jones and Jacob T. Canless were the preachers. The latter soon ranked as a leading man in his conference, and, after filling important fields, died while acting as a presiding elder, in 1869, aged 45. He was an orator. In 1847, Joseph Jones and Tracy L. Wait. In 1848, Joseph Reece and James Elliott. In 1849, Samuel Beaty and C. S. George. In 1850, Samuel Beaty and Samuel T. Lane. Messrs Israel Smith and Thos. Ackerman "assisted on the work." The latter died in 1883, at Belleville, O. The former resides at Fremont, O., respected by all. In 1851, Stephen Faul and W. H. Taylor. In 1852, James Mulligan and Leonard Hill.

The presiding elders having the oversight of the churches on the Peninsula, up to 1852, were as follows: H. O. Sheldon, John H. Powers, L. B. Gurley, D. D., Adam Poe, D. D., Wesley Brock, Dr. H. M. Shaffer, E. P. Raymon, Thos. Barkdull, Wm. B. Disbro.

The presiding elders since 1852 have been: Wm. C. Pierce, E. R. Jewett, A. K. Owen, G. W. Breckenridge, E. C. Gavitt, Samuel S. Barter, W. W. Winters, A. Harmont and I. R. Henderson.

In 1853 the circuit was limited by Mud Creek, and placed in Sandusky district, North Ohio Conference, where it continued until 1868, when it fell into Central Ohio.

	Number of Members.		
	1843	1853	1863
Port Clinton	23	27	60
Christie	16	24	42
Danbury	10	12	23
Rock	16	12	12
Marions	20	15	9
La Carp	11	14	33
Total	103	104	181

In 1858 Van Renseller's society was attached, but never numbered over six members; and in 1862 Bay society, with six members; and the same year Oak Harbor with 35 members. We thus had, in 1863, a total of 222. To this must be added 56 probationary members, making a grand total in 1863 of 278. The increase during the two decades—from 1843 to 1863—was 175, and the next two decades the increase was 104. The total number of members and probationers in 1883 was 382.

The three "charges" which now have included in them the territory of the circuit in 1858 are as follows: Port Clinton, which is a station. Oak Harbor, a half station, with La Carne, which is a new society composed of members of the old societies north and southwest of it. Lakeside, a circuit, composed of Christie, Lakeside and Catawba societies, with preaching each Sabbath.

In 1847 the quarterly conference appointed a board of trustees for Christie society, composed of Wm. Gill, H. J. Miller, Samuel D. Lockwood, Isaac B. Davis, E. K'Burg, J. W. Sylvester and James Kingham. Mr. Joseph Gill, of Mount Pleasant, gave a deed in fee simple for a lot of land in section 3, Portage township, upon which they erected a brick house, 37x33 feet and it was dedicated and called Christie Chapel. Three years ago the old church gave place to a new one. It is a fine brick building, well finished, and cost $3,500. This house goes by the old name of "Christie."

In the year 1852 the house in Port Clinton was erected, which still is occupied for worship. The board of trustees was composed of James Baldwin, James Kingham, J. W. Sylvester, William Gill, John Sherbrook, B. D. Payne, L. D. Lockwood and Nelson Smith. The house was built on lots Nos. 10 and 11, and block No. 3, and purchased of L. D. Resuer for $200. It was Dedicated by W. B. Disbro. The total cost of the church was $1,607.60. The vestibule and spire were built in 1860.

The church at La Carpe was built in 1851, (size 36x24 feet,) near the graveyard, on land conveyed by P. Kleinhans. John Kirk, R. T. Kirk, P. Kleinhans, David Marion, Thomas Hall and William Rymers were trustees.

An English and German Methodist church was built in Danbury township. There is also a German Methodist church at La Carp, of which we have no statistics.

DEAR BROTHER:—We have published a neat pamphlet of 26 pages, being a sketch of the history of the M. E. church of Ottawa County, Ohio. As you are connected with this history it may be of interest to you to have a copy. The foregoing is an extract.

Send 15 cents to me, and I will mail you a copy. Yours Truly,

N. B. C. LOVE,

Port Clinton, O.

DEDICATED.

The New M. E. Church at Pt. Clinton Sunday, Nov. 19, 1890—A Brief Description of the Building and History of its Construction.

With the services last Sabbath the M. E. congregation and people of Port Clinton consummated one of the largest and finest church enterprises that has been undertaken by a town of this size in Ohio at least, and we might safely say surrounding states. Prior to the commencing of its construction had the assertion been made that a $15,000 building could be erected by subscription it would have been scouted as impossible, but such a result has been accomplished.

