



Ken Sturos/Daily Mining Gazette

Central Mine Methodist Church will be filled this weekend as the 90th reunion kicks into gear.

## 90th Central Reunion set for weekend

CENTRAL MINE — The 90th annual reunion of the small mining community of Central is set for Sunday.

Services will be held at 9 and 11 a.m. at the Central Mine Methodist Church, bringing to life again the building that was once central to the life of Central.

In charge of the service this year is Rev. Dr. Daniel Rosemergy, pastor of Brookmeade Congregational Church of the United Church of Christ in Nashville, Tenn.

Rosemergy was born and raised in the Copper Country, the son of Esther and the late Silas Rosemergy. A Calumet High School graduate, Rosemergy is a direct descendant of two families that lived and worked at Central, when it was a prosperous mine and community.

The choir at Central Mine Methodist will render special music in a very special way, under the direction of organist-choir director Donald Ross of

Laurium. Guest flutist, Patti Dauser, will accompany the choir in one selection and a quartet will present a special number.

Central Mine was one of the few Keweenaw mining ventures that made a profit from its first year of operation. In its 44-year lifetime it was home to two generations of miners, produced a total of 51,875,527 pounds of copper and paid a total of \$2,130,000 in dividends to stockholders. At one point in its history, Central Mine ranked third in production in the entire Copper Country, behind the Calumet and Hecla and Quincy mines.

Central Mine M.E. Church was built 28 years ago, a vital religious and social force in the community of 1,250. Its morning and evening services on Sunday and mid-week prayer meetings were well-attended; its Sunday school reached total membership of 304 in 1886. The average attendance for this time was 208; at no time were fewer than 182 present.

Because the Methodist Church at Central Mine was so strong, it assumed responsibility for meeting some of the social needs of the community. When the one-room schoolhouse could no longer hold all its students, the church offered the use of its facilities for the overflow until the mining company constructed a magnificent, three-story school on the bluff in 1878. A modest circulating library was maintained by the Sunday School as a service to the entire community.

When Central Mine raised its last skip in 1898, it appeared that the bustling community was headed for oblivion. Then the Keweenaw Central Railroad was opened in 1906, making Central readily accessible to its former residents now living in various other parts of the Copper Country. In 1907 the first Central Reunion was held and the tradition has continued, uninterrupted, for 90 years.