

A History of the Henriette Free Methodist Church

Henriette MN

Team North Region

April 1, 2019

After the lumber camps moved through the dense woods of Minnesota during the 1800's, the Eastern Minnesota Railroad was built through Pokegama township in Pine County. In 1898 the railroad built a new depot and the town of Cornell soon grew up around it. By 1913, the town name had been changed to Henriette for reasons unknown to this writer.

Henriette Free Methodist Church began out of the experience of John Thomas who was moving his family from southern Minnesota to the Henriette area. Mr. Thomas and his wife, Abbie (Bacon) along with their children were riding in a boxcar headed north when Mr. Thomas was converted. After getting settled on his farm west of Mud Creek and northwest of Henriette, he attended some Free Methodist meetings near Little Falls, Minnesota where he apparently experienced a second work of grace by being filled with the Holy Spirit. It was soon after this experience that Mr. Thomas contacted a pastor to come and hold meetings in the Henriette area.

Revival meetings and church services were organized and held in schoolhouses, a potato warehouse, and in people's homes around the area. During this period little is known of the pastors and evangelists who served the community. However, in 1907 there is record of a Rev E.W. Winn who served for one year. In 1913, as the town name was changed from Cornell to Henriette, the Hart family donated land for a dollar upon which a church, a parsonage, and a six-team horse barn were built. White Pine Lumber was donated by unknown parties from the Pokegama Lake area and was used to construct these buildings. Mrs. Belle

Marriot became the first pastor to serve the new Henriette Free Methodist church. Rev. Marriott served from 1913-1914. Rev. M.W. Sides followed from 1915-1917. E.W. Winn 1918-1920; OC Thrall 1921-1922; W.B. & Lena Elliot 1923-1925; Walter S. Kendall 1926-1928; J.E. McMillan 1929-1930; A.B. Elliott 1931-1932; H.J. Locke 1933-1934; A.C. Merrigan 1935-1936; Karl Kappahahn 1937-1940; Thomas Mitts 1941-1942; H.W. Miller 1943-1945; Donald Crider 1946-1948; Joe Rardin 1949-1950; W.B. Keller 1951; Pearl Knapp Keller 1952-1953; J.A. Himes 1954-1956; Leland Ramsey 1957-1965; David Dwyer 1966-1967; No Pastor 1968-1969; Roy Crider 1970-1977; Steven Borwick 1978-1987; Ron Pulscher 1988-1990; Don Parsons 1991-1992; Micheal Kinde 1993-1994; Ron Pulscher 1995-1997; Les Crider 1998; David Dwyer 1999-2013; Marvin Miller 2013-present

As the years passed and the automobile became ubiquitous in the area, the old horse barn was pulled down and the lumber used to build a garage. Sometime around this same time, the church building was raised and a basement added to the structure. Beginning in the 1970's there was a steady increase in the number of people attending the church and the congregation began to plan for a larger, more modern facility to meet their growing needs.

In 1980 five acres of land one mile north of Henriette was purchased and donated by Oliver and Aimee Stigen. Ground was broken in August 1980. The original church building and parsonage were sold and the resulting money was added to the building fund for the new facility. The building project continued steadily for four years as the labor and construction materials were donated by members, friends and neighbors in the community.

The new church was dedicated on July 1st, 1984. The pulpit, alter railing, wooden hymn board and the old church bell were brought over from the old building and are still being used to this day. The old church building was purchased by the city of Henriette and

