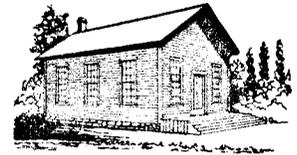




"WE are the end-product of our history."

FLASHBACKS



Revealing glimpses of our creative past

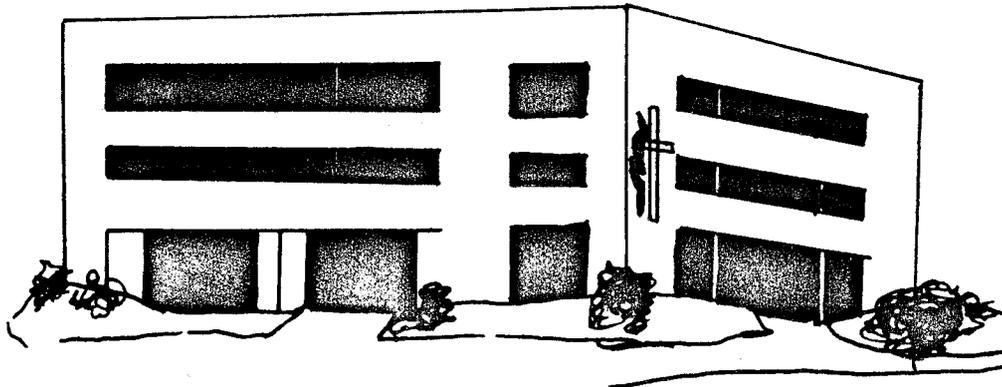
Official newsletter of the
UNITED METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN

Vol. 11 No. 1

January, 1984

The stretch of years that winds ahead, so dim to our
imperfect vision
Are clear to God. Our fears are premature; in Him all
time hath full provision.

M. L. Haskins



ARCHIVES MOVED TO CONFERENCE CENTER

Earlier this month the conference Archives and Historical Library was moved from Oshkosh to Sun Prairie. It now occupies quarters at the heart of the United Methodist movement in the state, the United Methodist Center at 750 Windsor St.. Oshkosh has been the site of the archives since the formation of the conference, first in Evergreen Manor, and later in the Algoma United Methodist Church.

The move made necessary the selection of a new archivist to succeed Mrs. Kitty Hobson, whose residence is in Oshkosh. Richard A. O'Neil, chairman of the Commission on Archives, has announced the hiring of Mrs. Mary Schroeder of Sun Prairie to fill that post. Her husband is Edwin H. Schroeder, former conference treasurer and manager-treasurer of the conference credit union. Her mother, the late Rev. Ethel B. Nulton, was vice chairman of the conference Commission on Archives and History 1969-1972.

A letter of October 10 to the Editor of Flashbacks 1983, told of plans for the 90th celebration of the Emmanuel United Methodist Church at Princeton, Wisconsin

The September issue of Dimensions gave sketches of the history of three churches: Black River Falls, Asbury at Janesville, and Mercer. Later issues included North Windsor, Tomahawk, the Spirit United Methodist Church on the Tomahawk circuit, and Augusta.

IRONTON CELEBRATES 125 YEARS

The Ironton United Methodist Church, part of the Wonewoc-Ironton-LaValle charge in Sauk County, celebrated 125 years of service to the community on Sunday, September 4, 1983.

Following morning worship, at which the district superintendent, Rev. T. Edmond White, preached the sermon, the congregation enjoyed a potluck dinner. After that a time of fellowship and recollection, shared by former pastors, focussed attention on the history of the congregation. It was started in early September, 1841. Rev. A. M. Fullerton, who was appointed to the Muscoda mission by the Rock River Conference (ME) preached.

Jonas Tower, founder of Ironton, and owner of the mine, donated the lots for church and parsonage, and he and his wife were influential supporters of the early work.

