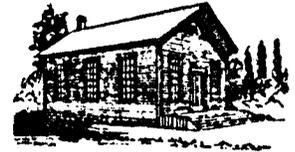




"WE are the end-product of our history."

FLASHBACKS



Revealing glimpses of our creative past

Official newsletter of the
UNITED METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN

Vol.22 No.2

April, 1996

ARCHIVES AND HISTORY CONVOCATION

The Archives and History Convocation of the North Central Jurisdiction will meet from July 8-11, 1996 at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. At the opening session at 5:30 on Monday, July 8, Dr. Tom Lundeen, professor of history at UW-Platteville will present a paper on "Freedom in the Area", a history of the black communities in Southwestern Wisconsin in the mid 1800s. Presentations on Tuesday will include papers by Ethan Larson, Nancy Bauer-King, Rychie Breidenstein, Diane Nichols, and Lois Olsen. A tour of the Mitchell-Roundtree House will be given on July 9. An extended tour of the area will occupy July 10 with visits to Galena, Illinois, and several sites in Wisconsin, including Darlington and Belmont. At the closing session on July 11, Richard O Neil will discuss "Philo Bennett, Social Conscience of Methodism in Wisconsin."

Further information about the convocation can be obtained from Mary Schroeder, P.O.Box 620, Sun Prairie, WI 53590-0620

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Historical Society of the United Methodist Church in conjunction with the Center for the Evangelical United Brethren Heritage will be held in Dayton, Ohio on November 16-18. A copy of the program and instructions for registration are included in this newsletter.

WESLEY TOURS

Educational Opportunities is offering a number of Wesley Heritage tours in the United Kingdom during 1996. The tour starting on October 14 is being led by the Rev. Lance Herrick, 2319, E. Kenwood Blvd, Milwaukee, WI 53211-3315

One of the mission study topics for United Methodist Women for 1996 is John Wesley. The textbook has been written by Charles Yrigoyen, editor of METHODIST HISTORY. Presentation of the topic will be part of the School of Missions during July 8-11 at Ripon College.

BELMONT

The United Methodist Church in Belmont dates its history to 1870 when the first building was completed and dedicated. However, Methodist societies began to meet in the 1850s, at a time when pioneers were forming societies to achieve the moral standards that the church demanded. The societies were formed to deal with the issues such as slavery, lacking education for women, and alcoholism.

The early congregation was associated with the Elk Grove Methodist Church which was organized in 1856. The Belmont congregation was chartered in 1868. Land for the church building was donated by Mrs. Charles Goodfellow who with her friend, Mrs. James Bennett, solicited funds from the community for the construction of the building. The foundation was laid in 1869. At that time, the Rev. W.P. Hill was appointed as pastor. The building was dedicated in 1870. Cost of the construction was \$2000. A parsonage was purchased in 1871.

Soon afterwards, a Sunday School was organized. In 18912, the Epworth League was begun, a Ladies Aid Society in 1903, and later a women's missionary society. The building had a series of renovations and addition, including a community hall in 1922. A pipe organ was installed between 1924-27.

In an article in the Belmont Success published in 1936, the pastor, the Rev. A.W. Ingham characterized the Methodist Church as follows:

"The Methodist Church stands for both depth and breadth, for zealous work for the salvation of the individual and for social salvation... It is more and more opposed to the resort of force to settle national or international misunderstandings. It is opposed to the legalizing of the liquor traffic, with its pernicious influence among young and old. It does not oppose the movie, but it takes active part lifting it out of the mire. It believes in higher education and maintains scores of colleges and universities... It does not undervalue Healing, but recognizes the value of scientific healing and believes the church has a duty in regard to this, so sustains many hospitals in which a Christian atmosphere is present."

The church building underwent extensive remodeling in 1990.

The 125th anniversary was held on July 7-9, 1995 which included a box social, a 5K run followed by kids games and a carnival. A pork roast was served accompanied by the entertainment of a gospel bluegrass band. The Sunday morning service featured recognition of former pastors of the congregation. The service was followed by a brunch.



