

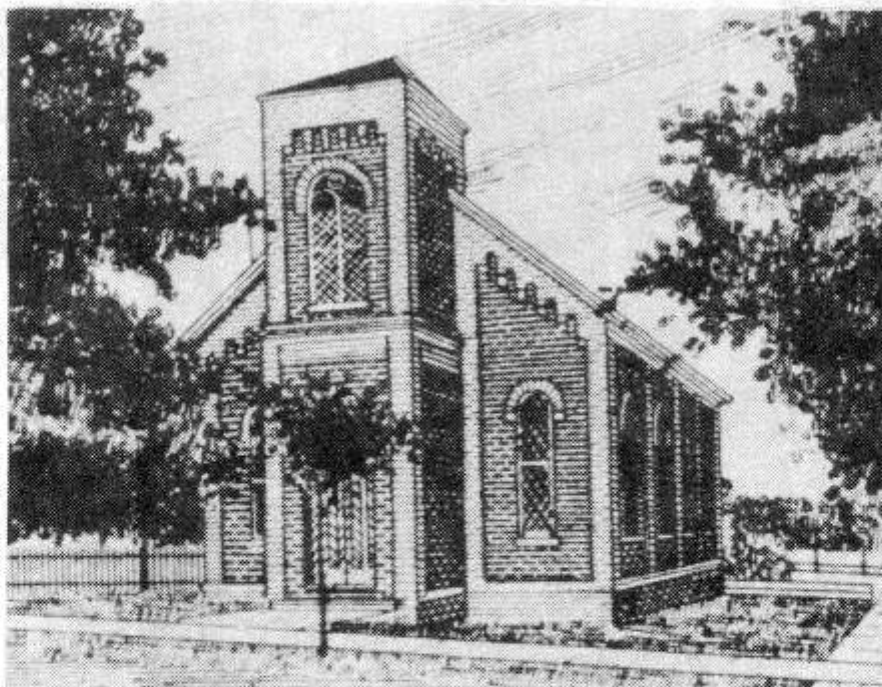
I read it in the paper

**First Presbyterian Church
Villisca, Iowa**

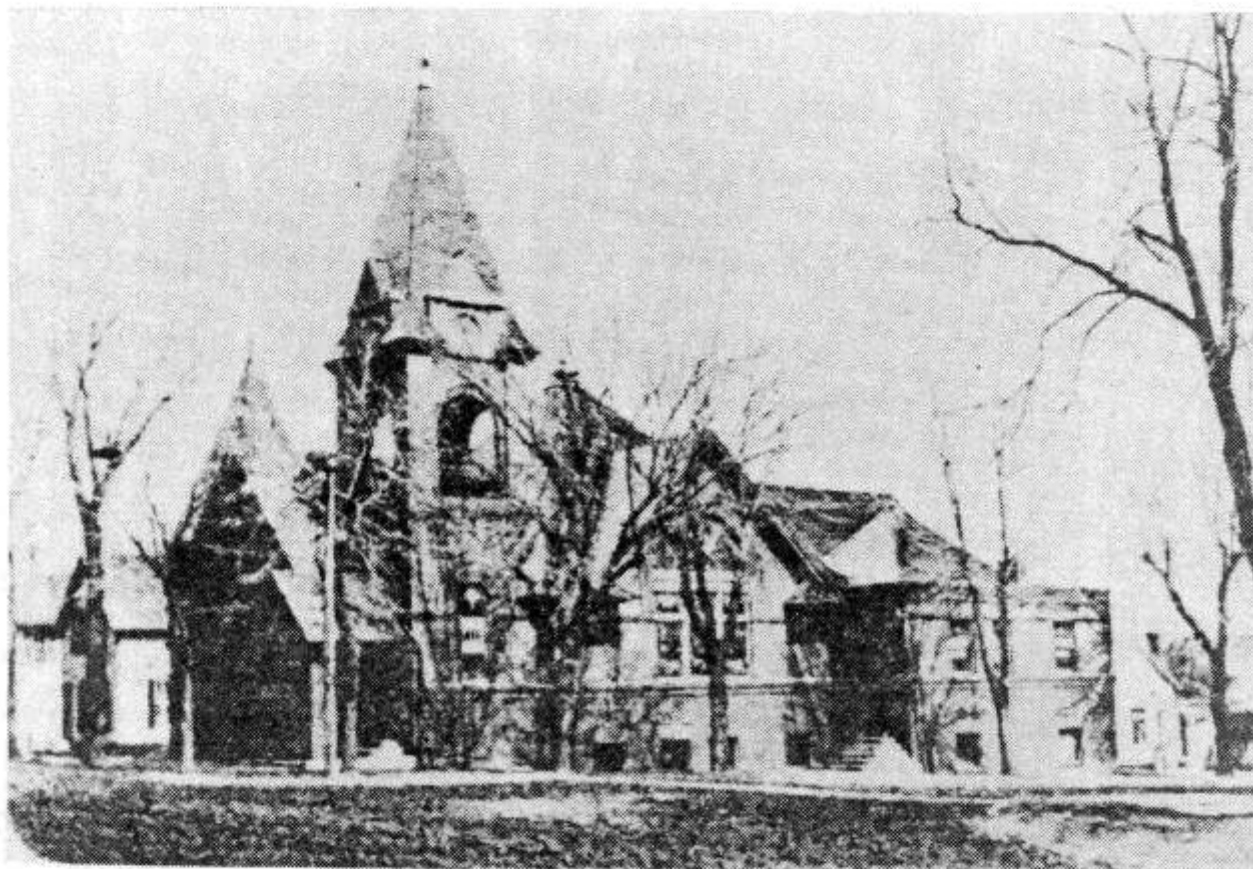
Elaine Artlip
1989

I READ IT IN THE PAPER
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Villisca, Iowa

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First Presbyterian Church
1875 - 1898



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Villisca, Iowa

1899

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The Ladies Aid

The old church bell had long been cracked, Its call was but a groan;
It seemed to sound a funeral knell With every broken tone.
"We need a bell", the brethren said, "But taxes must be paid;
We have no money we can spare- Just ask the Ladies Aid."

The shingles on the roof were old, The rain came down in rills.
The brethren slowly shook their heads, And spoke of "monthly bills".
The chairman of the board arose, And said, "I am afraid
That we shall have to lay the case Before the Ladies Aid."

The carpet had been patched and patched Till quite beyond repair.
And thru the aisles and up the steps The boards showed, hard and bare.
"It is too bad," the brethren said; "An effort must be made
To raise an interest on the part Of members of the Aid."

The preacher's stipend was behind; The poor man blushed to meet
The grocer and the butcher as They passed him on the street.
But nobly spoke the brethren then, "Pastor, you shall be paid!
We'll call upon the treasurer Of our good Ladies Aid."

"Ah!" said the men, "the way to Heaven Is long and hard and steep.
With slopes of ease on either side, The path is hard to keep.
We cannot climb the heights alone; Our hearts are sore dismayed.
We ne'er shall get to Heaven at all Without the Ladies Aid."

Anonymous



photo by carolyn gage

Notes

More truth than poetry in those lines. From the earliest days of the Villisca Presbyterian Church the women have been the foundation stone, the back bone, and any other prop needed to keep the organization going. In the early days of the church, the women sat on the left side of the aisle, and the men on the right side. In 1910, the young married couples started sitting together. It has been said that the liberation of the Presbyterian women started then; I think they were pretty well liberated long before that.

I like to read old newspapers. And the Villisca Review is a treasure trove of information. It was started 14 July, 1871, as The Weekly Iowa Mercury. It was a month too late to note the organization of a Presbyterian Society, but has faithfully reported Presbyterian doings for 117 years. Well, more or less faithfully. (The paper became the Villisca Review on 7 March, 1872.)

I didn't set out to compile a history of Villisca Presbyterians. In fact, I have vigorously denied that I was going to do so. But while looking for information on other matters, I would see fascinating accounts of Presbyterian activities. I started copying some of the items, and somewhere along the way, the aimless collecting turned into a project.

I learned that there might be very little resemblance between an entry in the official minutes of the church, and the way the same event was reported in the local paper. For entertainment value, the Review would usually win. And it covered many things not mentioned in the minutes. Of course, the minutes contain some things not reported in the paper, such as those occasions when some back-slider was summoned before the board to repent of his sinful ways.

This is not an official history of the church. It doesn't list the members, or give their vital statistics, although I think those records should be copied and made available to the public. This report is primarily concerned with the day-to-day events in the life of the church, and relatively few names are mentioned. Membership lists, names of trustees, amount of the preacher's salary, and such things can be found in the church record books.

I am grateful to Carolyn Gage and the staff of the Review for their patience and forbearance. I spend so much time there that people think I am one of the employees.

So here is the story of our church, as reported at the time it happened. Notes have been added where needed to provide clarification or further information. May this account instill in all of us a deep respect for those determined laborers who built the Villisca Presbyterian Church.

Elaine Artlip

I READ IT IN THE PAPER

First Presbyterian Church
Villisca, Iowa

1871

- 29 Dec: A pleasant affair indeed, was the Christmas sociable held at the Baptist Church in this place on Monday evening. Two-score or more of little folks were present besides quite a number of parents and friends of the school. The exercises consisted of singing by the scholars, addresses by several of the teachers and others, and closed with a generous distribution of candies, nuts, apples &c.

(Note: There were probably some Presbyterians present that evening. The Presbyterian Society was organized 10 June, 1871, in the Methodist Church. After that, their services were usually held in the Baptist church. In 1871, Samuel F. McAfee, Red Oak pastor, was appointed stated supply of the infant church for a period of one year; he was to preach once a month. Presumably that schedule was followed, but the local paper was not impressed; it didn't mention the word "Presbyterian" until September of 1872.)

1872

- 26 Sept: Rev. Mr. Strauthers, Presbyterian minister from Bushnell, Ill, will preach in the Baptist church in this place next Sunday at 11:00 and also in the evening at half past 7.

1873

- 14 Febr: Rev. Robinson, Presbyterian, preached at the Baptist church last Sunday, Rev. McAfee assisting in the services.
4 Apr: PRESBYTERIAN PREACHING: Rev. Mr. Robinson will preach at the schoolhouse in Villisca next Sunday morning at 11:00 and also in the evening.

1874

(Note: There is a gap in the Review files, from May, 1873, to Dec, 1874. Exciting things were happening during those days, but most of the events have been reviewed in items from later years. Courthouse records show the following:

Montgomery County Deed Book; 18 Aug: George Loomis and wife; Augustus Frank and wife; Hans Thielsen and wife to Trustees of Presbyterian Church, South half lots 253 and 254.....)

1875

- 30 Sept: Rev. J. L. Jones refuses to accept the nomination for County Superintendent of Schools recently tendered him by the Democratic Convention at Red Oak.

---The Presbyterian Sewing Society will meet next Saturday afternoon, at 2 o'clock at the home of Mr. Elias Smith

(Note: The Ladies Sewing Circle was organized 20 May, 1874, for the purpose of raising funds to assist in furnishing the new church which was to be built.)

28 Oct: The ladies of the Presbyterian church will hold a sociable with supper connected, next Wednesday evening, at the residence of Mr. Burleson. All are cordially invited.

---Rev. Jones will preach the first sermon in his new church next Sunday morning at the usual hour- 11 o'clock. The building will be ready for use by that time, although the full completion will not be reached until next spring. A hot air furnace has been put in the basement, and it is thought will be amply sufficient to warm the large audience room. The new seats are of a handsome and unique pattern and will be cushioned in a manner corresponding with the other elegant appointments. When entirely finished it will be something for Villisca to be proud of.

4 Nov: The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be administered in the Presbyterian Church next Sabbath.

This day marks the second anniversary of the Rev. Jones' pastorate in Villisca. Services commence at 11 o'clock a.m.

25 Nov: The ladies of the Presbyterian Church are preparing for a grand entertainment which will be held at Furgason's Hall Dec. 15th, 1875. Those who desire to buy fancy and useful things for Christmas, will have a fine opportunity to gratify their desire. No effort nor cost will be spared to make this entertainment one of the best that has ever taken place in Villisca. There will be a festival, also, in connection with the fair. All the proceeds will be devoted towards furnishing the Presbyterian Church.

9 Dec: The Presbyterian Sunday School had its first regular session last Sunday in the new church. The attendance was good, especially among the older ones. In this day of the world the Sunday School is recognized as one of the grand powers of enlightenment and aged children, as well as the younger, are finding out its advantages more and more. The officers are: Supt, H. H. McCartney; Sec, J. A. McCain; Librarian, W. W. Ellis. Mrs. Lyons has charge of the old folks Bible Class and Mr. Dolson the Bible Class for the young folks. The school already has a fine library, most of the volumes being presented by the pastor, Rev. Jones.

23 Dec:Presbyterian fair.....\$200 profit.....will be used to upholster the seats.....

30 Dec: Annual Meeting: The annual meeting of the Presbyterian Society will be held next Saturday evening, Jan. 1st, 1876, at 7 o'clock in the church. The regular business of the society will be transacted, and provisions will be made for the support of the gospel the ensuing year, and if no better way is suggested, the trustees propose to rent the pews for one year, in order to raise the minister's salary; and if the majority of the congregation will be in favor of the proposition, the pews will be rented next Saturday evening. A large attendance is expected.

E. Smith
Trustees: W.W. Ellis
C. N. Preston

1876

3 Febr: The sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be administered in the Presbyterian Church next Sabbath at 11 a.m. Preparatory lecture next

Friday evening at 7 in the church, after which an opportunity will be given for any to unite with the church either by profession or by letter.

- 10 Febr: The membership of Rev. Jones' church was increased by nine accessions, last Sunday.
- 17 Febr: The cushions for the pews of Rev. Jones' church arrived Tuesday.
- 23 Mar: Presbyterian Dedication and Installation: Despite the stormy weather of last Sunday the 19th inst. a large congregation gathered at the Presbyterian church in this place to attend the Dedication services. From abroad were Reverends Cleland, of Council Bluffs; McAfee, of Red Oak and Janes of Corning, while the ministers of our own town were all seated on the rostrum behind the pulpit. Rev. Cleland preached one of the finest sermons, by many pronounced the best, ever heard in Villisca, after which the dedication services were performed and the house henceforth pronounced the "Temple of the Lord of Hosts." A brief sketch of the history of the church, epitomized from the history given by Rev. Jones, may not be inopportune at this time. The first steps for church organization were taken June 10th, 1871; the organization completed June 11th; the society was organized January 2d, 1874, and duly incorporated as soon as possible thereafter. Immediate steps were taken, looking towards building: committees appointed, subscriptions raised, and everything pushed forward with vigor. Early in August of the same year, ground was broken for the new edifice, and ere winter set in, the building was enclosed and safe from damage by frost or storm. The house is a neat and substantial brick building, 32 x 50, with elegant stained windows, and when the spire is completed, will be a very pretty church externally; but "'tis the heart makes the home," and the heart of the little church is as warm, genial, and cheery, as the well remembered hearthstones of our childhood.- Glancing down the aisles, the cosy comfortable pews, constructed of black and white walnut, finished in oil, and supplied with rich garnet colored cushions, tempt one to disregard the kind attentions of the ushers, and throw himself in the first one he comes to. At the extreme end of the middle aisle appears a handsome pulpit desk, the gift of Mr. Jones, and the workmanship of Mr. Samuel Marsh, surmounted by a tasty garnet colored Bible desk or cushion, the gift of Mrs. W. S. Coggshall, while lying thereon the beautiful morocco and gilt Bible, a present from the Sabbath School of the Presbyterian church of Guilford Center, N. Y., completes the picture. By day the soft mellow light from the stained windows enhances the beauty of the furnishing, while a golden light from the beautiful chandeliers, floods everything in the room after dark. The church is heated by a Kaiser Furnace in the basement, and hence no stoves appear to mar the symmetry of the room. The building has cost about \$4,700, and the work yet to be done, will perhaps cost \$1,000 more; the spire is to put up, and a lecture room in the basement is contemplated by the officers of the church. The Board of church erection gave \$1,000 to the building, and the ladies of the church have raised, by means of sociables and festivals, about \$600. The town company was quite generous, giving the lot, and Mr. Augustus Frank giving \$100, and Mr. R.A. Crippen \$50 towards the building. The Installation exercises in the evening were very fine, Mr. Janes preaching an excellent sermon, Mr. Cleland delivering the charge to the pastor, and Mr. McAfee, the charge to the flock, and grand charges they were, too. One of the most pleasing things of the day, was to see Presbyterian, Methodist and Baptist ministers uniting in the service, and hear Rev. Jones speak of the church as "Born in the Methodist church

and raised in the Baptist." Mr. Jones' high encomium of the choir, brought scarlet to the singers' faces, but certainly not the flush of anger. A very stormy day outside but a very pleasant and profitable day within, was dedication and installation day for Villisca Presbyterian Church.

(Note: The church still has the Bible, and the pew in the front entry hall is probably one of these.)

- 27 Apr: At Presbytery recently in Council Bluffs, Rev. J. L. Jones was elected commissioner to the General Assembly at Brooklyn, N. Y., commencing May 18th.....
- 31 Aug: The subject of the Sabbath school lesson for next Sabbath is "Intemperance," and on the same subject, Rev. Jones will preach next Sabbath evening in the Presbyterian church, pointing out some of the evils of intemperance and the remedy for it.
- 21 Dec: The ladies of the Presbyterian church have sent to New York for 170 yards of fine carpet with which the whole floor will be carpeted and they have nearly enough money to pay for it. They haven't made much noise while raising it, either.

1877

4 Jan: Instead of the regular services at the Presbyterian church on Sunday evening, an old fashioned class meeting was held, a la Methodists, as it were. Several interesting experiences were related.

4 Jan: The new ingrain carpet for the Presbyterian church arrived last evening and the ladies one and all said "it is just a love of a carpet, O, my, isn't it?" Church goes next Sunday will be allowed to tread on it if the ladies get it ready in time.

--- Week of Prayer - 1877; Monday, Jan. 8th: Prayer-Thanksgiving for national, social and religious and temporal mercies during the past centennial year, with confessions of shortcomings and misimprovements of privileges, at the Presbyterian church. Services conducted by Rev. Newell.

12 Apr: On Friday evening last, in Ferguson's hall, an entertainment in behalf of the Presbyterian Sunday School was given by a few of the teachers, assisted by others. The time of preparation was short, and little dissensions in the inevitable "committees" caused a few slight defects in the exercises, yet averaging the whole of the programme, tableaux, wax figures, recitations and music, the audience voted "good, very good." Most commendable was the part of Mrs. Jarley, so perfectly carried out by Miss Allison. Her observations of the various figures were appropriate and witty, and elicited hearty applause. The tableaux, though well conceived and striking, were spoiled by poor lights. The music by Kay's Band and singing by the Presbyterian Choir, of course were all an audience could wish. Mr. J. F. McCartney, of Holt, Taylor County, lent the aid of his trained and pleasant voice and was frequently applauded.

The public will be pleased to learn that it is the intention to give these entertainments frequently. If as good as this, they will always be well received.

(Note: Ferguson's Hall was over Sheppard & Son Store)

7 June: The ladies of the Presbyterian church will hold a Fair and Festival, Friday evening, June 15, in the building on the southeast corner of the square. There will be fancy and useful things for sale, ice cream, cake and strawberries served in abundance. All are cordially invited to attend.

4 Oct: Our town was highly complimented by the Presbyterian ministers lately visiting it. They think Villisca is a gem, in beautiful location, in the hospitality of its people, and its neat and elegant churches. The Presbyterian Church, they say, is the best appointed in the Council Bluffs Presbytery. They also speak in glowing terms of the fine choir, which rendered excellent sacred pieces throughout the session.....

(Note: This was a long article on the Presbytery meeting)

13 Dec: The ladies of the Presbyterian church will have their entertainment next Wednesday evening, Dec. 17, at the Highland House, the proceeds of which will be used towards paying for the church organ. At the Fair you will find a large variety of beautiful and useful things, a good place to buy your Christmas presents. On the table you will find the inevitable oyster, and all the good things of the season in abundance. Come one and all.

27 Dec: The Presbyterian ladies have paid \$75 on their organ.

1878

7 Nov: Last Sabbath evening the Rev. J. L. Jones, pastor of the Presbyterian church, preached his fifth anniversary sermon, from the text, Joshua 13:1, "There remaineth not very much land to be possessed."

During the past five years, the membership of the church has been increased from 18 to 80, and all the original members, except two removed by death, are now in the church. A church building has been erected at the cost of nearly \$5,000, all paid for. The pastor has preached over 500 sermons, officiated at 50 funerals, joined in marriage 35 couples, baptised 20 infants, and received into the church 70 members.....

14 Nov: A Raid Upon a Minister and His Family: I do not write very often about my people, but I am so greatly aroused at their conduct as I closed my fifth year among them, that I wish to tell the whole world about it. The Minister and his wife were called to attend a wedding 40 miles from here, and the children were charged to take good care of the house. We were to return at 8 o'clock the next evening, and we drove up just in time, for our miserable driver knew all about it, and we were entirely ignorant and unprepared. We heard a tremendous shouting, they called it singing, "Hold the Fort," and they held it. The house was crowded with people, they had the advantage and they laughed at us when we tried to enter in, and we did not know whether to laugh or cry. We demanded an explanation. They put all the blame on one of the ladies, who they said planned the invasion, marshalled the host, and skillfully led the jolly band to victory. One of my boys who felt his responsibility, and was determined that no burglar or tramp should come near the house while we were away was scared out of his senses, but when he went out into the barn in the morning and discovered piles of corn for his pigs, he came into the house smiling, and said that he was not so scared after all. And we also thought just so, when we discovered the piles of packages on the kitchen table, the barrel of apples in the cellar, the sacks of flour in the pantry and the package of silver, properly mixed with "greenbacks." And we now feel very much as the Irishman felt after he fell from a high building to the ground. Some one shouted to him, "Pat, are ye dead?" "No," said he, "I'm not dead, but spachless."

J. L. Jones

- 21 Nov: Union services at the Presbyterian church on Thanksgiving Day at 11 o'clock a.m. Rev. W. F. Laidley will preach.....
- 12 Dec: The Presbyterian friends have secured a beautiful and very useful map of Palestine for the Sunday School, which is a premium for a denominational paper called the Interior.
- 26 Dec: The annual meeting of the Presbyterian church and Society will be held Saturday night, January 4th, 1879, at 7 o'clock for the purpose of electing one trustee, and making provision for the pastor's salary..... All members are requested to be present.

1879

- 9 Jan: Our Presbyterian friends have changed the plan heretofore followed by them in regard to the seats in their church. In the past they have rented their pews, and at their last official meeting it was decided to adopt the "free seat" plan. We believe this will be the best thing that could be done.
- 17 Apr: Rev. Jones goes to Walnut to attend the meeting of the Council Bluff Presbytery, which takes place the latter part of this week and first of next. Rev. Laidley will preach next Sabbath morning at the Presbyterian church and in the evening at the M. E. church. The congregations will unite in these services.
- 1 May: The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be administered in the Presbyterian church next Sabbath morning. Preparatory services next Friday evening at 8 o'clock. All the members of the church are expected to be present at these services, and also those who wish to unite with the church.
- 4 Sept: During July and August, evening preaching was dispensed with in the Presbyterian church. It will be resumed again next Sabbath.... at 7 and one half o'clock.....
- 20 Nov: Preaching in the Presbyterian church next Sabbath morning and evening. And on account of extra work appointed by Presbytery, I will preach here for the next four months, the second and fourth Sabbaths of each month..... The last Sabbath of this month I expect to be at Stanton and the first Sabbath of next month at Pilot Grove.