An exceptionally fine history of the congregation, prepared by Delbert L. Winn, local church historian, was published as part of the commemoration. Well illustrated, its 82 pages take the reader through the 125 years of the changing community and the story of the development of the church. The Rev. Arvid E. Morey is presently the pastor, and lives in Wonewoc. The Conference Archives are indebted to the Ironton church for its excellent history.

"WE ARE THE CHURCH"

"We are the Church" was the theme of the 125th anniversary of the United Methodist Church of Neillsville on August 21, 1983. Methodists were the first denomination to hold services in what is now Clark County. The brief history that appeared on the back of the program told of the first preaching by a circuit rider in 1847 - at the home of James O'Neills, founder of Neillsville.

On the front of the program was pictured a church building with an appealing design. Its walls must have been those of the brick building of 1895 which was built on the site of the 1869 frame structure. The remodeling over the years has kept or perhaps enhanced the uniqueness of the pointed windows and the geometrical patterns of the roof and tower.

When Esther Perkins sent a letter along with the program she told of Reverend A. V. Ingtham being a pastor there before her time and Reverend Ernest Clarke serving as District Superintendent since she came there to live.

CHURCH AT AUGUSTA

The Reverend Robert W. Kuhn, president of the United Methodist Historical Society of Wisconsin reported that the 125th celebration of the Augusta Church was a joyous event.

The Augusta United Methodist Church celebrated its 125th Anniversary with six special Sundays, from September 18 to October 23, 1983. The first Sunday, September 18, was observed with an "Old Time Service". Over half of the congregation came in old-fashioned clothes, including some that were made just for that day. Rev. and Mrs. Kuhn were driven to the church in a horse-drawn buggy. Rev. Kuhn wore a frock coat that was over 80 years old, and a high top hat. All of the men sat on one side of the church, and the women and children on the other. The order of worship was based on the Order of Public Worship that was adopted by the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1896. "Instructions for Public Worship" were read from an 1832 Discipline. The first hymn was sung without accompaniment and without hymnals, with each line being read out by the minister. The second hymn was accompanied by a piano, and the closing hymn by the organ.

The second Sunday was a recognition of all of the marriages that had been performed in the three churches whose members came together to form the Augusta United Methodist Church. The three churches were the Augusta Methodist Church, Thompson Valley Methodist Church, and Emmanuel EUB Church. All of the couples that had been married in those churches were invited to return and renew their marriage vows. The third Sunday was a communion service using a communion ritual from 1832. The fourth was Laity Sunday. The fifth was a recognition of those who had been members of the three congregations for 40 years or more.

On the final Sunday there was the dedication of the church's new front entrance and outdoor sign, with District Superintendent Henry Dreistadt preaching. William Blake's bicentennial hymn, "A Song of Celebration" was sung. In the afternoon the histories of the three churches were presented, former pastors spoke, and 125 balloons were released. One of those balloons was returned from Mabel, Minnesota, which is 90 miles away. A special pictorial directory containing the histories of the three churches has been prepared and should be available soon at a cost of \$3.00 per copy.

As the history (with pictures) of the church at Augusta was written up in Dimensions, only some paragraphs dealing with the early church are here included. They show what devotion churches in the early days maintained their very existence.

In 1869 Rev. Daniel Clingman was sent to Augusta to raise a building for the church. To anyone else the prospects would have been discouraging because the church had a small membership, and all of them were poor people. Rev. Clingman secured a piece of ground and built a little chapel to hold services in while the church was being built. Mr. Fletcher Dighton offered the Methodists the privilege of cutting timber from a tract of pine land that he owned, and also offered to pay for the sawing. As the custom was in war time some volunteered and others were drafted to cut the logs and haul them in to town. Mr. John F. Stone, who owned the sawmill on Bridge Creek, readily agreed to saw the logs into lumber on shares. The stone for the foundation was drawn in the winter. As soon as the ground was free from frost the men began putting the foundation in place. Inside the cornerstone they placed 5, 10, 25 and 50 cent pieces of paper money called script, coins, pictures of the pastor and his family, a copy of the Augusta Herald, copies of the church periodical, a hymn book, a Discipline, and a Bible. Brick for the church was made by Mr. Darius Stone. This church was the first brick building in Augusta.

