



"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

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Offer Three Options

CONFERENCE COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES CONSIDER FUTURE OF MUSEUM BUILDING

What to do with the conference museum, located next to Memorial United Methodist Church of Greenfield, in metropolitan Milwaukee, occupied much of the attention of the Conference Commission on Archives and History at its spring meeting April 12 in Sun Prairie.

Three options were offered to prevent further deterioration of the structure:

1) Turn the building over to the Muskego Historical Society to be moved to another site and used as a church for occasional services in celebrating the past. With it, the conference would turn over funds in the amount of approximately \$ 5,000 earmarked for the museum.

2) Turn the building (and funds) over to the Greenfield Historical Society, leaving the building at its present historical location.

3) Develop a program for making the museum an effective witness to our history and promote its use.

Memorial Church, located next to the historic building, voted in favor of the third option at a recent charge conference.

A recommendation to adopt the first option appears in the pre-conference reports and was one of the items of business at district sessions on May 17. Negative votes in several districts will take the item to the floor of annual conference for a final decision.

In the event that control of the building is transferred to a non-United Methodist group, all its artifacts will be retained by the conference.

WISCONSIN CONFERENCE MUSEUM TO BE FOCUS OF 1986 FALL PILGRIMAGE

Our Wisconsin Conference Museum, Greenfield, will be the focus of our 1986 Fall Historical Pilgrimage, scheduled for Saturday, October 4.

The annual event will begin with a noon meal served at Memorial United Methodist Church, located at 52nd Street and Forest Home (Hwy. 24) on the southwest side of Milwaukee.

Located on the grounds of Memorial Church, the museum is a cream-colored brick building erected in 1858 as the second building of the Zion congregation of the Evangelical Association.

The building which it replaced was a log church dedicated by Bishop John Seybert on August 4, 1844, the first Evangelical Association church building in the state.

In addition to sharing the story of the beginnings of the Evangelical Association in Wisconsin, the story of other German Methodist Churches in the Milwaukee area will be told.

Further details will be given in the September issue of Flashbacks.

A presentation of Danish-Norwegian Methodism with special reference to Wisconsin will be the program at the annual meeting of the United Methodist Historical Society of Wisconsin when it meets during annual conference at Stevens Point, May 29.

Dr. Arlow W. Andersen, author of The Salt of the Earth, a definitive history of this branch of the Methodist movement, will discuss this important part of our ethnic diversity in the Badger State.

The dinner meeting will be held in the North Private Dining Room in the lower level of Debot Dining Center at UW-Stevens Point on Thursday, May 29, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. The dining room is located in the south end of the building next to Amigos Lounge.

"Get your food in one of the cafeteria lines upstairs and carry the tray downstairs," said President Robert Kuhn. "Cost of the meal for those who do not have meal tickets is \$ 4.45."

Officers for the new conference year will be elected and plans finalized for our annual fall pilgrimage. All members of the society are encouraged to attend.

CAMBRIDGE WILLERUP UNITED METHODISTS CELEBRATE 135TH ANNIVERSARY ON MAY 4

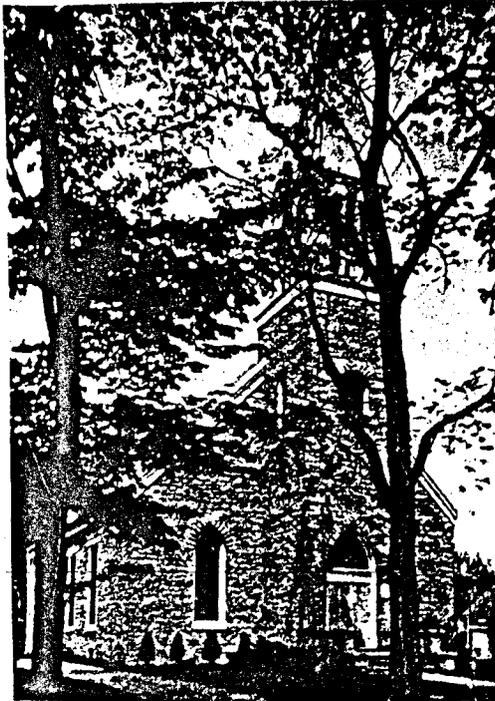
Members and friends of the Willerup Church of Cambridge celebrated their 135th anniversary on Sunday, May 4, with Milton Ford, superintendent of the South Central District, as guest speaker at the morning service.

