



The Chapel Bell

Presented by the Maple Street Chapel Preservation Society, Inc.

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Another Costly Project: The Chimney

by Ken Bohl

We always try our best to keep a sharp eye on and be vigilant about Chapel maintenance issues. For example, the bell, the fire sprinkler system, and north wall window sills had all been maintenance that was done proactively, but the chimney is 50' above us, and it took us by surprise.

It may not look so bad in this picture, but so much of the mortar is missing between the bricks that we are in danger of bricks falling out. The condition of the brickwork has deteriorated to the point that it's not simply a matter of tuck pointing. It needs to be reconstructed. Also, part of a long-term process may involve repairing or replacing the flue inside the chimney.



A major cost involved to do this work is the use of a hydraulic boom which will be placed adjacent to the chimney on Main St.

Our basic proposal is very steep - \$23,500! And, if work is needed on the flue inside the chimney, that will be an additional cost of as much as \$15,000 more.

We regret once again to have to ask you, our benefactors, for help. Anything you can contribute will help tremendously. Here are options for giving:

- Mail check payable to Maple Street Chapel to 220 South Main St., Lombard IL 60148.
- Go to the web site MapleStreetChapel.Org, click DONATIONS, and click the Donate button under Chimney Project. We are grateful for any contribution, but PayPal contributions are reduced by a 3% service fee.

We are most appreciative to anyone who can help!



Ever Wonder?

by Vicki Webb

I work in the Maple Street Chapel a lot: moving furniture, setting up for concerts, and helping with various events.

One day the sun was shining through one of the beautiful stained glass windows that highlighted the baptismal font near the organ. I took a picture of it, then I got curious as to the name engraved on it, and decided to do a little research.

The engraving on the white/gray marble font says, "In memory of Newell Matson." Newell Matson was a fairly famous silversmith/jeweler who had moved to Lombard after working on the east coast and then in Milwaukee,

WI. He was born August 12, 1815 in Hartford, Connecticut.

When he moved to Lombard he became connected to the Congregational Church and was well-known for his generosity. While living in Lombard he built a house at 23 W. Maple, which is now the Lombard Historical Society's Victorian Cottage Museum.

Things started to go downhill in business and health for Matson. He lost his buildings and his entire jewelry inventory during the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. He refused to let his creditors settle for anything less than 100%. He was determined to rebuild his business and by 1855 the business recovered enough to become a publicly-owned company.

When his health declined he decided to move back to Connecticut in May 1887 and passed away on July 29, 1887 in Clinton, Connecticut. He is buried in Simsbury, Connecticut. His family donated the baptismal font in his memory.

Note: Newell Matson spelled his name with two L's although the baptismal font is spelled with one L.

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Meet George & Marilyn Seagraves, Friends of the Maple Street Chapel

by Suzanne Bruce Arndt

George Seagraves, a fourth generation fire fighter, grew up in Shelbyville, TN along with his three younger sisters. His father E. Gene, worked for a company that manufactured fire engines and ladder trucks. His mother, Elizabeth, worked at a school district. Soon his father started his own fire protection business selling fire trucks and fire equipment. At a young age of about 11 George began to help his father unload the fire trucks from the box cars and also helped to service the fire extinguishers.

After graduating from Shelbyville high school, George went to Oklahoma State University and received an AS in Fire Protection & Safety Technology degree from the engineering department. He went on and received his BS and MS in education. While attending college full time he worked part-time for the Stillwater Fire Department and resided at the fire station. It was at the university's campus that he met Marilyn and they began to date.

Marilyn grew up on a farm with her five siblings in Perry, OK. Her great grandparents were from Luxemburg and started the farm in 1909 where they raised various crops, sheep, cows, and chickens. The farm is still in the family and her youngest brother is the fourth generation to operate the farm. Her father John H. Steichen, enlisted in the Army Air Corps and served for 3 ½ yrs. in the South Pacific during WWII, serving as captain of a crew that repaired airplanes. Her mother Ione, after graduating from college, worked at a bank. After marriage, both of Marilyn's parents focused on raising their family and operating the farm.