50th Anniversary Celebration, 1946-1996

The Evangelical United Brethren Church

Dayton, OH—November 16-18, 1996

* * * * *

Sponsored by the
Center for the Evangelical United Brethren Heritage,
United Theological Seminary, and the
Historical Society of The United Methodist Church

An Invitation

You are cordially invited to share in a 50th anniversary remembrance of the creation of The Evangelical United Brethren Church. This observance will take place in Dayton, OH, which housed the national headquarters for this denomination. It was also the location for the church's publishing house and what is now United Theological Seminary, the only autonomous continuing seminary of the former EUB Church.

The formal program will begin on Saturday, November 16, 1996, the precise date and day of the week of church union fifty years earlier. The Keynote Address will be presented by Bishop Paul W. Milhouse, who was a delegate at the first EUB General Conference at Johnstown, Pennsylvania in 1946. Several papers highlighting distinctive aspects of EUB practice, belief, piety, and mission will be presented. There will be a hymn-sing and worship service typical of the tradition.

This occasion also serves as the annual meeting of the Historical Society of The United Methodist Church. The Board of Directors will be meeting on Friday, November 15.

The Center for EUB Heritage, United Theological Seminary, and the Historical Society of The United Methodist Church would be pleased to have you join us on this special occasion, as we pay tribute to and learn from the distinctive history and heritage of the Evangelical United Brethren Church.

For Your Information

Another remembrance of the 50th anniversary of EUB Church Union is being held November 14-17 in Johnston, PA, where the actual uniting service took place. For more information about this celebration, you may contact Rev. Robert Callihan (814-539-0532).

Each observance will include a reenactment of the handclasp that became a symbol on the logo of the EUB Church.

The Program

Saturday, November 16

- 9:00 am - HSUMC meetings
- 12:00 noon Registration
- 12:00 noon Lunch
- 1:00-2:00 pm Welcome and Opening Worship Breyfogel Chapel
- 2:00-3:00 pm "EUB Church Union, 1946"
—K. James Stein (Garrett-Evangelical Seminary)
- 3:30-4:30 pm "EUB Understanding of Ministry"
—Donald K. Gorrell (United Seminary)
- 4:45-5:45 pm Historic Shrines "Show and Tell"
—Hanby House
—Bishop Seybert/Flat Rock Cluster
- 6:30 pm Banquet Fout Hall
- 7:30 pm Keynote Address Fout Hall
—Bishop Paul W. Milhouse, speaking
- 8:30 pm Reception and Dessert

Sunday, November 17

- 9:00-10:00 Worship Breyfogel Chapel
—Bishop Wayne K. Clymer, preaching
- 10:15-11:10 "The 1962 EUB Confession of Faith"
—James E. Will (Garrett-Evangelical Seminary)
- 11:25 am- "EUB Women and Missions"
12:20 pm —Mary Lue Warner (National Board, EUB
Womens' Society of World Service)
- 12:30 Lunch
- 1:45-4:15 pm Bus Tour of Dayton—
Historical and Denominational Sites
- 4:30-5:30 pm "The EUBs in Europe"
—J. Steven O'Malley (Asbury Seminary)
—Michel Weyer (Theologisches Seminar der
Evangelisch-methodistischen Kirche)
- 6:00 pm Dinner
- 7:00-8:30 pm HSUMC Section Meetings

Monday, November 18

- 9:00-10:00 am "Ecumenism and the EUB Church"
—John R. Knecht (Executive Secretary of
Evangelism, EUB Church)
- 10:30 am- "EUB Piety and Hymnody"
12 noon —James D. Nelson (United Seminary)
- 12:15 pm Lunch
- 1:30-3:00 pm HSUMC Annual Meeting

Registration

Name(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____

Registration fees:

Early Registration (before September 1, 1996)	\$65.00/person	_____
Regular Registration (after September 1, 1996)	\$75.00/person	_____
One-Day Local Registration	\$10.00/person	_____
Continuing Education Fee (for 1 unit of credit) [Professional ministers desiring Continuing Education credit must register <u>prior</u> to November 11, 1996.]	\$5.00/person	_____

