FIRST 150 YEARS FOR FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CONGREGATION

Less than 20 years after the earliest pioneer settled in Brighton Township, Rev. and Mrs. Chauncey Osborne arrived in 1852. Newcomers to the village area were hard pressed to find organized Christian leadership. The German congregation of St. George Evangelical Lutherans had been chartered in Genoa Township and St. Patrick Roman Catholic Church was making a beginning in Green Oak Township. The Osbornes began the task of forming a congregation as part of the liberal 'New School' branch of the Presbyterian Church. On March 10, 1853, Jason and Nancy Clark, Isaac and Catherine Smith, John T. and Harriet Watson, Samantha B. Lee (wife of James B.), Rev. Osborne's wife Susannah, Lydia Benjamin and Harriah Osborn formed the nucleus of the First Presbyterian Church of Brighton, meeting in the Osbornes' home. At the time, the issue of slavery was a hot subject in America. A person sympathetic to slavery was not granted membership in the new congregation. Holy Communion, with wine furnished by the pastor, was served by common cup at the very first worship service. The Masonic Hall was leased for one year, February, 1855. Rev. Osborne served as pastor until 1856. To supplement their income (Osborne received no specific salary) Mrs. Osborne opened a 'Select School'.

In 1857, a parcel of land, then occupied by a foundry (previously a blacksmith shop), on the Plank Road was acquired. March 3, 1858, a white, Greek Revival style frame building was dedicated providing the congregation with a home. It cost $1,500. to build. The ladies' organization, as ladies' organizations have always done, contributed carpeting and other furnishings, and in the 1880s commissioned a bronze bell, cast in Troy, N.Y. By 1882, adult membership totaled 85.

Each retaining their identities, the First Baptist Society of Brighton (organized c. 1875) and First Presbyterian Church, federated for economic reasons in 1915. They met together for worship employing one pastor.

The 70 year old frame structure was moved to W. North Street and a new brick sanctuary, in the Early English Country Gothic style, was built in 1957. The only historical item preserved from the original building was the bell. During the Great Depression in the 1930s the construction debt of $35,000.00 almost forced the sale of the building. A jubilant celebration of thanks marked the burning of the mortgage in 1941. A disastrous fire, March 2, 1943, found the congregation in debt again. Maritme material shortages forced revised reconstruction but before the year's work was out worship services were taking place in the church. The Federation of the Presbyterians and Baptists was dissolved in 1931, to become one congregation. The St. John's Hospital next door was converted into an office facility and classrooms. A four acre site south of the church was purchased in 1974, providing room to more efficiently house church offices. Groundbreaking for a new 10,000 sq/ft edition took place six years later. The facility has continued to grow to accommodate an increasing membership; as has the staff necessary to conduct the many outreach opportunities. (Compiled by Marielena Bair from 1980 History of Livington County and "A History of Our Church, 1853-2003" by First Presbyterian congregation.)

OFFICERS
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Vice President
Sherry Vigmostad
610/227-7526
Secretary
Thomas Reiner
313/925-9326
Treasurer
Hindy Kinsey
269/394-3040

DIRECTORS
Jim Osborn
810/229-9739
Nancy Friedenburgh
269/326-3337
Carol Holmeson
810/321-2857
Joanne Stack
810/229-7897
Jim Vochos
810/227-4840
Dick Daleke
810/229-3066

CHAIRPERSONS
John & Janice Field
Cemeteries:
734/449-6553
Archives
Ann Stratigis
Hospitality
810/229-5569
940/301-0651

PUBLICITY
Carol Holmeson
810/321-2857

VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY BIENENNIAL

On August 31, 1903, Capt. Marvin Lewis embarked from Pittsburgh in the keelboat, Discovery, and two pirogues, on the Ohio River. Among the first difficulties to be overcome was the very low level of water in the river.

Dates to Remember:
Sept. #11, #18: 1-3 p.m. Archives filing. Welcome. 810/229-6402 to confirm.
#10, #17, #24: 7 p.m. School restoration/ maintenance continues. Welcome.
#20: noon-3 p.m. Lyon School open house.
#22: 7 p.m. Society board meeting. Welcome.
#27: 10-5 p.m. Harvest Fest, Brighton.
#28: 7 p.m. Lyons School, Ruta Rd., Brighton
MEMBERSHIPS

PATRON: American Legion Jesse B. Conley Post #235 and Steven S Katz Lowry.

COUPLES/INDIVIDUALS: Reuben & Evelyn Gallegos, Norma J. Pliez (04) and Ralph & Elizabeth Romano (04).

A 'Complementary Copy' stamp on this issue of Trail Tales indicates membership dues have not been received. Your support of the Society's mission by dues or a donation is important to that mission (as noted on the masthead).

CORRECTION

The Grant Burgese store on W. Main, (August Trail Tales) was on the N.E. corner of W. Main and Hyne.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...Joe Bair and John S. Janes Field for their help in mailing the August issue of Trail Tales.

...Nancy Frendenburg, Tom Peltzke, Marcy Sales and Dorothy Vieregger helping at the Society booth at the Art Fair. And to the many who made purchases or donations, and to the Brighton Chamber of Commerce for their continued support.

...Joanne Swank for hosting the Brighton Christian Church youth group at the Lyon School last month.

