



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

# FLASHBACKS



Revealing glimpses of our creative past

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*Official newsletter of the*  
**UNITED METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN**

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PAST

It was regretted that the fall pilgrimage was canceled due to low pre-registration. Our apologies to the Wautoma congregation. On the next page is a listing of the pilgrimages of previous years.

The General Commission on Archives and History has numerous publications about the history of Methodists as well as information and helps for church historians and archivists. For a list of these materials, write the GCAH, Box 127, Madison, NJ 07940

The 1995 Convocation for the Northcentral Jurisdiction Archives and History met at Illinois Wesleyan University on July 10-13. Papers were presented on Lizzie Johnson, a Christian missionary; Illinois Methodist Support for President Lincoln during the Civil War; Lucy Rider Meyer; Peter Cartwright; the first Wesley Foundation; Church Women in American History and Bishop Joseph C. Hartzell.

Excursions to several sites were planned: the David Davis Mansion in Bloomington, the Babyfold in Normal, and the Peter Cartwright Church in Pleasant Plains. This latter stop included a meeting and lunch at the church and a visit to the cemetery where Peter Cartwright and his wife Frances are buried. The church is listed as the 17th United Methodist National Historic Shrine. An unscheduled stop was made at the tomb of President Lincoln in Springfield. A visit was also made to the Wesley Foundation in Urbana.

United Methodist Historical Society of Wisconsin  
Historical Pilgrimages 1974 - 1994

Oct. 12, 1974	Willerup United Methodist Church, Cambridge
Sept. 27, 1975	Memorial United Methodist Church, Greenfield
Sept. 18, 1976	Mitchell-Rountree Cottage, Platteville
Oct. 8, 1977	First United Methodist Church, Green Bay, Fort Howard and Oneida
Oct. 7, 1978	Prairie du Chien United Methodist Church and Fort Crawford
Oct. 6, 1979	Lomira United Methodist Church and Camp Byron
Oct. 25, 1980	Wesley C. M. E., Bethel A. M. E. and St. Matthias U. M. C., Beloit
Oct. 3, 1981	Mineral Point United Methodist Church, Fayette and Benton
Oct. 2, 1982	Oneida United Methodist Church and Lawrence University
Oct. 1, 1983	First United Methodist Church, Kenosha
Sept. 29, 1984	Peoples United Methodist Church, Oregon, and Rutland U. B. Church
Oct. 5, 1985	Pleasant Valley and Siloam United Methodist Churches and Helenville
Oct. 4, 1986	Memorial United Methodist Church, Greenfield, and Conference Museum
Oct. 3, 1987	Whitewater United Methodist Church
Oct. 1, 1988	Lake Street United Methodist Church, Eau Claire
Oct. 7, 1989	Willerup United Methodist Church, Cambridge
Oct. 6, 1990	Emmanuel United Methodist Church, Appleton
Oct. 5, 1991	Mineral Point and Linden United Methodist Churches
Sept. 26, 1992	Bay View United Methodist Church and Conference Museum
Sept. 25, 1993	Peace United Methodist Ch., Richland Center, and Schmitt Woodland Hills
Sept. 24, 1994	Algoma Boulevard United Methodist Church, Oshkosh

## FUTURE

1996

The fall pilgrimage will be to the Emmanuel Community Church, Menomonee Falls on Saturday, September 28

The North Central Jurisdiction Archives and History will meet in Platteville, WI from July 8-11

The national meeting of the Historical Society for the United Methodist Church (HSUMC) will be held on November 16-18 at Evangelical Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio. The meeting will observe the fiftieth anniversary of the union of the Evangelical and United Brethren churches in 1946. Bishop Paul Milhouse, a bishop of the EUB church is projected as the keynote speaker.

The World Methodist Historical Society will meet during the World Methodist Conference to be held from August 7-15 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. A. Ted Campbell of Washington, D.C. will present a paper "Wesley: Our Wesleyan Heritage and the Global Holiness/Pentecostal Movement."

1997

It is proposed that the national meeting of the HSUMC will meet at the Anna Howard Shaw Center in Boston, MA in observance of the 150th anniversary of the birth of this womens' rights pioneer.

## ANNIVERSARIES

"Ask and you shall receive" I asked and I received. I am grateful for the responses that came when I asked churches about their anniversary presentations. In this issue I will present those churches that have observed a 150th anniversary and in one case, 145th. Others will follow in the next news letter.