Rev. J. L. Jones

1880

- 1 Jan: The ladies of the Presbyterian church planned to give the members of the Sunday School supper on Christmas eve, but on account of the extreme cold weather, it was deemed advisable to postpone it. Last Sunday it was announced to come off on New Year's Eve. And to anyone passing the old store of the Messrs. Shephards between the hours of 7 and 10 last nite, from the noise heard within, the clattering of dishes, the shouts of the happy children, and the more subdued but fully as expressive, manifestations of older ones, with a stomach well satisfied, could not fail to know that whatever was going on within was a success, which conclusion we think would be endorsed by all present.
- 29 Jan: The reputation always enjoyed by the ladies of the Presbyterian church for conducting grand festivals was fully sustained at their last one, held Thursday evening of last week at the Hall. There were five or six tables, each presided over by a businesslike lady cashier, and two or three pretty waiters, who whipped around with the eatables like flashes of sunshine. And those tables were tastefully and bountifully spread with miracles in the line of solid eatables as well as fancy

doings, cakes, etc. We sat down at the first we came to, and regretted that our 20 minutes stay prevented us from going on a tasting tour all around the hall. The receipts of the evening were \$65.

- 1 Apr: WHEREAS, Our Pastor, Rev. J. L. Jones, after a faithful pastorate of seven years, has deemed it advisable and to the interest of our church to resign his pastorate charge and

Whereas the trustees of our church after long consideration, have deemed that the most certain and effectual way of placing our church on a sound financial basis is to relieve the society of the current expense of paying a regular pastor's salary till our present pastor and brother in Christ be fully paid the amount due him from our church. Therefore

Resolved, That the resignation of Rev. J. L. Jones as Pastor of the Villisca Presbyterian Church be and is hereby accepted.....

- 18 Nov: Rev. J. B. Welty will hold services in the Presbyterian church Thursday and Friday evenings of this week and next Sunday, morning and evening. Mr. Welty stands high in this Presbytery and a cordial invitation is extended to attend these meetings.

- 30 Dec: The Presbyterian churches of this place and Afton have given a call to Rev. J. B. Welty of Logan, this state, to serve them as pastor the coming year. Mr. Welty will hold services at the church here, on the first and third Sunday of each month, and will spend part of the time in our midst..... The Presbyterian society here are happy over the success of their efforts to secure Mr. Welty for their pastor It is to be hoped he will make this place his home

(Note: Welty was Stated Supply.)

1881

- 17 Mar: Revs. Miller and Welty, of the Baptist and Presbyterian churches respectively, are holding a series of revival meetings and some good sermons are being preached by both parties.

- 31 Mar: An entertainment for the benefit of the Presbyterian Church was held at the Opera House on Tuesday evening. "Jarley's wax works" was the chief attraction. Mrs. Jarley was perfect, and the "figgers," especially the Chinese giant, who "snickerd right out in meetin'," at a critical juncture, covered themselves with glory. Miss Scott favored the audience with two of her best renditions and was warmly applauded. The tableaux didn't go off with great eclat owing to a failure in the chemical lights, but there was an abundant programme besides them and they were not needed to make a very pleasant evening.

- 26 May: Rev. J. B. Welty of the Presbyterian pulpit is firing some destructive shot into the camp of the devil in this place, which, if followed up will soon produce such a rattling of dry bones among evildoers that an unconditional surrender will result. A more fearless sermon we have seldom heard than that of last Sunday evening, and the language at the same time was eloquent and pleasing.

- 26 May: A Literary Sociable will be given at the Presbyterian Church next Tuesday evening, May 31. Literary exercises and good music will be the order of the evening and a good time is anticipated. Admission, 10 cents.

- 30 June: Presbyterian Church, regular services again on July 3rd at 11 and 8 o'clock

- 7 July: The ladies of the Presbyterian church will give a Lawn Festival in the park Friday evening, July 8. Refreshments served at 20 cents. Everybody invited.

22 Sept: In Memoriam: The Presbyterian Church is making preparations for Memorial Services in honor of our late President, and they cordially invite all to unite with them.

On Sunday morning the church will be draped, and the general services arranged with special care for the occasion. The subject of the discourse: "The Nation in Sorrow." Services begin at 10:30 prompt.

On Monday at 2 p.m, which is the time fixed for the interment of the President's body, appropriate services will again be held. Eulogies will be pronounced on the occasion by F. P. Greenlee, H. H. McCartney, and Rev. J. B. Welty.

(Note: President Garfield was assassinated.)

1 Dec: The Presbyterians have been setting their church in order this week. A new flue is being erected and the furnace readjusted. The master workman in the business says there is no doubt it will now warm the audience room to full satisfaction.

22 Dec: The supper served Friday evening under the management of the Presbyterian ladies was very liberally patronized by the citizens generally. The tables were brilliant with silverware and fine service of all kinds and were provided with attentive waiters. The roast pig and other viands were highly appreciated. The receipts were about \$56.

---Rev. Welty closed his pastoral relation with the Presbyterian church in this place last Sunday..... During the year Rev. Welty has been with us, he has not only built up and strengthened his church both in membership and increase of congregation, but has secured the esteem and friendship of the citizens..... and with the New Year he will commence his pastorate at Creston.

1882

31 Aug: The Presbyterian basket social at J. T. Ingham's last night was postponed until tonight and the weather permitting it will be the most immense thing of the season. Come and enjoy yourself in a new and novel way.

14 Sept: From Rev. Hull's farewell sermon at the Methodist Church: "..... when strangers come to a town this size and move onto a street full of Methodist, Baptists or Presbyterians who will freeze him and his family for six months by a cold, distant treatment,..... is it strange that he neglects his church privileges?"

21 Sept: With two of Villisca's church pulpits so long vacant, leaving the brunt of the battle against sin to be borne by Rev. Hull, the devil and numerous following are surely enjoying a partial advantage which the good people of the Presbyterian and Baptist churches should hasten to remove by employing pastors as soon as possible. The Presbyterians and all those interested in that church should not fail to attend the preaching of Rev. Brown tonight, Friday night and Sunday morning and evening. If he suits the congregation he should be employed at once and the Baptists should go and do likewise so that the ranks may be filled up.

9 Nov: Rev. Brown, the new pastor, will preach in the Presbyterian church next Sunday morning.

16 Nov: A new brick flue is being built for the furnaces of the Presbyterian church building.

14 Dec: Rev. Frisbie's entertainment at the Presbyterian Church next Monday evening should not be missed by anyone who appreciates good poetry and good reading. Admission 15 cents.

1883

- 19 July: The festival for the benefit of the Presbyterian Sunday School to have been held in the park was transferred to Lutton's Rink on account of the rain.
- 13 Dec: Everybody turn out to the Presbyterian Fair next Tuesday evening. A nice supper will be served and other nicer things to buy for Holiday presents.

1884

- 3 Jan: A large audience was present at the Presbyterian Church Christmas Eve to see the distribution of presents to the Sunday School. The pyramid of evergreens, wax tapers and other pretty things was a beautiful sight.
- 10 Apr: Next Sunday, the Presbyterian Sunday School will observe Easter by appropriate exercises. The easter eggs which the scholars are getting filled with small coins will be broken Tuesday evening and the contents devoted to the necessities of the school.
- 26 June: A new sidewalk is being built on the south side of the Presbyterian church.
- 24 July: Workmen are kalsoming the Presbyterian Church.
- 31 July: The Presbyterian congregation should be congratulated on the fine appearance of the interior of the church. Ceilings, walls, floor, pews, cushions, look spick and clean, and serve to show what a devine virtue cleanliness is.

1885

- 19 Mar: During the winter, Rev. W. B. Brown, pastor of the Presbyterian Church, has been holding a series of revival meetings and has experienced a very marked outpouring of the spirit. Last Sabbath the pastor saw the fruition of his hopes realized in the accession to the church of 16 new members.....
- 25 June: The ladies of the Presbyterian Church realized nearly \$50 from their lawn festival last Saturday.
- 6 Aug: The Presbyterian parsonage is to be built on a lot west of W. Shepard's residence.
 (Note: Alan Wolfe's house. [10 Jan, 1885; Deed; Thomas E. Paine and wife to Trustees of Presbyterian church; west half Lot 9 of Sub-division 9] On 20 August, they bought the east half of the same lot. It is said that the ladies of the church were in charge of the project. The Board of Church Erection had just started to make interest-free loans, and the Villisca church received the first such loan; it was for \$300. This was the first residence for pastors provided by the church. J. B. Cunningham, who was here only for three months in the summer of 1873, boarded around, like an early day school teacher. When J. L. Jones came, he bought a house.)
- 1 Oct: Presbyterial Missionary Convention - The Convention at Villisca will be opened on Wednesday, September 30, at 7:30 p.m..... The convention will close on Thursday evening
- (Note: The Villisca Women's Missionary Society was organized 30 March, 1879)
- 29 Oct: Rev. Brown moved into the new Presbyterian parsonage Tuesday. This

will be one of the most comfortable and elegant homes in north Villisca.

1886

- 11 Nov: The ladies of the Presbyterian Church will give a Thanksgiving dinner at the Opera House on Thursday, Nov. 25. An old fashioned Thanksgiving dinner will be served, beginning at 12 o'clock.

1887

- 25 Aug: Rev. W. B. Brown has signified his intention to accept the call of the Presbyterian church at Wakeeny, Kansas, to become its pastor and expects to be there by October first
- 29 Sept: The farewell sermon of the Presbyterian pastor, Rev. Brown, will be delivered by him at the church, next Sunday.
- Rev. Brown will sell part of his household goods, also a good milk cow, at auction, next Saturday, on the north side of the square.
 - It is understood that the Ladies of the Presbyterian church will be prepared to give their annual Thanksgiving Dinner at the Town Hall Nov. 25.....

1888

- 15 Mar: There will be services at the Presbyterian church, next Sunday morning and evening by Rev. Hetrick. It is about definitely settled that he will remain here as pastor in charge..... He is a scholarly, thoughtful sermonizer, has a pleasant delivery and an agreeable manner he is a graduate of Princeton, and his home has been in Canterbury, Connecticut.
- 6 Sept: Memorial services in honor of Gen. Sheridan were conducted by Rev. Hetrick at the Presbyterian Church last Sunday. The pulpit had as a background a large flag, with equestrian pictures of Sheridan. Flags were also draped on either side post of the entrance. The GAR and WR Corps attended the services, marching from their lodge room to the church in a body
- 27 Dec: At the Presbyterian Church, the preparations for the Christmas Eve exercises were quite elaborate. The evening was opened by an overture, a medley of familiar sacred airs, by an orchestra composed of Fred Jenkins, first violin; Fred Childs, second violin; C. B. Kempton, clarinet; Theron Bates and Ernest McCartney, cornets; J. F. McCartney, cello; and Prof. Townsend at the organ. The music was finely rendered and the audience would have been delighted to hear them again. Then came an anthem by the choir, which is famous for its good voices; invocation by the Pastor, recitations, etc. - in all a program extending over nearly two hours time (the little ones were very patient). And then came Santa Claus in furs and with sleigh bells jingling, and began handing down presents from the Christmas tree. There were keepsakes, fruits, candies, etc. for everybody and to spare. The tree, a large evergreen, was beautifully decorated.

1889

- 21 Febr: The Presbyterian congregation has always been fortunate in having an excellent choir and now the music has been still further improved and strengthened by cornet accompaniment by Theron Bates. He blows a smooth

soft tone blending perfectly with the tenor. His engagement began last Sunday.

- 7 Mar: The Carnival of Seasons, given at the Opera House last evening by the Presbyterian ladies was well patronized, the gross receipts being about \$80. The decorations of the various booths and of the room generally, were the finest ever seen in the Hall.
- 22 Aug: The Methodist, Baptist and Presbyterian Sunday Schools held a combination picnic yesterday afternoon in Dr. McNaughton's grove, north of town. There were between 350 and 400 picnickers.

1890

- 2 Jan: The Presbyterian choir presented Silas Simpson with a fine photo album in appreciation of his services as organist.
- 19 June: Rev. F. W. Grossman of Council Bluffs, who preached in the Presbyterian church a week ago Sabbath, will preach there again next Sabbath, June 22, morning and evening.
- 7 Aug: It is very evident that the Presbyterian congregation is well pleased with the new pastor in charge, Rev. Frank Grossman. His sermons are received with great favor and personally he is making friends fast among our people.
- 14 Aug: The CE society of the Presbyterian church, the Epworth League of the Methodist church, and the UPCU of the Baptist church will hereafter hold a union meeting once in three months, at some one of the churches. The first meeting will be held at the Presbyterian church next Sunday evening at 6:30
- 28 Aug: The amount received by the Presbyterian ladies at their social last Tuesday evening was \$10.85. This was the first of a series of social entertainments to be given by these ladies where for one dime you can have a whole evening's fun and a good supper.
- 25 Sept: The young men of Villisca are invited to attend the Presbyterian church next Sabbath night and receive from the pastor a few hints on "How to Succeed."
- 6 Nov: A protracted meeting will be commenced next week at the Presbyterian Church
- 4 Dec: Last Sabbath morning, 14 persons were publicly received into the Presbyterian Church, and next Sabbath there will be another public reception of members.
- (Note: Eight more the next week)

1891

(Note: In the early days, the church played a much larger role in the lives of the members than it does now. For example, 1891 seems to have been a normal year; they weren't building anything, or paying off anything. The routine activities included morning and evening Sunday services, mid-week prayer meeting, and regular meetings of the Ladies Sewing Circle, the Women's Missionary Society, and the young people's organizations. I have listed some of the events that the Review found newsworthy that year.)

- 1 Jan: Rev. Grossman expresses his gratitude to the kind people of his church and others who so generously surprised him on Xmas eve. Over a hundred packages were deposited by the visitors.
- 2 Apr: Last Sunday night the last illustrated sermon in the life of Daniel was delivered at the Presbyterian church to a large and appreciative congregation. The pastor stated to his people that in a week or two he

- would undertake the delightful task of preaching a series of 12 sermons on "Pilgrim's Progress", which are also to be illustrated.
- 9 Apr: Feast of Days- The Presbyterian Ladies Aid Society will give their popular entertainment at the opera house on next Thursday and Friday evenings. Each day of the week will be represented in a booth appropriately arranged and presided over by young ladies who will have on sale a great variety of fancy work, consisting of many articles both useful and ornamental.
- 16 Apr: Next Sabbath night there will be a song service at the Presbyterian church. No preaching in the morning. Sabbath School at 10 o'clock.
- 23 Apr: The Presbyterian Church next Sabbath will have a rare treat in hearing a native of Persia, the land of roses, nightingales, and fine fruit. Mr. Morehatch is in this country preparing himself for better missionary service
- 21 May: Next Sunday morning the Presbyterian and Methodist congregations will unite in Memorial services at the Methodist church.
- 4 June: The Presbyterian Sabbath School is arranging an interesting program for Children's Day.
- 2 July: The pastors of the Presbyterian, Methodist and Baptist churches have arranged for a series of union meetings to be held in the Park on Sunday afternoons during July, August and the first half of September. The necessary lumber to seat the congregation has been hired of the Rand Lumber Company, and a man has been engaged to put it in place.
- 8 Oct: The Presbyterian ladies will give a social Friday evening, Oct. 9, at the residence of H. D. Dolson.
- The pastor of the Presbyterian church has secured the services of Rev. John B. Worrell of Keokuk, Iowa, to assist in conducting a protracted meeting which is to commence the first week in November.
- 29 Oct: There is to be a social at the Presbyterian parsonage Friday evening. All are invited.
- 5 Nov: The Presbyterian people were rejoiced Sunday in having the privilege of giving to the cause of Home Missions in Iowa. They in a few minutes and with the greatest cheerfulness raised \$56.35. This collection will be increased to \$75, which will make the largest single collection that has been raised in the history of the organization.
- 10 Dec: The ladies of the Presbyterian Sewing Society will have a Fair and Supper, Friday evening, Dec. 18, at the Opera House. Each member is requested without further notice, to bring a piece of fancy work. A chicken pie supper will be served from 6 to 9 o'clock.
- 31 Dec: The Presbyterian folks had their Christmas Eve exercises spoiled by the unfortunate burning of their castle. Much labor had been spent on the design and a structure of much beauty had been evolved. In lighting it up preparatory to the display of presents it caught fire and in an instant it was all ablaze. It was torn down to stop the fire and in doing so, Rev. Grossman was severely burned on the hands.

1892

- 7 Jan: Rev. Grossman expects to start about Feb. 1 for a 2 month tour through Europe, Egypt and Palestine in order to study and better equip himself for his ministerial work.
- 14 Jan: The Presbyterian people will have a male quartet in the choir in the future.
- Rev. Grossman won't go until August.
- The Junior Christian Endeavor Society of the Presbyterian church had a social last night at R. W. FitzGerald's home.

- 28 Apr: The treasurer of the Presbyterian church, last Sabbath, at the close of the morning service read his annual report, from which we learned that the church had met all its financial obligations with marked fidelity during the past ecclesiastical year and had a cash balance on hand.
- The Presbyterian Church contributed \$240 to the various missionary objects of the church during the past year.
- 2 June: Rev. Grossman preached the Memorial sermon Sunday at the Presbyterian Church. The G. A. R. and W. R. C. attended as organizations. The church was filled and the discourse is highly commended.
- 9 June: Rev. Grossman has given up his trip to Palestine at the request of the members of the Presbyterian church. He has spent much time, some money in getting ready, but accedes to the church's wishes to remain. It is hoped that his stay will be of great benefit to the church in increased interest and attendance.....
- 28 July: The Presbyterian parsonage is being repainted.
 (Note: From Historical Villisca Presbyterian Church, by Rev. Frank W. Grossman, who served the Villisca church from June, 1890, to September, 1893: "During this period the house of worship was greatly beautified by papering, recarpeting, painting, varnishing, etc. The manse was not only beautified internally and externally, but also made more convenient by the addition of a cistern, a large and well arranged barn and buggy house, fencing, etc.")
- 1 Sept: The committee on arrangements for the Presbyterian Church and Sabbath School picnic, to be held Friday afternoon at 1 p.m. requests all persons who have swings, footballs, baseball and bat, croquet sets, hammocks, etc, they wish to lend for the day, should kindly send them to the church Thursday at 11 o'clock p.m. Also any of the members and friends who have teams would confer a great favor on them if they would be present with them precisely at one, in order to assist in transporting the scholars and friends to the picnic grounds near town.
- 13 Oct: A novelty in the way of a church sociable was the weight supper given by the ladies of the YPSCE in the Boise block last evening. Just inside the entrance door was a platform scale surrounded by a bevy of young ladies. The weight of the lady controlled the price of the supper for the couple at the rate of one-fourth cent per pound. Broad was the grin of satisfaction on the face of the husband or beau when the weight of his partner was ascertained and found to be small. The "heavy weight" ladies were not burdened with invitations to supper.
- 22 Dec: The Presbyterian Sabbath School are to have a specially good time this Christmas and in order that their many friends may also enjoy the good time they have made arrangements to entertain and share their pleasure with the good people of Villisca and vicinity at the opera house on Monday evening at 7:30 o'clock, Dec. 26th. They have prepared, we understand, a very beautiful and interesting cantata entitled, "Santa Claus' Mistake, or a Bundle of Sticks." A slight admission of 10 cents will be charged in order to defray the expense of hall hire but of course the children attending the Presbyterian Sabbath School will be admitted free. We, in advance, assure all a first-class entertainment.

1893

- 8 Jan: Service of song and prayer each night of this week at the Presbyterian church.

13 Apr: The ladies of the Presbyterian Sewing Circle will give their Experience social at the Opera House this evening. The program will consist of the Empire drill, vocal and instrumental music, recitations and experiences. Admission free to those who have earned their dollar, 25 cents to all others.

--- PRESBYTERIAN MEETINGS - During the next week our community will have the privilege of attending a gathering or rather gatherings of considerable moment. We refer to the ecclesiastical meetings to be held in the interest of Presbyterianism in this part of the state, in the Presbyterian Church of this city, commencing on Monday, April the 17th, at 8 o'clock p.m. and continuing till Friday morning. There are to be three distinct meetings, one of which is called the "Elder's Meeting"; the second is the regular stated spring meeting of the Corning Presbytery and the third is a meeting of the ladies in their Missionary Societies.

The first Elder's meeting will be on Monday night, and will be of a popular nature, to which all are invited

Presbytery proper begins its meeting on Tuesday night, April the 18th. This is to be a meeting of more than ordinary interest, on account of the great amount of work on the docket. A vast amount of material has accumulated on the stated clerk's hands which must be disposed of at this time

On Wednesday morning the ladies of the Corning Presbytery will commence their labors in the Baptist church. This is purely and simply a benevolent work. The ladies organization is denominated the "Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Society of Corning Presbytery". They will discuss everything in connection with their noble and self sacrificing work

(Note: Corning Presbytery was organized 15 November, 1892. In his history of the Villisca church, Grossman said that the Women's Missionary Society was revived in November, 1892; apparently it had been inactive for some time prior to that.)

20 Apr: Rev. Grossman, who has been pastor the past three years, of the Presbyterian church in this city, tendered his resignation last Sabbath morning, which, we hope will not be accepted. He is an energetic preacher of more than usual polish and as a man stands the equal of any in the city. We do not think the church likely to be greatly benefitted by a change.

4 May: We are pleased to announce that the resignation of Rev. Grossman has not been accepted and he will be in Villisca for another year. It is well. We can't spare him just yet.

15 June: We are informed that Rev. F. W. Grossman has resigned his position as pastor of the Presbyterian Church and will accept a call elsewhere.

Dec 7: At the opera house, the Presbyterian ladies will as far as they are able with the accommodations at hand, duplicate the world's fair. You will find an exhibition of fancy work that will please the most fastidious and be just what you want for Christmas presents to your friends. Of course supper will be served as that is always anticipated and enjoyed. A cordial welcome to all. Don't forget the date, Wed, Dec. 13.

1894

12 Apr: Rev. Smith, the new Presbyterian minister, has arrived with his family and taken possession of the parsonage. He will hold services morning and evening next Sunday.

- 3 May: Rev. Smith received into the Presbyterian church, last Sunday five members by letter and six on profession.
- 5 July: Rev. Smith and Rev. Parsons exchanged pulpits Sunday evening without previous notice to their congregations. The surprise was amusing but all soon regained their equilibrium and enjoyed the novelty.
- 9 Aug: The Junior Christian Endeavor Society of the Presbyterian church, picknicked in the grove on G. B. Hall's farm, last Friday. Three wagons went out in the morning gaily decked with flags and bunting, and filled with happy, noisy, little folks. The picnic was the event of the season to them.
- 29 Nov: On Thanksgiving day at 10:30 a.m., all the churches in the city will hold a Union Service in the Presbyterian church. Rev. Parsons, of the Baptist church, will preach the sermon
- 6 Dec: There were seven accessions to the Presbyterian church last Sunday.
- 27 Dec: Christmas Eve exercises at the Presbyterian churchDuring the last piece of music the ringing of bells was heard, and soon Santa Claus came down the chimney of the snow-covered cabin, and shaking off the snow, was ready to give the little ones their treat.

