



The *Chapel Bell*

Presented by the Maple Street Chapel Preservation Society, Inc.
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What We Lost

by Ken Bohl, Facilities Director

So many of us have visited this international treasure, and all of us mourned over what happened to it.



We, as the Maple Street Chapel Preservation Society, and you, as Friends of the Chapel, naturally wonder “Could something this devastating ever happen to the Maple Street Chapel?” The answer, unfortunately, is “Yes.”

The cause of the fire is still under investigation, but as of the date this article was written, the thinking was that it was an electrical short circuit. We have done everything we can to protect the Chapel against such a tragedy:

- new electrical service, and a thorough inspection of all old wiring
- the fire alarm system
- the fire sprinkler system
- use of fireproof materials on all work

Things we have done to prevent other types of tragedies:

- upgraded lightning rod protection (The Chapel experienced a lightning strike two years ago with no damage to the building.)

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

- inspection of the steeple and correction of minor problems
- our security system, alerting us to intruders, loss of heat, and flooding

But unfortunately nothing in life can be 100% guaranteed. Some things we can imagine are:

- fire erupting within a wall, where sprinklers would not help
- touch-down of a tornado
- a traffic accident running into the building

All we can do is improve our odds against something like this.

We have begun investigating a possible hazard to the structure of the building. We have concerns about the stability of the Chapel’s foundation. We have become aware of two faults in the foundation:

- The field stone of the foundation walls can fail.
- The walls do not go deep enough into the ground - The footings are quite shallow.

The Chapel has stood as it is for 149 years. But by recognizing the problem now, we can proceed in a methodical manner to do the right thing. Our first step will be to have an engineering study done which will assess the stability of the foundation, and recommend what steps, if any, should be taken to make the building more stable.

We will keep you posted once this analysis is completed and we know what work will be required.

We depend on you, our members, to help us preserve the Chapel, and we are so grateful to you for what you do.

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 Doris Schertz, the Chapel Bell Preservation Society Vice President and Docent.



As Michelle Obama recalls in her blockbuster book “Becoming,” how she was raised on the south side of Chicago, I too was raised in West Pullman and learned about music from my Mom and Dad who sang in the choir at Stewart Ridge Church. What brought me to Maple Street Chapel in Lombard? It started at Illinois State University, where Dave and I met. After we had both graduated we then got married and began our teaching careers, in addition to having our first three boys. When Glenbard East High School opened in 1963, Dave was recruited to teach math. We moved to Lombard on a Saturday in pouring rain, unloaded our belongings from the moving van and collapsed in fatigue. Dave said “Please just let me sleep in; take the kids and go find a church,” so I did.

That Sunday morning as I was driving down Main Street to find a church, I saw the First Church of Lombard’s marquee and read that the service was scheduled to start in 15 minutes. So I took the boys to their Sunday School rooms and as I entered the sanctuary I heard a voice from my past, that of Tom Sampson, my Tower Hill counselor when I was a teenager! I’d found a church home, just like that. And, ever since that day, it’s been our family’s church for the past 56 years.

When Tom Scott, also a member of First Church of Lombard, approached me about becoming a Chapel volunteer, I couldn’t say no. Dave and I sang in the choir and at that time our daughter Deb Schertz Zelman was the Choir Director. She was actually married in the Chapel during a summer with temperatures in the 90’s and with no air conditioning. Tom knew I was a fundraiser for College of Du Page, so he asked me to help raise funds for a Maple Street Chapel project. Instead of a hard sell, it was a labor of love. The Chapel’s walls hadn’t been refinished in over 110 years and it’s been so gratifying to see them gleam.

At the age of 50, when all of our kids were in school, I knew that I needed some form of exercise. My husband Dave was a runner, so I followed him, joined the YMCA, and started running. Before long, I was winning 5k competitions and marathons for my age group. My crowning achievement was winning the Boston Marathon for my age category of 70 - 74. Today, I continue to run for exercise every day.

Maple Street Chapel Hosts Lilac Princess Tiara Presentation

by Vicki Webb

Maple Street Chapel hosted the Lombard Junior Women's Club annual tiara presentation for the five members of the 2019 Lilac Court on Sunday, March 18, ushering in Lombard's 90th Lilac Time Festival. This year's royal court members are (from left to right), Princess Sidney Wilson, Princess Elaine Wesling, Princess Emily Hansel, Princess Madison Crowe and Princess Melissa Florey.

Doris Schertz welcomed the princesses to the Chapel and gave them a little bit of the Chapel's history. She shared with them that the Chapel had given each princess gifts that included a lilac compact, lilac scented candle, lilac pad of paper & pen, and a postcard of the Chapel, along with a year's membership to the Friends of the Maple Street Chapel.



