

THE YEARS 1947-1979
Compiled by the 90th Anniversary Church History Committee

The Rev. Edwin Bissell followed Brudevold's pastorate. He and his wife were well like. He worked well in the community and enjoyed fishing. His sermons were good. The attendance at the church built up during his term. When Bissell left, the church was without a regular pastor for a part of 1956 and 1957. Various ministers in the surrounding area filled in. There were several Sundays when lay members occupied the pulpit.

We finally secured a new pastor, Gordon Arneberg. He and his wife were very popular. They were out-going people who fit well in the community. Arneberg left to go into a Lutheran Seminary and then became a Lutheran pastor.

The Rev. Kettlewell and The Rev. John Parish served intermittently until the Rev. Robert Howard came in 1960. Howard and his wife were well-educated and had served as missionaries in Burma. He came from a southern family. Their soft and gentle ways endeared them to the church members. After being here for some time, he decided he wanted to go back to Burma, where he thought he was doing the Lord's work in a better fashion than he could in Annandale. He did, however, later serve in a smaller town in northern Minnesota.

The Rev. Donald Kinzer and his wife and family came in 1961. He was a tall man and had an extra length bed which was difficult to get into the parsonage upstairs bedroom because of the stairway. There were many problems with the old parsonage. It was not insulated, the foundation and plaster were cracked; it seemed that at each meeting of the trustees of the church there were new problems and repairs. With all that trouble with the old structure, most of the trustees were in favor of building a new parsonage. Will and Kate Bullock sold us a lot, katter-cornered in back of the church lot, for \$1,000. A building committee was appointed. Ed Thiede, who was a church member but not a frequent church-goer, felt that he should contribute to the church and he agreed to build the new parsonage. A plan was selected out of a building book and Thiede agreed to build it from something less than \$14,000. Someway in the construction, the building ended up four inches narrower at one end than it was at the other end but nobody noticed it at the time. Richard Roe, who was a skilled artisan, agreed to build kitchen cabinets. He quickly found out that the building was out of square. He spent most of the summer trying to fit all the cabinets in. He had to cut everything at a slant to make it fit. He didn't even get the cost of the materials. The church committee had told him that they would pay his daughter's tuition at the University but it was never paid. Kinzer moved into the new parsonage and later served at Monticello.

Our next pastor was The Rev. Jerry White. It was his first assignment after Theological School. His wife had a very beautiful voice and later recorded records which proved popular among the church members. Her singing was the outstanding event in the church during his pastorate.

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In October, 1965, a special quarterly conference meeting was called by Dr. I.S. Cowman, who was District Superintendent, for the purpose of appointing a Building Committee to consider remodeling the sanctuary. Ten members were elected: Elwyn Nordberg, C.M. Magnuson, Ethel VanDyk, Nobel Shadduck, Jim Carlson, Floyd Johnson, Melvin Wells, Walter Powers, Willard Kalash and Mildred Shadduck. Jim Carlson became the Chairman and Mildred Shadduck the Recording Secretary.

The Rev. Lee Paulson served the church for three years from 1946 to 1949. The Paulsons sang many duets for special music. At this time the church was suffering because they did not have Sunday School rooms and discussion began to take place as to building an addition to the church. There was much debate because there was a low place south of the main church building which, in the springtime, was always filled with water. Many people thought that a church basement built in that area would not be satisfactory. There was more debate as to the financing and much legal work was necessary to get the addition underway. At the membership meeting the vote for the addition was close but those favoring it prevailed. The clergymen, in general, wanted to follow exactly the Discipline of the Church but that had nothing to do with the legal problems so both had to be meshed together to produce a result satisfactory to the hierarchy of the church.

Finally a loan was obtained from the Annandale State Bank in the amount of \$11,000. Willard Baudoin, with a great deal of help from Kenneth Rudolph, his father Cecil Rudolph, Carl Folkerts and others, the addition was built. It wasn't finished until 1952. It included two Sunday School rooms, as office and a community room. The basement had a dining area, kitchen and lavatories. It seemed a tremendous undertaking at the time.

The Rev. K.O. Brudevold came in 1949. The addition to the church was built during his term and an organ was purchased in 1950. He served until 1953. He had a son who was just starting his ministry at the Aldersgate Methodist Church in Minneapolis. Brudevold was advanced in age and retired after his ministry in Annandale.

The Committee visited other churches to get ideas. The Methodist Church in Willmar was especially attractive. Plans were made to get Marlin D. Hutchison who had been architect for the Willmar church. Arthur Ransom had left the church \$10,000 in his will and we borrowed about \$9,000. Russlie Froemming, a member of the church, undertook the project. The work turned out very well and many compliments from different sources have been made about our very attractive sanctuary. About \$9,000 was raised by the members for furniture. On March 31, 1968, with the Rev. Robert McClelland as our pastor, A Consecration Service was held in our new sanctuary. Bishop T. Otto Nall was assisted by Dr. E.R. Praetorius and Dr. I.S. Cowman in this consecration.