1895

- 21 Mar: The entertainment given by the ladies of the Presbyterian church Friday evening was well attended and gave entire satisfaction. Most of the characters represented were very true to life and before the audience voted a preference of a "Queen of Fame" it seemed a puzzling matter to decide. Miss Minnie Fryer, representing "Villisca" secured the highest vote and was crowned amid the plaudits of her admiring subjects. The net proceeds were about \$50.
- 30 May: Rev. Smith has been voted a four weeks' vacation from the Presbyterian pulpit and this time will be spent in the mountains in the hope of improving his health
- 20 June: The Presbyterian Sunday School will have their Children's Day Exercises at the church next Sunday evening at 8 o'clock. A cantata entitled "The Festival of Flowers" will be given.
- 27 June: From a Cazenovia, New York, paper received last week by Mrs. Elias Smith, we learn of the death of Rev. J. L. Jones which occurred in that city June 12. Rev. Jones was the first pastor of the Presbyterian church of this place He was about 65 years old; was born in Wales graduated from Auburn Theological College.....
- 3 Oct: Rev. Smith tendered his resignation as pastor of the Presbyterian Church last Sunday.
- 10 Oct: The 9th Annual Convention of the S. W. Iowa Union of the YPSCE was held in the new Christian Church, October 4, 5, and 6 the streets were thronged with Christian Endeavorers
- (Note: The young people of both the Presbyterian Church and Disciples of Christ Church [Christian] were members of the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor)
- 17 Oct: Rev. W. S. Smith and wife go this week to Payson, Utah, where he will continue in the ministry. It is hoped that his health will be improved there
- 7 Nov: The girls in Mrs. Hopkins class in the Presbyterian Sunday School have collected and sent to the Home at Council Bluffs 24 quarts of canned fruit
- 5 Dec: The Presbyterian Congregation decided at a meeting held Sunday, to

extend a call to Rev. T. K. Hunter, of Nebraska City, where he has served the Presbyterian church for the past seven years.

- 27 Dec: Our attention has been called to the fact that Villisca has outgrown the capacity of its churches. With a population of nearly 2,500 people and a large church going population in the contiguous territory, there are only about 1,200 comfortable sittings in the churches. There are two churches in town that could barely seat the membership and their families. Outsiders do not care to crowd out or discommode the regular attendants or at least will give that excuse when urged to attend church services Sinners are "kittle cattle" anyway, and need coaxing and careful handling. Room for them in the sanctuaries is the first requisite in the work of reaching them.

1896

- 9 Jan: The Foote Bros. series of revival meetings at the Presbyterian church are largely attended and considerable spiritual good is being done.....
- 20 Feb: The clergymen of the city have arranged to hold meetings on the first and third Monday mornings of each month at 10 o'clock to consult over matters pertaining to the spiritual welfare of the city.
- 9 Apr: Monday after school, Mrs. Hopkins' class in the Presbyterian Sunday School played for an hour that they were little German girls while they indulged in a German Easter Egg Hunt. 115 eggs were hid and in a few moments they were all found, Cora Ingman finding the most, 27
- 16 Apr: The Exchange, which is a plan of the Presbyterian ladies to disseminate home made bread, cakes, pies, etc, every Saturday, among the consumers of such things, was very successful last Saturday. The supplies were temptingly displayed at the Alger store room and went off like hot cakes, everything being sold at an early hour.
- 14 May: The ladies of the Presbyterian church will give a Colonial Dime Social at Dr. Jackson's residence this Wed. evening. George and Martha Washington, Mrs. James K. Polk, John Alden, Priscilla and many other Colonial folk will be present. An excellent musical program will be given and refreshments will be served. Ice cream, sherbet, cake, ice tea, or coffee. Come all.
- 21 May: The Women's Exchange, as conducted by the Presbyterian ladies has proven so much of a success and the demand for their supplies so great they have requested the ladies of the Baptist Church to help them. The Baptist ladies will conduct an exchange Wednesday mornings.
- 9 July: The Union meeting of five churches Sunday evening in the park was attended by a congregation estimated at 500 to 700 people. These meetings will continue through this and next month
- 16 July: About August 1, the cantata, Queen Esther, will be given by the young people of Villisca under the auspices of the Presbyterian church. Prof. D. R. Wilson of Tarkio College has charge of its preparation and will spare no pains to have it creditably presented. A Chorus of 45 voices has been selected from the singers in the different churches, and the principle parts are to be taken by the best dramatic and musical talent the city affords The cantata is founded on the Bible history contained in the first seven chapters of the Book of Esther. Great care will be taken to have the costumes as near in keeping with those times as it is possible.....
- 20 Aug: In addition to their regular exchange business next Saturday, the

Presbyterian ladies will serve sandwiches, coffee, ice cream and cake at the exchange room.

- 12 Nov: The Presbyterian ladies will give a dime social at the residence of Dr. McNaughton Wed. evening, Nov. 11th. This social takes the place of the Chrysanthemum show and fair which had been planned for this time, but is postponed until next year. All the chrysanthemums will be at the social - some of them for sale and a variety of articles, both useful and ornamental, will be for sale also. Plenty of entertainment is provided for the evening. As many as four contests and corresponding prizes have been arranged for. Come all.
- 31 Dec: The Presbyterian Sunday School varied the usual Santa Claus program Christmas Eve and substituted "Rebecca at the Well." Whenever the sweep was put in motion the bucket came up full of Christmas gifts, fruits, and etc. There was an excellent program of music and recitations and every child felt at the close of the evening, that it was a great privilege to be a Sunday School scholar at the holiday season.

1897

- 10 June: Children's Day exercises will be given at the Presbyterian church Sunday in connection with the baptism of children.
- 22 July: The young people of the Presbyterian C E Society will give a lawn social on this Wednesday evening The young ladies will sell cook books, which the ladies of the church have gotten up, only the choicest receipts being given, for 10 cents
- 28 Oct: The Presbyterian ladies wish to announce that the Exchange which they have conducted so successfully for a year and a half, is closed until 1st of April next. All patrons are thanked most sincerely.
- 4 Nov: The Presbyterian church has secured the Rev. H. W. Rankin of Denver, Colo, to conduct a series of evangelistic meetings to begin Nov. 2 and close Dec. 8th.
- 16 Dec: The music committee of the Presbyterian Church will meet at the church at 7 p.m. Thursday to prepare a final report on Hymnals.

1898

- 10 Febr: The C E Society of the Presbyterian Church will give a Klondike Social at the YMCA rooms on Friday evening at 7:30. An excellent program is being prepared. Come, stake your claims and try your luck for nuggets. Sandwiches and coffee will be served for 5 cents. Homemade candies will be sold at popular prices. 10 cents admission for program and claims included.
- 17 Mar: The Presbyterian congregation have taken the initiative steps toward the erection of a new church edifice at a cost of about twelve thousand dollars, and have appointed the following permanent committees to push the work forward, Viz:
- Finance: Wm. Campbell, S. F. Booth, E. C. Hough, Samuel Reeves, Tho. Wright, Mrs. E. A. Platter, and Mrs. Mary F. Jackson.
- To Procure and Present Plans: Rev. T. K. Hunter, Elias Smith, A. J. Brislin, Mrs. Isadore L. McNaughton, and Mrs. Mary F. Jackson.
- Building: C. N. Stoddard, F. P. Greenlee, Arthur Atkinson, W. L. Page, D. H. Gillmore, Wm. Campbell and H. H. McAdoo.

They expect to commence as soon as the necessary arrangements can be made, and complete the building at an early date.

(Note: This seems to be the first public announcement concerning this matter, but the Minute Book shows the following entry:

5 Oct, 1896: Moved that a meeting of the officers of the church be called to meet Saturday evening at 8 o'clock, the purpose of the meeting being to consider the building of a new church.)

- 31 Mar: The Presbyterian ladies will take charge of the exchange again Saturday, April 9th, at their old stand
- 22 Sept: The party who took a copper wash boiler from the Presbyterian parsonage is kindly requested to return it someday this week or come and get the lid that belongs to it.
- 29 Sept: The old Presbyterian Church has been nearly leveled to the ground under the rapid handling of B. F. Clayton. Most of the material is in good shape to be used in the new building.
- The congregation of the Presbyterian Church is now holding its regular Sabbath services in the Opera House. The prayer meeting is held in the YMCA hall on Thursday evening.
- 3 Nov: The plans for the new Presbyterian church reveal a handsome exterior, substantial and massive, with harmonious outlines A gallery extends across the east end, beneath this are four Sunday School rooms
- 15 Dec: A Progressive Supper and Social to be given Dec. 16th from 5:30 to 8 p.m. by Presbyterian ladies of 5th Ave. Supper will be served in three courses at Mrs. W. A. Stillians', Mrs. Wilson Campbell's and Mrs. D. W. Jackson's successively.

Menu

Tomato Soup		Puree of Chicken
Oyster Soup	Celery	Pickles
Chicken Croquette		Kentucky Potato
Tongue	Jelly	Cabbage Salad
Chow chow		Bread and butter
	Coffee	Tea
	Ice Cream	
Cake		Coffee

Tickets for Supper and Social 25 cents at Mrs. Stillians', where the first course will be served. Entertainment managed by Mrs. Hayes and Miss Montgomery at Mrs. Jackson's after supper as follows: Peanuts, Progression and Prizes. Proceeds for dishes for our church dining room.

- 29 Dec: The Presbyterian Sabbath School held their Christmas entertainment Saturday evening at the YMCA rooms. A musical and literary programme was given by members of the school. Santa Claus could not come to decorate the evergreen tree which appeared to view, so he sent Jack Frost to accompany Mrs. Santa Claus, who brought with her a huge yellow pumpkin. Jack Frost introduced Mrs. Santa Claus, who made an address to the children, after which she opened the pumpkin, which contained a little fairy. The fairy sang a song after which each pupil as well as visitors were treated to candy.

1899

- 10 Aug: The Presbyterian ladies, having discontinued their exchange, wish to thank their many friends for their generous patronage the past three years, and will still fill orders for parties, picnics, etc.
- Alice N. Campbell, Sec.
- 14 Sept: DEDICATION OF THE NEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: The Presbyterian congregation dedicated its beautiful new church to divine worship last Sunday. Large audiences were present at all the services. The dedicatory sermon was delivered at 10:30 a. m. by Rev. T. S. Bailey, D. D. of Traer, Ia., one of the most prominent Presbyterian ministers in

the state. He chose for his text a part of Col. I-18. "That in all things he might have preeminence." He showed the preeminence of Christ in the Bible, in literature, in art, in music and song. He then urged that Christ should be made preeminent in every human heart. The discourse was earnest, scholarly, and most appropriate to the occasion and produced a profound impression.

The services were introduced by an organ prelude by Prof. Thomas, then came the Doxology by entire congregation followed by invocation by Rev. Ewing of Corning. An anthem- "Arise, O Lord Into thy Rest" by the choir with Mrs. Annie Jenkins at the organ. Following composed the choir: Mr. Douglas, Mrs. Brislin, Miss Ervin, Mr. Boise, Mr. Metz (of Corning), Mr. Keys, Mrs. Woodward, Mrs. Furst, Miss Moore, Mrs. Sinsel, Mr. Olson, Mr. Bell.

Rev. Bailey read the 91st Psalm, Rev. T. C. Smith of Clarinda delivered an impressive prayer, next a quartette Messrs. Metz, Olson, Keys and Bell sang Lowell Mason's arrangement of "Nearer my God to Thee." At the close of the sermon Rev. Bailey announced that a subscription would be taken up to assist in meeting the deficiency in the building fund which was about \$1580. The cost of the church, exclusive of the fine pipe organ which cost \$1600, was \$8,538.29. In a few minutes \$500 was raised. Other contributions were received at the afternoon and evening services, and with the arrangements which had been previously made, the entire amount is provided for. The Ladies Aid Society assume the payment of the pipe organ which was furnished by Lyon & Healy, Chicago.

At three p. m. a meeting for fraternal congratulations and greetings from other churches was held. After singing by choir, scripture reading by Rev. Hohanshelt and prayer by Rev. Ewing, F. F. Jones, on the part of the M. E. church, extended good wishes and expressions of neighborly friendship from "the church over the way." Similar addresses were delivered by A. J. Chambers for the Christian church and J. W. Yergey for the Baptist church. The greeting from the Corning Presbytery was given by Rev. Ewing, president of Corning Academy. The most cordial feeling prevailed and Rev. Ewing declared that he almost forgot that he was a Presbyterian and felt inclined to talk from the standpoint of an outsider.

In the evening another large audience gathered to hear a sermon from a preacher who always measures up to the full expectations of his congregation- Dr. Smith of Clarinda. It is a treat to hear Dr. Smith, and on this occasion he made one of his best efforts, and this fittingly closed a memorable day, the first day in the new church home.

For the benefit of many readers who have not seen the new building we subjoin a description:

The building fronts west on the corner of 3rd. Avenue and 2nd streets. The outside dimensions are 58 x 86 feet with an average of 17 feet to the eaves.

A square, massive tower surmounts the southwest corner and another smaller tower is at the northwest angle. The roof lines are harmonious being well balanced around a central peak. The construction is vitrified brick with considerable of the surface rock faced, with plain brick for inside linings and walls. One half of the basement is finished off for dining room and kitchen, the north half being devoted to furnace and coal rooms. The windows are filled with art glass from the Kansas City Art Glass Works and are fine specimens of good designing and careful workmanship. The main entrances are only two steps above the level of the sidewalk, this feature being an innovation on the usual

church entrance, that will be appreciated by elderly people and all others who dread stumbling up a long flight of stairs into a building. All outside and inside doors are of hard woods. The interior is very pleasing in design and detail. A bowl shaped floor slopes to the pulpit in the west end of the building. The lecture room, 25 x 42, can be shut off from the auditorium by sliding doors. A gallery above part of the lecture room seats about 50 and the capacity of seats in the entire church is about 450, the auditorium ceiling rises from the sides of an exact square, 44 ft. on a side, to an apex from which hangs a single arc light of 1200 candle power. In the rear of the pulpit back of a large arch is the alcove for the pipe organ. In front of this are the choir seats with a paneled screen in front. Two steps below is the semicircular pulpit rostrum carrying a bible desk of handsome design. All woodwork is in solid oak. The pews which are shaped to the amphitheater form are from the Grand Rapids Furniture Co., and are richly carved with built up backs and seats and deep paneled ends. Their finish is in the popular "golden oak" style which is lighter than the antique. The floors including rostrum and choir loft are covered with a small patterned carpet of a pleasing olive green tint which harmonizes well with the furniture and the general coloring of the walls. L. Syberkrop of Creston, the veteran frescoer, decorated the walls and fully sustained his reputation for artistic work. The tints and the designs meet the approval of the most critical. C. E. Eastman of Des Moines was the architect of the building, and John Lennan, of the same city was the contractor. The building is heated by a large Campbell furnace.

The Presbyterian people are in their new home. Their new surroundings are most agreeable and inspiring and a fresh impetus to their growth as a church and to their usefulness in the community may be expected. It is the earnest design of our citizens, whether in or out of the churches, that this society may continue in the way of prosperous well doing.

NOTES

Three brick churches in less than three years is Villisca's record.

Rev. Ewing paid a glowing tribute to the faithful, diligent women of the church who have really made possible the successful completion of the enterprise and whose hearts never grew faint, even when the brothers were ready to yield to discouragements.

The capabilities of the organ were fully brought out in the recital Saturday evening by Prof. Johanson of Stanton and Prof. Thomas of Chicago.

Rev. Hunter came to this congregation in Dec. 1895. He is regarded as one of the strongest men in the Presbytery and his labors in this field have brought visible results in the upbuilding of the society which his people should and probably do appreciate.

The society was organized in 1871 with 13 members which shows that superstition was not a weakness of the pioneers.

30 Nov: The Woodward real estate office reports the sale of the Presbyterian parsonage to Lon Allard, possession to be given Dec. 1. A parsonage will be secured nearer the church.

(Note: It was sold to help pay for the new church.)

1900

27 Sept: Union evangelistic services will be held here next month. The building of a tabernacle has been commenced under the direction of Ed

Henshaw, on the vacant lot just north of the First National Bank. The main part of the structure is to be 60 x 96 feet and together with a wing 24 x 60 feet on the west side, will seat at least 2,000 people. It will be completed in time to begin the meetings Thursday, Oct. 11 The service will be conducted by Evangelist W. A. Sunday and a chorus of over 100 voices, directed by Prof. F. G. Fischer, will assist in the meetings.

- 12 Dec: The proceeds of the fair and supper held at the Presbyterian church last week amounted to over \$100. This money will go toward making the last payment on the organ ... They have one of the finest and most handsomely furnished churches in the county.
- 19 Dec: The Presbyterian congregation of this place propose to open the Twentieth Century with a new fashion. A congregational reunion is planned for New Year's Day at the church where all are to come with baskets of eatables, have dinner, enjoy social pleasures, give an hour to music, addresses and devotional exercises, and become better acquainted with one another. To this family reunion all United and Cumberland Presbyterians in the community are invited

1901

- 22 May: At the congregational meeting held at the Presbyterian Church Sunday after the morning services a committee was unanimously adopted, appointed to present the names of four members who are to receive subscriptions to the salary of Rev. T. K. Hunter, and when a sufficient amount has been so received they are to report the same to the trustees of the church. The trustees are then to ask Mr. Hunter to withdraw his letter of resignation.
- 10 July: The session of the Presbyterian Church took action recommending the building of a parsonage; the congregation is hereby called to take action on that matter at the close of the morning service on Sabbath, July 14th, 1901.
(Note: 14 July;, 1901; Minute Book: Moved that the Board of Trustees, Mrs. Platter and Mrs. M. N. McNaughton be a committee to attend to the building of a parsonage.)
- 5 Sept: Rev. Hunter has moved in the Gilmore house on 5th Avenue and is now nicely settled.
- 18 Sept: Memorial services were held at the Methodist and Presbyterian churches for President McKinley, with school children assembling at the Presbyterian Church, and older people at the Methodist Church.
- 9 Oct: The Presbyterian Church of this city is the recipient of a handsome windfall from the estate of the late Margaret Richey. Her will provides that the house and lot in which she lived, 85 acres of good land in Adams County and \$10,000 be given to the above church
(Note: I think this report was greatly exaggerated. Nothing in the records indicates that they received any such amount. They carried a mortgage on the new manse for several years.)
- 10 Oct: The foundation is completed for the new Presbyterian parsonage and the carpenters are now putting up the frame work. It will be a modern nine room house.

1902

- 1 Jan: Men's meeting at the Presbyterian Church next Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock. Wm. Richey will speak on the subject, "Does a Christian Life Pay?"

5 Jan: The Y.P.S.C.S. of the Presbyterian church will give a social, called "The Pan American Congress", Friday evening January 17th. Each person coming is expected to be dressed representing some nationality found on the American continent. An admission of 10 cents will be charged and refreshments will be served

5 Mar: Rev. Hunter and family are this week moving into the new parsonage.

12 Nov: A RUMMAGE SALE

In a few weeks the Presbyterian ladies will have everything to sell to everybody. A rare opportunity for people of limited means to procure good, warm clothing and other useful things for almost nothing.

We also ask our friends to look about their homes and bring to this sale all the things you don't need, there may be others who would be glad to have them.

Bring us clothing, furniture, books and magazines, millinery, dishes, stoves, tools, pictures, lamps, clothing and toys for the little ones and anything that you are willing to give us.

10 Dec: Presbyterian supper; afternoon and evening, Dec. 12th. Menu- Escaloped chicken, ham, mashed potatoes, corn, cabbage salad, brown and white bread, pickles, jelly, steamed fruit pudding, pumpkin pie, coffee and tea- 25 cents.

31 Dec: The Presbyterians on Christmas night held their exercises and every part was highly commendable, especially the music by a full orchestra and the renditions of the choir. Several pantomimes representing the origin of Christmas day, also added to the interest of the evening.

--- A reunion of the Presbyterian congregation will be held at the church on Friday of this week. At this time the pennies given out by the pastor in May last are to be returned with the amount gained by trading with them, and rewards given to those bringing in the three largest sums.

1903

25 Feb: A pipe in the Presbyterian church bursted last week and the cellar had several inches of water in it before the leak was discovered.

1 Apr: Under the auspices of the Ladies Aid Society at the Presbyterian church on the evening of April 6th there will be a lecture, stereopticon views and moving pictures of California scenes by Rev. McNutt, who comes highly recommended

(Note: I didn't find an announcement of the change from Sewing Society to Ladies' Aid. In an item of 9 March, 1891, they were called the Ladies Aid, but I didn't find the term used again until 1899. In March, 1902, they were again called the Sewing Society, but from then on they were the Ladies' Aid.)

15 Apr: At the Presbyterian Sunday School Easter program The decorations, consisting of potted plants, were beautifully arranged. A chorus of 37 voices and an orchestra of six pieces, in addition to timely recitations, furnished the program of the evening. This school numbers an enrollment of about 160, with an average attendance of 116.

14 Aug: Rev. T. K. Hunter placed his resignation as pastor before the session of his church last Sunday..... he has the opportunity of accepting a pastorate of a young and growing church in the suburbs of Omaha

2 Oct: Rev. T. K. Hunter is moving this week. He has been pastor of his denomination in this city for eight years, during which time his flock has witnessed unprecedented prosperity in a spiritual way. The church has also prospered in other lines, having erected their new

edifice and parsonage, and all departments of the work are aggressive. The members of the ministerial association dismissed their regular services Sunday evening and all repaired to the Presbyterian church, much to the surprise of Mr. Hunter, to hear the reverend gentleman's farewell discourse.....

- 11 Dec: The Presbyterian ladies will serve a New England dinner to farmers and others Saturday, Dec 19. The dinner will be served in the church dining room, which will be warm and comfortable. Place for wraps for the farmers.
- 18 Dec: On Christmas night, the Presbyterian Sunday School will render a choral cantata, "The Hope of Israel," which promises to be a feast of elegant music to those who attend.

1904

- 22 Jan: Rev. James K. Driver, pastor of the Presbyterian church at Nodaway, has accepted the call extended by the Presbyterian church of this city.
- 19 Febr: A local union between the Endeavor Societies of the Christian and Presbyterian churches was formed Sunday evening
- 29 Apr: The Ladies Aid Society of the Presbyterian church will serve a dinner on the 20th of May, the 30th anniversary of the organization of the Society.

1905

- 20 Apr: The Junior Endeavor of the Presbyterian church held a left handed sociable at the home of Rev. and Mrs. J. K. Driver last Tuesday evening There were about 70 present and they all enjoyed a left handed good time.
- 27 Apr: The ladies of the Presbyterian church will hold an exchange in the Alger building on 3rd Ave. Saturday, April 29. The exchange will be open at 9 a. m. with a tempting array of eatables consisting of dressed chickens, sliced ham, cottage cheese, bread, butter, baked beans, cream cakes, pies, doughnuts, etc. A liberal patronage is solicited.
- 28 Dec: Cottage prayer meetings are being held by the pastor of the Presbyterian Church every afternoon and evening this week. A good attendance is desired. Anyone wishing a meeting held in his home will kindly notify Rev. Driver. Revival services begin at the church Sunday, and will continue two weeks. R. R. Mohan of Illinois has been engaged to sing. You are invited.

