

Editor's Notes:

- This is the 5th in a series of stories spotlighting the businesses and homes on Main Street. The tour begins on the west side of the four corners and travels south.
- The two signs on the front of the cream-colored building at 3697 Main Street identify this facility as the Walworth Youth Center and the Walworth Baptist Community Center. If it could talk, this multi-purpose structure would have an interesting story to tell about the people, businesses and the Masonic Lodge previously associated with this site. The building began as a Masonic Lodge but on August 15, 2002, it was sold to the 2nd Baptist Church of Walworth. Below is Donna Klaeysen's story about the Community Center.

After we purchased the building, we named it the Walworth Baptist Community Center. It is open for groups to meet and currently AA and a Boy Scout troop meet there. In 2014 Benjamin Leone put in a much appreciated path from the church parking lot to the Community Center sidewalk. He also added the benches and some landscaping to the front of the building. This was his Eagle Scout project. He did a great job.

The Center has been used over the years for various celebrations, baby and wedding showers, fund-raising dinners, various church gatherings and public events. I especially remember a dinner to raise money for Martin Seppeler to help with his cancer expenses. Those wishing to inquire about use of the building may call the church (986-1288) and leave a message for Elaine Henning.



2016 Photo: Walworth Youth Center and Baptist Community Center



**1969: Construction of New Masonic Lodge
Above photo courtesy of Gordon Youngman**

The building has needed some upkeep over the years. The roof was replaced about two years ago. The steps both going down to the dining room and going up to the second floor were replaced in the first year or so. All the wiring has been replaced. The back steps and door were replaced and in 2015 the septic line was redone. It used to run to the back of the lot, then loop around to the front to meet the sewer line in the street. Now it takes a more direct path to the road. The front door was replaced approximately 2015. We're hoping to be able to put up new siding in a couple of years.

We continued to host the Blood Drives until 2013. In September of that year the drives were moved to the Fire Hall in Walworth. It's easier to move equipment in and out of there.

Early on Scarlet Thread asked to use the upstairs for a youth program. There have been several directors of the Walworth program over the years. The current director is Nadine Seppeler, who grew up in our church. Scarlett Thread's goal is to bring Christ to all the young people in the county. They meet with the kids (ages 12 to high school seniors). There are video and other games, homework help, and activities for the kids. Adult helpers are there to aid the kids in various activities, etc. The program is open Thursdays from 3-6 pm. If you wish more information about this, call Bob Williams (986.1526) or Candy Komorowski (986.1356)

To Be Continued

Our next issue will feature the Masonic Hall and the various businesses that occupied the site.