

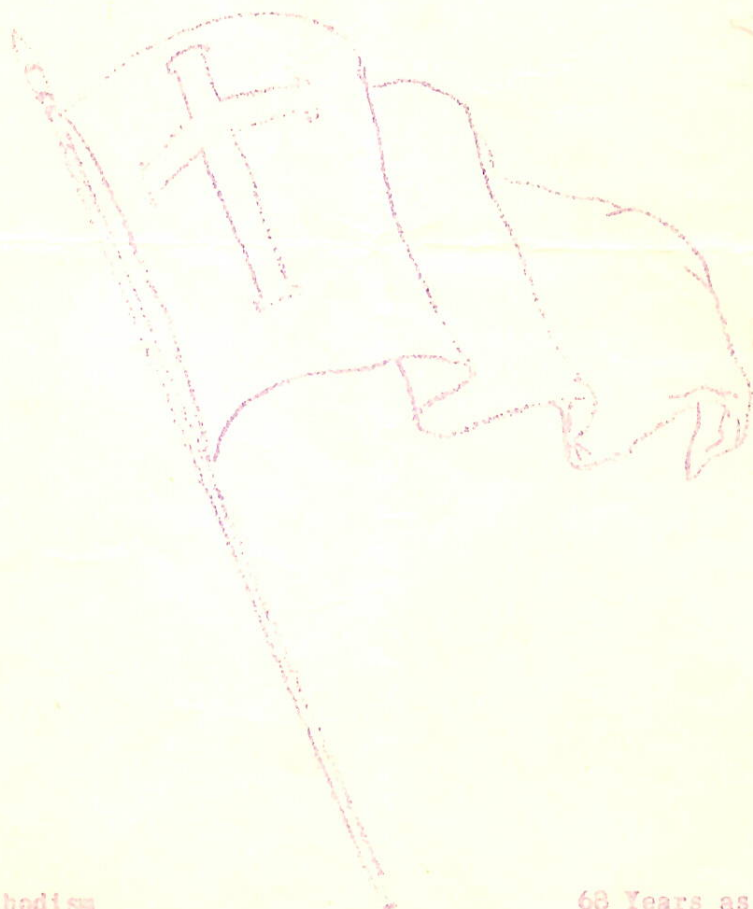
Rich Light

HISTORY

of

The Methodist Church

TILDEN, NEBRASKA



80 Years of Methodism
in this Vicinity

68 Years as Organized
Methodist Church

TILDEN METHODIST CHURCH

80 years of Methodism in Tilden vicinity-----68 years of official organization

Often it is difficult to say just when a church began. To be true to the heritage that is ours, we ought to say that there were various activities during the early years by the different groups that helped in some measure to promote beginnings of the heritage that is ours. We ought to recall at least the following influences remembering that there may have been many others:

1. 1872-73 Rev. Josiah Lowe of Clearwater vicinity came occasionally and held services in the home of Joseph McCoub.
2. 1873-75 A Sunday School was held in the Geo. Honeysett home about 5 miles southeast of town.
3. 1874-76 Rev. Jabex Charles, a Methodist minister, lived on a farm southeast of town and preached in a school house near there as well as in other parts of the county.
4. 1875 Great revival of this year held by a Baptist minister and a United Brethren minister.
5. 1876-77 Regular Methodist services began in May 1876 in a log schoolhouse and a flourishing union Sunday School was carried on. This was brought about by the above revival. In 1877 the union was dropped. F. D. Putney said "The Methodist organized in May 1876 and the meetings were held in the Log School and a flourishing Sunday School." (Thus the beginning of 68 years of Methodism in this community.)

-An interesting note- (1869-1879) When there was a meeting or a Sunday School, everybody went. In warm weather the boys and girls were bare foot, as were some of the men. Men were dressed in jeans or blue or brown denim while the women wore calico dresses.
6. A Sunday School (Methodist) was organized in 1877 west of town when a group of settlers met in Dist. 17 school house. The first teacher came came down from Oakdale on foot every 2 weeks to hold services.
7. In Tilden, Mrs. Amanda M. Burnham, a Methodist, was mainly instrumental in organizing the first Sunday School in town. It was nondenominational and was held in the depot. The first sermon preached in town was about 1879, in the depot by Rev. Kidder of the Methodist church in Norfolk.
8. 1881 Rev. C. F. Frady organized a Sunday School at Elm Grove, St. Clair, and Pleasant Valley union.
9. For sometime before we organized separately, the Methodist, Baptist, Lutheran, and the United Brethren worshiped together in a church across from where May Foss lived.
10. 1884 Methodist services were held every 2 weeks at 7:30 p.m. with Pastor T. N. Skinner officiating and Union Sunday School was held Sunday at 12:00 noon.

