



Reflections of Yesterday

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Do you know who the first couple to be married in our present church building is? The answer to this question was revealed to me during a conversation that I had a number of years ago with Marian Stetler.

The following is an excerpt taken from, The Autobiography of Marian Stetler and gives the answer to the question above.

"We were married in the parlor in front of the fireplace, in the First Presbyterian Church at 3:00 p.m. on August 31, 1929. It was a small wedding performed by Reverend Aladar Tomshany. We were the first couple to be married in this newly built church. Margaret McKay and Leonard Foster were our attendants. I wore a short white dress and a hat. ..."

When our present church building was in the planning stages, the ladies of the church were asked their choice in locating the Ladies Parlor on either the basement or main floor of the structure. They decided to have this room placed prominently on the main floor. Included in the plans for the room was a large fireplace donated, "In Loving Memory of Myrtle B. Moon," by her husband, J. Ernest Moon. The fireplace was flanked by cupboards incorporating a sink and counter space, which

were used as kitchenette facilities. For many years the Women's Association and its successor the United Presbyterian Women handled most of the expenses connected with this room.

Unfortunately there are no pictures of what the Parlor looked like back at that time, but it was well used by a congregation numbering over 1200 members.

This article from the September 1, 1929 issue of the Battle Creek Enquirer and Evening News tells us more about John and Marian (Piper) Stetler's wedding,

"One of the prettiest of the early fall weddings took place Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock in the First Presbyterian church parlor, when Miss Marian Piper, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Piper, was united in marriage with J. Franklin Stetler, son of Mrs. John L. Stetler of Sturgis. The Rev. A. T. Tomshany performed the ring ceremony in the presence of 60 relatives and friends. While Miss Genevieve Wilson played the Bridal Chorus from Lohengrin, the bridal party took its place before the fireplace which was attractively banked with ferns. Miss Piper made a pretty bride, gowned in ivory georgette-crepe, with a hat to match. She carried a shower bouquet of white roses and swainsona. Her attendant, Miss Margaret McKay, wore apple-green georgette and carried a bouquet of pink roses. The groom was attended by Leonard Foster, a fraternity brother. Following the marriage ceremony a reception was held at the home of the bride on Hubbard Street. The home was attractively decorated with fall flowers. The bride's table, decorated in pink and white with tapers bowed with

tulle in pink crystal holders and roses, was centered by the bride's cake, trimmed with smilax. The refreshments were served by Miss June Warren, assisted by Miss Theda Jones, and Miss Bernice Frey, cousins of the bride. The bride's bouquet was caught by Miss Alice Fleming. The bride's going-away costume was a printed brown and tan crepe with accessories to match. Among the out-of-town guests were Mrs. John L. Stetler of Sturgis,

Mrs. Georgia Piper and Clyde Piper of Detroit, and [?] Farnum of Jackson. The attendants received compacts and lighters from the bride and groom. Mr. and Mrs. Stetler will be at home in Dundee, Lenawee County, after September 10. Mr. Stetler is to be principal of the high school in the city"



Marian and J. Franklin Stetler Photo courtesy of Sue Stetler.