Fund set up for fire-damaged church

Brussels, IL (KSDK) -- Leaders of a church which was destroyed in a spectacular Christmas Eve fire have established a fund to help rebuild the historic house of worship.

The Saturday night fire destroyed St. Mary's Catholic Church in Brussels. Witnesses say the church was engulfed in flames when they arrived. Crews from several fire departments worked for hours putting the fire. No one was hurt, and the cause is still unknown.

Parishioner Charles Burch, who's also the Calhoun County state's attorney, says anyone who wants to donate cash or send checks to help the recovery may send them to the St. Mary's Church Rebuilding Fund, Box 38, Brussels, Illinois, 62013.

http://www.ksdk.com/news/article/292978/3/Christmas-Eve-fire-destroys-Illinois-Church

Christmas Eve fire destroys historic Illinois church

(KMOV) -- Fire destroyed a historic church in the small Illinois town of Brussels - after a small fire re-ignited on Christmas Eve.

St. Mary's Church on Main Street, built in the mid 1800's, was the town's major landmark. It was full of parishioners when a small fire broke out Saturday evening. Parishioners said a light in the ceiling seemed to malfunction and started a fire in the attic. The church evacuated and called firefighters to put out the fire.

A couple of hours later, the fire reignited and flames destroyed the church building. Parishioners and neighbors rushed to the scene and carried out statues, books, and items that could be saved.
There were no reports of injuries.

Parishioners say they will meet with the insurance company to assess their options later this week. The church financially supports the school at St. Mary's members are asking for donations to stay afloat.

Donations can be sent to Box 1, Brussels, IL 62013, said Charles Burch - a parishioner and the Calhoun County State's Attorney.

http://www.kmov.com/news/local/Fire-crews-battle-church-fire-in-Brussels-IL-136204988.html

Blessed Trinity

Last Updated on Tuesday, 14 June 2011 16:20

These parishes merged to form Blessed Trinity, Brussels:

Immaculate Conception (St. Mary), Brussels, St. Barbara, Batchtown, and St. Joseph, Meppen

Church Address

111 East Main St.

P.O. Box 38

Brussels, IL 62013-0038

Office: (618) 883-2400

FAX: (618) 883-2511

E-mail: blessedtrinityom@gmail.com

Parish Staff

Rev. Don J. Roberts, Pastor. (Residence: Meppen)

Deacon Michael B. Hagen

Marge Tepen, Office Manager

Statistics: 1097 Parishioners, 433 Families.

School: St. Mary

Mass Schedule

Daily: 8:00 (Sat.) Batchtown

8:30 a.m. (Fri.) Brussels, 6:00 p.m. (Tues.) Meppen

Saturday: 6:30 p.m. (Brussels)

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. (Batchtown)

Sacrament of Penance

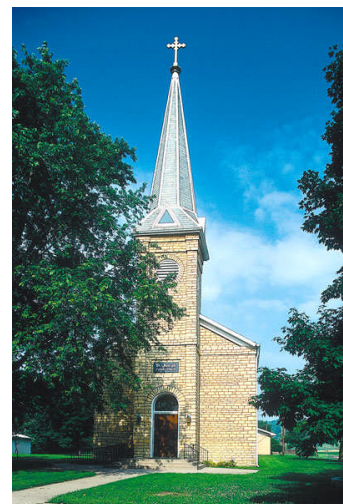Monday-Friday: Half hour prior to Mass for 15 minutes

Saturday: 5:45-6:00 p.m. (Brussels)

St. Mary, Brussels

St. Barbara, Batchtown

St. Joseph, Meppen

Visitors Guide to the Brussels
Calhoun County, Illinois

Calhoun County, like Jo Daviess County in northwest Illinois, is unique in the state in that glaciers didn't touch it and therefore has a more rugged terrain that is dissected by valleys than the generally flat terrain associated with the rest of Illinois. Calhoun County is also located at the tip of the peninsula formed by the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers and is almost completely surrounded by water. Brussels is located near the southern tip of the peninsula on a fertile ridge top with some shallow valley slopes that makes it a suitable site for farming and orchards. German immigrants first settled this small country village in 1822 that were attracted by the fertile land that had an adequate water supply and nearby forests that provided wood for construction and fuel. The lack of any railroads or bridges into Calhoun County has meant that Brussels has always been sparsely populated with a population never reaching greater than several hundred, allowing it to retain the feeling of a small but active agricultural community of the late 19th and early 20th century.