Thus through these influences, and others, about 1888, a Methodist church was

organized officially in Tilden. The original board members (trustees) were: Wm. Mossbarger, R. G. Harvey, and N. L. Phillips. Charter members were, beside the three above; Mrs. R. G. Harvey, Pauline Phillips, and Martha Hunt. These people purchased a school house for \$200 and moved it from the east part of town to the approximate present church location. At this time, Mrs. Fannie Ives was elected the musician of the Church and continued in this capacity as organist or pianist for 40-50 years.

The first regular pastor was Charles Rouse, a local preacher. His salary was \$400 but much of it was contributed by the giving of chickens, eggs, butter, and flour. There have been 27 men who have served the Church as pastor since Charles Rouse was pastor. The salary has raised in the years from this \$400 to a present salary of \$3000.

In August, 1893, the District Methodist Conference was held in Tilden with 40 ministers attending. Miss Mae C. Phillips conducted a revival in March 1893. On May 25, 1893, the new bell was installed.

We are unable to fill in all the blanks in our history but we do have some items and they will be taken up separately. Revivals have been a part of our heritage. Record shows a revival by Dr. Mathis in 1927 and one by Dr. C. O. Callis of Wilmore, Kentucky in 1941.

IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PROPERTY

Improvements have been many down through the years. We are able to list only some of them as follows:

1893-New bell purchased.

1901-May 18 Rev. Hutchinson solicited funds for new parsonage and 2 lots north of church. Estimated cost, \$1500. About a month later on June 22, the last \$100 was solicited toward the new parsonage.

1919-Repairs on parsonage amounting to \$95.30

Curtains were purchased for the windows of the church basement on the east side.

1920-Cupboards were installed in church kitchen along with a new range.

1921-Outside of church painted and inside painted and papered.

New carpet purchased for \$105 by Ladies Aid.

1928-Extensive remodeling was done to the extent of \$1771.

1936-100 new Methodist Hymnals were purchased.

1941-42-The interior of the church was painted and papered at a cost of \$125.

1943-44-New coal furnace installed at church at cost of \$1078.

A blackboard was purchased by the Woman's Society \$22.37

New Junior Choir Robes were purchased.

Hilco mimeograph was purchased by the Woman's Society \$50.

Furnace repaired at parsonage.

1945-South Sunday School room was remodeled into a Chapel.

1946-Water heater at parsonage \$120.

1947-Ceiling of the sanctuary was installed.

Pews were sanded and varnished.

New carpet was purchased.

20 chair chairs purchased by the Woman's Society \$140.

1949-50-Plywood was put on the basement walls.

Kitchen at church remodeled by Woman's Society for about \$403.

1952-New sidewalks around parsonage, along with new brick foundation for back porch with new back steps.

Dec. 14, 1952 Hammond Organ was purchased and dedicated.

June 1954-Began a Building Fund

Dec. 1954-Accepted plans for remodeling of Church.

Fall 1954-36 primary chairs(oak)purchased by Methodist Men's Club for the Sunday School. Cost \$110.

Feb. 1955-Woman's Society and the Wesleyan Service Guild purchased a new electric refrigerator for church kitchen for \$225.

Aug. 1955-East town torn down and rest of work on entrance way begun. Total cost of work on new entrance way was about \$2900. All work was finished in spring of 1956. Volunteer labor amounted to about \$2000 or more.

Jan. 1956-Woman's Society installed two new sinks in church kitchen at cost of \$300.

March 1956-Sanctuary and chapel repapered with volunteer help. Paper cost \$104 and was purchased by the Methodist Men's Club.
New drapes in front of choir paid for by choir.

GIFTS AND MEMORIALS TO THE CHURCH

There have been many memorials given in behalf of various individuals down through the years. We were able to list only the more recent ones. They are as follows:

Four light fixtures in the main Sanctuary:

In honor and memory of Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Ives by their children.

