

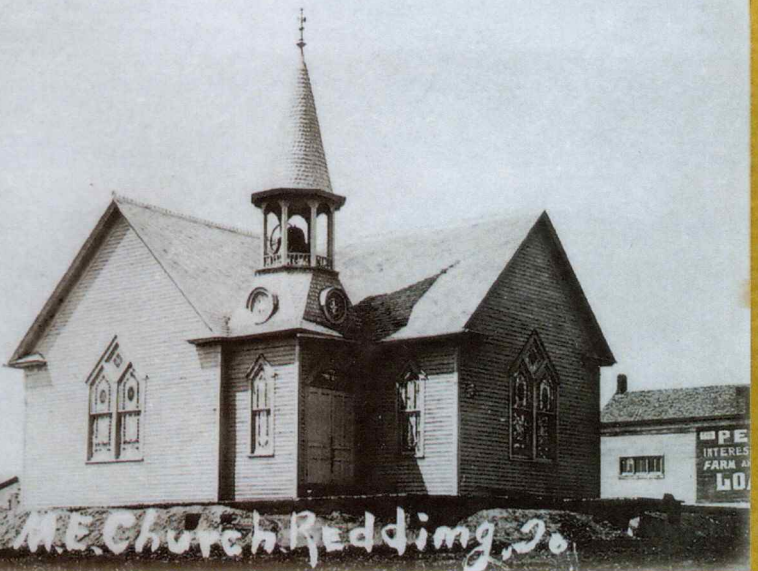


Redding United Methodist

Redding, IA

# SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

September 29, 2024





**IOWA ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**OFFICE OF THE BISHOP**

2301 Rittenhouse Street, Des Moines, IA 50321  
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July 29, 2024

Dear Members and Friends of Redding United Methodist Church,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

I regret that I am unable to be with you for your 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, but I want to congratulate you on 150 years of ministry. What an amazing milestone! One hundred and fifty years of making a difference in thousands of lives in Redding, the surrounding area, and the world!

You share the love of Jesus, read and teach the Scriptures, reach out to those in need with care and compassion, and love your neighbor as yourself. You pray, laugh, sing, cry, and serve faithfully. And you have a deep desire to grow in faith, connect with your community, and serve others around the world.

As you move into the next hundred years, may God continue to guide you as you change lives through the grace, hope, and peace of Jesus Christ.

May God bless the Redding United Methodist Church and each of you.

Blessings in Christ,

Bishop Kennetha J. Bigham-Tsai  
Iowa Annual Conference



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7/26/2024

Rev. Lorinda Hoover  
Redding United Methodist Church  
Main Street  
Redding, IA 50860

Dear Redding United Methodist Church,

God's grace and peace to you on this day of celebration of 150 years of ministry!

For 150 years, the faithful disciples of the Redding Methodists have had a long and proud history of worship and witness in Ringgold County. I give thanks for your spiritual ancestors who had the faith and vision to establish this congregation and for all the members who have been baptized, confirmed, married, and buried within the love and care of your Christian Fellowship. Your congregation now, in 2024, is the evidence of generations of faithful folks who have come to know and love Jesus: who have given sacrificially of their time and talents; who have grown in wisdom and truth, and have changed Ringgold County for the better.

Your longstanding partnership with the Mt. Ayr and Middlefork congregations continue to impact your neighbors and gives strength to the United Methodist connection. I love the way that your congregation particularly continues to care for those individuals and families that are right in your rural community as you maintain old friendships and as you seek to get to know the names of your new neighbors and invite them to your fellowship meals, hayrack rides, trunk or treat and skating parties.

I have felt your deep love of God and care for one another as I have gotten to know you as your District Superintendent; I have seen your abiding faithfulness as disciples of Jesus; and I have felt the power of your connection with each other and the United Methodist Church. I have been blessed to be your District Superintendent and I pray that your celebration today may be a joyful one indeed!

I send you all my love and blessings: well done, good and faithful servants of the Risen Christ!

