

COMMUNITY

Idetown church wraps up 125th anniversary

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

A service of celebration this Sunday will close the 125th anniversary year of the Idetown Methodist Church. Bishop James K. Mathews will officiate at the 10 a.m. worship service. All residents are invited to attend the celebration with the congregation.

The Idetown Methodist Church was first established in 1865 with its first meetings and services held in the schoolhouse then located on the Huntsville-Idetown Road in the Oakhill area, on the site now owned by Mr. and Mrs. J.R. Beck, Jr.

Later, a meeting was called by Josiah Wagner at the Idetown school house for the purpose of making arrangements for a church near the place. Wagner was named chairman and a motion was made to secure a charter for the church to be known as the Methodist Episcopal Church of Idetown.

A lot was decided upon, a title secured, plans drawn up and adopted. While the congregation continued to meet in the schoolhouse, ground was broken and the contract to build the church was let to B.V. Ide in 1893.

While the church was being built, the members continued to meet in the school, at first only in the summer but later in the winter as well. When the church was being raised services were held in the Presbyterian Church that stood in one corner of the Idetown Cemetery. At the raising of the



125TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY - Members of Idetown Methodist Church leave after the 10 a.m. service last Sunday as they celebrate the final week of the church's 125th Anniversary. (Post Photo/Charlot M. Denmon)

church, a second part was added and in addition to the basement underneath, a belfry was built and a bell installed.

The first pulpit was built by Stacy Doane and the original glass windows were replaced by the present windows in 1930. The original two pot-belly stoves were replaced by a pipeless furnace

which since has given way to steam heat and baseboard radiation.

At first there was no lighting system in the church so there were no evening meetings, but later kerosene lamps were installed. Since that time lights have been installed and a modern switchboard put in. Later through the help of the Ladies Aid and the

aid of volunteers the Church House was built.

The first pastor of the church was the Rev. G. Greenfield 1865-1866; then Rev. J.C. Leacock, 1867-1868. Most of the Pastors remained on the average of two years until 1940 when Rev. Frank K. Abbott remained until 1952. The present pastor is the Rev. Thom Morris.

School Board

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primary care with diagnostic services, physical therapy and rehabilitation services as well as space for specialists.

"The facility will cost approximately \$5 million and it will be a non-profit organization. Our concepts are open-ended," Ledwin said. "We have no pre-conceived notions."

In answer to questions from the board Ledwin said they did not plan to duplicate services.

"We are looking for equity partners. We know that school districts are not allowed to put money into a facility such as this. The hospital is prepared to start construction when we secure a site but we are waiting for the YMCA to make a decision. Their board is now in the stages of doing a feasibility study."

Ledwin said he was not in a position to answer some questions due to the members of the press being at the meeting. Superintendent Gerald Wycallis suggested that he and William Morgan, supervisor of maintenance, make an appointment to discuss the facility with Ledwin and bring back the information to the board. The board members were in agreement and Wycallis told Ledwin he would contact him.

In other business the board of directors appointed Philip Bartorillo, Sweet Valley, to the list of substitute custodians and housekeepers effective Oct. 30 at the hourly rate of \$5.00 or \$5.50 according to his assignment.

- Announced that Dallas Senior High School students will be televised on the College Bowl program, Saturday, Nov. 17 at 7 p.m.

- Approved the attendance of Charlotte Williams at the Pa. Association of School Business Officials, March 18-22, 1991, at Seven Springs, Pa. at the approximate cost of \$457.

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Jackson

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Company officials asked that the building permit fees for the project be dropped from four percent to one percent. The request amounts to a difference of nearly \$36,000 for the township. Building permit fees on an estimated \$12 million of the project would normally be nearly \$49,000; the company would pay only about \$13,000 if the fee were lowered.

No decision was made by the supervisors who requested more information about the project.

Some area residents were questioned about the request and their feelings about the situation. Even though most of the residents were not very familiar with the request, most felt that the township should not make special exceptions for the water company.

"It's like they said, if you make an exception for one company you will have to make the exception for all companies," said David Walters, who lives in Jackson Township. He referred to comments made by the township supervisors at last week's meeting when they said they were concerned about setting a precedent on the building fees.

George Robinson, who also lives in the township, said he would be upset if the township allows the reduction of fees. "Why should we lose money over a project that we

won't use. The prison is already tax exempt so we don't get money from that and now another big company wants us to let them off the hook," he said.

Many residents questioned the reasoning behind the request. Judy Calkins was one resident who was confused over the situation. "I don't know why (PG&W) doesn't want to pay for the plant. They are a big company and are increasing their rates so they can afford it," she said.

One of the reasons listed by PG&W for the reduction request was that any additional expenses for the project would come back to customers in a possible rate increase.

None of the Jackson Township residents who would comment on the project were in favor of the reduction in permit fees for the project. Willis Babcock summed up the feelings of many residents when he said. "Things like this probably go on all the time and we never know about it. I think it is up to the (supervisors) to make sure that they do what is best for the residents. After all, that is why we put them there."

A decision on the request is expected at next month's meeting of the board.

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