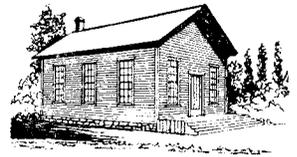




"Fellow-citizens, we cannot escape history." — A. Lincoln

FLASHBACKS



Revealing glimpses of our creative past

Official newsletter of the
 UNITED METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN

Vol. VI No. 1

January, 1977

Upon the threshold of another year
We stand again,
We know not what of gladness and good cheer,
Of grief or pain
May visit us while journeying to its close,
In this we rest,
God dealeth out in wisdom what he knows
For us is best.

Thomas Wearing

Twenty people went on the Pilgrimage this fall. The 1977 Pilgrimage is tentatively set for Green Bay in September.

CONTEST FOR YOUTH

Our Commission on Archives and History is sponsoring an essay contest for the 7th and 8th graders. Its purpose is to encourage writing about U. M. events, local church history, and personages. Dr. Arlo Anderson, Professor of History at UW Oshkosh, will chair the evaluation committee. Essays should go to him before March 30, 1977. Awards will be given for the best essays.

THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING PERSONS WHO SENT IN MATERIAL THIS FALL

- Mrs. Ethel Nulton, Waupaca
- Walter B. Calbert, Benton
- Rev. William Blake, Berlin
- Watford G. Sequin, Eleva
- *Mrs. Leonard Knabel, Rewey
- *Dr. Raymond M. Veh, Thiensville
- Rev. William Jannusch, North Prairie

*Material sent will appear in May issue.

UNITED METHODIST HISTORY STUDIED

Adults in the First United Methodist Church of Neenah participated in a study of Methodism during the fall. Reverend Blake's book was used as the text. Dr. Arlow W. Anderson, author of the story of Norwegian-Danish Methodism, was the teacher. About forty or fifty adults participated.

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On August 29, Madison BASHFORD CHURCH held an old fashioned outdoor "Camp Meeting" in the church yard. "Circuit Rider" Dale Strong, in typical Francis Asbury coat and hat, arrived on a chestnut horse, to be greeted by "Presiding Elder" Bernard Kassilke in his cutaway and stove pipe hat. Associate pastor Jane Anderson had introduced the purpose and the plans for the day. Hymnsingers from the Madison Barber Shop Chorus augmented a special choir for the day. After a potluck dinner there were games and activities for everyone.

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A MEMBER OF THE WISCONSIN COMMISSION REPORTS

The following received in November, postmarked Benton, Wisconsin, was written (longhand) when Walter B. Calvert was in a Sacramento, California hospital:

I am Walter B. Calvert of Benton, Wisconsin, and a member of the Commission on Archives and History of the United Methodist Church in Wisconsin. I was accompanied here from Wisconsin by a friend of many of you, Rev. Carl Berry. I bring greetings from Rev. David Harsh and Rev. Edward Johnson, former active members of this conference.

I wish to announce that the theme of the annual meeting was a bicentennial one interwoven throughout the business and devotional services. . . .

We are fortunate to have William Blake as our conference historian. His book, The Cross and the Flame was reviewed this year at LaMar, Iowa. . . . I highly recommend it.

Our administrative budget request which was approved was only \$475.00. . . . This year we held just two meetings, one of them just prior to the annual conference.

Then followed the report that Mr. Calvert made when he had served as a delegate to the North Central Jurisdictional Conference on Archives and History held July 6 - 8, 1976, at Marietta College, Marietta, Ohio.

Among the programs and other items mentioned were:

- Restoration of the former E.U.B. Church in Milwaukee
- The Archival Center at Evergreen Manor, Oshkosh
- The placing of the Historical Markers
- Screening and microfilming documents.

OCTOBER CELEBRATIONS

On October 3, 1976, the North Freedom Church celebrated its centennial. The Emanuel Church, Baraboo, celebration came on October 24th.

October 10, 1976 marked the 110th anniversary of the Borth Church, located in the open country about twenty five miles west of Oshkosh. The class (known as the Hoeft class) which developed into the present congregation met in a log house, the home of Gust Hoeft. For some time worship and Sunday school were held in the Hoeft home. In 1879 the first church building was put up on the site still in use. The second building came in 1906, the third and existing church in 1925. The congregation affiliated with the Evangelical Association became a part of United Methodism when the Evangelical United Brethren and Methodist churches merged in 1968.

