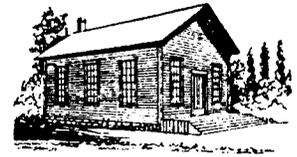




"WE are the end-product of our history."

FLASHBACKS



Revealing glimpses of our creative past

Official newsletter of the

UNITED METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN

Vol. 13 No. 3

September, 1986

Conference Museum Visit

1986 FALL PILGRIMAGE TO BEGIN WITH NOON MEAL AT GREENFIELD MEMORIAL

Our 1986 Fall Historical Pilgrimage will begin with a noon meal served at Memorial United Methodist Church, Greenfield, home of the Conference Museum, on Saturday, Oct. 4. Memorial is located at 52nd Street and Forest Home Avenue (Highway 24) on the southwest side of Milwaukee.

Presentations on the history of Memorial Church, on John Seybert, pioneer bishop of the Evangelical Association, and on the German churches of the Methodist Episcopal Church will begin at 1 p.m. The day's activities will conclude with a service at the Conference Museum building.

Dr. Raymond M. Veh, Thiensville, former editor of Builders magazine who was named this spring to United Methodist Communicators Hall of Fame, will give the presentation of Bishop John Seybert.

Rev. Milton Leisman, who entered the ministry on trial in the Chicago Northwest German Conference of the Methodist Church in 1926, will give a history on German Methodism.

Carol Brandenburg of Memorial Church will present the history of her congregation going back to the Conference Museum building itself.

* * * * *

The noon meal of Scalloped Potatoes and Ham, Green Beans, Salad, Rolls, Coffee, Tea or Milk, and Slab Apple Cake will be served by the women of Memorial Church at a cost of \$ 4.25. Reservations should be sent to Rev. Bryce Armstrong, 3450 S. 52nd Street, Greenfield, WI 53219, or telephone (414) 545-2440 by September 27.

* * * * *

Host Church Began as Poplar Creek Class of Evangelical Association

Memorial United Methodist Church began as the Poplar Creek Class of the Evangelical Association, organized in 1840 by Rev. John Lutz. Four years later a modest log church was built, the first church building of the Evangelical Association in Wisconsin. It was dedicated by Bishop John Seybert on Aug. 4, 1844. In 1858, the log church was replaced by the cream-colored brick church which is now the Conference Museum. This building served the congregation until its present building was erected in 1929.

First Milwaukee German Methodists Built Chapel Near Rescue Mission

The first German Methodist Episcopal congregation in Milwaukee was organized in 1846 and built a chapel on 5th Street, across from the present Rescue Mission. In 1848, a German District was established by the Rock River Conference with headquarters in Milwaukee. A Northwest German M. E. Conference was organized in 1864. German M. E. conferences continued work in Wisconsin until 1933.

UNITED METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN

An authorized conference organization

1. WHO MAY JOIN?
Any person who is interested in the history of our denomination and conference, indicates a desire to join, and pays the required dues.
2. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE ORGANIZATION?
 - a. To encourage the collection and preservation of records, recollections, biographies, memorials, and other pertinent materials having special reference to United Methodism in Wisconsin, including local church memorabilia.
 - b. To promote and disseminate a knowledge of United Methodist History.
3. WHAT ARE THE TYPES AND COSTS OF MEMBERSHIPS
 - a. Single membership, annually - \$3.00
 - b. Family membership, annually - \$4.00
 - c. Life membership, paid once - \$50.00
 - d. NOTE: Those who wish to purchase the magazine, Methodist History, may do so by paying an additional \$10.00, which is the cost of the subscription.
4. HOW IS THE MEMBERSHIP MONEY USED?
To publish the newsletter, Flashbacks, and finance the society's other activities, such as the annual pilgrimage.
5. WHERE SHOULD THE DUES BE SENT?
All money for membership should be sent to:

Rev. Richard A. O'Neil
415 Doty Street
Mineral Point, WI 53565

(over)

Tear off the bottom part of the sheet and send with the money for membership in the Society to Rev. Richard A. O'Neil

MEMBERSHIP FORM

_____	_____
Name	Type of Membership
_____	_____
Address	City and State

	Zip Code

Please check if you wish to subscribe to Methodist History Magazine
Please enclose payment.

