

*Wabash County Museum*



**Salem United Methodist Church**

**1881 - Centennial - 1981**

*Be J*

## SALEM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

This brief history has been compiled in celebration  
of the one hundredth anniversary of the Church building.

There is no way of knowing where the people met before the Church was built...some previous records that had been compiled have been lost. We do know the people met because we have records dated April 1, 1877.

The Centennial Committee .. Jill Biehl, Agnes Bechtold, Mary Renz, Joan Drayer, Martha Jane Biehl, and Madalyn Bechtold...wishes to thank all who made this celebration possible.

This book has been compiled by Martha Biehl and Madalyn Bechtold. We wish to thank every one who contributed in any way. We also wish to express regret for any omissions or errors. We would hope better records are being kept from this time forward.

There will be a larger, more complete history prepared and kept at the Church as a permanent record. If anyone can give more information than we have found, we will appreciate it, and make it a part of existing facts.

ABOUT THE PROPERTY THE CHURCH WAS BUILT ON  
AND WARRANTY DEED INFORMATION

The following information was taken from the Wabash County Atlas - Published in 1875.

LAND SALES.

The land in this township(Chester) was not subject to entry by pre-emption, but was sold at public sale, and in this way much of it fell into the hands of speculators.

Sometimes eligible tracts remained without an owner, parties often fearing to purchase land they had not seen, and in this way some pieces escaped attention. An incident may be related to show how these were sometimes entered. Mr. James Ridgley, passing through the southeast part of the township, discovered that part of Sec. 30(Town. 29, Range 8) was good land, and had never been entered.

While looking at the land, another party put in his appearance with design upon it also, and it became then a question as to which of them could get to the land office at Fort Wayne in the shortest time. The stranger was afoot, and setting his pocket compass, took a bee-line for his destination. Mr. Ridgley, being mounted, struck down to the tow-path of the canal, a more circuitous route; but was fortunate enough to reach the land office at Fort Wayne about half an hour in advance. He afterwards returned to Montgomery County, Ohio, from which point he set out for his new home in the forest, where he arrived in September, 1841, bringing with him about a year's supply of provisions. He found the little hut he had previously built used as a sort of stable by the Indian ponies. During the winter following he occupied himself in clearing up a patch on which to raise corn the following year. The tops of the fallen trees served as a "browse" for the cattle and horses, and were about all they had to live on until grass came in the Spring.

ABOUT THE PROPERTY OF THE CHURCH - continued . . .

George W. Ridgley was the son of James Ridgley. George and his wife Catherine, gave a part of the land to be used for building a church. The warranty deed states - - - "Part of the south east quarter of the south west quarter of Section 30 Township 29 north Range 8 east; bounded and described as follows towit: Begin at the south east corner of the said south west quarter section thence north on the east line of said quarter eleven and one half rods, thence west parallel with the north line of said quarter five and one half rods thence south parallel with the east line of said quarter to the south line of said quarter section thence east to the place of beginning - the grantees agree to build and keep in repair a good fence along the north and west lines of said tract and if at any time such above described tract of ground shall be abandoned for church purposes said ground shall revert to and become a part of the original premises."

This is recorded in Record 95, page 163, of the Records of Wabash County, Indiana . . .

"ORIGINAL RECORDED DESCRIPTION - - 2nd day of JUNE 1881  
-Page 175(copy made).

Beginning at the South East corner of Section 30(30) Town Twenty nine(29) North of Range Eight (8) East, and running north six and one half rods ( $6\frac{1}{2}$ ) thence west five and one half ( $5\frac{1}{2}$ ) rods, thence South six and one half ( $6\frac{1}{2}$ ) rods, thence East five and one half rods ( $5\frac{1}{2}$ ) to the place of beginning said tract to contain one fourth and sixteen one hundredths of an acre ( $\frac{1}{4}-16/100$ ). And further, that so long as said tract of land is used for church purposes this deed will stand as such but when abandoned, the land is to revert back to the said farm.

"Convey and Warrant to the Trustees of Salem M. E. Church, names as follows: Thomas Myers, Joseph Smith, George Howenstine, Lewis F. Fitch and Emmanuel Stanger for the sum of Twenty-five (\$25.00)dollars."

## PARSONAGE

A gentleman named Deemer, moved a house to Bippus. The first known minister to occupy it way H. Lacy - a one-armed person. There was also a small barn here according to Earl Smith. (Mr. Smith now owns the land where this was).

There was a Board appointed to care for the parsonage, as the Church people did not want it listed with the Conference. The Board consisted of Marvin Miller, Thomas E. Bechtold, Harve Biehl, and two other persons, Mr. Smith thought one was a Mr. Wilcox. There was a notarized paper stating that the last Board member living could dispose of the property and give the money to another Methodist Church .. Salem .. if they desired. The last person known to be living was Mr. Miller and he lived in Colorado. Willis Foraker (not a member of the Bippus Methodist Church, but his wife was) took care of the selling of the property. Apparently Mr. Miller suggested this.

In 1960, the fire marshall from Peru checked the parsonage and condemned it. The person living there at the time, Mrs. Vought, did not have anywhere else to live so Mr. Smith suggested if they would get an oil stove to heat it perhaps it could be saved. Mrs. Vought's son, Charles, came to live with her.

This went on until 1962 and the building was no longer used. Mr. Smith made out a check for \$400.00 for house to Mr. Foraker. This was then to be given to Salem.

Salem has not had a parsonage since that time.

