

## WARREN FIRST METHODIST CHURCH



In the early days of settlement there were often some strange accommodations made for the sake of necessity, for example, in 1843, a log schoolhouse built at the corner of Chicago Road and Ryan served the congregations of two churches at once. Alternating weekly services were the Methodists and Baptists of the Village area. They sat on split log benches placed along the outside walls as pews, which could not have been called comfortable even in those days.

Out of this schoolhouse, the Methodist Church of Warren built its foundation of a long tradition of worship and service. As time passed, in 1852, the congregation erected a log chapel just east of the Union Cemetery on Chicago Road, which in turn was supplanted in 1857 by a frame building built on the same site.

Its final move took place in 1884 when it was moved from the cemetery location to its present spot on Seventh Street just west of Mound Road, where it enjoyed a steady growth in membership in the following years and was led by a number of pastors.

The congregation celebrated its last service at this site on April 6, 1958 before moving to its new church on Chicago Road. This historic structure was sold in 1958 to the First Baptist Church of Warren and still stands on Seventh Street.

The new church of the First Methodist congregation was designed by Minoru Yamasaki and is located on Chicago Road between Mound and Ryan Roads.

Among the men attending the next meeting was Norman Halmich, who graciously donated five acres of land on Mound at Arden Avenue (later adding another adjacent five acres), which now comprise the present parish property.

The first church was the Village Barn, purchased for \$14,000.00 with the first Mass held in the remodeled barn on Easter Sunday of April 1946. By this time, some 225 families were involved and the parish eventually comprised some twenty square miles from 12 – 16 Mile, from Dequindre to Schoenherr. Ground for the new church was broken on April 5, 1964 and a 20-year dream became a reality. By Fred Gemmill