George and Marilyn married on 6/16/1963. As a graduate assistant he started his teaching career at Oklahoma State University. He then spent about four years teaching at two junior colleges in VA. He then moved on to become the Assistant Fire Chief for the Salina, KS Fire Department in 1979. During this time, they had two sons, John & Jim. Marilyn kept busy with the boys but she had a sense for business and gained an interest for financial planning. She pursued the required courses and obtained her license. Marilyn was thrilled to begin work as a Financial Advisor at Waddell & Read. Initially it was a bit worrisome since it was straight commission, but she excelled and formed a network of clients in Salina.

It was now time for George to take his next step and he answered several ads for Fire Chief, one which was here in Lombard. It was going to be a big move to a suburb of the Chicago area, especially since they were both from rural areas. He went ahead and interviewed with the Lombard Fire Department and was hired as the Fire Chief in 1985. George was in charge of building Fire Station 45 on St. Charles Rd., and the renovation and addition to Fire Station 44. Part of his responsibilities also included emergency preparedness and building inspection. One such inspection was the Chapel. He and Marilyn had begun to attend events at the Chapel and have been supporters for many years. George's experience was beneficial for the Chapel when they needed a consultant for a new sprinkler system.

Marilyn was able to transition her financial advisory business from Kansas to the Lombard area. Today it continues as Seagraves Financial Group, where Marilyn works with her two older sons John and Jim. Their youngest son Thomas was born in 1989, and works as an ICU physician in the Chicago area and serves as a doctor in the Army Reserve.

They both enjoy spending time with their 5 grandchildren and attending the various events they participate in. George volunteers at the food pantry and the Out Reach House. Marilyn enjoys reading and gardening and when there is time, they both like to travel.



Maple Street Chapel Jr.

Once Again Graces The Lilac Parade

by Ken Bohl

The model of the Chapel was created in 2010, in honor of the Chapel's 140th anniversary. With the parade having been canceled for two years due to the Covid pandemic, this year was the 13th year that the model has appeared in the Lombard Lilac Parade.

Construction of the model was an ambitious project. Not only did we have to make it an accurate miniature of the Chapel, but it has to be assembled and disassembled each year so it can be stored in the basement of the real Chapel.

This picture really shows how true the model is to its original.



The model is in 1/10th size scale, making it 8' long, and 11' high at the steeple. In the same scale, you would only be 6½" - 7" tall! The majority of the structure and the wall panels are made of ¼" plywood with fiberglass embossed on it.

The greatest challenge was the steeple, to make it both lightweight and strong enough in spite of its small diameter. It was constructed out of Styrofoam, reinforced with fish line, and coated with a resin to form a reinforced shell.

The weather was perfect for this year's parade, but the model has stood up to some tough times in the past, both high winds and a year with such a storm that the rain was straight sideways!



None of us owns a vehicle with a hitch which is required to pull the "float" (trailer).

We are very grateful to Eric of Nuts and Volts Auto Repair for loaning us his truck.

Having the Chapel in the parade reminds people of what an important landmark the Chapel is.

The Way It Used to Be

by Ken Bohl, Facilities Director

We know that in the Maple Street Chapel originally:

- 1) The beaded board only ran up to the 4' - high wainscot cap. The wall above that cap and the ceiling were plain painted plaster. The beaded board above that 4' height and on the ceiling was installed in 1892.
- 2) Kerosene lamps were mounted on the walls and the main fixture was a collection of lamps. At some time there were gas lights. The current electric lights were installed about 1910.
- 3) Coal-burning stoves provided the heat, rather than a central heating system.

This Presbyterian chapel, located in the historic town of Fort Steele, British Columbia was built in 1898, and has all three of the above features. We have few photographs of our Chapel that show any of these features.



This wainscot is different than our beaded board, but it ends at the 4' height.