NOTES OF INTEREST TAKEN FROM  
SECRETARY'S BOOKS

- Jan. 3, 1925 — moved & seconded to take 1st Sunday for Missionaries. Apparently this was done each year.
- Feb. 15, 1925 - "no Sunday School..small pox epidemic".
- Nov. 15, 1925 - no Sunday School on account of cold weather.
- Dec. 27, 1925 - no Sunday School - cold weather.
- Jul. 31, 1927 - moved & seconded to purchase a Bible for Sunday School .. Committee appointed - Francis Krom, Clarence Schenkel, and Curtis Stands.
- Mar. 18, 1934 - no Sunday School - Why? no reason.
- - - - 1936 - sent \$5.00 to help people in the East because of flood.
- - - - 1936 - Red & Blue Contest ...Bible Study.
- - - - 1940 - 2 Sundays - September 8th & 15th - - Infantile Paralysis quarantine.
- Mar. 3, 1946 - Ladies from Marion, Indiana came and told us about Women Society of Christian Service.
- - - - 1947 - blind Evangelist - Rev. Clyde Rothrick.
- - - - 1949 - papered Church.
- - - - 1950 - got wine colored velvet curtains.
- - - - 1951 - new piano.
- - - - 1953 - Otto Bechtold was in charge of purchasing new folding chairs.
- - - - 1955 - took up a special collection to help needy family in neighborhood (Francis).
- • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •

Elmer & Martha Jane  
Gene & Dorothy  
Larry & Cleo  
Max, Anna Lee, Chayla,  
Till, Jay R.  
Dulph, May, Dean

SUNDAY SCHOOL .....

First recorded meeting was April 1, 1877.  
(there is no record of where people met before the  
building of the Church in 1881) *old Salem Schoolhouse*  
Salem Sabbath School....G. McClure - Superintendent  
Perry Ridgley- Secretary  
George Ridgley- Treasurer

Singing books ... May 13, 1877.

Attendance - Male, Female, Not engaged in Reading ..  
evidently small children.

Penny Collection.

Reading in concert.

SUNDAY SCHOOL apparently was only held during best  
weather . . .

April 1, 1877 - October 14, 1877.

April 7, 1878 - September 15, 1878.

April 20, 1879 - July 27, 1879.

April 11, 1880 - September 19, 1880.

April 2, 1881 - September 18, 1881.

January 15, 1882 - December 31, 1882.

Organization April 1, 1883 - December 30, 1883.

Committee appointed by the Quarterly Conference ..

Benjamin Maple, J.G. Howenstine, and Brother Stunger.

April 6, 1884 - December 21, 1884.

April 12, 1885 - December 20, 1885.

March 28, 1886 -

In the early Secretary's books, there was a space  
provided for weather. This began in 1916 and con-  
tinued through 1921, sometimes the secretary would  
record weather even if no particular space was  
provided.

IN TALKING WITH LEROY & CLEO BIEHL . . . .

1906 — Sunday School was held in the afternoon.

Parsonage in Bippus was maintained by persons from Salem; Thomas Bechtold, Harve Biehl, & Curtis Stands, but was not put in the Church's name because they didn't want Conference to take it.

-No preaching in the beginning, then later preaching was once a month. First preacher was from Liberty Mills and held "protracted" meetings..would come in a horse-drawn buggy and would stay in people's homes.

HOWARD METZGER'S COMMENTS . . .

used to pipe oil to oil lamps, probably some of the pipes are still in the attic.

old furnace used to be in the middle on the east side of the church. This was before the coal furnace at the back west side.

SALEM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
PRESENT MEMBERSHIP LIST-1981

Bechtold, Donald & Carol  
Rozella & Madalyn  
Kevin  
Dianna  
Agnes  
Ruth, Jeffrey, Lucinda  
William & Edith  
Biehl, Arden  
Elizabeth  
Bruce  
Dennis  
Eldon & Martha Jane  
Gene & Dorothea  
Leroy & Cleo  
Max, Anna Lee, Cheryle,  
Jill, Jay D.  
Ralph, May, Dean

Present membership . . . continued ...

Deeter, Becky  
Drayer, Joan, Kent, Kevin  
Fox, Aletha  
Garber, Vera  
Garrison, Margaret  
Hack, Sue  
Leckrone, Herbert  
Leckrone, Phyllis  
Littlefield, Robert  
Metzger, Howard, Mabel, Joanna, Carolyn  
Meyer, Helen & Raymond  
Parmerlee, Lewis & Agnes  
Penrod, Ruthanne  
Renz, Hayden & Mary  
James & Linda  
John & Carolyn  
Richard & Wilma  
Prilaman, Gary  
Schenkel, Larry  
Meredith & Mabel  
Stephan, Wayne & Diana  
Strobel, Leto  
Marlan & Melba  
Richard & Jane  
West, Laura  
Westafer, Lawrence  
Whitesel, Edith  
Woodward, Janet  
Zellers, Donna  
Zimpelman, Jacob & Nellie

SALEM CHURCH USED TO BE ON CIRCUITS

The records are not clear but in connecting names from minutes of the Salem Church we are assuming we were on the circuits as listed prior to 1887. After that date our Church was listed in the Conference Minutes.

| <u>DISTRICT</u> | <u>YEARS</u>                    | <u>CIRCUIT</u> | <u>CHURCHES</u>  |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|----------------|--|
| Warsaw          | <u>1881-1883</u>                | Saginaw        | (not listed)   |
| Warsaw          | 1883-1888                       | Liberty Mills  | West Point   |
|                 | 1889-1894                       | West Point     | East Bethel<br>Clear Creek<br>Concord<br>Salem<br><u>Liberty Mills.</u>                          |
| Warsaw          | 1895-1899                       | Bippus         | Bippus<br>Concord<br>Clear Creek<br>East Bethel<br>West Bethel<br>Salem<br><u>Liberty Mills.</u> |
| Warsaw          | 1900-1913<br>then Wabash - 1901 | Liberty Mills  | Liberty Mills<br>Concord<br>Salem<br>West Bethel<br>East Bethel<br>Bippus.                       |
| Wabash          | 1914-1918                       | Bippus         | Bippus<br>Hopewell<br>Salem  |
| Wabash          | 1919                            | Bippus         | Bippus<br>Hopewell<br>Bethel<br><u>Liberty Mills</u><br><u>Salem</u>                             |

CIRCUITS — continued . . .