In memory of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Eickberg by Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Eickberg and Mr. and Mrs. D. O. Whitehorn.

In memory of L. Wells by the children.

In memory of Mr. and Mrs. George Krumm, Sr. by Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Krumm.

The choir chairs:

In memory of Mrs. Susan Kierstead by the Woman's Society of Christian Service.

The Communion Table:

In memory of Miss Tillie Saxton by Mr. and Mrs. John Saxton.

Worship Center in Church Parlor:

A memorial in memory of Mrs. Clyde McCord.

The Hammond Organ:

In memory of Mrs. G. O. Mills, Mrs. Ina L. Pearson, Ann Curtis, Dr. J. C. Meyers, Clyde McCord, Harry Frink, Ray Foss, Mrs. Geo. Platt, Mrs. S. C. Blackman, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Krumm, Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Graham, August Valentine, Grant Beed, George Schwarz, Merle Askwith, Mr. and Mrs. J. I. Osborn, Mr. Leadhol, Jack Smith, D. Smith, J. C. Wilcox, Mrs. Geo. Jockens, Mrs. Fern Hawkins Cleveland, Mrs. L. C. Hansen, Dr. Charles Cecil Barr, and A. C. Hanks.

Red bound, loose leaf Organist hymnal and a regular hymnal:

In memory of Miss Tillie Saxton by the Wesleyan Service Guild in June 1955.

Two large overhead lights in front entrance way:

In memory of John Saxton & relatives and friends, fall of 1955.

Large neon-illuminated recedar cross on the east side of the entrance way on the outside in memory of Herbert Osborn by his wife, Elizabeth, daughter, Kathryn, and granddaughter, Rosemary.

Picture of "The Lord's Supper" (large one in front of Sanctuary):

Given to the church by combine gifts of Mrs. Herbert Osborn, Mrs. G. O. Mills, Mrs. S. A. Baker, Mrs. J. C. Myers, Mrs. Ray Foss, Mrs. Jack Marshall, Mrs. Virgil Hale, Mrs. George Schwarz, Mrs. Harold Hales, and Mrs. Jim Osborn on Nov. 11, 1945.

A \$1000 Gift:

A legacy from the Isaiah Ives Estate in 1919.

A \$1000 Gift:

A legacy from the Mrs. Susan Kierstead Estate.

Stain glass effect and pictures on east windows of Sanctuary:

Service on the Mount in memory of R. R. Speicher by his family.

Christ in Gethsemane in tribute to The Builders Class.

Chimes fund:

In memory of G. O. Baker, Mr. and Mrs. James Osborn, Mrs. Effie Beed, Mrs. Rosa Barr, M. C. Catron, Herbert Osborn, L. C. Hansen, Mrs. Jane Cornett, Mrs. L. G. Ives, Palmer Moon, Mrs. Geo. Reall, Lenora Schwarz.

63 Years of The Woman's Work

The women have always been a great force for good in our church. Organized activity by the women goes back to at least 1893. Newspapers show active Ladies' Aid work with such women as Nettie Andrews, Mrs. Geo. Nelson, Julia Snider and Mrs. J. D. Rankin as members. The Ladies Aid in 1896 had 18 members: Mrs. Geo. Shippe, Sec; Mrs. Romminger (Pastor's wife), treasurer; Mrs. Martha McCombs, president. The last of these 18 charter members, Mrs. Fannie Ives, passed away in 1954. Others of these 18 were: Mrs. T. McDonald, Mrs. H. Marshall, Mrs. Nisonger, Mrs. Felix Hales, Mrs. Geo. Nelson, Mrs. Fannie Erskine, Mrs. Fred Howard, Mrs. James Buckley, Mrs. James Ray, Mrs. Susan Kiersted, Mrs. I. Ives, Mrs. B. Roberson, Mrs. H. Erskine, and Mrs. Anna Kee.

Soon after this, Home and Foreign Missionary Societies were organized and carried on through the years until they, plus the Ladies Aid, were organized into the Woman's Society of Christian Service in 1940 at the time of unification.