Photo by Steve Spoden, Lombardian, Rock Valley Publishing



As the princesses were each introduced, Sarah Richardt, of the Lombard Historical Society, placed the original 1930 crown on their head. The crown (pictured) was made by Christia Maria Reade, daughter of Lombard's third Village President Josiah Reade. It is three dimensional and was made mostly from spoons donated by the local townswomen. It has historical significance in that it was produced during a time when it was frowned upon for women to practice and earn a living from their artistic gifts. Richardt adds that the names of the first 7 lilac queens are etched on the inside of the crown starting with Adeline Fleege in 1930.

The princesses each received their tiaras from the Lombard Service League, as well as gifts from Lombard Park District, Chamber of Commerce, Lombard Garden Club, Lombard Town Centre, Maple Street Chapel Preservation Society, Lombard Junior Women's Club, Helen Plum Library, The Ladies Room and Cla Sha Boutique.

The Maple Street Chapel was pleased to host this event again and very proud of these young ladies representing our community. Each princess showed her appreciation by sending the M.S.C.P.S. a thank you note. One note from Sidney Wilson read, *"Thank you so much for the generous gifts! The compact is beautiful and my room has been smelling of lilacs for days. More importantly, I want to thank you all for preserving our Chapel. I was baptized there and hope to be married there as well someday, and without your organization, that may not be a possibility. The Chapel holds so much meaning for so many of us in the community. From the bottom of my heart, thank you."*

Maple Street Concerts
35th Anniversary Season
2019 – 2020

All shows are on Saturdays with the exception of Special Consensus on Sunday 1/5/20. All show times are 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

Doors open 30 minutes before showtime.

www.maplestreetconcerts.org

September 28, 2019 \$18.00	Co-bill: Mark Dvorak Last Acre
October 19, 2019 \$18.00	Eric Lambert
November 23, 2019 \$18.00	Co-bill: Patty Stevenson & Craig Siemsen/ Shadowfields
December 7, 2019	JingleBell Jubilee Sing-along 6:30-8pm Free Will Offering
January 5, 2020 \$20.00	Special Consensus 3:00pm
February 29, 2020 \$18.00	Co-bill: Annie & Rod Capps \$11 Supper
March 28, 2020 \$18.00	Green Meadow Boys

SAVE THE DATE

April 25, 2020 at 7pm for our 35th Anniversary Celebration!
Program is under construction at this time. Teaser - Sons of the
Never Wrong will be here!

2019-2020 Season ticket holders get an extra perk! Priority seating!

Please consider becoming a volunteer.

E-mail Karen at kellenjen@yahoo.com for further information

“Through Years of Grace”

The following is an excerpt from Through Years of Grace, an excellent history of The Maple Street Chapel by Ardyce Gilna Mons, published in 1979 by the Memorials Committee of First Church of Lombard.

“The beautiful new sanctuary at the southwest corner of Main and Maple was dedicated May 29, 1870. There was no bill board. But, if there had been, it might have read OPEN FOR GOD’S BUSINESS.

A stranger on horseback coming into the struggling prairie village would now see the imposing spire of the tall white frame church. Without talking to anyone, the thinking traveler would have realized that this was a place where men who loved God were building their homes. The steeple pointing heavenward was a symbol of intent. The large cast-iron bell indicated that this was a congregation which wanted to be heard.

Lombardians attending church services in the latter part of the 19th century were delighted to have their own building in which to worship. The heat of the summer and the cold of the winter did not keep them from this meeting place.

Actually, the early Congregationalists were grateful to even have a heating stove. For their forebears – those stern, pleasure-hating Puritans who came to America 200 years earlier – forbade heating stoves in churches. They felt that an unheated meeting house was an outward sign of contempt of “luxury.” Comfort was more spiritual than physical.

Even with the potbellied, iron stove, which was placed near the center of the sanctuary, there was no “ideal” place to sit. Holes in the arched ceiling still indicate where stovepipes once extended to carry out the smoke. Those nearest the stove were apt to feel “cooked” on one side. And ladies and gentlemen, bundled in the Sunday finery, sat in dread of damage to their wardrobes. Sometimes an ill-fastened pipe joint would release sooty vapors, smoke or even insidious drippings.

But any inconveniences were small compared to the blessing of having an established church home. “

Meet More Friends of the Maple Street Chapel

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Corinne Flemm
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In Memory of Jim Cassell

From Susanne Cassell and Family

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 _____

- | | |
|---|--|
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