|        |           |                               |   |
|--------|-----------|-------------------------------|---|
| Wabash | 1920-1924 | Bippus                        | Bippus<br>Clear Creek<br>Salem<br>Hopewell-<br>(closed '24) |
| Wabash | 1925-1929 | Bippus                        | Bippus<br>(closed '29 or '30)<br>Clear Creek<br>Salem       |
| Wabash | 1930-1934 | Bippus                        | Barnes Chapel.<br>Barnes Chapel<br>Clear Creek<br>Salem     |
| Wabash | 1934-1937 | Lincolnville                  | Lincolnville<br>Mount Hope<br>Salem<br>Pilchers             |
| Wabash | 1938-1959 | Salem-Ijamsville              | —Chapel.  |
| Wabash | 1960 . .  | Salem no longer on a Circuit. | —   |

MINISTERS AND THE TERMS SERVED  
AT  
SALEM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

AS NEAR AS WE CAN TELL FROM PREVIOUS RECORDS THE  
FOLLOWING MINISTERS SERVED OUR CHURCH . . . . .

|           |                           |
|-----------|---------------------------|
| 1881-83   | M. H. Mott                |
| 1883-84   | D. Kivet                  |
| 1884-85   | Lawson W. Munson          |
| 1885-88   | O. V. L. Harbour          |
| 1888-89   | W. J. Gamble              |
| 1889-90   | W. J. Gamble & T. C. Neal |
| 1890-91   | U. S. A. Bridge           |
| 1891-92   | Sylvester Bilheimer       |
| 1892-94   | W. F. Dingle              |
| 1894-95   | Elmer Elsworth Wright     |
| 1895-97   | S. C. Heston              |
| 1897-1900 | J. H. Walters             |

Ministers . . continued..

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| 1900-02 | Ernest E. Lutes                          |
| 1902-03 | Titus M. Hill                            |
| 1903-04 | F. G. Morrison                           |
| 1904-05 | M. M. Raynolds                           |
| 1905-07 | Ira E. Webster                           |
| 1907-09 | Arlington Singer                         |
| 1909-11 | Adoniram J. Duryee                       |
| 1911-13 | E. C. Lindsay                            |
| 1913-14 | W. E. Shafer & E. F. Tinney(1914)        |
| 1914-16 | C. C. Farmer                             |
| 1916-17 | Leslie Ord Winslow(joined Service Sept.) |
| 1917-18 | Mell Timmons                             |
| 1918-20 | Kenneth B. McCoy                         |
| 1920-23 | Henry Lacey                              |
| 1923-25 | H. P. Young                              |
| 1925-28 | Harry H. Harris                          |
| 1928-30 | Ernest W. Hamilton                       |
| 1930-34 | Ora L. Davis                             |
| 1934-36 | Ora C. Bogue                             |
| 1936-37 | Charles Vernon Clifton                   |

In 1937 we are not listed on any circuit, people who served our Church . .

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 1937-38   | Mrs. Vernon Kinzie<br>Merill O. Lester, District Supt.<br>Ron _____ ? |
| 1938-39   | Edward W. Bruerd  |
| Church became SALEM METHODIST(had been Salem Methodist Episcopal) |   |
| 1939-40   | Edward W. Bruerd  |
| 1940-42   | James W. Pusey  |
| 1942-43   | Pusey appointed... Harley Carbaugh<br>reported                        |
| 1943-47   | Ernest E. Lutes   |
| 1947-48   | Cletus Hirsch   |
| 1948-49   | Phil Stephens   |

## (Ministers . . . continued)

|              |                            |
|--------------|----------------------------|
| 1949-52      | Warren Lewis               |
| 1952-54      | M. Thomas Swantner         |
| 1954(4 mos.) | Charles Armstrong          |
| 1954-55      | John Hinkle, Jr.           |
| 1955-57      | Donald Love                |
| 1957(6 mos.) | Hillis Avery               |
| 1958(6 mos.) | Leo G. Jacobs              |
| 1958-59      | John Weeks                 |
| 1959-60      | Fred Conkling              |
| 1960-64      | Duane Stidham              |
| 1964-66      | Clayton Kendall            |
| 1966-67      | Eugene Stolte              |
| 1967(3 mos.) | Richard Turner-Lay Speaker |
| 1967-69      | Edward Kester              |

5/22/68 - Church united with E.U.B.

|                      |                                      |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1969-70              | Gilbert Shimanek                     |
| 1970(4 mos.)         | Steve Hofferbert                     |
| 1970-72              | Nathan Everett                       |
| 1972(1 mo.)          | Wallace Deyo                         |
| 1972-73              | Keith Burch(pastor at Liberty Mills) |
| 1973-74              | Jim Sturgeon                         |
| 1974-76              | Harold Campbell                      |
| 1976(1 mo.)          | Don Hochstettler                     |
| 1976-77              | David Gosser                         |
| 1978(5 mos.)         | Paul Horine                          |
| 1978-79              | Michael Dean                         |
| 1979(1 Sunday)       | Earl Guingrich                       |
| 1979-81              | Glen Howenstine(Lay Pastor)          |
| 1981-82              | NellieDean Hollopeter(Lay Pastor)    |
| 1982(5 mos)          | Charles French                       |
| 1983(5 mos)          | Albert Clarke                        |
| 1983-86              | Dan Walcott                          |
| 1987(Juni-May)       | Mike Overpeck                        |
| 1987(June-1990(Nov)) | Kerr Low                             |
| 1990(March)          | Robert Armstrong                     |