In 1919 we find that the Ladies Aid charged 75¢ for tying quilts. There is record of a basar and chicken pie supper on Dec. 11, 1919. Another activity the Ladies Aid participated in at various time was plays. June 20, 1923, the Ladies Aid gave a play at the Opera house and brought in \$144.

In 1926, the Ladies Aid met on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month with the Home Missionary Society meeting on the 2nd Friday of each month.

The Ladies often sewed carpet rags all afternoon for 50¢. There were many times through the years that the money contributed by the Ladies enabled the church to continue. No one can adequately pay tribute to the ladies who worked all of these years in various places of the church but we counted heavily on them in the past and will continue to do so in the future.

One item that has always been traditional in the ladies meetings have been the lunches that have been served. In going over the minutes it is interesting to see that the lunches were either dainty, nice, delicious, splendid, bountiful or bounteous.

Of the activities, the following ones were found mentioned in the various minutes: rummage sales, farm sales, Easter brunch, flower show, serving banquets, June tea, yard of pennies, attendance contests, turkey dinners, chicken dinners, white elephant exchange, grab bag, grandmothers tea, sunset tea, smorgasbord, stands at Fall Festivals, food sales, oyster suppers, birthday dinners. Of course there were many other activities but this will suffice to show some of the range of their activities and spirit.

The approximate amounts the ladies have taken in at different years is as follows:

as Ladies Aid group

1919-----\$301.00
1920-----363.00
1921-----966.39
1922-----456.82
1937-----872.21
1938-----496.38
1939-----590.73

as Woman's Society of Christian Service

1939-40-----\$440.44
1940-41-----421.85
1942-----511.13
1944-----855.49
1947-----1029.28
1948-----1061.48
1954-55 about \$2000
1955-56-----1863.00

On October 16, 1940, the Ladies Aid and the Missionary groups were organized into the Woman's Society of Christian Service. In 1941 the three circles were organized. A special Mission Study group to give further study of missions was organized a few years ago and met for a time but later dropped until 1954 when it was revived again for this special additional study of Missions, under the name of Susanna Wesley Circle.

The Woman's Society counts 61 members in their group in 1956.

The Wesleyan Service Guild, made up largely of working women was organized in 1945. The officers for that year were: Pres. Maxine Eickhoff, Vice Pres. Evelyn Speicher; Sec. Helen Weagman; Treasurer, Kathryn Morin; and Coordinator, Viola Hale. Their charter members were Maxine Eickhoff, LeRee Finley, Phoebe Foss, Violet Garrison, Viola Hale, Ruth Long, Ruth McKesver, Kathryn Morin, Ruth Mills, Lucille Myhre, Tillie Saxton, Martha Scheerger, Helen Smith, Evelyn Speicher, Christine Winder, Jean Hash and Vivene Blackman. The last four, named above, are still members of the group. The Guild is active in both home and foreign missions. In 1955, they had as their project a birthday calendar. Their membership now, is 19.

THE MEN'S WORK

We have always had the men to do their part in the church through the 68 years of our history. As organized groups comparable to the Ladies Aid and Women's Society, the church waited until about 1945 for the organization of a Methodist Men's Brotherhood. On Sept. 14, 1951, the group was officially chartered by the national organization as a Methodist Men's Club. The men have enjoyed fellowship, food, devotions, lesson, and various programs these 11 years. They have always had at least one project for the good of the church each year. In 1955, 36 primary chairs were purchased for \$110. In 1956, they bought paper for the Sanctuary for \$104. Their present membership stands at about 50.

The Choir Work

One of the essential parts of any worship service is the contribution of the choir and the music through voice and piano or organ. Every since Mrs. Fannie Ives began back in 1888 as the organist and pianist and remained such for at least 50 years, there has always been outstanding music in the church worship service. Mrs. B. E. Graham has been choir director for about 25 years and Mrs. Carl Barr has been chief organist and pianist for about 15 years. She succeeded Evelyn Osborn Baker who served for about 16 years. Others who have helped on the organ recently are: Mrs. Archie Findley, Miss Evelyn Speicher, Mrs. B. E. Graham, Miss Barbara Barr and Miss Gloria Ullrich, and Miss Rosemary Morin.

