

NEW M. E. CHURCH.

The Methodist Society in Dwight Will Commence the Construction of an Elegant Building.

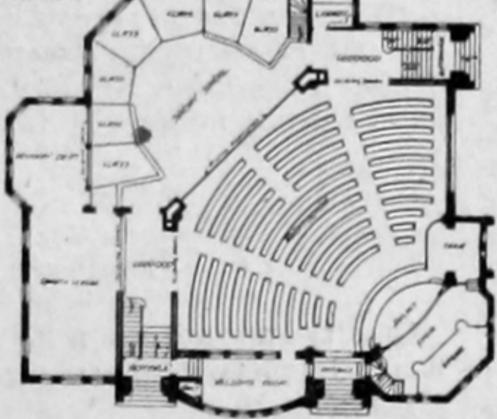
NEW M. E. CHURCH - DWIGHT, ILL.
BY W. BROWN, ARCHT.
 BROWN, BURTON & DAVID, ARCHTS.
 UNION TRUST BLDG. CONTRACTORS.



PROSPECTIVE NEW M. E. CHURCH.

The old M. E. Church in Dwight has about outlived its usefulness and before another year rolls around will be replaced with a handsome modern structure, both creditable to the good people of that congregation and to the beautiful city of Dwight. While the old building has a remarkable history and loving memories will ever linger about

M. E. CHURCH
 DWIGHT - ILL. W. BROWN, ARCHT.
 BROWN, BURTON & DAVID, ARCHTS.
 UNION TRUST BLDG. CONTRACTORS.



AUDITORIUM.

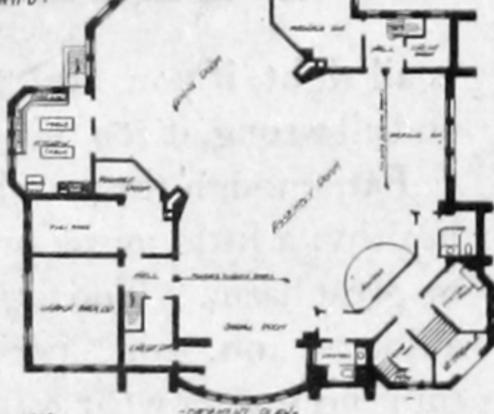
it, the need of a new church building is recognized by all, and the membership is unanimous in its wish that it be constructed.

In regard to the early religious history of Dwight, we copy the following from the "History of Dwight:"

The first appointment for a religious meeting in Dwight was in the house of Nelson Cornell. It was just before the great storm. A few people gathered but no preacher put in his appearance. Those who attended meeting at that time did so either at the log school house on the Mazon creek, or at Eber Stevens' barn. Local preachers or exhorters supplied the congregation.

The first public religious services held in this town were in a building afterwards occupied by J. J. Gore, on Lot 17 Block 6. It was used before the building was really finished, and thirty-seven persons attended the first school service on May 15, 1855. The following are all of the names of those present that we can now ascertain: D. McWilliams, Sec'y., John Conant, Mrs. Conant, Samuel Cutler, Mrs. Cutler, Henry Conant, Miss Melina Earl Henry and George Cutler, Robert

M. E. CHURCH
 DWIGHT - ILL. W. BROWN, ARCHT.
 BROWN, BURTON & DAVID, ARCHTS.
 UNION TRUST BLDG. CONTRACTORS.



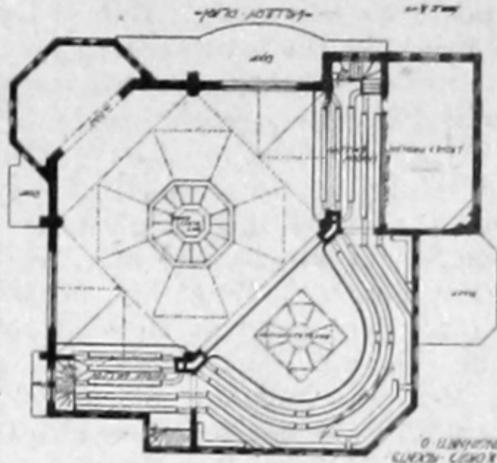
BASEMENT.