6. WHAT PERIOD IS COVERED BY THE ANNUAL DUES?

All memberships start on January 1 and run through December 31. Money received now applies to the 1987 year, unless otherwise designated.

7. WHEN IS THE ANNUAL MEETING?

The Annual Meeting for 1986 will be held on Thursday night, May 29, at the site of Conference - a dinner meeting. Arlow Anderson will give a presentation on Norweigan-Danish United Methodism in the U.S.

8. WHERE WILL THE 1986 PILGRIMAGE BE HELD AND WHEN?

The 1986 Pilgrimage will be held at Greenfield:Memorial United Methodist Church in Greenfield, Wisconsin on Saturday, October 4 beginning with a noon meal. We will be looking at the Evangelical Association heritage and the German Methodist heritage. More information will come later.

9. WHAT ABOUT OUR NEWSLETTER, FLASHBACKS?

It comes out three times each year, and is mailed to every member of the Society. It contains stories relating to the history of our conference and state, accounts of local church observances, and similar interesting material. Our editor, Ferne Hoeft, needs all the material that can be sent. You can send material to her at the following address:

Ferne Hoeft
504 Northeast First Street
Box 162
Marion, WI. 54950

HISTORICAL PILGRIMAGE



1832

1986

**SATURDAY OCTOBER 4
MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

52nd. Street and Forest Home Avenue
Greenfield, WI.
(Milwaukee County)

The Schedule of the Pilgrimage is as Follows:

12:00 noon	Dinner at Memorial United Methodist Church
1:00-4:00 p.m.	Historical presentations on Memorial Church, which was organized in 1840, by Bishop John Seybert of the Evangelical Association, who dedicated its first log building in 1844 and, on German Methodism in Wisconsin. We will also visit the Conference Museum, which is located on the grounds of Memorial Church.

The cost of the noon meal will be between \$4.00 and \$4.50.
Reservations should be sent to Memorial United Methodist Church
3450 So. 52nd. Street, Greenfield, WI. 53219

SPONSORED BY THE UNITED METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN

AMERICAN METHODISM

CURIOUS LINK EXISTS BETWEEN PIONEER MILWAUKEE METHODIST AND EVANGELICAL

by Robert Blake

A curious link exists between the pioneer Methodist community in Milwaukee and the first Evangelical Association class in the state.

A Methodist class, later a church, was organized in the Milwaukee settlement in the summer of 1836. Mark Robinson, a probationer in the Illinois Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, preached in the Dr. Enoch Chase cabin in June of 1835, and was appointed pastor in the Milwaukee charge that fall.

The following summer the first class was formally organized with the following members: David Worthington, Mrs. Samuel Brown, Mrs. Uriel Firman and Mrs. J. K. Lowry.

In the fall, the Illinois Conference appointed John Clark presiding elder of the Chicago District, which included the Milwaukee work. William S. Crissy was appointed the Milwaukee pastor. The first quarterly meeting was held on Jan. 8 and 9 in the carpenter shop owned by W. A. and L. S. Kellog, who had joined the Methodist group. In the course of services held in connection with the conference, Joseph K. Lowry, who operated the first tailor shop in the settlement, was converted and joined the class.

Lowry was a fairly prosperous businessman and his household included a German girl, Christina Meinzer, as a maid. She had close ties with a number of German families who had settled in the Poplar Creek neighborhood, southwest of the growing city.

When John Lutz of the Evangelical Association came to the area and organized the first class there in 1840, Christina was among its members. The devout Lowrys encouraged her and she regularly attended the class meetings and other activities of the Poplar Creek or Greenfield group. Her presence was valued since she was firm in her faith and able to pray well in public, according to Gustav Fritsche, historian of the Evangelical movement in Wisconsin.

Here United Methodism was at work long before the term was coined.

* An interesting footnote to Rev. Blake's "curious" story concerns Dr. Veh's reference to this account as he gave it at the 1985 Pilgrimage. Dr. Veh related at that time, "As the early pioneers marched westward in the quest for new homes and greater opportunities, they took the church with them....These settlers soon realized how much they were like a sheep without a shepherd or fold. Daily they talked of this need and interceded with the Lord for a pastor. Rev. John Lutz in January, 1840, came 100 miles on horseback to the home of James Martin at Granville, 12 miles northwest of Milwaukee. It was the only address of an Evangelical family that he had in Wisconsin. He stayed two weeks, preaching to the new settlers in German. A 10-year old girl, Christina Kramer, a helper in the home, received the Lord as her Savior. She was the first convert of Evangelical Association preaching in Wisconsin."

