



FLASHBACKS

Promoting the Ministry of Memory



The Official Newsletter of

The Commission on Archives and History, Wisconsin Conference, The United Methodist Church

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A Deep Loss for the Archives



On October 9, 2012, Mary Schroeder, long time Archivist and Researcher at the United Methodist Wisconsin Conference Archives in Sun Prairie, died and quietly entered God's Kingdom. The Commission is deeply saddened by her passing. Her passion for the preservation and celebration of United Methodist history in Wisconsin was unparalleled. She truly was the soul of the Archives and while we will continue the work that Mary so loved it will be at a handicap without Mary's knowledge, insight and impish smile. The following is the obituary as printed in the funeral bulletin.

Mary Elizabeth was born Sept. 17, 1926, the day after her parents, Chancy Paul and Ethel Alice Bernis Nulton moved into the Methodist parsonage in Shell Lake, WI. She was the third of four children. Her father was a Methodist minister, and the family moved to Boyceville when Mary was three. In second grade, they moved to Colby; father was appointed to Pepin, where she graduated in 1944. Mary and two friends left Pepin by train and went to Washington, D.C. They worked in the Casualty Branch of the War Department for a year, leaving just prior to the end of World War II. On November 2, 1949, Mary's father died while serving in LaFarge, WI. During his illness, he asked his wife to fulfill many of his duties. Following their pastor's death, the congregation insisted that Mary's mother, Ethel, be appointed in his place. She was ordained a deacon in 1955, a local elder in 1957 and served in three different appointments. Ethel died in 1983. Mary went to Asbury College in Wilmore, KY. After two years, she transferred to Whitewater (WI) College, where she earned a BS in Education and met Edwin H. Schroeder in class, then later at the Wesley Foundation. They graduated

in June and married on July 26, 1949 at the LaFarge parsonage in a service conducted by her father and her brother, Virgil, also a Methodist pastor. In 1951, Ed was recalled from Air Force reserve status and assigned to Tinker Air Force Base assigned to Tinker Air Force Base Other stations were Salina, Kansas; Ed to Korea and Mary to her mother's in Greenwood, WI; Tokyo, Japan; ; Tokyo, Japan; Columbus, OH; South Ruislip near London, England, and San Bernardino, CA. Ed retired from the Air Force in 1969. During these years, four children were born; Susan Irene, Mark Edwin, David Wesley and Sarah Jane. In 1969, the family returned to Wisconsin where Ed began as treasurer of the Wisconsin Conference, UMC and they established their home in Sun Prairie. In 1984, the position of Wisconsin Conference United Methodist archivist opened. Mary was hired and her passion, commitment, knowledge, personal relationships, as well as her life in Methodism made her perfect selection. Her years of going through musty boxes, endless files, old newspapers, tacks of journal, three ring binders of history, and photos built a collection that tells the story of Methodism in Wisconsin. Mary was the conference's institutional memory. Mary's deep abiding love for her family was felt around the dining table. They attended Sunday school and church together. Her children felt her constant devotion. In the technology age, she shared her love and humor through family emails. She loved to sew and read. When her body could no longer stand up to the leukemia that had challenged Mary for several years, her family cared for her at home. Mary is loved by her husband, Ed; her children Susan and Ron Watkins, Twin Falls, ID, Mark and Susan Schroeder, Madison, David and Karen Schroeder, Waukesha; Sarah and David Jensen, Chugiak, AK; her grandchildren, Elizabeth, Jonathan (Theresa), Benjamin (Linnea), Andrew (Angela), Daniel, James (Kathleen), Matthew, Laura, Thomas, Jacob, Isaac, Rebekah, Emily and Brian. Mary has a great-granddaughter, Anna and was anticipating the birth of another. She is also survived by her brother, Rev. Virgil Nulton, and her sister Eunice Laurence; by Ed's brothers, Philip and Walter, and nieces and nephews. Mary was preceded in death by her parents and sister, Frances Hoftiezer.

