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Former Attenders



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Mildred Whims



Hazel Hosmer



The Carman Bethels



Scott Stimer



Virginia Stimer



Charles D. Hurd



Josephine Combs



The Al Bacons



Louise (Baremor) Smith



The Keith Morgans



The Ken Vuillemots



The Doug Jordans





Our Church

Toddlers Christian Youth Crusade Heralds Cadets Young Teens Free Methodist Youth



Prayer Meeting



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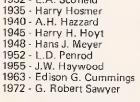


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Elmer Punches

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Nancy Collins



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Our Church

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Prayer Meeting



Organists



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| 266-4770 735-4667 | BERRY, M | r. & Mrs. Austin (Mona); Austin, Kim, rs. Carol; Jackie, Sherry, Wayne, Ang | Karen, Louis ela | 14371 5 | . Duffield Rd., Byron, Mich. . Silver Lake Rd., Linden, Mich. | 48418 48451 |
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| 735-5855 | | r. & Mrs. Fred (Ruth) r. & Mrs. Donald (Sue); Dan, Terri, H. Nappa | G., Doug, Paul, | 605 W. S | Silver Lake Rd., Linden, Mich. | 48451 |
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| 400 4444 | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | 04/06 14 4 84 8 | 10.100 |
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| | HAZELWOOD, Mr. & Mrs. William (Patricia); William, Roger, Connie, | 1000 Silver Lake Ray, Brighton, Michi | 10113 |
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| 629-0515 | JUSTICE, Mr. & Mrs. Burl (Viola) | 506 E. Rockwell, Fenton, Mich. | 48430 |
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| | | 14311 S. Duffield Rd., Byron, Mich. | 48418 |
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| 735~5560 | *SAWYER, STG 3, Gerold R. 373-56-2610 USN SAXTON, Mrs. Emily | USS Pharris DE 1094, FPO, New York, N. Y. | 09501 |
| 735-5154 | SAYLOR, Mr. & Mrs. Jerry (Sandra); Bethany, Jamie, Jerry, | B08 N . Bridge St., Linden, Mich. | 48451 |
| 517-271-8648 | Matthew, Michael SCHNEIDER, Mr. & Mrs. Allen (Marlene) | 12024 Haisington Rd., Gaines, Mich | 48436 |
| 735-5629 | SCHNEIDER, Mr. & Mrs. David (Rose); Sandra | 11432 Williams Rd., Gaines, Mich. 11271 Hogan Rd., Gaines, Mich. | 48436 48436 |
| | *5CHNEIDER, Linda 362620724 | PSC Box 9829, Langley AFB, Va. | 23665 |
| 735-5371 | SCHNEIDER, Michael SCHNEIDER, Mr. & Mrs. Rolph (Clara); Kimberly, Tamero | 3375 Chapel Rd., Spring Arbor, Mich. 11275 S. Morrish Rd., Gaines, Mich. | 49283 48436 |
| | *SCHROEDER, Pvf. Robert 372-66-7426 | Elect. Maint. Co. Maint. Bn. 1st FSR, | 40400 |
| 736-5456 | SHARP, Mr. & Mrs. Dean (Annette); Cynthia, Michael, Cari | Camp Pendleton, Calif. 12463 O'Dell Rd., Linden, Mich. | 92055 48451 |
| 735-7563 | SHAW, Mr. & Mrs. Don (Linda); Tina, Stephanie | 208 Flushing St., Gaines, Mich. | 48436 |
| 735-7363 | SISCO, Mr. & Mrs. Neil (Vikki); Jess, Cherie, Clintan, Lisa SKELTON, Mr. & Mrs. Clyde (Betty); Twala | 9198 W. Silver Lake Rd., Linden, Mich. 12347 S. Linden Rd., Linden, Mich. | 4845I 48451 |
| 735-7177 | 5KINGER, Mrs. Verna | 16377 Whitehead Dr., Linden, Mich. | 48451 48451 |
| 735-5751 266-5228 | SMITH, Mr. & Mrs. Charles (Ellen); Julianne SMITH, Beth, Jeff | 16233 Whitehead Dr., Linden, Mich. | 48451 |
| | SMITH, Mr. & Mrs. Harold (Thelma Cummings) | 14212 S. Duffield Rd., Byron, Mich. 3355 N. Pontiac Trail, Walled Loke, Mich. | 48418 48088 |
| | | ,,, | |

- Somewhere between 1840 and 1844 about 60% of the people of Linden were hit simultaneously with an epidemic due to soil conditions resulting from numerous fires. Nearly everyone moved out, abandoning their holdings except the visionaries who were confident that Linden would again prosper.
- 1850 The Linden Post Office was opened for business in 1850. Ouring the ensuing twenty years (1850-1870) Linden rapidly grew in her boom era.
- 1856 The Beach Buggy Works began operation in 1856.
- 1857 The iron road (railroad) reached the north edge of the village in 1857 and Linden continued to grow.
- 1860 The Linden Presbyterian Church was organized in 1860. This was the year the Free Methodist denomination was organized in Pekin, New York during the month of August.
- 1865 James Fairbank, son of Zenas, built the first brick store in Linden in 1865 and 1866 and opened a hardware establishment.
- 1867 Construction of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Linden was begun in the summer of 1867.
- 1868 The Linden Methodist Episcopal Church was dedicated October 18, 1868.
- 1869 The Argentine Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in February of 1869.
- 1870 On April 20, 1870 the Linden Cemetery was added to the Linden layout by J. Z. Fairbank. He was a distant relative of Carlton Fairbanks who has owned and operated the Fairbanks Texaco Cas Station from May 1946 to this present date. Frank and Nettie, Carlton's grandparents, were members of the church for about 30 years in the early 1900's. Carlton's son. Cary's wife, Janice, is presently a member.
- 1871 Linden was officially incorporated as a village in 1871 with a population of 550. The fire company was also organized on June 24th. J. E. Fairbank was elected to a one year term as Trustee in the first village election. The first marriage in the village was Jared Ball and a Miss Sage.
- 1872 The South Mundy Methodist Episcopal Church was constructed and dedicated December 11, 1872.
- 1873 The Argentine Methodist Episcopal Church was built in 1873.
- 1875 Free Methodism came to the area some thirty five years after Linden was founded. In the late fall of 1875 bern meetings were held four miles north of Linden near what is now the corner of Thompson and O'Dell Roads. The Gaines Free Methodist preacher was invited to speak.
- 1876 Due to the power of God a strong Free Methodist Society was organized early in 1876 on February 18 by Reverend Septer Roberts, District Chairman.
 - A church building was begun early in June not far from the barn in which they held their meetings, about the middle of the south end of the Charles Gundry farm. The Gundry's, Charles and Mary, had given a half acrs for the church. During the time of construction, meetings were going on in fervent power and more were added to the church. The building was completed early in August under the direction of the

