



The Chapel Bell

Presented by the Maple Street Chapel Preservation Society, Inc.
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As a New Decade Begins, What Was Done in the Past Decade?

by Ken Bohl

The Chapel has looked beautiful all this time, but our efforts to maintain and improve it are ongoing. Let's look at some of the work that was done in those 10 years. This is by no means a complete list, and it is not in chronological order. The list shows the most significant things first.

1.) **Fire Sprinkler System** - installed 2016-2017

It was our biggest fund-raising ever, with a cost of \$168,000. We are *so* grateful to those who so generously contributed to this effort. Everyone will be haunted by the image of the fire at Notre Dame Cathedral and the collapsing steeple.

Great care was taken to prevent the system from interfering with the beauty of the Chapel, using concealed sprinkler heads painted to match the color of the wood.



It's difficult to locate the sprinklers.



2.) **Metal Below Belfry** - replaced 2013

Painting & Repair of Trim - done 2017-2019

The 6' section below the belfry was originally just another layer of wood. It was later covered with metal. That metal had rusted out, so we replaced it with ribbed metal that blends in nicely with the board-and-batten façade of the walls.

What started out as a painting of the Chapel turned into an extended renovation of trim on the 3 spires of the north side. The wood had rotted away caused by a rusting-out of metal flashing which allowed water to seep in and be trapped.

3.) **New Porch Roof, Southwest Entrance** - installed 2010

The old roof was deteriorating, and it was very undersized for the size of the stoop.



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In Remembrance of
Rose M. Palma
Long Time Maple Street Chapel Preservation Society Member
April 13, 1925 – December 5, 2019

On December 5, 2019, Rose Palma ascended into heaven. Rose was born in Chicago, and graduated from Manly High School. She and her late husband Fred Palma were married for 53 years. She was a devoted mother and inspiration to her five children; Francine (Jim) Long, MD, Rosemarie, (Lee) Pierce, Emily Marx, Fred (Rhonda) Palma and Teresa (Michael) Kotch; eleven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. She later moved to Glen Ellyn where she opened The Palma House, a restaurant, and operated a catering business. As a member of the Maple Street Chapel Bell Preservation Society she generously donated through her catering company the meals contributed to several major fund raising events.



Rose enjoyed many things some of which included painting, specifically as a copier of Impressionist artists, Van Gogh in particular, and had a great love of the outdoors. Rose was a committee woman for Milton Township for 30 years and a member of three choirs at St. James the Apostle Church. She was an activist for social justice as well as a feminist before the movement was recognized. Rose will be deeply missed by all those who knew her.

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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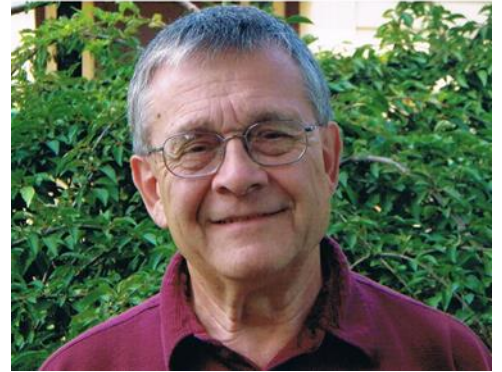
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BEHIND THE SCENES

Meet Charles Kreichelt, Financial Manager and Copy Editor for the Maple Street Chapel Bell.

I was born in St. Louis, Missouri, raised in Webster Groves, Missouri, and graduated from Brentwood High School. I was the eldest of four boys, brothers Tom, Ray, and Ken. However, at the age of fourteen, an aunt and uncle passed away and my cousins Shirley and Mike came to live with us, for a total of six teenagers all in one house, at the same time. During high school, I played the trombone in the band, sat on the end of the bench on the football team, and worked first at our local Ben Franklin store (remember this), and later at the Piggly Wiggly grocery store.



After graduation in 1957, I went to Elmhurst College in Elmhurst, Illinois, majoring in Business Administration. During my junior year, my family moved to Michigan and I stayed here in Elmhurst. In 1961, my first job out of college was in Chicago as a trainee for The Kroger Company, and have been here in the area ever since.

Two years into my working career, I was drafted into the U.S. Army. I spent two years there, including fourteen months as a NATO troop on a Greek airbase twelve miles west of Athens. My military job was a Communications Specialist and Cryptologist. Good duty, good beaches!

Upon returning home, I again joined Kroger, now as a store Co-Manager, but soon decided I needed more education to further my career. I left Kroger and enrolled in the MBA Program at Michigan State University, majoring in Food Marketing Management. And, best of all, there I met my wife Jan, married for fifty two years!

Following MSU, I joined Osco Drug as a Buyer Merchandiser, stayed for seven years, went through a down-sizing, and went to work in the headquarters of Ben Franklin Stores, where I stayed for fourteen years, (remember my first part-time job?). Five years at Dominick's finer Foods followed, then retirement.

Retirement for me has included travel, spending winters in San Diego with our family, and volunteering to "maintain and preserve" our 150 year old Maple Street Chapel. In 2008, Dr. Tom Scott asked me to join the Maple Street Chapel Society as Treasurer. I held that position for eight years, and now I am currently the Financial Manager and the Chapel Bell Copy Editor.

(Continued from page 1)



4.) **New Roof** - 2011

The shingles have a warranted life of 50 years.

We also dealt with an ongoing painting expense and potential hazard by replacing the 8 3/4-round white stripe boards with aluminum tubes.

5.) **Furniture in Reade Room** - repaired & refinished

A couple of these we believe to have been here since the Chapel was built in 1870.

