



The *Chapel Bell*

Presented by the Maple Street Chapel Preservation Society, Inc.
Volume 20, Issue No. 3 Summer 2019

KEN BOHL, MAN OF THE YEAR IN LOMBARD FOR 2019

Ken Bohl was selected as the Lombard Man of The Year for 2019 during Lombard's "Lilac Days". He is also 1st Vice President and Facilities Manager of the Maple Street Chapel Preservation Society Board, and a charter member of the Society Board since it was incorporated in September of 2000.

A man of many talents, Ken uses these talents to the benefit of the Maple Street Chapel, the Village of Lombard and other surrounding communities.



Photo by Steven Spoden, Lombardian,
Rock Valley Publishing



He also is an accomplished musician. Ken is a member of the Elmhurst Symphony and the Senior Suburban Orchestra, and he has produced the annual American Heritage Concert held in the Maple Street Chapel each spring.

Ken also acts as a tour manager for groups of middle school kids' educational trips to several mid-west cities. He has a black belt in Taekwondo, and he volunteers as a blacksmith at the Naper Settlement.

Over the years, Ken's work for the Maple Street Chapel has saved us many, many dollars. He knows every board, every nail in the building, and has made thousands of minor and not so minor repairs. He leads our efforts on major projects such as our \$60,000 new roof, our \$65,000 repaint paint job, and our installation of a \$150,000 sprinkler system. And, he oversees our discussions in our monthly Board meetings.

The Maple Street Chapel Preservation society says, "Congratulations, Ken!" You are very deserving of this honor.

***** MEMORIAL ANNOUNCEMENT*****
JEANIE McCOY (5/27/1922 - 7/17/2019)

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Jeanie McCoy, cherished friend and Charter Member of The Maple Street Chapel Preservation Society. In the eighteen years that Jeanie was on the Chapel Board, she served in many capacities, including Membership and Nominating Committee. However, her greatest contribution was as the Producer and Editor of The Chapel Bell newsletter for her entire tenure on the Board.



Rest easy, Jeanie! You will be in our memories forever.

NOTE: Memorial donations may be sent to the Maple Street Chapel Preservation Society.

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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Behind the Scenes

Meet Joann Richardson, Treasurer of The Maple Street Chapel Preservation Society, Inc., and past Docent chairperson from 2012 to 2017.

Charley and I have been married for 58 years as of this past January. We have one daughter, Alisa Michelle Richardson Volpe who is married to Craig Volpe. Chloe' Volpe, our granddaughter is starting her second year of college this fall at Miami University of Ohio where she is studying management engineering. Our grandson Cash is a sophomore at Oak Park River Forest High School and he is an active hockey player, playing goalie since he was 5 years old.



My dad was working in Milan at the war arsenal about 30 miles from Dresden. When WWII ended, my parents purchased a farm in the country. I was born in Dresden (Weakley County) Tennessee and I have a brother who is 2 years younger than me. Our father raised us, as our mother had to be confined to a mentally ill hospital before I began school. She lived there until her elderly years and then was placed in a senior care home.

My first 5 years of school was at a 2 room country school with one teacher for eight grades. My older cousins have reminded me in fun that one time I was standing up at the teacher's desk reading, when I said, "Ms. Mignon, there's a snake coming under the door." Today, I can still see the image of that snake. I then attended school in Sharon, TN., where we lived with our grandparents, as our father had come to Chicago in 1951 to look for work. Grandfather passed away and shortly afterward our grandmother became ill, which is when we joined our father in Chicago in 1954.

Senior year of high school was at Marshall High School in Chicago's west side. Having come from a school that had just 16 students in its 1955 graduation class, to a school with a graduation class of 956 students, needless to say was a big change for me. I learned fast, when my Civics teacher, Ms. Kramer, pointed her finger at me and said "I mean you". She called me Joan not Joann, but believe me, after that I answered to Joan. She was the teacher who inspired me to attend Wright Junior college, where I learned accounting and short-hand. In 1972, I worked at a company that had the first IBM computer for which I was trained to operate. When I wasn't working I enjoyed bowling and ball room dancing. I received a Fred Astaire Bronze Trophy for dancing.