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Gaines preacher, Reverend Charles W. Haynes and was dedicated August 5, 1876 by Bishop E. P. Hart. (The made-over church still stands at the corner of Thompson and O'Dell Roads remodled into a house, 5126 Thompson Road.) One of the members, Charles D. Hoyt Jr., by name, was named a Justice of the Peace for Mundy Township in 1876. Charter members are reported to be Charles Gundry, class leader; and wife, Mary; Isaiah Collins; and wife, Charlotte; Ja. A. Stone and wife; and others. (We have a picture of Roberts, Mary, Charles, J. A., Isaiah.) The first Class Meeting included these four: Charles D. Hoyt Sr., Charles D. Hoyt Jr., Charles Gundry and wife, Mary.

- 1877 Reuben W. Sage, Ford Bedell's great–grandfather, was named a Justice of the Peace for Mundy Township in 1877. Their house, second place south of Baldwin Road on east side of Linden, was the post office for Mundy.
- 1878 Another portion of territory was added to Linden in the summer of 1878 which was known as the fairbank addition.
- 1879 The population was up to 800 in 1879. The village contained 13 stores, a foundry, a wagon factory (Linden Wagon Works), Beach Platform Truss Gearing Company's factory, an axe and pick-handle factory owned by Gerow and Orton, a saw mill, a grist mill, two churches, a grade school, with one brick school building and a small frame one, a newspaper called the Linden Record, edited and published by Orlando White, several physicians, of whom the oldest was Dr. Leonard H. Pierce, who practiced at least 25 years, and the usual number of blacksmith and other shops found in a place of the size.
- 1884 The North Michigan Conference, we were in it for 8 years, was held on our circuit in September at the Gaines Church at which time the East Michigan Conference was formed with Bishop E. P. Hart presiding. (We have a picture of this conference.) It was held again in 1891. Linden had been on the Flint District for eight years while in the North Michigan Conference and continued on in the Flint District while in the East Michigan Conference for 74 years to 1958 with the exception of one year in 1932 when in the Pontiac District. The next nine years Linden was on the Pontiac District. In 1968 the conference was divided into two areas and Linden was in the Eastern Area and on the Flint Zone and has continued there to date.
- 1885 Somewhere between 1885 and 199D a camp meeting was held in the Meyers woods, apparently, about ½ mile east of Linden Road on 0'Oell Road on the south side. This would be about a mile south of the Church.

 During the year Elmer H. Punches, son-in-law of charter members Charles and Mary Gundry, graduated from Spring Arbor Academy in the fifth such class. Spring Arbor is a free Methodist College located nine miles west of Jackson, Michigan. Elmer's wife's name was Bertha.
- 1891 A glorious revival was held with W. Henry Iles, a former pastor, as the evangelist. It was this revival that lasted fifteen weeks with only one convert, Huldah Cooper. The second and final Annual Conference held on our circuit was held at Gaines again in 1891.
- 1893 The denominational Women's Foreign Missionary Society (W.M.S. since 1937) was organized. A split resulted as several of the leaders who had come from the Methodist Church felt that it would result in the lack of spirituality. It has actually promoted spirituality around the world. Elmer H. Punches was appointed pastor of the Hallers Corners (Germany) Free Methodist Church for two years in the fall.

- 1895 Elmer H. Punches was appointed pastor of the Saint Johns Free Methodist Church for two years in the fall of 1895.
- 1896 The minister appointed to oversee the area churches was called District Elder rather than District Chairman for apparently the first time.
- 1901 The Egyptian Cement Plant was constructed and began operation near Ponemah Lake about two miles east of the village in 1901.
- 1876 to 1907 The "North" Linden Free Methodist Church, as it was often called, was joined on with the young enthusiastic congregation from the Gaines Free Methodist Church for 31 years from 1876 to 1907 to form a two point circuit. The only exception was for the conference year 1878-79, when Linden was by herself.
- 1906— There had been five Sunday school classes in 1900; however, in 1906
 there were only four. They were Old People's Sible Class, Young
 People's Sible Class, Intermediate Class and Primary Class.
- 1907 to 1918 The North Linden free Methodist Church was joined on with the West Flint or Dye, as it was sometimes called, free Methodist Church for 11 years from 1907 to 1918 to form a second two point circuit.

 The personage was located at 2140 South Dye Road about two tenths of a mile south of Corunna Road and just north of the West Flint Church.
- 1907 The Articles of Incorporation were drawn up and the Trustees were elected for our church on August 15, 1907. The District Elder, I. Hiram Montgomery, who signed the papers, was the son of Martha Meaker. The father of Nancy Collins' half niece by marriage, Balle, Betty Ellen Cox's mother, was Siles H. Porterfield who was the District Elder for the Linden Church from 1909-1911.
- 1908 During the conference year of 1908-09 it appears that there was a Swartz Creek mission included with West Flint and Linden to form a three point circuit with Reverend Rowland R. Haight as the pastor. Elmer H. Punches filled the Swartz Creek pulpit.
- 1909 A Congregational Church was located on North Bridge Street near or perhaps on the present location of the Wilfred S. Lobb residence, 407 North Bridge Street. (This is about a block south of our present location.)
 A camp meeting was held on the circuit for the second time in 1909. It

could have been held on Sherp Road between Reid and Hill Roads.

