

THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF BROCKWAY'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



On the evening of May 8, 1884, eleven dedicated people met to organize the Brockwayville Presbyterian Church. For the first three months services were held in the Methodist Church until they were moved to the Beadle Building, the present site of the True Value Hardware store.

The following year the little congregation had begun to think of erecting a church building of their own. Land was purchased along Main Street and this dream became a reality on September 9, 1888, when the congregation of 63 members dedicated the new church building consisting of one big room with a bell tower.

At a Congregational Meeting in April 1892, approval was given for the construction of a manse which was completed and occupied by late fall. This large two story house served the church until a new red brick ranch style manse was constructed in 1954-1955 on the corner of Main St. and 9th Ave.

In an effort to improve the educational programs offered by the church a two story education building was added to the back of the church around 1940.

In 1958, a committee was chosen to consider a two-phase construction program; first, an educational building and later, a new sanctuary. Those plans came together when former member Vernon Taylor offered matching funds for the first \$100,000 pledged and paid within three years. His challenge was accepted by the Session and congregation, making it possible to undertake both phases of construction simultaneously.

The last church school classes and worship service in the original buildings were held on August 12, 1962. Worship services were then conducted early on Sunday mornings at the Methodist Church.

The demolition of the old building was accomplished in September of 1962 and construction of the present red brick church began in October. The church bell was placed in storage until it was erected in front of the Taylor Memorial Museum some years later. Worship Services began in the new building on June 14, 1964 with a dedication ceremony.



The 125th Anniversary of the Brockway Presbyterian Church was celebrated with a very special service on Sunday, May 3, 2009.