

THE WSBC

CENTENNIAL TIMES

April, 2011

Issue Number Three

3rd EDITION

CENTENNIAL
COUNTDOWN
19 months

MORTGAGE
PAYOFF
COUNTDOWN
\$605,937
TO GO

*"Celebrating God's faithfulness in the past,
His strength for today,
His promise for tomorrow"*

JUST FOR KIDS

Thinking
'inside' the
box!

☺ See page #3

Celebrating One Hundred Years 1912-2012

A note from the Editor:

This month's 'Centennial Times' focuses on one of the most intriguing periods of our church history, the construction of our current church building. We hope you enjoy photos and facts that few in our congregation have been privileged to know. We also hope you will take this opportunity to pull your family into the enjoyment of the 'Centennial Times' as we provide you with the first of many JUST FOR KIDS columns.

Though there is little emphasis this month on specific plans for our Centennial Celebration, be assured that LOTS is going on. There is still time to consider how you might join us in participating in whatever way suits you best. Don't miss out on the fun! *Sondra Brunsting, Editor*

We need your help!!

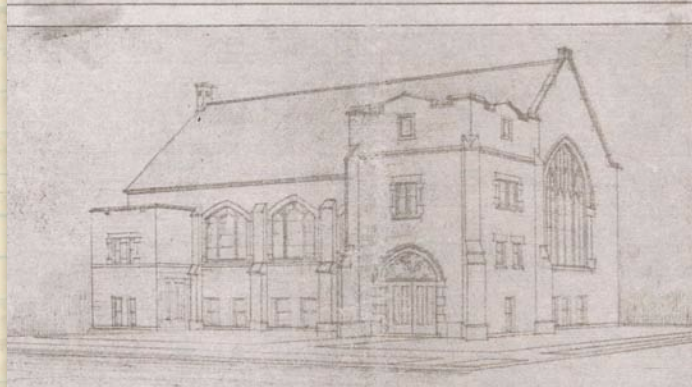
Wanted:

- Committee participants
- Photographer for the Centennial year
- Memorabilia for our archives
- Names/addresses of former members & attenders
- Pictures from our past, especially from the early years
- Child/Teen Focus Coordinator

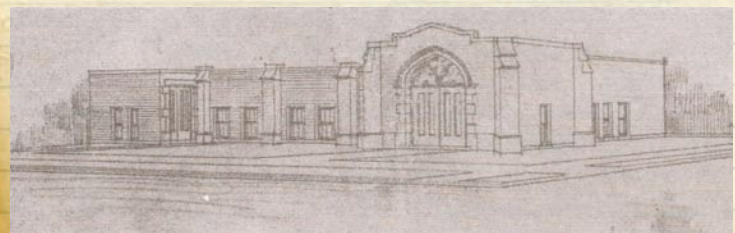
From the historic "Western Springs Times" -

Friday, Sept. 30, 1927

NEW BAPTIST CHURCH UNDER CONSTRUCTION



Drawing showing future structure of Western Springs Baptist Church to be built in two phases. The first unit shown below is now under construction at the corner of Wolf Road and 45th Streets.



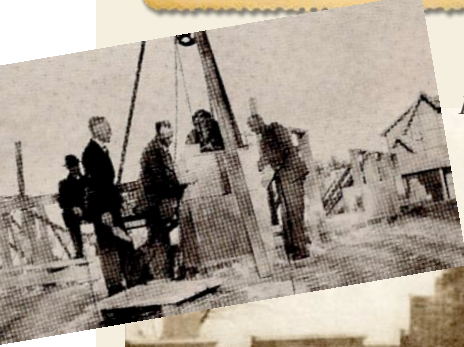
First unit of fine edifice, to be completed by December, 1927.

A. Ansel of Oak Park is the architect.

(Second phase not complete until 1949)

'Centennial Times' now on Website: <wsbaptist@sbcglobal.net>

Centennial Times, Sondra Brunsting, Editor, Western Springs Baptist Church, <wsbaptist@sbcglobal.net>

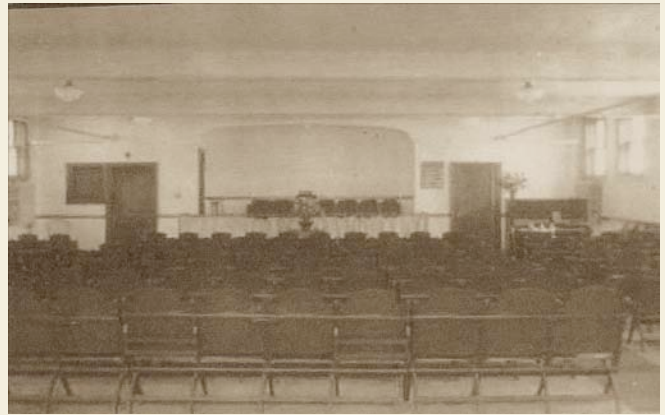


Laying the cornerstone~ Oct. 16, 1927



First Structure on 45th and Wolf Road Built in 1927.

