

The Gospel Barn

Gospel Music at its Finest

History

1955	Everett Wirick purchased his saxophone from Coldwater Music Store.
1957	Everett purchased front 6 acres at 475 Bankers Road from Wally Houtz for \$1,000.
1960	Everett, being a builder by trade, began construction of the home at 475 Bankers Road.
September 1961	Another approximately 25 acres was purchased from Wally Houtz.
1962-63	Home was completed.
1965	Palm Sunday tornado rips through the wooded area surrounding the home. The home remained virtually undamaged, but the wooded property was destroyed.
March 1966	Everett's first wife, Letha, passes away.
June 1967	Everett married Margaret Frager. "Margaret was an accomplished pianist and a wonderful personality. Her talents, along with Everett's abilities on his saxophone, led them to a honeymoon in Renfro Valley, Kentucky, where they performed. It was at this time that the idea of the Gospel Barn began to take shape."
September 1970	Theater seats were purchased for the Barn at a cost of \$252.
October 1970	Ground was leveled for construction of the Gospel Barn.
April 1971	Logs were hauled to the mill for the Barn. Everett continued building the facility. Occasionally, he would have some help in his work.
1974	Construction on the Gospel Barn was completed.
June 22, 1974	DEDICATION SERVICE for The Gospel Barn.
July 6, 1974	Records show the first group to appear in concert was the Union City Singers.
1976	The camping area was completed.
1978	Current house band singer/guitar player, Norm Keesler, begins performing at The Barn.
November 1978	Gospel Barn Music Incorporated was formed.
1980	Contributions were received to help pay for the addition to the west end of the auditorium.
1982	Addition to the west end of The Barn was completed before concert season begins.
Early 1980's	A live concert album was made at The Gospel Barn.
September 1984	Everett and Margaret received a four page letter from grandson, Scott Wiley, telling them of his desire and interest to run The Gospel Barn someday. Scott was in the 10th grade.
1986	New piano was purchased for The Barn.

1987	Scott Wiley moves from Florida following graduation from high school.
Fall of 1987	Scott Wiley was added to the Gospel Barn property and corporation. "This would prove to be vital in the next year due to the process involving the estate of Everett Wirick."
1987-88	(WINTER-OFF SEASON) Everett installs insulation in the ceiling of the auditorium. This would be his final project.
February 12, 1988	Everett & Margaret are suddenly and tragically killed in an automobile accident while visiting in Avon Park, Florida.
Spring 1988	Scott Wiley, along with his parents Charles & Norma Wiley and sister Sandy, come back to Michigan to prepare for the upcoming concert season. Ken Kurtz, Dave Tuckey, Norm Keesler and Nan May are asked to be Emcee and house band for The Barn.
April 30, 1988	Memorial Service held at The Barn for Everett & Margaret Wirick.
November 18, 1989	Scott Wiley & Rebecca Nafziger are married.
July 27, 1991	500th CONCERT was held at The Gospel Barn with the Gospel Harmony Boys.
December 20, 1993	Nathan Everett Wiley was born to Scott & Rebecca.
1995-96	Completely new restroom facility was constructed in time for the 1996 concert season.
May 17, 1997	Katherine Joann Wiley was born to Scott & Rebecca.
June 1-8, 1998	Balcony renovation completed--adding and improving the seating area.
June 20, 1998	25th ANNIVERSARY CONCERT
Spring 1999	New sound system was installed in the auditorium.
Fall 2000	New roof was put on The Gospel Barn.
July 2003	Air conditioning was installed in The Gospel Barn auditorium.
Fall 2004 - Spring 2005	New parking lot lights are installed and additional lighting was added around the barn.
June 10, 2006	1000th CONCERT was held at the Gospel Barn with the Rick Webb Trio.
November 2007	Driveway was widened to accommodate a left-hand turn lane.
July 10, 2010	Ground Breaking Ceremony for Auditorium Addition.
July 12, 2010	Constructions began on the Auditorium Addition.
October 6, 2012	Auditorium Addition used for the first time.
October 13, 2012	Dedication Service for the Auditorium Addition.
January, 2014	Roof Project completed - Shingle roof replaced with metal roof.
	"Obviously friends, only the Lord knows what the future holds."