

The Chapel Committee sponsored a Centennial observance for the Chapel on Saturday afternoon, August 1. News items about the four featured events will be in *The Sentinel News* in the next few weeks. Following is the information included in a hand-out given at the Dedication Service.

Update of Pleasant View Chapel Restoration: August, 2015

On March 20, 2012, the Chapel Committee sponsored an open house. More than 90 interested citizens attended, most of whom had never before seen the interior of the chapel. In 2012, thanks to Howard Borchard, we received an O'Brien County grant of \$2,500 to be used for the roof, gutters, and stucco repair. The city also contributed \$8,500 toward the roof, and the cost of bat removal.

Ron Hengeveld Construction took care of the roof and also worked with Northwest Glass of Spencer to repair broken windows and rotted sashes. Hengeveld built several new sashes, both arched and rectangular; Brent Fanning repaired the stucco; Lon Ebel added covered gutters; and Dave Sanders of Alta worked long and hard on bat issues.

Peters' Construction has painted the exterior, replaced corroded ceiling tins and made other repairs to the walls and floor before painting them; a hand rail with a removable center section was constructed by Curt Van Engen of May City; and Loren Newkirk located Dennis Hussey, a contractor from Spencer, who has duplicated the original stencils. We were able to purchase ten oak church pews that Orville Taylor and Bryan Nelson cut down to seven foot lengths, allowing space for a center aisle. Thanks to the generosity of interested donors, all projects have been funded.

Bryan Nelson built a lid for the shroud surrounding the hole; Dr. Keith Weber constructed a five foot cross for the west wall; Keith Webber of Hartley made removable screens for several of the windows; the bats are gone and a group of 4-H members constructed bat houses. The late Helen Vlaming of Primghar donated a pump organ.

Dennis Cmelik gave us a bookcase that was originally in Roger Potter's Law Office; Glenn Veldboom arranged for us to get the pulpit and communion table from the Central Avenue Baptist Church; Connie Olhausen provided the hymn board from Hartley's Trinity Evangelical and Reformed Church; and Lloyd Lon Newkirk will loan an old iron and nickel stove.

In addition we have a conference table and ten folding chairs. Six of the chairs were originally a part of a set of twelve chairs from the Patch/Eeten House. The committee purchased all twelve, then donated half of them to the House. The other four folding chairs are also old wooden chairs, not as attractive, but a bit larger and more comfortable.

Our latest additions to the chapel are two wicker caskets. Arlene Meerdink donated the small one, and the committee purchased the other with monies from various fund raisers. We also have on display one of the original chairs from the chapel, found by chance in the vault.

We have visions of re-opening the vault, doing some landscaping, and contributing toward the repair of leaning tombstones. Opinions on projects are most welcome.

Committee members include Jean Ahrenstorff, Annette Gebert, Karen Howard, Kathy Luedke, Brad Meendering, Bryan Nelson, Loren Newkirk, Ruth Newkirk, Jerry and Sybil Olson, LeRoy Raabe, Deb Sorensen, Orv and Betty Taylor, Mark Younie, and the late LaVon Andersen.

If you are interested in contributing toward continuing this worthwhile project, you can leave donations at The Savings Bank at 80 N Central Avenue or contact Orville and Betty Taylor. Make checks payable to ***The Hartley Community Foundation***. In the memo blank on your check, write in ***Chapel***, to make sure your donation will be used for cemetery projects. The Hartley Community Foundation will send you a tax deductible form to acknowledge your donation.

If you were not able to attend the August 1st event, contact the City Office, Betty Taylor, or any of the other committee members to arrange a time. We would like to have you see what has been done to the Chapel and to look at some of the more unusual grave markers. Large or small groups are welcome.