Having grown up with politically active relatives, I was very happy to meet the late Mary Jo Arndt in 1984. Within 2 months Mary Jo had me attending a political party and that same night she convinced me to be chairperson of the Ways and Means for the club. In 2005 I was elected the Woman of the Year for the Dupage Federation Republic Woman's club. Then in 2007, I was one of two women to organize and combine four DuPage County Republican clubs into one. Currently I am a York Township Committeeman's Chairperson for District 62.

My dear friend Mary Jo had a way of getting a person involved with organizations. She invited me to a Maple Street Chapel board meeting and subsequently accepted the position of secretary and became a Chapel member in 2001. Shortly after that I transitioned to be a Docent chairperson which had been an exciting and fulfilling experience. To this day, each time I'm in the Chapel I always learn something new about its history.

Getting a Solid Foundation

by Ken Bohl, Facilities Director

First of all, this is not a crisis but there is a long-term need for which we are starting a project to address it. This is probably the largest project we've ever undertaken.

Things began as a pipe dream idea, but it then went in an unexpected direction. You are probably aware that the Chapel has no practical facilities; there aren't any restrooms, any changing rooms and there isn't a place to have a reception or a meeting. And, the majority of the Chapel's basement is a crawl space.

What we would really *love* to do is excavate the crawl space and open up 3,000 square feet of space to provide for facilities. We decided to look into it believing that it might not be cost-justified, but rather just to know.

When we received an estimate for such a project, and were told that if we wanted to do this optional project, the foundation of the Chapel is not up to standard. It is subject to structural failure and could eventually result in some very costly damage.

The problem is twofold. First, most of the foundation is made of field stone, which gradually deteriorates and must be continuously maintained. But more significantly, we were very surprised to discover that the foundation is not as deep into the ground as it should be, which, was a very common practice in the 19th century. The prescribed construction of a foundation wall, when there is only a crawlspace rather than a full basement, is to have it sit on a footing which is 3 ½ feet deep, below the frost line. The Chapel's foundation only goes about 18" into the ground which is especially bad for such a large building.

We are approaching this issue methodically. The first step is to have an engineering study done which is an analysis of the shortcomings in the foundation, a recommended solution, and an estimated cost of doing the project.

The initial analysis determined what we expected. There is no immediate danger, no deterioration, but an "underpinning" will probably be recommended to bring the foundation to the recommended depth. The best two ways to do this would be to dig from the outside or from the inside. Depending on the recommendations and costs, should the digging be from the inside, it's possible that the most economical way to do the structural work would be to do a full or partial excavation of the basement. This would give us the additional benefit of space for usable facilities. But we are committed to use money wisely and limit our spending to what is needed to preserve the Chapel. This may turn out to be an opportunity to make a significant improvement.

We will keep you posted on the extent of the work as this analysis develops.


LOMBARD
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Exhibit - *Sheldon Peck Footsteps of His Life 1798 - 1868 Noted Folk Artist* runs through August 31, 2019.



Don't miss this opportunity to see over a dozen original Sheldon Peck portraits on loan from other museums and private donors in the Sheldon Peck Homestead at 355 E. Parkside Avenue in Lombard. Suggested donation is \$8; \$5 for members and donors; free for children and active duty military. For more information: lombardhistory.org, info@lombardhistory.org, 630.629.1885.

September 21, from 1:00 - 4:00 pm - Picnic at the Peck Homestead

Enjoy hot dogs, s'mores and fun and games at the Peck Homestead, at 355 E. Parkside Avenue in Lombard. This event is free and open to all ages, however, reservations are suggested: lombardhistory.org, info@lombardhistory.org or call 630.629.1885.



