

Bainbridge Township Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 4

Bainbridge Township, Ohio, 44023

Fall 2009



Don't Forget—Our annual Christmas Pot Luck Dinner

December 9th—Time 6:30 PM Place—Burns-Lindow Building

The club will provide the meat dish—Attendees will bring a dish to pass and their own place setting
After dinner Sandra Zikrus will share "Christmas Memories" with us. She will talk of remembering
"Traditions" and special memories of the past



Bainbridge Community Church 2009



Early view of church with the horse sheds
on the left side of church

The early settlers of the township came here with a religious nature and first met in homes and early in the spring of 1822 Mr. Plimpton of the Methodist Conference of the Cuyahoga Circuit was invited to preach in Bainbridge at the home of George Smith. This awakened the community and a church with thirty members was organized. Services were held in private homes in the community until the church was built in 1844 and known as the Methodist Episcopal Church. It was used as a church for 23 years and then sold to the township in 1867. It's hard to believe this crown jewel in Bainbridge Center is 142 years old. The present church was built in 1867 to replace the original church that became

too small for the congregation and was sold to the township and is now known as the Burns Lindow Building. The present church was built for a cost of \$4,710.00 by C.O. Dutton & Company.

The present church originally did not have a bell tower and that was added in 1871 when an 800-pound bell was purchased from a foundry in West Troy, New York and installed at that time. In 1873, the church became known as the Bainbridge Charge of the Cleveland District, East Ohio Conference and Methodist Rule. Later it was know alternately as the Methodist Episcopal Church and Bis-sell's Charge. It probably got the later name from



Another early view of the church before the white fence in the picture on the front. Possible out house on the right in the back of the church.

Bissell's Post Office which was located at Bainbridge in those years and was given that name because there was, and still is, a Bainbridge Post Office in Southern Ohio. The cover over the entrance in the front of the church was added in 1925. In 1914 the small basement was excavated by hand and enlarged to make a meeting room.



Early picture at the entrance of the church that was taken in the late 40's to early 50's judging by the people that I can identify.

As time went on membership of the Methodist Church dwindled and the church withdrew from the Methodist affiliation. In 1924 new by-laws were written and the church was opened to all denominations and known as United Protestant Church of Bainbridge. In 1966 the members voted to seek affiliation with the United Church of Christ and is associated with the United Church of Christ Western Reserve Association.

In 1952 the congregation voted to add a new wing to the church to house church offices and a study, school rooms, social hall, kitchen, new heating plant and sanitary facilities. This was completed in 1955. Since then many other improvements have been done. In 1967 the slate roof was renovated and extensive improvements were made to the foyer and Sanctuary. Again in 1991 extensive alterations and painting were done to the foyer and in 1992 the rear lavatories were re-done. In 2004 more roof problems were found and slate on the roof was replaced where necessary. 2006-2007 again major renovations to the sanctuary were done and included new dry wall on the ceiling and walls, painting, new carpeting, restored chandeliers and added lighting and addition of air conditioning.

Today to walk into the Sanctuary is like walking into a bit of the past with a modernized touch. It is great to see the tall windows with the poured glass not seen in modern churches today with the original wood on the floors and the little knobs on the covers that housed the heater boxes in the floors are a remembrance of the old days that the churches had no heat and the members had to bring their own bricks to keep their feet warm. Remember, originally the church did not have a basement. It wasn't until 1914 that the basement was dug out and a furnace added. In 1928 electric lights were installed.

Outside the church by the driveway is the original stepping-stone where the ladies stepped off the wagons and sleighs when they arrived. Dick Newton tells about the old well cistern that was filled in that had not further use. The kitchen in the base-