Rev. Melissa Drake  
Aldersgate District Superintendent



## **Mount Ayr Larger Parish**

303 W Madison

Mount Ayr, IA 50854

641-464-3636

[mount-ayr-larger-parish-umc@iaumc.net](mailto:mount-ayr-larger-parish-umc@iaumc.net)

Dear Redding United Methodist Members and Friends:

I feel so honored to be with you to celebrate your 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary as Christ's presence in Redding. I am incredibly thankful for those who first envisioned a Methodist Church in Redding, and for all who have followed after. I am thankful for faithful pastors, but even more so for faithful members and friends who have prayed, worshiped, and served in Redding (and beyond) over the last century and a half.

In the letter to the Hebrews in the New Testament, the author reminds those to whom he (or perhaps she) writes that they are "surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses" (Hebrews 12:1, NRSV). Like those who first heard that letter read, you, too are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses. Those witnesses include those who founded this congregation and those who have led and serve it over the years. It also includes those whose lives you have touched: the children taught, the students who received scholarships, the neighbors fed, and those both near and far who have been touched by the generosity of the Redding United Methodist Church through gifts to Ingathering and other mission projects.

Those witnesses have seen fast changes to the community and to the church over the years. You and your predecessors in the church have adapted to those changing circumstances, including joining together in the parish not long before your 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Through it all, God has been faithful, and this congregation has witnessed to God's power and God's love to those in Redding and beyond.

I give thanks to God for all in the cloud of witnesses who have been part of the history of the congregation, and for those now present and serving, who continue to share God's love and power.

Blessings,

Pastor Lorinda H. M. Hoover



**A**s in the hymn "We Are The Church," the church is not a building, the church is not a steeple, the church is not a resting place, the church is a people.

Our church organization was given its start by **Rev. Kern** in 1874 at the Maulding Country School a ½ mile south of Redding. Other circuit riders included **Reverend Motts, B.F. Dunfee, Wycoff, Lovejoy and Elliot** until 1877.

**1877-1880- Rev. G.W. Norris** He was also a schoolmaster.

**1880-1881- Rev. C.H. Burleign** New appointed minister. The young people had a very active Epworth League (1880-1950) at that time. Church services were held in the Redding school building.

**1881-1882- Rev. S. Matheny** He was the first pastor to occupy the new parsonage 3 blocks north of the present church building. Matheny had 2 sons Elijah and Ed who both became ministers.

**1882-1884- Rev. J.L. Johnson** He thought " This town has homes, but God has no house here." Building of the church was started.

**1884-1885- Rev. J.G. Bourne** There was a great revival fitting a new church building.

**1885-1886- Rev. T.G. Aten**

**1886 -1887- Rev. Withers** Rev. Withers passes away and Martin E. Jones finishes the year. Churches were very much social centers as well as centers for worship, Sunday School picnics in the Summer and Christmas programs in the Winter. Picnic sites were selected and neighbouring Sunday Schools attended such as; Fry Chapel, Eureka, Shiloh, Enterprise (Benton), Palestine, Rooster Bend, Maulding, Brushie, or Asbury. Wagons with hay racks were lined up, the organ was placed on the first rack and the better singers rode there. Other decorated wagons carrying the rest of the congregation followed.

**1887-1888- Rev. G.W. Wood**

**1888-1889- Rev. W.F. Marks**

**1889-1891- Rev. A.L. Bates** Two of his daughters became missionaries.

**1891-1893- Rev. George Mitchell** The parsonage was changed from the north part of town to the south part. His son S.W. Mitchell also became a minister.

**1893-1895- J.W. McCurdy** The church was painted. McCurdy thought \$10.00 was too much to pay the painters so he painted the church himself.

**1895-1896- Rev. C.B. Larrabee and Levi Jarvis**

**1896-1897- Rev. O.D. Elliott** He was known as the walking pastor. He was well educated and an outstanding speaker.

**1897-1899- Rev. Charles Knoll** Drove a team in the winter, when it snowed he used a sled. He would wrap himself in robes, curl up in a dry goods box and make his rounds.

**1899-1901- Rev. C.E. Wood**

**1901-1903- Rev. F.B. Dunn**

**1903-1905- Rev. W.O. Woolever** The church was remodelled and enlarged, including a furnace, stained-glass windows and circular oak pews. His wife became ill and passed away. A window was put in to honor her. A student, Edward Pruitt, from Garrett Theological Seminary at Evanston, IL finished the year.