The most remarkable feature of the subscription raising was the amount needed and obtained on the day of dedication—$4,600.

Rev. Leroy A. Belt D. D., of Bellefontaine had charge of the ceremonies and the work could not have been placed in more efficient hands. He understands such work to perfection and succeeded in captivating his hearers and getting them in good humor in a short order. The success achieved was a surprise and revelation to all.

Rev. Taneyhill at the close of the services paid our people the high compliment of saying that in an experience of 21 years building churches he had never found a community so liberal in financial contributions as this. And it is also stated that the raising of so large a subscription in so short a time as was done Sunday morning has never been equalled in this conference district.

For the success of the whole enterprise too much credit and praise cannot be given Rev. Taneyhill. While the people do appreciate his services, few have hardly taken time to consider the amount of responsibility that he has assumed and the determination displayed in his work. The officials of the church have done well in performing their duties, yet to the tireless efforts and scrupulous attention to all details exercised by Mr. Taneyhill is the crowning glory most largely due. He is a minister among hundreds for such business.

The church is an ornament to Port Clinton, and as Dr. Belt remarked, a monument to the benevolence of the people of this community and the diligence of Rev. C. W. Taneyhill.

We are indebted to Mr. Taneyhill for the following historical and descriptive sketch:

NEW METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

About 40 years ago the frame church that gave place to the new one just completed was builded. At that time it was the finest building for public use in the town, and many thought it very extravagant to put up such a building, but among the things that the American people delight themseyes in is the public spirit shown in their buildings. The town has out grown the wooden structure years ago, more in the surroundings than in enlargement of congregation.

For the new church building it was proposed that a sum not less than $10,000 should be placed in it, but like one's own home a change for the better at one place and another runs up the amount until not less than $15,000 would actually pay for this commodious structure.

Competent judges have, after examination, expressed themselves that the building is worth every cent of $25,000. So we congratulate ourselves on having made a good bargain.

Before a stroke was made on the building over $9,000 was subscribed.

On the morning of June 3rd. 1889, at 7 o'clock, after reading the scripture, and singing, with prayer, a goodly company being present, Rev. Charles W. Taneyhill lifted the first spadefull of earth for the foundation to be laid. The official members present and even the women took part and from that day to the completion not a serious hurt, fall or accident has been to any one in the construction.

On Thursday, January 9, 1890, the first sermon was preached in the basement of the new church by the present pastor. The regular services were held in the same room until Saturday night October 18, Rev. S. Baumgardner, of Oak Harbor, preached the first sermon in the main audience room.

Sunday, Oct. 19, Rev. Leroy A. Belt D. D., of Bellefontaine, preached the dedicatory sermon, from the scene of Noah building the ark for the saving of his family. There were present and taking part Rev. P. P. Pope Presiding Elder of the Toledo district of which this appointment is a part, with Revs. M. T. Ayers, S. Baumgardner, and the Pastor, C. W. Taneyhill.

After the sermon the statement was made that $4,000 was wanted to clear the house of debt, and in an hours time the secretaries announced that $4:600 was on paper from good names, and the house was dedicated amid great rejoicing.

The architect of this model building is L. G. Welker, of Toledo, though the plans were changed so as to place the two dormer windows on the east part thus making two additional rooms.

The basement is of Marblehead limestone nine feet high, and is used for furnice room, also a kitchen, for the church socials, as the main basement room will have tables and all things needed for the convenience of the women in charge.

The main audience room is forty-six feet square, with three rooms to the east twenty-one feet long and making together forty-six feet thus making outside measure of the entire building 52x70 feet. The class rooms are thrown into the main audience room by rising doors, thus enlarging the room for at least one hundred more persons, and with the galleries on two sides will comfortably seat six hundred people. The seating in the main room is diagonal, with the pulpit at the corner, and the choir platform on the north side, the floor being inclined makes the line of vision unobstructed, and the compactness as well as the general arrangement makes the acoustics perfect.

The windows are of the best cathedral glass and the highest state of the pattern. Most of them are memorials, some are families, others are class windows by the Sunday School.

The heating and ventilating is by the best of Smead system, where the impure air passes out under the floor through the stack at the side of the chimney.

The entire building is finished in red oak in the natural wood the ceiling in arch with cased beams, and in the center a ceiling light of cathedral glass of fourteen feet square, and is beautiful to look upon. This light receives its force from the lantern windows above in the canopy top in the center of the building. The tower is sixty-eight feet high with belfry. The side walls are twenty feet above the stone being of brick and Berea sandstone trimmed. The cornice of the best galvanized iron and beautiful design.

After all descriptions one must come and see, when they will say with the Queen of Sheba, "The half had not been told." Ottawa Co News

Ashley Was Here.