- 1911 Elmer H. Punches was listed in the Annual Conferences Yearbook as a Local Deacon and continued through conference year 1952, 41 years at least.
- 1912 The pastor was experiencing some difficult circumstances and so resigned after seven and a half months here. The society had assisted him in getting a horse and buggy and also with his total moving expenses.
- 1914 Reverend Leonard Soldan who had been born on the circuit reports that his father would drive a team of ponies between his Dye, or West Flint, and Linden Churches for services. This is a distance of about ten miles.
- 1915 The official census was 550 in 1915. This was a drop due to several factories clasing up after the introduction of the automobile and then, of course, several families moving away. Reverend A. L. Brown was the first pastor to have a car. It was a 1915 Model T Ford. During the year it was recommended to dispose of the Swartz Creek property.

- 1916 Physicians in Linden included Mark E. Topping, B. R. Sleeman and C. B. Irwin. Three churches were active in Linden including the Methodist Episcopal, Seventh Day Advantist (located two places north of our present location), and Presbyterian. More than likely the leading industry was the op-operative creamery in 1916.
- 1917 The weather was so bad because of snow that the District Quarterly Susiness Meeting was called off. Reverend Marshall Hoyt had come to preside. He was seen by Will Collins walking the four miles to town to catch the train for Flint. There was too much snow to get the car out on December 10th, Reverend Anderson (J. W. or J. G.) could not hold an official meeting March 9, 1918 for the same reason, bad weather.
- 1918 It appears that North Linden separated from West Flint in the fall of 1918. A house was purchased in Linden for a personage at 808 North Bridge Street on November 26th. (A member, Emily Saxton, presently lives in that same house.) Two years later a barn was built. When the pastor, Earl Roberts, moved to Linden he apparently was no longer involved with West Flint. (The old circuit personage still stands. The West Flint church was just south of it. A Church of the Nazarene is located in that spot now.)
- 1919 The pastor, Earl Roberts, began to reach out to Fenton and started a mission church in a store front down town near the bank location on the corner of Leroy and Caroline Streets in the heart of Fenton in 1919. He would go over to hold services. The mission moved to a store front on Shiawassee Street which was owned by a member, Sister Tryon. It was at this location that our own Will Collins filled the pulpit for a service around Thanksgiving time in 1922. In July of 1919 a camp meeting was held on this circuit in the Collins! woods about a half mile south west of the North Church. It was the third one on the circuit and the first in the Collins' woods. A well was put down. The pump used for water is displayed in Will and Opal Collins' front yard. (We have a conference paper describing the Camp.) Elmer Punches was a real mainspring in the church as he was a local deacon and in 1919 was elected class leader, Sunday school superintendent, trustee, delegate to annual conference, teacher of the Senior Bible Class. We thank God for stanch members like him. What a rich heritage members like him have left us.
- 1920 Since three members passed away during 1920, Mattie Kimble, James Occomore and Martha Cox, it was decided to prepare a "Resolution of Respect." A three point resolution was developed by Reverend Grabill and Elmer H. Punches. Soon after Reverend Cleveland moved in the barn was built on the southeast corner to provide shelter for a cow.
- 1922 A new society of Free Methodists was started in Syron, Michigan in 1922 with apparently nine members and two on probation. It was joined with Durand for a two point circuit. The work was continued on for seven years. In July a camp meeting was held in the Collins' woods for the second time. This was the fourth one on the circuit. We assisted Fenton in building their first church in the southeast section of town, on the corner of Shiawassee and East Streets. The first mention of a Superintendent of Home Department for the Sunday school was made on October 26th.
- 1923 Will Collins completed his study at Spring Arbor Seminary. He was given an exhorter's license, as was William McAllister.

- 1924 Electric lights were installed in the personage. A bee was organized to cut poles for camp meeting in the winter, early in the year. In July the fifth camp meeting was held on our circuit and the third in the Collins' woods. During the year it was decided to pay the preacher \$800 plus hay and grain for the cow and a year's potatoes.
- 1925 William McAllister was granted a local preacher's license.
- 1926 William H. Collins (Will) was granted a local preacher's license.
- 1928 A budget system was begun for the first time and a committee was elected to solicit the members for the budget. The exhorter's license for Vern N. Anibal was renewed. It was decided that the church sheds needed some attention.
- 1929 A telephone was installed in the personage. The first number we know about was 113 in 1940. In 1959 it was changed to PResident 4-5880, in 1964 to PResident 4-5789 and in 1969 to PResident 5-5789, the present number. A local preacher's license for Vern N. Anibal was granted. The legal documents were deposited in the fenton State Bank of Linden and also with Brother Elmer H. Punches. There was talk of moving the church sheds.
- 1919 to 1938 North Linden and Fenton were joined together in August of 1919 to form a third two point circuit. It was at conference time in the late summer of 1938 that the circuit was dissolved apparently due to a heartattack suffered by Pastor Harry Hosmer on Decoration Day, May 30, 1938. However, there has continued a concern for the Fenton Church similar to that expressed from the days she was a mission and revealed in 1922 when the Linden people helped Fenton build their first church. About 1963 Linden folks again helped Fenton build a new church, this time in the northwest section of town at 800 North Street, just four miles from the Linden Church.
- 1931 On October 29, 1931 there were three new positions mentioned for the first time in the Sunday school, namely, Cradle Roll Superintendent, Missionary Superintendent, and Temperance Superintendent.

 This was a difficult year financially. On more than one occasion special offerings were called for to raise the deficiency in the pastor's salary. The pastor was assured financial support in the form of free-will offerings and a place to live. Guy Baldwin was given an exhorter's license. There were only three Sunday school classes.
- 1932 An exhorter's license was granted to Clare Burse.
- 1935 The official census was 717 in 1935. A Young People's Missionary Society (YPMS) Superintendent was ordered July 25th. A safety deposit box was rented in the bank and papers deposited.
- 1936 On October 10, 1936 our YPMS was organized. (It has been called free Methodist Youth, FMY, since 1955.) District Elder, A. Wayland Pickard, made several trips out to paint the North Church floors. He also painted the outside of the Church, as someone reported. Reverend Hosmer worked in Flint at the Buick factory all the time in Linden, yet, he was very faithful to his ministerial duties as seen by this report in the March official board minutes: Pastor's report: 220 calls, preached 36 times, 3 taken in on probation.
- 1937 The minutes of March 6, 1937 indicate that the program of the East Michigan Conference included a District Quarterly Meeting which was conducted for a weekend; Friday evening, Saturday, and on Sunday. At the Quarterly Meeting the District Elder (District Superintendent after 1942 and District Chairman before 1896) would conduct an official business meeting for the District. Prior to this time the District Elder who had charge over the area would conduct most business meetings for a local church. As a result he was sometimes called Presiding

Elder. However, beginning about this time the pastor began to conduct more and more of the business meetings. At present, 1976, it is a rare occasion when the Conference Superintendent conducts a local business meeting.