The nearest kerosene lamp is mounted on the casing of the closer window.

There are two plain gas lights hanging from the ceiling without glass shades.

The coal-burning stove is clearly visible in front of the front pew.

This Canadian chapel has nothing to do with us, but it helps us visualize the way things were in the beginning at the Maple Street Chapel.

This Year's Lilac Queen is...

by Vicki Webb

2024 Lilac Queen Kendra Trummer will be a senior at Glenbard East in the fall of 2025. The leadership roles she has held are: Student Council President, Students for Students President, French Horn and Mellophone section leader in band, Senior Leader and Rho Kappa community relations officer. She is also involved in the National Honor Society, National Spanish Honor Society, Varsity cheerleading and Key Club.

Outside of school, she is a Teen ambassador for Reality Illinois, speaking on the panel for Teen Mental Health Youth Summit. She is head lifeguard at Paradise Bay Waterpark and has her own baking business-Kendra's Sweet Creations. In addition, she volunteers at the Outreach House and as a camp counselor at Lake Geneva Youth Camp.

In her "free time" she enjoys being with friends and family, baking and seeing musicals.



We Need Volunteers!

Some of our wonderful volunteers who have served The Maple Street Preservation Society for many years have retired. We are looking for volunteers for the following positions:

Historian - Organize past articles, pictures, and information into files for historical preservation.

Docent - Provide tours in the Chapel for walk-ins on occasional Saturdays. We will provide training/shadowing of current docents. We provide scripts with the history of the Chapel.

Fundraising - Provide ideas/support to help the Chapel raise money for its costly maintenance and upkeep in addition to our yearly membership drive.

Concert Assistant - Support/help with set-up, ticket taking/sales, directing concert goers with the facilities, and take down.

Maintenance - Looking for help with light electrical, cleaning Reade Room display cabinets/ shelves, painting stairs /porches, washing windows, and organizing the basement.

Please contact Ken Bohl at 630.627.0171 if you would like to volunteer.

Meet More Friends of the Maple Street Chapel

Basic Membership

Daniel Anderson

Joanne Munsterman

Jeanne Wroan

In Memory of Donald F. Robinson

Carole Robinson (wife) and Diana Lang (daughter)

In memory of Maryann Spatafore-Roule for chimney fund

Al & Vicki Webb

Editor's note: We apologize for the misspelling of Carole Dankers name in the spring issue.

A Drawing of the Chapel

by Vicki Webb



We received a gracious thank-you note from Alyssa Borbath, a 2024 Lilac Princess, accompanied by a delightful drawing she made of the Maple Street Chapel.

Alyssa, a recent graduate of Glenbard East, has an impressive academic record, having received an Academic Award and she excelled as both an All-Conference athlete and Academic All-Conference recipient. Her involvement extended beyond the classroom, as she participated in various extracurricular activities such as STEM Club, Math Team, badminton, and tennis. Additionally, Alyssa was a valued member of several honor societies including Rho Kappa Social Studies Honor Society, National Spanish Society, and Key Club.

Looking ahead, Alyssa intends to pursue a major in engineering with a minor in physics, demonstrating her commitment to academic excellence and passion for the sciences. Despite her busy schedule, she finds time to enjoy outdoor activities and indulge in board games with her 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 _____

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------|--|---------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basic "Friends" Membership | \$25 - \$99 | <input type="checkbox"/> Board & Batten Society | \$3,000 - \$4,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bell Ringer Membership | \$100 - \$499 | <input type="checkbox"/> Colonel Plum's Partners | \$5,000 - \$9,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chapel Steward Membership | \$500 - \$999 | <input type="checkbox"/> The Reade Circle | \$10,000 - \$24,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Steeple Club Membership | \$1,000 - \$2,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> Pinnacle Society | \$25,000 + |

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Detach and return to Maple Street Chapel Preservation Society, Inc.,
220 South Main Street, Lombard, Illinois 60148