Special Visitors to Maple Street

Nat Reade and his son traveled from Springfield, Massachusetts to Lombard in April researching their Great Great Grandfather, and Great Great Great Grandfather, Josiah Reade. They visited the Josiah Reade residence on Maple Street, the Lombard Historical Society (LHS) Archives, and the Reade Room of the Maple Street Chapel where Josiah's books formed the nucleus of the Helen Plum Library. They met with Jean Crockett, LHS Archivist and Sarah Richardt, Executive Director of the LHS, and President, Tom Scott and Vice President, Ken Bohl of the Maple Street Chapel.

An excerpt from Through Years of Grace by Ardyce Gilna Mons

(1914-1918) "The years immediately preceding World War I were a period of growing awareness of the international world, although no one in the middle west dreamed that a devastating war was about to explode in Europe. The church had supported missions in foreign fields since its early days. Young people even talked bravely of going into foreign missions. But, no one thought of war. Christians were sending relief to the starving Armenians, and deplored their persecution by the Turks. But intervention in any fracas outside the country seemed incomprehensible.

There were cars beginning to appear frequently on the streets in Lombard about this time, and this led to the necessity for building sidewalks. This was the world in which John Rushton Heyworth came to become pastor of The First Church of Lombard. It was early in Pastor Heyworth's term that the Ladies Union paid for remodeling the front of the church. When it was constructed the entry door faced directly on Maple Street. As traffic increased, and horseless carriages began to speed by, Maple Street was becoming a dangerous speedway. After the laying of sidewalks, for both safety and sanitation, it was determined to build two side entrances and to close up the front of the building permanently. A small porch, on the west side of the building was added, and the entry door made, with a second door opposite it at the back of the sanctuary. The second door opened on Main Street.

A generous gift from Helen Maria Plum made possible the creation of a parapet of cement, ornamented with shrubbery across the front of the structure. The "old" building received a face-lifting, and the ladies relaxed and were pleased with their material accomplishments.

In addition to upgrading their own building, the people of First Church contributed to a growing list of groups. In August, 1915, these included: Congregational Church Building Society, Congregational Education Society, New West department, American Missionary Association, Ewing Street Mission of Chicago, Illinois Home Missionary work of the state conference, Pacific Garden Mission of Chicago, Chicago City Missionary Society, Chicago Theological Seminary, American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, Congregational Sunday School and Publishing Society, and the Ministerial Relief Association of Illinois."

Meet More Friends of the Maple Street Chapel

Basic Membership

Deb Curtis

Barbara Jirsa

Tim Yarling

Bell Ringer

Keith & Angela Gianorio

In Honor of Tom Scott

Dr. Morgan Meyer

In Memory of Dorothy Weigan

Mary Clarkson

Marlene Peaslee

Dave & Doris Schertz

Tom Scott

Douglas Weigan

Kelly & Carolyn Williams

Kevin & Betty Williams

Laura Zorn

2019 OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE FOR THE MAPLE STREET CHAPEL

The Maple Street Chapel will be open for visitors on the following dates listed below. Our highly qualified docents will be there to present to you the history of the Chapel dating back to 1870, and will gladly answer all of your questions.

July 28 - August 25 - September 25 - October 27

Hours are 2:00 - 4:00 pm

NOTE: If you have a special group, or know of a special group, who would like a private tour, please call 630-627-0171 and we will be happy to make an arrangement for your group.

Maple Street Chapel Preservation Society
220 S. Main Street
Lombard, Illinois 60148

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 _____

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------|--|---------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basic "Friends" Membership | \$25 - \$99 | <input type="checkbox"/> Board & Batten Society | \$3,000 - \$4,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bell Ringer | \$100 - \$499 | <input type="checkbox"/> Colonel Plum's Partners | \$5,000 - \$9,999 |
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NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Detach and return to: Maple Street Chapel Preservation Society, Inc.
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