Mary Schroeder Memorial Fund

From our Archivist, Lynn Lubkeman: In the many years that Mary Schroeder and I worked together here in the Archives, we often discussed a possible project based on a series of slides that we have in the Archives. This series of slides was taken in the late 1980s/early 1990s by the photographer Jim Scribbins of West Bend, Wisconsin. Jim, and his wife Barb, travelled around the state on their own initiative, with the goal of taking a picture of each United Methodist church and parsonage in Wisconsin. This several year project resulted in a tremendous gift to the Archives and all those interested in preserving the history of The United Methodist Church in Wisconsin. As a result we now have a "snapshot in time" to give us an idea of what The United Methodist Churches in the state in Wisconsin looked like more than twenty years ago.

But how do we ensure that this gift is preserved? As Mary and I discussed, shouldn't we make a digital file of these slides to make sure that we have them preserved for many years to come? Yes, but how to fund and find time for this project?

I am pleased to say that we now have a plan for doing this work. We hope to use the memorial funds given to The Commission on Archives and History in Mary Schroeder's name to both digitize this slide archive that we already have and then also to begin another project to get a current picture of all of The United Methodist Churches in the state. And our ultimate goal will be to bring this information together in a publication that takes a historical look at our local churches—using the 1980s photo to compare with the current photo and perhaps also including a historic photo from the church too. We will ask each church to contribute a brief history of their church to accompany the photos. We may even be able to include some of the photos that Archives volunteer, Rev. Edward Johnson, has taken of some of the former EUB churches around the state.

With Mary's lifelong focus on preserving local church history, we hope that this project will be in keeping with her passion for this history and will, in fact, contribute to a renewed interest in gathering the history of The United Methodist Church in Wisconsin through this historic photograph initiative.

Any suggestions or ideas for this project, please contact me, Lynn Lubkeman, Conference Archivist at: llubkeman@wisconsinumc.org

Exciting News for the Archives

Lynn Lubkeman reports that our Commission on Archives and History's grant request for funds from the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation was approved by the foundation for \$3000 for 2013. Our proposal was to initiate a pilot project for doing local church history through a focus on oral histories within the local church. We hoped to initiate this project at the Greenfield Memorial UMC in Greenfield, WI. It is important to get a full history of the Greenfield Church since it is also the site of the Wisconsin Conference Historical Museum. And part of our planned revisioning of the museum includes a display based on the important history of that church. So as we work toward gathering the history of the Greenfield Memorial Church, partially through the collection of oral histories with the elders in the church, former pastors, and current members, we hope to distill what we learn in the process to provide guidelines for other churches across the state as they work on their own local church's history.

We hope to then share what we learn through this pilot (and perhaps adding a few other churches as pilots) in workshops held in each district in the state. We hope to develop a guide for the churches to use in this project and perhaps even a system of lending out equipment that can be used for taping the oral histories.

If you know of any churches that might like to be included in this early pilot part of the project, please contact Lynn Lubkeman at llubkeman@wisconsinumc.org

Archives Retreats at Pine Lake Camp 2012 and 2013:

2012 Retreat

Thank you to all you attended, and especially those who generously shared their time and knowledge, with presentations at our second annual Archives Retreat, held on October 18-19, 2012 at Pine Lake Camp. We had a lively group of presentations based on missionary history. Lois Olsen recounted her days as a missionary in Sierra Leone. And Sandy Kintner, Conference historian, gave a glimpse of what we find in the archives of Betty Tennant, long-time missionary to Japan.

We had the opportunity to learn more about the Evangelical Association history in Wisconsin through Geraldine Raddatz Foster's discussion based on the work of her great-grandfather, the Rev. Gustav Fritsche (author of the book The History of the Wisconsin Conference, 1840-1920.) And the Rev. Dan Dick, Director of Connectional Ministries of the Wisconsin Conference, gave a thought-provoking talk that highlighted various aspects of our joint history which are sometimes overlooked or forgotten—especially if materials from that history are not saved.

On our second day, we focused on the theme of local history and were treated to a fascinating look at some of the “vanishing churches” from the Wisconsin Conference in a slide show given by Rev. Edward Johnson. We were then privileged to hear from Hazel Matzke, local church historian from Juda, Wisconsin on some of her successful strategies for making her church's history come alive. Finally, Lynn Lubkeman, Conference Archivist, shared with the group some basic archival and record keeping guidelines.

