



"WE are the end-product of our history."

FLASHBACKS



Revealing glimpses of our creative past

Official newsletter of the
UNITED METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN

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April 1995

NATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING

The Historical Society of the United Methodist Church held the 1994 annual meeting in Madison, New Jersey from August 13-16. The meeting was held simultaneously with the North American Section of the World Methodist Historical Society. The theme of the meeting was "Methodism and Missions." John Vickers of the British Methodist Church titled his keynote address One Man Band: Thomas Coke and the Origin of Methodist Missions. Not only did Coke formulate plans for the outreach of the church but he also traveled extensively in North America and the West Indies.

Other topics presented included: Mary Mason, a pioneer supporter of Methodist Missions; the Fuzhan China Mission; the support of Methodist women in Canada; and the Evangelical United Brethren missionary activity in German. Of special interest was a presentation of some of the photographic mission material stored at the General Commission of Archives and History.

President C. Faith Richardson chaired the annual business meeting. There was a revision of the dues structure and adoption of the revised by-laws of the society.

SCHEDULED MEETINGS

The United Methodist Historical Society meeting will be held on Thursday evening, June 1st following the evening meal in DeBot Hall, room 038.

Annual meeting, North Central Jurisdictional Commission on Archives and History, Central Illinois, July 10-13. Contact Richard O'Neil, 212 W. Church St, P.O. Box 127, Shullsburg, WI 53586-0127

Third Historical Convocation of the United Methodist Church Annual Meeting, Historical Society of the United Methodist Church Epworth by the Sea, St. Simons Island, Georgia, August 25-28, 1995. Registration information: Susan E. Warrick, GCAH, P.O. Box 127, Madison, NJ 07940: 201/408-3189.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, FRANCIS ASBURY

1995 is the 250th anniversary of the birth of Francis Asbury, the first bishop of the American Methodist Church.

Francis Asbury was born in August, 1745 at hamstead, England near Birmingham. He was a serious child and at an early age demonstrated a devotion to the Christian faith. Although as a youth he attended All Saints Church of England in West Bromwich, he also attended Methodist Society meetings.

Asbury's formal education was minimal. Unlike the Wesley brothers and Thomas Coke, all of whom had been educated at Oxford, Asbury left school at the age of 13. While working as an apprentice in a forge, he began to hold prayer meetings and started to preach. In 1766, John Wesley asked him to serve as a fulltime Methodist preacher. Two years later, he was assigned to the Salisbury Circuit. It was during this time that he began to read and study, but was not ordained. At the Bristol Conference of 1771, he responded to Wesley's appeal for someone to go to America.

On September 4, 1771, Asbury, in the company of Richard Wright, a preacher, sailed for America, landing in Philadelphia on October 27. He never left the American shores and never again saw his family.

During the American Revolution, there was considerable animosity against British preachers that had stayed in America. Asbury went into hiding for several weeks, but was one of the few who did not return to Britain. Eventually, the Governor of Delaware relaxed travel restrictions and Asbury was free to continue his itinerations.

He traveled extensively. He crossed the Allegheny Mountains 62 times. It is estimated that he traveled over 175,000 miles, usually on horseback. He rode as far west as Kentucky, Tennessee and Ohio.

Wesley had laid his hands on Coke before he left England and had consecrated him to be the superintendent of the work in the United States. He had entrusted to Coke legal papers and an order of service. He authorized Coke to bestow the same rights and privileges on Asbury when Coke reached America. Asbury was aware of the distrust of many of the Americans about British authority and realized that his authority had to come from the American preachers. During the Christmas Conference in December of 1784, on three consecutive days, Asbury was ordained deacon, then elder and then superintendent of the church. On 1787, Coke and Asbury issued a revised edition of the Discipline of the Methodist Episcopal Church. At this time, the title of Superintendent was changed to Bishop, to John Wesley's indignation.