William Blake stated in the CROSS AND THE FLAME that the first permanent Methodist organization in Wisconsin was formed on July 21, 1832 in what was then Fort Howard and is now Green Bay.

John Lutz organized the first class of the Evangelical Association in Poplar Creek, now called Greenfield. This is now the Memorial Community Church. Also in 1840, the first united Brethren class was organized in Rutland, in Dane County by a group of lay people. The first class was organized near Monroe by a minister, the Rev. James Davis. With these dates as an anchor, we can look at a number of churches which recently celebrated a 150th anniversary.

## FOND DU LAC, COVENANT

The first meeting of Methodists in Fond du Lac was held on November 17, 1839 when the Rev. Jesse Halstead, a missionary to the Indians, preached in the log house of Dr. Darling. However, the first class was not formed until November 9, 1843. The early meetings were held in a log cabin and later in a school house. After a fire destroyed all the towns public buildings in 1848, the congregation met in the court house. Two church buildings were erected in 1852.

Originally, the Fond du Lac congregation was a part of the Fond du Lac circuit which included the whole county. Most of the itinerant preachers covered their circuit by horseback. however, the Rev. J.S.Prescott felt that "he could not afford to wait for so 'laggard a conveyance' and covered the circuit on foot."

One of the early converts was Lucius N.Wheeler who became a renowned missionary in China

An interesting resolution was passed by the administrative board in February 1863. "It is the unanimous opinion of this board that not above three minutes should be occupied by any member of this church in praying, speaking or singing."

The congregation outgrew the Marr Street church and a large auditorium was purchased in 1865. The building was extensively remodeled and renamed the Division Street Methodist Episcopal Church. A Sunday School was organized in 1867.

Among the more colorful pastors was the Rev. G.C.Haddock who was appointed in 1871. The history of the church describes him as follows:

"He was a forceful speaker, but unfortunately something of a crusading crank. His chief delight was fighting something or somebody. During his pastorate, he did much to build up the Universalist Church in Fond du Lac, through the immense amount of free publicity he aroused through his constant vocal and written attacks. 'He was utterly reckless and foolhardy in his assaults on whatever and whomever happened to strike his fancy,' according to a former historian. During his short charge, he became heartily disliked by the majority of the congregation, who accordingly refrained from supporting the church. Years later, he killed in a temperance affray in Sioux City, Iowa

In 1894, the church attracted statewide attention when the congregation divided over the temperance issue. Leaders in the congregation stipulated that the pastor could preach temperance but should say nothing regarding politics. About one hundred members left the church but returned in 1905. The pastor,

William Clark was transferred to Oshkosh and the rift was healed. Also in 1894, the church was struck by lightning and the steeple was destroyed.

In 1912, there was extensive remodeling to the building. The exterior was done in Doric Grecian architecture faced with native and Indiana Bedford limestone. The new building included a Sunday School, a gymnasium, and a modern kitchen. In 1963, an education building was dedicated.

IN 1975, the church developed a program for Vietnamese refugees. The church sponsored a Vietnamese family and eventually housed them in the vacant parsonage. A learning center for forty Vietnamese was developed and included a tutoring program for children.

Division Street and Saint Matthews congregations united in 1979. The name of the new congregation was changed to Covenant United Methodist Church. The old building was demolished in the fall of 1986 and the new building consecrated on February 1, 1988.

A number of members of Covenant have been employed in Christian vocations. Sixteen people have served as missionaries or in national church offices. Three men have become ordained ministers.

A year of activities in 1993 celebrated the 150th anniversary of the church. These included services of recognition for contributions made by members, a remembrance of the circuit rider and camp meetings held at Camp Byron and as covenant renewal service in October when Bishop Rader preached. Former pastors were recognized. A memorial pageant was also presented.

Taken from the history of the church compiled and edited by June L.Koenigs

## FIRST UMC, WHITEWATER

The First Methodist Church of Whitewater was organized in 1843 by the Rev. Alpha Warren who lived in Johnstown in Rock County. Ten persons were received into membership, and services were held in members homes and occasionally in the Congregational Church.