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS  
ACCORDING TO OUR RECORDS  
(some years are missing)

|           |                       |
|-----------|-----------------------|
| 1877      | A. McClure            |
| 1878      | S. W. Ridgley         |
| 1879      | Ramer Howenstine      |
| 1880-82   | Benjamin Maple        |
| 1883      | U. R. Howenstine      |
| 1884      | J. G. Howenstine      |
| 1885      | Ramer Howenstine      |
| 1886      | John Maple            |
| 1887-95   | NO RECORD             |
| 1896      | Hattie Howenstine     |
| 1897      | J. F. Maple           |
| 1898      | George Howenstine     |
| 1899-1901 | Ramer Howenstine      |
| 1902      | J. W. Maple           |
| 1903-05   | NOT LISTED            |
| 1906      | <u>Nathan</u> Isgregg |
| 1907      | Orrin Ridgley         |
| 1909-13   | Curtis Stands         |
| 1916-17   | Frank Littlefield     |
| 1919-22   | Curtis Stands         |
| 1923-24   | Francis Krom          |
| 1925-27   | Curtis Stands         |
| 1928-29   | Clarence Schenkel     |
| 1930-32   | Clyde Littlefield     |
| 1933      | Clarence Schenkel     |
| 1934      | Curtis Stands         |
| 1935-36   | Clarence Schenkel     |
| 1937-38   | Mary Littlefield      |
| 1939      | Clarence Schenkel     |
| 1940-42   | Arden Shaffer         |
| 1943-48   | Addison Shaffer       |
| 1949-51   | Max Biehl             |
| 1952-55   | Carl Graham           |
| 1956-57   | Max Biehl             |
| 1958      | Jim Renz              |

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS .. continued

1959-60            Joel Drayer  
1961-64            Max Biehl  
1965-74            Joel Drayer  
1975-80            Wayne Stephan  
1980-81            Dianna Bechtold  
*1983            Jill Biehl*

ASSISTANT SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS  
RECORDED DURING THE PAST 100 YEARS

O. C. Ridgley            Thomas Bechtold  
William Young            Wesley Houser  
Lumme Trimble            Keith Fox  
Howard Morford            Houston Shaffer  
Otto Bechtold            Frank Alexander  
George B. Leonard        Herbert Leckrone  
Bill Conrad              Dennis Biehl  
*Dianna Bechtold*            Jane Strobel

SALEM CHURCH ITEMS

On a MAP from 1875 - land shere Salem Church is located  
was owned by C. W. Ridgley, who owned 172 acres.

- 10/22/1949            Receipt from Harting Furniture for  
                          \$213.10 - - Oil Stove?  
9/12/1901            Rev. Ernest Lutes married Jessie Ruth  
                          Fraze in Salem Church by Rev. Wiley,  
                          S. Jordan. Rev. Lutes had a 5-church  
                          Circuit at the time.  
11/22/1949            Nora Rodocker Farm Sale(Church men helped  
                          with the sale).  
11/ /1949            Church started to farm the Nora Rodocker  
                          farm. First farm committee was Carl Graham,  
                          Hayden Renz, Curt Stands and Warren  
                          Lewis, pastor.

SOME OF THE THINGS DONE AT SALEM CHURCH BY THE  
RODOCKER FARM FUND: --

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 12/ 4/1951    | Spinet piano - \$500.   |
| 5/ /1952      | Addition on front(vestibule) - Frantz<br>Lumber and Robert Gahl, carpenter ..<br>\$1319.77. |
| 9/25/1953     | Seat purchased - \$45.  |
| 10/25/1956    | Repair and paint Church doors - \$15.56.  |
| 9/159 - 5/160 | Back Addition - \$5694.87.  |
| 5/160 - 3/161 | Back Addition - \$1120.36   |

OTHER WORK DONE: --

|             |   |                  |
|-------------|---|------------------|
| 2/ /1961    | Modernfold Door - Back part.  |                  |
| 1960 or '61 | Robert Fox & Joel Drayer made lighted<br>cross at front of Church.  |                  |
| 1961        | 3 sets folding table legs, bulletin<br>board, painted back of Church and trim,<br>also storm windows and screens. |                  |
| 2/27/1961   | C.W.Houser & Sons - ceiling tile in<br>sanctuary - \$575.   |                  |
| 7/ 3/1963   | Shingles(wind damage) \$44.99.  |                  |
| 5/ 2/1964   | Kitchen and bathroom addition<br>Construction bought different<br>places  |                  |
|             | \$1184.60   |                  |
|             | Cement Septic Tank  | 65.00            |
|             | McKee - plaster   | 81.50            |
|             | Clifford Bartoo(wiring)   | 288.06           |
|             | Bathroom Fixtures   | 150.46           |
|             | Klutz - 2" well   | 385.00           |
|             | Klutz - pump and pipe   | <u>285.53</u>    |
|             | TOTAL. . .  | <u>\$2440.15</u> |
| 8 / /1966   | Well Pit Cover - \$98.40  |                  |
| 10/ /1966   | Blue Flame Agreement  |                  |
| 1/ 2/1969   | Balance of the Farm Fund was turned<br>over to Sunday School - \$1505.83  |                  |
| 1969        | New heating system was installed.   |                  |

SALEM CHURCH ITEMS . . . continued ..

1/ /1970 Sink in kitchen and Top - paid by WSCS  
and donations . . \$115.90.  
8/ /1970 New roof on Church - paid by donations -  
\$633.26.  
5/ /1971 Carpet - \$400 - paid by . . M.Y.F.-\$100,  
donations-\$100, U.M.W. - \$200.  
1974 Second folding door  
1975 Paneling in Sanctuary -Nora's money --  
\$859.68, paint exterior wood, remodel  
vestibule ceiling & walls. New pulpit,  
pulpit cloths, candle holders, cross..  
furnished by Agnes Bechtold. New altar-  
donated by Herbert & Juanita Leckrone.  
(altar & pulpit were built & cut down  
by Herbert Leckrone and Carl Bechtold)

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SALEM HAPPENINGS

7/ 9/44 Re-dedication & re-opening .. refinished  
floors, pews, etc.  
2/ 6/49 Salem services- Phil Stephens, pastor..  
special music from Marion College.  
6/17/51 Children's Day at Salem - evening.  
11/ 3/51 Sunday School party at Max Biehl's.  
12/ 9/51 Salem evening service(3 boys from Taylor)  
5/19/52 Sunday School Class Party at Fox's  
(committee met)  
5/24/52 Sunday School Class party at Fox's.  
6/14/52 Sunday School Party at Houston Shaffer's.  
6/29/52 Children's Day at Salem - evening.  
6/ 6/53 Salem Ice Cream Social.  
6/21/53 Children's Day at Salem - evening.  
9/26/53 Sunday School party at Clyde Littlefield's.  
12/12/53 Sunday School Class Party at Max Biehl's  
(58).  
2/14/54 Paul Hoffman talked and showed pictures  
in evening at Salem.