1906

- 1 Febr: The cooking school under the auspices of the Presbyterian Ladies Aid Society will be held this week Friday and Saturday afternoons from 2:30 to 5 o'clock. After this week the lessons will be given Monday and Tuesday afternoons. All who attended the demonstrations of Saturday last felt that the occasion was one of profit. Mrs. Lynch's demonstrations were very clear and the lessons will be well worth the price.
- 8 Febr: The YPSCE of the Presbyterian and Christian churches met in joint session at the Presbyterian church last Sunday evening and commemorated the 25th anniversary of the society's founding
- 14 June: Enters 36th Year
Founded by 13 charter members in the Methodist Church, June 11, 1871.

Members worshipped with the Methodist Brethren until the erection of their own building.

\$4,000 brick building built in 1875, and dedicated March 10, 1876.

First pastor, Rev. S. L. McAfee, now president of Park College, Parkville, Missouri.

Present splendid edifice built of vitrified brick and containing a seating capacity of 450, with \$1600 pipe organ, balcony and basement, costing in all over \$10,000.

Only ten pastors in the 35 years of its existence.

Present membership nearly 300.

Such in a nutshell is the history of the First Presbyterian Church of Villisca, Ia, whose 35th anniversary was so appropriately commemorated in this city last Sunday Nearly the entire day was devoted to the program commemorating the organization of the church, and large audiences, both morning and evening, were at the church to listen to the addresses and reminiscences of the former pastors and revive their memories of the sweet long ago. Preceding the sermon a cantata by the choir and the baptism of eight children took place

(Note: Presbyterians are strange; they didn't celebrate their 25th anniversary, and not even their 50th, but did celebrate the 35th.)

- 13 Dec: The Iowa College Glee Club of Grinnell has been secured by the choir of the Presbyterian Church to sing at the opera house in this city Saturday night, Dec. 29..... It was only at great expense that the choir of the Presbyterian church was able to get them to consent to appear here and unless they are very liberally patronized no pecuniary benefit will be derived from their visit General admission, 35 cents; reserved seats 10 cents extra.

(Note: The weather was foul, and the choir lost money.)

1907

- 28 Mar: Special Easter services all day at the Presbyterian Church next Sunday. Benj. Hall of Tabor, a tenor of no mean ability, will assist with the song service in the morning, and a special and appropriate program has been prepared by the choir for the evening.
- 18 Apr: A door has been cut in the south wall of the Presbyterian Church leading directly to the basement from the outside, so that visitors wishing to enter the basement do not have to go first through the regular entrance of the church. The cement work around the doors has also been repaired and a partition built in the basement making a little reception room in addition to the kitchen and dining room.
- 17 May: Rev. J. K. Driver left Monday night for Columbus, Ohio, to attend the general assembly of the Presbyterian Church Rev. Driver is the commissioner from the Corning Presbytery
- 19 Dec: The Presbyterians have planned an old fashioned Christmas tree for Christmas night, music to be furnished by the church choir, and a special program rendered by the children of the Sunday School.

1908

- 20 Febr: A number of friends of Rev. and Mrs. J. K. Driver and a goodly portion of the members of the Presbyterian Church called at the Driver home Friday evening of last week and very pleasantly surprised the pastor and his wife. The event was in the nature of a "pound" social and each guest brought a pound or more of something with which to

lighten the burden of pastoral duties and make living a little easier and more cheerful. The table in the dining room "fairly groaned" with the weight of the good things piled upon it

- 9 July: A unique feature in the services of last Sunday evening at the Presbyterian church was Mr. Eugene Stoddard's use of the polyopticon, by means of which he was enabled to throw upon a screen some excellent views depicting Indian life, reproduced directly from photographs, colored postal cards, magazines, etc. The illustrations served to lend interest to the program for the evening, which was the first of the series on "Four problems of our national life and the place of the Christian church in their solution," and was entitled, "The Indian, the Original American." Next Sunday the subject will be, "The Mormon, Religion or Politics?"
- 22 Oct: A unique service is promised Presbyterians next Sunday, when at the morning session there will be a burning of the mortgage. A special thanksgiving service will be held to commemorate the successful canvass to secure the amount to raise the mortgage, which has been carried for some years over the parsonage property. A short history of the same will be given, and recognition made of the effort of the Ladies Aid Society the past years After the narration of the facts, one of the ladies will apply the match to the mortgage and the doxology will be sung.....

1909

- 21 Jan: The basement and interior of the Presbyterian church(was) badly damaged by fire during the past week, the disaster to the church occurring on Friday last.....
- The fire at the Presbyterian church broke out in the basement and is thought to have been caused by an overheated pipe running up from the furnace to the main floor of the church. It was discovered by Mrs. Eli McMullen and other ladies who had planned to assemble at the church and hold a meeting. The fire alarm was turned in immediately and in short time the V. F. C. boys and others were on the scene and gave battle to the flames. The fire had burned a bad hole through the floor of the church and the smoke and heat damaged two pews in the church auditorium, completely ruined the carpets and the frescoing and did some injury to the pipe organ. The adjustor for the insurance company is expected in the city at any time to ascertain the total extent of the damage done. The congregation now expects to completely redecorate the interior of the church, remodel the back part of the building and make other alterations and improvements which have long been desired.
- 4 Mar: The adjustors for the three insurance companies with which the Presbyterian church carried insurance were in the city They allowed insurance to the amount of \$550.....
- 6 May: Carpenters have been at work during the past week repairing and remodeling the Presbyterian Church, which was extensively damaged by fire a few weeks ago. A complete rearrangement of the rear part of the edifice and the removal of the gallery are the important improvements.
(Note: The Ladies' Aid paid \$52 for an electric light fixture and \$188.67 for carpet.)
- 2 Sept: The final work of redecoration at the (Presbyterian) church is about completed and it is our purpose to have a fitting season of rejoicing for the completion of the work. Now that the weeks of inconvenience are over, beginning Thursday evening, Sept. 2, the members and friends will begin a series of events to continue through until the

closing service on Sunday night. The order of the meetings will be as follows:

Thursday evening- a rally service for praise and prayer, led by the pastor.

Friday evening- A pipe organ recital by Prof. H. W. Madlock of Grinnell. Admission, adults, 35 cents; children, 15 cents.

Sunday will be the culmination day when the reopening exercises proper will be held. In the morning the subject of the sermon will be "Things that Beautify God's House." At 7 p.m. will be a special Young People's meeting At 8 p.m. the pastor will begin a series of four addresses on "Spiritual Mathematics." The first address will be on "Christian Addition."

9 Sept: The organ recital by Henry W. Matlock, Mus. Bac. of Grinnell, given at the Presbyterian Church Friday evening of last week was fairly well attended. The entertainment was given to help defray the expense of purchasing a new motor for the pipe organ, and about \$13 was cleared above the expenses. Prof. Matlock gave a pleasing entertainment, but he is not the master of the pipe organ that Prof. Baldwin is, and a large portion of his audience was disappointed in his performance. Mr. Matlock was engaged by the church to repair and tune the pipe organ, which was damaged by the late fire, and he has done a most excellent job. The organ's tone is rich and melodious, and has been put into splendid working condition. The Review suggests that the Presbyterian choir give a cantata and charge 25 cents and then they'll raise enough money to wind up the entire debt on the church improvements. No need to go out of town to get musical talent.

28 Oct: Because they were beginning to injure the roof, all the box elder trees in front of the Presbyterian church have been cut down, leaving only the elms. The elimination of so much shade also tends to show off the church to better advantage, and is a much desired improvement.

16 Dec: The ladies of the Presbyterian Church held a bazaar in the basement of the church on Friday of last week and served supper in the evening. The bazaar was well patronized and all the articles on sale were disposed of netting the neat sum of \$25. The amount realized from the bazaar and supper combined was about \$53.

1910

6 Jan: The Week of Prayer is being kept at the Presbyterian church this week New song books have been purchased and the service will begin with a song each evening.

24 Mar: A special musical service will be given Sunday by the choir of the Presbyterian church. A cantata and other special songs will be rendered in keeping with the glad Easter day.

27 Oct: There will be a union service of the churches at the Presbyterian church next Sunday evening as a token of appreciation and to extend farewell to its pastor Rev. J. K. Driver, who has resigned his pastorate here to take effect November 1. Rev. Driver has accepted a call to the Presbyterian church at Fullerton, Nebr..... Rev. Driver has been identified with the moral uplift of Villisca, where he has been the Presbyterian pastor during the past seven years and has been a most earnest and sincere minister. He came to Villisca from Nodaway ... and preached his first sermon here the first Sunday in February, 1903.

1911

- 25 May: Miss Elizabeth A. Christie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Christie of this vicinity, will leave Villisca the first of next week for New York City, where she will sail June 10 to become a missionary in the vicinity of Batanga in the Kamerun, West Africa. She will take up her work there under the auspices of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church
- 3 Aug: By unanimous vote of the congregation, Rev. W. J. Ewing was called to the pastorate of the Presbyterian church of Villisca Thursday evening of last week. Rev. Ewing had been in Villisca for a month filling the Presbyterian pulpit and he gave such satisfaction that when a motion was made to make the vote unanimous it was enthusiastically carried By his election the church is again given a pastor for the first time since October 1, 1910, when Rev. J. K. Driver resigned.
- 12 Oct: The officers of the Westminster Guild of the Presbyterian church entertained the members of the guild to a social at the church on Tuesday evening. The evening was very delightfully spent in playing games. Light refreshments were served, partners for which were secured by the matching of quotations which were cut up
- 2 Nov: The Women's Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Church have just finished their annual missionary box, which they will send today to the Hodge Seminary, a mission school for negroes, at Washington, Georgia. The box contains wearing apparel, shoes and bed clothing, and is valued at \$89. There are four comforts included, and two of these were tied by the ladies at their recent missionary tea.
 (Note: Ladies' Aid Treasurer's Book, 17 March, 1908: To Mrs. Giese, comfort marker; 10 cents. [After Muller's store was closed, Lorraine found this long forgotten item. It was a sheet of muslin, the size of a quilt. It had many buttonholed eyelets, properly spaced for tying a quilt, and was signed "Ladies' Aid - 1908".])
- The ladies of the Presbyterian church served a very successful supper in the church basement last Friday evening and netted the tidy little sum of \$39.92..... The aid society now has over \$100 in the treasury, which will be used to improve the church as needed.
- 7 Dec: No little alarm was felt in the home of Rev. and Mrs. W. J. Ewing Monday morning at ten o'clock when Rev. W. T. Loomis came rushing into their home and informed them that the roof of their house was afire. Rev. Loomis smelt pine burning and on looking around discovered it to be the home of Rev. Ewing. An alarm was turned in immediately and the fire was put out but not before it had done considerable damage to the roof, half of which was destroyed. The furniture was carried out of the upstairs and there was no damage done to it, but the water ran through the ceiling and a couple of rooms will have to be repapered and some plastering done

1912

- 22 Feb: The Southland Sextette, a company of colored singers, which is to be at the Presbyterian church February 23, comes highly recommended. They are exceptionally good and are not to be classed with inferior companies
- 28 Mar: An entertainment was given at the Presbyterian Church Tuesday evening under the auspices of the Christian Endeavor. It was a "Good Time College" entertainment and each one in attendance witnessed college life from the enrollment to the finish, including class skirmishes, Sophs and Freshy tugs of war, etc

6 June: Children's Day will be observed in the Presbyterian Church next Sunday. At 8 o'clock in the evening a program, prepared by the Sabbath School, will be rendered.....

(Note: Among those present were Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Moore, their four children, and Lena and Ina Stillinger. After the service, the group returned to the Moore home, and passed into history, victims of the infamous Villisca axe murder.)

19 Sept: Presbyterian Church: The special instrumental music rendered by Messrs. Ora E. Burkey, H. D. Peckham and Harold Todd last Sunday evening was greatly appreciated by all who heard it and it is the intention to make this class of music a part of the services from this time on.

12 Dec: Wednesday, Christmas eve, the Presbyterian Sunday School will render a program which has the appearance of being very interesting and splendidly prepared. They will give a cantata, "Around the Manger." Music by the choir and suitable decorations will make the program interesting to all.

1913

13 Feb: All men are cordially invited to join the pastor's class in Studies in Social Reform.

8 May: The sock social given by the YPCE at the Presbyterian church Tuesday evening of last week was a very unique affair and a decided success. The invitations were sent out and with them a miniature sock and the person receiving it was expected to put in the number of pennies amounting to the size of their hose the proceeds amounted to \$11.

1914

8 Jan: The watch party at the Presbyterian church last Wednesday night proved to be a very enjoyable occasion to all present, and a pleasant surprise to Rev. and Mrs. W. J. Ewing. A few members of the congregation suggested to the pastor the idea of a "watch party". Rev. Ewing believes that it is a good thing for the members of his church to meet in a social way..... and at once fell in with the idea..... then the surprise was sprung. Mr. Hough on behalf of the congregation presented to Mrs. Ewing a neat little box filled with bills and coins. A moment later Mrs. Lenhart presented to Mr. Ewing a bag also filled with silver. As was perfectly fitting, Mrs. Ewing as "the better half" received a trifle larger purse than did her husband.....

23 Apr: Rev. W. J. Ewing is this week attending the annual meeting of Corning Presbytery, which convened at Sidney Tuesday the following items, taken from the report of the church to be given at presbytery, will be of interest to the friends of the church here. During the year ending March 31 there has been added to the membership of the church 14..... number of active members 261..... amount paid out for local expenses, including pastor's salary, \$2,000

(Note: During that year, the Ladies' Aid Society spent \$420 on plumbing, including "bath fixtures".)

18 June: Sunday was Children's Day and Flag Day and was fittingly observed by many of the local churches

The program at the Presbyterian church was an elaborate affair. The flower service, "Hearts of Gold", was one of the prettiest things ever witnessed in a church program.

30 July: The Presbyterian Sunday School picnic was a success from beginning to end. A near catastrophe threatened at the close when the first

balloon took fire, but as it was only a paper balloon, the loss was insignificant and the second flight was a triumph

1915

- 4 Sept: At the Presbyterian church Sunday evening, eight p.m., Miss Lizzie Christie will give her address, illustrated by the stereoptican The pictures, taken on her own field, will make the story even more vivid.....
- 6 Nov: The organ recital at the Presbyterian church Wednesday evening of this week by Francis Paul Schiermann, assisted by Mrs. Alfred Williams and Mrs. E. C. Hough, was pronounced by many as the best ever heard in Villisca. Mr. Schiermann has studied under some of the best instructors of music in the old country and his appearance in Villisca Wednesday evening convinced Villisca people that his ability was far above the average. There were nearly 200 people present

1916

- 5 Jan: The members of the Christian Endeavor of the Presbyterian Church had a "Home Coming" party Wednesday evening of last week at the home of Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Hugus. The party was given for the members of the society who are now away at school or are teaching out of town. An extremely interesting and enjoyable program was given. Paul Francis Schierman gave three numbers on the piano. Mrs. E. C. Hough sang and Miss Gladys Robinson gave her prize winning dramatic selection. Refreshments were served after the program.
- 9 Febr: After swelling the list of conversions to more than 150 during the four weeks, the union revival meetings were brought to a close Sunday evening.
- 22 Mar: Francis Paul Schierman, who landed in Villisca last October on a freight train with toes, knees and elbows out, penniless, cold and hungry, but who so suddenly and gloriously soared on wings of luxury to dizzy heights of popularity among some of Villisca's most prominent citizens, has taken an ignominious tumble and his once fair name lies besmirched in the blackest mire of shame while detectives are hunting the culprit, who, lower than a dog, bit the hand that fed him by passing worthless checks and forging others on those who had befriended him Schierman's musical education was soon recognized by local musicians the Presbyterian church was heated, lighted and opened to him without cost for the purpose of allowing him to give a public organ recital He was made leader of the Villisca band for a time, was the organist at the Presbyterian Church, which he joined. Pious Paul knows how to act the part of a gentleman, is polished, refined and well educated, and the very fact that he is possessed of all these qualities and then landed in Villisca on the bumpers of a freight train was in itself prima facie evidence that there was a hole in his character as big as a box car

(Note: The law caught up with Pious Paul in Portersfield, California, where he was wanted for forgery, bad checks, and car theft. The Review said, "It is taken for granted that there is a pipe organ or two in the little burg." It turned out that his name was really Morgan, and he was wanted in Pennsylvania for parole violation. The Villisca marshall brought him back in handcuffs, and he was sentenced to ten years in the pen.)

- 24 May: Mr. and Mrs. Guy Wm. Playfair have gone to Nigeria in Africa.

(Note: Elizabeth Christie.)

- 25 Nov: Thursday p.m. at about 1:20 fire was discovered in the basement of the Presbyterian church. The first cart to leave the city fire station coupled at the hydrant at the corner near the First National Bank and the firemen were soon throwing water on the conflagration from the south basement door of the church. It was soon discovered that little could be accomplished from that angle, however, and the hose was taken to the north side of the church, and there a window was broken in and the stream thrown on the flames. Soon after the attack had been changed the fire was extinguished.

Considerable damage was done the church during the few minutes the flames were at work. The smoke also did a great deal of damage to the main room of the church upstairs. The smoke and water also did some damage to the rooms in the basement of the building.

The cause of the fire is not definitely known by anyone. Many think, however, that it started from the furnace fire. Everett Ewing had gone to the church to start the fire and had gone from the church to the schoolhouse after he had started the furnace fire. (Everett had been building the fire in the furnace for some time.) The first group of citizens to arrive at the church discovered where the fire was and rushed into the basement to see what could be done before the department arrived. Tommie Stallings heard a child crying there, and on investigation found Herold, the smallest son of Rev. and Mrs. Ewing there, getting the full benefits of the smoke and apparently quite badly scared. Stallings carried him out and it proved that he was not hurt. It is supposed that he followed his brother to the building, and remained after Everett had gone to school.

1917

- 21 Apr: The Presbyterian church in this city have purchased a Conover Thirteen, the finest piano made by the Cable people, for use at the church services
- 8 Aug: Just before the sermon at the Presbyterian Church Sunday morning, Rev. W. J. Ewing, in behalf of the membership of the church, presented Miss Esme Anderson with a loving bag. Miss Anderson will sail August 25 for Pekin, China, where she will begin a year's schooling preparatory to doing general missionary work in the interior of China for five years.
- 15 Aug: At the regular morning service at the Presbyterian church Sunday, Rev. Ewing submitted the matter of his resignation to the congregation of that church

1918

- 5 Jan: Word has been received from Dr. C. C. Russell of Garnett, Kansas, who was recently engaged as Pastor of the Presbyterian church, to the effect that his son was ill with meningitis, and that on this account there would be some delay in the arrival of the pastor to assume his duties here.
- 2 Feb: The ministers of the churches of Villisca showed the right spirit and a willingness to comply with Coal Administrator Webster's recommendations. They agreed to unite in union services until the coal situation is relieved..... It is intended to hold meetings in each church in its turn.
- 12 Apr: At the Presbyterian church Sunday evening last a service flag, containing 31 stars, was dedicated with impressive ceremony. The church

on this occasion was crowded to its full seating capacity, and some who could not get seats went away.

The songs, the prayers, and the address were all of a patriotic nature The dedication of the flag followed the address of the pastor The honor roll was read by Jos. B. Means. As he read each name he paused while a relative of the soldier came forward with a star which J. H. Todd pinned to the flag The big audience was thrilled with admiration when members of the J. S. Kendrick family responded to the call of four names, they having four sons in the service.

(Note: A fifth son enlisted later.)

- 16 May: On Sunday morning, the regular communion service was held at the Presbyterian Church. At this service, sixty people were received into the Church, 20 by letter and 40 on confession of faith
- 1 Nov: The lid which has been on in Villisca for a little more than three weeks on account of the Spanish influenza is to be lifted today Regular services will be held in the churches Sunday
- 20 Dec: The New Era Movement in the Presbyterian Church is organized to promote the spiritual life of the people of the church, to disseminate information with reference to denominational enterprises, and to plan for the adequate support of the great and increasing missionary and benevolent agencies for which the church is sponsor No such exhaustive plan of organization was ever before attempted by this denomination.....

1919

- 7 Mar: The members of the Presbyterian Sunday School orchestra were delightfully entertained Thursday evening of last week at the home of Miss Gladys Osborn, the orchestra pianist.
- 21 Mar: The interior of the local Presbyterian church is being redecorated New concrete walks will also be laid on both sides of the church. Services of the church next Sunday will be conducted in the basement.
- 18 Apr: The new decoration, from cellar to garrett, which has been in progress at the Presbyterian church, is so far completed that the services will be held next Sunday in the main auditorium. The work is one of the most artistic specimens of interior finishing that a Villisca audience has had the opportunity of seeing, and in fact would be a credit to any city building
- 25 Apr: The formal rededication of the Presbyterian church will take place next Sunday
- 7 Nov: The Occoco Camp Fire Girls of the Presbyterian church entertained a number of high school boys Tuesday evening, Nov. 4, at their den in the Mrs. W. A. Atwood home
- 26 Dec: A service of sacred song entitled, "The Salvation of Israel" will be given under the direction of Mrs. Hough at the Presbyterian church next Sunday evening The standing of this company of musicians is sufficient warrant of the artistic completeness and also of the spiritual effectiveness of the service.

1920

- 4 June: Dr. C. C. Russell, pastor of the Presbyterian church for the last three years, tendered his resignation to his congregation.
- 2 July: Adv.- CELEBRATE the Fourth at Presbyterian Church-
July 4th happens to come on Sunday this year, so why not celebrate

it by attending church? It was religious freedom that our forefathers sought and found in America

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Publicity Committee

(Note: Ads similar to this ran for some time in 1920)

1921

- 4 Febr: Dr. C. C. Russell, whose pastorate of the Presbyterian church terminated last Sunday expects to leave Villisca this week for Chicago, where they will make their home while Dr. Russell takes theology studies at Chicago university.
- 1 Apr: The vesper services at the Presbyterian Church were largely attended, and the excellent work of the choir in the rendition of the cantata, "The Lord of Life," was fully appreciated although the offering did not amount to so much as one would have reason to expect because this important part of the program was for some unaccountable reason overlooked
- 6 May: At a congregational meeting at the Presbyterian church a unanimous call was extended to Dr. Arthur P. Walton of Waukon
- 10 June: the members of the Presbyterian Church enjoyed a picnic Wednesday p.m. and evening at the James Christie home. It was given in honor of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Playfair and family who recently returned from the mission field in Africa, and Rev. A. P. Walton, the new minister, and his family.
- a considerable amount of improvement has been put on the (Presbyterian) parsonage recently so that it is now in first class condition. This includes new wall paper, painting, outside and inside, new hardwood floors downstairs, addition of a sleeping porch, reshingling part of the roof, and a new range has been installed in the kitchen.
- 8 July: Villisca's Presbyterian baseball team went to Hastings last Thursday p.m. and defeated the boys over there 18 to 17..... to be eligible to play in this game it was made imperative that each boy attend some service at the Presbyterian church the previous Sunday. An ideal way to get boys inside the church
- 29 July: The ball teams of the Methodist and Presbyterian churches of this city settled the matter of superiority on the Butler field Monday when the score board showed 16 runs to the credit of the Methodists and 7 for the opposing team. The lineups were as follows: Methodist- Lowell Jillson, c; John Kehr, p; Clark Cooper, 1st b; Durwood Shane, 2nd b; James Shane, 3d b; Donald Stickler, ss; Wallace Carlson, rf; Austin Childs, cf; Ralph Jillson, lf. Presbyterians- Robert Moore, c; Byron Cropp, p; Everett Ewing, 1st b; Chester Warne, 2nd b; Walter Bales, 3d b; Otis Cropp, ss; Wesley Moore, rf; Glen King, cf; Donald Porter, lf.
- 23 Sept: The fall meeting of the Corning Presbytery will be held in Villisca on Tuesday and Wednesday of next week
- On Monday evening preceding, Dr. Scott W. Smith of Des Moines, secretary of the New Era movement in Iowa, will deliver a lecture illustrated by late stereopticon views
- On Wednesday evening will take place the installation service of Rev. A. P. Walton
- 50 pastors and laymen are expected The visitors will be entertained in the homes of members of the church
- 23 Dec: A choir of 20 voices of the Presbyterian church gave a Christmas cantata at the church Sunday p.m. the church was filled to

capacity The cantata was given under the direction of Howard Peckham.

