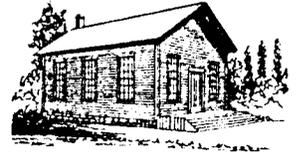




"WE are the end-product of our history."

FLASHBACKS



Revealing glimpses of our creative past

Official newsletter of the
UNITED METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN

Vol. 15 No. 2

May, 1988

Constitution to be Amended

LOIS OLSEN TO SHOW SLIDES OF ALDERSGATE AT 1988 HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING, JUNE 3

Lois Olsen, membership secretary of the United Methodist Historical Society of Wisconsin, will show her slides of Aldersgate when members and friends gather for its annual meeting at Debot Dining Center, UW-Stevens Point, on Friday evening, June 3, in celebration of John Wesley's Aldersgate experience.

The meeting will be held from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the lower level of Debot. Get your food via Express Lane 6 and carry your tray downstairs.

Following the Aldersgate presentation, plans will be made for the 1988 Historical Pilgrimage.

To Vote on Constitutional Amendment

Other items of business will include amending the constitution to make the Conference Historian and the chairperson of Archives and History ex-officio members of

the Executive Committee of the United Methodist Historical Society of Wisconsin.

At a special meeting of the Executive Committee of the Historical Society, held at Sun Prairie on April 16, Lois Olsen was assigned to keep financial records for the organization and to make regular reports as its appointed executive committee treasurer.

President Charles Sanford will open the meeting to various suggestions for improving the scope of activities of the Society. Some include ways to celebrate Aldersgate in program and in worship events in the future.

1989 Officers to be Elected

1988 ANNUAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY PILGRIMAGE WILL BE HELD AT LAKE STREET UMC, EAU CLAIRE

The United Methodist Historical Society of Wisconsin will elect officers for 1989 when it meets for its 1988 Annual Pilgrimage at Lake Street United Methodist Church on Oct. 1 to celebrate the 131st anniversary of that congregation and the history of Methodism in the Chippewa Valley.

Randell Richter, Lake Street pastor, said "The appreciation for local church history runs very deep (in the Chippewa Valley). One of our members will be available to share the diaries and memorabilia of her great-grandfather who was an early circuit rider in this region; likewise, there are others who have personal bits of information about family and friends who were involved in early Methodism around Eau Claire."

BISHOP DAVID J. LAWSON TO HOST JULY TOUR:
PEOPLE AND PLACES ALONG WESLEY'S WAY

Bishop David J. Lawson will host a 9-day tour to England, to celebrate the 250th anniversary of John Wesley's Aldersgate experience, departing July 19 from Chicago, with a 7-day extension for those who desire to continue to Scotland, Wales and England.

(A brief history of Lake Street UMC follows)

"Our Methodist Heritage"

the 250th Anniversary of Aldersgate Experience

Celebrate

A BRIEF HISTORY OF LAKE STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The roots of Methodism in Eau Claire are deep and rich. As early as 1852, the Wisconsin Conference appointed Reverend Wayne, an English preacher, to conduct worship services in Eau Claire and Chippewa Falls; however, his gentle manner prevented him from handling local troublemakers effectively. Once while he was preaching to a small audience in a local boarding house, several rowdy boatmen attacked him with stones and bottles forcing the quiet parson to scamper for safety. Reverend Wayne departed from the area never to return.

In 1857, eight people gathered for a Methodist prayer meeting in Eau Claire at the home of D.S. Hastings. Reverend William Darnell, who led that group, was appointed to the town by the Minnesota Conference shortly thereafter. Reverend Darnell organized a class meeting on the east side of the Chippewa River and returned to preach every fourth week without incident.

This first Methodist "church" numbered 66 members, 13 probationary members, and 14 officers and teachers. Meetings were held in the Presbyterian Church.

Between 1862 and 1863, Reverend Robert Cobban headed a fund drive for a building in which to worship. A lot was purchased on South Barstow Street in 1863. By 1868, the church building was completed and became fondly known as First Church. Unfortunately, as was often the case in those days, fire destroyed First Church along with many of the old records in 1909.

New First Church replaced the gutted structure in 1911 at a cost of \$30,000. The rebuilt house of worship then was located at 421 South Farwell (which now serves the Unitarian Fellowship).

While New First Church continued on the East Side, another group of Methodists formed a church on the West Side. Initially, these Methodists worshiped in a school building on the corner of Broadway and Fifth Avenue, but after the Wisconsin Conference built the Eau Claire Wesleyan Seminary in 1862, the location of which stood across the street from the present Lake Street Church, the West Side Methodists moved into the second floor of the Seminary for meetings and worship. This congregation took upon itself the name Lake Street Methodist Episcopal Church. By 1870, the growing congregation required more space, and a new building was erected across the street, on the current site, at a cost of \$15,000.

Then lovingly referred to as Old Brick Church, once again growth demanded a larger facility. Old Brick Church was razed and a new church building erected at a cost of \$45,000 in 1916. During the construction, Methodists worshiped at nearby First Congregational Church.

In 1930, members from First Church (East Side) and Lake Street Church (West Side) agreed to merge into one body. Reverend Fred Jordan was appointed pastor of the united congregations.

Excitement in the new congregation was not lacking. Once, about 1935, the large cross on the front edifice of the church crashed through the roof and landed in the foyer just before the end of a worship service! No one received any injuries.

In 1939, the Methodist Episcopal Church South, the Methodist Protestant Church, and the Methodist Episcopal Church united into the Methodist Church. Lake Street Methodist Church added an educational wing in 1955. Another merger between the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren formed the United Methodist Church in 1968. Lake Street United Methodist Church became the official name in 1970.

Lake Street United Methodist Church remodeled its sanctuary at a cost of \$250,000 in 1975. Continuing growth and activity mark a heritage of 130 years.

Celebrate

"Our Methodist Heritage"
the 250th Anniversary of Aldersgate Experience

"I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for salvation; and an assurance was given me, that He had taken away *my* sins, even *mine*, and saved *me* from the law of sin and death."



*Lois Olsen will show her Aldersgate slides at Annual Conference, Friday evening, June 3, at Debot. Use Lane 6 for Historical Society dinner meeting.

Join the
UNITED METHODIST
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
of
WISCONSIN

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*Revealing glimpses of our
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United Methodist Historical
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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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above address.