



The Chapel Bell

Presented by the Maple Street Chapel Preservation Society, Inc.
Volume 11, Issue No. 2, Spring 2010

MAPLE STREET CHAPEL. CELEBRATES 140th ANNIVERSARY

By MaryJo Arndt, Vice President

The Commemoration began with the 140th Anniversary Banquet held April 16. People from throughout DuPage County attended. A special reception was held in the Chapel's historic Reade Room where the Village's first free library was founded by Josiah Reade. Congressman Peter Roskam and his wife Elizabeth enjoyed a tour of the Chapel and the Reade Room conducted by Betty Meyer, longtime supporter of the efforts to preserve this historic building.



Photo by Steve Spoden, courtesy of the Lombardian press.

A memorable feature of the dinner was the appearance of Colonel William and Helen Plum (Lombard Village President, William Mueller and Eileen Mueller) pictured below. And a surprise appearance by

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Josiah and Christine Reade (Maple Street Chapel Preservation Society President Thomas Scott and Shirley Scott), Robert Hatfield, pastor of First Church. (Below)



The Anniversary Banquet featured a presentation by Peter Roskam of a flag flown over the U.S. Capitol. State Representative Sandy Pilos (42nd district) presented a congratulatory Proclamation adopted by the House of Representatives. Village President William J. Mueller offered the Proclamation adopted by the Lombard Village Board celebrating the Chapel as a part of Lombard's history. .



Elizabeth and Peter Roskam, MaryJo Arndt and Christina Reade (also known as Shirley Scott.) Photos by Steven Spoden, courtesy of the Lombardian press

The Chapel was featured on the Kiwanis Club House Walk on May 14th. Walden Florists of Downers Grove festively decorated the Chapel as if a wedding were being held. During the month of May, historic items from the Chapel were on display at the Helen Plum Memorial Library

A replica of the Chapel, constructed by Ken Bohl, Facilities Chairman for the MSC Preservation Society was an entry in the Lilac Parade on May 16th. (See story on **page 4**) The official celebration of the 140th Anniversary of Lombard's Maple Street Chapel culminated Sunday, May 23, 2010 when First Church of Lombard held an ecumenical service in the Chapel.

"We thank the community for its wonderful support of our Celebration events" said Tom Scott. The Maple Street Chapel is a part of Lombard's living history. Its preservation is about the people who appreciate the character of their world. We believe strongly about creating future to pass to generations to come", he added. It seems like yesterday that the Committee for the 140th anniversary Celebration held its first meeting." reflected committee member Marlyn Meyer, Financial Management Chair. "The group set as its goal the reaching out to new Friends of the Chapel, increasing the public awareness of Lombard's landmark treasure and building our endowment. He reported that thanks to overwhelming community support we reached our goals".

The Maple Street Chapel is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and has received statewide and national recognition as an important architectural and historic site. It is cared for by the Maple Street Chapel Preservation society whose purpose is preserving, maintaining and promoting the importance of the Chapel. The soaring spire of the Chapel, now lighted at night, has been a beacon to welcome people to Lombard and is one of the most visible, enduring and recognizable architectural structure in the village. (See story on **page 7**)

Editor's Note: Thanks to the Board members of the Maple Street Chapel Preservation Society. Although all of them made significant contributions to the planning and working on the details of the Celebration events, thanks also go to a subcommittee: MaryJo Arndt, David Hulseberg, Marlyn Meyer, Bill Mueller, Kristin Schilt, Shirley Scott, and Tom Scott, for all their work in achieving the success of the Maple Street Chapel's 140th Anniversary Celebration.



On Its 140th Birthday, the Chapel Joins the Lilac Parade

By Ken Bohl, Facilities Chair

For years, the Wilk Insurance Agency generously provided a horse-drawn carriage bearing the name of the Maple Street Chapel in the Lilac Parade. This year, in honor of the Chapel's 140th anniversary, a model of the Chapel was built to be used on a float in the parade.

A rather ambitious project, this model is to 1"=1' scale, making it 8' long and 11' high at the steeple. In this same scale, *you* would be only 5"-6" tall! Work began on it last October, so it took over seven months' work to build it.