View of the church just prior to dedication.



The Basement Sanctuary.

Interior of the church as it appeared on the day of dedication. This room is now our Youth Lounge and Music/Choir Room.

THE EARLY YEARS (THE CONTINUING SAGA OF THE HISTORY OF THE WSBC. FOR PART 1 AND 2 -SEE FEBRUARY & MARCH 2011 CENT. TIMES)

1924-UNKNOWN AUTHOR'S FIRST HAND ACCOUNT

"Gradually, taking on more life and finding ourselves pressed for a better and more desirable place to worship, a Lot and Building Fund became a reality... A 'Lot Committee' was appointed... (which) soon obtained three available sites. God and man seemed to overrule in the case of the first two...for the owner of the first lot was suddenly killed while negotiations were in progress, and the owner of the second (a Mormon) refused to sell to the group. The Church, however, then approved the corner site where the present building stands. The land had not yet been subdivided but in 1925 it was possible to buy the first 50-foot lot while the second lot was purchased in 1926, providing a 100-foot frontage on Wolf Road at 45th Street."

Unknown author

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

By the end of 1925, the first lot at 45th and Wolf Road had been purchased for \$2000. In 1926, a forward-looking advisory Board recommended the purchase of the adjoining lot for the sum of \$1,750 for future expansion.

In 1927, the church had grown to 68 members under the leadership of Pastor

Ronald R. Kratz. This was a time for progress and building, not only for the church, but for Western Springs. The Burlington Railroad had named the village "The Queen of the Western Suburbs" and people were moving into the community. The church rose to the challenge of reaching these new residents, and in the first quarter of 1927, 346 homes were visited by the pastor and members. Early members recall making these visits on the numerous paths criss-crossing the village, thus avoiding the dusty roads.

By August of 1927, plans had been drawn and financing arranged for a 40' by 80' building on the two lots purchased. This building would have a temporary roof and would include a corner tower. The cornerstone was laid on October 16, 1927. The \$10,000 estimate for the basement building quickly escalated to a final cost of \$13,500.

On March 4, 1928, the new building was complete enough to occupy and a dedication service was held. Stove heat had to be used because the \$800 needed for a furnace had yet to be raised. A note for \$12,000 had been signed by the church to cover the costs of the building, payable within six years. In 1929, a membership of 85 individuals shared in the blessings and the indebtedness of a new church building.

Written by Marguerite Orth



OCTOBER 16, 1927

LAYING OF THE CORNERSTONE FIRST HAND REPORT

"During the ceremony our pastor deposited within the cornerstone a metal box which contained a Bible, a copy of the Articles of Faith, Constitution and By-Laws, a current copy of the "Western Springs Times" (see p. 1) which told the story of the Church, its ministry and plans. A letter was also placed in the box from the late EC Patterson, a member who made two splendid contributions to the church in memory of his mother. Martha Patterson had been devoted to the Church and was lovingly known as 'Aunt Martha' "

Unknown Author



"Aunt Martha" Patterson taught Sunday School & was loved by all who knew her.



Just for Kids

We suggest that this activity for family fun after reading page #2 of the Centennial Times.

WHERE IS THE CORNERSTONE TODAY?

Choose all correct answers.

- 1) In the church Steeple
- 2) Underneath the Youth Kitchen Floor
- 3) It was removed when we built the new addition
- 4) On the southwest corner of the Church by the front door
- 5) In Pastor Monkemeier's basement
- 6) On the northwest corner of the front of the church facing the parking lot

IF YOU WERE TO CREATE A CORNERSTONE FOR OUR CHURCH TODAY, WHAT WOULD YOU PLACE IN THE BOX WITHIN IT?



If you would like your answers printed in the 'Centennial Times', place your answer sheet in the Centennial Mailbox at the church.

See your name in print!!

DID YOU KNOW?

FROM THE ARCHIVAL COMMITTEE

Dick and Dorothy Lake have had a delightful time listening their way through several Rubbermaid containers of old reel-to-reel tapes from the 1940-1960 era. They have accurately relabeled most (outside and inside the box) and have enjoyed listening to voices and sounds from the past! These tapes included past musical concerts given at the church, *Songs in the Night* tapes, and some miscellaneous surprises.

What a perfect match to have these two do such a needed (yet time-consuming) job! Hope we can match up more people with Centennial tasks in such a fashion!

Janet Helin, Archival Co-Chair