Thompson and several members of his family, John Rouzeng, Simeon Lutz, J. Travis, Augustus West, N. E. Lyman, and Ashley Bentley. The first sermon actually preached in the town was preached over the store of D. McWilliams on the second Sunday in June, 1855, by the Rev. A. D. Field, of the Rock River Conference. While here that gentleman formed the first religious society in the town; it was composed of six members.

We take the following from the Livingston county history of 1878, regarding churches.

As already noted, the first sermon preached in Dwight, was by Rev. A. D. Field, of the Methodist Episcopal

Church, in 1855. His circuit, known as the "Mazon Circuit", embraced all that tract of country south of the Illinois River, and extending from Morris to Avoca Townsh p. The society was organized with six members, viz: Simeon Lutz, John Routzong, Isaac Baker, Isabella Baker, David McWilliams and Jeremiah Travis. John Routzong was appointed leader of the class. The Rev. Mr. Field preached a few times during the summer, and at the next meeting of the Conference, two ministers were appointed to the "Mazon Circuit", and Dwight became one of the regular preaching places. From this time forward, there was preaching every alternate Sunday in the school house then just built. In 1862, the society was struck off from the Mazon Circuit, and Rev. O. W. Pollard appointed to the charges of Dwight, Odell and Pontiac. The society erected their first building in 1858, was dedicated in July of that year by the Rev. Dr. Kidder, of Evanston. About 1862-3, the society had so increased in numbers as to necessitate the enlargement of their building, and it was lengthened twenty feet. For nine years they worshipped in this building, when their present church was erected, at a cost of \$16,000, under the pastorate of Rev. E. D. Hall,



GALLERY.

and dedicated in October, 1867, by Rev. Eddy, then of Chicago."

Since the above dates the church has been in continual use up to the present time. While it is a fact that for several years many of the congregation have been in favor of a new church, it was not until the installing of the present able minister, A. R. Morgan, that the matter took permanent shape, and was pushed to a certainty.

While nothing definite has been adopted as to the exact plans of the structure, architects have already presented plans for adoption, and through the kindness of Mr. Morgan the STAR AND HERALD is enabled to present at this time the plans presented by one of the architects who visited here some time since. This plan in a general way seems to be popular with those who have seen them and many hope that they or similar ones will be adopted by the official board.

This is a matter which not only concerns the membership of the church but every citizen of Dwight and vicinity. It should be a matter of pride with all, and everyone should encourage the project in every way.

THE STAR AND HERALD is pleased to present the drawings and hopes at no distant day to announce that plans have been adopted and contracts let and that the real work is under way.

A meeting has been called for next Monday night and Mr. Brown, the architect, will be present and present plans for the new church, at which time a selection will be made.

Laying of the Corner Stone

The Exercises Interrupted by a Rain Storm
Rev. Joe Bell's Sermon not Finished,

M. E. CHURCH, - DWIGHT, ILL.
W. R. BROWN, ARCHT.
FOR
BROWN, BURTON & DAVIS, ARCHTS.,
UNION TRUST BLDG., CINT. OHIO.



Thursday afternoon at 2 o'clock several hundred of our citizens assembled at the West Side park to listen to the exercises and witness the laying of the corner stone of the new M. E. Church which is now in process of erection. The stone was a handsome piece of Missouri granite polished, cut inscribed and presented by Reeb Bros. of this city.

The exercises opened promptly at 2 p. m. by the singing of Hymn No. 856 by the choir after which Rev. A. Bower and Presiding Elder Wiley offered prayer. The choir sang an Anthem and was followed by the reading of the Scripture lesson by Rev. A. R. Morgan. Dr. C. L. Hamilton then delivered an address saying that this was a progressive age and that each year we recognized new requirements for the coming year. That the church found that its requirements demanded a large edifice in which to disseminate the knowledge and truths of God, which was made possible only by the liberality of our citizens. There was a motive in all this and this motive was the Corner Stone of Character which we hoped would be felt in the city of Dwight. His address was of about ten minutes duration and was eloquently delivered. He ended by introducing Rev. Joe Bell, of Streator, Ill.