2013 Retreat

The question immediately came up during our retreat as to when we would do this again next year. Planning is now underway for the third annual Archives Retreat. Pine Lake Camp will again be our host for the retreat on Thursday and Friday, October 24-25, 2013. Our theme for this year will be camping.

Are you nostalgic about your early camping days? Interested in learning more about the history of the many camps that have been part of The United Methodist Church heritage in Wisconsin? Eager to participate in a reenactment of a Methodist Great Awakening camp meeting? If so, come and join third annual Commission on Archives and History's “Ministry of Memory” Archives Retreat. While the retreat will have a special focus on camping, there will also be workshops on helping to preserve your local church's precious history. Join others from across the Conference as we focus on the special history of camps and camp meetings in Wisconsin and reflect on this aspect of our past history. We will have displays of photographs and memorabilia highlighting the history of camps from the Evangelical Association, United Brethren, and Methodist backgrounds. Come and share your memories and also hear more about the history of these camps. Relive the experience of a camp meeting in a reenactment led by the Rev. Dan Dick. Take advantage of the opportunity to learn more about preserving your local church's history and records with Conference Archivist Lynn Lubkeman. Attend a hands-on workshop with other local church historians to share your successful strategies for highlighting your church's history.

Full details will be available in the spring of 2013 by contacting the Archives at archives@wisconsinumc.org or on the Camping website www.WIUMCAMPS.org/archivesretreat. But save the dates now and join us for this special experience! Cost: two day retreat: \$69 (double occupancy) \$99 (single) (One day registration, Thursday \$25, Friday, \$15)

Revisioning the Conference Museum (continued)



One of the main initiatives of the Commission on Archives and History is to revision the Conference museum, as was discussed in the last Flashbacks. The museum committee is hard at work on looking at how best to use the wonderful brick church, dating from 1858, to tell the special history of The United Methodist Church in Wisconsin. We want to establish a permanent display relating the history of the Wisconsin Conference and the many denominations that joined to form The United Methodist Church. But we also want to collect the many interesting stories that make up the history of our

Conference, as well as keeping up with the new history continually being created. We hope for interactive displays in the museum, and perhaps even a possible church service based on what a church service would have looked like at the time that the church was built. We hope to tell the story through selected artifacts that will illustrate the special stories from our Conference—including the story of the early Italian Evangelical Church of Wisconsin. We will be able to display the original street organ used by the Rev. Augusto Giuliani as he played in the streets of Milwaukee in the early years of the 20th century in the cause of gaining converts to the church. And at the same time, we will be able to hear the words of Rev. Anthony Farina, as he tells Rev. Guiliani's fascinating story.

We are in the process of collecting stories like this one from our Conference history and deciding how best to present them in the museum. If you are interested in helping with this project, or know of any special stories or artifacts that should be included in the museum, please contact either the Commission on Archives and History or Conference Archivist, Lynn Lubkeman at llubkeman@wisconsinumc.org

Local Histories

GOOD SHEPHERD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OCONOMOWOC



The Good Shepherd congregation celebrated one hundred and seventy five years of service on Sunday, May 6, 2012. Highlights of the service included two presented histories of the congregation. Five former pastors joined the congregation in the celebration of Holy Communion. After the worship service, there was a delightful luncheon served in the church basement. This was followed by an auction of baked goods. The money for the baked goods will go to support the Philip and Timothy Stains Memorial Children's homes in India.

The earliest Methodist services were held in Oconomowoc in 1837. The village was part of though that the earliest circuit riders were the Rev. Alfred Brunson and the Rev. Hiram Frink. In 1839, the Rev. Jesse Halstead served as the circuit rider in the Aztalan circuit. Included in this circuit were Aztalan, Waukesha, East Troy, Whitewater, Watertown and Oconomowoc as well as a number of small preaching places in between. A new conference was formed in 1840, the Rock River Conference which included Illinois, Wisconsin and some territory west of the Mississippi River.

The first Methodist Class in Oconomowoc was formed in 1841. The first services were held in a loft over a cabinet shop owned by two of the members. The group was now part of the newly created Watertown circuit. In 1847, the congregation became an independent charge. Pastors who served the congregation were the Rev. Wilcox in 1843-4 and the Rev. J.M. Walker who served from 1845-47. By 1849, the Oconomowoc congregation showed 118 members in full membership and 60 members on trial. It was that year when plans were made to build the first building.