Ottawa County News
September 4, 1940

Mrs. Harry Needham was chosen as the first president of the Woman's Society of Christian Service of Trinity Methodist church when the charter meeting was held in the church auditorium Wednesday afternoon. 9/4/40.

The meeting opened with the singing of the hymn, "Faith of Our Fathers. The pastor, John G. Koontz, as temporary chairman, stated the purpose of the meeting, which was the organizing of a woman's society which would combine in itself the activities previously carried on by the United Missionary society and the Ladies' Aid. Mrs. William Timblin acted as temporary secretary. Mrs. Charles Ruddock then read, "A New Day," from the guide manual, followed by a prayer by the pastor.

Mrs. C. C. Long, of Cincinnati, gave a fine inspirational and educational talk. Mrs. Long's talk was followed by the enrollment service, the ladies filing to the front of the church, where the membership book lay upon a table, set off by two candlesticks holding yellow candles, and bouquets of yellow flowers. During the signing Mrs. Clara Luchsinger played organ music and Mrs. S. V. Gill read from the membership ritual. The charter membership enrollment will be kept open until the next meeting.

Upon her election as president Mrs. Needham took charge. Other officers then being elected were: Vice-president, Mrs. S. V. Gill, who is also chairman of the program committee; vice-president in charge of missionary education, Mrs. Charles Ruddock; vice-president in charge of local church activities, Mrs. T. L. Kelly; recording secretary, Mrs. Mary Bennett; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Charles McCracken; treasurer, Mrs. Alba Smith; secretary of literature and publications, Mrs. Christ Williamsen; secretary of supply work, Mrs. Frank Becker; secretary of student work, Mrs. Leonard Wettlaufer; secretary of young women's work, Mrs. Robert Rudes; secretary of children's work, Mrs. Ralph Johnson. The president will appoint committee chairmen later.

Mrs. Needham, as president, is the delegate to the conference organization meeting, to be held in Canton, September 26. Mrs. Koontz is the alternate delegate.

Arrangements were then made for the time of the next meeting, it being decided to hold it on the 25th of this month. Meetings are to be held once a month. A communication from Dr. Karl P. Meister, district superintendent, Elyria, was read. This was followed by the charge given by the president to the members of the Woman's Society of Christian Service. The meeting came to a close with a prayer and benediction by the Rev. Koontz.

The ladies were then invited downstairs to have tea. Mrs. W. S. Perry poured coffee and Mrs. Barss poured tea.

The United Missionary society of Trinity Methodist church closed its activities with the meeting held in June. A few years ago the foreign and home missionary societies were united under one presiding head, each division, however, maintaining its own president. When the United Missionary society went out of existence in June Mrs. Henry Cowgill was the presiding president; Mrs. Henry Miller, president of foreign work, and Mrs. Christ Williamsen of home missionary work. Mrs. R. E. Miller was the secretary, Mrs. Charles McCracken the corresponding secretary, and Mrs. Earl Willson treasurer.

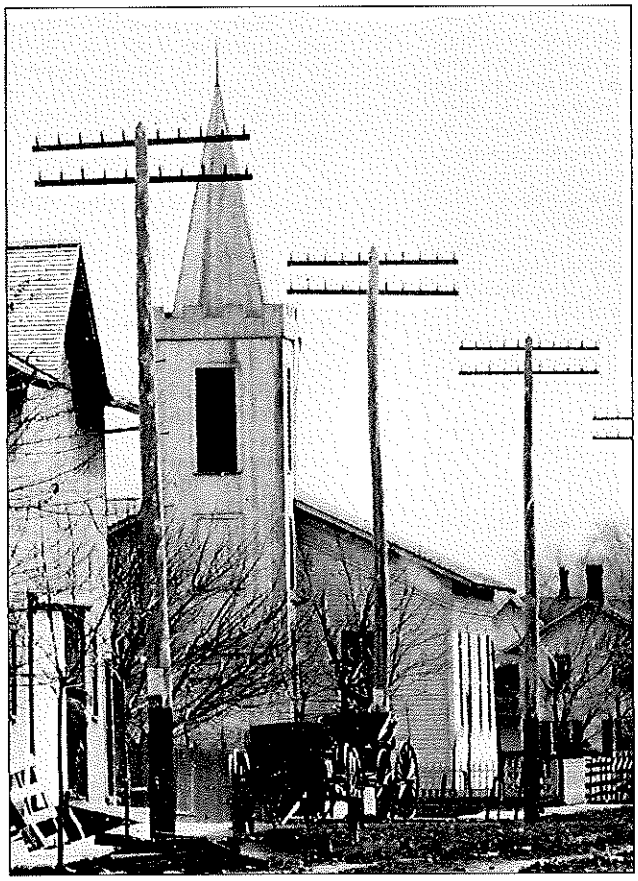
In the Methodist Episcopal church of Port Clinton a foreign missionary society was organized in 1878, during the pastorate of the Rev. A. C. Barnes. Mrs. Barnes was the first president. Other officers elected at this meeting of many years ago were: Vice-presidents, Mrs. J. R. Johnson, and Mrs. W. B. Sloan; recording secretary, Mrs. G. W. Payne; corresponding secretary, Mrs. John Lutz; treasurer, Mrs. L. A. Kingham. Very shortly after the Rev. and Mrs. Barnes left the local church and Mrs. (Dr.) Green was chosen as president, holding that office for many years, to 1898. Other charter members were Mrs. Joseph Sylvester, who was a member for 26 years; Mrs. J. R. Gill, who took active interest in the foreign missionary work of the church in 1883, and continued her membership for 51 years. Others also held long memberships. Mrs. Rachel McDowell was also a Missionary society president for many years.

