

## History of the Campbellsport Methodist Church

The Campbellsport Methodist Church will be 92 years old in December 1954, having been established in December 1862. Services were first held in the old Carter schoolhouse, and later in a hall on North Fond du lac Ave., across from the spot where the present church now stands.

According to the earliest historical record we have, The History of Fond du Lac County, Illustrated, which was published in 1880, the first building was erected in 1875 on the present site at a cost of \$3200.00. The land was donated by Stuart Campbell, a member of the family after which the village is named. The deed and organization papers however, were not recorded until May 10, 1881. The church was formally organized March 15, 1880 and the signers were: J. N. McSchooler, W. E. Andrews, John B. Hughes, W. S. Hendricks, Stuart Campbell and John R. Denniston. The first pastor was Reb. McFarland and the first trustee in 1882 was J. N. McSchooler president, W. L. Dusenberry, Stuart Campbell, W. S. Hendricks and M. Saemen.

A union Sunday School began in 1862 at the Carter schoolhouse, the first choir was organized in 1865 by Israel Chesley. The Ladies Aid Society started in the 1890's. The Epworth League was organized in 1904.

Early in the year 1904 it was decided to build a new church. The old church was sold at auction and the new church erected under the ministry of Rev. A. N. Menne, at a cost of \$3129.72. A parsonage was built in the 1890's. This was sold in 1920. The last pastor to occupy it being Rev. Ira Ellis and family, who served Campbellsport, Cotton St., Fond du Lac and North Fond du Lac for one year. From 1917 to 1924 the church was supplied by Rev. James E. Garrett, from 1924 to 1926 by Rev. C. A. Seidenspinner, Rev. I. Motz served one month, Rev. Perry Olson one year, Rev. John Christie two months, Rev. Zoerb one year, Rev. J. P. Koeller from 1928 to 1931. From 1931 until 1947 it was a part of the Oakfield, South Byron and Campbellsport charge, served by Rev. I. A. Mielenz 1931 to 1937, Rev. A. E. Attwood 1937-1940, Rev. A. P. Kraemer 1940 to 1941 when he was called to his heavenly home. Rev. Lyle Stephenson from 1941 to May 1947, Rev. Alvin Briggs from May 1947 to November 1947, Rev. L. M. Douglas from November 1947 to May 1948, Rev. E. T. Holland from June 1953, and the present pastor served since July 1953 up to the present time.

The roll call of Pastors serving this church would include the following, McFarland, Knight, Jones, Stone, Nuss, Pengilly, Moulton, Menne, Harris, Cole, Corr, Reykdal, Ellis, Garrett, Seidenspinner, Motz, Olson, Christie, Zoerb, Koeller, Mielenz, Attwood, Kramer, Stephenson, Briggs, Douglas, Holland, Winter, and Wierer. The roll call of faithful laymen without whom these pastors would have labored in vain is already entered into another book on whose pages the ink will never fade and no names ever forgotten.

On Sunday October 20, 1929 more than 200 persons including many former parishoners attended a homecoming and Silver Jubilee held in celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the erection of the present Methodist Church, Services were held in the morning, afternoon and evening. And dinner and supper was served in the church dining room.