Dr. Veh went on, "A class with Evangelical members was organized in 1840, but never a congregation. But, from this class, congregations at Greenfield, Germantown, Menomonee Falls, Colgate, Richfield and Milwaukee were established."

BISHOP JOHN SEYBERT KNOWN AS "ST. PAUL OF THE EVANGELICAL ASSOCIATION"

by Dr. Raymond M. Veh, D.D. LITT.D.

Although Jacob Albright is known as the founder of the Evangelical Association, one of the predecessor denominations that comprise the present United Methodist Church, due to Albright's early death, John Seybert became an outstanding personality in expanding the outreach of the young denomination.

As its first regularly-elected bishop, Seybert's life and zeal left an indelible imprint on the growing church. He wrought wonders in his pioneering endeavors and gave an amazing record of commitment to his own and succeeding generations.

The pioneer bachelor bishop, often called the "St. Paul of the Evangelical Association," traveled on horseback, with horse and wagon and canal boat 175,000 miles, carrying the Gospel into the opening mid-western states and into Ontario, Canada. He filled his wagon with church press literature to feed the reading-hungry pioneer constituency enroute. This helped greatly to establish our church publishing interests then and for years to come.

In 1844, Bishop Seybert dedicated the little log church, the first in Wisconsin, where Memorial Church now stands. The one-room yellow brick edifice erected 14 years later stands just behind Memorial. In 1857, he conducted the first Wisconsin Conference session of the Evangelical Association near Jefferson.

Bishop Seybert's life and work is a saga of early circuit riders, their daring to explore new trails, their evangelistic passion for the unreached, their belief in Christ's Church, and the certainty of mankind's need for the Gospel.

Hazel Northey Recaps Methodist-EUB Relationship

PLEASANT VALLEY HOSTS OCTOBER, 1985 HISTORICAL PILGRIMAGE

The Pleasant Valley church stands on the same site that was selected by our grandfathers in 1874, reported Hazel Northey, in a delightful and comprehensive presentation of the history of the Pleasant Valley church at our Historical Pilgrimage last year.

They came to a land of promise to establish a better way of living for their families and for freedom of worship, Hazel said. They first belonged to the Bible Christians of the Wisconsin District under the Canadian Conference and held their first services in the homes, in the school houses, or weather permitting, out under the blue skies.

The first Meeting House, or Station House, was at Siloam, and built in 1851. The Bible Christians of the Wisconsin District in 1859 was composed of Palmyra, Lisbon, Little Prairie, and Fort Atkinson. During 1861, Yorkville and Illinois joined, showing a total of 584 members.

In 1860, the appointments for the Palmyra Circuit were Siloam, Zion, Ottawa, Punck, McKeys, Bakers, Rome and Johnson.

As the membership continued to grow, these Bible Christians began building chapels. In 1884, they withdrew from the Canadian Conference from whence all pastors had been sent, and united with the Methodist Episcopal Church of the United States, at which time the pastors were appointed by the presiding Bishop of the Wisconsin Methodist Conference.

Transfer was effective on the 6th day of June, 1884, anniversary time for Pleasant Valley.

The pastor at that time was William Medland. At the time of transfer, trustees of the Bible Christian church were George Hooper, John Hooper, William Ebbott, Dan Burton, Joseph Griffin and George Lewis.

The Methodist Church resulted from a union in 1939 of the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Methodist Protestant Church.

Evangelical United Brethren and Methodist Churches Begin Talks

The Evangelical United Brethren Church and the Methodist church began discussion of union following World War II. In April of 1968, at the Uniting Conference held in Dallas, Texas, the United Methodist Church was born. Ralph T. Alton was the Bishop of the Wisconsin area of 600 United Methodist churches with a total membership of 165,000.

The first chapel was built in 1874 by order of the Bible Christians. It was struck by lightning and burned to the ground in August 1910. The pulpit and the Bible were saved. Most of the records were destroyed.