Meals

Meal Package* [Includes lunch on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday; Banquet on Saturday evening; Dinner on Sunday evening; and breaks. Breakfast may be secured at one of the restaurants in the motel area.]	\$50.00/person	_____
Lunches only [Specify number and days—Saturday, Sunday, Monday)	\$8.50/meal	_____
Banquet only (Saturday evening, November 16)	\$16.00/person	_____
Dinner only (Sunday evening, November 17)	\$10.00/person	_____

TOTAL FEES AND MEAL CHARGES: _____

Make check payable to: "Center for EUB Heritage" and mail with registration form to:
Center for EUB Heritage
United Theological Seminary
1810 Harvard Blvd.
Dayton, OH 45406

*If you have special dietary requirements, please specify. Every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate your needs.

Refund Policy

All refund requests must be received at the Center by Monday, November 4, 1996 (except in case of illness or extreme emergency). Refund requests should be in writing. A 20% administrative fee will be charged for any refund.

Other Information

Lodging is available near the campus of United Theological Seminary. Housing information and directions to the UTS campus will be sent upon receipt of your registration.

Questions?

If you have questions, please call: 513-278-5817, Ext. 118; FAX: 513-278-1218

MARINETTE

On April 3, 1870, a group of thirteen people, twelve laymen and a lay preacher established itself as a Methodist Church in Marinette. The leader was Benjamin Ackrill. The group first met in the Ackrill home, until the numbers grew too large and they moved the meetings to the Dunlap house. Very soon, work was begun on a white clapboard building which was dedicated on January 22, 1871. The cost of the property was \$3,049.13.

By 1875, the congregation had outgrown this building and on April 2, 1883, the Official Board voted to build a new white brick building which included stained glass windows. Services of worship were held in the Stephenson Opera House during the construction.

From 1800 to 1900, the population of Marinette increased from 2,750 to 16,000. The Methodist congregation grew accordingly. After another twelve years, the white brick building was razed and the third building, this time of red brick and built in the Akron Plan structure was erected. On November 15, 1896, the building was dedicated with 1,400 persons present for the worship service. A newspaper account records, "The weather was perfect, all nature seemed to smile on the enterprise." A parsonage had been built in 1892 and stood until 1967. The 100th anniversary was celebrated on April 15, 1970 with Bishop Ralph Taylor Alton as the guest speaker.

Three "language" Methodist churches had been established in Marinette. The German-speaking Methodists had worshipped with a congregation in Menominee. In 1899, they erected their own church building. The Rev. Milton Leisman served this church from 1933-34 and later served as the pastor of the combined church from 1964-65. The German church united with First Church during the 1940-41 year. The Norwegian-Danish Methodists purchased land for a building in 1889. In 1906 a corner stone was laid during the improvements on the building constructed earlier. The property was deeded to another denomination in 1939, when the group united with First Church. The Swedish Methodists organized a congregation in 1878. The first building was constructed in 1882 and a second building in 1902. That congregation united with First Church in 1942.

The combined congregations started construction on a new building in 1971. The four and a half acre plot was purchased from Catherine Reinas. The building is constructed of brownish red brick. It is on ground level and has no steps. The sanctuary seats about 250 worshipers. The building includes an education unit and a small chapel. The original organ which was moved from the Main Street building has been replaced with a three manual Johannus organ. The bell from the original church has been placed near the entrance and the cornerstone from the church has been placed in the new building. Ten stained-glass windows were restored and incorporated into the new building.

The restoration of the new windows is a tribute to the diligence of several women in the congregation. When the new facility was built, budget restraints did not allow for the costly restoration of the windows. A group of women organized themselves as ad hoc fund raisers by making pasties. They not only accomplished their original goal, but are still in existence, making about 800 pasties three times a year. Over the decades, they have contributed over \$500,000 worth of furnishings and improvements to the church and the parsonage.

The 125th anniversary of the church was celebrated from April to October of 1995. Bishop Sharon Rader preached on April 2. Other activities included several musical celebrations, shared meal, including one which featured the famous pasties, services recognizing organizations within the church such as the education department and United Methodist Women. The final worship service recognized members and former pastor.

From materials supplied by Kathryn Anderson and Neil Piepenburg.