The Youth Work

Early in the life of this church a Junior League was started. An Epworth League flourished for many years and now we have the Youth Fellowship. At this time we have a Senior Youth Fellowship and an Intermediate Youth Fellowship. In 1956, Mrs. Dorothy Hales was sponsor of the Intermediates and Mr. and Mrs. Dwain Petersen sponsored the Seniors. A bulletin shows Ellen Fish and Dorothy Barr as sponsors of the Junior League in Dec. 1926. A 1893 newspaper shows an Epworth League with membership of 70, meeting every Saturday evening.

The List of Pastors

Charles Rouse	1888-1890	C. P. Lang	1913-1916
Wilson	1890-1891	R. F. Shacklock	1916-1917
D. C. Winship	1891-1892	H. Zinnecker	1917-1922
J. C. Ingersoll	1892-1893	G. H. Johnson	1922-1925
E. E. Hosman	1893-1894	Geo. Eastman	1925-1926
H. H. St. Louis	1894-1896	L. H. Blough	1926-1931
D. W. Damon	1896	C. A. Fortune	1931-1936
W. A. Rominger	1896-1900	H. Patterson	1936-1940
E. G. Hutchinson	1900-1902	R. E. Daughtee	1940-1942
J. G. Shick	1902-1903	Clarence Smith	1942-1946
E. E. Shafer	1903-1904	Dale Vestadt	1946-1949
J. W. Gortner	1904-1907	William Fawell	1949-1950
J. V. Hawk	1907-1908	E. A. Gaither	1950-1954
J. H. Hard	1908-1910	Orin D. Watson	1954-(present)
W. C. Kelley	1910-1913		

History compiled, 1956, by Rev. Orin D. Watson.
 Typed by Mrs. Howard Blatchford
 Rectographed by Miss Evelyn Speicher

Pastors of Faith United Methodist

Charles Roose 1888-1890
— Wilson 1890-1891
D.C. Thriship 1891-1892
J.C. Ingersoll 1892-1893
E.E. Hoeman 1893-1894
H.H. St. Louis 1894-1896
D.W. Domain 1896
W.A. Rominger 1896-1900
E. Hutchinson 1900-1902
A.S. Shick 1902-1903
E.E. Shofer 1903-1904
J.N. Sortner 1904-1907
J.V. Hawk 1907-1908
J.H. Hard 1908-1910
J.C. Kelley 1910-1913
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S.H. Johnson 1922-1925
Geo. Eastman 1925-1926
L.N. Blough 1926-1931
O.A. Fortune 1931-1936
H. Patterson 1936-1940
R.E. Daughtee 1940-1942
Clarence Smith 1942-1946
Dale Westcott 1946-1949
Wm. Frawell 1949-1950
E.A. Gaitner 1950-1954
O.D. Watson 1954-1956
L. Lester Hart 1956-1961
Willis R. Taplin 1961-1966
Guy M. Savage 1966-1970
R.H. Lingard 1970-1972
James Stillman 1972-1976
Jordan Price 1977-1979
Stephen S. Kim 1979-1980
Charles Stanley LaRue 1980-1985

Dr. Dan Flanagan 1985-1989
Brian Kottal 1989-1994
Larry Michael Rush 1994-1997
Peggy Michael-Rush 1994-1997
Ella Lawry 1997-2002
Janet Buehl 1997-2003
Mark Cadenbach 2002-2003
Kathy Rice 2003-2005
Pastor Will Reger 2003-2005
(Interim)
Pastor Rodger Reed 2005-
Pastor Eric Parker 2005-2006
Asst. Pastor Janice Farrell 2006-

HOW TILDEN METHODIST CHURCH WAS STARTED

80 years of Methodism in Tilden Vicinity-----68 years of official organization

Often it is difficult to say just when a church began. To be true to the heritage that is ours, we ought to say that there were various activities during the early years by the different groups that helped in some measure to promote beginnings of the heritage that is ours. We ought to recall at least the following influences remembering that there may have been many others:

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This through these influences, and others, about 1888, a Methodist church was organized officially in Tilden. The original boardmembers (trustees) were: Wm. Mossbarger, R. G. Harvey, and N. L. Phillips, and Martha Hunt. These people purchased a school house for \$200 and moved it from the east part of town to the approximate present church location. At this time, Mrs. Fannie Ives was elected the musician of the Church and continued in this capacity as organist or pianist for 40-50 years.

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