The church was dedicated on December 18, 1870. A choir was organized for the occasion, and practiced new hymns and anthems for two weeks. They were greatly disappointed when the speaker, Rev. Samuel Fallows, insisted on having only old hymns and tunes. After preaching a rousing sermon Rev. Fallows told the people that the church had been built at a cost of \$6,000, and was in debt \$2,700, and made an eloquent appeal to clear the church of debt. He succeeded in raising that much in pledges, and dedicated the church as being debt-free. So many failed to pay their pledges, however, that the church found itself very deeply in debt for several years. That first year was very hard on some of the members because they were giving nearly all of their income to the church. Three of the members went together to buy a carload of lime for plaster. When one of them complained to his wife about a meager meal she retorted, "You might have brought some lime!" The ladies of the church organized a "Mite Society" in 1869 which raised money for the church until it was discontinued in 1926.

PRESENT BICENTENNIAL HYMN

As United Methodism enters its bicentennial year two Wisconsin pastors have contributed a hymn to help local groups commemorate the historic milestone. Called A Hymn of Celebration, it focusses attention on the heroic contribution of circuit riders to the establishment and growth of United Methodism in the United States and our own heritage of Christian faith and fellowship.

The words were written by Rev. William Blake, retired, who served as the first conference historian, and Rev. Thomas E. White, pastor of Emanuel United Methodist Church in Baraboo, and secretary of the conference Commission on Archives and History.

While both words and music are copyrighted, Blake and White have agreed to give any United Methodist group permission to reproduce it for its own use. Either one will supply a clear copy, capable of being reproduced either by offset, or through a mimeograph stencil produced by electric scanning. A request, accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope, sent to either of them will bring such a master copy. It is their hope that the hymn will be widely used through the coming year. Flashbacks prints a copy in this issue.

A SONG OF CELEBRATION

Commemorating the bicentennial of The United Methodist Church

PSALM 61:5

WILLIAM BLAKE 1901 -

HERITAGE 87.87 D.

THOMAS E. WHITE 1938 -

1. Sing a song of cel - e - bra - tion For the her - i - tage we share:
2. Lift - ed high the cross of Je - sus, Spread the Ho - ly Spir - it's flame,
3. Gath - ered Chris - tian con - gre - ga - tions, Fel - low ships of faith and love,

Faith in Je - sus Christ our Sav - ior, And his com - rade - ship through prayer,
Dared the wild land's perils and hard - ships For the love of Christ's dear name;
Cells of car - ing Chris - tian nur - ture Filled with life from God a - bove.

To the new world's rest - less set - tlers, Push - ing west - ward from the sea,
Roam'd the o - pen bound - less prai - ries, Rode the lone - ly for - est trails
Ours is now the faith they brought here, Ours their fel - low - ship of prayer,

Came the preach - ers of the gos - pel With sal - va - tion full and free;
Shared their faith with tribes and set - tlers, Preach'd God's love that nev - er fails;
Ours their love for Christ the Sav - ior. Ours to cher - ish and to share. A - men.

Words Copyright © 1981 and 1983 by William Blake

Music Copyright © 1981 by Thomas E. White

FLASHBACKS

*Official newsletter of the United Methodist
Historical Society of Wisconsin*

Miss Margaret H. Scott, *editor*

1400 W. Seminary St., Richland Center, Wis. 53581

Material of historical interest, such as church anniversaries, recollections, activities of local church historical committees, and historians should be sent to her at the above address.

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

Rev. Robert W. Kuhn, *president*

Miss Joanne Hornby, *vice president*

Rev. Theodore Jordan, *secretary*

David W. Chevalier, *treasurer* (ex officio)

Miss Margaret H. Scott, *editor of Flashbacks*

Rev. Richard A. O'Neil, *membership secretary*, 415 Doty St., Mineral Point, Wis. 53565

Membership applications and dues should be sent to the membership secretary at the above address.