In addition to his preaching and establishing congregations, Asbury was responsible for encouraging several innovations in the American church. He encouraged the organization of camp meetings. He was very much interested in the development of education at institution, the first of which was Cokesbury in Abingdon, Maryland and later Bethel near Lexington, Kentucky.

Asbury gave strong recognition to the place of women in the church. he addressed them directly in groups, prayed with them, and considered their work vital to the new church. unlike the early Methodist Church in Britain, where women were encouraged to preach, there seems to be no record of women preachers in the United States.

Asbury wielded a strong authority in the church. He advocated self-discipline. The early Methodist church considered "worldly ways" as sinful, including dancing, tobacco, strong drink, horse racing, gambling and working on Sunday.

On the other hand, worship services were exciting and enlivened. Preaching was fervent and inspired and the Methodist Episcopal Church grew rapidly.

Asbury started his last itineration during March of 1816, on his way to the General Conference in Baltimore. He got as far as Spottsylvania. Before his death, his friends held a religious service in the house where he lay dying. At his suggestion, there was a "mite collection" to be used on behalf of needy preachers. His body was carried to Baltimore and was buried in a crypt under the pulpit of Eutaw Street Methodist Church.

The British Methodist Church has scheduled a series of events to commemorate Asbury's birth, which include flower festivals, exhibits of art and Asbury artifacts, choir concerts, organ recitals and worship services. These celebrations will be held at various places: the site of Asbury's birth, at Salisbury (where he served as a circuit preacher); and at Bristol, the site of Wesley's New Room. There will also be an Asbury exhibit at the Museum of World Methodism located in London at the Wesley Chapel.

ALGOMA BOULEVARD, OSHKOSH

This is a postscript to the material on Algoma boulevard united Methodist Church which appeared in the January issue. The Methodist Church in Oshkosh began when Stanley Webster, one of the first white settlers, held religious services in the family one-room cabin. From that small group, First Methodist Episcopal was organized. In 1872, a Sunday School was started on the west side of Oshkosh with most of the participants coming from First Church. They met first in a school house, and then a

barn loft. When the loft burned, the meeting was moved to another school.

Worship services soon started. A highly successful revival service, led by Mrs. Maggie VanCott, resulted in many new followers and the new church was officially organized. A white frame building was erected in 1882, followed by the construction of the present building in 1892.

SALEM, HONEY CREEK

On August 21, 1994, the Salem United Methodist church of Honey Creek celebrated the 150th Anniversary of its founding.

The earliest settlers in Sauk County came in 1838, among them was the family of Bartholomaeus Ragatz, who came from Switzerland. On July 27, 1844, bishop John Seybert and the Rev. John Mueller of the Evangelical Association arrived in Prairie du Sac and on the next day held preaching services.. Bishop Seybert preached in the morning using as his text the 121st Psalm.

In 1845, Mueller was appointed to the Winnebago Mission of which Sauk was a part and which included Milwaukee, Madison, and Mineral Point. On November 16, 1845, the Presiding elder, Samuel Baumgartner visited the Sauk area and celebrated the first German communion service in the area.

Services were held in the Ragatz home until a log church was built during 1850-51. The land for the building included room for a parsonage and a cemetery and had been donated by Mr. Ragatz.

At this time there were 128 members. On May 6, 1858, the Second Wisconsin Conference of the Evangelical Association was held at Honey Creek. Twenty-seven ministers were present.

In 1864, August Huelster was elected Presiding Elder. He lived in a one room attachment to the existing building. his brother Friedrich was the pastor of Honey Creek

The new "stone church" was dedicated in 1875. The building was decorated with a very high steeple, "25 feet higher than any in Switzerland". In 1904, the building was struck by lightning and much of the structure was destroyed. The church was rebuilt in the same year. there was extensive remodeling of the sanctuary and the basement in 1942. In 1986, the Honey Creek United Methodist Church was nominated for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places and was accepted in 1987.