Ouring the year we sent 120 cans of fruit to Spring Arbor Seminary and Junior College, money to Olive Branch Mission in Chicago and three boxes of clothing for flood relief. Penny-A-Day for missions was first mentioned in 1937.

- 1938 It appears that a sixth camp meeting was held on the circuit. It was the fourth in the Collins' woods. District Elder, A. Wayland Pickard and Sister Hazel Hosmer had charge due to Pastor Hosmer's poor health. Will Collins hooked up a Delco light plant to provide lights for the camp. Reverend Hosmer had a heartettack on Memorial or Decoration Day while playing ball at Lorraine Thompson's cottage, on Lobdell Lake, with friends. Dr. fred Oodds was there and gave assistance. Fenton and Linden were separated at Conference time in August, perhaps due to Brother Hosmer's heart condition. However, there has continued a Concern for the Fenton Church as revealed in 1963 when the new Fenton Church was built.
- 1939 As early as January 18, 1939 the matter of building a new church in the village of Linden was being discussed. We, as a church by ourselves, had 35 members, 5 junior members, 22 probationers, a Sunday school enrollment of 157 with an average attendance of 78 and 12 teachers. We had 29 WMS members, 15 YPMS members. The church property was valued at \$500 and the personage at \$1,000. We raised \$111.73 for missions. There were six Sunday school classes, namely, Beginners, Primary, Junior, Young People, Young Married People and Bible Class.
- 1940 Sixter Hazel Hosmer has indicated that Linden was the best years of their ministry. People of the church and village were so good to them. People brought in a quarter of beef and enabled them to can 800 quarts of fruit and meat. In five years she only missed one WMS meeting due to taking Mrs. Speel, next door neighbor to old parsonage, to flint to the doctor and then to the hospital. There was a pump in the kitchen for wash water and a pump out doors for drinking water. There was no bathroom. She remembered a missionary meeting at Hazel O'Dell's place on west Baldwin Road. Their children went to school with Bryce felch and Reverend Richard Lobb.

In February of 1940 it was reported that the people of the North Linden Church were holding revival meetings in the Adventist Church (just two places north of our present location which is now the St. Bede's of the Lake Episcopal Mission since May 19, 1952) renting the church for the meetings, as we prepared to move the center of our ministry to the village of Linden.

On March 21st it was decided to purchase the Roy Sharp property located about four blocks north of the main corner of the village of Linden on the west side of Bridge Street which had a 100 year old brick house and shed on it. The property was deeded to the Church on September 17th. It cost \$700. On May 15th the Society recommended that a church be built, 30 x 44 with a corner entrance, 12 foot tower, with 12 foot walls and 5/8 pitch roof, on the new property purchased, the present site, 707 North Bridge. The building committee included: Albert C. McCubbin, Vern N. Anibal, Guy Baldwin and George Dafoe, treasurer. Under the leadership of Reverend Hosmer the new church was started. However at conference time, in August, he was transferred to Lansing, Second Church before he could see his dream completed.

When the Hazzards moved in the frame of the church was up, but with mud and water standing deep in the basement. The Society was somewhat discouraged, for it was badly in debt, \$2,000, with \$1,300 owed the Singer Lumber Company.

On September 9, just 22 days after he was appointed, it was decided to sell the original Linden parsonage, 808 North Eridge Street, and to fix up the brick house on the newly purchased church property, across the street end south a helf a block from the first parsonage. The brick house was located just behind the present parsonage and was remodeled in September. The money, \$1,550, from the cele of the old parsonage to Herman and Emily Saxton, was used to finish the construction of the new church as cash was needed since little credit could be obtained.

In October the new storehouse financial plan was adopted. This plan helped Linden overcome her financial embarrassment and bad credit, and raised her influence in the community until she could again have credit with business establishments, thus gaining a solid financial foundation for the Church.

Some work was done on the old North Church, such as, sealing the coal room for a Sunday school room.

1941 - The official census was 782 in 1941. With the new impetus of Brother Hazzard the church, costing about \$5,500, was complated. Pastor Hazzard worked many long hours on the building. It has been reported that as the day of dedication drew near he fell asleep, while working, with a hammer in his hand. It was voted, on April 23rd, to start worshiping in the new church right away. On May 4, 1941 the new church, valued at \$6,000, was dedicated by Reverend Floyd D. Voller, Flint District Elder of the East Michigan Conference and former Sunday school scholar. The church was a 30 x 40 frame structure with a pulpit alcove, six Sunday school rooms in the basement (three class rooms on the south side and the rooms on the north side, by the stairs, were added over the next few years), a belfry, a study above the entry and faced Linden Road (Bridge Street).

The Dorothy Hazzard and Guy Delmarter wedding was the first to be held in the new church as was the funeral of fred and Ruth Cook's daughter, Alice with 250 attending. -She died July 3, 1941.

On October 9th the Christian Youth Crusade (CYC) was officially started. The parsonage, at that time, was valued at \$2,000.

1942 - In February of 1942 it was decided to keep the North Church operating as a mission and to move the church memberships to the new church in the village. This was just reversed to what it had been in 1940. We pledged \$25 to Lyndon Avenue Free Methodist Church in Flint "as an incentive to better offerings."

It appears that for about six months the old North Church was operating as a mission after the new Church was built. September 5th appears to be the last time a business meeting was held in the North Church. Very shortly after the Society voted, on September 23rd, that the officers and teachers at the North Church Sunday school continue for another year, conference year 1942-43, there were furnace problems causing a smoked church and everyone disbanded the mission venture. The mortguage was discharged on September 25th.