Ford spoke on the topic, "Going Forward Together."

Other highlights of the service included a number of spontaneous testimonies from members of the audience and the joining of hands in singing, "Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love."

"Inspired by the joy of worship and of being together," Conference Historian Arlow Andersen wrote, "the congregation enjoyed a delicious and bountiful dinner served by the ladies in the fellowship hall."

The afternoon service featured a slide-cassette presentation which portrayed highlights of the history of the church since 1940. Historical memorabilia and literature were on display.



Willerup Church, Cambridge, Wis., Oldest Scandinavian Methodist Church in the world, erected 1852, as it appears today

CONFERENCE HISTORIAN RELATES HISTORY OF OLDEST SCANDINAVIAN METHODISTS
by Arlow Andersen

Christian B. Willerup, an immigrant from Denmark, organized the congregation in 1851. He had encountered Methodist evangelism in Savannah, Georgia, in 1838.

The church building dates from 1852 and is the oldest Scandinavian Methodist church on either side of the Atlantic. Willerup and other ministerial personalities such as Andrew Haagensen, Carl Eltzholtz, Otto Sanaker and Christian Omann, all prominent in the 19th century, lend distinction to this ongoing fellowship.

Other ministers of the Norwegian Danish Conference (1880-1943) followed. A few who served Cambridge longer than average were Jens Yndestad, Ole Rhrstaff, Gilbert Gilberts and Peter M. Peterson. In the church yard are graves of several former pastors.

HISTORIAN DESCRIBES PASTORS OF OLDEST SCANDINAVIAN METHODIST CHURCH
(continued from Page 2)

Willerup first ministered to Norwegians and Danes in the midwest but later spent 13 years as a missionary to Denmark.

Haagensen, an early convert to Methodism in Norway, contributed notably to the success of the Norwegian-Danish Conference in America as preacher, editor of Den Kristelige Talsmand (The Christian Advocate), and translator of as many as 300 hymns from English into Norwegian.

Eltzholtz filled pulpits in Chicago as well as in Wisconsin, Nebraska and California. He, too, was appointed missionary to Denmark, where he organized a temperance movement which claimed 170,000 members by 1912, in addition to editing the Talsmand and other journals in America.

Otto Sanaker is best remembered for his brief and meteoric career as an evangelist in Leland and Norway, in northern Illinois. He died at the age of 31 while serving the Cambridge circuit.

Omann labored to the glory of God in the upper midwest, including the sparsely inhabited Dakota Territory. The city of Waupaca named one of its streets in his honor.

As one drives to Cambridge on a beautiful Sunday morning, one's thoughts project into the past and to what may lie ahead. Visions of Willerup and his devoted successors, riding with horse and buggy on poorly marked roads to their farflung parishes, flash across the mind. The message they bore was plain and direct: "Seek ye the Lord while He may be found."

It is impossible to measure the spiritual impact upon the many who worshipped in Cambridge in the pioneering years. We do know that lives were touched and transformed.

Seldom is the work of spreading the Gospel among the foreign-born associated with American politics and government, but two United States senators once attended Sunday School in Cambridge.

Martin Johnson, son of pioneer preacher Nelson Johnson, and Knute Nelson met as boys there.



Christian B. Willerup

Nelson later established his law office in Cambridge. Tragically, he lost three little children during an epidemic there. This sad experience may have moved him to translate the Norwegian hymn, "Kom, du bedrvede," into English as "Come, Ye Disconsolate."

The Cambridge community has undergone much change through migration and intermarriage. Yet, the present minister, Harold Zimmick, together with his talented wife, Wendy, continues to observe the Scandinavian tradition.