L Lydia Ann, wife of James

A Home Missionary society was not organized until six years later, in 1884. Mrs. Emily Johnson was chosen secretary and Mrs. Cornelia (James) Thorn, treasurer. It seems that Mrs. Green was also the president of this society and that she was succeeded by Mrs. Rachel McDowell, who held the office for 13 years. Mrs. Amos Fall was a loyal member for many years.

The Ladies' Aid society was not organized until 1888. Mrs. Rachel McDowell and Mrs. Joseph Sylvester were appointed to draft the first rules of this society. This was during the pastorate of the Rev. Charles W. Tanneyhill. The originally chosen officers probably held office for many years as in 1895 Mrs. Green was president, a Mrs. Lockwood, vice-president, Mrs. Rachel McDowell, secretary, and Mrs. Joseph Sylvester, treasurer.

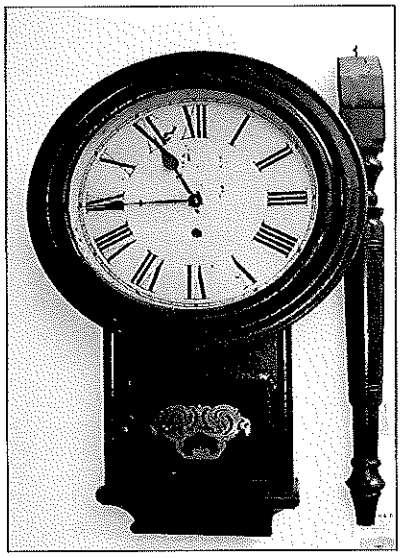
The last meeting of the Ladies' Aid was held Tuesday afternoon, August 27, being called as a special meeting. The officers relinquishing their duties at this time were: President, Mrs. T. L. Kelly; vice-president, Mrs. Edwin Ashton; secretary, Mrs. Earl Willson; treasurer, Mrs. Alba Smith.



Methodist Episcopal Church
The first Methodist church building erected in
1852 in the same location
as our current church building.



Stained glass window
thought to be from the original
Methodist Episcopal Church
the window is at the
Ottawa County Museum



