

Methodist Church North next Monday evening at early lamp lighting."

"July 31, 1869 --- We now have two church bells. The Methodist Church South having procured one last week."

"Oct. 23, 1869 --- Rev. Mr. Davis of the Methodist Church South will preach tomorrow at half past ten o'clock."

"Jan. 29, 1870 --- Ding, dong goes the bell of the Methodist Church South every day, calling the ladies together to work for the approaching fair."

"July 2, 1870 --- The Methodist Church South is holding a protracted meeting. The Rev. Mr. Davis, assisted by Rough and Ready Watts, and Mr. Crebbs, are opening up the way for salvation and are willing to take in all graceless sinners on the most reasonable terms."

On May 18, 1889 the Methodist Church South trustees, Joseph Anderson, Granville Matthews, Wm. W. Campbell, Joseph H. Moore and R. G. Parks sold the church building and lot number 4 for two hundred fifty dollars.

Late in 1889 all of lot 89, the site of the present St. Paul United Methodist Church, was donated by Joseph H. Moore for a Methodist Church South. The present building was erected in 1889 and the dedication took place the following year. Rev. J. A. Horton was the first pastor to serve the people after the new church was built .

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It was in January, 1894, that the Epworth's League (now known as the United Methodist Youth) or the UMY of the St. Paul's Methodist Church was organized with over 20 members.

It was a tragedy on December 15, 1951, that the Benton Methodist Church burned. Commerce and Benton shared a minister at that time and our Church records had been ~~sent~~ ^{taken} to Benton by the minister. All records of St. Paul Methodist Church (which is one of the oldest Methodist churches west of the Mississippi River) were destroyed.

A basement to be used as a fellowship hall and dining room was finished in 1953 and the Educational Annex was added in 1962.

In 1975, under the leadership of Rev. Don Kuehle, the sanctuary was completely redecorated. This project included blown-on ceilings and upper walls, painting, pew varnishing, and new carpeting.

In 1986, with Rev. Gary Ponder-Williams serving as pastor, the basement fellowship hall was renovated. This included walls being sealed and painted, new cabinets and sinks, storage areas enclosed and doors installed, a handrail on the stairs, and the floors cleaned and sealed. Also, a well was dug and the Church now had its own water supply.

St. Paul is very fortunate and blessed to have such talented musicians, accompanists, and a choir director. Mrs. Joyce Sander, has served faithfully, on the organ for many years; Louanne Urhahn, plays organ, accompanys the choir on piano and serves as Sunday School Superintendent; and Rhonda Painton plays organ on special occasions. Leslie Michael plays all of the percussion instruments and Margaret Lough is serving as choir director.

Our Administrative Council is composed of: Chairman, Mark Sander; Vice-chairman, Herman Hitt; Secretary, Sandra Michael; Treasurer, June Medlin; Finance Committee Chair, Hazel Vetter; Pastor-Parish Relations chair, Tim Simmons; Board of Trustees Chair, Diane Lough; and Lay Leader, Neal LeDuff.

Glenda Wright has also served faithfully as Communion Steward for over thirty years.

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