In the summer of 1850 there was a virulent epidemic that swept through this section of the state, at that time diagnosed as Asiatic cholera. The presiding elder in charge of the Milwaukee District was the Rev. Elihu Springer. He was making his first tour of the district for the year when he fell victim to that dread disease. On August 22, 1850, while in Oconomowoc he dined with the Rev. David Brooks and his wife of Watertown. Within twelve hours, both Rev. Springer and Mrs. Brooks died of this disease.

The Oconomowoc Methodist Church showed a prosperous growth until 1853 with the advent of the Rev. M. S. Maxon. He had been there but a short time when an entirely different facet of his character appeared. He was heard by different members of the congregation using profane and obscene language. He was also discovered in other immoral conduct. At first some of the members remonstrated with him but this only had the effect of incensing him. Maxon refused to listen to any or all protests. Charges were then preferred against him by some of the members. At this he went around to obtain signers denying the charges, not only from members but also from people outside the church. On the following Sunday he read from the pulpit the names of some of his accusers, declaring that they were dropped from the membership. The charges against him he entirely ignored even though the members who had preferred the charges had ample proof of his guilt. The following Sunday twenty-nine of the regular members withdrew from the church and within a month eighteen more left, a total of thirty-nine members within one month. This so crippled the congregation that Maxon had to call classes, one in Catham Street and the other at Monterey, they being under Maxon's charge, to come and hold their services here. From this time on, until the departure of Maxon and even some year later, the congregation remained in an unsettled condition. Many of the former members never returned to the congregation but with the addition of new members, it gradually recovered its strength. One must not be too harsh in judging Maxon. Evidently the man was sick. After leaving Oconomowoc, he was transferred to Omro, dying shortly after at the age of thirty-six.

In 1863, the building erected on north Main Street was moved to South Main Street. The new building was completed in 1868, a fine brick building which housed the congregation for many years. It was built on Wisconsin Avenue, the lot having been acquired from the Worthington family. The parsonage was erected next door to the church.

Although the ladies of the church were always there to lend a helping hand in work for the church or raising money for worthwhile projects or a combination of both, records do not

show them as a society until the years between 1873-75. This organization was called the Ladies Aid. The Foreign Missionary society was organized in or about the year 1872. The Home Missionary society was organized in 1882. About 1899, the young ladies of the church organized what was known as the Narcissus Club. In 1905, the ladies not members of the Ladies Aid formed an organization called the Dorcas Society. The Ladies Aid disbanded in 1927. The Dorcas Society functioned until 1940. In that year all the societies became members of the organization called the Women's Society of Christian Service. At the time of the organization of the United Methodist Church, the society is now known as The United Methodist Women.

As was frequently found, we of the Methodist Church in Oconomowoc had a real controversy in our musical ministry. Quite a few members objected to the purchase of a reed organ, especially among those who preferred old time practices. However, the choir members prevailed and we had an organ! Bickering began as to where to place the choir. Some wanted the singers moved from the front to the back of the church behind the pulpit where they could be seen. This met with opposition, and the matter was brought before the board who voted that the choir should be moved. The next thing the opposition fought for was to put the choir in the corner. And into the corner it went. No sooner was this done then the matter was brought before the conference. They decided to move the choir back again. The pastor sided with the move element. By this time, the choir members were thoroughly disgusted and most of them left the choir. It was years before we again developed a fine choir.

Between 1889 and 1894, the building was remodeled and stained glass windows were installed. In 1922, the congregation celebrated the burning of the mortgage. All the bills were paid or covered in pledges. The mortgage had been incurred nine years earlier when the church was remodeled. From 1925 to 1927, there was another remodeling of the building. Also a pipe organ was installed. A dedication service was held on July 11, 1926. In 1937, the congregation celebrated the centennial.

During the years of 1937 to 1940, a Sanctuary Fund was set up. This fund, to be increased by gifts and legacies and the sale of the old parsonage, was to make possible the liquidation of all indebtedness. This was accomplished but not without the help of the women of the church. In 1942, they raised \$950.00. The church mortgage was burned on May 8, 1945.