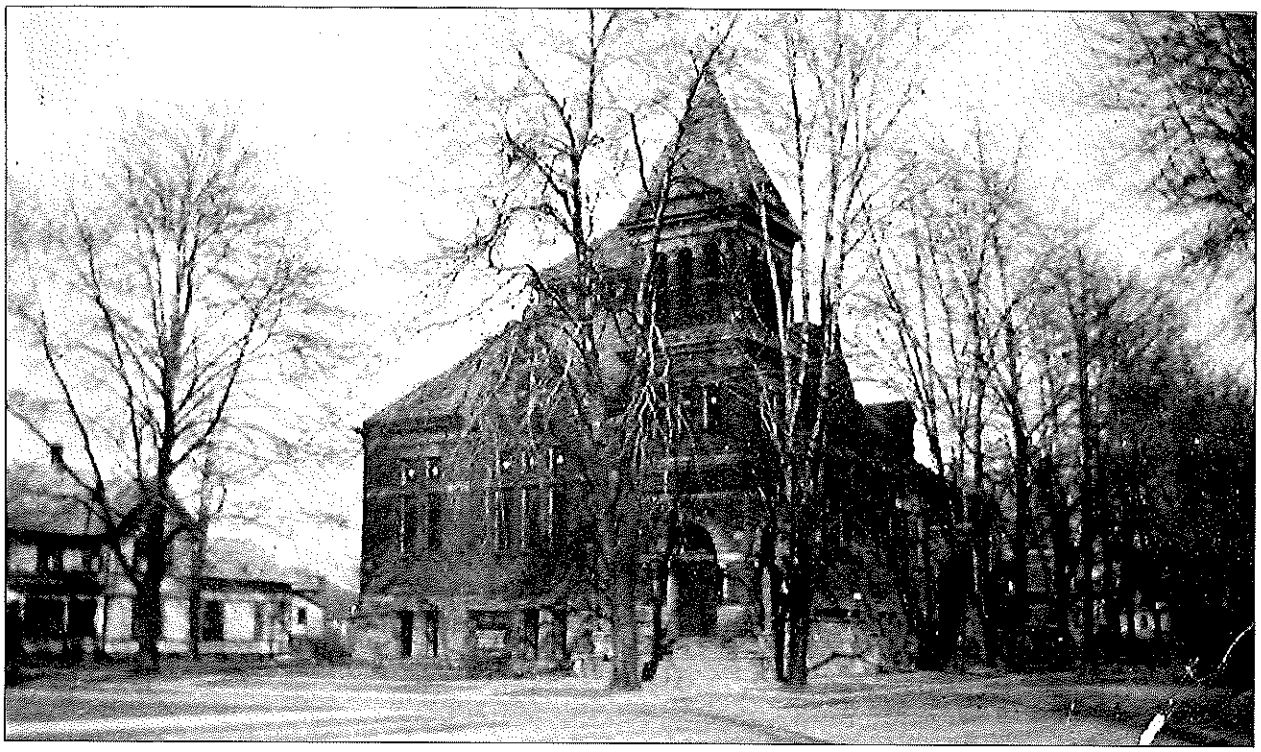
Clock & spindle

This clock was thought to be from the original church but it was not.

The clock was presented to the Methodist Episcopal Church by local jeweler, W.O. McMahan, shortly after the second church was dedicated November 19, 1890. The clock hung for many years to the left of the pipe organ. It was later was given to Mr. Rank, a jeweler, in as part payment on an electric clock. He later sold it to Mrs. Henry Miller. It then was hung in the church basement.

The clock from the *old* frame church hung in the
'Tri-ter' classroom of the brick church.

~May Hesselbart



The church dedicated in 1890 and used until 1964

~ Ottawa Co. Historical Museum

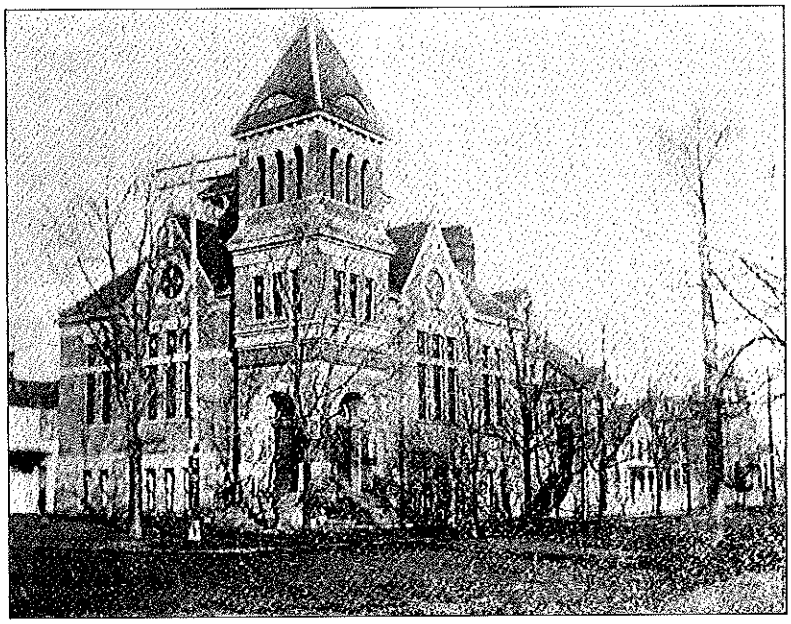




Worshipers leaving church - circa 1917



Looking east on Second Street - circa 1911-12
Note the Lutheran church is not on the southeast corner