PRAIRIE FARM

Members and friends of Faith Church, Prairie Farm celebrated the 100th anniversary of the church building on Sunday, September 24, 1995. Over 200 people were in attendance. The morning service was highlighted with a sermon by the Rev. Don Frank, Northwest District Superintendent. A noon meal was served followed by an afternoon service of music and reminiscences.

Included in the celebration was a display of historical artifacts: old church records, quilts, framed marriage certificates, deeds and photographs. Included were items taken from the cornerstone which had been laid in 1895: a copy of the newspaper of the Evangelical Church printed in German, a German Bible, a copy of the 1895 Book of Discipline and a local paper listing those who had contributed to the construction of the church. It is planned that these items as well as items from 1995 will be included in the refurbished cornerstone.

The original church records are written in German and have been translated by John Haechler. The first meeting of the Barron County Mission Conference of the Evangelical Mission was held in a schoolhouse on Saturday, July 20, 1878. In 1886, the congregation voted to build a parsonage, and in 1887 to build a horse shelter. It was not until January 31, 1894, that the congregation agreed to build a church building. At the Annual Conference, it was voted to buy two and three-quarter acres of land for the cost of \$22,000. The church and parsonage were constructed and dedicated in 1895. The building has been designated a historic site by the Barron County Historical Society.

Material provided by Barbara Bender

PHILLIPS

The 100th anniversary of the Phillips church was celebrated on Sunday, July 30, 1995. A joint worship service for the Phillips-Hawkins-Kennan Charge commemorated the event, followed by a dinner and an afternoon program. The congregation still worships in the original building which has had numerous renovations.

Phillips was a lumberjack town. The first Protestant services were held in Price County as early as 1876. The Rev. Henry Galloway, a Methodist minister from Medford preached in the gambling hall above a saloon, which was closed during the service. When some of the ladies objected to the setting, the evening service was held in the *TIMES* office.

In 1893, the Methodist conference gave \$300 from the missionary money to open a new congregation in Phillips. A.E. Burroughs was appointed supply. When he looked at the congregation, he fainted. W.E. Kloster was appointed with the admonition, "We have had all the fainting and retreating we want, and now we want a man to go and take the city for God through the Methodist Church"

On July 26, a congregation was formed, and the next day, the town was destroyed in the Phillips fire.

The church building was completed in 1895 at a cost of \$2400. The tower was sixty feet high. The membership of the Methodist Episcopal Church was thirty out of a population in the town of 2500.

In 1922, the parsonage was built from lumber salvaged from a dismantled hotel in Medford. Over the next few years, improvements included a bell, pews, electric light and a pipeless furnace.

Kennan was added to the church in the 1930s. In 1936, lightning damaged the steeple which was then removed. The Rev. F. Norma Bartel served the church from 1949-1979. Improvements in the building during this time included the construction of a basement with kitchen, dining room and restrooms. In 1952, Hawkins was added to the charge.

The church cornerstone was rededicated in 1965. The piece of marble above the cornerstone is the only bit of pre-fire Masonic Hall that still existed.

On July 4, 1977, the town sustained damage of \$25 million during a severe rainstorm. The church and parsonage also suffered extensive damage of the garage, removal of shingles from the parsonage and the church and severe water damage to the church interior. The cost of the repairs was covered by insurance.

ST. JAMES, MILWAUKEE

St. James Church had its beginning at a time when black people moved to Milwaukee in large numbers. In keeping with an expanding population, the Lexington Conference of the Central Jurisdiction of the Methodist Church also expanded. As far back as 1928, the Lexington Conference saw a need for a Methodist Church in Milwaukee and in 1949, the Rev. Hermes Zimmerman founded the first black Methodist church in Milwaukee.

This congregation had been formally organized in 1948 by a group of devout Methodists who met as a prayer band at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Isaiah Nubbard under the leadership of the Rev. Zimmerman. The name, St. James Methodist church was adopted in 1950 during the pastorship of the Rev. Phillip S. Harley.

The Rev. J. P. Pierce, who served as pastor from 1952-1956, understood the task of decreasing the indebtedness which had increased to \$81,212 due to the accumulated interest. With the cooperation of the Board of National Missions, the Lexington Conference and the East Wisconsin Conference, the indebtedness was reduced to \$24,600.