On October 4th the mortgage on the new church was burned. (Reverend Hazzard has the eshes in a small glass jar.) A building fund for a new parsonage was started. Plans were initiated to obtain an illuminated bulletin board for the front of the church.

1943 - In 1943 a new parsonage was felt needed, so the talk was to build a new parsonage. During the year the preacher appointed by the East Michigan Conference to oversee the area churches was called District Superintendent rather than District Elder.

Through the Sunday school we assisted the Clic Mission Church with \$50 in building materials plus an additional \$21.83. An exhorter's license was granted to Ben Anibal.

1944 - In March it was voted to begin a new parsonage fund. In April there was a Sunday school emphasis on memorization of the Sermon on the Mount, permitting only 10 errors. Teacher training was encouraged.

The first mention of sending flowers was made in July. §10 was given to the Prohibition Party. Mission giving was emphasized. Ben Anibal was recommended for a local preacher's license.

- 1945 During 1945 expansion was accomplished with the construction of another class room in the basement of the church for the young married people's class. We contributed monthly to help air the denominational radio broadcast, Light and Life Hour over WMPC in Lapeer. Reverend Hazzard was driving to the Lapeer station and broadcasting a program. There was emphasis on the membership roll with an effort to encourage all members to be active.

 Reverend Hazzard was Civil Defense chief for Fenton Township teaching first aid classes, gathering truck loads of scrap metal, conducting black out air raid drills at night, etc. He also assisted Bryan Bowels with embulance work and funerals for three years while Bryan's
- 1946 The old "North" Church was sold in April of 1946 for \$1,025 to W. R. Conquest. The amount was tithed and the tithe sent for missions through the YPMS. The church was remodeled into a house, 5126 Thompson Road.

 The WMS sent large boxes to Kentucky, Dakdale Mission; the YPMS sent books to Percy Jones Hospital and made scrap books for Cakdale Mission also. The effort to build up the Sunday school showed a gain of 24 over March and April. Seven Sunday school classes were operating.

sons were in the service.

- 1947 There seemed to be a real emphasis on building up the Sunday school in 1947 under the leadership of Sunday school superintendent, Lillian Moore.
 The WMS collected fruit for Spring Arbor*Junior College and sent new clothing to South America, Louisana and Olive Branch.
 There was talk of connecting our water system into the village mains when and if they were installed. * (High School and Junior College)
- 1948 It was decided to permit a musical instrument to be used for worship services on April 9, 1948. An Estes Organ was purchased in the spring. The personage value was reported at \$1,500.

 On September 2nd it was left up to the Trustees to plaster the outside of the*parsonage, tear down the barn and build a garage. The building fund for a new parsonage continued to grow. A special offering to assist boys and girls to go to CYC camp was authorized.

 Ouring the three years the Hoyts were pastoring here they found the church people to be cooperative. They recall that the moving of the Spirit was experienced in the services. During this time their daughter, Vera, was married to Frank Fields Jr. and the church people helped to make the wedding a pleasant experience. * (brick)
- 1949 The room in the basement of the new personage, to be constructed, which was to be used for fellowship gatherings was officially named "fellowship Room" on July 14, 1949. It was decided to heat the parsonage with gas.

On July 4th a number of men worked at tearing down the old parsonage. Pastor Meyer said he had the privilege of putting his foot to the front, after the roof was off, to see the whole front side collapse on the front lawn.

On Sunday morning, September 11th, by unanimous vote (21 ayes) it was decided to borrow money to finish the building of the much needed new parsonage. In November the parsonage was nearly completed under the direction of Pastor Meyer and such men as Ford Bedell, Will Collins,

and Ivan Moore. This replaced the old personage that was located on the Roy Sharp lots purchased. The new personage at 709 North Bridge Street is located on the lot where the front of the old personage was and immediately in front. The personage family lived in the old Stimer rental home, at 912 North Bridge Street, a block north on the east side of the street, while the personage was being constructed. This was the only time in the Meyer's ministry that they had to move twice in one year according to Reverend Meyer. Sister Ethelyn Meyer was expecting their fourth child at this time. The personage as built is 28 x 34 with five rooms and full bath down, three rooms and $\frac{1}{2}$ bath up, and a full basement with the east half designed for a church fellowship room with a fireplace. It is a frame structure with a stone entry way. It was valued at \$6,000.

- 1950 In the fall of 1950 the Junior and Senior Bible Sunday school classes were divided into Men's and Women's classes. This lasted for two years. There were two class leaders for the first time which continued for three years. It was mentioned for the first time that a Sunday school outing was held. The place was the Flushing Park.
- 1951 The official census was 933 in 1957. On September 14th the official board decided to change the Prayer Meeting night from Thursday to Wednesday evening. It appeared that our barber, Ivan Moore, had Thursdays off and our printer, Scott Stimer, had press night on Thursday also. The change to Wednesday night was finalized on August 22, 1957, after several changes back and forth to try and work out the best night. This did cause a conflict, however, for sometime before the night was settled press night for the Linden Leader, printed by the Stimers, had been changed to Wednesday night. In 1951 Reverend Meyer was granted a three month leave-of-absence for an evangelistic tour to Germany. He is still very grateful to the Linden people for allowing the tour. While Pastor Meyer was here the Linden Church's per capita giving was one of the highest in the conference. Betty Ellen Cox, a great niece to Nancy Collins, showed her mission slides in April. Assistant teachers were to be involved every Sunday if possible. Wymon Stimer was given an exhorter's license. There were eight Sunday school classes this year. It was a good year financially.
- 1982 Early in the year, in March of 1952, a program of visitation for Sunday school was developed. On September 25th it was decided to borrow sufficient funds to pay off the indebtedness on the new personage and to also build a garage just behind the personage which was completed in 1953. In October we sent two dozen song books to Oakdale, Kentucky. A gas cooking stove was purchased for the personage which is now in the basement and used during canning season. An exhorter's license was given to Charles Fletcher. Francis Winfred Porter and Wymon Stimer received local preacher's licenses.
- 1953 In May of 1953, in connection with the District Quarterly Meeting, a mortgage burning ceremony was conducted for the parsonage. On July 22nd a committee was appointed to see about a new organ. A new Hammond Spinet organ was purchased October 23rd for \$929.32. In November we started a pin award system to stimulate Sunday school attendance. We also voted to have our own Vacation Bible School (VBS).
 Signs to advertise our church were ordered* The building fund was increased by using the Sunday school offering once a month. Our first Sunday school outing at Byram Lake, Linden Park, recorded was on August 28th.
 * and placed at the four corners of the village.