**1905-1906- Rev. Chas. C. Wilkins** Dedicated the church in Dec. 1905. It was declared that Redding has one of the finest church buildings in the Southern tier of counties in the state. The church bell cost \$55, and the new furnace \$150. The Ladies Aid Society was organized.

**1906-1909- George T. Roberts** He remarked, "If they don't like me, they don't have to keep me."

The Women's Home Missionary Society was organized in 1907.

**1909-1910- Rev. Orville F. Howard**

**1910-1912- Rev. I.B. Holman** Holman left the ministry for farming. Many young people of the church attended Simpson College in Indianola, IA, a Methodist related school.

**1912-1916 Rev. A.M. Eastman** Under his pastorate the basement was added. Mrs. Rosa Hillhouse was an enthusiastic supporter of missions. World War I occurred during 1914-1918.

**1916-1917- Rev. Carl Critchett**

**1917-1919- Rev. W.J. Andrews**

There were 14 Sunday School classes at this time. The highest attendance was 185 on Nov. 18, 1917, with a collection of \$3.34. A quarantine with no Sunday School Oct. & Dec. 1918.

**1919-1920 Rev. Chalmers** He passed away.

**1920-Rev. Vincent Gray** By the last quarter of 1920 the average attendance was 90.

**1920-1921- Rev. B.R. Baker**

**1921-1922- Rev. C.C. Callahan** Callahan was a young minister.

Order of business: Cleda Combs- Secretary, Bro. J.W.

Adair-Superintendent, Miss Lela Main-Assistant secretary, Bro. E.E. Edwards-Treasurer, Miss Dale Adair-Pianist, Miss Jessie Saville-assistant pianist.

**1922-1923- Rev. W.T. Shelby**

**1923-1924- Rev. C.W. Peere** He passed away in 1924.

**1924-1925- Rev. C.H. Marple** Rev. Marple also taught in the Redding High School.

**1925-1926- Rev.Louie R. Channel**

**1926-1927- Rev. J.W. Holliday**

**1927-1930- Rev. Q.W. Amack**

**1930-1939- Rev. W. H. Warrior** Rev. Warrior served the community in many ways. He could be seen helping the men in the hay fields. In Dec. 1935 the church celebrated the fifty-first anniversary of the church building with a wonderful celebration at the end of a three week revival. Redding and Middlefork were the only churches on the circuit. When times became difficult pastors shared with Blockton and Plattesville. Services were only held every 2 weeks. The Women's Society of Christian Service was formed in 1939. The first President was Florence Hoffman Ramsey. World War II 1939-1945.

**1939-1943-Rev. Earnest Stewart** Served the churches of Blockton, Middlefork and Redding.

**1943-1945- Rev. J.E.M. Chambers** These were war years with most of the young men gone into service; his ministry to the families was much needed. He retired from ministry and continued to live in Redding. He served a few terms as Mayor and assisted Ralph Main in the local print shop.

**1945-1947- Rev. V.L. McEleny** He served as a supply minister, for both Blockton and Redding.

**1947-1948- Rev. Francis Harris** Young man had to retire because of ill health.

**1948-1950- Rev. V.S. Bowers** Despite his advanced age he worked hard to build up the church. He reorganized The Methodist Youth Fellowship (MYF) which replaced the Epworth League. A young woman's circle was organized in 1949 known as the Boosters. Under their leadership the church was redecorated, and funds were raised to repair the beautiful leaded glass windows.



**1950-1954- Rev. W.A. Whitenack** Rev. Whitenack was successful in increasing attendance. Fox hunts, paper drives and other activities were organized by the youth under his direction. In 1950 the God's Acre sale yielded \$1450, which was used to supplement the budget. In 1952 the sale yielded \$1700, which was used to modernize the parsonage. Services were held morning and evening on Sunday. Choir rehearsal and midweek prayer meetings were also on the agenda. Rev. Whitenack also served as District Superintendent.

**1954-1956- Rev. John M. Latta** Rev. Latta was ordained in the Redding Church by Bishop Ensley. The 1954 harvest sale netted \$1800, which went towards a new gas heating system. Boosters put in a new cistern and pumped water into the kitchen. They also presented the church with a new pulpit and chairs. The Methodist Men were organized. They carried on a farming project.