SALEM HAPPENINGS . . continued..

- 3/26/54 Sunday School Class Party at Bechtold's  
29 were there.
- 6/20/54 Sunday School Party at John Forbes . .  
19 adults, 15 children.
- 9/26/54 Sunday School Party at Gene Biehl's  
(weiner roast).
- 12/18/54 Sunday School party at Dick Fox's.
- 12/19/54 Contata at Salem
- 12/26/54 Rev. Lutes baptized Larry & Dennis Biehl.  
5/ 8/55 Marilyn Biehl baptized.
- 5/30-6/3/55 Bible School at Salem School.
- 6/ 9/55 Children's Day Committee Meeting at  
Church - evening.
- 6/19/55 Children's Day at Salem
- 7/10/55 Church at Warvel Park .. Sunday School  
Class Supper at Bill Joe Bechtold's (37)
- 9/ 4/55 Sunday School Party at Gene Biehl's  
weiner roast(28 present)
- 12/25/55 Salem - Play - morning.
- 3/22/56 Revival at Salem
- 4/ 7/56 Sunday School Party at Gene Biehl's(30).
- 7/ 7/56 Children's Meeting at Salem.
- 8/29/56 Sunday School Watermelon Feed at Bechtold's
- 9/22/56 Sunday School Party at Max Biehl's.
- 10/22/56 Building meeting at Church - evening.
- 6/23/57 Children's Meeting at Salem - evening.
- 7/14/57 Sunday School Party at Eldon Biehl's(29).
- 8/18/57 Salem Church Picnic at Warvel Park.
- 11/30/57 Sunday School Party at Max Biehl's (43).
- 3/ 7/58 Sunday School Class Party at Melvin Bech-  
told's ..16 adults, 18 children.
- 3/30/58 6 children and 8 adults baptized and  
22 joined Church.

SALEM HAPPENINGS . . . continued ..

- 6/22/58 Sunday School Class Picnic Supper at Park.  
7/ 6/58 Children's Meeting at Salem.  
8/17/58 Ron Hill - speaker - morning.  
10/ 5/58 Rev. Jacobs - Communion.  
12/14/58 No Sunday School -- no oil for heat.  
12/27/58 Sunday School Party at Max Biehl's (28).  
7/19/59 Children's Meeting at Salem.  
7/26/59 Church Picnic at Warvel Park.  
8/ 9/59 Sunday School Class Weiner Roast at  
Warvel Park - evening.  
12/ 5/59 Sunday School Party at Ralph Biehl's (28)  
12/19/59 Renz's have party for 8 year olds.  
1/ 3/60 Sunday evening meeting at Salem with  
Ijamsville.  
1/24/60 J. T. Steffen showed pictures on Holy  
Land(UMW paid \$5..he gave it back).  
4/10/60 2 baptized and 1 new member.  
6/ /60 Bible School at Silver Creek.  
7/17/60 Children's Meeting at Salem.  
7/24/60 Sunday School Class cookout at Warvel  
Park - evening.  
12/10/60 Sunday School Party at Church (37).  
12/11/60 Rozie's Class had party.  
12/18/60 Contata at Salem in evening.  
2/ /61 Wednesday evening Prayer Meeting -Church.  
5/ /61 Catherine Dawald went to Conference.  
12/17/61 Christmas Program at Church.  
8/ /62 "going away" gift for Jean Littlefield.  
10/10/62 Leto Strobel donated \$20 toward piano.  
12/22/66 Christmas Contata.  
11/ /67 Stephan Sale .. \$35.97.

SALEM HAPPENINGS . . . continued....

- 4/ /68 Shaffer's sale .. \$93.99.  
6/16/68 Bible School Program.  
4/ 3/69 Contata..also given at Peabody Home,  
Bippus and St. Paul's.  
5/ /69 Cook Books - \$1.  
12/21/69 Contata.  
3/22-29/70 Revival(Bob Johnson & Robert L. Scott,Jr.  
in charge).  
5/10/70 MYF boys pulled up Church signs to paint.  
2/ /71 Donations for carpet due by April 1st..  
MYF gave \$100...UMW gave \$200).  
5/ 2/71 Jubilaires sang..UMW .. Social Hour.  
8/19 &21/71 Spath Sale  
1/ 2/72 Adam Gurii from Pakistan program .. \$5  
Urbana Church invited also.  
7/ 4/72 Party at Max Biehl's.  
9/29/74 Rally Day - Kuhn Family  
6/ /81 New steps and handrail at Educational Unit.  
6/ /81 Church folks volunteered and refinished  
main floor (stripped old finish) \$148.30.  
7/ /81 fixed ceiling heat cable in Ed. Unit,  
sprayed new plaster on ceiling.  
8/ 1/81 painted main room & bathroom in Ed. Unit.  
8/ /81 tile floor repaired & carpet doorways to  
Educational Unit (Garland Wilcox did work)  
scrubbed & waxed floor .. volunteer labor.  
8/16/81 ICE CREAM SOCIAL -AFTERNOON- CENTENNIAL  
8/23/81 TALENT SHOW & FASHION EXTRAVAGANZA -" eve.  
8/30/81 COMMUNION by Jack Thomas-District Supt.  
REMEMBRANCE DAY -- Pot Luck Dinner  
LAST DAY OF CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION.
- • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN..ACTIVITIES & INVOLVEMENTS