Played as a prelude to the anniversary service was "Den store hvide flok" (The Great White Host). During the hour, people sang, "Hvor deilig det er at møtes" (How Lovely it is to Gather) and "Den himmelske lovsang" (The Heavenly Song of Praise), which some American bishops called the glory song.

Behind the pulpit, these words of assurance stood out: "Great is Thy faithfulness, O God, my Father."

Willerup church has been blessed with musical talent. Organist Marion Wormeli Gilberts has performed well and faithfully for many years, as did her mother for a half century. Edith Kenseth is the pianist. A youth band perform as well as other special groups.

A Danish-American poet, Adam Dan, wrote, "We must gather around the old, lest the new that we are building tumble. Memory is the mother of the future."

Arlow W. Anderson, Neenah, Wisconsin Conference Historian, met with the Commission on Archives and History to report on the progress of a revised church hymnal, the relationship between Moravianism and Methodism, and the thriving Methodist Church in South Korea.

"We are hopeful that William Blake's hymn, 'Sing a Song of Celebration,' will appear in the forthcoming edition," Andersen told the commission.

"The favorite hymn of the former Norwegian-Danish Conference, 'Den himmelske Lovsang (The Heavenly Song of Praise)' may also be included," he said. "Some of the bishops used to call it the glory song."

"As we grow older, we appreciate even more the impact of hymns that were sung with great fervor and sincerity in our earlier worship experiences," he told the Hymnal Commission. "This hymn was always sung at the conclusion of the annual conference and on other special occasions"

Swedish Methodism in America has at least two hymns in the present edition, both beautiful and meaningful: "How Great Thou Art," words by Carl Boberg to a Swedish melody; and "Children of the Heavenly Father," words by Caroline Sandell-Berg to a Swedish melody.

Andersen suggested that it would be well to inform our people of the origins of our hymns, how the poets came to write in their particular periods of history and something about the tunes selected.

Re: Moravianism and Methodism

READ APRIL METHODIST HISTORY

The conference historian called attention to four articles in the April, 1986 issue of Methodist History concerning the early historical relationship between Moravianism and Methodism.

Methodist Church Thriving in Korea

Andersen pointed out that the Methodist Church is thriving in South Korea, and to a lesser degree in parts of Asia and Africa.

"Seldom do we think of the great missionary movement of a former day; it seems that it is now demonstrating, generations later, the lasting quality of Christianity when it is preached and exemplified in love, sympathy and in abiding faith," he said.

"While our primary purpose is to understand, write and disseminate the history of our church in Wisconsin," he concluded, "we should keep informed on the church events, ideas and personalities throughout the nation and the world."

THERE IS A PLACE OF QUIET REST (Near to the Heart of God) -- A favorite gospel hymn from the Evangelical-United Brethren tradition. Both words and music were written in 1903 by a Presbyterian minister

There Is a Place of Quiet Rest

Heart of God, C.M. with Refrain

CLELAND B. McAFEE, 1903

CLELAND B. McAFEE, 1903

1. There is a place of quiet rest. Near to the heart of God.
 2. There is a place of comfort sweet. Near to the heart of God.
 3. There is a place of full release. Near to the heart of God.

A place where sin cannot meet. Near to the heart of God.
 where we our Savior find. Near to the heart of God.

Morning Has Broken

Unison

1. Morning has broken like
 2. Sweet the rain's fall sun
 3. Mine is the sun light

Black-bird has spo-ken lik
 Like the first dew-fall or
 Born of the one light f

Review

A "BACKWARD PROPHET" SPEAKS OUT

by William Blake

The flavor of life in a United Methodist parsonage in the post-World War II period is delightfully captured in a small book entitled Country Odyssey. Written by the late Rev. Richard G. Noble, it has recently been published by his wife, Dorothy.

The first section of the volume gives vignettes of farm life in the depression years; experiences in an open country one-room school house and in a rural church.

The second division consists of a series of musings by a country parson who chooses to call himself Haiasi--the backward prophet--Isaiah spelled backwards. They were written for publication in a church periodical and treat of the perversities of much of our modern attitudes.