The Church school has been an important factor in the church. By the late 1940's it became apparent that a new church school building would soon become a necessity. The parsonage was sold and moved to clear the lot for the new educational building. The new building was consecrated on May 6, 1957. A new parsonage was purchased. By 1951, the congregation sponsored three homeless families. In 1962, they sponsored a family from Indonesia.

In 1963, plans for a new building were completed. It was to be built on the lot occupied by the old building and was to be built to join the educational unit. During the construction, services were held at Zion Episcopal Church. In June 1963, membership was 598 with 372 in the church school. The formal opening and consecration were celebrated February 23, 1964.

During the Christmas season of 1935, a program was inaugurated, originally in the church school, but later adopted by the entire congregation. It was called "White Christmas". Gifts and money were offered as a gift to the Oneida Indian Mission Church which is located near Green Bay.

Many articles that had been used in the old church, such as furniture and equipment, were stored to be used in the new building. There was also the one ton bronze bell and the organ, rebuilt and enlarged for the new church.

About 1958, a Parish Assistant was added to the ministerial staff. In 1966, a full-time church secretary was added. In 1967, the residence south of the Educational building was purchased to be used later as a parsonage.

From 1968 until 1975, there were many changes and innovations. The building south of the educational unit was repaired and came to be known as the annex. In 1969, the congregation voted to be a part of the Intern Program. Bruce Gearhart, who still had three quarters of Seminary work to finish, became a member of the ministerial staff as intern for a period of two years. He was appointed pastor of the Sullivan congregation. The Oconomowoc Congregation took on the helpful role of sharing pastoral leadership with Sullivan.

At this time, the pastor and congregation deliberated on the future of the congregation. They resolved to grow in its educational program, to reach out to the community-an evangelical outreach in spiritual and depth and commitment and to show social concerned endeavors, helping society to change in accordance with the intent of God. To accomplish these goals it was decided that three full time ministers for a period of three years would be needed. Finally the membership favored the plan. The budget would be increased to \$5000.00 per year for three years. In 1970 the plan went into operation. Two additional pastors who became part of the ministerial staff were the Rev. Kenneth Keller and the Rev. Douglas McKee. Twenty-five members entered the "Religious Studies Course." Many innovative worship services and celebrations were held- including contemporary services in the fellowship hall. Some of the youth took a bus trip through Kentucky and Tennessee to see United Methodists at work. The final year of the experiment ended in 1973. Pastors Douglas McKee and Kenneth Keller were assigned to new charges. The congregation came to varied conclusions.

The congregation has been heavily engaged in both mission projects outside the city and service projects to people living in the area. Among the mission activities outside the city some of the members went to Crandon on a work team to help a Potawatomi tribe. One couple went to work at Heifer Ranch in Arkansas. There was support for Northcott Neighborhood House and a home in Malaysia. A mission team of twelve youth and two adults worked on a weeklong project in West Virginia. Youth groups had offered services in a homeless shelter in Baltimore MD, painted houses in the hills of Kentucky and did home repair and Vacation Bible School on an Indian reservation in Phoenix, AZ.

In 2007, a group of people went to Huoma, Louisiana where they helped with the massive cleanup after Hurricane Katrina. In 2008 they worked at Mountain Top. In 2009 they worked in a summer camp and soup kitchen in Queens, New York. The most recent mission trip was to the Blue Ridge Mountain in North Carolina.

One of the most impressive efforts of the congregation has been the establishment of care plan for children called Little Lambs. The program started in 1987. The program was designed to provide a Christian -based day care and preschool program. On August 29th, the program opened with 12 children and three staff members. There were two classrooms and an office. The program grew quickly and a third classroom was opened and more teachers hired over time. By 2012, there are six classrooms, 11 staff members and a total of 71 children attending. There have been extensive physical changes in the building itself. Included in the many mission projects are donations to the local food pantry,

collections of underwear and socks, and contributions of school supplies and cleaning kits for flood victims.

There is a very active United Methodist Women's group in the church who have been generous in the contribution to organizations like Meta House in Milwaukee, Red Bird Mission in Kentucky, Northcott Neighborhood House, Hmong House of Good News and the native American center.

In November of 2000, the congregation was severely sorrowed when Pastor Gregg Schrimpf was killed in a tragic accident. The history states, "We lost a very dedicated, overenthusiastic pastor who was on fire for the Lord." The Good Shepherd congregation celebrated one hundred and seventy five years of service on Sunday, May 6, 2012.

