

## **TRENTON SUN**

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### **With arrival of iron, new Methodist Church begins to take shape**



THE SKELETON OF THE NEW FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH has begun to fall into place in recent days, giving passers-by a glimpse of what the new structure will look like.

by Lisa Maberry

Eight years after voting to build a new church, the congregation of Trenton First United Methodist Church is finally seeing the walls go up at their new place of worship east of town on New U.S. 50.

"We have been praying about this project for many years and it's very exciting to see construction vehicles on the property," said Pastor Debbie Melzer.

IMPACT Strategies began construction on the new church in early May, and Melzer hopes that the first phase will be completed by the end of August.

"Phase one is the total shell for our building, then all of the services, like electricity and plumbing, and an oil and chip parking lot," she said. "Phase two will be the completion of the multi-purpose area, classrooms and offices. We will be able to use the church after that, and then once we have enough funding phase three will be the finishing touches."

The congregation of First United Methodist voted to start looking for a new site in 2002 when they decided they could not expand any more in their current location on Main Street in Trenton.

"We really are landlocked where we are at and have been bumping up against the growth barriers," said Melzer. "After we decided to build to allow for more growth, the church has been raising money and buying land for the new building."

The current First United Methodist church holds up to 130 people, but the new location will be able to fit in 250. The congregation also looked around the community to see its needs when beginning to work with Hurford Architects on the design.

"When we first started working on the new design we saw a dire need for day care in the area," Melzer explained. "So we made an area in our new church just for that need. But, over the years some day cares have popped up around here, and the need isn't as great. So, we're going to leave room for that in the church for the future, but not develop it right now. We want to be able to fill whatever need the county has right now."

The new church will also allow for a larger worship area, more classrooms for ministry and additional office space for administrative personnel. It will be the fourth building First United Methodist Church has used since its inception in 1825.