WORLD METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY ELECTS

New officers were elected by the World Methodist Historical Society meeting held in Dublin, Ireland, last summer. Bishop Ole Borgen of Sweden was chosen president; John Vickers of England, recording secretary; and David Bradley of the United States, treasurer. Continental vice presidents were elected as follows:

Europe - Roger Anstey, England
America - Rev. Glenn Lucas, Canada
Asia - Dr. John Drummel, Japan
Oceania - Dr. James Udy, Australia
Africa - Shepherd Machuma, Rhodesia

Dr. John H. Hess, Jr. of our own general Commission was chosen executive secretary. A series of regional conferences is being planned, the first one at Victoria University, Toronto, Canada, June 26-29, 1977. Sponsors are the United Church of Canada and the Methodist Historical Society of Canada.

NESS TO CONTINUE IN COMMISSION POST

Dr. John H. Ness, Jr. was reelected executive secretary of the general Commission on Archives and History at its quadrennial organization meeting October 12-14, 1976, at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina. Dr. Hess is a former E.U.B. minister who served that denomination in much the same capacity before the merger.

Bishop John Warman of the Harrisburg (Pa.) area was elected president; Miss Carroll Hart, director of the Georgia State Archives, vice president; and Dr. Donald Gorrell, Dayton, Ohio, secretary.

The general Commission on Archives and History provides effective leadership of the whole United Methodist Church in preserving, appreciating, and using its rich heritage. It publishes the scholarly quarterly, Methodist History, and the quarterly newsletter, The Historian's Digest. It is the depository for the documents relating to the history of Methodism.

PLEASANT VALLEY UNITED METHODIST CELEBRATES ITS SEVENTY-FIFTH

"The rough and rugged strength remains yet in the little churches, dwindling though their number be. The area around Eau Claire still has many of these well kept buildings."

From the Memorial Dedication message, 1973

It was not unusual for early congregations to meet in homes or in schoolhouses. It was in 1898 when at a service in the Sequin home a church building was planned, for at the time meetings were held in two schoolhouses, the organ hauled back and forth as needed. The first church building was destroyed by a cyclone in 1907, the second in 1921 by an electrical storm. The first church cost \$1,626, the present one \$5,500.

The twenty-three page anniversary brochure has many pictures with the identification of persons beautifully done even when the number in a group picture exceeds fifty.

PARFREYVILLE SPECIALITIES

Mrs. Ethel Nulton, our former membership secretary, is sending a delightful story of the Parfreyville Methodist Church 1856-1956, to the United Methodist Archives. Enroute she has allowed us a glimpse of some of its unique specialities.

The little church is located about five miles from Waupaca and in its early days was head of a three-point circuit with Crystal Lake and Grant Church. Today it stands as the sole institutional survivor of the little village.

Two sections distinguish it from the usual historical account of a local church: I REMEMBER WHEN and THE SINGING WAIDS.

The I REMEMBER method could well be used by other churches who want to save stories of the past. The following are two of the dozen or so inclusions:

I REMEMBER A BAPTISM, an immersion in the Crystal River at Parfreyville when a stalwart young man and a little, old minister, both in their Sunday best, stepped quietly into the ice-cold deep water and were almost carried away by the current. The young man became a useful member of the church.

by Bessie G. Holman

I REMEMBER WHEN dear to the hearts of all Sunday School children a generation ago was their beloved Miss Mamie Baker, who for more than twenty years in spite of severe handicaps and much pain, was a faithful teacher and organist. She was - as one little girl said to her mother, "Just beautiful."

by Mrs. Will Barlow

Parfreyville was a singing church and the story of the SINGING WAIDS is a fitting part of its history. The following in shortened form is taken from the longer account by Delbert Leanon.

For over thirty years Ben Waid rang the church bell. He had missed but two days in all that time. He was never late; such punctuality is rare. For thirty years Mrs. Waid was Superintendent of the Sunday School. For forty years she played the organ. Both loved to sing and play "the love of music like a scarlet thread running through the warp and woof if all they did." Before their marriage each had sung in the choir fifteen years.

For over thirty years the Waids were the caretakers of the church. "This work was melody as well; it was singing with their hands". . . "At four o'clock on a Sunday morning Ben must trudge a quarter of a mile to see that everything was coming on. Then back again . . . to feed the animals and have a hasty breakfast before setting out a second time."

"The overlapping services of many years in that community and church were one melodious song that came from singing hearts."