The late Dr. Charles A. Talbert served St. James from 1960-71. Dr. Talbert not only had a profound influence on the church, but was also deeply involved in civic and ecumenical affairs. At the church, he was determined to retire the mortgage. He accomplished this within five years. In 1964, the Lexington Conference was dissolved and St. James became a member of the East Wisconsin Conference. With matching funds from the conference and the national Board of Missions, the mortgage was burned on August 29, 1965.

Dr. Talbert was a civil rights activist. He participated in a march to change the hiring policy of Tompkins Ice Cream Company which was in the heart of the black community but would not hire blacks. In 1967, the Commission of Religion and Race was founded of which Dr. Talbert was a member. The objective of this conference was to quell the civil unrest which resulted from the riots in Milwaukee. This group of clergy represented all denominations and worked closely with the mayor of Milwaukee, Henry A. Maier.

Dr. Talbert held the first ecumenical service at St. James, the first service of its kind in Milwaukee's history. Those present were Bishop Hallock of the Episcopal Diocese, Archbishop Cousins of the Catholic Diocese, and Rabbi Dudley Weinberg of Congregation Emmauel-El B'Ne Jeshurun.

Dr. Talbert, Dr. Harold Weaver of the Wauwatosa United Methodist Church and the late Rev. Leonard McDonald of Bethel Baptist

Church founded the Milwaukee Theological Institute in 1967.

The first church building was on North Eleventh and West Brown Streets. In January, 1969, the Expressway 'commission of Milwaukee County notified the congregation that the church property was in the path of the planned North-South Expressway and that the property was needed for this purpose. St. James congregation purchased a church and parsonage at 3436-38 North 24th St at a cost of \$135,000 Financial help was given by the Annual Conference and the national Board of Missions. The first service in the new building was held on June 28, 1970.

In addition to many activities in community outreach, the congregation has produced three candidates for the ordained ministry, one student pastor and two diaconal ministers.

The 45th anniversary of the church was celebrated on September 25, 1994 with the Rev. Glen Allen as speaker

CALVARY, WEST ALLIS

The possibilities pertaining to a new church in West Allis were first seen in 1953, when the Wildwood estate was being developed. The Rev. Wm.B. Petherick searched for a suitable site and decided on the current site of the building. The conference Board of Mission purchased the site at a cost of \$10,500.00

The first organization was held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wieses on May 11, 1955., with nineteen people present. The first worship service was held on May 29, 1955 in the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Helgamo. Ground was broken for the church structure on Christmas Day, 1955. Construction was completed and the building was opened on June 17, 1956.

The 40th anniversary of the church was held on May 21, 1995. Stained glass windows were dedicated during the service. The service included reminiscences by Curt Clemetson, the Rev. Wallace Spielman, and the Rev. Howard Lindsay

OUR UNITED METHODIST HERITAGE

The *United Methodist Reporter* has been publishing series of profiles of leaders in Methodism. The following article on Barbara Heck is repeated with the permission of *THE REPORTER*.

In 1760 six families of German-Irish Methodists sailed from Ireland to help colonize New York. The group included Barbara Ruckle Heck and her cousin, Philip Embury. Embury had been a lay preacher among the Irish Methodists.

Theirs was an era washed by a "tide of pietism" as one history calls it.

The tide carried religious groups from Western "Europe to North

America. There they practiced many characteristics of the movement: individual, personal experience of God, love of God and humans, testing the Biblical message through everyday experiences, participation of lay people in all aspects of the Christian enterprise, and willingness to change church structures to meet new needs for mission.

When Barbara, Philip and their companions arrived, however, they found that Methodist currents of the "pietist tide" hadn't washed across New York. Consequently some German-Irish immigrants worshipped with a nearby Lutheran congregation while others drifted away from the church.

One day Barbara came home to discover her brother and several other men playing cards. Outraged that the men could find nothing better to do, she threw the cards into the fire and soundly scolded them.

Then, afraid that the men were losing faith, she ran to her cousin Philip's home and demanded that her start preaching again.