- Charles Fletcher was given a local preacher's license. The value of the church and parsonage were both increased to \$15,000. A junior high Sunday school class was added for a total of nine.
- 1954 In the spring, May 15, 1954, the society purchased 95 feet of property north of the parsonage for parking. The strip is ½ mile long running west to the section line. The property was deeded to the church on May 20th by Clifford Winslow for \$1,500.

 The largest Sunday school attendance in the history of the church was reported with an enrollment of 160 and an average of 113. We purchased a water softener for the parsonage in October.
- 1955 In 1955 a public address system was ordered for the church. Reverend Penrod put in a public address system with a speaker on top of the church to play music outside. When he was transferred away the church bought the system from him for \$270 with Jay Cox providing the money. On November 25th it was noted, for the first time, that the official legal documents of the church were deposited at the Linden State Bank. The official transfer from Fenton to Linden took place prior to August. Coal was being used for fuel in the church. An exhorter's license was given to Sam Blomberg who married Pam Penrod. Virginia Stimer became director of nursing at the Free Methodist Deaconess Hospital for unwed mothers in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. She has since been a two term missionary to New Guinea under the Nazarene Board.
- 1956 On August 30, 1956 a transportation director was elected. We purchased an oil burner for the church furnace as we changed from the use of coal. A cry room was ordered for the basement of the church. The first mention of a sealed vote on the pastor's return was made in connection with the annual meeting. In 1956 we began using the term preparatory member instead of member on probation. There was a tenth Sunday school class added. The class names were: Nursery, Tiny Tots, Blue Birds, Junior Miss, CYC Boys, Junior Hi Boys, Hi Teens, Semper Fidelos, Berean and Bible.
- 1957 Prayer Meeting night was officially changed from Thursday night to Wednesday night at the August 22nd official board meeting. A gas furnace was purchased for the church on December 6th. A local preacher's license was given to Harold McAllister. He married Lois Meyer.

 An exit was made in the north end of the fellowship room in the basement of the parsonage.
- 1958 The official board went on record unenimously voting against Sunday opening of Beer Gardens in Linden. A cry room was built in the southeast corner of the church in January. There were 23 adult members in full connection. On May 24th we purchased our first bus from the school for \$100. We assisted financially with the construction of the Flint District parsonage.
- 1959 We apparently purchased our little chairs in April of 1959. There was talk of organizing a men's fellowship. We added the eleventh Sunday school class.
 - Pledges were secured to eliminate our debt to prepare the way for construction of a Fellowship Building. The parsonage phone number was changed to PResident 4-5880. During this year Linden was placed in the Pontiac District and remained on the District for nine years to 1968.

1960 - Another year that was very important in the life of the church was 1960. On January 21st the Light and Life Men's Fellowship was organized with thirteen members.

On May 5th a ground breaking service was conducted for a 60 x 34 Fellow-ship Building (behind the church and not fer behind where the original shed stood) to cost approximately \$3,430 for materials. (The picture of the service appears in the fellowship Building.) The following made up the building committee: All Bacon, Scott Stimer, Will Collins, Bob Sargent, Sr., Ivan Moore, Jim Bedell and Ford Bedell. Pestor Haywood and Will Collins drew up the plans. The men of the church did the work with some of the ladies helping and everyone did a fine job. Construction was rushed so that Stan and Joyce (Bedell) Helm could have the first wedding reception in it on July 2nd. It was not entirely completed until 1961. Everett Stanley, who attends our church, sided the Fellowship Building. It includes a large assembly room, six Sunday school class rooms, a kitchen and two rest rooms. The church property value was increased to \$25,000.

There were thirteen Sunday school classes including the new one for seniors and unmarried group. A bus patrol and transportation superintendent were elected.

- 1961 The official census was 1,145 in 1961. During official meetings Pastor Haywood would have the Sunday school ballot counted outside the sanctuary and conduct a testimony service in the Society Meeting while waiting for the count. In June Lorraine Thompson shared, in a public missionary service, pictures of Brazil where her son, Clancy, was a two term missionary. We expanded to fifteen Sunday school classes with an average attendance of 154. The church property value was increased to \$45,000.
- 1962 We purchased our second bus from the school on June 6, 1962 for \$101. Scott Stimer was elected to promote interest in the Light and Life Men's Fellowship on the Pontiec District for five years. There were sixteen Sunday school classes. In December we purchased the new flags for the sanctuary for \$40.93.

Reverend Haywood has felt that the most outstanding thing during his eight year ministry was the cooperative way everyone worked to make the church go forward. In every department was felt the urge to grow in numbers and effectiveness. There were conversions and growth spiritually of many children and adults. A number of young married people began to take on responsibilities.

- 1963 Bibles or gifts were purchased to present to those who had a good Sunday school attendance of 50 out of 52 Sundays. In September it was decided to investigate the purchase of the property behind the Fellowship Building. On April 23rd we purchased a movie projector from the school for \$40.00. We helped Fenton build their new Church.
- 1964 On a unanimous decision (26) a groundbreaking service for a 54 foot addition, on the west end of the church, was conducted on April 15, 1964, at 7:00 p.m. from then to November 22nd, when the first service was held in the completed church, the men of the church worked practically all their spare time on the church. The women worked together providing great meals each day and physical labor varnishing and painting. (We have a picture of Grandma Nancy Collins shoveling gravel into the cement mixer.) Services were held in the church all during the work project.

It was decided to move the garage from just behind the parsonage to the north side of the Fellowship Building. It is interesting to note that padded seats were not approved; however, it was decided to furnish the pastor's study.