The present church was quickly built by volunteer labor and donations from members and many friends, June 1911. It was completed and free of debt in June of 1912. It was called Pleasant Valley Methodist Church, part of the Palmyra Circuit, Janesville District, Wisconsin Conference.

The usual redecorating, painting of interior and exterior has been taken care of down through the years. The platform and steps at the front of the sanctuary have been remodeled. The windows were removed from the west wall in 1949. In 1949-1951, a new oil burner was installed and also new electrical wiring in the basement. A kitchen was remodeled under the leadership of the Rev. Donald Francis. Dishes and cooking area was located where coats are now hung. With volunteer help, a sink and water system was installed, along with a new serving counter. The sanctuary carpeting was laid in 1954. The sump pump (now gone) was installed in 1957. Carpeting for the Sunday School rooms was bought in 1965. Also in 1965 the exterior of the church was painted by volunteer help, both young and old taking part. Some of the ladies served lunch to the workers every day. New hymnals were purchased several times.

It was recommended and voted on by the congregation to add new Sunday School rooms, enlarge the dining area, relocate the kitchen and add rest rooms in 1965. Jim Szymkowski, as carpenter, and Art Thomas, as mason, with some volunteer help enclosed the Sunday School rooms, dug a new well, installed a sink, water works, rest rooms, new ceiling lighting in the dining room, and poured new cement in the basement. New counters have been added.

In 1980, a new well was drilled for the church and pump installed. Then in 1981, the stone facing around the new addition was put on by Art Thomas. The stones were selected from the Richard Northey farm. The basement walls were refinished and painted, as was new electrical wiring along the kitchen service wall.

In 1981-1982, the stained glass windows were covered with acrylic coverings to preserve their beauty and to conserve heat. Then through Memorial Gifts, ceiling fans have been installed to circulate heat in winter and to cool the room in summer.

In February of 1983, the church used the new public address system given as a memorial in honor of Jon Lundt (Oct. 31, 1968-July 25, 1982). This allows the nursery workers to hear the church service and expands the use for weddings and other events.

Plans for the future are to replace the carpet in the sanctuary, build a level walkway from the parking lot to the top church entrance for handicapped persons.

It is the desire of the present community to continue to make the Presence of God available to all who wish to come. Ours is a caring church. The zeal of our founders is still a burning torch, one we desire to pass on to the future.

--Hazel Keays Northey

37 YEARS OF SEPTEMBER SMORGASBORDS FOR ALGOMA UNITED METHODISTS

Pearl Foshion says that Algoma United Methodists' church-wide September Smorgasbords, held annually since 1949, provide a time of good fellowship because all members are working together.

"Each one has a particular task, yet we are interested in what the other does--and often help one another," Pearl said.

"We were in the little church on Fourth Street then," she continued. "The first smorgasbord was held in the basement. Rooms were small and the kitchen was messy. There was water down there--not hot--and we had to heat it. We had a lot of sandwich and Scandinavian things that year."

Seventy-five dinners were served that first smorgasbord. By 1957, the annual event had grown to such proportions that the little church could not accommodate its 900 diners.

"So, we moved it to the Dug-Out," Pearl said. "All the townspeople helped us. We borrowed stoves from the dealers and got hot water from the creamery. Everyone had a job. Little girls waited on table and little boys were busboys. Men washed dishes in big aluminum wash tubs they brought with them. Women cooked at home and on the borrowed stoves.

"Potatis Korn (potato sausage) came from one home, Fettigmänd Bakelser (poor man's cookies) from another, Sur Sild (pickled herring) from somewhere else," she said.

The menu featured 30 Scandinavian specialties, including hot and cold meats, smoked and pickled fish, sausages, cheese, salads, relishes, desserts and 12 kinds of bread.

"And we always made rosettes. The rosette iron was dipped in batter and then in hot fat. The most we ever made was 14 batches in 1979, with 70-80 in a batch. That year," she said, "I made 1,000 cups of coffee."

Added to the original menu now are cream pudding, a combination of custard and vanilla pudding, and Swedish fruit cup. Costumes today are co-ordinated Scandinavian-decorated skirts, red vests, white aprons and caps. Men wear identical red vests.