A number of daughter churches came from the Honey Creek Church. The Blackhawk Church was organized in 1864 and the church was built in 1866. Work was started in 1851 in Sauk City and in 1872 a stone church was erected. The work in Denzer was

was organized in 1884. from the Blackhawk church, the church in Baraboo was organized in 1875 and the building was erected in 1877.

AT the time of the centennial celebration, the pastor was the Rev/Dora Gutierrez. During the anniversary observation, Bishop Sharon Zimmerman Rader preached the morning sermon. During the afternoon service, an ecumenical choir gave a concert and there was a recognition and memorial service.

TABOR, EDEN

Tabor united Methodist Church of Eden held its centennial celebration during the summer of 1994. Scheduled events included a tent revival meeting, an old fashioned social with boxed luncheons. and ice cream social and a banquet at which past and present pastors were honored.

TaborEevangelical Church began in 1866 when the Rev. Friederich Huelster visited the are and held services in local homes. Construction of a church building began in 1890 and was completed in 1894. During the subsequent years, there have been several renovation and additions to the building.. The interior was renovated in 1922, the roof was resingled in 1929 and electric lights were installed in 1934. The old horse sheds were removed in 1934 and a basement was dug and a furnace installed. A larger basement was added in 1950. A parsonage was completed in 1958. The building underwent extensive remodeling in 1969. At this time, stained glass windows were installed as well as new chancel furniture. An addition to the building was made in 1981 which included a bell tower.

The pastor at the time of the centennial celebration was the Rev. Joyce Rinehart.

MISSIONARIES FROM WISCONSIN

Wallace and Eunice Kinyon.

Wallace Kinyon, a native of Eau Claire, was raised on a dairy farm in the area. In 1941, he graduated from the university of Wisconsin College of Agriculture. For several years he worked first for the United States Department of Agriculture and then for Swift and Company.

In 1949, Wallace and Eunice Kinyon went to Old Umtali, Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe.) This is the site of the new United, Methodist University. In Old Umtali, Wallace did agricultural and extension work, community development and agricultural teaching.

For four years, he also was in charge of 19,000 acres of Rhodesian famr land held by the Methodist Church

Mrs. Eunice Kinyon, who was trained as a secretary and bookkeeper worked in the Central Office at Old Umtale and taught bookkeeping to African pastors working in rural areas. During this time, she developed a book called Easy Bookkeeping which was also used by the church's women societies.

In 1966, the Kinyons moved to Kitwe, Zambia. The Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation in Kitew offers training in various areas of church life such as literacy, literature and agriculture. The Foundation is supported by churches in America, Europe and Africa.

Mr. Kinyon's directed an overall training program in farming and rural development from a Christian perspective. He and his African Co-workers developed a three year course in commercial farming which began in September, 1966.

During the first year, the trainees received course work and other guided instruction including training on irrigated plots of less than an acre. Second year students were given more initiative and opportunity for personal enterprises such as poultry-raising and gardening. At the end of the third year, students were granted homesteads on abandoned European farms, parts of which were provided with irrigation water by the Zambian government.

The scope of the commercial farming course was indicated by the subjects offered: tractor driving and maintenance, farm bookkeeping and money management, crops, soils, livestock, gardening, farm language, land development and conservation.

Mrs. Kinyon set up a comprehensive double-entry bookkeeping system and worked on the development of monthly reports.

The Kinyons are now retired and are living in Sparta. One of their sons, David and his wife Kathleen McFeely are serving as the first United Methodist Missionaries in Jinja, Uganda.

The United Methodist Church
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P.O. Box 620
Sun Prairie, WI 53590-0620

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creative past*

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Lois C. Olsen, editor
St. John's Tower
1840 N. Prospect Ave
Milwaukee, WI 53202

(Phone 414/347-1745)

Material of historical interest, church
anniversaries, recollections, activities of
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should be sent to her at the above address.

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