In June the second church bus was given to Dowell Kennett in exchange for gravel for the church remodeling project. On August 1st a new

public address system was purchased for \$198.52. Bob Sargent Sr., and Claude Carr installed it. The parsonage phone number was changed to PResident 4-5789. In November books were ordered for adult membership training class. In December the need for a visitation program was expressed.

1965 - On March 7, 1965 a Sunday school auto-parade was conducted just before Sunday school time. It is obvious that growth caused the need for additional equipment such as the 60 chairs which were ordered. On March 9th it appears we joined other Flint area churches to air the Light and Life Hour radio program over WMRP (now WCZN) in Flint in the amount of \$2 or \$3 a week. We had supported it over WMPC about 1945. On May 28th the first Mother-Daughter banquet was spensored by the WMS. It included a This-is-your-Life program for "Mother-of-the-Year", Nancy Collins. We had nineteen Sunday school classes with an average attendance of 163.

The newly remodeled and enlarged church edifice was dedicated on June 27th. The old church was completely remodeled with a 54 foot eddition to the original 40 foot sanctuary. The old tower and front entrance were removed and a 16 foot addition was added to the west extending to the north to present a beautiful entrance and foyer. The sanctuary was turned around. Just before the church dedication service a good sized evergreen tree was removed from in front of the church. The building committee included: Will Collins, supervisor of the entire project and designer of the plans, ford Bedell, Ivan Moore, Robert Sargent Sr., Jim Bedell, Scott Stimer, Dean Sharp, and Pastor Cummings. Others who helped in various tasks were Louise Baremor, now Smith, Lilah Bowles, and Arthur Bausick, other women helped as well. They tell us that George and Georgia Dafoe worked hard pulling nails out of the old belfry. The church value was increased to \$55,000.

District Superintendent, Dale A. Moods, was very much interested in the building program. After a meeting with the Building Committee, in which he encouraged them to make the foyer at least two feet wider and the committee indicated their plans to have the church completed by a designated date, Brother Woods did not believe the church could be finished and so he promised to buy the coffee for a fellowship get-together upon completion, if the church was finished by the designated date. It was completed. He did provide the coffee, at least two pounds, which was more than enough.

- 1966 Ed Skinger built the two sets of bunk baby cribs connected together for the nursery in the latter part of March in 1966. On April 25th it was decided to purchase a piano for use in the worship services. A Baldwin was purchased. On May 13th a Mother-Daughter banquet was held. "Mother-of-the-Year" was Ruth Bedell. William Collins was named Pontiac District Promoter of Light and Life Men's Fellowship. In October we sent a donation to the Winona Lake, Indiana Free Methodist Church building fund. A Pastor's Cabinet was formed including eight leaders of the church. It was also called Strategy Council. In November two baptismal services were conducted with seven being baptised.
- 1967 In February of 1967 it was decided to purchase a second hard covered hymn book, Songs of the Sanctuary, to be used with the denominational hymnel, Hymns of the Living Faith. In May Linden Public Schools Superintendent, David Cant, requested use of our facilities while the new public high school was being built. At the mother-daughter banquet Daisy Clark was named "Mother-of-the-Year." Our men's bowling team won their first Inter Church League bowling trophy. Our bowlers

included Dean Sharp, Ralph and Dave Schneider, Mel Cook and Ivan Moore. In June we elected our first Service Training Director and Recorder and our first area Free Methodist College Representative for Spring Arbor College. Will Collins was elected Conference Vice-President of Light and Life Men's Fellowship. C. D. Hurd was elected as Conference FMY Director for three years.

The pastor's support included \$105 salary per week and church jenitor work, $\frac{1}{2}$ of pastor's social security, $\frac{1}{2}$ of medical insurance, light bill, water bill, flat rate on telephone bill.

It was decided to make a CYC room and have an FMY service before the Sunday evening service. The Calvarymen Quartet was here for the first time on October 21st.

1968 - The FMY was granted the privilege of holding their own prayer meeting in the Fellowship Building in 1968. A Kirby vacuum cleaner was purchased. Carpet was put down in the cry room. Authority was given to panel one room at a time in the church basement. The basement floor was painted in March. Reverend Daw held revival services in March and drew beautiful chalk pictures.

It was decided to purchase three pieces of property behind the fellow—ship Building and to the south, for \$4,500 in August: The property was deeded to us from Albert Hogan on August 22nd. With it the church property totals seven and eleven twelveths acres.

Annette Sharp was named the "Mother—of—the—Year." Will Collins was elected Conference Light and Life Men's Fellowship President for three

years and Ford Bedell the Pontiac District promoter.

The men's bowling team was Inter Church League champs for the second time. Team members were Claude J. Carr, Ralph and Dave Schneider, Mel Cook and Ivan Moore. Later in the year we purchased a hot water heater for the Fellowship Building. Howard Cook was paid \$200 to level the ball field behind the Fellowship Building. We also purchased a ping-pong table for the church.

The East Michigan Conference was divided into two areas, Western and Eastern. Linden was placed in the Eastern area and in the Flint Zone

and has remained there to date.

1969 - The FMY was granted one offering a month, on the first Sunday evening, in 1969. Exhorter's licenses were given to Robert Sargent, Sr. and Alva Yax. Extension ladders were purchased in April for the church and the parsonage painted. We also purchased an adding machine for the church.

The beginning time for Prayer Meeting was moved up a half hour to 7:00 p.m. on April 30th. At the mother-daughter banquet Louise Baremor was announced as "Mother-of-the-Year." Bob Sargent Sr. was recommended for a local preacher's license.

Grading behind the Fellowship Building and on the ball field was completed at a cost of §695. The parsonage phone number was changed to

the present number PResident 5-5789.

In August the janitor work was divided with the pastor responsible for the church and another for the Fellowship Building at \$10 per week. Louise Baremor did it until December. In December it was decided to purchase carpet for the parsonage dining and living rooms at \$500. Melvola Sargent began cleaning the Fellowship Building and did so thru August 15, 1970.

1970 - On January 7, 197D it was decided to investigate the purchase of a used bus. One was approved at \$200. On the 25th we had a baptismal service at the Flint Fairhaven Free Methodist Church with four being baptised. In May the Junior Department was formed in our Sunday school and met in the basement of the church. \$300 worth of chairs were purchased and \$272.39 worth of tables.