- 1/ 2/57 Served Frank Alexander's sale.  
4/17/57 Mrs. Stouffer gave book review at Bechtold's  
12/ /57 Dorene Charmin-Manchester College Student  
talked on Burma.  
4/ /58 Easter lily given to Mrs. Jacobs.  
7/ /58 paid for piano tuning - \$7.  
11/ /58 gave \$30 to Epworth Forest Fund.  
12/ /58 Wayne Rusher's showed pictures on Hawii.  
1/ /59 gave birthday gifts for Nora Rodocher-71.  
4/ 5/59 had film on Alaska  
7/ /59 sell Jel-3 - (4 dozen).  
10/ /59 received \$5 donation from Baker family.  
ordered 60 Marian Kay products to sel to  
get coffee percolator.  
11/ /59 ordered pecans - \$1.80.  
2/ /60 took food to Clow Meadows for 13 weeks  
and also sold cards.  
4/ /60 purchased new coffee maker.  
10/ /60 made up Medical Kit for World Community  
Day.  
11/ /60 sold pecans for \$1.85.  
12/ /60 gave \$5 for Empty Stocking Fund.  
3/ /61 gave for Pledge-\$26 and 50¢ to Gusta R.  
10/ /61 made School Bags for World Comm. Day.  
8/ /61 meeting at Church(Catherine & Madalyn  
in charge).  
11/ /61 sold pecans-\$1.50..sent Servicemen boxes.  
12/ /62 donated \$7 to CHEER.  
5/ /62 Pledge - \$30.  
9/12/62 Miss Vassilike Taikour of Greece gave  
talk & showed slides about work as a  
volunteer in World Counc.of Churches.  
sold pecans - \$1.50.  
10/10/62 went to Silver Creek Tea to hear Rosa  
Mills talk about pitchers.

U.M.W. —Activities .. continued...

- 12/12/62                   donated \$5 to CHEER.  
5/ /63                   Pledge - \$30.  
6/ /63                   Karen Goebel showed slides concerning  
                          6 months spent in India.  
7/ /63                   Jean Littlefield told about Chapel and  
                          Personnel work in Navy at San Diego, CA.  
11/ /63                   sold pecans. --Barebel Allendorf from  
                          Budkeburg, Germany, Exch. Student - talked.  
12/ /63                   CHEER donation.  
5/ /64                   \$5 to Whites Institute Building Fund.  
7/ /64                   Jean L. reported on menus & service at  
                          galley in San Diego.. Catherine Dawald  
                         showed slides of Western trip.  
9/ /64                   made layette for Korean orphan.  
12/ /64                   CHEER donation.  
3/ 5/65                   St. Paul World Day of Prayer-Salem invited.  
6/ /65                   Rozella got graduates gifts.  
9/ 8/65                   25th anniversary of group.  
10/ 6/65                  Coretta Vendrick of EUB Church gave talk.  
11/10/65                 \$3 to CHEER .. \$3 to Bashore Home.  
10/12/66                 Mrs. Edgar Keefer showed slides on trip  
                          to Alaska at Mary Alice's at Huntington.  
12/ /66                   \$5 to CHEER .. 50¢ grab bag.  
3/ /67                   \$8 to Gusta Robinette.  
6/ /67                   Rozella got Senior gifts.  
1/ /68                   get dress material for 2 dresses for Nora.  
6/ 5/68                   asked to panel discussion at St. John's.  
6/12/68                  Rev. & Mrs. George Surface talked about  
                          Red Bird Mission .. at Sue Hack's.  
10/ /68                   have traveling basket .. money making.  
6/11/69                  a Sister & 2 Postulantes from Victory  
                         Noll talked.

U.M.W. Activities .. continued..

- 1/ /70 \$30 to Kitchen Cabinet fund.  
3/ /70 \$25 to Church Flower & Gift fund.  
6/ /70 Senior gift for Dennis Biehl.  
9/ /70 30 hymnals rebound - \$58.  
10/20/70 Joyce Ferrey showed slides of European trip.  
11/10/70 Invited to Calvary Church - chalk artist from Huntington College.  
11/ /70 Lesson on drugs by Bob Yates & John Brainard .. invited Church.  
12/ /70 for Gift Exchange got small items for kitchen at Church.  
2/ /71 gave \$200 for carpet.  
6/ /71 Susan & Dick Strobel graduation gifts.  
10/ /71 Silent Auction.  
10/30/71 Stanley products party at Church.  
10/31/71 Installation of officers after Sunday Sch.  
11/10/71 meeting at Nora's trailer -- sold Tool Kits.  
1/12/72 Pledge-\$71..\$1 per member for Lucille Raines.  
4/ /71 voted to change meeting to 1st Wednesday of month as of June 1972.  
6/ /72 Graduation gift for Debbie Bucher.  
11/ 1/72 Silent Auction.  
11/11/72 General cleaning of Church.  
12/ /72 Gifts sent to Haven Hubbard Home.  
4/15/73 Installation of officers.  
10/16/73 Entertain Calvary & St. John's ..  
Earleen Ulrey talked about Holy Land.  
Pledge - \$74.50.  
12/ 5/73 Gifts for Haven Hubbard Home.  
5/19/74 Dinner for Jim and Joan Sturgeon.  
6/ /74 Jill Biehl & Marianne Metzger-graduation.  
12/ /74 Gifts for Country Village...Program by Leena Karikoskie of Finland, Exchange Student at Manchester College.

U.M.W. Activities .. continued

1/26/75 Installation of Officers.  
7/ /75 Lucille Raines slides.  
11/ /75 Pledge - \$95.  
12/ /75 Anna Lee & Diana showed pictures of Switzerland.  
12/21/75 in charge of Christmas Program & refreshments.  
...1976 .. 1980, just usual items as in previous dates.  
8/ /81 furnish paint & floor repair for Ed. Unit.

METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP.. SOME RECORDED ACTIVITIES

1/ /47 Meeting at Carl Bechtold's.  
2/12/49 Valentine Party at Fox's.  
/ /50 Party at Fox's. *MYF reorganized 1952*  
6/ 8/58 M.Y.F. secretary reports on record  
(119th meeting..Jane Renz-President)  
7/ /58 some members sent to Epworth Forest.  
8/17/58 went to Winona Lake to hear Billy Graham.  
/ /58 Ice Cream Social - \$53.94.  
10/26/58 Hayride  
12/21/58 Christmas Caroling..purchased gifts for orphanage at Goshen instead of Christmas Exchange.  
3/ /59 gave \$30 to Epworth Forest fund.  
4/ 5/59 served refreshments & cleaned up church after film on Alaska.  
6/13/59 Ice Cream Social at Mike's Service in North Manchester .. \$49.06.  
8/ 2/59 horseback riding party at Pete Renz's and weiner roast.  
8/16/59 handwriting analysis by Rev. Conkling.  
10/18/59 to Ijamsville for meeting .. made popcorn balls & fudge & used for refreshments.  
-bought 1 dozen chairs -\$15.  
-bought song books (\$4.50).