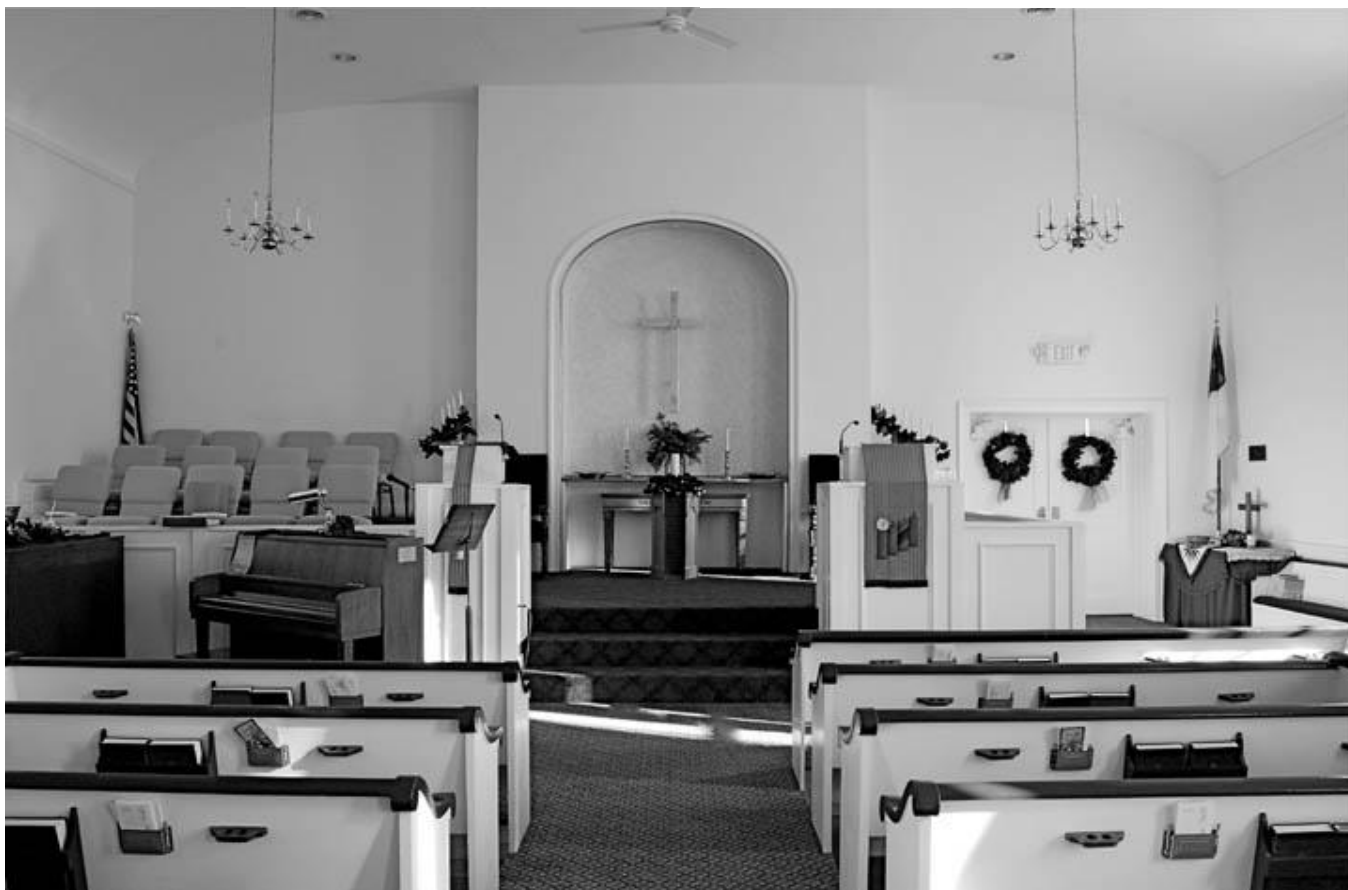
Please—We are looking for more pictures and articles on Bainbridge Township History.
Bill Takacs— 440-543-4991

ment was where the furnace room was in earlier years and was damp and dark and had to be cleaned every time they gave a supper. Water for washing the dishes was from a cistern and the drinking and cooking water was carried in ten-gallon milk cans from Shippeys next door and the store across the street. Since they only had an oil stove to cook on, the meats such as chicken were prepared in the member's homes and brought to the church to be reheated. All meals were cooked and served by oil lamps for light.

This church is a treasure of the past thanks to the devotion of the members to keep it alive. This is an icon to the past of many members of the community whose great, great grandparents were members of this church.



Kitchen used for class room at the church



Sanctuary at BUCC December 2009 as decorated for the Christmas Holidays

Please—We are looking for more pictures and articles on Bainbridge Township History.

Bill Takacs— 440-543-4991



Pictures on top and right were kids that were members of the church in the late 40's to 50's



Universalist Church in Bainbridge
Was not part of Bainbridge Community Church

**Please—We are looking for more pictures and articles on Bainbridge Township History.
Bill Takacs— 440-543-4991**

Officers 2009

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&
Program Chairman**
Donna Yuse
543-3199

Secretary
Harriet Novy

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Membership Chairman
Marge Cook
440-338-5375

Editor & Publisher
Bill Takacs
440-543-4991

Meetings of the Bainbridge Township Historical Society are held the second Wednesday of the month (September through June) at 7:30 p.m. in the Burns-Lindow Building at the corner of Route 306 and Bainbridge-Solon Road.

**Bainbridge Township
Historical Society
P.O.Box 23363
Bainbridge Township
OH 44023-0363**



Town Hall—Circa 1914
Now—Burns Lindow Bldg



Bissell house on the way to its new home where the Early Learning Center Stood



* **Just a Reminder— Annual dues are Payable in September but no later than December-\$10.00 for singles, \$20.00 for family. Life Membership-\$100.00. Make checks payable to *Bainbridge Township Historical Society*. Pay Marge Cook at the meeting or mail to her at 116 Leaview Ln., Chagrin Falls, OH 44022.** *

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P.O.Box 23363
Bainbridge Twp.OH 44023-0363

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL – PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY

Fall 2009 Meeting Schedule

December 9th, 2009: We will be having our Christmas potluck dinner, starting at 6:30 PM. The club will provide the meat, and attendees will prepare a dish to pass around. After dinner Sandra Zikrush will share a "Christmas Memories" with us. She will talk of traditions and special memories of the past. Don't forget to bring your own place setting.

January 13th, 2010: Terry Worthington will be our speaker on "Who gets Grandmas Yellow Pie Plate" which explains how to transfer non-title items, etc.

February 10th, 2010: Bill and Sue Burger will speak on their trip to Borneo.....Pictures will be shown

March 10th, 2010: Our guest speaker is Sandra Zikrush. She will speak of "Life in the Western Reserve". It is a glimpse into the pioneer woman's life presented with humor and facts.

Check out our web page www.bainbridgemory.org