The Fellowship Building was refused to a person who wanted to use it for a baton twirling class. We approved the action of the Junior Chamber of Commerce to put up a new church sign at the entrance of the village, however, it never was done. On August 7th we paid the village of Linden \$2,530 for the sewer tap-in fee. Basil Vincent was hired to hook our system up to the sewer for \$1,495. Vikki Sisco began cleaning the Fellwoship Building in August and continued to February 1971. The term local preacher was changed to lay minister as was the term exhorter to pastoral apprentice. Verna Skinger was "Mother-of-the-Year" this year. In December choir robes were purchased since a choir had been organized under the direction of Eloise Busha. On December 28th we purchased our third bus for \$800. We used it up until 1975 when we felt because of the upkeep expense and lack of interest we should no longer operate it. The Calvarymen Quartet was here for the second time on October 11th. *Earlier in the year our ladies softball team was champs in their softball league. Our men had a team also. The official census was 1,546 in 1970. The 70's have been years of upgrading the total efficiency of the Linden Free Methodist Church.

*(This happened in '72. Doug Jordan headed up the flint area men's softball league.

1971 - We increased the number of Trustees to seven in 1971 aiming to involve enough to have a quorum to do business at meetings. In February Grace Cummings begen cleaning the Fellowship Building to August. Annette Sharp began cleaning until December. Jerrel Ann Sargent was crowned "Mother-of-the-Year" at the mother-daughter banquet. Our men were Inter Church League bowling champs for the third time. Bowlers were Claude J. Carr, Ralph Schneider, fred and Mel Cook and Ivan Moore.

In June it was decided to begin a Family Night the first Wednesday of September from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. In August it was decided to hold a tent meeting during the Linden village centennial celebration from August 31 to September 6th for the purpose of witnessing. It was also decided to have a supper in the Fellowship Building as a part of the activity. Permission was granted to take the church bus for a FMY trip to Edgewater Park on August 28th.

After conference Helen Wilson began cleaning the church in place of the pastor. About September 4th Margaret Dean took over the cleaning of the church as Helen was unable to continue. In September we had a speaker on alcohol.

A baptismal service was conducted at Flint Fairhaven the Sunday afternoon of September 12^{th} with four being baptised.

Pastor Cummings was granted the Sunday school hour to give spiritual council to young converts. The Calvarymen Quartet was scheduled for October 3rd for the third time. Reverend C. D. Hurd held evangelistic services October 18-24.

Plans were approved to remove partitions in unused rooms and CYC Handi-craft room on the south side of the church basement for a large assembly room for FMY. It was ordered that \$10 be requested per building for weddings. Late in the year the FMY began the Omega discussion program. The church treasurer was authorized to pay minor church and bus repairs up to \$300 a year but not more than \$50 each occurance.

1972 - Doug and Dianne Jordan were given the go ahead to begin a midweek reminder in January of 1972. Joyce Helm, Annette Sharp's sister, began cleaning the Fellowship Building in February and has continued doing so to date.

Nine junior members were to be involved in membership training. A training course was approved for Sunday school teachers and CYC workers. The Rural Bible Mission was approved to conduct our VBS,

for the first time. Ford Bedell repaired the church bus beginning on April $10^{\rm th}$. One person was baptized in April. There was talk of paving the parking lot. In May Margaret Dean became "Mother-of-the-Year"

at the mother-daughter banquet.

Four fans were purchased, to stay on the property, to help circulate air in the sanctuary during hot weather. The FMY took the church bus north for a four day retreat in the late summer. They also planned for a tent meeting during the Kiwanis Horse Show in September, to schedule the official denominational singing group, "Free Spirit", and the conference Teens for Christ singing group for a concert in the Linden high school and evengelistic services in the church in February of 1973. The society agreed to pay half of the cost to send five FMY'ers to Leadership Congress at Urbena, Illinois and half of the cost for fifteen CYC'ers to go to camp.

The trustees requested to purchase and install a new furnace, humidifier and dehumidifier for the parsonage. This was cared for later in the year. The finance committee's plan for a unified budget was not

approved.

Sister (Cummings) Smith indicated that the church remodeling project was a joy as everything went so smoothly as the people worked together. There was a wonderful revival spirit during their 9 year ministry. Several families were converted. One special service with the Singing Avilas was outstanding as wave after wave of glory and victory swept through the church. The growth of the youth work was marvelous. The tent ministry during the Linden Centennial in 1971 was an earnest effort to share Christ with the crowds. What wonderful people in Linden who helped replace the car we had that caught fire and was destroyed on a Saturday evening. "Those nine years were some of the most precious years of our ministry."

The new personage family moved in late in August as the parking area was being leveled and the top soil removed and placed behind the Fellowship Building to raise the ground level. They were greeted with a beautiful floral arrangement and a host of wonderful people later in the evening as it was Wednesday and Prayer Meeting night.

Plans were made to begin a children's church service. The Christian Reader was approved for distribution on a donation basis in September. An A. B. Dick 418 electric mimeograph machine was purchased for the church. Rally month in October saw a gain in Sunday school of 29 over the previous year and an average of 194. It was the highest average in the history of the church. A record attendance of 323 heard the Calvarymen Quartet on Sunday afternoon, October 15th for the fourth time.

About this time the FMY began a singing group called "Joyful Noise" and parsonage phone was moved to the kitchen wall. The FMY had a great Slave Auction which netted \$300 for the project fund. The midweek newsletter was begun in September and named "The Linder Lantern" in a contest with Maxine Deming entering the winning name. The Peul Carlson Missionary film was viewed by 119 in November. An area singspiration was held with 115 ettending in December. Doors were made for the foyer entrances to the sanctuary by our men and Clio Dennis of Oavison upgraded the public address system just in time for Christmas.

A nursery committee was formed to supervise crib babies in the cry room off the foyer and the Toddler room (ages 2-5) in the basement. A Christmas ad was placed in the Linden Leader weekly newspaper and the choir presented a Christmas contata.

Six films were scheduled for showing throughout the conference year. A hymn survey was also conducted in which "The Old Rugged Cross" came in first place. In December the Evangelism Committee was organized and