



GRANT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

MAY 2013

MAY 15 2013

SINAI TEMPLE
Side Entrance on 6th Street
Across from Library
7 P.M.

Important Board Meeting
Election of Officers
6:15 P. M.

PROGRAM **A VISIT TO SINAI TEMPLE** Stan Steiner

Recently, many in the Marion community were saddened to hear that the Sinai Temple was going to close because of the smallness of the congregation. However, the Rescue Mission, located only a few doors away, has lived up to its name. The mission will buy the temple, thereby adding needed rooms for their programs; at the same time, allowing the temple congregation to continue in their place of worship. As Stan says, "It's a win-win situation".

Our May 15th program will be led by Mr. Steiner, who will speak of the history of the congregation and the building and how the building might continue to serve the community.

In honor of National Historic Preservation Month, S.O.S. will host a reception on Thursday, May 16, 2013 at 6 p.m. at the Marion Public Library in the historic Jay House, 7th Street & Boots Street, Marion. Winners of the essay & photo contests will be announced. The Endangered Marion list will be revealed.

Please join us on May 16 at 6 p.m. to learn how you can be a part of this dynamic effort to preserve the history of Marion.

Sue Bratton 668-2900...sbratton@marion.lib.in.us

EARLY CHURCHES

Pioneer congregations met for several years in homes and business rooms before they were able to build church homes of their own. Following are six of the earliest churches to appear in the Marion area.

A Friends Church was built on South Pennsylvania Ave.-then only a rural dirt lane-in 1828. Followers of this faith-traveled many miles to attend the meetings.

*In 1828, Martin Boots brought his family to this area. Mrs. Boots and one of her daughters brought the number of Methodists in the community to three...the first preaching was held under the spreading branches of a large elm tree which stood at the intersection of Boots Street and the Mississinewa River. The number of three loyal Methodists grew to ten...Then in 1832, the first church was organized.

Presbyterians conducted their initial meeting in 1836. Their original place of worship was a narrow structure on the corner of 5th and Branson, built in 1869.

The Christian church was founded on May 2, 1839, by a group of friends and relatives who came together from rural Ohio. Three consecutive Christian churches stood on lot number thirty just south of the public library. When rebuilt during the gas boom it was renamed the Temple Church and later became the Temple Congregational Church.

The First Baptist Church was organized under the leadership of the Reverend C.A Price in 1861 after meeting in homes for many years. Later they rented rooms at 4th and Adams before building their first brick structure facing 4th Street beside Boots Creek.

In 1855, a number of Catholic families moved into Marion whose fathers and sons were employed in construction of the railroads. For a number of years they were served by priests from Wabash, Peru and Kokomo. In 1868, a frame building was constructed on Branson Street. The first mass was celebrated before the chapel was finished .

MARION A Pictorial History by June McKown
**First Methodist Church Through the Years*
by Mrs. Walter B. Tukey, (Marietta)