The original Bremen Methodist Church stood on what is now a vacant lot, next to what was known as the Parker Place. This location is just this side of the home place of the late Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Feild. The preacher at that time was a Reverend Ivy, who was followed by the Reverend Crow.

During The Reverend Crow's ministry, around 1890, the church building was rolled onto the lot where the late Jake Smith lived, because as Bremen grew the need was felt to get closer into town. While the church was being moved to new quarters, Sunday School and Preaching Services were held in the waiting room of the depot, stationed at the crossing in Old Town. Old Town, or Bremen, was made up of what is now the western part of Bremen. The new station section was called "Kramer".

The Reverend Searcy was pastor of the church in 1892. Mr. Richard Feild was one of the saints of the church, and his wife, Mrs. Linnie Feild, ably assisted him in his Christian work as organist. The Reverend Searcy's salary was $300 per year. The Reverend Turner followed Mr. Searcy.

The Reverend C. P. Marchman was pastor when this church was demolished by a wind storm. He went to work to build a new church on the spot where the late Mrs. J. A. Copeland's home on Gordon Street stood. While this building was being constructed the members held their services in the Northern M. E. Church, located at the cemetery. Dr. M. K. Phillips gave the trees for the church building. The Reverend Marchman began cutting the trees himself. The members of the church, seeing their pastor working so hard, joined him in his labor. In the spring of 1900, the frame church building was erected to serve a community of less than 500 people and a church membership of 65. It was completed with no indebtedness.

Today the boys and girls of the church pass the bell cord hanging in the ball and long to hear the bell, which first sent its call to worship from this frame building. This bell was presented to the church by Mrs. W. O. Halker.

The original organ in the building was moved to the new building and used until the church graduated to a piano - and as one lady said recently: "We worked hard for years to get away from the organ and now we are right back where we started." Harvey and Ivey Bell, Jimmy Baskin and Ed Walker were given a bucket of candy to clean up the church grounds. Miss Effie Feild was among the adults helping to supervise the job.


At the time most of these ministers served the church, the parsonage was in Buchanan. The Reverend Verdell walked to Bremen to fill his appointment and challenged anyone to beat him in a horse and buggy. Throughout the conference Mr. Verdell was known as the "buttermilk man". Every glass he drank he made it with sugar, which he believed must have given him his ability to walk so far and fast. Most of the time he could outwalk a horse.

The first parsonage in Bremen was built around 1920.
On December 4, 1935, the Reverend W. L. Brackman came to Bremen. On his first Sunday about 50 or less were present to hear their new pastor. This same year, the parsonage, which included three and one-half rooms, was sold for $1,000. A new parsonage was bought for $1,500, which was the home of the late Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Williamson.

In the opening of the year 1936, the Reverend Brackman circulated a petition throughout the community and had all beer and wine saloons closed. The City of Bremen became dry and has been dry ever since. In 1936 a missionary society of about 14 members was organized. Up until this time the ladies' organization had been called "Parsonage Aid".

During the same year the Reverend Brackman asked the church to rebuild, but their excuse was that they were building their own homes, and could not. He then turned his attention to the development and preparation of a revival. At this time the Baptist church was without a pastor.

The spiritual life of the community was at a very low ebb. He called the Board of Stewards and the Board of Deacons together and they decided to have a union meeting. A Baptist preacher and a Baptist singer were engaged for the meeting. It was a great success. Several people were saved and joined the churches. By the close of 1937 the Sunday School attendance had increased from 150 to 200 people.

In January of 1938, a plans committee for a new building was appointed. Quarterly Conference came and the church was given permission to sell the old property and buy a new lot. As the lumber lay on the ground from the wooden structure being torn down, Mrs. M. K. Phillips said she walked by one day and stood gazing at the altar rail that was built from the pine her husband gave, and thought of face after face of dear old saints who had offered effectual, fervent prayers at this altar. Among the deeply religious women of the church who have passed on include; Mrs. J. J. May, grandmother of Mrs. Laura Jo Morris; Mrs. C. A. Upshaw, mother-in-law of Mrs. Hattie Upshaw; Mrs. Jeanie Summerlin, grandmother of Donald Gray; and Mrs. Nannie Duncan whose husband was the first professor of Hamilton College.

On April 25, 1938, ground was broken for a new church building. The pastor announced they were launching a "faith project". The sound of the hammer never stopped until the building was completed, praise be to God. At times the money got low, but they went to prayer and more money came. The new church building was completed the last of October, 1938. On Oct. 21, 1938, before the pews were placed in the church, the first wedding ceremony was performed, the couple being Etta Williamson and Earliss Massey. The first church service was held the first Sunday in November.

On the first Sunday in September 1939, Bishop DeCull, dedicated the church with a very impressive service. The year of 1939 was a year of spiritual harvest. From the results of an old-fashioned revival by the Reverend T. Perry Brannon, visiting evangelist, 86 souls were added to the church; 57 on profession of faith, 29 by letter. A Saturday night prayer meeting was held every week in homes of the people from the time of this meeting through the latter part of 1944. In 1940 over 400 members constituted the church.
Throughout the years since 1940 many improvements have been made in all departments of the church. The Reverend W. H. Boring became the pastor in November 1940. The parsonage was sold for $1,800, and a brick structure was built as it now stands on Buchanan Street. Since the dedication of the parsonage in 1941, furnishings have been added from time to time. The building alone when completed cost $7,500. A fund was started, pledges made, for an organ for the church. The first donation was made by Mr. J. A. Davis, who was serving in the armed forces at that time.

After Dr. Wills M. Jones became pastor of the church in 1945, the various departments became better organized and the chimes were installed. In May, 1947, the organ was placed in the church, with Mrs. Chester Wynens as our organist.

The Reverend Hoke Sewell became pastor in June, 1947. An outstanding feature of his ministry was his work with the young people of the church and the town. The church progressed in its organizational work. At this time the Wesleyan Service Guild was organized.

The rooms in the children's department was beautified in June of 1949.

The Reverend Henry T. Smith, became pastor in 1950, and the Reverend Tom Wheelis was assigned to Bremen in 1952. At this time the sanctuary was enlarged and an educational wing and social hall were added.

The Reverend Tim Holbrook came in 1957. Sunday School attendance reached its highest point in the history of the church, in the years 1957-58-59, frequently being 300 or over. Church rolls were revised and brought up-to-date.

The Reverend Harry L. Mitcham became pastor in 1961. Property adjoining the church on the Buchanan side was purchased. Church organization was strengthened and the Every Member Visitation was begun for pledges to the budget.

In 1964, The Reverend P. V. Hall was appointed to Bremen. Attendance and budget have risen in the year 1964-65, and a new Building Committee has begun planning additional administrative and educational space and a new social hall.

Now, at the end of the 1964-65 conference year, we "thank God and press on".