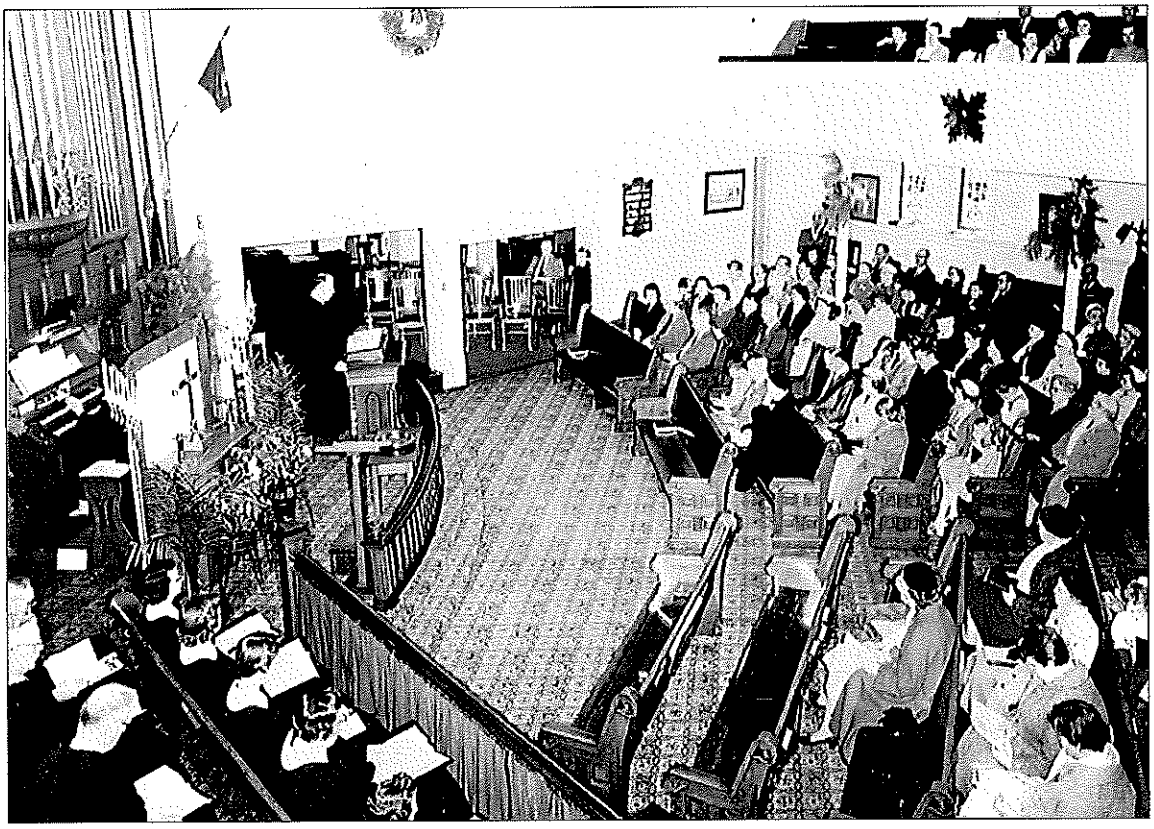
circa 1897

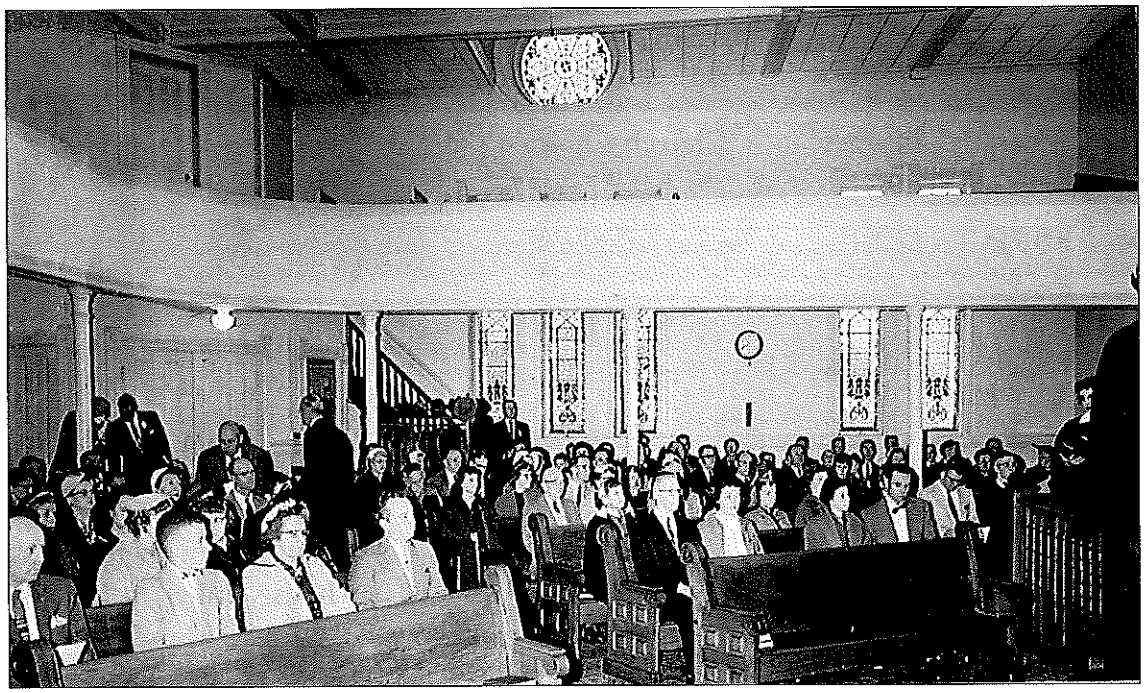


Church Choir - 1903



Photo of the east side of the church & a neighboring house, taken in 1914 by May Hesselbart





Interior of this church circa 1955



Trinity United Methodist Church
Dedication was held May 10, 1964



The Sanctuary - 2016

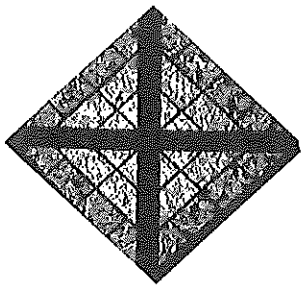
Interior of the Chapel located in the Educational Building.
Furniture and decor of the Chapel are items from the former Brick Church





The Windows of The Sanctuary of the Trinity United Methodist Church of Port Clinton Ohio

January 1999



Depicting the Glory Around the Empty Cross

Chancel Window
In Memory of Arthur & Amy Kirk
Given by
Clifton & Threva Kirk
Wilson & Irene Kirk
Edward & Lorena Kirk
Robert & Florence Kirk



Christ Blessing the Little Children

Given in Memory of
Mr. & Mrs. William Sloan
Mr. & Mrs. George W. Sloan
Mr. & Mrs. James H. Smith
by Charlotte S. Roberts, Eleanor Smith & Dorothy S. Watts

Jesus gathered children around him because he liked them and because they were a fine illustration of what it means to be a follower of Jesus. Jesus said, ". . . to such as these belongs the kingdom of heaven." He meant that we need to be as open as children to the meanings life and God will give us.



Moses and the Ten Commandments

Given in Faith by
Glen & Mary Dieringer
&
By Miss Stella Orth

The basis for much of our western civilization and code of laws began when Moses presented Israel with the Ten Commandments. The Ten Commandments can be found in the Old Testament of the Bible at Exodus 20:1-17 and Deuteronomy 5:1-22.



Christ As Shepherd

Given by Memory of
Jack G. Worst, Beloved Son, who
Gave His life in World War II
by Harold & Ruby Worst
and In Memory of
R. E. Miller
by His Wife Helen & Son Edward

Jesus as shepherd of the sheep–caring for those whom he loves. The care of the Christ extends to all the peoples of the world. The Christ is the One who loves all and seeks the well-being of all. As the shepherd will lay down his life for his sheep, in the same way, we remember the Christ.