Philip demurred that he had no congregation nor any chapel. Barbara replied that they could start one.

In the fall of 1766 several people, including Barbara, Philip and a slave girl named Betty, formed a Methodist society on Manhattan Island. By April 1768,, they were so confident of their potential for growth that they wrote to John Wesley in England asking for a preacher who was "a man of wisdom, of sound faith, and a good disciplinarian."

The Methodist society that began at Barbara Heck's insistence still exists as the John Street United Methodist Church in New York City. The church stand as a testimony to the vision that earned her the title "Mother of Methodism in New World."

MEET THE MISSIONARY; GERTRUDE BLOEDE

Gertrude Bloede spent her growing years in a number of Wisconsin parsonages where her father served as a pastor of Evangelical Churches. She is a graduate of North Central College and also participated in the Christian Workers Course of the Evangelical Theological School in Naperville, Illinois. She started her missionary career working for five years in the Italian Mission of the Evangelical Church in Kenosha under the supervision of the Rev. G. Busacca. After this, she spent worked in the chemistry lab of the American Brass Company in Kenosha.

Gertrude completed her nursing education at the University of Minnesota and returned to work at the Kenosha Hospital. During this time, she met Dr. Mabel Silver, the physician in charge of the United Brethren Hospital in Rotifunk, Sierra Leone, West Africa. At Dr. Silver's urging, she applied and was accepted by the United Brethren Church Board of Missions. Prior to going to

Sierra Leone, she completed fifteen months of midwifery education in London, England.

Gertrude went to Rotifunk in January, 1951. Shortly after he arrival, Dr. Silver left to return to the United States, accompanying a missionary nurse who was ill. Gertrude and Esther Megill, a missionary laboratory technician, managed the medical work at Rotifunk until they were joined in August of 1951 with another American doctor.

In 1955, Gertrude was stationed at the Evangelical United Brethren medical station in Jaiama, a town on the far eastern border of Sierra Leone, in the heart of the diamond territory. During much of this time, she was the only missionary in Jaiama. The work in outpatient clinic, and the maternity unit included supervision of deliveries, a well baby clinic, leper clinic and a twelve bed maternity unit.

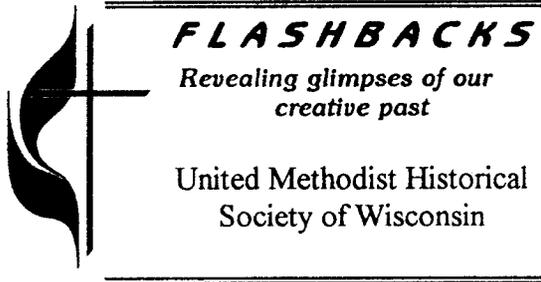
After leaving Sierra Leone, she was assigned to the Red Bird Hospital in Kentucky where she functioned as both nurse and midwife. Although she officially retired at age sixty-five, she continued to work as a volunteer at Red Bird. until she was seventy. She has spent her retirement years in Wisconsin and at the Otterbein Retirement Community near Lebanon, Ohio.

The Historical Society will **not** be having a special meeting this year at Annual Conference. The next meeting will be on **Saturday, September 28, 1996**, at Emmanuel UMC in Menomonee Falls. This is the Fall Pilgrimage. More information at a later date. This information was from Merlin Hoelt.

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 28
Sun Prairie, Wis.



MARY E. SCHROEDER
750 WINDSOR STREET
P O BOX 220
SUN PRAIRIE, WI 53590

FLASHBACKS



Official newsletter of the United Methodist
Historical Society of Wisconsin

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
local historical committees and historians,
should be sent to her at the above address.

OFFICERS OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Rev. Richard O'Neil ----- President
Rev. Robert W. Kuhn ----- Vice President
Joanne Hornby ----- Recording Secretary
Harriet Alicia ----- Membership Secretary
W1568 Ranch Road
Seymour, WI 54165
Linn C. Emerick ----- Treasurer
Lois C. Olsen ----- Flashbacks Editor
Mary Schroeder ----- Member at Large
Ethan Larson ----- Ex-Officio Member

Please send membership applications and
dues to the membership secretary at the
address listed above.