-Historical Committee, Good Shepherd UMC – Oconomowoc, WI

FROM THE ARCHIVES



✝ *The following is an excerpt from the "Local Church Historian's Guide" most recently published in 2011 by the Commission on Archives and History. The full guide is available for download from our website at www.wisconsinumc.org/archives. Click on "Local Church Historian Guide".*

Our Collection: We have files on many of the local churches in the Wisconsin Conference. They contain information like newspaper clippings, photographs, membership directories, special anniversary bulletins, any church history that may have been written, and any other historical information we may have about the individual church.

We also maintain biographical files on pastors within the United Methodist Church and its predecessor denominations. This file might contain the service record of the pastor and hopefully a photograph. The pastor photographs are often requested when a church is working on a church history and wants to document the pastors that have served the church. We also appreciate receiving copies of any photographs or other information like this that you may have to help build our files.

The Archives also has a complete collection of yearbooks and journals from the UMC church in Wisconsin and an incomplete collection of yearbooks from some of the predecessor denominations, including the East Wisconsin and West Wisconsin Methodist Conferences, the Evangelical United Brethren, the United Brethren, and the Evangelical Association. If you have any older yearbooks that you do not need to keep in your archives, be sure to check with us first to see if we need here to complete our collection.

We have on file and collect both The Book of Resolutions and The Book of Discipline for the UMC, as well as earlier copies from any of the predecessor denominations.

The Conference Archives also has a library of books relating to the history of United Methodism in Wisconsin and of the predecessor denominations. Early historical works also include a large collection of hymnals and Bibles many dating back centuries. The Conference Archives also has a large library of books relating to the history of United Methodist and the predecessor denominations in Wisconsin. We also have historical works on John Wesley, Albright, and Otterbein, as well as books written by Wisconsin Annual Conference members. We also collect books that refer to the history of any of our local churches in Wisconsin. Our collection also includes many early German works of historical importance from the Evangelische Gemeinschaft Kirche and many 19th century books of sermons in both German and English. Again, we welcome and encourage donations of any historical works to add to our collection.

Publications from any of the denominations that joined to form the United Methodist Church also comprise an important part of our reference collection in the Archives. We have copies of Badger Tidings, Together, Methodist History, Evangelical Missionary Word, Builders, and Der Christliche Botschafter, to name a few.

The Conference Archives is also the repository of the historically significant records of the Wisconsin Conference itself. We collect and save records from the various Conference committees, groups, and organizations, and also from the proceedings at Annual Conference.

In the Conference Archives we also have some manuscript collections given to us by various past members of the Wisconsin Conference. These include collections from several past pastors from the Conference. W. D. Ames, Michael Benson, and Joseph Austin are some of the early ones.

In addition to our hard copy collections, the Archives has been able to create an online database of the United Methodist churches in Wisconsin and the pastors who have served them. Through the work of Archives' volunteer, Robert Gruetzmacher, who has been working for years on a project of going through past yearbooks both the UMC and the predecessor denominations to collect this data, we now have access on our Conference website to this informational database. You too can access this database to get appointment histories of various pastors who have served in the Wisconsin Conference, or to see the various pastors that have served an individual church. You can find this database two ways on the Conference website at www.wisconsinumc.org. First, under the heading "Conference Information," scroll down to searchable databases, then finally, "appointment history." You can also find it through the "Archives and History" section on the Conference website (www.wisconsinumc.org/archives).

Finally, all of us who work in the Archives - both the archivists and our many valuable volunteers - would like to welcome you to come and visit us in the Conference center in Sun Prairie. Stop by to say hello and to see our display case and the many wonderful historic photographs that we have framed and hung in our Archives. You will recognize the archives by the large historic picture of the ordination of Francis Asbury that hangs just outside our door.

A Long Road Home

After many years of hard work, the Archives is pleased to announce that an arrangement has been reached with the Wisconsin State Historical Society Archives concerning the materials deposited there by the West Wisconsin Conference (Methodist) in 1960. A date has been set in early December for the transfer of the material back to our Conference Archives where it will be reunited with and fill a significant hole in our collection. Please celebrate with us this most happy event.



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