Christ Teaching the Disciples

Given by Earl & Abbie Wilson

Jesus taught his disciples over the course of his three-year long ministry. He instructed them by the lakeside and on the cross. He tutored them as he had distributed the increased loaves and fishes, and when he showed mercy to the one caught in adultery.



Christ and the Sermon on the Mount

Given in Memory of
Clyde & Mabel Thompson
by
Robert & Elizabeth Thompson

The Sermon on the Mount is found in the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 5 through chapter 7. Parts of it are also found in the Gospel of Luke. Perhaps the most famous part of the Sermon is the Beatitudes– "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."



Christ and The Last Supper

Given in Memory of
Mr. & Mrs. E. H. Fall
by Mabel Quisno & Arthur Fall
And In Memory of Rolland Lenhart
by Edna Lenhart

Jesus desired to celebrate the ancient Hebrew tradition of the Passover meal with his disciples. That meal, that night, became Jesus' last supper before the Crucifixion. That meal, then, became for us a celebration of Communion with the Christ.



Christ with Mary & Martha

Given by Women's Society of Christian Service – Now the United Methodist Women

Martha was upset when left to do the household chores while Mary sat at the feet of Jesus listening. When Martha complained to Jesus he said, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her." (Luke 10:41 & 42)



Christ In Gethsemane

Given by Lucas & Donna Myers
and by
Walter, Gary, James, and
Mary Beth Myers

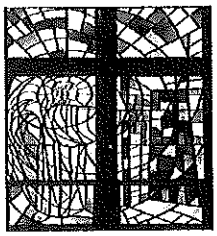
Jesus knew that his desperate fate awaited him very soon. He went into the Garden of Gethsemane to pray for strength and guidance. He asked his disciples to wait, awake, for him. They could not. Jesus prayed so earnestly that he sweated as if in great drops of blood.