IN 1849 the first Sunday School was organized and the first building was completed in 1852. The present building which was to be the largest and finest west of Milwaukee was started in 1872-73 and completed in 1878 for a cost of \$30,000. A pipe organ was installed in 1887. In 1896 electricity replaced the oil

lamps. In 1915 steam heat was installed which replaced the old furnaces in Fellowship Hall. The tower bell was purchased in 1920.

Ground breaking for the present education wing took place in November ,1951. In December of that year, the rear wall of the church collapsed bringing tons of debris, including the pipe organ and the entire chancel area, down upon the footings and foundation. Services were held in a local school until August of 1954. Extensive renovation and repairs, both to the interior and exterior of the building took place in the early 1980s.

The 150th anniversary celebration was held on September 25, 1993. The program included greetings from former pastors, a slide presentation and recognition of multi-generational families who were members of the church. One seven-generational family was included. A service on Heritage Sunday on April 25,1993 recognized thirty-seven persons who had held membership from fifty to seventy-five years.

Thanks to Barbara Taylor, Program assistant

## WAUPUN UMC

Establishing a church in their community was of such importance to the family of Silas Miller a lumberman and lay preacher, who came to Waupun from New York, that in 1844, Silas and his son, Wesson, walked twenty miles to Fond du Lac to petition the Methodist :Conference meeting there to make Waupun charge under the pastoral supervision of the Rev. Joseph T.Lewis.

Members of this newly formed society met in the fall of 1844. When the Rev. Samuel Smith arrived in 1845, he assumed the leadership of the growing class which continued to meet in the homes of members until a log building was erected for use as a school house during the week and for chapel services on Sundays. Wesson Miller, who later served as a presiding elder in both Fond du Lac and Milwaukee, followed Samuel Smith as pastor in Waupun in 1846.

By 1854, when the membership of 181 had outgrown the school house capacity, the present property was purchased. The following summer, a new church, just west of the present building was finished and dedicated. A parsonage was built in 1858.

The present building was dedicated on May 4, , 1890. The bell in the steeple was originally a gift in 1858 from Horace Estabrook of West Troy, New York to the Burnett Corners Methodist Church. It was given to the Horicon church in 1900 and then later was installed in the Waupun church in 1935.

In 1968, Waupun became a single charge, ending its association with the Lamartine church. At one point, a trial merger with the UCC-Congregational Church was implemented by the vote at the end of the trial period by both churches rejected the merger plan and the congregations returned to its own building with a renewed resolve to find its mission as United Methodists.

A year long celebration of the 150th anniversary began in 1994 with the chosen theme PRAISE FOR THE PAST, FAITH FOR THE FUTURE. In January there was a re-enactment of a portion of the pageant written for the 1944 Centennial, portraying the Miller family's organization of the church. Three large quilt banners of squares representing individual and family member and special groups of the congregation were placed on permanent display in the sanctuary.

United Methodist Women held a luncheon meeting with a program that focused on the history of the women's activities in the life of the church. A service for the renewal of wedding vows was held in June.

Bishop Rader brought the message for a special service in July. A final service of shared celebration was held in early January of 1995 with the UCC-Congregational church which was just beginning their sesquicentennial year. A banner made by members of the UMC was carried as a gift to the sister church. This was followed by a musical service and shared meal.

Thanks to Joan G.E.Wiese, History and Records chair.

## SUN PRAIRIE, UMC

In September of 1844, the Rev. Salmon Stebbins was appointed to the Madison Mission by the Rock River Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The work of the preachers that had served before him had not brought the wanted results in the important area surrounding the new territorial capitol. It was hoped that with the experience of this former presiding elder the work would prove more fruitful. When Rev. Stebbins arrived, he found the surrounding land was being quickly populated by Yankee settlers. Traveling out from Madison toward Aztalan, Rev. Stebbins found a trading post and a cluster of cabins that the locals called Sun Prairie. Calling on nearby homesteads he was able to organize eleven settlers into a Methodist Class. They met in a small log school house that had been built the previous year. In the following years, classes were organized in the surrounding settlements of Bristol, Windsor, Token Creek, Pierceville, Birds Corners, Baily's School house, Farewell's school house and Bennet's school house. During this period, these classes were served by preachers assigned to the Madison Missions and by local preachers. By 1851, the Sun Prairie and Bristol classes had grown enough that they were organized into a pastoral charge. Rev. Carlos Sanford was the first preacher appointed by the Wisconsin Conference to the Sun Prairie/Bristol

charge. In 1857, an acre of land and a dwelling were purchased in Sun Prairie for use as a parsonage. It was the Bristol congregation that first erected a church in 1866 with Sun Prairie following in 1868. During this period, Sun Prairie's growth resulted mainly from the influx of German immigrants. In response, a German Methodist congregation was organized in 1872. In 1874, the German Methodists erected a building a block away from the English Methodists. In 1898, thanks to a series of successful revivals, church membership in Sun Prairie grew and an extensive remodeling of the Sun Prairie church was accomplished.