DR. RAYMOND VEH TO RECEIVE AWARD FROM COMMUNICATORS COMMISSION

Dr. Raymond M. Veh, editor emeritus, was recently named as one of five persons to receive the United Methodist Communicators Hall of Fame Award for his 41 years of editorial service in the denomination.

The announcement was made when the United Methodist Commission of Communicators met in Charlestown, S. Carolina in February.

Dr. Veh will not only receive a personal plaque with the commission citation but his name will be listed with those in the Hall of Fame on the large plaque in the United Methodist Communications building in Nashville, Tenn. and in the building of the United Methodist Commission on Archives and History, located on the campus of Drew University at Madison, N. J.

"It humbled me," Dr. Veh said of his award, "but it was uplifting, for I know God opened to me a career of rare opportunity to minister to many through the printed page--and I am grateful!"



A gentle humor pervades its pages. From the early years of boyhood and youth through the years as a country pastor, the book paints pictures in which we recognize ourselves, our parishes, our contemporaries with human weaknesses and perversities--and strengths, too. Reading it is like going through a portfolio of Norman Rockwell paintings in which we recognize ourselves and the people among whom we live.

Its final section is the narration of his own love story as told to his three daughters. It gives flesh and blood to the ideal Christian family life, and calls for a renewal of the good, the true and the beautiful in our personal interrelationships. It is a book to be enjoyed and treasured.

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*Official newsletter of the United Methodist
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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*
Rev. William M. Jannusch *vice president*
Rev. Theodore Jordan, *secretary*
Linn C. Emerick, *treasurer (ex officio)*
Mrs. Ferne E. Hoeft, *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.

BARRON UNITED METHODISTS RECALL BICENTENNIAL EVENTS OF AMERICAN METHODISTS

The United Methodist Church at Barron, which observed the Bicentennial of American Methodism through the year 1984, remembers and shares some of the special events of that celebration with Flashbacks readers.

Amy L. Eggen, chairman of Barron's History and Records Committee, wrote, "Our Bicentennial Committee met several times in 1983 and then again at the beginning of 1984 to make plans for the celebration of this great event in our church."

One of their first projects, Amy wrote, consisted of the making of the Bicentennial Banner, using the pattern of our denominational logo.

Her account reads:

On March 25, 1984, our beautiful six-foot long banner was completed and displayed on a stand for the introduction to the Bicentennial Celebration.

The confirmation class shared in the presentation with each member presenting one of the early leaders of Methodism through the use of the beautiful Heritage Prints.

The next event included the District Bicentennial Celebration at the Civic Center in Eau Claire on Sunday, April 8. Several attended from our congregation, including our lay leader. They proudly displayed our banner in the parade at the Civic Center along with many from other churches.

The first of a series of articles appeared in the April Newsletter on one of the seven leaders of early Methodism. Included in the early leaders were Susanna Wesley, John and Charles Wesley, Francis Asbury, Thomas Coke, Phillip William Otterbein and Jacob Albright. The articles were taken from booklets on their lives, condensed and rewritten by Amy Eggen. Each month through October, a picture was displayed of that leader in our Fireside Room with more literature made available for those who cared to read further.

On August 19, we again "celebrated our heritage" in many ways at our morning service. Our pastor chose to use one of John Wesley's original services. Our ushers, four charming ladies, were dressed in colonial fashion and all wore ancient hats. They escorted the ladies and girls to one side of the sanctuary and the men and boys to the other. This was an old-fashioned Methodist custom.

The service opened with a Bicentennial skit featuring two ladies and a man, also dressed in colonial costumes. They invited the congregation to an "Old Fashioned Camp Meeting" to be held in the park where a "Surprise Visitor" was to appear. The visitor, "The Circuit Rider," who was dressed in appropriate regalia, rode in on his beautiful horse. After some revival singing, led by the visitor, a church picnic was enjoyed by all.

Our last special event for the year, held on Dec. 23, featured two well versed and talented ladies, who shared with us some of the history of our Evangelical United Brethren heritage.

"Our Celebration of American Methodism, spread through many months of 1984, was a very special event in the life of our church," Amy Eggen said.