**1956-1958- Rev. Marvin G. Ossman** The Methodist Men provided funds to panel the sanctuary.

**1958-1961- Rev. Irvin G. Wilkins** Rev. Wilkins lived in Blockton so the parsonage was sold in 1971. Yearly Vacation Bible School had been started in 1957, there were 74 students. Easter sunrise services were held with an Easter breakfast afterwards. Rally days were held in the Fall. The goal in 1959 was 119 and in 1960 it was 111. Oyster suppers, chicken dinners, and smorgasbords (potluck) were held. For several years turkey dinners were served to the public. Several members were turkey raisers so the turkeys were farm fresh. Hammond electric organ was purchased.

**1961-1963- Rev. Sydney E. Sterritt** In 1962 there were dedication services for a new church altar and dossal, pews and outside bulletin board. District Superintendent Merrill Summerbell did the officiating. Clarence Landis came from Elliott and Rev Sterritt went to Prescott. In 1962 membership was

approximately 152.

**1963-1971- Rev. Clarence Landis** The Landis family had 4 musical children that added much to the congregation. In 1965 Boosters provided funds for the addition of restrooms.

**1971-1972- Rev. William L. Fry** Mrs. Fry assisted her husband as she was a former deaconess. Organization of the Mount Ayr Larger Parish - Blockton, Mount Ayr, Redding and Middlefork

**1972-1975 - Rev. Jerrold Swinton**

**1972 -Associate Pastor Rev. Allen Ricks**

**1972-1974- Associate Pastor- Rev. Oliver Larkin**

**1974-1975- Associate Pastors- Rev. Milton Henderson and Rev. Doris Kinton**

Church Centennial Celebration Rev. Edwin Boulton, administrative assistant to Bishop James Thomas, was the speaker for the morning service. Lunch was served and an afternoon program was enjoyed. Centennial Plates showing the Redding Church were sold.

A parish-wide Lay Witness Mission in March of 1974 was successfully carried out to deepen the faith and make closer the bonds among the members of the churches. Continued faith and enthusiasm should make the second hundred years of the church ones of even greater achievement for the Master. (Taken from the Centennial Observance of the United Methodist Church, Redding, Iowa, September 15, 1874-1974 booklet.)

**1975-1977- Rev. Arthur L. Hill** Rev. Hill and wife Edythe have 3 children. Dedication of new Bible stand in memory of James and Myrtle Miller. Leak repaired in belfry and a sump pump added to the basement. VBS had attendance of 59 in 1977. Redding Commission on Education painted the north Sunday School room. Redding- Middlefork young women's group Methodist Action Club (MAC) was formed in 1977. Rev. Hill moved to Bagley, IA.

**1978-1982- Rev. Lynn Potter** The stained glass covering project totaled \$4520. A parish-wide spring retreat was held for UMW at Middlefork. Redding Centennial Celebration 1882-1982.

**1982-1987- Rev. Ed Kail** A potluck picnic in the Redding park to welcome Rev. Ed Kail, wife Myra and sons. Rev. Kail encouraged the churches to work up to their potential. A parish wide church service was held in Redding park to celebrate the tenth anniversary of coming together. Harvest sale netted \$2280. in 1982. Farm Crisis may require stronger faith. 1985-Neighbor helping Neighbor established. 1986-Parish hosted 18 seminary students and professors from KC. Farewell picnic for Rev. Kail, moving to Ottumwa, IA to become District Superintendent of the Methodist Church.

**1987-1989- Rev. Sam Fry** - Rev. Fry and wife Betty from Hamburg, NJ. Dedication of new Kimball organ. 1988- Special prayer service to pray for rain in this year of severe drought. New furnace installed. Bibles presented to 5th grade students: Stephanie Bainum, Paul Maudlin, Lesa Overholser, Amy Walkup and Ryan Wilt. Rev. Whiteneck returned to conduct Evangelistic services. Rev. Fry resigned to accept a call at Coon Rapids, IA.

**1989-1994- Rev. Jerry Avise Rouse** Family of Rev. Jerry and Kate Avise-Rouse were welcomed with an ice cream social. 1989 white siding installed on church. Boosters have dissolved. Rev. Jerry accepted an appointment in Warren County.