The turn of the century started a period of decline for the Sun Prairie Methodists.. In 1908, the Bristol congregation disbanded and united with Sun Prairie. By 1928, Sun Prairie's congregation had decreased to sixty-six and in 1930, it was found advisable to accept the advantages of the connectional system of Methodism and become the out-appointment of the Columbus Church. three years later a more suitable arrangement was made and Sun Prairie became part of a Marshall-Sun Prairie charge with the pastor living in Marshall. Much of the credit for the survival of the congregation during these lean times must be given to the women of the church. It was the Ladies Aid Society's efforts at chicken pie dinners, fancy work bazaars and numerous socials that helped keep the financial and spiritual ledgers in balance.

In 1937, the Sun Prairie German Methodists and the English Methodist united and in 1939, the Congregational church disbanded with many of its members joining Sun Prairie's congregation. In 1940, the proceeds from the sale of the German Methodist building were used for further remodeling and improvement of the church. In 1942, the residence of the pastor serving Marshall-SunPrairie was changed to Sun Prairie, By 1954. Sun Prarie's congregation had grown and for the first time became a one point charge. On November 13, 1960. the congregation decided to proceed with building a new sanctuary and educational unit. Bishop Northcott led the services of the laying of the conerstone in December of 1961. The first services in the new building were held on May 20, 1962.

The 1950s and 1960s began the rapid increase in Sun Prairie's population that would change its character from a small town to a satellite of Madison. Sun Prairie's Methodist congregation grew concurrently and by the 1980s the church found it necessary to hire office staff, a Christian education director and a pastor of visitation. The present finds the congregation considering building an program expansion.

On September 24, 1995, the church celebrated the 150th anniversary. In the months leading up to this special day, mane of the recent former pastors who had served the congregation returned to preach. With the help of the Conference Archives and the City of Sun Prairie Archives, a historical display was assembled for viewing. Part of the display included items recovered from the corneerstone of the former building. The

cornerstone had contained printed material from the 1860s including Methodist tracts, an Almanac, a Discipline and membership lists. Bishop Sharon Rader preached at both morning services and attended the anniversary dinner that followed. A walking tour of historical places in Sun Prairie Methodism concluded the day's activities.

thanks to Sandy Kintner

## IMMANUEL UMC, JEFFERSON

It was in May of 1845, when Wisconsin was still a wilderness that the Rev. J.G. Miller, of the Illinois "Conference of the Evangelical Mission", set out on horseback for Wisconsin to establish churches among the German-speaking people. There he met George Robisch who lived a mile east of Jefferson where ST.Coilletta's Home now stands. Rev. Miller preached his first sermon on July 13 at a meeting held in the school house. In September, a congregation was organized. By the end of three years membership had grown to fifty. The first building was constructed on land donated by a Mr. Benker. This building was replaced by a brick structure in 1878 and was dedicated on December 7, 1879 by Bishop Dubs.

A basement was added in 1914. In 1916, lightning struck the building. The spire was then replaced by a belfry. In 1935, the building was remodeled and a number of additions were built including a kitchen lounge and upper room. An educational unit and other buildings for office space were finished in 1985.

