



Methodist Moments

The year 2021 marks the 200th anniversary of our church. Methodist Moments will be offered to honor, educate, and entertain you about this milestone.

In 1820 a crude log hut was built by Jessie Benton on the current church property. Not being much of a builder, that family left, and Samuel McMillan built a sturdy cabin on this same spot. And while the present church did not start here (meetings had been held in private cabins prior to 1821), the church was organized by Reverend Boardman in 1821.

The McMillan cabin meetings moved to a log schoolhouse on Main Street and then on to the Dewey Schoolhouse on Buckeye Street in 1851. In 1852 the first Methodist Church was built on Duane Street at a cost of \$1,530.

The Duane Street church quickly became too small. Imagine! Property was bought at the corner of Buckeye and George Streets in 1866, and a church was completed in 1867. This new church was built for a cost of \$14,569. Adult Sunday School was held in the library across George Street. The church basement held the children Sunday School classes with the rooms being made with curtains. The sanctuary featured a slanted floor and raised altar and pulpit.

A bell was added in 1872 for \$762.00. The bell weighs 1,603 lbs. The names of the church trustees at the time are inscribed on it. Church membership was 700, and church school was 500.

1963 brought another change to our congregation: We moved to our present location from Buckeye Street. Worship services were held in Fellowship Hall as were weddings. \$75,000 was pledged to the education wing. The mortgage was burned in 1968.

Janotta and Herner of Monroeville built the sanctuary and, and it was consecrated on December 20, 1970. The cost was \$182,477 with a loan of \$175,000 @ 8% interest. This mortgage was burned in September, 1977.