

## The Heritage Corner

# AHP to Celebrate 125 Years in 2013!



Don Karwoski, church archivist and member since 1947.

**OUR BEGINNING:** On February 16, 1885, Arlington Hills Presbyterian Church began as a mission Sunday School sponsored by the East Presbyterian Church in St. Paul. Nineteen children and adults gathered in a home on Jessamine near Payne Avenue. In 1888, AHP officially became a church then located on the corner of Case and Edgerton. Why bring this up now? Because I feel that as a member of this church since 1947, we are forgetting our heritage and should be reminded from time-to-time, as the Hebrew people were in Moses' time. Over a period of years, in this column I am providing a thumbnail sketch of our church's history. In 2013, we will celebrate our 125th anniversary. This is an accomplishment we should never take for granted!

### A Look at 1989 — The Beginning of AHP's Second Century of Existence!

The first meeting of 1989 was held January 17 with Pastor Oler as moderator, along with elders Robert Anderson, Phil Borger, Frank Degel, Betty Hanno, Dorothy Hobbick, Robert Johnson, Steve Kruger, Dona Maiden, Russ Maki, Dorothy Martin, Marihelen Miller, Soozie Neubauer, David Peterson, Robert Pettitt, Gale Rehnberg, Fred Roberts, Glenn Roelofs, Cathy Satriano, Tim Sinks and Larry Visser.

AHP began the year with a familiar problem: Money. Receipts for the first month were \$1,424 short of expenses. Fortunately, the shortage was covered by a surplus carry-over from 1988. Income shortages continued to plague the church throughout the year. By June session found it necessary to curtail the monthly transfer of funds to the deacons, youth club, and mission accounts in order to make payroll expenses. By August it became necessary to suspend the monthly transfer of \$2,000 from the general account to the special property account, which caused the property committee concern that there would not be sufficient funds for repairs to the windows and roof of the Christian education wing. However, the year-end financial report would reveal that \$192,662 had been received to cover \$198,216 in expenses, leaving a shortage of \$6,170 to be covered by the carry-over balance from 1988, and leaving \$4,216 available for 1990.

With all the money problems, the property committee purchased and installed new counters and handicap hardware in the education wing restrooms, built and installed a church sign at Burnquist and Magnolia, plus purchased and installed a new amplifier for the church sound systems. The "grunt work" was done by Frank Degel, property chair, Gary Hanson, Larry Anderson, Richard Benson, Bruce Matteson, Cedric Schrankler, Frank Martin and others.

The building committee continued finalizing plans for replacing the sanctuary windows on the west wall, enlarging the narthex with a new entryway, installing an elevator, adding a kitchenette and other improvements. Fortunately the church received a bequest of a little over \$20,000 from the Helen Baumgardner estate, which brought the building fund over the stipulated \$80,000 milestone, thus, enabling the church to start construction in 1990.

There were also several personnel changes: Betty Brown resigned as church secretary and was replaced by Karen McRunnel; John Kendall replaced Paul Heyerdahl as choir director; and we had a change in custodial staff.

One other item of note was a program called "MEETIN' & EATIN'" sponsored by the Deacons. This was an all-day affair commencing after the Sunday church service. They received permission to play bingo on the church grounds with non-perishable food items. Prizes were white elephant items.

One other item of interest was a notation that the pastor and clerk should have a current copy of the Presbyterian [Book of Order](#). (I had never seen a copy until this time and do not recall if previous copies were available.)

### Not too Early to Put on Your "Thinking Caps"

Let's all start to conceptualize how AHP will celebrate its 125th celebration in 2013!