The first step was to make a list of requirements, and make sure the design met all of them. Mostly, it had to be built in sections that come apart so it could be stored, and it had to be reasonably waterproof.

The basic framework came to us rather serendipitously. Ken Bohl's daughter Katie works in the marketing department of *Crane Composites*, which makes different types of paneling. One type of panel is for the construction of recreational vehicles. Katie had produced an amusing advertising video, showing all the things that didn't damage it, like a baseball and scraping a tree. When the video was completed, even though the panels were not damaged, they could not be sold. They were the ideal choice for this model.

The biggest challenge was the three spires in the front, especially the main one with the bell and the steeple. What is very complex is that all three spires on the front (the main steeple and the two smaller spires at the corners) are half within the basic rectangle of the building and half outside. This is a beautiful architectural detail, but it was rather complex to notch and slot the spires to fit.

Another issue was the bell. It is actually much smaller, relative to the size of the steeple, than you might think. We went through numerous stores and catalogs. The final choice was a glass bell, such as you might put in a curio cabinet. With a good primer that would stick to glass, it was painted in the bronze color.



The steeple was quite a headache. In the 1"=1' scale, starting at the top of the belfry, its size is 12" square at the bottom, and it is 4½' tall. Many forms of assembly were considered. At first it was being built of strips of wood, stacking more and more wood as you worked your way down. But after this steeple was about half built, it became

obvious that it was going to weigh about 50 pounds. All the effort had to be discarded, as the weight would have collapsed the rest of the model. Page 4

Instead I switched to Styrofoam. I was able to purchase a 24"-high cone, but that is less than half the size needed. The rest was built up out of Styrofoam cubes of progressively larger and larger sizes. When all the cubes were glued together, a sander was used to shape the entire thing into a cone. Rings - macramé rings and embroidery hoops - were used as guides to get the right diameters as you worked your way down the steeple.



The shape of the bottom of the steeple is rather complex - the pointed tops of the sides of the belfry form dormers into the cone-shaped steeple, and each corner kind of sweeps out from the 12" diameter circular shape to a 12" square bottom.

Near the top, where the steeple tapers to 1" diameter, it is quite fragile. Even made of Styrofoam, the 54" steeple weighs five pounds, so if you were to pick it up near the top, the weight would snap the top right off. To make it a little stronger, the entire steeple was wrapped in nylon fish line and coated with a resin to form a reinforced shell.

The basic construction of the roof is very similar to the roof of a house, with triangular roof trusses.



Sunday, May 16th was the day of the Lilac Parade. In order to transform this model into a float, a small trailer was rented. It was decorated with Astroturf and flowers, and banners were hung along the sides.

First, a crew of helpers lifted the partially-constructed model onto the trailer:



then assembly was completed,

And then the parade:



Building this model has been a very rewarding experience, and has given me an increased appreciation for the beauty of the Chapel's architecture. I was so excited when I saw all the pieces of the model come together; I wonder how much stronger that emotion must have been for the Reades, the Plums, and all the other church members when they built the real thing in 1870. I hope this model of the Chapel will represent it for many years to come.

Let There Be More Light!

By Ken Bohl, Facilities Chair

Several years ago, the north side of main spire of the Chapel was beautifully illuminated at night. This was accomplished through a cooperative deal with Commonwealth Edison, using an existing utility pole in front of the Chapel.



This month, illumination was added to the south side of the spire as well. The project was a joint venture between the Maple Street Chapel Preservation Society and the Village of Lombard.

Whereas the spire is visible from the north from less than half a mile away, from the south, the spire is visible all the way from Roosevelt Rd., a distance of 1½ miles.

In order to accomplish this, a very small black metal fixture was mounted on the roof some distance to the south of the main spire, and placed slightly west of the roof ridge so it is obscured from view from Main Street.

We were concerned that the fixture itself would be a bit of an eyesore, but with its small size, being 50' high, its placement on the west side, and the black coloring, few people will notice it at all.



So now the “beacon of the community” will be more visible than ever!