*Between 1944-1934 - Epworth League formed*

- MYF ACTIVITIES . . . continued...
- 10/ /59 Hayride - Hallowe'en Party.  
2/ /60 Epworth Forest Fund ..\$20; Chris Jenson Fund..\$15.
- 2/ /61 to Ijamsville to movie on Holy Land.  
3/ /61 Epworth Forest Fund..\$10; Pledge..\$7.50;  
and Church pins..\$10.50.
- 8/ /61 Horseback riding party and weiner roast  
at Renz's.
- 8/25/61 Bake sale at Penney's-Huntington -\$36.30.  
Hayride.
- 9/ /61
- 11/ /61 M.Y.F. District Meeting at North Manches-  
ter High School..Beverly Layton talked on  
work camp at Chicago Interchange..\$5.  
-Hinkle Missionaries - \$12.
- 12/ /61 Christmas caroling.
- 12/17/61 served refreshments for Christmas Program  
at Church.
- 1/ /62 gave attendance pins..\$7.55; secretary's  
book purchased..69¢.
- 2/ /62 purchased flags and gave to Church..\$36  
(MYF - \$18; Rozie - \$18).
- 8/25/62 pulled weeds at Nora's(John, Gary, Pete,  
Richard, Edith, Joanna & Rozie)
- 11/ /62 money making project..rake leaves, wash or  
wax cars, etc.
- 11/18/62 Exchange Student spoke to group.
- 12/ /62 packed box for Jean Littlefield.  
gave Jeannett & Joe Renz 63¢ for Jim  
Renz driving Hayride truck.
- 1/ /63 purchased attendance pins..\$8.28.
- 4/21/63 program at Church..Baldwin sisters on  
Nigeria.
- 7/ /63 dues 50¢ per person per year.
- 11/ /63 send box to Jean Littlefield.
- 12/ /63 sold 40 Bibles..spent \$6.30 for wedding  
gift.

MYF ACTIVITIES . . . continued...

- 1/ /64 purchased attendance pins.. \$18.47.  
5/ /64 Kathie Zimpelman to camp.  
11/ /64 gleaned corn at Millard Dickey's.  
12/ /64 sent boxes to Jean Littlefield & Max Metzger, went Christmas caroling.  
sold napkins and ordered song books-\$5.  
1/ 3/65 served refreshments at Church.. Rev. Kendall showed pictures on Holy Land.  
1/31/65 Rozie & Madalyn took MYF to Dutch Mill for Christmas; purchased attendance pins.  
4/25/65 entertained Ijamsville(35 attended).  
7/ /65 picnic after church at Lewis Parmerlee's.  
10/ 9/65 Youth Rally at Bible Baptist Church-Wabash.  
10/24/65 Hayride.  
11/ /65 got paper for stained glass windows.. \$21.48.  
12/19/65 Christmas caroling.  
12/23/65 served refreshments after Christmas Contata. fixed and sent boxes to Jean L., Max Metzger and Mike Burton.  
1/ /66 purchased attendance pins .. \$18.83.  
3/20/66 sponsored Max Metzger & Lawrence Brane to show pictures from Korea and served refreshments.  
4/ 2/66 Rummage Sale.  
10/ /66 Rummage sale at Huntington .. around \$20.  
12/ /66 sent Christmas boxes.  
1/ /67 purchased attendance pins .. \$17.86.  
6/ /67 met at Rev. Stolte's and saw movie "The Eye of the Beholder".  
9/ /67 Pledge .. \$15.  
1/ /68 purchased attendance pins .. \$25.05.  
2/ /68 purchased Sunbeam Sweeper for Church.. \$27.88.  
6/ 1/68 work day at Church.  
6/ /68 pay Pledge .. \$20.  
7/14/68 Jean L. showed pictures of Hawaii.  
9/22/68 sponsored Jerry Zeigler(Peace Corps) for Church.. \$5, and served refreshments.

MYF ACTIVITIES . . . continued..

- 6/10/72      Bowling Party - invited Church.  
7/21/72      Picnic at Huntington Beach.  
                gave \$10 to Oklahoma Indian Mission.  
9/21/72      Skating Party at Columbia City (\$33 for  
                MYF members).  
10/ /72      Donna Tarter talked about "Expo '72" in  
                Texas.  
10/14/72      Hayride.  
10/22/72      Car Rally (Wayne & Dennis).  
12/10/72      Purdue Christmas Convocation with Roann..  
                bus trouble .. \$22 for gas.  
12/ 9/72      Christmas tree and get gifts for Special  
                Ed Class at Chester.  
12/31/72      Youth Sunday (Larry Biehl and Vickie  
                Bechtold - speakers.)  
1/ /73      gave attendance ribbons, Karen Burch wed-  
                ding present, plastic on windows, donation,  
                pay Shelba Neher \$25.45 for damaged screen  
                done 6 or 7 yrs. ago at belling.  
4/22/73      Easter Sunrise Services at North Manchester.  
5/ 6/73      new front doors \$140; Bulletin Board door  
                fixed and 4 shrubs .. \$15.  
7/29/73      Salamonie picnic (15).  
9/ 6/73      Skating party at Columbia City..\$30(37).  
9/22/73      Clean Church.  
10/21/73      Hayride.  
10/28/73      Holiday on Ice .. about 100 went.  
11/ 3/73      Bowling Party.  
12/ 3/73      10% of earning to North Special Ed.  
12/30/73      Christmas Party at Wayne Stephan's.  
12/15/73      purchased Christmas tree & decorated.  
1/ /74      Diane Bechtold & Donna Bechtold go to  
                Ball State.  
                Gave attendance ribbons.