1922

- 21 Apr: The people of Villisca have been especially favored with several programs of exceptionally fine music during the last few days.
The first program given was that of the Parsons College glee club on Wednesday evening at the Presbyterian church.
Special Easter services were held at the Presbyterian church at the morning church hour Five new members were taken into the church The Choir of the Presbyterian Church gave an Easter cantata Sunday p.m. The church was filled
- Those taking part were the Misses Nellie Mann, Marguerite Walton, Hattie Leach, Dorothy Bolt, Lois Nelson, Mesdames Lester Scott, W. E. Cropp, Ross Moore, Harold Nordyke, Jas. Meyers, Messrs. Harold Todd, Harold Nordyke, Howard Peckham, Jas. Honeyman and Joe Means.
- 28 Apr: Twenty-two men, members of the official boards of the Presbyterian and Methodist churches and a few other persons, held a meeting in the basement of the Presbyterian church Monday evening, the purpose of the meeting being to devise a plan by which a satisfactory substitute for Sunday baseball games may be supplied and the Sunday ball games on the Villisca diamond discontinued this year
- (Note: They suggested that all businesses close on Thursday afternoon during the summer months, and all ball games be played at that time. Result - The ball games continued on Sunday as usual.)
- 7 July: "A County Fair", an evening of unusual amusement for both young and old, will be presented by the intermediate CE Boy Scouts and Camp Fire Girls, assisted by Senior and Junior Endeavorers, in the basement of the Presbyterian church, Friday evening, July 7th. Free entertainment by a "Novelty Brass Quartet", a "Dixie Land" with a colored band, a "Land of Mystery" trip, "One Ring Circus", "Romany Fortune Teller" and other features will be presented. Ice cream and cake, lemonade, popcorn and candy. Admission ticket 5 cents

1923

- 2 Febr: The fire company was called to the Presbyterian parsonage about 6:30 o'clock last Friday evening when a small blaze had started in some loose shingles in the furnace room. The fire was extinguished before the arrival of the firemen, and no damage was done to the building.
- 14 Sept: Dr. A. P. Walton expects to leave this p.m. with two or three automobile loads of members of the boy scouts of the Presbyterian Church for Hawkins Park, six miles south of Red Oak, where they will pitch camp, and spend the night. They will fish in the Nishnabotna River while there, and they expect to return home Saturday.
- 5 Oct: At the recent meeting of the Iowa Synod of the Presbyterian Church, Dr. A. P. Walton was chosen as a member of a committee to have charge of the reorganization of the work of the church.

1924

- 15 Febr: The play put on in the Presbyterian church Thursday and Friday evenings of last week by the boy scouts and campfire girls was well given and drew good audiences each evening, the net proceeds being about \$50. The money will be used to help defray the expense of

the log lodge which these organizations are planning to erect along the old river bed north of Villisca this spring.

4 July: Dr. A. P. Walton and a number of boys are camping this week near the river on the James Christie land northwest of Villisca where they are busy building a lodge for the campfire girls and boy scouts of the Presbyterian church. A number of men, in and out of the church, have helped on the building

11 July: the new camp grounds and building are being initiated into service by the boy scouts of the church who with their scout master, Dr. Walton, went there Monday morning for a week's outing. Fishing and bathing will be enjoyed and a 14 passenger boat, constructed last summer by Dr. Walton, will be brought down the river from its mooring and pressed into service again.

On Monday morning of next week the campfire girls of the church will go to the lodge for a week's outing under the care of their campfire guardian, Mrs. A. P. Walton.

The building is not yet completed, but with vacation time on now and an opportunity at hand to get much good from what is to be the permanent camping place of the young people of the church, Dr. Walton has arranged to open the place.

26 Sept: Sunday will be a red letter day in the lives of the young people of the Presbyterian church in Villisca, and in fact, for the entire church membership, for on that day will take place the formal opening and dedication of the log lodge which has been built for the young people of the church on the James Christie land three miles north of the city.

Dr. A. P. Walton, who with his wife, has directed the construction of the building and the preparation of the recreational grounds surrounding it, states that all members and friends of the Presbyterian Church, and especially those who have in any way contributed toward making this achievement possible, are urgently invited to attend the opening and dedication service.

The service will last throughout the day, and those who attend are asked to bring dinner. The dinner will be served cafeteria style by the Ladies Aid Society of the church.

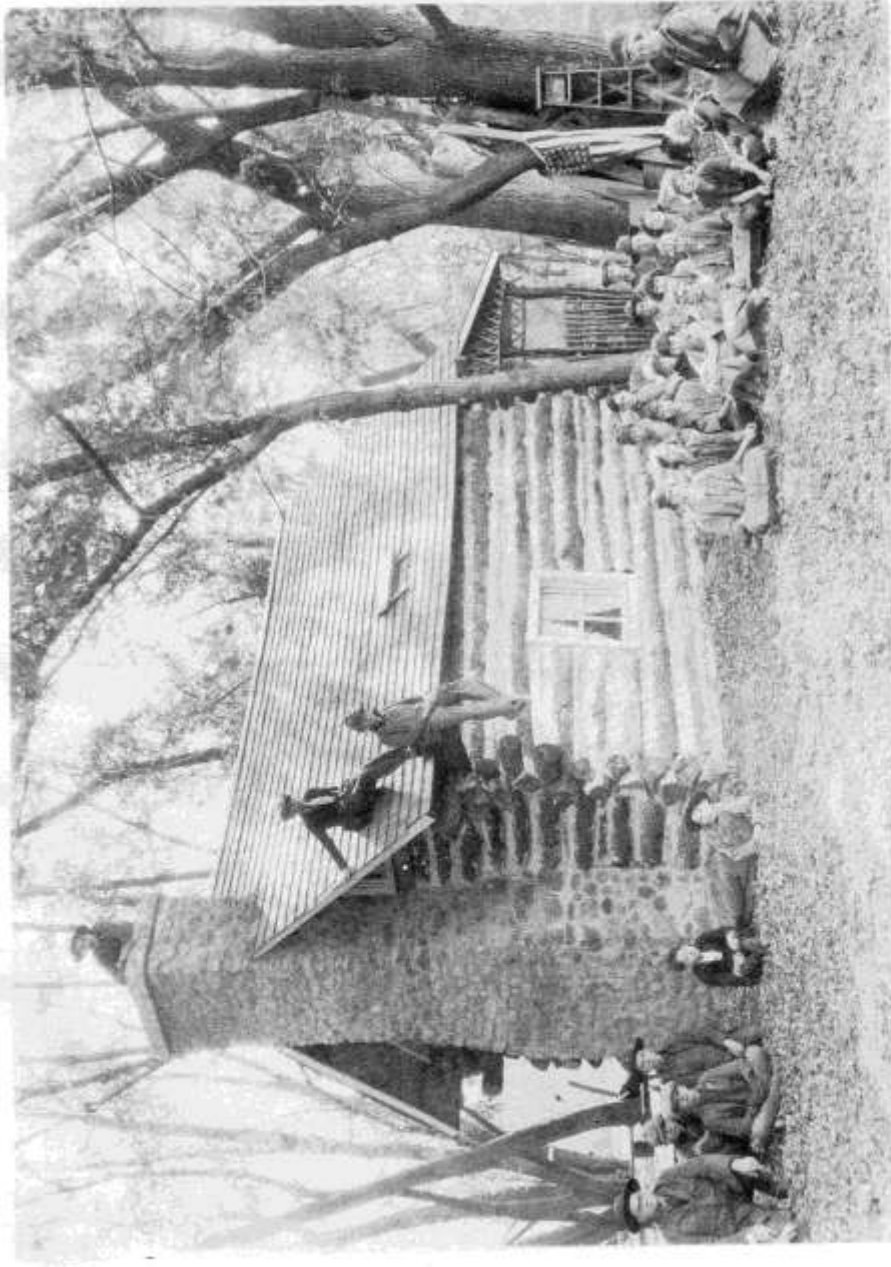
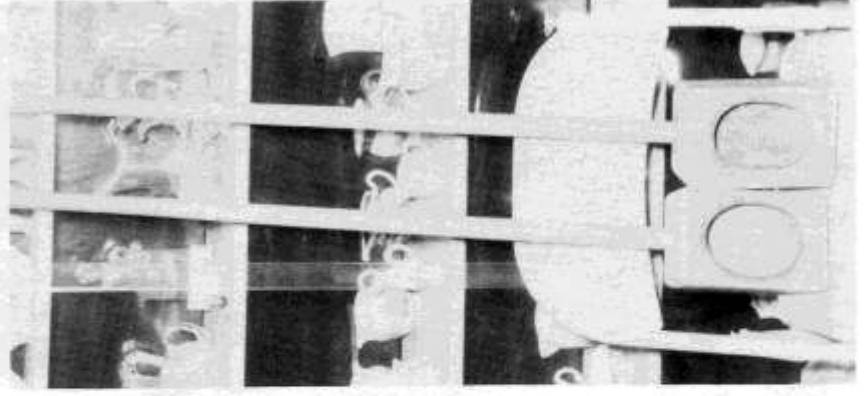
The day's program will be started by the Sunday School at 10 o'clock in the morning when a rally day service will be held, and at the close of the session, George J. Muller, superintendent of the Sunday School, will make a talk to those in attendance.

At the preaching hour at 11 o'clock there will be music by the choir, scripture reading, dedicatory prayer, and a ten minute sermon by the pastor. Following the sermon there will be talks of five minutes each by J. B. Means, Supt. H. E. Dow, B. C. Hullinger and Dr. F. M. Kelsay.

The afternoon program will begin at 2:30 o'clock with a half hour concert by the church orchestra, followed by singing by a male quartet of the church, scripture reading and invocation by the pastor. The other music of the afternoon will include a solo by Mrs. Hattie Crop, a song by the young people's chorus, and the closing song by the audience. Five minute talks will be given by Mrs. F. S. Williams, James Anderson, Mrs. A. P. Walton, James Christie, Dr. R. B. Smith, Ben Osborn, R. J. Swanson, Mrs. E. C. Gibbs, J. B. Means, Alfred Williams and L. B. Nelson.

The new lodge, which is located on the West Nodaway river, and is constructed of logs cut from the surrounding timber, is 14 x 18 feet in size and will be completed this week. A rustic porch has been added to

No one knows how old these collection boxes are. They were used until 1929, when the Ladies' Aid paid Mr. Froyd \$14 for "collection plates", probably the ones used now in the basement. When Quincy Dunn became an usher in 1925, Ray Stutphen said Quincy handled the box like a pitchfork. The boxes are now in the Willisca Library museum.



Presbyterian cabin - about 1925

At end of cabin; left to right: Dr. Walton; George Walton; Archibald Stinson; Herman Christie; Loy Maxey; Leonard Moore.
 Roof: Elmer Froyd; Roger Taylor; Alden Devine.
 Front row: Mary Ridnour; Mildred Orr; Doris Ashburn; Lillian Froyd; _____; Elenore Froyd; Mrs. Walton.
 Middle row: Garnet Dunn; Rachel Sawyer; Florence Maxey; Thelma Liken; Zoe Taylor; Ruthella Palmquist.
 Back row: Keith Taylor; Bill Freeland; Ed Reynolds; Harold Osborn; Ward Christie.



—Review Photo

5 June, 1939; Review: Mock wedding; left front: Roger Hausen, Martha Ann Dodson, Lois McIntosh, Mary Moore, Raymond Casebolt, James Focht, and Patricia Dunn.

Back row: Patty Pennington, Jean Moore, Calvin Anderson, Mrs. H. A. Eno, Freddie Eno and Richard Osborn.



13 September, 1958:
Centennial parade;
Presbyterian float.
Linda Artlip, age 10,
lay on her back
under the hands and
turned the crank
that made the world
go around.



19 April, 1956:
Wade Scholey helped
to insulate the
church attic.

10 Sept, 1956: This gang of coal miners
had been cleaning the coal bin, which
became the kindergarten room. From
left, James Anderson, John Magnuson,
Paul Fisher, Calvin Anderson, John
Rossander, Quincy Dunn, Fred
Fisher, and part of Alvin Sigafus.



February, 1958;
laying the oak floor
in the sanctuary.
Clark Devine at far
left, and Charles
Artlip with can of
nails.



Presbyterian float, about 1950. The second girl from left is Judy Muller. The preacher may be Judd Nordyke. The folding Belhorn organ was purchased in 1923.

5 June, 1962: Berean Class at Sutphen's 50th anniversary. From left, front: Alvin Sigafus, Emma and Ray Sutphen, Hazel Williams. Behind, seated: Margaret Devine, Gladys Anderson. Standing: Lena Devine, Hazel Holland, Pearl Sierp, Nelle Wendling, Ethel Means, Mary Kernan, Eunice Clark, Vivian Reese, Clara Bunnell, Edith Stillinger.



the building and this has been screened in to serve also as a dining room.

A large fireplace, faced with boulders, in which have been constructed the emblems of the boy scouts and the campfire girls, has been built and is one of the attractive features of the camp. All of the work required in putting up the building and in preparing the grounds has been donated not alone by members of the Presbyterian Church, but by many who are not affiliated with that organization. Rustic furniture which is also being built by donation labor, is being installed and includes chairs, benches, a table, and other pieces, which will contribute to the comfort and pleasure of those for whom the building has been erected.

1925

- 9 Jan: Next Monday evening a rabbit supper will be served in the dining rooms of the Presbyterian church. This supper will be served under the auspices of the young people's organizations and for the benefit of their work

The men of the church and any friends who wish to help, will have a contest rabbit hunt Friday p.m. to secure the rabbits.....

The orchestra will furnish good music

(Note: The wording of this item shows that the north half of the basement had been finished and added to the dining room. The work was done in the fall of 1923, under the direction of the women. Folding doors were installed between the two areas.)

- 15 May: The regular hour for Presbyterian Church services Sunday a.m. will be devoted to a memorial service for Mrs. Lizzie Playfair who died in Africa in March
- 12 June: Dr. A. P. Walton and the boys of the Presbyterian church left Monday for a week's outing at the log lodge. The last finishing touches were recently added to the rustic building, and with folding beds hinged to the walls like those in a Pullman sleeper there is room for 20 boys, the overflow being taken care of in tents near the building
- 25 Sept: ADV- Two religious plays will be given by the young people's organizations of the Presbyterian church Friday evening of this week at the church. 28 characters in the two plays

1926

- 19 Febr: The orchestra of the Presbyterian Church, under the direction of J. H. Todd, is scheduled to go to Clarinda Tuesday evening of next week where they will broadcast a program from station KSO of the Berry Seed Company the members of the orchestra are J. H. Todd; Dr. J. C. Cooper and Miss Lillian Williams, violins; Ned Osborn, clarinet; Paul Negley, trombone; Willis Weaver, cornet; Wm. Washburn, drums; Miss Winifred Ewing, piano; Eldon Roth, saxophone. Soloists for the evening will be J. H. Todd, tenor; Miss Mary Cresay, soprano; Dr. J. C. Cooper, baritone; Miss Winifred Ewing, Pianist; Miss Lillian Williams, violinist.

(Note: 28 November; Session Minutes: Motion carried for Mr. Todd to purchase musical instruments for the orchestra and pay for them from the Sunday evening collections.)

- 2 Apr: Dr. A. P. Walton tendered his resignation to his congregation. During Dr. Walton's pastorate here his church has advanced from the 4th to the 2nd place in size in the Corning Presbytery, the Clarinda

church having approximately 50 more members than the Villisca church. Dr. Walton and his wife have been particularly successful in their work with the young people of their congregation. They have in operation three CE societies, boy scouts and campfire girls organizations and a large Westminster Guild circle.

--- Ad. Because the church to which I go furnishes me a Star sedan automobile, I am offering my Ford sedan for sale cheap. Equipped with Hossler shock absorbers, Ruxstell axle, attractive visor, large steering wheel and several other smaller pieces of equipment. Water pump and self starter. A. P. Walton

30 July: Workmen began Monday morning redecorating the walls of the Presbyterian Church, and there will be no services held in the church next Sunday. The Sunday School will be held in the chautauqua tent at the regular hour.....

17 Sept: Rev. J. R. Blue of Green Bay, Wisconsin, has accepted a call to become pastor of the Presbyterian church in Villisca.

5 Nov: The men and boys of the Presbyterian church are anticipating a pleasant evening together Thursday of next week, November 11, when they meet in the church dining room for a fathers and sons banquet.....

..... Each man of the church is expected to be present accompanied by his own or some one else's son.

The program will open with orchestral music at 6:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 6:45. The male quartet will start the after dinner program after which the men and boys will tell each other what their nicknames are and how they obtained them. Ten minute talks will then be given as follows:

R. J. Swanson, "When father was a boy"; Harold Osborn, "Tips for top dads"; E. K. Scoggin, "What a dad should expect from a boy"; Archibald Stinson, "What a boy should expect from his dad"; B. C. Hullinger, "Values of father-son comradship". The program will also include recitations by Clark Palmquist and Robert Scott.

---The members of the Junior Endeavor society of the Presbyterian Church are planning to spend Saturday at the log lodge Each Endeavorer is asked to bring weiners, buns and fruit enough for himself.....

(Note: This is the last mention of the log cabin that I found. I am told that it was in use by the church at least up into the 1930s. It was then frequented by undesirables who walked across the fields to escape detection. The place acquired a very bad reputation, and when it washed down the Nodaway in a flood, James Christie said, "The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away". The rest of the Presbyterians uttered a fervent "Amen".)

12 Nov: An entertainment which promises to furnish an abundance of merriment will be presented at the "Womanless Wedding" in the armory next Thursday evening, Nov. 18, under the auspices of the ladies of the Presbyterian Church.....

80 men of Villisca will have parts in the entertainment, and though the names of some of them are known, the secret of who will have the parts of the bride and groom is being carefully guarded until they appear on the stage

(Note: Wirt Barnes, bride; Harold Todd, groom.)

26 Nov: The young people of the churches of Villisca will hold a sunrise Thanksgiving service on Thanksgiving morning in the Presbyterian church. The program will begin at 7 o'clock.

24 Dec: The seating capacity of the First Presbyterian Church was all but taxed Sunday night as members of the congregation under the pastor's supervision set forth the events of the nativity in impressive scenes of

pageantry About 60 people participated, including members of the choir.

1927

- 11 Feb: Presbyterian Notes: "A hearse is a poor vehicle in which to make your first visit to church." R. J. Blue, pastor.
- 18 Feb: Many of the residents of this vicinity enjoyed the program, which was given Thursday evening of last week by the Presbyterian church orchestra of this city from radio station KSO in Clarinda. Besides the several numbers given by the orchestra, there were instrumental and vocal solos, and a talk was given by Rev. R. J. Blue. The program was heard by some of Rev. Blue's former parishioners in Green Bay, Wisconsin, according to word which he received from them.
- 18 Mar: Presbyterian Notes: The Ladies' Aid Society, under the supervision of the trustees, is remodeling the rooms at the east end of the church basement.
- 1 Apr: Presbyterian Notes: needed improvements to the kitchen, cloak-room and lavatory also were completed this week.
- 28 Oct: The young people's rally of the Corning Presbytery was held Wednesday evening in the Presbyterian Church with 190 young people in attendance

1928

- 20 Jan: The (Presbyterian) pastor and his family rejoice in the gift of the 6-tube radio receiving set and thank all persons who shared in its cost.
- 24 Febr: Mrs. Todd's "Light Bearers" grow in number their ages running to 8 years. The sponsorship plan for the Pioneers and Mr. Sutphin's supervision of the Tuxis are both meeting with splendid success
- 21 Sept: The Berean class has initiated a movement whereby parents with small children may leave them with a group of high school girls in the church basement during the morning preaching period.
(Note: The Ladies Adult Bible Class was divided in the fall of 1924. The women under 40 formed a new class with Elizabeth Hugus as teacher. At the October, 1925, meeting, it was decided that the new class would be known as the Berean Class.)
- 2 Nov: We urge all loyal Presbyterians, both young and old, to attend the "mass" meeting at the Methodist Church next Sunday night. The irrepressible minority, which feels that an injustice is being done them, should be present also Do not confuse the issue, if you do not want the movies to run on Sunday, vote "No".
- 16 Nov: The congregation of the Presbyterian Church was given a complete surprise Sunday morning when the pastor, Rev. Rolland J. Blue, presented his resignation
- Rev. Blue told his Sunday morning audience that he would agree to withdraw his resignation on condition that none of his salary hereafter come from those who knowingly violate the state statutes and city ordinances relative to gainful occupation on Sunday, that benevolence funds be paid immediately to the benevolence treasurer, and none of these moneys be borrowed for local expenditures, and that old grudges between certain members be dropped.
- 30 Nov: VOTE FOR PASTOR'S RELEASE - the vote Sunday morning indicated the members do not wish to comply with the conditions imposed.

- The pipe organ at the Presbyterian Church has been completely overhauled by an expert who spent about four days in the process
- Ad: Rummage sale- by the Presbyterian ladies, Sat. p.m. and eve, Dec. 1, in the Staton building.

1929

- 4 Mar: In her will, Mrs. Lucy I. Marsh left bequests to the Methodist and Presbyterian churches of Villisca, each of which is to receive \$1,500
- 28 June: Nine young people of the Presbyterian church attended the annual conference at Bellevue, Nebr. The Villisca delegation out numbered all others at the conference, repeating the triumph of last year. In recognition of that record, they received a fine New Testament as a prize.
- 4 Oct: a unanimous vote was passed to extend a call to the Rev. Arthur Mortenson, pastor of the Presbyterian church at Lenox.

1930

- 11 Apr: The Villisca male chorus, which was organized during the winter season by Rev. Arthur Mortenson, who is the conductor, will go to Morton Mills this Friday evening to give their inaugural concert in the Union Church
- 25 Apr: An Easter choral concert of exceptional merit was given Sunday evening in the Methodist church by the Villisca Philharmonic society- the united choirs of the Presbyterian and Methodist churches - under the direction of Rev. Arthur Mortenson as the closing event of the Holy week program. The society has a membership of forty-five singers with organ and piano accompaniment.....
- 5 Dec: Presbytery Meets Here to Discuss Church Problems -- An all-day session of the Corning Presbytery held here Tuesday at the local Presbyterian Church brought seventy guests from out of the city to attend the meeting. The banquet Tuesday evening was served to 104 guests by members of the Women's Association of the local church. Music during the dinner hour was furnished by the Villisca Orchestra under the direction of J. H. Todd.