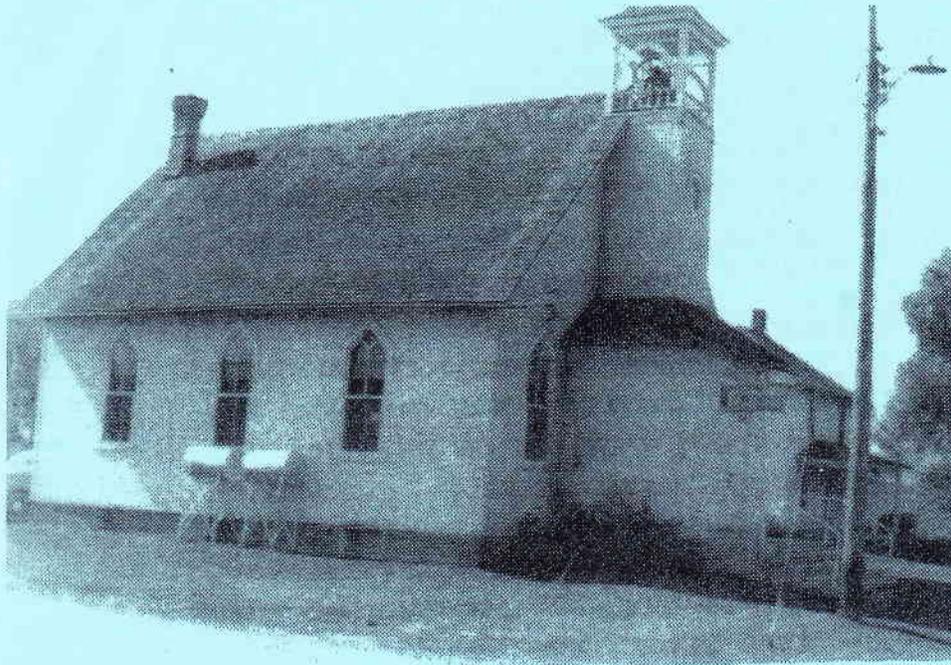
used as a city hall. In July of 2007 a young lady thought it would be fun to see the old church on fire. She was quoted as saying she "wanted to see a church burn." The building was a total loss and today an empty lot is all that remains of the original church. The parsonage remains where it has always been, next to the empty lot where the church once stood. It is still occupied today. During 1990's a modern new parsonage was built east of the new church building.

The Henriette Free Methodist Church today is a close and loving family of people who love being part of a church body that openly expresses a love for people that is only exceeded by their love for God. Over the years this has been the hallmark of a church that God has blessed and continues to bless. The city of Henriette may have withered away to a shell of its former self, but the church that was started so long ago is strong and healthy today.

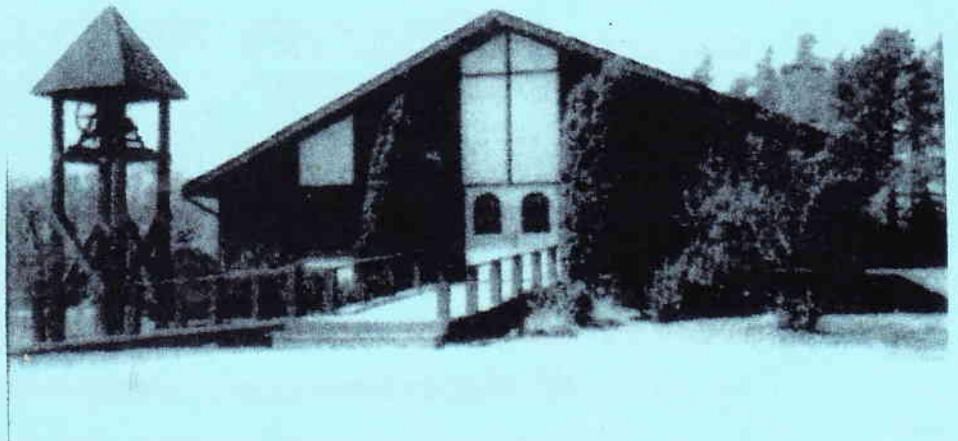
Henriette Community Church

100 Year Celebration

September 15, 2013



**Original Church
built 1913**



**New Church
built 1980**

**Forgiveness for the Past,
Strength for the Present,
Hope for the Future.**