



The *Chapel Bell*

Presented by the Maple Street Chapel Preservation Society, Inc.
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Dinner With Our Special Guest Speaker by Ken Bohl, 1st Vice President

Our annual special event dinner on September 23rd was a quite an enjoyable and informative event.

The evening was highlighted by guest speaker Emily Bastedo, formerly Chief of Staff to Illinois' First Lady Diana Rauner and recently promoted to Senior Advisor to the Governor.



Emily has been tasked with managing the \$15 million dollar restoration project of the Governor's Mansion in Springfield. One hundred percent (100%) of the funding for this project is attained from donations. Emily gave us a fascinating view of the extensive repairs that are needed and all the remodeling that will be done which includes restoring historical aspects and accommodating up-to-date requirements for accessibility.

Reid Foltyniewicz did an excellent job serving as our Master of Ceremonies. Over 60 people were in attendance.

Betty Meyer provided an informative display of pictures and newspaper articles about the Chapel that spanned over decades.

A very fine dinner was provided by Robert Bafundo who manages the catering business *MotoChef Services*.

Ken Bohl opened the evening by providing a history of the Chapel, his personal experience ascending to the top of the 100' steeple, and the completion of the fire sprinkler system.



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The highlight of the evening was Emily Bastedo’s presentation on the history of the Governor’s Mansion and the \$15 million dollar renovation project which will elevate it to becoming an Illinois showcase.

Two people, Jeanie McCoy and Ken Bohl were very pleasantly surprised with special recognition awards for their contributions to the Chapel society which were presented by Charles Kreichelt.



The raffle auction was a big hit and featured 33 items that were generously donated.

We are so grateful to Joann Richardson whose idea it was to have this wonderful dinner event. She had enlisted Emily Bastedo as the keynote speaker, arranged to have *MotoChef Services* cater the dinner and was responsible for the majority of the work to make this event a success!

The Chapel Bell is a newsletter presented by the Maple Street Chapel Preservation Society, Inc., published quarterly in Lombard, Illinois 60148. Contact personnel @ 630-627-0171

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The Emotional Power of Bells

by Ken Bohl, Facilities Director



We are all familiar with the Chapel's bell. We've heard it rung and we've heard stories of how it originally was used to call people to church and to summon the fire department.

Bells, whether a single bell or a carillon, have brought joy and also have been a poignant reminder of sorrow.

The pealing of bells (defined to be 2-8 bells) is used in many different types of celebrations, whether it's a celebration of worship or a special event. At our own Chapel, it is a tradition that newlywed couples celebrate their wedding by ringing the bell together. A few years ago I put some effort into cleaning up the movement of the bell. I live close enough to the Chapel that I often hear the bell ringing and realize it is being rung by such a new married couple, and it makes me feel very good.

But bells have tolled to mourn, mostly to mourn death. I was called upon to ring it for the September 11th memorial. There are several customs for funerals. The most common is to ring the bell three times. Another custom is to have one stroke for each year corresponding to the age of the deceased.

My daughter told this very emotional story about a tragic event. She attended grade school at St. John's Lutheran School. Their church once had a building similar to our Chapel, but they tore it down. The only item they retained was the bell, which was identical to the Maple Street Chapel bell. Their bell rings by pushing a button and having it struck by an electrical device. During warm weather when the school windows were open, the bell during a funeral was loud enough to be disruptive to the class.

One of her classmates' family experienced an unthinkable tragedy. They went out for a fun family day, and their younger daughter was killed in an accident. For the next several days the entire class was in shock and disbelief; they were numb & didn't really react to the tragedy. And then it happened - they heard the bell toll - just five times - and it triggered the entire class to have a total breakdown as it released the emotion they had been holding within.

For 147 years the bell on the Maple Street Chapel has been a reflection of the world around it, embodying mourning, calling people to action, and heralding joyous occasions. Let it ring on for hundreds of years more!

How Does This Strike You?

by Ken Bohl, Facilities Director

Disaster struck or at least took a shot at the Chapel. In mid-August, the Chapel was struck by lightning. When you consider that the steeple is the tallest structure within a quarter of a mile, I guess a lightning strike was bound to happen.



What we see as that little cross at the top of the steeple surprisingly stands 6' high. And, like a tree with its roots, there is an additional 6' anchoring it to the *inside* of the steeple.

The surface of the cross is fiberglass but the cross is basically a steel structure and I have heard that it weighs 250 lbs. It is actually a lightning rod. There are two large cables running down from it on each side of the building that stakes into the ground.