**1994-2001- Rev. Mike Druhl** Rev. Druhl and wife Paddy lived in Lamoni. Ramp was added on east side of church. In 2000 there were 25 children for Bible School. Rev. Druhl went to Belmond, IA.

**2001-2009- Rev. Sue Thomas** Rev. Thomas came from churches in Merrill and Adville, IA. Two new electric stoves were added to the kitchen. Rev. Thomas went on a mission trip to Costa Rica. "Safe Sanctuary" meetings were held. In 2002 MAC celebrated their 25th anniversary as a club.

**2009-2017- Rev. Charles (Skip) Rushing** The Rushing family came from New Virginia, IA and were welcomed with an ice cream social. Rev. Rushing's wife Jodi was also a minister in Creston, Iowa. Jodi Lawrence became pianist for Redding and Middlefork after Naomi Shafer. 2016- 2017-Dennis Hansen lay leader. Breaking Bread Ministry members baked loaves of bread and delivered them to area families.

**2017-2019- Rev. Melvin Ammon (interim)** Rev. Ammon came out of retirement to serve our Parish until a new Pastor could be appointed.

**2019-2022- Rev. Emily Peasley** Pastor Emily and Steve came from Slater, IA. She was here for COVID and kept us faithful in that trying time, through use of on-line sermons and daily messages. Masks and social distancing changed the way we worshipped. Drive by communion and stay in your car services were practiced. Due to health problems, Pastor Emily is now a Spiritual Director and lives in Humeston, IA. A going away party was held at Middlefork.

**2022- Present-Rev. Lorinda Hoover-** Welcomed Pastor Lorrinda and her husband Rev. Jim Mossman. Rev Mossman has his own church. Sept. 2023 communion was at the rail, first time since COVID.

***Note: The Redding United Methodist Church is the oldest active church building in Ringgold County.***



## **Officers of United Methodist Women - 1974**

**President-** Bernice Abarr **Vice President-** Cleota Griffith

**Secretary-** Nellie Kelly **Treasurer-** Lela Neas

**Members:** Mrs. Pearl Neas, Mrs. James Griffith, Mrs. Lloyd Saville, Mrs. Bernice Lynch, Mrs. Gertrude LaMond, Mrs. Earl Kelly, Mrs. Lennis Lambert, Mrs. Gladys Romig, Mrs. Bertha Olney, Mrs. Maude Adams, Mrs. Barton Abarr, Mrs. Mary Adair, Mrs. Guy Parker, Mrs. Wilbur Saville, Mrs. Ida Hash, Mrs. Maude Quick, Mrs. Archie Bailey

### **Honorary Members:**

Mrs. Ida Parker, Mrs. Blanche Fertig, Mrs. Alice Parfet, Mrs. Ella Defenbaugh

## **The Methodist Action Club (MAC) Members - 2024**

*The MAC started in 1977*

**President-** Ginny Quick **Vice President-** Peggy Overholser

**Secretary-** Sharon Walkup **Treasurer-** Linda Hosfield

**Devotion Leader-** Lil Rinehart **Historian-** Bobbi Bainum

**Correspondence/Cards-** Kim Scharfenkamp

**Members:** Vickie Jeanes, Cindy Snethen, Bev McGinnis, Jodi Lawrence, Sherry Davidson, Kathy Comer, Linda Wilt

The church has been the center of the community, bringing people together through all seasons. In the winter these ladies have been responsible for teaching Sunday School, putting on Christmas programs, decorating the church, sled-ding parties, skating parties, going caroling, soup suppers, and showing movies.

In the Spring there were bake sales, spaghetti suppers, potlucks, Mother and Daughter Teas, delivering Valentines and May baskets. Summer brings Bible School, ice cream socials, lunching farm sales, coop dinners, class reunions, community picnics and floats in the parade. Harvest sale in the Fall, assembling in-gathering kits, hayrides, weiner roasts and trunk or treat.

Throughout the year there were weddings, baptisms, funeral dinners, ministries, work days, anniversary celebrations, bridal and baby showers.

The church has always been a gathering place, not only for worship but spreading God's love in a variety of ways.

Thank you to Helen Combs for all she does behind the scenes, to Sharon Walkup church secretary, Lil Rinehart-treasurer and Jodi Lawrence-music, Thank You.

