

SECTION III

History At A Glance

Our present space in time is preparation for eternity.

"The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."

2 Peter 3:9 (NIV)

Our History At A Glance

- 1872 Organization of Republic English Methodist Episcopal Congregation; Purchase of parsonage on Kloman Avenue
- 1880 First Protestant Church in Republic, built by Methodists and Swedish Lutherans
- 1882 Parsonage on Kloman Avenue remodeled; Ladies Aid organized
- 1884 Methodists purchased the Swedish Lutheran's share for \$600.00. Band of Hope; (like the Boy Scouts), was organized.
- 1886 The First Choir was organized.
- 1895 Thanksgiving Supper for Pastor's salary which was \$700.00 a year.
- 1900 Motion was made to raise \$200.00 to renovate the Church. Began the use of the envelope system for offering.
- 1906 Value of the Church property was \$4,000.00
- 1909 Purchase of Church pews from Stafford and Co. for \$275.80
- 1922 Pastor's salary was \$800.00 per year.
- 1932 Bethany Lutheran Church destroyed by fire. They used our Church for all services until they rebuilt.
- 1951 Rewiring of church completed and inspected.
- 1954 Construction of basement; new furnace installed.
- 1955 Remodeled the sanctuary with new lights, repaired windows, stairway to basement built for \$100.00. August 21, 1955 was Dedication Sunday.
- 1956 Turkey Supper was held for hunting season in the new church basement.
- 1960 80th Anniversary Celebration of Church was held.
- 1961 Tile on basement floor installed; organ ordered and installed in May
- 1963 Folding chairs purchased for basement

- 1964 Sunday School partitions purchased.
- 1965 Stoves purchased for church kitchen
- 1967 New Hymnals purchased
- 1968 Official name change to Republic United Methodist Church.
- 1972 Church celebrated 100th Anniversary; carpeting installed down aisle in sanctuary
- 1973 Bethany Lutheran Church used our facilities during their move to South Republic
- 1975 Insulation of Church.
- 1976 Parsonage on Kloman Avenue sold.
- 1977 Permanent storm windows installed.
- 1978 Painting of sanctuary; placed Church sign on Highway 95
- 1979 Permanent siding on Church; additional insulation. Chuck Onkalo went to Haiti on a workbee.
- 1982 New parsonage purchased and erected in South Republic
- 1986 New sewer system installed connecting to the city system; new roof installed
- 1987 Children's nursery erected in basement; paneling placed on all basement walls
- 1988 New kitchen installed in Church
- 1989 New Hymnals dedicated
- 1990 Bell installed in steeple; a gift from Mr. and Mrs. Paul Kubicki
- 1991 New kitchen stoves; sanctuary painted; oak cross constructed by Ben Suomi and Bob Thompson in memory of Dan Letz. Carpeting was installed covering the entire floor of the sanctuary.
- 1992 New gas furnace placed in Parsonage in South Republic.

- 1993 Purchased 8'x12' shed for storing church outdoor equipment; church chimney replaced by Dave and Charlie Holsworth.
- 1994 New gas furnace installed in church; plexiglas added to outside bulletin board.
- 1995 Bronze historical marker placed near church entry. The marker was given by Bjork and Zhulkie Funeral Home.
- 1996 50 pew Bibles donated by individuals as memorials; return to a 3 church circuit consisting of Salisbury, Woodland, and Republic.
- 1997 A used organ is purchased from Salisbury Methodist Church; Ben Suomi made 2 wooden offering plates for the church as a memorial to his son Ben and another in memory of Reino Niemi; new carpeting installed in the parsonage; Sunday School children and youth participate in a "live nativity" scene at Munson Park.
- 1998 A new roof was put on the church at a cost of \$5,300.
- 1999 Children's Bibles were purchased for the Sunday School children.
- 2000 New steps constructed at the church entry by Dave Holsworth who donated his time and materials; extensive repairs were made to the parsonage (a new patio door, window replacements where needed, and new carpeting); two highway signs placed on M-95 advertising the church presence; Sunday Worship Service is changed from 9:30 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.
- 2001 A new AHLBORN GALANTI organ was donated by the Villars. It was purchased from Butler-Stevens Co. and delivered on Aug. 24th. A special musical dedication was held on Sept. 23rd; new carpeting was installed in the entryway.

- 2002 The family of Darlene Niemi donated 50 new chairs and two round tables to the church in her memory; a plaque placed on “Memorial” board in sanctuary; outside of parsonage is painted.
- 2003 The pastor gets married. Gary Stevens and Elaine Murdey are united in marriage while he is serving the church as local pastor. He is the first pastor to be married while serving in this capacity, and a reception is held for them following a honeymoon trip to Australia.

New roofing is put on the parsonage by church volunteers; Shannon and Melodee Warlin donate a poem etched on glass that is hung in the sanctuary.

- 2004 Pastor Stevens has a heart attack followed by surgery. He leaves the Republic-Woodland Charge May 31st. Pastor James Fegan takes over July 1st.

The “turkey supper”, sponsored by the women of the church and held during deer season for 40 plus years, is discontinued for lack of help; a quarterly newsletter is established; plants are placed in a “Memory Garden” along the south side of the church.

- 2005 Purchase of 80 small hymnals titled “The Faith We Sing”; a new church directory is completed; a new church phone with answering machine is installed.

- 2006 A Monday Club was started for Sunday School age children of the church and community. A grant of \$400 was obtained from the District to advance this purpose.

The church is 124 years old in 2006. A “Heritage Days” event is celebrated over July 1st and 2nd that coincides with the “Republic Festival”. A re-enactment of the first church wedding in Republic is part of the celebration.

- 2007 Received the Rural Fellowship Award for Evangelism and Outreach Ministry at The Detroit Annual Conference in 2007. This award was for the work done with our Monday Children’s Club.

New kitchen floor covering installed as a gift from Cora Pietila in memory of her husband, Bob Pietila.

Three lots adjacent to the church were purchased; they will be available for whatever our need may be.