Rev. Joe Bell took as his text "More than Conquerors" from Paul's Epistle to the Romans, 8th Chapter, 7th verse. He spoke of the miracles that Christ performed and how he had not simply been satisfied with doing them but did them with overflowingness. He spoke of the church and what it was for and expected to accomplish and that the congregation would in time find that they had been more than conquerors. He had just got the audience interested and spoke of army days when he had met and fraternized with the requirement in which our former citizen, Rev. E. F. Wright, was serving and what a good time they were having when the lightning warned all that rain was at hand. He stopped and told the people it was more important that they seek

shelter than hear the balance of his discourse, that he could talk against the whistling and rumbling of the trains but would give up to the storm. The audience then stepped over to the church lot and Rev. Morgan placed the box and contents in the stone and the

FIRST
M. E. CHURCH
1901.

stone was sealed and benediction said and all sought shelter from the descending rain. In the box were deposited the following articles:

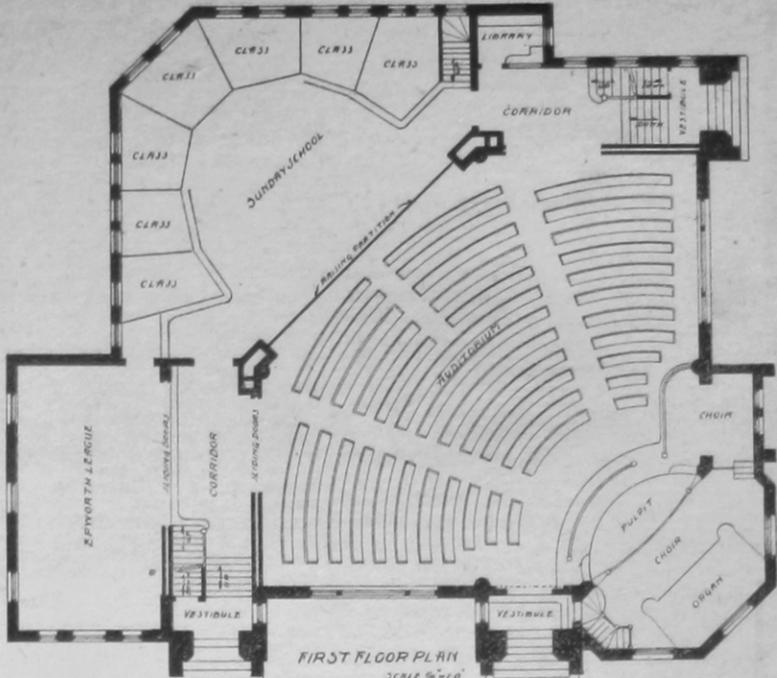
- A Bible.
- A Hymn book.
- A History of the organization of the church.
- Northwestern Christian Advocate.
- New York Advocate.
- Star & Herald.
- Dwight Journal.
- List of Trustees.
- List of Stewards.
- List of Sunday School Teachers.
- List of Epworth League Officers.
- List of Women's Foreign Missionary Society.
- List of Ladies' Social Union.
- List of Ladies' Needle Club.
- Names of building committee.
- Copy of Epworth League Herald.

The following which were taken from the old corner stone were also re-deposited in the new one:

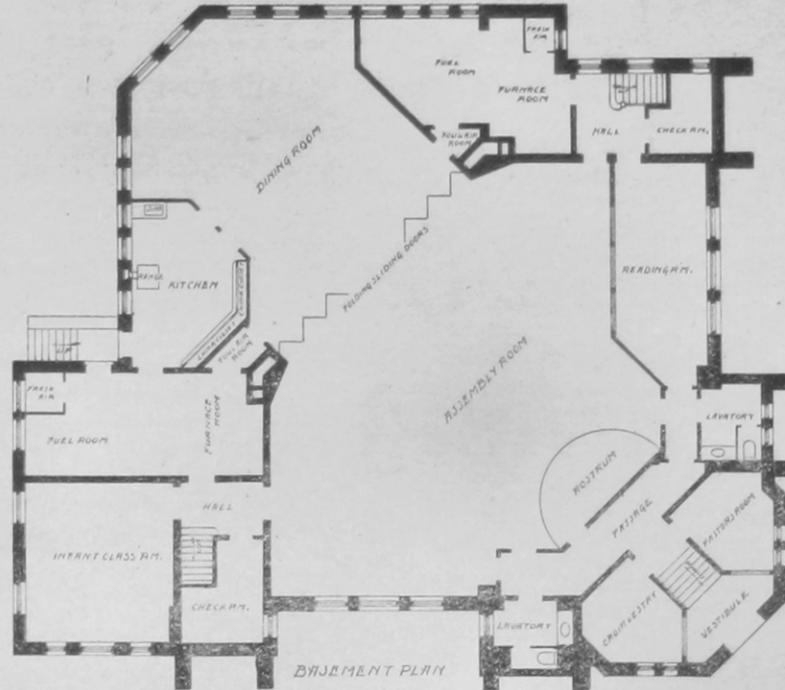
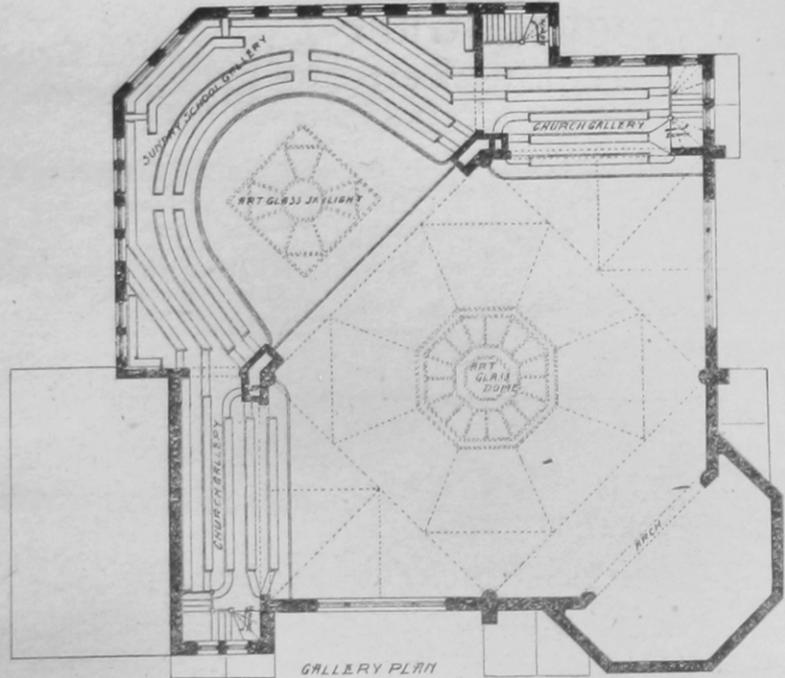
- A Wesley Medal.
- A 2 cent piece of date 1866.
- A 2 cent piece of date 1864.
- A 3 cent piece of 1867 date.
- A 10 cent piece of 1855 date.
- A Canadian Penny.
- An English Shilling.

On the scaffolding beside Rev. Morgan as he deposited the box were Rev. Joe Bell, Presiding Elder Wiley, Rev. A. Bower and John Vickery, who watched the masons seal and cover the box and stone with mortar and brick after which Rev. Wiley pronounced the benediction.

M.E. CHURCH - DWIGHT, ILL.
 W.R. BROWN, ARCHT.
 FOR
 BROWN, BURTON & DAVIS, ARCHTS.,
 UNION TRUST BLDG., CINTL. OHIO.



M.E. CHURCH - DWIGHT - ILL.
 W.R. BROWN - ARCHT. FOR
 BROWN, BURTON & DAVIS - ARCHTS.
 UNION TRUST BLDG. - CINTL. O.
 433 WABASH AVE. - CHICAGO - ILL.



NEW M. E. CHURCH PLANS.

NEW M. E. CHURCH.

EVERYONE WHO CAN SEEMS ANXIOUS TO ASSIST IN THIS GRAND ENTERPRISE.

As the STAR AND HERALD has always predicted it is no particular trouble to accomplish anything good in this community. We have a liberal, just people and a good enterprize will succeed. Such is the case and is exemplified by the liberal manner in which our citizens who have been called on have subscribed toward the building fund of the new M. E. church. Many have been seen and many have not, but undoubtedly every one will do the best they can.

Through the courtesy of Rev. Morgan the STAR AND HERALD presents pictures of the new church, the plans for which have been adopted.

It will be a fine edifice, modern in all details, and the furnishings will be up-to-date.

Every citizen of Dwight should take pride in this enterprise and push it along.

Rev. Morgan is working hard for success and he will have it.