This orchestra also played a prelude to the pageant which was presented at 7:30 p.m. as the conclusion of the day's program. Thirty-six Villisca people took part in the pageant which was entitled "The Dream That Came True".

The cast of the pageant included the Rev. Arthur Mortenson, Mrs. R. J. Swanson, Marjorie Adkins, Thomas Fisher, Lorene Lawson, Robert Scott, George J. Muller, Mrs. L. E. Gunderman, Mrs. H. A. McIntosh, Harold Nordyke, R. J. Swanson, Paul Forsythe, Hugh Milledge, Chas. Stinson, Malcolm Posten, Mrs. Lester Scott, Paul Sutphen, Geo. Muller, Jr, Max Nordyke, Supt. H. E. Dow, Ruth Christie, Ray Sutphen, Frances Shields, Bonnie Gunderman, Elizabeth Means, Blanche Hutton, Norma Froyd, Margaret Dow, Jeanne Stillians, Louise Todd, Florence McIntosh, and Lois Kunce. Mrs. J. S. Honeyman, at the organ, accompanied the musical numbers.

(Note: In April, 1930, the Ladies' Aid Society and the Women's Missionary Society were united into one organization, the Presbyterian Women's Association. For many years the women of our church spent a good share of their time serving dinners. One night,

they closed the dividing doors in the dining room and fed two different groups at the same time.)

1931

- 24 Apr: Ad: Attend the illustrated lecture on Russia at the Presbyterian church Thursday evening, April 23. Admission 35 cents.
- 1 May: Several members of the Women's Association of the local Presbyterian church attended the 39th annual meeting of the Women's Society for Missions of the Corning Presbytery which was held Thursday and Friday in Creston. Members of the local young people's league also went to Creston Friday evening for the young people's rally held in connection with the two day meeting.
- 15 May: The Presbyterian church was filled Friday evening with the audience which was there to hear the home concert of the men's chorus of Villisca which has met weekly for practice since last fall and has given several concerts at various places during the last few months. Evidence of appreciation of the program Friday evening was expressed by the enthusiastic applause which was accorded the singers and the instrumental number. Following the program, refreshments were served by the ladies of the church.
- 3 July: Twelve young people of the Presbyterian church left here Monday morning for a week of study and fun at the annual Presbyterian young people's conference which is in session all this week at Bellvue. Villisca's delegation was composed of the following: Bonnie Gunderman, Charles Stinson, George Muller, Jr, Max Nordyke, Ruth Christie, Robert Scott, Paul Sutphen, Lois Kunce, Jean Stillians, Hugh Milledge, Norma Froyd and Doyle Lybyer.....
- 24 July: Thirty-five young people of the Presbyterian church, who are members of the Pioneer group, enjoyed a picnic and swimming party Friday evening in Red Oak.

1932

- 5 Feb: Presbyterian Notes: On Friday evening, Feb. 12, the Workers' Council consisting of all our church school workers, will meet at 6:30 for a buffet luncheon, executive session and educational program.
- 26 Feb: Presbyterian notes: The FBC committee will continue its work at the manse Friday evening at 8 o'clock.
(Note: What was the FBC?)
- 23 Dec: A Christmas pageant which has been adapted and directed by Miss Margaret Hausen will be presented this Friday night at 7:30 o'clock in the Presbyterian church auditorium, with a cast of twelve persons portraying the main roles and assisted by a chorus of twenty voices. ... A white gift service will be a feature of the program, with the various classes and sections of the church each presenting a gift for needy local families. These gifts will be distributed before Christmas day by the Good Cheer committee of the Presbyterian Women's association. Christmas treats will be distributed to children at the close of the program.

1933

- 6 Jan: The Pioneer choir members will meet at the manse at 4 p.m. on Monday for rehearsal.

7 Apr: A rare musical treat is in store for Villiscans on Easter Sunday, April 16, when a 34 voice chorus from the Methodist and Presbyterian churches will present the Easter Oratorio, "The Seven Last Words of Christ."

The program will take the form of a vesper service at 4 p.m. in the Presbyterian church. Members of the chorus have been preparing for the presentation for the last three months

22 Dec: The Rev. and Mrs. Arthur Mortenson were guests of honor Wednesday evening at a covered dish dinner..... A surprise Christmas gift shower for them was a feature of the evening. Approximately 125 members of the church attended ... Santa Claus appeared at the conclusion of the program with baskets of pop corn balls for the guests

1934

19 Jan: 26 young people of the Presbyterian church presented a black-face minstrel show Monday evening in the church parlors

30 Mar:the Easter cantata will be presented by the combined vested choirs of the Methodist and Presbyterian churches a chorus of 36 voices under the direction of J. H. Todd

15 June: The young people's societies of the Presbyterian and Methodist churches are joint sponsors of a home talent play, "The World's All Right", which will be given in the Armory

5 Oct: Presbyterian Notes: This coming Sabbath is set aside as Rally day in our church During the latter part of the service a cast of 24 people will present a dramatic pageant, "The Lamp Within Thy Hand"

12 Oct: Ad: Rummage sale, Presbyterian church basement, Sat, Oct. 13, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

(Notes: Rummage sales had been held occasionally, but this was the beginning of an annual tradition. From 1935 through 1941, there were either two or three sales each year.)

9 Nov: The Young People's Sunday School class 1823 of the Presbyterian church entertained at a party held in their church Friday evening..... A taffy pull and games formed the evening's entertainment.

14 Dec: Presbyterian Notes: The annual church school Christmas service will be held Sabbath evening..... Charles Dickens' "Christmas Carol" is to be presented

1935

12 Apr: The two day session of the spring meeting of the Corning Presbytery held here this week was attended by 160 ministers, women and laymen from the churches represented. Meetings were held in the Presbyterian and Methodist churches. Those staying overnight were entertained in local homes. The visitors were highly commendatory of the hospitality extended to them by the churches of Villisca.

3 May: The young people of the Presbyterian church are announcing an entertainment which they will give in their church this Friday evening, presenting two one-act plays, with which they hope to raise funds to help defray the expenses of delegates to the young people's conference at Camp Brewster, south of Omaha, to be held June 24 to July 2 The number of delegates will depend on the amount of money raised

13 Dec: On the evening of the 22d, the Presbyterian church school will present its annual "White Gifts for the King Service".

- 7 Febr: With continued winter weather and a shortage of fuel, all services at the Presbyterian church will be held in the lower auditorium.
- 10 Apr: Presbyterian Notes: This Good Friday evening at 6:30 p.m. the members and constituents of the church will meet for the annual meeting. (Note: "Trustees Report: Probably the highlight of the years' achievement was the installation of a much needed new furnace. This was accomplished when the Armory Board offered the Board of Trustees the better of their two furnaces, if the Board of Trustees would pay for removing it from the Armory and installing it in the church.")
A new furnace had been purchased in 1924. No doubt that was the one that was replaced.)
- 17 Apr: Presbyterian Notes: Tuesday, April 21 the pastor and representatives of The Woman's association will be in attendance at the spring session of Presbytery and Presbyterial held at Bedford. (Note: Maude McIntosh was elected President of Presbyterial.)
- 2 Oct: Presbyterian Notes: Wednesday p.m. October 7, the Woman's association will meet at the church (Note: The women voted to buy the paint and proceed with redecorating the church. It was suggested that "we put in new light bulbs while the scaffolding is up. Also investigate rats in the attic." They had a window installed in the kitchen. The church had been trying for several years to replace the roof, but couldn't raise the money. In February, the women appointed a committee to try to locate the leaks in the roof when the snow began to melt. In October, the women voted to take over the expense of the flat roofs as their contribution to the new roof.
There are a number of references pertaining to roof repair. On one of those occasions, perhaps about this time, the spire was removed from the bell tower. The bell may have been taken down at the same time.)
- 9 Oct: A Men's Fellowship was organized at the Presbyterian church Tuesday following an oyster supper
- 13 Nov: "The First Commandment" will be staged next Tuesday and Wednesday nights Nov. 17 and 18, in the Presbyterian church, under the sponsorship of that church It is a biblical dramatization, produced by a home talent cast of prominent business men and professional men, women and young people..... Included in the cast are 75 people who will wear authentic costumes of 4000 years ago.

- 2 Apr: Presbyterian Notes: On Wednesday p.m. the Woman's association will meet at the church (Note: The women paid the bill for new carpets for the church. They had had the floors and pews refinished earlier in the year. The minutes for the January meeting requested that "Anyone having furniture for the new rest room please report to the committee.")
- 24 Sept: A "hobo" party was enjoyed Tuesday evening by 26 young people from the Tuxis society of the Presbyterian church when they met for the first social of the year.
The guests assembled at the home of Mayor and Mrs. Geo. Farquhar, where the mayor gave to each member a paper bag containing sandwiches.

The tramps next received morsels at the Fen Fisher residence, but other stops along the way failed to yield results until the third contribution was obtained at the Truman residence.

The party then hiked to Idle Nook located on the Tyler farm along the Middle Nodaway east of Villisca. Just before the cops arrived to rush them off to another place, the group gathered around the council fire for their lunch.

1 Oct: Presbyterian Notes: 11 a.m. - World-wide Communion Sunday, with Mrs. McIntosh assisting the minister and ruling elders in the administration of the sacrament.....

(Note: This is misleading; Mrs. Mac just prepared the elements. Was this the first time that the table was prepared by a woman?)

1938

24 Feb: The Trail Blazers, girls' organization of the Presbyterian church, gave a colonial tea Saturday at the church from 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. for the purpose of raising funds for their missionary claim. They made \$6.15.....

(Note: The Trail Blazers were organized in the fall of 1934.)

10 Mar: the young people's rally of the Presbytery of Corning will be held here Sunday in the Presbyterian Church.

An impressive drama, "The Years Ahead", will be presented by the Villisca young people

19 May: Mrs. H. A. McIntosh left Monday evening for Buck Hill, Pennsylvania, where she is the delegate from the Corning Presbyterial society to the national meeting

22 Dec: Methodist Notes: The Christmas program will be given next Sunday evening in the Presbyterian church at 7:30. Young people from both Sunday Schools will participate in the pageant.

(Note: The Methodist church burned on Sunday morning, 6 November, 1938. The other churches shared their premises and activities with the Methodist people while they were without a building.)

1939

27 Apr: Mrs. H. A. McIntosh of Villisca was reelected president of the Presbyterial of Corning

29 June: The Rev. Arthur Mortenson of the Villisca Presbyterian Church gave an address over radio station WOI in Ames at 7:10 today

--- Mary Moore and James Focht were "married" Thursday night in a mock wedding ceremony performed at the First Presbyterian Church by "the Rev." Raymond Casebolt. The bride was attired in the wedding dress worn by her grandmother, Mrs. Lena Moore, 46 years ago. Other participants were Roger Hausen, Martha Ann Dodson, Lois McIntosh, Patricia Dunn, Patty Pennington, Jean Moore, Calvin Anderson, Freddie Eno, and Richard Osborn. The youngsters are members of the "Pioneer Society", a church organization taught by the Rev. Arthur Mortenson. (picture)

1940

8 Feb: Interdenominational World Day of Prayer service will be held Friday at 2:30 p.m. in the lower auditorium of the Presbyterian church ...

21 Mar: Good Friday service of worship at the Presbyterian church dramatization of "The Terrible Meek," with Miss Larson directing the presentation.

- 18 Apr: The annual mother-daughter banquet in the Presbyterian church on Monday evening had an attendance of 118. The dinner was cooked and served by the men of the church.
- 26 Sept: The ladies of the Presbyterian church Tuesday of last week presented a "Quilt Romance" in the church. A number of quilts were displayed, and a history was given for each.
- 31 Oct: The Presbyterian Men's Fellowship met in the lower auditorium of the church Monday evening for its initial meeting of the current year. The refreshment committee served an oyster supper.....
- 25 Nov: The semi-monthly meeting on Wednesday of the Presbyterian Women's Association will consist of devotions followed with a candle light service, and the offering of gifts to be forwarded to our Indian school at Ganado.
- 5 Dec: Many Villiscans will be listening in on radio station KFNF, Shenandoah, next Sunday at 2 p.m., when the adult choir of the Presbyterian church of Villisca will broadcast a program during the Union Presbyterian hour. J. H. Todd will direct the singers and Mrs. H. A. Eno will be the accompanist.
- The Presbyterian young people's group, the University of Life, will meet for its friendship party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Sutphen on Friday at 7:30 p.m.

1941

- 7 Feb: Monday will be mobilization day in Villisca, as approximately 110 members of Company F, Villisca unit of the national guard, assemble at the armory for the beginning of a year of military training.....
Meals will be cooked and served in the basement of the Presbyterian Church, which has been rented by the Company for "the duration" and the men will go home at night to sleep.....
- 10 Apr: Mrs. Riley Dodson, Red Cross chairman, announced that the Berean Sunday School class of the Presbyterian church has started work on 24 cotton dresses for the Red Cross.
- The four semi-monthly divisional meetings of the Woman's association will be held Wednesday p.m.
(Note: Prior to this time, they held two general meetings a month at the church.)
- 24 Apr: Several Villisca ladies Tuesday attended the all-day conference of the Presbyterial of Corning at Greenfield. Mrs L. E. Gunderman was reelected secretary of literature and Mrs. H. A. McIntosh, retiring president, was appointed social education and action secretary for the Synodical society
- 15 May: The Rev. and Mrs. Arthur Mortenson and family moved Wednesday to Winterset, Ia, where the Rev. Mr. Mortenson has accepted a call to be pastor of the First Presbyterian Church.
The Rev. Mr. Mortenson had been pastor of the First Presbyterian church of Villisca 11 1/2 years.
- 23 Oct: Ad: Bazaar and food sale, beginning at 2:30 p.m., harvest home supper, 5 to 7, Presbyterian church, Saturday, Oct. 25.
- 30 Oct: Mrs. H. A. McIntosh, Mrs. Louis Armstrong, Mrs. H. H. Nordyke and Mrs. H. E. Dow attended a meeting of the Synodical society for Missions at Des Moines Thursday and Friday. Mrs. McIntosh was elected president of the society at the meeting, and Mrs. Armstrong was elected secretary.
- 6 Nov: The Rev. Frederick W. Thompson, new Presbyterian minister and his wife and daughter arrived in Villisca last Thursday. The Rev. and Mrs.

Thompson were both born in Northern Ireland, where they received their education. They have six children, three boys and three girls. Margaret, the youngest, and only one at home, is in the 6th grade.

- 18 Dec: Members of the Trailblazers, Presbyterian girls' organization, are planning on going about the city singing Christmas carols on Tuesday night of next week. The girls want to be sure they won't disturb anyone and so they are asking those who want to hear the carols to place a lighted candle in one of the front windows.

(Note: picture of Jean Goodman, Jeannie Moore and Phyllis Forsythe)

1942

- 2 Apr: Mrs. H. A. McIntosh, president of the Synodical society of the Presbyterian church of Iowa, plans to leave Saturday and will be gone through April, attending the ten spring meetings of the Presbyterial.

- 9 Apr: During the season of Lent, the Spiritual Life group of the Presbyterian church sponsored a series of cottage prayer meetings, held each morning at 9 o'clock.

- 7 May: Mrs. H. A. McIntosh plans to leave Saturday for Atlantic City, N.J., where she will go as a delegate to the national meeting of the women of the Presbyterian Church.

- 2 July: A Presbyterian junior choir is being organized. Children 12 years old and up may register with Miss Margaret Hausen or the pastor.....

- 10 Sept: W. J. Sinclair Thompson, son of the Rev. and Mrs. F. W. Thompson of Villisca, who just recently returned from Bangkok, Thailand, where he was held as a Japanese prisoner of war, will speak at the Presbyterian church tonight at 8 o'clock. The general public is invited to be present..... Mr. Thompson had been a missionary teacher in Thailand for four years.....

- 10 Dec: Presbyterian Notes: The dedication service of the honor roll banner for the boys related to this church organization was held last Sunday morning. Weather conditions affected to some extent the attendance on this occasion. In response to inquiries we wish to say that extra copies of the order of service used last Sunday morning are available if wanted.

1943

- 22 Apr: The University of Life for Youth will hold its last meeting of the season in the Methodist Church Sunday evening at 6 p.m.

(Note: As described by Rev. Thompson, the University of Life is a social, educational and inspirational program for youth under the joint sponsorship of the Methodist and Presbyterian churches.)

- 6 May: A spiritual life conference was held in the Presbyterian church Monday from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m., with delegates from Greenfield, Creston, Red Oak and Clarinda in attendance

..... Attending delegates brought their own lunches and the local church served coffee, cream and sugar.

(Note: This was probably the first time in the history of the church that the women failed to serve a meal to a visiting group. They weren't serving anyone else, either. War shortages halted that practice.)

- 12 Aug: The interior of the Presbyterian church is being redecorated this week.

- 30 Dec: The Villisca Ministerial association has arranged for the obser-

vance of the week of Prayer in a different manner than has been customary.

..... heeding the urgent call of the president of the United States for a national day of prayer on the first day of the New Year, the committee has arranged for a city-wide prayer meeting to be held in the basement of the Presbyterian church at 9:30 a.m., January 1.....

1944

- 20 Jan: Presbyterian Notes: The pastor wishes to express his appreciation of the response given to the special war-time service fund offering taken last Sunday morning. There are yet a great many envelopes to be returned We hope that all families and individuals who received the reading matter about the War-Time Service Fund of the Presbyterian Church in the USA will read it very carefully. It is a complete reference booklet of questions and answers about the objectives of the fund
- 13 Apr: The entire auditorium and lecture room of the Presbyterian church, and many additional chairs which occupied all available space were filled by the audience which was at the Presbyterian Church Thursday evening to hear the address of Sgt. Milo C. Green, recently returned from overseas where for nearly two years he has served as correspondent for The Review to keep readers of this newspaper in close touch with the boys of Company F of which he is a member.
An overflow audience was accommodated in the basement where they were able to hear the address by means of the loud speaker system which was installed for the evening.....
- 4 May: The late Mrs. Clara Cowgill Cochrane, whose will was probated in court recently, directed that \$1,000 be granted to the Villisca Presbyterian church
- 8 June: Presbyterian Church: Continuing the spirit of the "D" day service..... The Presbyterian church, together with the other churches of the community, will be open daily for prayer during the remainder of this week from 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. All who desire to use the facilities of our church are requested to use the Berean classroom at the rear of the main auditorium. Due to the work now being done to our church organ to recondition it, the main auditorium will not be available this week.
- 31 Aug: Ad- Berean Sunday School class of the Presbyterian church will have a rummage and apron sale Saturday, Sept. 2, at Ray Sutphen's store. (Note: Emma Sutphen said, "In 1933, money was hard to get; we had dinners, bazaars, even an auction sale in the Armory. We had our first rummage sale in the fall of that year. The next year one circle took over. Finally, they said it was too much work, so I said OK, here is where the Bereans start and we have been at it ever since. We started two rummage sales a year in 1965." The service committee had charge of the sales for a time.)

1945

- 8 Feb: The Presbyterian church group of married couples, service men's wives and other interested persons met Thursday of last week for a 7 o'clock chili supper in the church, for the purpose of organizing a club The group will meet the first Thursday of each month
(Note: At the next meeting, the group was named the "Westminster Club")

- 3 May: Mrs. H. A. McIntosh expects to leave Sunday for Ackley, Iowa, to attend a board meeting of the Presbyterian home. Mrs. McIntosh is a member of the board of directors.
- 22 Feb: The World Day of Prayer was observed Friday p.m. at the Presbyterian church. The church was filled and extra chairs had to be provided to seat the congregation of between 350 and 400 people
- 16 Aug: As elsewhere all over the nation, when the announcement of peace came, Villiscans immediately hurried to the city park, according to prearranged plans announced by hand bills here Saturday, as the fire siren sounded continuously for half an hour, accompanied by church and school bells.

Patriotic songs were broadcast over the Methodist church amplifier system, and by 7 p.m. blocks of cars had formed in line off the city square to follow the American Legion and others on foot for the parade which went to the north part of town and back to the park again.....

Following the parade there was held an hour of community singing in the park, and the program there was concluded with a flag raising ceremony by the American Legion. At 8 p.m. the churches of the city united in a religious service of thanksgiving at the Methodist church.

- 8 Nov: Presbyterian Notes: Sunday, November 11, will be the date of the opening for the 6th successive year of the "University of Life" for the young people of the Methodist and Presbyterian churches in Villisca. A copyrighted name, the fame of the "University of Life" has spread, and with that spreading, it has carried the name of Villisca as one of the outstanding examples of the youth organization
- 22 Nov: Presbyterian Notes: Sunday, November 18, was designated Restoration Fund Sunday in the 8,630 Presbyterian churches throughout the United States..... there is urgent need for restoration in the war devastated areas of Europe and Asia The quota for the Villisca Presbyterian church is \$3,138.44.....
- 20 Dec: The old furnace at the Presbyterian church has been taken down and groups of the men of the church have given several evenings during this week to preparing for the installation of the new furnace ... This means the sanctuary cannot be used for a considerable time, so services will be held in the basement until the new furnace is ready.

1946

- 21 Feb: The stained glass windows of the Presbyterian church, which were taken out of their place in the church and sent away for repair were returned late last week and have now been put back in place.
- 25 Apr: The resignation of the Rev. F. W. Thompson from the pastorate of the Presbyterian Church of Villisca was accepted by the Presbytery of Corning, effective April 30.
- Services were resumed in the Presbyterian church sanctuary last Sunday after the winter-long use of the church basement. The new furnace is not yet in working order, due to failure of certain supplies to arrive. However, the fine weather made it possible to use the church proper for the Easter service
- 13 June: The Rev. Charles Horejs came Monday evening from Creston and will serve as pastor of the Presbyterian church until a permanent pastor is chosen. The Rev. Mr. Horejs was recently discharged from the Navy after serving two years as a chaplain.

(Note: PWA minutes; 5 June: Ethel Gunderman asked that those who would have any furnishings to contribute for the student minister to report to her. 17 June; reported that the furnace had been bought

for the manse. The painting is being done by the student minister.)

8 Aug: The Rev. Horejs, interim pastor of the Presbyterian church, will join the educational staff of Dundee Presbyterian church of Omaha.

14 Nov: All Day Program Will Celebrate Founding of Presbyterian Church - All of the living ex-pastors of the local Presbyterian church will participate in the morning worship service Sunday, in connection with the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the organization of the church. The three are the Rev. R. J. Blue, the Rev. Arthur Mortenson, and the Rev. F. W. Thompson.....

At the afternoon program..... a pageant, "Through the Years", will be put on by Mrs. Maude Scott and Harold Nordyke, and a historical sketch of the church will be given by Mrs. Chloe Williams.....

The First Presbyterian Church of Villisca was organized June 10, 1871, with thirteen charter members. They were: C. N. Stoddard, M. C. Stoddard, Elias and Bertha Smith, Mrs. Mary Welch, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Ellis, Mrs. J. E. Patton, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Platter, James A. Lyon, Mrs. E. A. Dunnigan, Mrs. Mary Lightbody.....

