

The Elizabeth United Methodist Church Bell Story

About two months ago the bell pull rope broke and just dropped at the usher's feet as he was ringing the bell to herald the beginning of our Sunday worship service. While this presented a problem it also presented a great opportunity to be able to get some pictures of the bell. A local carpenter ventured up into the belfry and temporarily got it ringing and then later attached a new length of rope that will hopefully last a very long time.

The bell was cast in 1878 by Buckeye Bell Foundry - Vanduzen & Tift of Cincinnati, OH. This company underwent many different ownerships and name changes over its years of operation.

Our church was established in 1834 as The Log Church. The frame church located just behind the current building was built in 1845, where our parsonage is now located. The present church building was dedicated in 1872. It cost about \$6000 to build and is on a solid stone foundation. Our bell was not originally property of Elizabeth UMC but was purchased in 1923 from the Winnebago, IL Methodist Church (now United Methodist Church). It weighs approximately 1000 pounds and was dedicated along with the 'Sunday School Annex', the current office and nursery on December 9, 1923.

If you would like to read more on the history of Methodism in Elizabeth there are copies of the 175th Anniversary booklet in the office.

