

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

175TH ANNIVERSARY

APRIL

For many years, it was acknowledged that the church was in need of an elevator. Many of the older members and handicapped individuals were unable to manage the stairs and therefore were forced to forego any events and programs which took place in Fellowship Hall. In addition, many members had difficulty managing the steps necessary to enter the church building. In 2000, the Wilma Andrews Estate left \$60,000 to the church with the stipulation that it be used for the elevator project. A church-wide meeting was held to determine if the project should be pursued. The vote resulted in approval of initiating the construction of an elevator for church.

Along with the Andrews contribution, the church held \$265,000 in Capital funds and \$265,000 in the Memorial account. However, there existed two additional projects that had also been approved, but not yet paid for. A new parsonage had been purchased in Cross Creek addition in 1999 for the sum of \$128,000 with the remaining amount of \$75,000 still due. There was a need for new air conditioning in the sanctuary that would result in a cost of an additional \$65,000. The estimate for the elevator and resulting new construction was to be a minimum of \$327,440.

The Porter family generously provided the impetus to raise the additional monies needed. They proposed that if over the next three years, the congregation would pledge at least \$105,000 over their regular giving, they would provide \$100,000. This pledge was called the "2nd Mile Gift". The congregation met the challenge, which resulted in all debts being paid.

After much discussion and meetings with the architects, Morrison, Kattman, Menze and Dodd Kattman, it was decided that the elevator would be placed at the back of the church with close accessibility to both

the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall in the basement. This would require a new entrance to also be included in the construction. This new construction consisted of a covered entrance that would allow people to be dropped off at the door, as well as a gathering place for greeting. It also added a youth room in the basement, a hallway connecting the Sunday school area to Fellowship Hall, and upstairs, a hallway along the east side of the sanctuary. To facilitate entry to the Chapel, it was concluded that the Chapel should be reversed, making the entrance off of the new hallway. Though a daunting task, this was successfully completed; the Chapel was simply flipped end to end for a total cost of \$24,739.00.

The ladies lounge at that time was also very much in need of being refurbished. However, it was not included in the building budget. Fearing to miss the opportunity to include the adjoining structure in the renovation, the decorating committee took it upon themselves to raise the necessary money. A design was drawn up, furniture and accessories chosen, and a plea went out to the church members along with a list of items and costs. Individuals were asked to support the project by pledging money toward selected items or by a general donation. Not only were all new furnishings paid for, but the funds also included adding wainscoting to the walls, new trim to the windows, and much improved lighting overhead. The total cost of the renovation of the ladies lounge (also referred to as the Parlor) was \$11,524.00.

The total cost of the new entry/elevator project was \$419,748.00.

Those involved in the building project were:

Architects: Morrison, Kattman, Menze and Dodd Kattman

General Contractors: Joe H. Schwartz Construction, elevator and entry

Eric Fuelling Construction, Chapel and parlor

Heating & Air Conditioning: Mark's Heating and Air

Electrical: Fuhrman Electric

	<i>R & R Electrical</i>
<i>Plumbing:</i>	<i>Lehman Mechanical</i>
<i>Painting:</i>	<i>Advanced Painting,</i> <i>Joe Friedt</i>
<i>Cabinets & Wainscoting:</i>	<i>Specialty Woodworks, Eric</i> <i>and Doug Gerber</i>
<i>Carpeting:</i>	<i>Miller Floors and More</i>
<i>Building Committee:</i>	<i>David Collier, Ralph Smith,</i> <i>Lyman Hann, Grant Porter,</i> <i>Jim Bassett, Joe Wolpert</i> <i>and Larry Lautzenheiser</i>
<i>Decorating Committee:</i>	<i>Sandra Collier and Shirley</i> <i>Snyder</i>