The Methodist Men have also been very active in the church. In the early days they carried on a farming project that provided the funds to panel the sanctuary. They continue today with helping with the Harvest Sale, repairs and maintenance of the church building, serving as trustees, and preparing the Easter breakfast.

## **Stained Glass Windows Memorialized to:**

**Sunday School-** There were 14 Sunday School classes. The highest recorded attendance was 185 on November 18, 1917. The last Sunday School classes were held in 2017.

**Epworth League-** The Epworth League was a Methodist youth organization to encourage and cultivate Christ-centered character in young adults. The league takes its name from the Village of Epworth in Lincolnshire, England, the birthplace of John Wesley.

**M.Y.F. 1951- Methodist Youth Fellowship-** The Methodist Youth Fellowship replaced the Epworth League.

**Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Adair-** Known as Wes and Mary, they were very active in the Methodist Church and the community. They had four sons: Frederick, Earl, Sampson, and Dewey. Mr. Adair was a trustee and Sunday School Superintendent. He would often start the session with "There is Sunshine in My Soul Today". Mary was active in W.S.C.S. (Women's Society of Christian Service). Their granddaughter, Dorothy Adair Gonick, authored the book *A Kaleidoscope of Memories*.

**Fern McQuigg-** Fern McQuigg was the wife of Milo McQuigg. They had 1 daughter, Karen Sue. Fern was one of those responsible for the organization of the Booster Club. Her untiring efforts on its behalf will never be forgotten. She was known as a high spirited, capable young woman with an enthusiasm for life. She passed away March 29, 1950 at the age of 33.

**I.F. and Rosa M. Hillhouse, Frances and Helen-** Frank was a Redding depot agent and very active in the church. Rosa was a member of the Ladies Aid Society. She was an enthusiastic supporter of missionary works. She was a founder of the Parent/Teachers Association in Ringgold County. Rosa was an Aunt to James Griffith of Redding. Their daughter Helen was very active in missionary work. She was a teacher in Kobe, Japan and also in Hawaii. Frank and Rosa moved to California.

**D. Burt and Ina A. Norris-** The last living charter member of the Redding Methodist Church was D. Burt Norris who passed away in 1954. He was the son of Rev. G.W. Norris. Ina Agnes (Babcock) was an active member of the Ladies Aid Society. They are buried in the Redding cemetery.

**Weldon A. Whitenack**- Rev. Whitenack preached in the Redding church from 1950-1954. Rev. Whitenack and his wife Marilyn had 2 daughters (Debra and Linda) and a son (Mark). He became District Superintendent. He was very dedicated in his efforts to develop a strong congregation.

**Helen Lungen**- Helen was the wife of Clifford. They had 3 children Marvin, David and **Carolyn L. Bader**. They were very active in the church and community. The family established a generous scholarship fund in memory of Helen and Carolyn.

**Dora M. Defenbaugh**- Dora May (Miller) (1884-1934) was the wife of Bert Defenbaugh. She was an active member of the Ladies Aid Society. Their daughter was (Mrs. Vance) Zeline Geiger of Redding.

**Laura E. Woolever**- Laura was the wife of Rev. W.O. Woolever. He only served here a year and a half when his wife became ill. She passed shortly after they left. A window was put in the newly remodeled church in her honor (1905).

**Boosters 1951**- This club of energetic "young" ladies were responsible for many changes in the church. Under their leadership the church was redecorated upstairs and down. They raised funds to repair the beautiful leaded glass windows. A cistern was added to pump water into the kitchen(1955). In 1965 the Boosters financed the addition of restrooms that were built adjacent to the basement. Some of the members included:

Kathleen Freed, Barbara Seiffert, Bertha Olney, Carol Davison, Maxine Combs, Eva Knapp, Dorothy Denney, Vi Davis, Annabel Walkup, Lavetta Lynch, Beulah Snethen, and Naomi Shafer.

**MAC 1977- Methodist Action Club** - Still active in 2024.

Founding members: Vickie Jeanes, Pat Maudlin, Cindy Snethen, Sharon Walkup, Bobbi Bainum, Linda Wilt, Bev McGinnis, Ginger Lynch, Verlene Knapp, and Karen Taylor. They promoted Bible School plus planned numerous community and fundraising events.

A special THANK YOU to all those that have generously contributed to the church over the years.