

Mentor United Methodist Church Bi-Centennial Moment February 25, 2018

The 1848 sanctuary, the first church structure built on this site, served the Mentor Methodist Episcopal Church well throughout the later part of the nineteenth century. However, as the twentieth century approached, it was apparent that a new building was needed. Planning began in 1902 for a new facility. The church was designed by the architect Sidney R. Bagley of Cleveland. It was designed on the Akron Plan with curved seating and the pulpit in the corner. A side room for Sunday school was included. A partition separated the two areas but could be lifted to add to sanctuary space if needed. A basement under the Sunday School area contained a kitchen, restrooms, and the furnace. The cost to build the new church was \$10,000.

The dedication of the new church building was held on February 4, 1906. Bishop Perry gave the dedication sermon. Rev. F. I. Dunbar was Mentor's pastor. Amazingly, at the time of dedication only about \$800.00 was left to pay off the building! The bishop asked if pledges could be made to wipe out the remaining debt. By the end of the service, the pledges made raised the \$800.00 so the new church started life debt free!

Some members of the church donated stained glass windows, including Mr. and Mrs Horatio Munson and Mr. and Mrs Edmund Cadle, both for children who had passed away. Other groups donated other windows. The names Munson and Cadle are recognizable as the names of two streets in Mentor. The stained glass dome was donated by the Epworth League, a youth association. These windows and the dome have been preserved and are the same ones we see today in the Chapel and elsewhere in the church.

One other note, behind the church covered horse sheds were installed reflecting the transportation of the day.

The new church was open. There would be more changes and additions as time passes. We will discuss those in the next Bi-Centennial moment.