People- Hawes, Pat
Aug 14 2011

MEMORIES OF THE EAGLE METHODIST CHURCH

Good Morning

I was asked by Pastor Larry to share some memories of this church - I guess he asked me because I am one of the "older"members now - although it doesn't seem possible, does it?

I was baptized in this church by Rev. Wm. Petherick, in 1935. I don't remember the baptism, of course, but I do remember Sunday School. I loved reciting Bible verses and singing Bible songs, like Jesus Loves Me and Away in a Manger. Sunday was also the day I was allowed to wear white cotton stockings (not the ugly brown ones I had to wear during the week). Every summer there would be a Sunday School picnic at Booth Lake. There would be games and food (lots of food) and then,(an hour after dinner, of course) we could swim. And there were two slides right in the water - WOW--What fun. And then - the Ice Cream Socials - Ruth Jones' Baked Beans - mmm I can taste them now- and I remember the Christmas Programs. Iloved the Christmas programs!!!

As I grew older, I joined the Methodist Youth Fellowship (MYF) group. Pastor Dean Jordan was our leader and mentor. I went to Camp Byron church camp - and nurtured my spiritual growth (and learned to braid lanyards).

In 8th grade I was allowed to join the church choir--- and sang with my mother who was also a member. Erla Badinger was our director, and Aurel Pardee our accompinist. She sang all the hymns at the top of her voice while playing the piano at the same time. I remember wearing green choir robes (made at the Moore's Sewing Co. in Palmyra) where my mother worked. We would put our robes downstairs and then line up on the stairway to the sanctuary, until it was time for the processional (which as I remember was always "Holy, Holy, Holy. My mother and I sang duets for many occasions - and then, as the years went by, it was my daughters and I singing together in the same choir. So, so many fond choir memories!

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My husband and I met at the church. His mother was a member and told Rob about this "nice" girl at church. He finally came to see her for himself, and the rest is history - 55 years of history to be exact. We were married in 1955 by Pastor Al Briggs. Rob's father died just before we married, and his mother died just after - so his brother and sister lived with us - and they,too, joined the MYF and participated in the church. Our children were baptized there 1 daughter was married there - two of our grandchildren were baptized there - both Rob and I taught Sunday School (which was fun and a challenge, too)So, as you see, I have so very many memories of Eagle Methodist Church. Our kids in Sunday School, Lori and Kathy lighting the candles together - every Sunday, Carolyn Boyden and I doing silly skits, the fun and fellowship of cooking and serving church dinners, bible study groups ----See what I mean?

As I looked over my notes, I thought "they asked me for memories ofthe church---this is a memory of my life!!"

But, then again, what is a church, but the place where people(like me), go to worship together, to work together and to build memories-together.

By Pat Hawes