

## **Presbyterians Proud of Their Heritage**

The Wausaukee Presbyterian church was organized June 14, 1889. Thirty-nine residents of the logging settlement, then known as the Big Wausaukee, made a formal application to the Lake Superior Presbytery of the organized Presbyterian church. Rev. A. W. Bill, Menominee, Mich., served as first moderator and temporary clerk. Lorenzo P. Grant was first baptized, then he and David Edgerly were elected, ordained and installed as the first ruling elders.

November 11, 1889 the articles of incorporation were signed by D. M. Noland, H.P. Bird, H.L. Bergstrom, H.D. Somerville and L.P. Grant.

The first services in 1889 were held in the school house, but by 1890 the congregation began meeting in a newly built church located on the same property the congregation occupies today.

In 1895 a house and lot were purchased for use as a parsonage. Minutes from congregation meetings the same year note, "A new and 'tasty' pulpit, pulpit chair and silver communion service all purchased and paid for."

The congregation outgrew its quarters and by late summer, 1925, the present church was completed. Rededication took place September 20 with Dr. W. A. Ganfield of Carroll College officiating. Rev. H.G. Vorsheim was pastor at the time.

May 4, 1930, Rev. Ernest Tremblay was called as pastor. He served until 1938, weathering the Depression years. During that time the old church was torn down and the scraps offered as kindling, Ladies Aid Society members and officers resigned due to economic hardships, and rev. Tremblay asked to put a one month moratorium on his own salary to help balance the budget.

In 1950 the Ladies Auxiliary carried on fund drive for a memorial bell. Donations from more than 175 persons made possible the purchase of the carillonic bells which were dedicated to the memories of the late Rev. R.E. Donaldson and Rev. Ralph Finn on September 24, 1950., on the occasion of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the building of the church.

In 1956 an electric organ was purchased and in 1957 a new manse was built. In 1963, the church was redecorated and insulated.

June 14, 1964 the congregation celebrated its Diamond Jubilee.

Today the First Presbyterian Church is a small but active congregation with about 80 members under the guidance of Dr. Reagan P. Gibbs pastor.