Christ Knocking at the Door

Given by
Albert & Clara Holzhauer
and
Robert & Fay Holzhauer

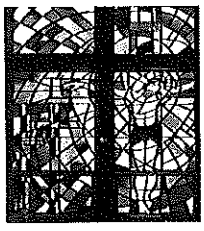
Jesus is knocking at the door of your heart . . . waiting for you to answer and open the door and let him in. Notice that there no are latches or handles on Jesus' side of the door. Each person must open the door from inside . . . Jesus cannot open it from the outside.



Christ and Eternal Life

Frank & Mabel Quisno

The Resurrection Angel declaring that "he is not here . . . . he is risen as he promised." The open "door" of the tomb is wide, showing that the grave is empty. Here is the triumph of the Christian Faith – that Life is meaningful now and forever. Eternal Life begins now by faith and extends through all time.



Christ and the Crucifixion

Given by
Clarence & Margaret Cooley
in Memory of their
Son, Bob & Their Parents
and Given by
Vera Coulter & Son
Mary Summersett & Son
in Memory of Mother and Grandmother

Jesus is depicted as hanging on the cross. Notice the two smaller crosses to the left–those of the thieves crucified with Jesus. Here is demonstrated God's great love for all–no matter what God still loves us–without condition and without regret.



Early Port Clinton

Given by
Henry & Clara Miller
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Wedekind
Rhea, Ralph, Kent & Helen

The Church - the Beacon for the Christ; the Lighthouse as it was early on in Port Clinton - a beacon to sailors on Lake Erie. Both representing important illumination in the lives of the persons in and around Port Clinton for generations.

Tribute to Penny Milliser



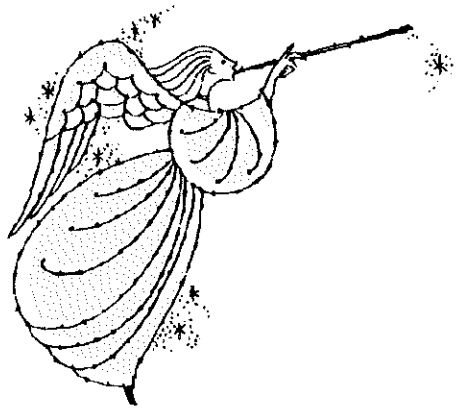
Sunday, November 24· 2013 was a very special day in the life of Trinity United Methodist Church. It was the day we set aside to honor Penny Milliser for her fifty-one years as financial secretary and thirty-eight years as office secretary for our church. It's not often that we change the Sunday worship schedule, but then, it's not often that someone retires after more than fifty years of service in any job. Since Penny is loved by those who normally attend either the 8:00 a.m. or the 10:30 a.m. services, it was important to join together at 9:30 a.m. in a united event to recognize Penny's retirement.

The Sunday before Thanksgiving was indeed the appropriate time to express our congregation's gratitude to this wonderful lady. During his Celebration Sunday sermon, Pastor Bruce preached about Penny's devotion and dedication to her job as well as to the church she loves. He expressed his personal appreciation for the years she has spent coordinating all aspects of the church office in a professional manner.

Following the sermon, Ida Hahn, the chairperson of the Staff Parish Relations Committee gave a tribute to Penny and presented her with the gift of a love offering that so many of you generously helped to fund. Following the service, the SPRC hosted a dessert reception in the narthex to continue the festivities.

It was a glorious day that will long be remembered by Penny, her family, and the church family who loves her with Christian gratitude.

IDA HAHN



The Congregation of
Trinity United Methodist Church

2019

Pastor Annette Dimond





In 1959, the 8:00 a.m. Drive-in Church was inaugurated as an Outreach Ministry



Parsonage purchased in 1966 from the Bob Underwood family.

COMMUNION GRAPE JUICE RECIPE

TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH, PORT CLINTON, OHIO

1 CUP CONCORD GRAPES

1/2 CUP SUGAR

PLACE INGREDIENTS IN QUART JARS AND FILL WITH BOILING WATER. SEAL, THEN PROCESS FOR 15 MINUTES IN A BOILING WATER BATH. LET SIT FOR SIX WEEKS BEFORE USING.

This recipe comes from Jean Luchsinger Burns. It was passed down through the Fall Family. Mabel Fall Quisno made many, many batches of this, as a servant of our Lord Jesus Christ. Let us not forget the blessing of our roots.