Docent Chapel Tour Calendar

Third Sunday of each month, 2:00 to 4:00PM unless otherwise stipulated

June 20, 2010
July 18, 2010
August 15, 2010

September 14, 2010
October 17, 2010

Docent Committee

Barbara Barta
Kenneth Bohl
Betty Meyer

Joanne Richardson
Doris Schertz
Tom Scott

Helga Wilk

We invite you to join us in this endeavor. If you are interested in being trained as a docent, call 630-627-0171

Meeting Schedule for Summer of 2010

**Notice: general meeting for:
Members, Board and Committee Chairs: JULY 26, 2010
No meetings scheduled for June and August**

The Chapel Bell is a newsletter presented by the Maple Street Chapel Preservation Society, Inc., published quarterly in Lombard, Illinois 60148.

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Meet More Endowment Donors

JVM B Share Paydown

Steeple Club: Lombard Historical Society

Meet More Friends of the Maple Street Chapel*

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George & Jeanie McCoy

Carol Gillespie Ready

Joanne & Charles Richardson

Basic Membership

David & Gladys Cunningham

Chris & Jeanette Erb

Basic Membership

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For Roberta Bley

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For Walter Laittas

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For Ilse Lischer

George & Jeanie McCoy

For Roy Wiegand

Dr. Paul & MaryJo Arndt

Chris & Jeanette Erb

David & Gina Gardner

Lombard Senior Mens Club

Tom & Shirley Scott

In Honor of.....

Betty & Marlyn Meyer from Rick and Melissa Hennessey

Editor's note: All listings are as of April 30th. Any omissions or corrections will be addressed in the Summer Issue.

OOPS! Leroy Roath informed us that our statement in a previous issue said that the Maple Street Chapel also functioned as the first movie "house" in Lombard. Turns out the Bible Church was "first", as mentioned in *Footsteps on the Prairie Path* as Mr. Roath pointed out. Thanks Leroy, for "cluing us in".

Variety Program Series Brings Joy to the Chapel

The Maple Street Chapel presented three programs in the variety series in 2010.

Terry Lynch performed as Teddy Roosevelt. A very appreciative audience heard his tales of his childhood, his ascent to the presidency, and the new directions he set for our country. We heard about the bear he refused to shoot and the resulting political cartoons featuring “Teddy Bear”. We also heard how he turned so many expressions that have remained ever since, such as the Maxwell House “good to the last drop”.



Bob Kowalski is a puppeteer and ventriloquist. In a program titled “Fabulous Forties”, Bob (and his little friend) gave us historical background, and presented songs of the '40s, '50s, and '60s, inviting the audience to identify the songs and to sing along.

The 10th “American Heritage” concert commemorated the chapel’s 140th birthday, including “Birthday Variations”, *Happy Birthday to You* played in the styles of all musical eras from Renaissance through Jimi Hendrix rock. The highlight of the program will be a narrated piece *The Story of the Battle Hymn of the Republic*, complete with choir. It told the story of the familiar tune’s birth as *Canaan’s Happy Shore*, and its evolution to *John Brown’s Body* and finally Elizabeth Ward Howe’s stirring *Battle Hymn*.



These programs were supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council.

Maple Street Chapel 140th Celebration Memories

April 16th Reception in the Reade Room



A time of fellowship; conversing with old and new friends, partaking of hors d'oeuvres, wine and punch and meeting our Congressional Representative Peter Roskam while listening to the Harpist's beautiful music.



A "packed" house enjoying the 140th Celebration dinner

Photos by Steve Spoden, courtesy of the Lombardian Press.

Join the Friends of the Maple Street Chapel Society Today!

Please check the box below to direct your enclosed donation.

Please make your check payable to the Maple Street Chapel Preservation Society, Inc.

Friends of the Maple Street Chapel. Annual memberships. Money is used for ongoing Chapel expenses.

Endowment Fund. Money is invested and earnings provide for preservation of the Chapel

Special Gifts. Specifically for _____

Basic "Friends" Membership \$25 - \$99

Bell Ringer \$100 - \$499

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Steeple Club \$1,000 - \$2,999

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