

Methodist Church

From the Ruth Hummel-Klippert Collection

At the Methodist Conference held at Coldwater, Mich in 1870 the Methodist class at Bloomer became a Charge with Rev. E. Hayes appointed minister on the circuit. At that time Bloomer was a part of the Crystal Charge. This group of members had been organized by Anderson Miner upon his settling in Bloomer. The meetings were held in the Miner home. This was the nucleus of the Bloomer Center Methodist Church which was to become an important part of the Carson City Church later.

A Class of Methodists was organized in Carson City by Mr. and Mrs. Gaius Lulham and Rev. and Mrs. Chas. Chick. Rev. Chick had been ordained in England but was again ordained in Ionia after coming here. He was the grandfather of Mr. Chas. Coryell now living east of Carson City in North Shade. They were joined by Mr. and Mrs. John Irish. The first meetings were held in the log school house near Fish Creek.

About this time a group of Englishmen settled two miles east and a mile south of Carson City in 1854. Among them was Wm. Brice great grandfather of John and Robert Brooks of Carson City. Mr. Brice helped to organize a Methodist Class in North Shade. At this time Bloomer Center, Carson City and North Shade were designated as the Bloomer Center Circuit of the Ionia Dist. Rev. Hayes was appointed pastor at a salary of \$600. These facts are important in that the descendants of these pioneers are now members of the Carson City Methodist Church.

In 1874 the name was changed to the Carson City Charge by the Mich. Conference.

A church building was completed in Bloomer Center in 1876. They who built, built well for after a disastrous fire leveled the first Carson City Church this Bloomer Church was moved to Carson City and is now the west wing of the present Methodist Church and contains the original windows placed there in 1876.

About this time Mr. and Mrs. Robt. Abbott donated three lots to be used for a church building site, and it is on this site that the church now stands.

In 1877 a joint revival was held by all the Protestant Groups in Carson City which helped increase the membership and the finances of all the groups. The Baptists wanted to build a church but lacked sufficient funds. The Methodists led by Mr. John LaDue and Geo. Thayer assisted them by the loan of \$500 with the understanding they were to also use the building until their church could be built. Again this was a wise decision and well built because many years later the Methodists purchased the then Baptist Church when the congregation moved to their present location. This church was built on what is now the Spaniolo parking lot and was used by the Methodists as a dining hall for a number of years as they did not have a basement in their church. Following the fire this building was moved and added to the former Bloomer Center Church and is now the sanctuary of the present Methodist church. Thus the original

churches and their congregations have been united into the present Methodist church and we have our founding fathers to thank for their wisdom and religious heritage that we may now worship together in their sanctuaries with the Faith of our fathers. May we be as faithful in our wisdom and religious fervor that succeeding generations may also enjoy this precious heritage which we now possess.

*Another Document From The
Hummel/Klippert Collection*

The Church history of Bloomer Center begins with a Methodist Class meeting held at the home of Anderson Miner May 1854. Elder Wilsey conducted the class. Tis small beginning proved to be of utmost importance to the Methodist church of Carson City today. In 1879 a church was built at Bloomer at a cost of \$1700. Mr and Mrs T.J. Ceeper were asked to go to Grand Rapids and order the windows which are still intact. Many of the early members of this church were forefathers of the present members of the Carson City church.

The Baptist Church Of Carson City

In 1856 a group of Baptist met at the home of Wm. Everest. And under the direction of Rev. John Van Black an organization was formed. They first conducted services in the school house on Sec. 26. Later they moved to Carson City school house until 1876 when they erected a church [where] the Spaiolo parking lot now is. They did not have sufficient funds so the Methodists who at that time had no church loaned them what money they had with the understanding that the Methodists would use it for worship until they could build their own. This bread thus cast on the water returned many years later with much interest. Rev. P.K. Shutter arrived with his son, W.L. Shutter in 1875, and was a great heop. He became pastor of the church and was largely responsible for completing it and reorganizing the membership. The members of the building committee were: John Savage, A.W. Holmes and Wm. Acker. They built well for the building is still being used as a part of the present Methodist Church.

