

**Mayor's Award for Historic Preservation  
"Ongoing Excellence of Bell Tower Restoration"  
First Presbyterian Church  
405 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue**



The story of the First Presbyterian Church began in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Circa 1884, the first church edifice construction was budgeted for \$2,200. With assistance by the Ladies Aid Society, and a variety of families, building and lot financing became an eventual reality. In 1900, the larger and permanent church edifice was approved and construction began with the cornerstone being laid on August 1, 1900. Alongside the construction of the education annex – which we can still see today – there are multiple times throughout the Church's history that the congregation asked for remodeling efforts for the structure itself. This includes the sanctuary, basement, roof, etc., and much of this may not have occurred without the continual support and effort of the dedicated congregation and committees.





Race forward to 2017, the preservation efforts in recent years has been to replace the entire upper roof of the bell tower, and tuck point and stucco brick-work on the inside of the upper portion of the bell tower. In doing this, the bell tower is sustained and avoids what would be eventual collapse. A leaking roof and rotting rafters, along with some falling bricks on one interior wall corner, spurred the renovation and repair project. Ultimately, because of deterioration over time, the roof and all rafters were replaced.

Indeed, this was done with respect and consideration for the preservation needs of the structure. All four corner parapets were removed to replace the roof, and they were returned after the roof was finished. The team of contractors included J&P Roofing from Dell Rapids, South Dakota, and Olson Masonry, a local Brookings establishment. Visitors can see the church at 405 7th Avenue in Brookings.

It is with great pleasure that we, the members of the Brookings Historic Preservation Commission, grant the First Presbyterian Church the Ongoing Excellence in Restoration Award this year.

*\*Historic context provided by Jeanne Manzer. Remodeling information provided by John MaComb.*