The first settler to the area was John Metz who arrived in 1822 and the first business was a blacksmith shop opened by Joshua Twichell in the same year. The blacksmith shop served the transient lumberjacks who cut wood in this heavily timbered region for shipment to nearby St. Charles and St. Louis. In 1847 Conrad Wittmond opened the Wittmond Trading Post (now the Wittmond Restaurant and Hotel - the oldest continuously operating business in the village, (photo right) to trade for fur and wild hogs. **The first church was a Catholic Church constructed in 1847 and five years later Father John Moliter, a Belgium priest, became the first resident priest. Moliter died three months after his arrival and the people of the parish decided to name the village "Brussels" after Moliter's hometown in Belgium.** The oldest surviving church in Brussels is the Italianate styled St. Mary's on Main Street built in 1863. The town boundaries were established in 1876 and Brussels was incorporated in 1888.

The Brussels Historic District was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1998 and consists of 80 contributing structures ranging from commercial buildings and residences to barns, chicken coops and privies. Most of the buildings do not represent any particular architectural style although the Queen Anne, Italianate, and Greek Revival styles are represented. Visitors can stroll down Main and Community Streets and see restored businesses and homes dating back to the 1800's as well as the historic Jail. The Jail (photo left,) a red shed like structure in the center of the village, was originally called "the calaboose", was built about the same time town's boundaries were established and the corrugated iron was added in 1889. It was mostly used to house men overnight for drinking too much beer and is said to have once held 12 men who had to sleep standing up. The last prisoner was held there in 1952 and today the Calhoun County Sheriff's Department handles any disturbances.

The people of Brussels are proud of their German heritage and their sense of community pride, which can be seen by the upkeep of their buildings. The surrounding area features rolling hills, farmland, and orchards. The Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge and Pere Marquette State Park are close by and offer a variety of recreational opportunities to the Brussels area visitor. Unless you are driving in from the north on the Great River Road or use the Joe Page Bridge in Hardin the only way to reach Brussels is to use one the local ferries.

Brussels, Illinois

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Coordinates: 🌐 38°56′50″N 90°35′19″W38.94722°N 90.58861°W

Brussels	
Village	
Country	United States
State	Illinois
County	Calhoun
Coordinates	🌐 38°56′50″N 90°35′19″W38.94722°N 90.58861°W
Area	0.6 sq mi (2 km^2)
- land	0.6 sq mi (2 km^2)
Population	141 (*2000*)
Density	232.4 / sq mi (90 / km^2)
Timezone	CST (UTC-6)
- summer (DST)	CDT (UTC-5)
Postal code	62013
Area code	618

Brussels is a village in Calhoun County, Illinois, United States. The population was 141 at the 2000 census.

General information

Brussels is the headquarters location of the [Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge](#), which is noted for its population of [bald eagles](#). The refuge is named after the two great rivers that flow together close to Brussels, the [Illinois River](#) and the [Mississippi River](#).

Brussels has one school district, No. 42, which consists of one grade school (Brussels Grade School) and one high school ([Brussels High School](#)). The school district serves the surrounding communities of Meppen, Golden Eagle, and parts of Batchtown. In addition to the public school system, Brussels has a parochial grade school, St. Marys. Brussels High School is small and its enrollment usually hovers at around 70 students.

The main street of the village is a historic district listed on the [National Register of Historic Places](#).

Geography

Brussels is located at 38°56′50″N 90°35′19″W38.94722°N 90.58861°W (38.947275, -90.588630).[1]

According to the [United States Census Bureau](#), the village has a total area of 0.6 square miles (1.6 km^2).0.6 square miles (1.6 km²) of it is land and none of it is covered by [water](#).

Demographics

As of the [census](#)[2] of 2000, there were 141 people, 60 households, and 40 families residing in the village. The [population density](#) was 232.4 people per square mile (89.2/km²). There were 70 housing units at an average density of 115.4 per square mile (44.3/km²). The racial makeup of the village was 100.00% [White](#). [Hispanic](#) or [Latino](#) of any race were 2.84% of the population.

There were 60 households out of which 30.0% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 51.7% are [married](#) couples living together, 8.3% had a female householder with no husband present, and 33.3% were non-families. 28.3% of all households were made up of individuals and 13.3% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The [average](#) household size is 2.35 and the average family size was 2.80.

In the village the population was spread out with 20.6% under the age of 18, 11.3% from 18 to 24, 27.7% from 25 to 44, 20.6% from 45 to 64, and 19.9% who are 65 years of age or older. The [median](#) age is 39 years. For every 100 females there were 104.3 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 89.8 males.

The median income for a household in the village was $40,938, and the median income for a family was $46,250. Males had a median income of $29,375 versus $15,417 for females. The [per capita income](#) for the village was $16,281. 11.4% of the population and 5.7% of families are

below the poverty line. Out of the total population, none of those under the age of 18, but 17.4% of those 65 and older, were living below the poverty line.

References

1. "US Gazetteer files: 2010, 2000, and 1990". United States Census Bureau. 2011-02-12. http://www.census.gov/geo/www/gazetteer/gazette.html. Retrieved 2011-04-23.
2. "American FactFinder". United States Census Bureau. http://factfinder.census.gov. Retrieved 2008-01-31.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brussels,_Illinois