So the good news is that the lightning rod did its job and there was no physical damage done to the steeple or the cross. The bad news is that the power surge damaged both the security system and the fire protection system. The main panel of the security system was burned out, and 17 devices of the fire system (such as heat detectors) were fried. We have surge protectors on the 220 volt power coming in and several on the low-voltage wiring of the fire system, but such a powerful surge just jumps across those devices. It took several weeks but the entire system has been repaired.

We are very grateful that there was the foresight to install a cross that performed this critical function. Look what happened to this historic church which did not have that protection!



Painting of the Chapel

by Ken Bohl, Facilities Director

We mentioned in the last Chapel Bell issue that we were going to paint the Chapel this year.

In the past years, there were parts of the painting that did not stand up well and the paint peeled rather severely.

It is believed that the problem has been that the paint did not get a chance to soak in and dry properly in the summer because the wall it was applied to was hot, especially walls in full sun exposure.

So, this year we have held off on the painting but the work has just begun in mid-October. We hope the result will be a more durable finish.



We are also working harder than ever to identify every part of the building that requires repair. The primary places are where water has gotten in and damaged the wood and the areas where peeling is a chronic condition. The effort to identify these problems began right after the last paint job was done in 2008. A problem list was started, and every time decay or peeling paint was found the problem was added to the list. We are aware of the many repairs that need to be done at this time and have asked for a solution to persistent problems with the paint.

The most-needed repair is on the back (south side) of one of the small spires. It is so bad that the wall was letting water in and we had to have a temporary sheet of metal put over the area. The worst of the peeling-paint problems is the south wall.

The painting is a large ongoing expense of \$60,000 plus the cost of whatever repairs are needed (averaging \$8,000-\$9,000 per year). These costs not only improve the appearance of the Chapel but it is essential for its protection and preservation.

So, take a look at the Chapel around mid-November, and see that it is back to its like-new glory and protected against the elements. And, *thank you* for your support that allows us to continue to do this essential preventative maintenance.

THE MAPLE STREET CHAPEL DOCENT'S REPORT

by Joann Richardson, Chairperson

A Docent's responsibility is to give tours of the Chapel but as a volunteer for the Chapel one is able to help in a variety of areas. I was especially pleased to have had the opportunity to be the Chair person for the September 23, 2017 Special Event dinner. It was such an enjoyable and rewarding event for me to see it come to fruition.

The idea began to form in December 2016 when I ordered a wood carved model of The Chapel to give as an appreciation gift to honor Society members. Kevin Lattner and I discussed several other ideas but agreed that the model of the Chapel would be most befitting.

At the end of March I heard Emily Bastedo speak about the renovation of the Illinois Governor's Mansion and at that time I was confident that Emily would be perfect to be a guest speaker for a Chapel event. In May, I invited Ken Bohl to hear Emily speak at the Rotary luncheon and asked him for his opinion of her. At the end of the luncheon Emily was booked for our Chapel Event at no charge to Chapel.

The initial plan for the event was to honor two society members for their dedication to preserving the Chapel. By the end of our first dinner committee meeting we had the event date decided, the reservation at Hatfield Hall set, the guest speaker and catering confirmed. I am pleased to report that the donations and the raffle generated a profit of \$931.97.

October 15, 2017 marked the last Sunday that the Chapel was open for tours for the 2017 season. This year we had 25 people who signed the guest book which may not sound like a lot, but we also had additional visitors who had not signed the guest book. Many of our viewers are from several local DuPage County towns but we also had visitors from Brookfield and Northbrook which are in Cook County. As a Chapel tour guide, it's always exciting to have out of state visitors and this year we had several from Farmington, Michigan, North Carolina, and Wisconsin.

This October we had a special visitor to the Chapel, Grace Bandish and her son Mark. Grace was married on August 25, 1956 in the Chapel, which was 61 years ago. She remembers one of the individuals who had attended her wedding saying, "it was the most beautiful wedding they had ever been at." Grace was happy taking pictures of the Chapel today and remembering her special wedding day.

Wishing everyone a Happy Holiday season and please mark your calendar for the first Saturday, December 2nd for the Annual Chapel Christmas Sing-A-Long held at the Chapel. Bring family, friends and especially the children to meet "Rudolph The Red Nose Reindeer. Lilacia Park is beautifully decorated for the Christmas Holiday for your enjoyment that evening as well.

Meet More Friends of the Maple Street Chapel

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Bell Ringers

Carole Dankers, Mary J. Gower, John & Audrey Jones and Jeanie McCoy

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Memorial Gifts for - Dorothy Schreiber

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Memorial Gifts for - Betty Vance

Carol & Sam Henderson, Marie Vance Hoy, Diane Johnson,
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In Honor of Jeanie McCoy

Ronald Kipniss - Lombard Animal Hospital

In Honor of Charlie & Jan Kreichelt's 50th Wedding Anniversary

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Maple Street Chapel Preservation Society
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