MYF ACTIVITIES . . continued..

- 1/17/74 Load papers for Paper Drive.  
1/27/74 District Youth "Set ON" (11) Indiana Central.
- 2/ /74 purchased some new hymnals.  
4/14/74 Easter (Don & Carol .. 12 members and 3 guests. Purchased flower for Easter in memory of Doug Haupert.
- 4/ 7/74 went to see movie "Time to Run: at Huntington (14).
- 6/13/74 Skating party (40).  
6/28/74 to Wagon Wheel "Best Foot Forward".  
7/ 1/74 Load papers.  
7/28/74 Picnic at Harold Campbell's.  
10/10/74 Skating Party at Columbia City.  
9/14/74 Clean up day at Church .. wax floors.  
10/19/74 Hayride at Eldon Biehl's(Joel Drayer-driver).  
10/28/74 Hallowe'en Party.  
11/ 7/74 Kent Drayer showed European slides to Church, Social hour followed.  
12/ /74 donate \$30 to Meals on Wheels.  
12/23/74 Christmas Caroling.  
1/ 5/75 to Country Village for Christmas Party.  
attendance ribbons.  
4/ 5/75 Bowling at Olinger's (60).  
4/ 6/75 Youth Rally at Salamonie Junior High.  
5/ 4/75 Movie at Warsaw "The Gospel Road" and to Campbell's (50).  
5/ /75 got broken tile for around shrubs.  
6/12/75 Skating.  
6/27/75 to Wagon Wheel "Two by Two". Kent Drayer hooked up light in Bulletin Board.  
Paint at Church.  
8/27/75 Party at Vera's(ride Wayne's Dune Buggy).  
9/ 7/75 Singspiration at Kokomo.  
10/13/75 Basketball Team .. \$60 fee.

MYF ACTIVITIES . . . continued...

- 10/27/75              Holiday on Ice.  
11/ 1/75              Hallowe'en Party at Church.  
12/11/75              Skating Party at Columbia City (37).  
12/23/75              Christmas caroling.  
12/28/75              Youth Sunday(Kent - speaker).  
                          donation to Meals on Wheels.  
                          meeting at Diana Stephen's..all over 18  
                          out of MYF .. (11 out).  
1/ 4/76              Christmas Party at Maxwell's.  
2/ /76              Lay Witness Mission at Walnut Creek.  
3/14/76              Weiner roast at Church and gather papers.  
4/ 6/76              Skating Party at Columbia City with Walnut  
                          Creek (5).  
5/ 9/76              Bowling at North Manchester.  
                          paid for Vestibule carpet .. \$117.  
6/22/76              Sing at County Home(Huntington).  
6/17/76              Skating Party at Columbia City (54).  
6/27/76              to Calvary Church at Bippus to hear  
                          "Brothers & Sisters".  
7/18/76              Cookout at Gosser's . . also swimming.  
8/27/76              Wagon Wheel to see "Salute to Broadway"(25).  
9/18/76              Hayride.  
10/22/76             Hayride with Bippus Churches..\$5 for  
                          refreshments.  
12/26/76             Christmas Party at Church.  
12/27/76             Load papers .. \$119.76.  
12/31/76 -  
1/ 1/77              at Church..took tree down, stayed all  
                          night and ate breakfast at Church).  
2/20/77              "Living Water" Program.  
3/11/77              go to White's Institute and visit Darrell  
                          Drayer's group.  
• • • / 80            purchased collection plates and candle  
                          lighters for Church.  
/ /80              purchased artificial Christmas Tree for  
                          Church.  
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • •

Salem Sabbath School  
Sabbath morning May 5, 1878

school was opened by reading a portion of  
Scripture of the 18th Chap of St. Luke and  
also by singing on page 95. After which  
we were led in Prayer by our Superintendent  
• No of officers and teachers present 10

No. of Scholars present  
Male 44  
Female 29

No. not engaged in reading 7  
Total 56 present 98

No of Verses recited  
Peter Beentold 31  
Freddie Beentold 17  
Samie Carter 24  
Liddie Smith 56  
Etie Jacobs 18

No of Alphabetical Verses recited 4  
G. W. Ridgley Superintendent. D. F. McApple, Sec

This Indenture witnesseth That George W. Ridgley  
and Catharine Ridgley his wife, of Wabash County in the State  
of Indiana

Convey and Warrant To The Trustees of Salem M. E.  
Church, named as follows: Thomas Myers, Joseph Smith, George  
Houenstine, Lewis F. Pitch and Emanuel Springer, for the sum  
of Twenty five (\$25.00) Dollars, the following Real Estate,  
in Wabash County in the State of Indiana to - mit:

(30) Town Twenty nine (29) North of Range Eight (8) East, and  
running North Six and one half rods. (6 $\frac{1}{2}$ ) thereof west five and  
one half (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ ) rods, thence South Six and one half, rods. (6 $\frac{1}{2}$ )  
thence East five and one half, rods. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$  to the place of beginning  
Said tract to contain one fourth and Sixteen one hundredths  
of an acre (4 $\frac{16}{100}$ ). And further, that so long as said tract of  
land is used for church purposes this deed will stand as such,  
but when abandoned the land is to revert back to the said farm.

In Witness Whereof The said George W. Ridgley and  
Catharine Ridgley his wife, has caused to set their hands and  
seal this 20th day of June 1881.

George W. Ridgley   
Catharine Ridgley 

States of Indiana } ss.  
Wabash County } ss.

Before me W. H. Paylor a Justice of the  
Peace in and for said County this 20th day of June, 1881,  
came George W. Ridgley and Catharine Ridgley his wife, and  
acknowledged the execution of the annexed Deed.

Witness my hand and Justice seal

W. H. Paylor.

this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of June 1881.

Duly Recorded this 14th day of April 1882 at 11 $\frac{1}{2}$  o'clock A.M.

John N. Dickey  
R.W.C.