(Note: From the historical sketch of the church by Chloe Williams- " Thus ends the history of the first 75 years of the Presbyterian church of Villisca, except to add - At the last meeting of the session, when the observance of the anniversary was being discussed, it was moved to "Let the women do the work".

1947

13 Feb: The Rev. Merle Arthur Robeson of Brooklyn, Iowa, has accepted the call extended to him to become pastor of the Presbyterian church here, and he and his wife will be here March 1 to begin their new work

Extensive improvements on the Presbyterian manse, which are not yet quite completed, are being made. A new oil burning furnace and water heater have been installed and the basement has been remodeled. The interior of the manse is being repainted and papered.

A covered dish dinner will be held next Sunday following the morning worship service in recognition of the service of Dr. A. B. Miller of Greenfield, who has preached here during the last few months while the church was without a resident pastor.

1 May: One of the most outstanding events of the Presbyterian church in recent months was the dinner and entertainment sponsored by the men for the women of the congregation on Wednesday evening, April 23. After the delicious baked ham dinner, the tables were cleared away leaving sufficient space for the presentation of a humorous skit, with each man impersonating his wife or some other woman of the executive committee gathering for a general meeting of the Women's association. The men had been successful in secretly securing clothing belonging to their wives, and the shouts of laughter which greeted their appearance proved they were recognized by most of those present. The ludicrous situations of the play demanded still more applause

31 July: John Anderson recently attended the Westminster Fellowship National assembly at Grinnell....

25 Dec: The Presbyterian Sunday School Christmas program, "Dreams of Toyland", was given Sunday evening

1948

- 22 Jan: The annual congregational meeting of the Presbyterian church was held Wednesday night, January 14. It was the first congregational meeting since the change of the fiscal year from April 1 to January 1 was made, and covered only a nine-month period
- 5 Feb: A Presbyterian youth choir was organized recently
- 2 Sept: Beverly Day left Monday for Grand Rapids, Michigan, to attend the National Christian Young People's meeting. Beverly is the delegate for the young people of the Corning Presbytery.
- 23 Sept: Presbyterian Notes: A preview of the New Curriculum will be given Monday, September 27, when Rev. R. P. Chambers and Miss Helen Campbell of Red Oak will lead all teachers and parents in a study of how to make the best use of materials of the new course. They will be used for the first time during the Sunday school hour of October 3.
- 9 Dec: Sixty men of the Presbyterian church met in the church dining room at 7 p.m. Monday for a dinner a decision was reached to organize a men's club to meet on the third Wednesday of each month

1949

- 20 Jan: The Villisca Ministerial association voted to purchase two Scotchlite church signs to be erected, one at the north entrance and one at the south entrance, to Villisca.
- 10 Feb: The Westminster Comet club of the intermediate department of the Presbyterian church, gathered for a supper meeting Wednesday evening.
 --- About 90 people attended the Westminster club box supper held at the Presbyterian church parlors on Thursday evening of last week, when a nice sum of money was raised which will go toward the purchase of a motion picture projector for the church. Some very pretty single, double and triple boxes were brought by the ladies, which were auctioned off by Dr. E. P. Alexander.
 The program which followed the supper was in the form of a radio show
- 15 Sept: An extensive program of improvement on the interior and exterior of the Presbyterian church has just been completed, cost of which was somewhat in excess of \$7,500. Included were installation of a drainage system for the grounds around the church walls, replastering of several parts of the interior of the building, extensive repairs to the outside walls, and complete redecoration of the interior. The work has extended over almost a year.
 A service of rededication of the church will be held this Sunday. The pastor will use the theme "The Temple" for his sermon.....
 --- The new Baldwin electronic organ, which was installed Friday in the Presbyterian church at a cost of a little more than \$3,000, was heard for the first time by the congregation at the Sunday morning worship service. The new instrument replaces the pipe organ which has been in use for about 50 years. The pipes of the old organ were retained as a decorative front to the tone chamber
- The organ will be dedicated on Sunday afternoon, September 25, at 3:00 o'clock, as a memorial to Mrs. Clara Cowgill-Cochran, who left a bequest to the church which will be used a partial payment for the new instrument
- 24 Nov: The Berean class met on Wednesday afternoon A contribution was voted for part of the work being done toward further improvements in the church kitchen.
 (Note: " PWA minutes; 2 March: A committee was appointed to investigate and plan the remodeling of the kitchen....." Fern

Goecker was president of the women's association at the time. She said, "I was given the responsibility of remodeling the kitchen. We put new doors on the north cupboards. All other cabinets were built at that time, including the one on the south wall and the center island. The serving windows with the drawers beneath were installed in what had been a solid wall. And the floor was tiled; until that time we had a bare concrete floor."

- 15 Dec: The Women's Association of the Presbyterian church met Wednesday, Dec. 7 Gifts were brought for the Tucson Indian Training School, an annual project of the association.....

1950

- 26 Jan: The Men's club of the Presbyterian church met Wednesday night of last week Motion pictures were shown with the new church projector
- 21 Dec: The December Kensington of the Berean class was in the nature of a Christmas party at the business session mention was made of the new equipment which the class provided for the church kitchen.....

1951

- 27 Sept: The eightieth anniversary of the Presbyterian church was fittingly observed in two services on Sunday. The usual form of worship was followed in the morning service, J. Rowe Hensey of Ottumwa as the guest speaker

During the interval between services, a bounteous dinner was served cafeteria style at noon..... In the program that followed, recognition was given to those eleven persons who have been members for 50 or more years, and other guests were introduced.

The afternoon musical program, at 2:30, featured organ selections, several numbers by the choir, and congregational singing of some old familiar hymns of former days. There were greetings from Presbytery, the local churches, and individuals. Floral tributes were many and beautiful.....

(Note: In preparation for the celebration, a new parking area was made on the south side of the church.)

- 11 Oct: The 25th anniversary of the ordination of the Rev. M. A. Robeson to the Presbyterian ministry will be observed at a special service next Sunday morning.....

During his pastorate in Villisca, the church roll has increased by approximately 75 members. And during that time the church has spent nearly \$18,000 on repairing and remodeling the church property and adding new equipment.

The church budget has been increased and the benevolence budget has more than trebled.....

- 20 Dec: A crowd of Christ spirited people braved the cold Sunday evening at 6 o'clock to sing Christmas carols around the Christmas tree in the city park.

The carols sounded beautiful over the crisp cold air, and many people in cars around the park enjoyed hearing the familiar music.

The program was sponsored by the Villisca Ministerial association and the Chamber of Commerce

1952

28 Feb: The Relay class of the Presbyterian church will meet at 10 a.m. Wednesday.....

1 May: the stated spring meeting of Corning Presbytery.....

For the past two years there has been a movement to unite the Corning and the Council Bluffs Presbyteries into one. Two weeks ago Council Bluffs Presbytery adopted the proposal and on Monday similar action was taken by Corning Presbytery. Through the necessary regular channels, such a consolidation will not be possible until action has been taken by the Synod of Iowa, and the General Assembly of 1953.

16 Oct: The Berean class met Wednesday p.m. Money was voted for new dishes for the kitchen.....

6 Nov: Dr. Marcus Bach of the School of Religion, University of Iowa, spoke to a congregation of approximately 200 at the Presbyterian church Sunday evening....

Dr. Bach came to Villisca as the speaker for the Westminster club, which had invited the other churches of the Presbytery and also the other Villisca churches. Preceding the service in the sanctuary, the Westminster club and Young Adult guests enjoyed a delicious fellowship supper in the church dining room.....

(Note: The dining room floor had been tiled during the year. A shuffleboard court was installed in the north section.)

1953

14 May: Presbyterian Notes: We hope to have a nursery ready for infants in time for this Sunday's services.....

25 June: Presbyterian Notes: M. A. Hentsch has accepted the responsibility of directing the choir and serving as organist.

6 Aug: The Rev. M. A. Robeson is resting comfortably at his home since his return from the Clarinda hospital following a heart attack suffered July 25

(Note: For the benefit of Mr. Robeson, the closet under the stairs of the manse was converted to a half-bath.)

8 Oct: The Rev. Arend R. Smith, retired minister of Ft. Dodge, has been secured to fill the pulpit and take over some of the pastoral work until the Rev. Mr. Robeson is able to resume his duties

(Note: Smith was here until about the first of December, when Mr. Robeson returned to work.)

1954

11 Mar: Mrs. James D. Anderson, incoming president of Presbyterial; Mrs. Hazel Williams, secretary of spiritual life; Mrs. Ed Day, of the Presbyterial nominating committee; Mrs. F. R. Johnson, recording secretary of Presbyterial; and Mrs. Sterling Mains went to Red Oak Tuesday where they met with the executive board of the Corning Presbyterial.....

1 July: The Rev. M. A. Robeson, 62, pastor of First Presbyterian church here seven years, died of a heart attack in his church at 11:45 p.m. Thursday, June 24, following a young people's meeting there

Funeral services were held Sunday at 2 p.m. in the Presbyterian church The body was taken to Rock Island, Ill.....

16 Sept: The September Kensington of the Berean class was held Wednesday p.m..... during the business session plans were made for purchasing some new china for use at the church.

9 Dec: Mrs. Chloe Williams was honored at the Presbyterian Women's meeting Wed, Dec. 1, when she tendered her resignation as treasurer of the association.

In appreciation of her loyal and efficient work for 17 years in the Junior Department of the church and for a period of 25 years as treasurer of the local association, Mrs. Williams was given an honorary membership by the Board of Christian Education

1955

17 Jan: John T. Anderson will be ordained into the ministry of the Presbyterian church Saturday evening, January 29 at 7:30 p.m. in the First Presbyterian church, Villisca. The service will be conducted by the Presbytery of Corning.

John, who has been under the care of the Corning Presbytery since 1947, is a son of Mr. and Mrs. James D. Anderson. In 1945 he was graduated from Villisca High School

28 Apr: John T. Anderson has been appointed by his church as a missionary to the Ute Indians at Towaoc, Colorado

(Note: John died in 1958.)

16 June: The Rev. Alvin Sigafus, 32, pastor of the Presbyterian church in Pardeeville, Wisc., has accepted a call to the pastorate of the Presbyterian church in Villisca, and he will be here to preach his first sermon as pastor on the first Sunday in July

(Note: The trustees reported maintenance work done at the manse before the new pastor arrived included refinishing floors, installing new bathroom fixtures, cement block foundation, and building of a new chimney from the roof up.)

17 Nov: The Union Thanksgiving service will be at 10:00 o'clock in the Methodist church..... The offering received will go to CROP (Christian Rural Overseas Program) with which the Montgomery County Ministerial Association is cooperating.

1956

19 Apr: The junior choir of the Presyterian church wore their new choir robes for the first time as they sang at the Sunday morning church service. The robes are blue, with white collars for the girls and the boys wear white shirts. There are 20 members of the choir.....

26 Apr: Fifteen men of the Presbyterian church, including the pastor, installed insulation material over the main auditorium of the building Thursday.

The men worked in three shifts, morning, afternoon and night, finishing the job about 10:30 p.m. The workers were provided with coffee and light lunch as they toiled. The interior of the church is to be redecorated this summer.

(Note: Trustees report: the furnace room was cleaned, new ceiling and bracing for the floor above built, and a three-unit gas furnace installed.)

1957

7 Feb: The Family Night meetings for the month of February held at the Presbyterian church started Sunday evening with a good attendance....

--- Presbyterian Notes: The duffel bag from Church World Service has arrived. Anyone having good, clean clothing they no longer need are requested to share it with the world's needy.

- 21 Feb: Presbyterian Notes: The newly elected Deacons will be ordained and installed Sunday morning at the worship service.
- 18 Apr: Presbyterian Notes: As soon as the official board has the assurance there will be sufficient funds available they will request bids for the various phases of the redecorating work. We have the assurance of \$3,450, but need \$1,500 more. If you have not made your pledge, please do so by Sunday.
- 25 Apr: Presbyterian Notes: A new church school class will be formed next Sunday morning for young adults. The class is primarily for those who have children in church school. It will meet in the kitchen.
- 23 May: Ad- Presbyterian Church
 Plan To Meet Your Friends For Coffee On Memorial Day
 Serving from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 Breakfast Coffee, Rolls
 Plate Lunch with Pie and Coffee - 50 cents
 Peace Circle
- (Note: Fern Johnson's circle started this project, but things soon got out of hand, and the UPW had to take over. It has become a popular tradition.)

1958

- 13 Mar: Many improvements are being made at the Villisca Presbyterian church. Oak floors have been layed throughout the first floor, including the Sunday School rooms. They are planning to redecorate the church before finishing the floors; when finished, the floors will have five coats of various waxes on them, making the floor very durable as well as having a beautiful finish.

The plans are made to split the pews, making a large aisle down the center.

Work on the floors has been done by the men of the church who donated their time. Those who could worked the day time shift, the business men worked at night. It was reported that exceptionally fine work was done by these crews of willing men.

The regular Sunday services are being held in the basement of the church temporarily.

Practices for the Senior choir have been discontinued until the sanctuary can be used again. The Junior Choir will take the responsibility for choral responses until that time.

- 15 May: Plans are again being made to serve a plate lunch at the Presbyterian church basement on Memorial Day by the Peace Circle.... Serving hot beef sandwich, potato salad, coffee and choice of pie.

- 11 Sept: Villisca's First Presbyterian church is the sixth largest church in the Corning Presbytery with a present membership of 278 and 140 in the Sunday school.

Church improvements since 1946 have cost \$17,500, all paid at the time work was completed.

The Women's association was one of the first inclusive organizations of women in this part of Iowa, and includes all work by the women of the congregation. They have about 130 members. The Westminster club has a membership of 70 couples and has a regular monthly meeting. Westminster Fellowship includes all of the young people of junior and senior high school. There is a Men's club that holds occasional meetings.

In the past two years the church building has been renovated; the exterior has been water-proofed; a new oak floor laid in the sanctuary;

new carpeting laid in the chancel and aisles; and the interior redecorated throughout.

A new classroom was just completed for the Kindergarten Department of the ever enlarging Church School, where enrollment numbers 174.

(Note: The new classroom was the old coal bin.)

- There will be a Homecoming of former members held at the First Presbyterian church Sunday at the morning service in conjunction with the Centennial and a basket dinner at noon held in the church parlors. The local members furnishing food for the guests.

Everyone who has a Centennial garb is requested to wear such at the Sunday services.

- 18 Sept: 10,000 PEOPLE SEE "GREATEST PARADE EVER" - Elaborate and beautiful entries of the Villisca Presbyterian and Advent Christian churches won top honors in Saturday's gigantic parade. The two floats tied for first place in the church class, and gave many thousand spectators a thrill as they passed in review, as did the more than one hundred entries (pictures)

(Note: Mrs. Paul Alexander was chairman of the Presbyterian float committee.)

- 9 Oct: Corning Presbyterial met Monday and Tuesday for their fall meeting last meeting of that organization..... Last spring the Presbyterian Church USA and the United Presbyterian churches merged. The Presbyteries of Corning, Council Bluffs and College Springs are merging as one Presbytery to include 68 churches

(Note: The Presbytery of Southwest Iowa)

1959

- 22 Jan: Presbyterian Notes: Sunday morning at the worship service the Church Orchestra will present their first number since being organized.
- 26 Mar: Good Friday observance at the Presbyterian church will be at 8 p.m. when the "Challenge of the Cross" will be given by a cast taken from the Presbyterian Women. It is a very moving drama in which an angel appears on the platform, by whom various crosses are given to faithful Christians
- 2 Apr: Presbyterian Notes: Our Deacons are planning a taxi service for those who are unable to walk to church..... Contact the president, Ray Sutphen.

1960

- 7 Apr: On Good Friday, April 15th, at 8 p.m. the Villisca Ministerial Association and the high school choral department will sponsor a non-denominational worship service in the new high school auditorium.....
- 26 May: Presbyterian Notes: Plan to bring your Capital Development offering for the Synod next Sunday.

1961

- 26 Jan: Presbyterian Notes: A training school for ushers will be given Thursday evening at 8:00.
- 16 Feb: Presbyterian Notes: The Board of Trustees has called for a meeting of the Church Corporation following the worship service Sunday for the purpose of considering the advisability of excavating at the west end of the basement in order to have an additional church school classroom and storage room.

(Note: It is now the choir room.)

1962

- 17 May: The Rev. Alvin D. Sigafus left Monday evening for Denver, Colorado, to attend as a commissioner of the 174th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church..
- 2 Aug: Presbyterian Notes: August 19 there will be a meeting of the congregation to consider the remodeling of the kitchen at the manse.
(Note: The new kitchen was placed in the former dining room. New cupboards were installed, with built-in stove top and oven. Total cost \$1,903.04)
- 13 Dec: Presbyterian Notes: The Bells are to be dedicated at the worship service Sunday. The first number by the Bell Choir will be given at that time. The bell ringers will also appear in the Christmas program.....
(Note: Thirteen hand bells were ordered from England in April, 1960, as a memorial to Walter Reese, the father of Barbara Alexander. This shows how long it takes to get them. They are very expensive, and a few were added at a time, as the money was available, chiefly from memorials, until a set of 24 had been acquired.
In December, the session voted to purchase a new piano for the sanctuary; the committee selected the Sohmer.)

1963

- 17 Oct: Presbyterian Notes: A Nursery Class has been established in the kindergarten room for small children (those who are able to walk) during the worship service

1964

- 20 Feb: Presbyterian Notes: The new organ will be dedicated at the worship service Sunday a.m. Donations to help pay for the organ may be given to Marlin Gunderman or Jim Honeyman...
(Note: A Hammond Concert Model.)
- 30 Apr: Rev. Alvin Sigafus, pastor of the Villisca Presbyterian church for the past nine years, has submitted his resignation and plans to leave here for his new charge, in Effingham, Illinois, about June 1
- 13 Aug: Rev. Nadium E. Saikaly, 40, moved to Villisca this week and will assume his duties as pastor of the Villisca Presbyterian church Sunday, August 16. Also, Rev. Saikaly will serve as supply pastor for the Nodaway Presbyterian church.
- 3 Sept: Presbyterian Notes: Miss Edna Borseth arrived ten days ago to give a helping hand in the church education program at the First Presbyterian church. She will work with the minister and the Christian Education committee in planning for the various activities of the church..... Miss Borseth is employed as a counselor in Christian Education by the Synod of Iowa.....
- 24 Dec: At 7:30 on Christmas Eve, Rev. Saikaly of the Presbyterian church will be in charge of a Christmas Candle Light worship service, with scripture reading and caroling.

1965

8 Apr: Presbyterian Notes: Sunday, April 11; 8:00 p.m.. The Easter program, consisting of Easter Sacred music by the church choir, the Bell Choir and solos

(Note: The choir may have been attired in their new robes. In February, the session had approved a fund drive, but I don't remember how long it took. The robes were gray, and looked much like flannel nightgowns.)

22 Apr: Ad. - RUMMAGE SALE May 7
at Tyler Bldg. Beginning at 8:30 a.m.
Berean S S Class

Clothing, Comforts, Aprons

(Note: This is when the Bereans started the custom of having two rummage sales a year. Part of the proceeds were given to the window fund; the stained glass windows underwent extensive repairs that summer.)

19 Aug: Bob Frey returned Friday from a 8,500 mile trip by land, sea and air to Alaska. The Iowa Presbyterian Youth Caravan drove a Travelall and pickup to Prince Rupert and boarded a ferry for a 41 hour trip up the coast to Haines The trip was then resumed on the Alcan Highway to Fairbanks. From Fairbanks they flew by chartered plane 100 miles above the Arctic Circle to Anaktuvuk Pass, an Eskimo village where the whole town turned out to meet them. At Fairbanks the Iowans graded and seeded a large lawn and varnished woodwork in the Presbyterian Hospitality House, home for Eskimo and Indian girls

26 Aug: Last Sunday's 11 a.m. service at the Villisca Presbyterian church marked the official merging of the Nodaway and Villisca Presbyterian church groups.

The merger had been under consideration by members of the two churches and their respective church boards for nearly a year..... The local church, originally known as the "First Presbyterian Church of Villisca", will hereafter be the "United Presbyterian Church of Villisca".

1966

31 Mar: A program of Easter music will be presented by the members of the United Presbyterian Bell Choir from Villisca, in an appearance on a television program "Top-Teens", on WOW-TV Channel 6, Omaha, Saturday, April 2, at 1:30 p.m. Director of the program is Dik Weiner.

The group includes Patty McConnell, Gloria Buckneberg, Kinney Dickey, Debbie Gunderman, Patty Knoke, Kathy Focht, LuAnn Lyle, and Lynn Harris. They are under the direction of Mrs. Paul Alexander.

The original ten bells have been in use by the bell choir for something over three years; however, the present set contains 16 bells. Five additional bells have been ordered from the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, London, England, and will be added to the present set sometime during the summer. They are used primarily for church worship service, but they are also rang for various church and civic functions.

28 Apr: New officers were elected by the United Presbyterian youths as they met in Atlantic April 17, for their spring rally.

Among the group chosen for the various officers were three Villisca youths. They include, Jim Robinson, who is the new moderator of the Southwest Iowa Presbytery; Gwen Alexander, treasurer, and Carole Dickey, Moderator of the southeast area of the Southwest Iowa Presbytery.

(Note: In 1967, Carole was chosen moderator of the Southwest Iowa Presbytery.)

1967

- 26 Oct: Norton J. Stokes, former Villisca lay minister has admitted to several thousands of dollars in break-ins in Villisca
- (Note: So that's what happened to our air-conditioner! It was returned to us eventually.)
- 14 Dec: On Thursday, December 21, at 7:30 p.m. a union church service, including members of the Methodist, Advent Christian and Presbyterian churches will be held at the Presbyterian church. Choirs from the three churches will tell the Christmas story in song.

1968

- 14 Mar: The Vernon Bascom Co, of Vinton, Iowa, is the contractor working the past week at Villisca's Presbyterian church. General repair, tuckpointing and sandblasting has prepared the exterior brick walls for an application of silicone spray, designed to seal and protect the building. Also included in the re-modeling project are new interior lights, to be installed in the church at a later date.
- 22 Aug: School Bells Ring Next Wednesday - The personnel making up this year's teaching staff are as follows: Rev. Saikaly, study hall monitor
- (Note: I think that Nad was late for school; he was visiting his family in Lebanon when school started.)

1969

- 17 July: The idea of a Nursing Home for Villisca started several years ago. The Villisca Industrial Development Corporation appealed to the Clergy for advice, counsel and help. Each church responded with enthusiasm and a Nursing Home Committee was formedPresbyterian team captains Robert Dickey, Helmar Askloff and Ed Bauer....
- (Note: Herman Christie was named to a fund-raising committee, and he and Lorraine Muller were the Presbyterian representatives on the Nursing Home Board.)

1970

- 11 June: During a two-week period in June, 23 Omaha Negro children will be living with 18 families in the Villisca area.
- This is a cooperative program sponsored by the Villisca churches working with the Calvin Memorial Presbyterian Church in North Omaha.
- 12 Nov: The Villisca United Presbyterian church will hold their 100 th anniversary June 19 - 20, 1971, with "Faith Thru a Century" as the theme.
- The book committee is searching for history and hunting old pictures The invitation committee is looking for names and addresses of former members
- (Note: If we were planning a party, we would begin by setting our house in order. So did the Presbyterians.
- The Bereans had the church rewired, and the new light fixtures were hung in March.
- Also in March, the two bathrooms were completely remodeled and the walls of the basement entryway were paneled. The dining room was paneled the next winter.

