

CHURCHES

The Seventh Day Adventists have a small church with a fair membership but no regular minister.

The Salvation Army has a good following here, with a nice meeting room and large attendance at services.

Latter Day Saints have services every Sunday evening in the Elliott Hall, with a fairly good membership.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH AND PARSONAGE

Gaylord Baptist Church was organized with twelve members in 1880 by a Rev. Wm. Putman who acted as supply pastor for this struggling little band of believers for nearly three years. The first regular pastor was J. H. Marsh whose ministry extended over two years. As yet the church was small numerically and for several years after this did not support a regular pastor, but all the time kept up the Sunday School and weekly prayer meeting, with occasional preaching.

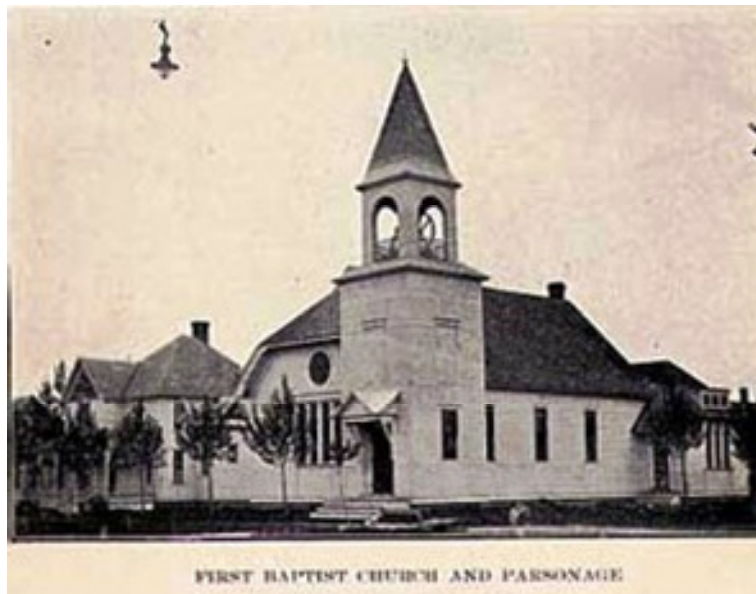
The frame of the present church edifice was begun in 1884 and soon after the chapel part was enclosed and all services were conducted in it. But the auditorium was not completed till eleven years later or in 1895, during which time faithless skeptical ones predicted that it would never be completed. However by 1895 the heroic and struggling band of ladies had succeeded in getting together something over \$200, when Rev. A. P. McDonald came to the rescue, rallied the forces and finished the auditorium, dedicating the building June 23, 1895. The membership then was forty. Rev. J. W. Thompson was then called to the pastorate continuing faithfully his services for five years. During this term of years the membership was more that doubled, the edifice beautified and a splendid and palatial parsonage built and paid for all except \$400.

At the expiration of this term Rev. McBain Milne came serving the church one year.

The present pastor, Rev. F. Dewey Ehle came to this church nearly two years ago, during which time 79 have been added to the membership, 67 of them by baptism. A mission Sunday School has been established and is maintained at Salling, with preaching every alternative Sunday. During the last two years \$969 have been raised for improvements, paying off the parsonage mortgage and extensively improving the church property.

The present membership is 166.

Rev. F. Dewey Ehle, came to Gaylord in the fall of 1904. It was mainly through his efforts that the parsonage mortgage was paid and the great improvements to the church building were successfully carried on. His success as an evangelist was shown at several revivals in Gaylord during the past year.



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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH AND PARSONAGE

As an illustration of the hardships and privations of pioneer life in Gaylord the formation and erection of the First Congregational Church can be cited with interest. This church is the oldest religious organization in Gaylord. In 1874 missionary services were conducted in a small building in the west part of town by Rev. James McKay. He was succeeded by several in succession until 1878, when Rev. A. Van Auken arrived on the field. The members now considered themselves sufficiently strong to go ahead and build a place of worship, and Rev. A. Van Auken, W. H. Fillmore and C. C. Mitchell were appointed as a building committee. The present site was selected and the main part of the building that stands today erected and dedicated in December, 1879. Rev. Van Auken remained as pastor two years resigning on account of poor health. Services were conducted alternately for some time by Rev. C. P. Cripps, Rev. R. Van Auken and Geo. Badcon. Since that time the church has been served by the following pastors: J. S. Maile, Robert Humphrey, Joseph Glasson, W. H. Millar, J. A. Curham, J. A. Rood, G. W. Stillwell, Mrs. Clara Buell, Johnathan Turner, Rev. F. C. Wood, Rev. Chas. Dains. Rev. W. C. Allen came in the summer of 1904 and is the present pastor.

During the pastorate of Rev. C. Wood the church building was remodeled and enlarged and is now accounted one of the beautiful buildings in town. The parsonage was moved to its present locations and enlarged.

The church has a membership of 95, and is in a prosperous condition.



FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Gaylord Methodism had its beginning in the late seventies or early eighties, no record of its organization seems to be in existence at the present time. Rev. A. J. Van Camp was the first pastor. He was followed by Rev. W. B. Pope, during whose ministry the first church building, now occupied by the Huff & Mitchell Co., was erected in 1882.

Since Mr. Pope, the church has been served as follows: 1883-4, P. J. Wright; 1884-7, Geo. N. Kennedy; 1887-8, W. J. Balmer; 1888-9, R. N. Mulholland; 1889-91, E. A. Cross; 1891-2, E. B. Ryan and J. T. Hankinson; 1892-4, H. H. Culver; 1894-6, G. H. Fee; 1896-7, W. H. Allman; 1897-9, Seth Reed; 1899-00, D. E. Birtch; 1900-2, F. S. Hurlburt; 1902-5, H. J. B. Marsh.

During the pastorate of Rev. Seth Reed the old church property on East Main street was sold and the present fine church was erected on the corner of F and Second streets.

A fine modern house was built for a parsonage during the pastorate of Rev. F. S. Hurlburt, the whole making a piece of church property unsurpassed for desirability and convenience.

There are at present in the neighborhood of 130 members.

The Epworth League and aid organizations are in a flourishing condition.

Rev. H. J. B. Marsh is closing the third year of his pastorate in Gaylord, and during his residence here has been an indefatigable worker. It is the desire of the entire community that the conference return him for another year. Under his ministrations the church is prospering finely.



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ST. MARY'S CHURCH AND PARSONAGE

Rev. Fr. S. Pongannis came to St. Mary's church in August, 1904, and since that time has made many friends both in and out of his congregation. He is broad-minded in his views and takes great interest in everything that pertains to the advancement of our town.

The old St. Mary's church was built in 1881 by Rev. Francis X. Shulak, a Jesuit missionary, who used to visit this place about four times a year. He obtained from the Michigan Central Railroad Co. two lots on which the present new church stands. The first resident pastor was Rev. L Opyrchalski, who took charge of the congregation in March 1888 and stayed for about one year. After his departure the people were attended from Saginaw by Rev. V. Zaleski until, in 1890, Rev. M. Grochowski was appointed pastor, who also stayed about one year, being succeeded by Rev. Alex. Lipinski. In 1892 came Rev. C. Skory and stayed continuously until August 1904, when he was succeeded by the present incumbent, Rev. Simon Pongannis.

The new church building, the finest in town, was erected in 1900, the old church being removed to make room for it. The congregation counts almost 200 families, mostly of Polish nationality, and is in a prosperous condition financially and otherwise. Services are held every Sunday in English and in Polish.