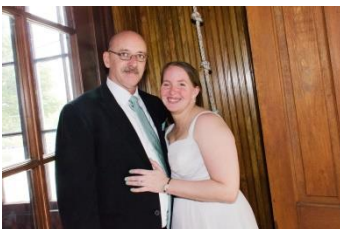


6.) **New Heating Boiler** - 2010

Not so exciting, but very important

7.) **Trap Door in Floor of Belfry** - 2010

This means we no longer have to climb out onto the roof to service the bell, so the bell can now be maintained to work better.



8.) **Beaded Board Paneling in Bell Rope Closet** - 2014

9.) **Configuration of Stairs Northwest Entrance** - 2015

People used to trip on an unexpected step at the top. We also brought the railings up to better than A.D.A. standards.



This is just a portion of the progress we have made in the past 10 years, but there is still much to do!
We could not have done it without your support!

Variety Program Series for 2020

Sunday, March 1, 3:00 P.M. Tyler Fowler & Steven Haas \$15

Sunday, March 22, 3:00 P.M. American Heritage Concert \$20



Sunday, **March 1**, 3:00 p.m. comedians **Tyler Fowler** and **Steven Haas** will give you an afternoon of delight! Tyler is a favorite around Chicago and across the U.S., appearing regularly at *Zanie's Comedy Club*. He was recently named among the "Best of the Fest" at Cleveland Comedy Festival. His debut album premiered #1 on iTunes and top 10 on the Billboard Comedy Charts.



Steven Haas' brand of comedy is based on his life, covering student loan debt, dating, and searching for jobs. He was named "Best of the Fest" at Burbank Comedy Festival. Tickets are \$15.

Sunday, **March 22**, 3:00 p.m. the 20th annual *American Heritage Concert* will feature favorites of the past 19 years, and celebrate the Chapel's 150th birthday. Highlights will include Aaron Copland's *Rodeo Suite*, highlights from the musical *Chicago*, themes from *Jurassic Park*, Leonard Bernstein's *Overture to Candide*, and back by popular demand, the narrated music of *I Am a Veteran*. Veterans will be recognized in *The Armed Forces Salute*.



Tickets are \$20.

Purchase tickets in either of these two ways:

- Visit the Chapel web site www.MapleStreetChapel.Org, go to the page for the program you want to attend, and click the **Buy Now** button to pay through PayPal (which will give you a choice of a sight draft or credit card).
- Mail check payable to "Maple Street Chapel" to Ken Bohl - 213 West Ash St. - Lombard - 60148-2505 with this form:

___ Tyler Fowler & Steven Haas @ \$15 _____

___ American Heritage Concert @ \$20 _____

___ Total _____

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____

A DOCENT'S VIEW OF THE MAPLE STREET CHAPEL

First from the outside: The Chapel is of the American Gothic style with a board and batten exterior. The building is free-standing with a foundation of field stone. The basement is a dirt cellar with a 4' crawl space under the sanctuary. If you look up, the steeple is 118 feet high with a 6 foot high Celtic cross atop that. The cross is a 1979 replacement of a 1937 cross which was destroyed by lightening. The Chapel bell was cast in 1870 in Troy, New York by the McFeeley Company, the same company that made cannons during the Civil War. A plaque identifies the Chapel as on the National Register of Historic Places. A garden on the East side is maintained by the Lombard Garden Club.

Stepping into the Narthex: Note that you are not stepping in through the original doors. The original doors faced Maple Street, but were moved to accommodate vehicle traffic and protect people walking out of the Chapel. In the Narthex, note the North Window which has at the top, the eye of God, an open Bible and the dove of peace. The Chapel has 11 "calico" windows. The originals were done by local artisans and though we typically say "calico" the formal name is "Grisaille" which applies to glass which is painted. Painted glass was affordable, stained glass was not.

Inside the Sanctuary: It is designed in the Anglo Protestant tradition with three sections, no center aisle, with a double middle. The flooring is wide plank pine, and the beaded board walls above the wood railing were added around 1900 to cover sooted plaster. Soot came from the pot-bellied stove which stood in the middle of the sanctuary and either kept you very warm or, if you were too far away not too warm at all. Those closest to the stove paid the most for their pew. Pew rental helped pay the ministers salary, although every 4th pew was free. Original lighting was provided by an overhead kerosene chandelier which dripped oil, leaving the women's fancy bonnets with streaks or holes. Electric lights were added in 1912.

The Chancel: Built in the shape of a ships bow, you can almost see yourself rowing a boat. Five upholstered wooden chairs were carved in 1914-1915 in Oberammergqu, Germany. The choir loft was moved from the back of the church to the front in 1915 with the actual loft added in 1945.

The Chapel was used primarily for worship until the new church was built in 1957-58, which became the First Church. Besides worship, the first kindergarten class, Village Hall, town meetings, films and a free library were the other uses. Of Note: the library, operated by Josiah Reade was the first free library in the State of Illinois.

We will talk about the Reade Room in another edition.

Meet More Friends of the Maple Street Chapel

Basic Membership

Marilyn Fawell Margaret LeBreux Dr. Anna Terry Sherren

In Memory of Jeanie McCoy

Jeanette Erb

In Memory of Shirley Scott

Mary Cation

In Honor of Betty Meyer

Jeanette Erb

In Honor of Tom Scott

Daniel Jares

In Honor of Betty Meyer 90th Birthday

Jeanette Erb & Family

Memorial Garden Donation

Robert & Nicole Baer

Chapel Box Special Donation of .46 cents from 2 Little Girls, their own money

Chapel Maintenance Donations

1st Church of Lombard Women's Fellowship
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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

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Colonel Plum's Partners \$5,000 - \$9,999

The Reade Circle \$10,000 - \$24,999

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