Congregational Church

The society of the Congregational Church of Bloomer was organized June 3, 1872 at the home of T.B. Colton. Four years later a fine church building was erected and the church began to grow. Rev. Samuel Sessions was the first pastor and he served from 1872 to 1874. The charter members were: B.G. Cooley, Sarah Cooley, F.B. Colton, H.M. Robinson, Jane and Maria Robinson, John Murray, H.G. Cooley, Mary Cooley, Abigail Barton, Rev. and Mrs. Samuel Sessions. The church was built in 1902.

St. Marys Of Carson City

St. Mary's parish of Carson City was organized in 1896 for the Catholic members living north of the Ionia Co. line who had until then worshiped at St. John's in Hubbardston.

The task of forming a new parish fell to Rev. K.J. Whalen who held his first service in [the] opera house or Rink Feb. 9, 1896. The membership was small numbering about fifty families. Times were hard and it was with a great deal of faith they considered building a church. First a hall was rented and turned into a neat chapel and here they worshiped until Christmas 1896. By the following June a piece of land was bought from H.T. Sherman, ground broken and a cornerstone laid. Work began on laying the brick that October and the men worked long and hard so that the first service could be held in the new church Christmas morning 1896. Later the interior was finished and the tower erected.

In 1898 a large brick parish house was built followed by a brick barn with with stables for teams. By 1905 property to the east was secured and in 1907 St. Mary's Academy was built and a parish school started under the direction of the Sisters of St. Dominic, of Grand Rapids. Sister M. Berchmans was in charge assisted by Sister. M. Tearentia.

In 1906 a clock was placed in the tower of St. Mary's church by the citizens of the town with the only automatic angelus connection in the State at the time. Recently the clock was stilled because of mechanical difficulties. It was so missed by the people they donated the money to have it repaired and electrified and so again it counts the hours for all to see. A timely monument to friendship and goodwill.

The first marriage in the church was that of Thomas Kavanaugh and Margaret Barrett. (Parents of former Chief Justice Thomas Kavanaugh).

The first Christening that of Kyran Beahan.

Early members of the Parish were: Egans, Arthur and Robert Montgomery, Richard O'Connell, Wm. Grace, James Kavanaugh, Mike O'Connell, The Mooneys, the Barretts, the McGraws, Joe Donahue, [and] several others.

Altar boys at first Mass were Richard O'Connell, [and] Wm. Grace.

St. Mary's Academy graduated their first class of Seniors June 1911. They were Mary Dickenson (Heaton), Marguerita Handlen, Helen Handlen (Grace) and Richard McCracken. The Academy has served three generations well but this is an era of progress and change. In 1964 due to a lack of teachers and other reasons it was decided to close the High School department and the pupils attended the public school.

Pastors thru the years have been: Rev. Kyran J. Whalen 1896-1914, Rev. John J. Sheehan 1914-1920, Rev. P.A. O'Toole 1920-1942, Rev. Lee A. Whalen 1943-1953, Rev. Ralph Kelly 1954-1965. Present Pastor Rev. Fr. Casimir Zawqcki.

The year 1948 was a year of expansion. Dennis and Cathrine O'Connell gave the Church a new organ. A Parish Hall was started and completed in 1951. In 1950 Mr. John Mooney bought a house and lot on north Division St. and gave it to the Church for a Convent. The Church has recently been redecorated and the Rectory remodeled.

The Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church held their first worship service on February 7, 1952, with the Rev. Mr. Robert Marten of Greenville, Michigan serving as the pastor. There were seven families represented in the membership at the time of the dedication.

The church building is the completely remodeled former Noll schoolhouse which was moved into Carson City by the congregation for this express purpose.

The present pastor is the Rev. Mr. Francis Koessel who resides at Turk Lake, Michigan where he serves another Lutheran church.

United Brethren

Started by a Rev. Stone of Matherton in 1867. Membership - 38. Among these were Mrs. Harley Bump, Abram Lampman, Hannah Smith and Cenith Lampman.

Evangelical Association

Started 1858 by Christian Ude and Martin Speck.

German Church Methodist

Met in schoolhouse in 1881

Free Will Baptist

First met in schoolhouse. Organized 1856 at home of Wm. Everest Felch, Davis, Tuttle, Elder and Mrs. Merritt, Mrs Ida Baker, Rev. Brass were some of the people connected with it in the early days.