At the turn of the century, Zion church of Helenville and Immanuel Church of Rome were still part of the Jefferson circuit so that one pastor served all the churches/ The Helenville and Rome congregations disbanded about 1940/ The Helenville building was torn down but the Rome church is now a museum for Rome and Sullivan. The Helenville Church had the distinction of serving the first Wisconsin Conference in 1857. The Jefferson Church hosted the conference in 1882

The congregation has had a series of name changes. It was called the German Evangelical Association, then the German Evangelical Church, later the Community Evangelical Church and finally the Emmaneul Evangelical Church. The spelling was changed to Immanuel sometime after 1945. In 1946, the name changed again with the merger of the Evangelical and United Brethren Churches and again with the merger of that church with the Methodist Episcopal to become the United Methodist Church/

Immanuel had a year long celebration of its sesquicentennial. The festivities began with a birthday party for twin sister, Lydia and Lorina Goertz on the ninetieth birthday. The women serve as church historians. The choir director composed a special hymn for the year's celebration called CELEBRATING OUR PAST AND

FUTURE. It was sung throughout the year. There were a number of musical offerings including guitar, organ and choral concerts. The district superintendent, the Rev. Gerry Harrison preached for one service. On Centennial History Sunday, the congregation wore period costumes at an old fashioned worship service in the local park. This was followed by a church picnic. Bishop Rader preached at a service in November.

Thanks for Jill Ottow, Administrative assistant. Taken from the history written by Lydia and Lorina Goerz

145th anniversary

## PEPIN UMC

The Pepin United Methodist Church celebrated the 145th anniversary of its founding in 1995. The first service was held in the home of W.B. Newcomb, the first settler in the area. The preacher was the Rev. Hancock of Red Wing, Minnesota. A class was organized in 1852. Pepin became part of a circuit with six preaching appointments. The first building was erected in 1856, at the cost of \$470. This was the first church building of any denomination in the Eau Claire District.

The old building was destroyed during a storm in 1875. A new brick building was erected and dedicated that same year. In 1861, the German-speaking Methodists also erected a building. The two congregations merged in 1913. Services were conducted in German and English on alternate Sundays.

After the Evangelical United Brethren and Methodist Episcopal merger, the Alma EUB church was joined to the Pepin congregation for a two point charge.

Three men from the congregation entered the ordained ministry: John T. Garvin, G.T. Newcomb and Raymond Fleming.

The celebration for the anniversary was held on August 27, 1995. The sermon was preached by the Rev. Donald Frank, District Superintendent of the North West District. The service was followed by a potluck lunch at which time former pastors and members were recognized. The afternoon service included several musical presentations as well as remembrances by former pastors

Taken from the history of the church.

## MEET THE MISSIONARY

Elizabeth J. Clarke, a United Methodist missionary, has spent more than forty years as an educator in service with the United Church of Christ in Japan, (the UMC partner church in Japan) She first went to Japan in 1948 as a short-term missionary, one of the fifty J-3's who responded to the urgent call from the Japanese church in the early post World War II years to come to "help rebuild the lives of young people in Japan." Her first assignment was at Fukuoka Girls School where she taught English and carried responsibilities in the Christian Life program.

During her career in Japan, Ms Clarke worked as a classroom teacher, a college professor, and a college president. She was the Field Representative in Japan for the UMC, the Executive Secretary for Educational Affairs for the Council of Cooperation of the United Church of Christ in Japan, and a trustee of a number of the Christian schools and colleges.

From 1972 until retirement, Ms Clarke was on the faculty of Aoyama Gakuin Women's College in Tokyo, one of Japan's oldest Christian women's colleges, where she taught courses in American Women's History, American Women's Literature and Women's Studies. She chaired the curriculum committee for the English Literature Department, revising its course of study to give more emphasis to regional and intercultural studies. She also chaired the English Literature Department, and served twice as interim chaplain of the college.

Working and counseling with graduates of the three schools and colleges where she taught, became a significant part of Ms Clarke's work in later years. Regular meetings with graduates focused on Bible study and examined women's issues through literature. Many invitations were forthcoming to speak to churches and organizations on educational and women's issues. She has written several articles on the history of women's education in Japan and on women's early educational history in the United States.

In addition to work in a local church Ms Clarke was an active member of the Japan YWCA. She was elected to the national board and its executive committee for three terms, serving as the chairperson of several committees: Youth Concerns, Leadership Training and Christian Identity.

Before leaving Japan, Ms Clarke was awarded the Fourth Order by the Japanese Government for her contribution to the education of women.

A native of Wisconsin, Ms. Clarke received a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a Master of Arts degree from Columbia University. Further advanced study at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in Educational Policy Studies, led Ms Clarke to specialize in the history of women's higher education in Japan. She is retired and resides at Pilgrim Place in Claremont, CA, where she is a member of Claremont United Methodist Church.

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Society of Wisconsin*

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

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