Much work was done at the manse. A new furnace and air conditioner were installed the day after Christmas, 1969. The basement was enlarged, and the partition was removed between the two small living rooms. The new room was then paneled and carpeted.)

1971

- 22 Apr: Presbyterian Notes: Wednesday, April 28; 7:30 p.m. - session meeting.....

(Note: Session minutes; 28 April: voted to pay \$25 for live broadcasting over KOAK during the month of May.....)

- 24 June: The United Presbyterian church of Villisca, Iowa, celebrated its 100th Anniversary on Saturday and Sunday, June 19 -20, 1971. "Faith Through A Century" was the theme of the occasion celebrating the founding of the church on June 10, 1871

Open House was held at the church on Saturday when many visited the historical museum in the church basement and partook of refreshments in the church parlor. On Saturday evening Rev. Alvin Sigafus of Harrison, Ohio, former pastor, showed interesting films, highlighting the events that took place in the church during his pastorate.

A special "Centennial Worship Service" was held on Sunday morning with Dr. Richard Chambers, General Presbyter for Des Moines and South West Iowa Presbyteries, delivering the sermon. He was assisted by the Rev. Nadim E. Saikaly, the Rev. Alvin Sigafus, and Ruling Elder Herman Christie. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was celebrated.

The Centennial Program began at 2:00 p.m. Sunday afternoon, with Dr. Robert H. French, Executive of the Synod of Iowa, presenting the message, "Looking Both Ways". Special Centennial music was observed by choral anthems, the Bell Choir, a ladies' trio of Elizabeth Christie, Carolyn Harris, and Roberta Dickey, and a solo by Max Nordyke. Evelyn Williams, General Chairman of the Centennial, gave the Introduction and Welcome to the Centennial visitors, after which Ruling Elder Marlin Gunderman presented a brief history of the church's first 100 years.

The Clerk of Session, George Muller, Jr, introduced The Session of the Church to the congregation and then presented the Senior Elders who have been Ordained for 25 years and over

Ruling Elder Marlin Gunderman presented a gift to the people who have had 50 years of continuous membership in the Presbyterian church of Villisca

(Note: Each family of the congregation received a copy of the Centennial booklet, and memorial spoons and plaques were sold.)

1972

- 27 Jan: The United Presbyterian church held their annual congregational meeting on the evening of January 19th, for the election of new church officers and the adoption of the new budget

..... To serve as the first women members of the Session are Norma Frey and Elaine Artlip as elders

(Note: In 1958, Alvin Sigafus had suggested the election of women to the official boards. It took a while. When the Nodaway church closed, they had two women who were ruling elders- Dorothy Pond and Veryl Ellis. When Dorothy and Veryl became members of the Villisca church, they served on the session. Norma and Elaine were the first women to be elected elders of the Villisca Presbyterian church.)

- 29 June: Friday evening, about 80 members of the congregation of the United Presbyterian church gathered at the farm home of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Day to honor Mr. and Mrs. Gaylin Sudik, who are leaving Villisca, with a home-made ice cream and cake social
- A gift purse was presented to the Sudiks in recognition and appreciation for the many hours he has contributed the last two years as choir director of the church

1973

- 25 Oct: Ad: Rummage sale, November 1, 2, 3. Berean Class
- (Note: Women's minutes; 7 Nov: A popular item at the rummage sale was the new comforts. Eighteen were sold and have orders for 9 more.)

1974

- 2 May: Presbyterian Notes: 4 May - All Day work day at the Manse garage under the supervision of the Property committee.
- 8 Aug: A group from various places in Iowa will join together on weekends and witness to their Christian faith at Sunday worship services. One member is Miss Marla German, the new Music teacher in the Villisca High School.
- The group will conduct the worship service next Sunday ... at the Villisca Presbyterian church
- (Note: Marla German Nelson became choir director for the Presbyterian church and is still with us.)

1975

- 14 Aug: The InterChurch Council is planning an Open House for the 16 new members of our community from Viet Nam. The date has been set for August 25th from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Methodist church basement. Gift ideas have been in the line of winter clothing, blankets, additional linens and any other small housewares as people care to donate
- 25 Sept: Presbyterian Notes: Monday, September 29; CHURCH CLEANING.....
- (Note: No doubt it needed a good cleaning. The church had been a busy place that summer. The Cathedral Glass Company, Inc., of Evansville, Indiana, had installed one-quarter inch plexiglas covering over the stained glass windows. They also did some exterior painting.
- Termite damage had necessitated repairs and remodeling of the ladies' rest room, part of the floor and wall of the southwest corner of the sanctuary and the vestibule.)

1976

- 15 Apr: Presbyterian Notes: Apr. 16, Good Friday - The Crucifixion. In commemoration of this awesome event the InterChurch Council is sponsoring a Passion Play to be presented in our church
- 17 June: The Bicentennial July 4th in Villisca will begin with a community church service in the City Park at 10:30 a.m. All Villisca churches and the Nodaway church will participate in this united

- church service. Music will be furnished by the Villisca Bicentennial Choir and the High School band.....
- 24 June: Reverend Nadim Saikaly, minister at the United Presbyterian Church for the past twelve years, has left our community to accept a new pastorate at the Olivet United Presbyterian Church at Cedar Rapids, Iowa.
- A crowd of 125 people from the Presbyterian church and the Union Church at Morton Mills gathered in the Presbyterian Fellowship Hall for a farewell potluck supper for the Saikalys, on Wednesday, June 2

1977

- 24 Mar: Dr. Chris Herring of Louisville, Kentucky, has accepted the call to become pastor elect of Villisca's Presbyterian church. He spent last weekend here and conducted the regular Sunday morning worship service. He and his wife Terry have two sons. They will be moving to Villisca in mid-June.
- 5 May: The first meeting of the new Missouri River Valley Presbyterial met on April 26th at the Dundee Presbyterian church in Omaha
- 21 July: Presbyterian Notes: Wednesday, July 27; 8 p.m. - session
 (Note: Session Minutes; July 27: voted to consult the property committee about the pews and authorize them to plan a work day for the purpose of refinishing the pews..... [It took many work days for the project. The pews were taken to Ernest Danielson's building where they were stripped, sanded and spray-finished. Everyone ran out of steam, and the pews from the back room were not done.]
- 22 Sept: Douglas Eugene Darnold was ordained into the Ministry of The Word on September 18, 1977, at 8:00 p.m. at the United Presbyterian church in Villisca. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Darnold, formerly of Villisca. After the ordination ceremony, a reception was held in the church basement.
- 29 Sept: Presbyterian Notes: Sunday, 6:30 p.m. - Church Fellowship Group will meet at the home of Judy and Paul Barker for a pot luck supper.
 (Note: The Young Couples group had changed to an all-age meeting.)
- 27 Oct: They're at it again, the Presbyterian Bereans.
 All the money that is collected is used to "fix-up" the church. For instance, the Bereans have paneled the entire fellowship hall and rewired the church. They donated the large hanging lights in the sanctuary, have purchased pots, pans, and dishes, the stove, and the refrigerator. They have made major contributions to a new roof, protective coverings for the stain glass windows, and the organ. And that's hardly the beginning.
 (Note: 9 January, 1977; Annual Congregational meeting; Property committee: the east section of the roof had been replaced a few years ago. [1972] The rest was torn off, new plywood put down, and heavy composition shingles laid))

1978

- 6 July: The Villisca InterChurch Council is very pleased with the community suport it has received for recent projects The Scholarship Fund ... The Community Worship Service in the park on Sunday, July 2nd The Ice Cream Social sponsored on the 4th The Council consists of two representatives from each of Villisca's five churches and their respective pastors.

5 Oct: Presbyterian Notes - Sunday, Oct. 8; 4 p.m. - Men's work day and supper.

(Note: More bugs. This time it was powder post beetles. The pews and carpet had to be taken up, and the finish removed from the oak floors. After the treatment, the floor was refinished and waxed. Then the pews were installed and the carpet relaid.)

16 Nov: The InterChurch Council will be sponsoring a fall musical, "That's Worth Everything", presented by the InterChurch Choir. It is a Thanksgiving service for all and will be on Wednesday evening in the Presbyterian church.

1979

16 Aug: Saturday, August 11, 1979, the cornerstone of the Presbyterian Church in Nodaway was removed. Also removed intact were the stained glass windows. A community project, it's for The American Legion and the Nodaway Fire Department.

(Note: The Villisca church sold all the stained glass windows to a group of Nodaway residents for \$350. Gilbert Rider paid \$50 for the bell.)

1980

7 Feb: Presbyterian Notes: Sunday, Feb. 10 - 1:30 - 5:00 p.m. - Work Day for men and women.

(Note: The kitchen was painted. At one time when the church was redecorated, the oak railing on the south basement steps had been painted; it was decided to remove the paint. That was easier said than done, and it was a year before the project was finished. The sanctuary was recarpeted during 1980.)

28 Aug: We invite all who read this letter to join us in sponsoring a "Trip to the Holy Land" for Reverend and Mrs. Elliott Bodwell

All the churches in an ecumenical effort ask you to join in this "Labor of Love" for the Bodwells

..... (he) also has served the Villisca Presbyterian church for 11 months during the 1950s; 9 1/2 months during 1976-77, and has been serving the church lately

(Note: Herring resigned, effective 14 June, we had a farewell supper for them, they moved out of the manse and to Atlantic, without the Review noticing. The first inkling the paper gave that he was gone was this implication that Bodwell was preaching to the Presbyterians again.

Anyway, the Presbyterians were happy to contribute to this cause. We considered Mr. Bodwell an honorary Presbyterian. When we had Bodwell we were never in any hurry to acquire a new pastor, because we doubted that a new one would be as satisfactory as the one we had.)

1981

18 June: High winds and heavy rainfall hit Villisca last Sunday evening about 9:30 p.m.....

(Note: There is a picture of a worker on the roof of the Presbyterian church. Session minutes say only that the roof was being repaired by Gilbert Lindberg.)

9 July: The Reverend Michael A. Roys is the newly arrived pastor of the Villisca United Presbyterian Church Michael received his Master of Divinity degree June 2nd, from Princeton Theological Seminary He is the church's twenty-second pastor and fills the pulpit after a one year vacancy.

1982

18 Mar: 1934 was a depression year, and the (Berean) class decided there was a need to offer clothing and household goods at low prices. And the best way to do that was through rummage sales. As a consequence of these sales, the Bereans raised funds to purchase items for Villisca's Presbyterian church - items that ordinarily would not be in the church's budget.

In the beginning most of the items were priced at 5 and 10 cents. And no matter what inflation has done in other business areas, the Bereans still sell most of their merchandise for 5 and 10 cents. It's rather amazing what an accumulation of nickels and dimes can do. the class has paid for the ceiling and a hardwood floor in the church office, paid for painting the entire basement, paneled the basement, and in one of their larger expenditures, had plexiglas installed over the stained glass windows at a cost of \$2,000. In May of 1947, they purchased a Skelgas stove, and in two of the largest expenditures, paid \$4,000 for painting the sanctuary walls, and \$3,182 for carpeting the basement. In between times, they paid for innumerable other items - hymnals, a mixer, complete place settings of china for 144, and a mimeograph machine.....

Last Sunday evening, at a soup and pie supper at the Presbyterian church, Emma Sutphen gave a brief history and financial report of this group. And her final remark was a reminder of the next Berean rummage sale, which will begin April 23

(Note: The basement carpet had just been laid; there were some tense moments before the job was finished. We were battling termites -again- and had to have a treatment before putting the carpet down. It was finally done, with a day or two to spare before the Bauer's 50th anniversary reception on 20 March.

The sanctuary was painted in 1979. Just prior to that, the Memorial Conference room had been built in the back of the church; the Bereans paid for some of the furnishings for that project.)

30 Sept: Former resident Mrs. F. F. (Icle) Fisher of Clarinda passed away on September 28

(Note: The family contributed the air conditioning system for our church as a memorial to Icle. It was installed in 1983.)

28 Oct: Presbyterian ministers Reverend Michael Roys of Villisca and Reverend Nadim Saikaly of Cedar Rapids are participating in a pulpit exchange, which will take place on October 31st.

1983

21 Apr: Ad. - RUMMAGE SALE - April 22, 23, 29 & 30 - United Presbyterian Church

(Note: Part of the proceeds of the sale was given to the fund for the new cranberry red choir robes.)

8 Sept: High Winds and Hail Leave Damaged Homes.....

(Note: And churches. After the hailstorm, the manse was completely reshingled, as was three-fourths of the church roof. The broken windows in the manse were repaired, and the exterior repainted.)

1984

- 26 Apr: two of the original members of the Berean Sunday School class, Freda Northup and Nellie Mains, pieced a quilt to be raffled at their Memorial Day dinner. Tickets for the drawing may be obtained at the church or from the members of the UPW. (Picture)
- 5 July: Starting July 27 and on every following Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. the InterChurch Council will be sponsoring a Farmers' market in the park. Members of the different churches will be in charge of the booth. Produce can be donated by anyone. All money taken in will go towards World Hunger.
- 22 Nov: Bonnie Sue Sheldon and Michael Alan Roys were united in marriage on November 3, at the First Presbyterian Church in Auburn, Nebraska.....

1985

- 3 Jan: The Villisca InterChurch Council Food Pantry has begun to accept calls from community residents in need of food.
Food will be distributed on the last Monday and Tuesday of every month from 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at the Villisca Methodist church. All local churches are involved in collecting food for this Christian service
- 30 May: June 2nd will be the date for the annual Presbyterian communion service and potluck dinner at Viking Lake.
- 5 Oct: Ministerial Association receives \$2,000 grant - the money is available for families in our community that are finding difficulties in meeting various dental, eye or medical expenses. For further information contact any of Villisca's local pastors: The Rev. Michael Roys,
- (Note: By the time this appeared, Michael had tendered his resignation, effective 31 October. He went to Bellvue, in eastern Iowa.)

1986

- 20 Feb: Mr. and Mrs. Charles Artlip, Mrs. Hulda Mae Bauer, Kathryn Wright and Mrs. Elenor Shaver spent Wednesday in Red Oak shopping
- (Note: They were shopping for paneling and new stoves for the church kitchen.
- The Berean Class was disbanded on January 9, for lack of members. A memorial gift had been received in the name of Emma Sutphen; it was decided to use it and Berean money to remodel the kitchen. The floor was torn up, and a new drain put in. The walls were paneled. A new cupboard replaced the table along the east wall, and a broom closet enclosed the new water heater. Two electric ranges were purchased. New sinks and light fixtures were installed. It took three coats of gold paint to cover the green on the cupboards. Total cost of the project was \$8,937.71. After church on May 4, 1986, a short service was held in honor of Emma Sutphen and the Berean class for 60 years of service. A plaque was dedicated to their memory.)

1987

- 29 Jan: Last Sunday during a congregational meeting the Rev. Sandra Wainwright was invited to accept the pulpit of Villisca's Presbyterian Church
- 10 Sept: Presbyterian Notes: Thursday, September 10; Session, 7:30 p.m. (Note: Session minutes; 10 September: voted to hire John Newman of Stanton to make and install pew cushions. The property committee will see that the pews in the rear of the sanctuary are refinished in time to have the new cushions installed.)

1988

- 26 May: The Villisca Senior Citizen Center, Inc., recently received a \$3,000 grant from the Fund for Self Development of People of the Presbyterian Church, USA. The check was presented to Treasurer Cleon Orton by the Reverend Sandy Wainwright, Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Villisca. The program is funded by the Presbyterian Church nationwide with \$22,000 designated for Southwest Iowa and Omaha areas,
- 2 June: Little Willard, understanding the importance of volunteers in a small community, earlier this spring visited the group who were remodeling the Presbyterian manse..... (picture)
(Note: Little Willard was a pig, the focus of a promotional scheme for Villisca Heritage Days. The remodeling work was done in March. New dry wall and woodwork was installed in the kitchen, and the room was papered. Some papering was done upstairs, also. The woodwork and two back rooms were painted. The sun porch was paneled and floored.
The other notable project for the year was the replacement of the south sidewalk in July. An engineering flaw had allowed rain water to run against the south basement wall, causing damage. To correct the problem, new drains were installed and concrete poured between the church wall and the sidewalk.)
- 15 Dec: Presbyterian Notes: Sunday, December 18; Sunday school program and worship service 10:30 a.m.....

(Note: The program included the first performance of the youth bell choir.

19 Jan., 1989; Review: It was 8:45 a.m. last Sunday morning and a group of eight-to-sixteen year olds from Villisca and Stanton arrived at the Presbyterian Church in Villisca for an hour of work. They are a new group - the youth English Handbell Choir - and they were practicing for their appearance at the Unity Sunday service later that morning.

Over twenty years ago, the Presbyterian Church had a handbell choir and Pat Shipley was a member. Now her daughter Kate is learning.

Joyce and Bob Brown are responsible for the revival of the choir. It's an outgrowth of their attendance at a 3-day seminar last September. The focus of the seminar was the strengths and weaknesses of small churches.

According to Bob, he and Joyce decided one of the strengths of the local congregation was its youth, many of whom had either experience in band or played the piano. They also knew the church owned a set of English handbells.

Upon returning home, the Browns enlisted the help of Bev Landhuis. Last Nov. 19 twelve youths gathered for their first practice. Also providing advice is Ann Petersen and Darci Heard.

Their first public concert was at a Christmas service. Soon they will "take their show on the road" as they have been invited to perform at churches in College Springs and Corning.

Interest has grown; the church now has two youth choirs and this week will be the first practice for the adult group.

Bob, who directs, said he would like to add more bells, at least 10, so there would be a full three octaves. However, these bells are extraordinarily expensive. The present set of 24 is valued at \$4000.

All members of the choir wear gloves. The bells are so finely tuned that even a coating of natural oil from the skin could distort the tone.

There are only five manufacturers in the world: one in England, one in France, and three in the United States. The local bells - from England - are the Cadillacs, according to Bob.

Obtaining handbells is not easy. There is not only the cost, but also a waiting period. Last time two years passed from when they were ordered until their arrival in Villisca.

All have said that membership in any of the choirs is open - and one need not have a musical background to join.)

(1 February, 1989: Fourteen new bells were ordered; when they arrive, it will make a full three octaves.)

1965; Bell Choir; from left: Marjorie Focht, Patty McConnell, Julia Parker, Carole Dickey, Nancy Focht, Gwen Alexander, Debbie Gunderman, Kinney Dickey, director Barbara Alexander.



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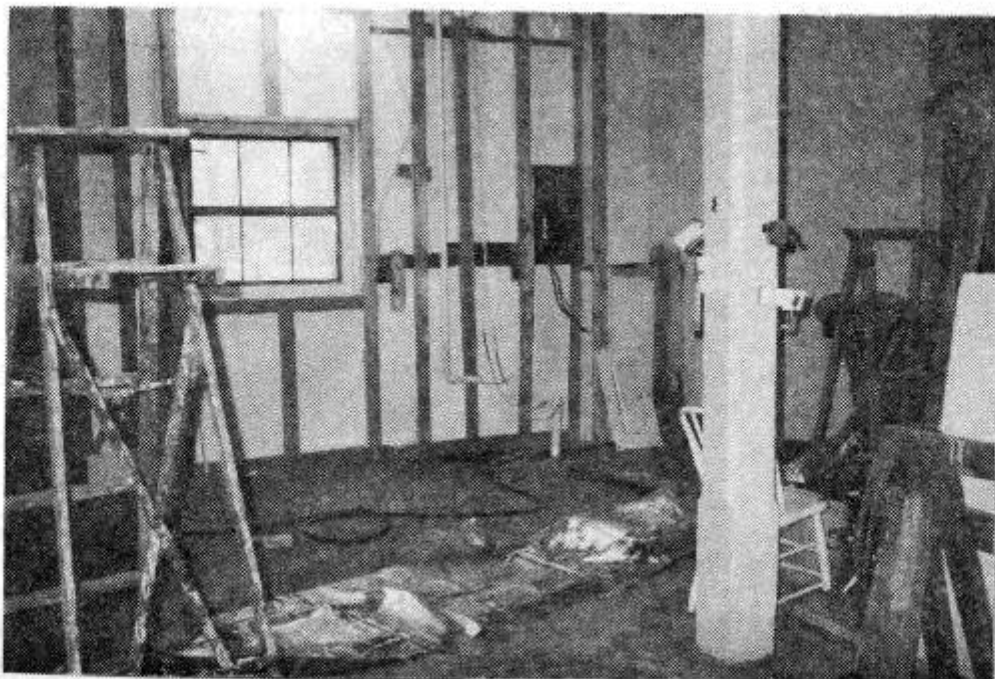
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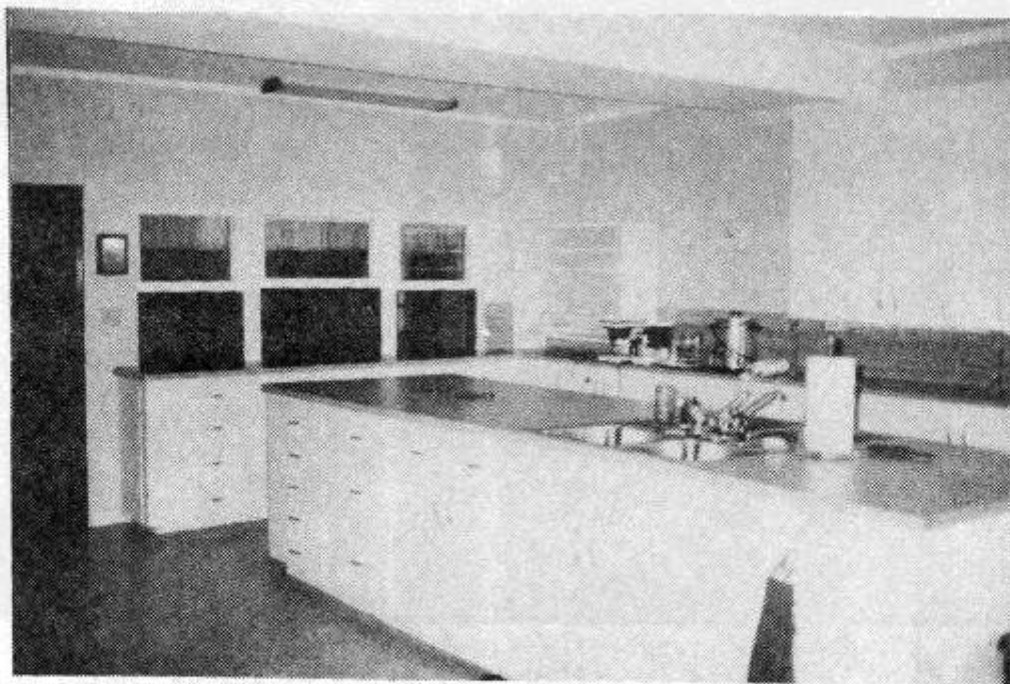
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March, 1986: Remodeling the kitchen. It took a lot of work to make such a mess.



The finished product.