On January 27, 1971, a discussion was had at an Administrative Board Meeting about remodeling the large room in the church-addition so that it could be used for a Fellowship Room. Mr. Hutchison, the architect who directed the remodeling of the Sanctuary, met with the Committee: Bud Morrow, Chairman of the Board, Elwyn Nordberg, Oscar Eklund, Pastor Robert McClelland, Melvin Wells, and Mildred Shadduck, Chairman of the Building Committee. Russlie Froemming was given the contract to remodel the room. It was called the Fireside Room. The material, labor and furnishings for the room was completely paid for with gifts from individuals, memorials and the Women's Society. The total cost was about \$5,500. Members of the furnishings Committee were: Mrs. William O'Brien, Mrs. Elwyn Nordberg, Mrs. Niel Bahr, Mrs. Kenneth Winger and Mrs. Nobel Shadduck. One April 23, 1972, the Fireside Room was consecrated. Through the arrangements of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Crusell, The American Fellowship Association, and Daryl Erickson presented an inspiring musical program.

The Rev. Wayne Abdella served the church from 1966 to 1967. He was from South Haven E.U.B. Church. This was his first assignment with the United Methodist Church. He was an excellent minister. He gave good sermons, was a good administrator and was well liked. The Zion Church in South Haven was built under his ministry there.

The Rev. Robert McClelland served the church from 1967 to 1972. He also was an excellent minister. He gave well prepared sermons, was a good administrator and has retained many friends in the community.

In 1972 The Rev. Roy Lockhart became our new pastor. He was here two years. He was a former preacher for Salvation Army and maintained this style of preaching. He left the ministry following his move to St. Paul.

The church was fortunate to get George and Pat Toschak in 1973. It was their first ministry. The first time for some years, we had a full time minister in Annandale. Pat, his wife, serves both South Haven and Kimball churches. George is a man of good will and well liked.

Delton Krueger is our District Superintendent. He has his office in Alexandria. His district includes an area from Hutchinson to the Canadian line in western Minnesota. He has 86 churches under his jurisdiction. If you had an opportunity to study his background, you would know Delton Krueger better. He was brought up on a farm and did all kinds of farm work, construction work, truck driving, janitor duty, factory work, library work and general labor. He is a Minnesota resident. He is a graduate of schools in Redwood Falls with a B.A. from Hamline University and a B.D. from Drew Theological Seminary. He is an excellent administrator. During his tenure as District Superintendent, he has

The United Methodist Women was born in 1968 with the merger of the United Brethren Church and the Methodist Church and with this merger we received the strength and dedication of two fine groups of Christian women.

The history of the various women's society leaves us to realize we have a glorious heritage and also realize that the strenghts of the church reflect itself. Throughout the record pages we see the somen ministying to the needs of the people of the church and the community - both local and worldwise - and also being practical in seeing that the church proper was "taken care of". From oiling the wood floors, buying stove wood, paying salaries, insurances, garbage disposal, and providing cleaning supplies right on through the installing stain glass window, dossal cloth, furnishings for the Fireside Room, payments on parsonage, and updating the kitchen and fellowship hall we see the women were indeed there.

It is interesting to see through the pages of a history the methods used to provide the money for these projects -- sewing linens for prospective brides, cutting rags for rugs, quilting, serving many types of meal (10¢ suppers to the banquets of today), bazaars, bake sales, and it seems a never ending supply of vanilla. Lack of funds never seemed to be recorded when a need arose the Lord seemed to guide the talents of the group in the direction of some creative endeavor and the means were there and that is still the method used today.

During these few years of UMW we have had women who have spent actually years of time seeing that the work of the church continues. It is not the amount of money made or the hours spent but the friendships sultivated and the witnesses of the faith that are important.

Histories do not end. Ask our members who are involved in this ninetieth celebration and be informed that yet another PROJECT is starting and before the Centennial there will be an education wing built. The Lord is still leading and thankfully the ladies still follow.

Pat Nordberg

United Methodist Women

My earliest memories were as a visitor to the Methodist Missionary society when Mrs. O.L. Cofield was president. Meetings were held at her home.

I did not become an active member until in the 1930's when Mrs. N.C. Smith was President, which she was for many years. These meetings were all held in the Ladies Aid rooms in the old school house.

In 1939 I was baptized by Rev. Mrs. Jardine with my two daughters, Eunice and Dorothy, joined the church.

It was in 1940 that the W.S.C.S. was formed and I became a charter member. A few years later, Rev. Brudevold visited us one day at our meeting and gave us a "pep talk" about how badly our church needed an addition. In the years that followed I was asked to be president. Remember so well one meeting (after this building had been discussed many times) I decided to get a personal opinion of each one at the meeting. The room was full seated in a big circle. We followed a person to person report of their opinions and the enthusiasm grew. I could happily report to Pastor Brudevold the project had passed.

Then began the big task of raising money, which was for the women to do.

We cooked and served many dinners to the public and at the low prices per plate at that time managed to get a fund started.

If I'm correct in saying the wedding receptions for both of my girls were the first ever served by the church, one year apart.

How hard we all worked and many a hilarious things happened through the years. One of the saddest faces I ever saw was the day Mrs. Buri came to report that the two pumpkin pies she had made fell on the floor at home. Seems they were put on a drop leaf table and it did drop a leat.

Mrs. N.C. Smith canned (cold packed) many a jar of cracklings to be saved to put in the bread dressing when we roasted chicken.

Then the building was erected and in 1952 we planned a big turkey dinner, served to the public of Annandale. Can still picture Flora Ransom and I making sage dressing in a washtub. The ceiling of the new kitchen was not completed, so Marguerite Magnuson and I nailed up dish towels a few days before, for a covering.

Those were the happy days, we made coffee in big copper boilers, with coffee grounds tied in cloth bags.

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