...MSU Cooperative Extension Council representative, Bill TenEycke, for dedication ceremony of a recently planted tulip tree in the Lyon School yard.

...Norma J. Pliez for her contribution with her dues.

...John S Lisa Palermo for storage of several large pictures of early Brighton scenes.

...Stephanie Lewis for 110 page record of the genealogy of "Some Descendants of Samuel Case" and for his ongoing typing help.

...Viv Wilson for researching picnic tables and bat removal procedures.

...Betty Cloes for donation of wood folding chairs.

...Dick Weir for installation of two bat houses on site at the Lyon School.

ARCHIVES: The Society and Lyon School scrap books are up to date and indexing continues on archival material. You can help.

LYON SCHOOL: Desks restoration and building maintenance is every Wednesday, 7-9 p.m. if another day/time is better for you, call us. Your help is also needed to paint the school. A list of jobs to be done at the school is available.

In insure the community is aware of the restoration/Utilization of this building is vital. To schedule a regular "Open" day, docents are needed. Information is prepared; you can help great visitors and make certain the public has knowledge of this early structure and the value of historic preservation. The first of these "Open" days will be September 25, 3-5 p.m. Come and visit. Children welcome.

NEEDED NEEDED NEEDED

...funds to pay for proper removal of the bats in the attic of Lyon School; for a steel door, 415,800 payment of utility bills; purchase of picnic tables.

...people to help at the booth at Harvest Feast in Brighton, September 27, 10-5 p.m.

...members to Friends of Lyon School.

...people to serve on the society board or committees, i.e. Fund raising, Lyon School, archives, publicity, etc.

...merchants to stock coverlets with nine sites woven in and/or pillows display the railroad depot. These are worthwhile sales items.

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Re: Any of the above, 810/229-6402.

CONGRATULATIONS TO

First Presbyterian Church for celebrating their Sesquiennial. An invitation is extended to all readers of Trail Tales to join this momentous event during September 22-7411 and 229-1196 for more info.

COMING IN OCTOBER...

A 2004 calendar with pictures of early Brighton area. Order now, $6.00.

PRESERVATION/RESTORATION

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM

NAME

PHONE

ADDRESS

(Please include zip & 4 digit)

Send membership card? ( ) Yes ( ) No

( ) New ( ) Renewal. Your help is needed with: Historic Preservation Projects, Fund Raising Projects, Administration of the Society. (Please circle your preference)

DUES: ($50.00 Patron ($25.00 Couple ($20.00 Student (K-12, College) ($15.00 Bus/Prof. ($10.00 Individual ($50.00 Life

DONATION: ($10.00) ($20.00) ($50.00) ($100.00) ($ )

The Society is a 501(c)3 income tax deduction qualified


Fund Raising Projects: Bake Sale, Coverlets, Home Tour, Hugs, Headpoint Kit, Note and Post Cards, Signature Quilt, Special Events, Tote Bags, Pillows.

Administration of the Society/Board/Officer/Committee Member, Newsletter, Publicity.

FUND RAISING PROJECTS

POST CARDS with early local scenes, pkg of 8/$3.00; NOTE PAPER @ $2.50 pkg; MUGS @ $5.00; TOTE BAG @ $15.00; HEADPOINT KIT @ $8.00; BAKE SALE, COVERLETS, HOME TOUR, HUGS, HEADPOINT KIT, NOTE AND POST CARDS, SIGNATURE QUILT, SPECIAL EVENTS, TOTE BAGS, PILLOWS.

For $10.00 your signature, or that of another of your choice will be emblazoned on the SIGNATURE QUILT. A collection of signatures of early residents is available. Your donation is an appropriate and simple way to support the Society. This quilt will remain in the Society's archives.

TILES: 13 different local sites are shown on black/white 6" x 6" ceramic tiles. All limited editions. Available at Main Street Cafe, 440 W. Main and Nostalgia Antiques, 116 W. Main. $6. or 3/$21.00.

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Sept. 13-14: Brighton First Presbyterian Church extends a special invitation to Brighton Area Historical Society members and readers of Trail Tales, to help observe the 150th anniversary. Included are a concert of 1950's music and historical displays. Tickets for the commemorative dinner are available. Info: 810/229-6699 or 810/227-7411.

Sept. 20, 6 p.m., Brighton Area Schools Alumni Association is holding its annual alumni dinner at the high school. Tickets are available at Brighton RD. Reservation deadline Sept. 5. Send $20.00 each to BASAA, P.O. Box 1853, Brighton, MI 48116. Info: 810/229-6402 or 810/229-6402.

Sept. 20/21: Milford Home Tour, Milford Sept. 25-28, and October 10, 2-5 p.m.; quilt show, Ypsilanti Historical Society 220 N. Huron, Ypsilanti.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM

P O BOX 451, BRIGHTON MI 48116-0451

SEPTEMBER 2004

Advance Draft Home Builders, The Fence Spot, Lawrence Auto Body. The continued support and confidence of these local businesses is much appreciated. Give them your consideration, please. The support of others in the community is most welcome.
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NAME: ____________________________

PHONE: ____________________________

ADDRESS: ____________________________

(Please include zip + 4 digits)

Send membership card? ( ) Yes ( ) No


Send membership card? ( ) May ( ) June ( ) July ( ) August ( ) September ( ) October ( ) November ( ) December

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