

125th Anniversary

1853 - 1978

United Methodist Church
Albion, Iowa



2020.157.1853

Donna Harmon

THE 125th ANNIVERSARY WORSHIP SERVICE

SUNDAY, October 15, 1978

Church Service 9:30 A.M.

Introit - *Morning Has Broken* Choir
(Guest preachers will go to the podium)

Pastoral Prayer

*Gloria Congregation

Call to Worship Matthew 14:22-28-29

Scripture Lesson Ephesians 2:19-22

*Hymn 3 - *Come Thou Almighty King* Congregation

Announcements (Welcome to Visitors) Gladys Shirk

Morning Offering

Offertory Prayer

Offertory Music Special

*Doxology

Anthem - *How Firm A Foundation* Choir

Children's Sermon Debra Johnson

Sermon - THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH Pastor

*Hymn 297 - *The Church is One Foundation* Congregation

*Benediction Pastor

Response by Choir

Pastor: Rev. Donald Gerken

Organist: Mrs. Marylouise Long

Pianist: Mrs. JoAnn Choate

1:30 P.M. - An informal program, consisting of historical sketches, greetings from former pastors and members, and a singspiration period will be held.

The seed of Methodism planted one hundred twenty-five years ago in fertile soil by earnest and devout pioneers in the Albion Community, (or Lafayette as it was then known), and nurtured and cultivated by that same faith and steadfastness of purpose by later generations, has blossomed forth into a century plant whose fruit has brought spiritual sustenance to countless numbers of God fearing people over the land.

It was in ¹⁸⁵³1853 when Rev. Solomon Dunton, a pioneer missionary, came to the Marshalltown mission which at that time included Marshalltown, Lafayette, Marietta, LeGrand, Indiantown, and a few other settlements. Services were held in the homes of the good people of Lafayette and in the school house for five years under the preaching of Rev. Dunton, Rev. D. H. Peterfish, William Armstrong and Rev. A. T. Shinn. In 1858 Rev. John Montgomery was called to the pastorate and was instrumental in securing the erection of the first Methodist Church in the town, a large one-room brick structure which served the congregation for a half century.

During the 125 years of its existence the Albion Church has supported 65 pastors and has been in 6 different districts, namely, Fort Dodge, Vinton, Cedar Falls, Marshalltown, Cedar Rapids, and Waterloo. In 1862 the membership numbered 100 with 220 in the Sunday School. The membership was at its lowest, 87, in 1864. The membership now is 156 members. The oldest living members in point of membership are; Rheba Neff who united with the church in 1903, Grace Graves in 1905, Vera Mantle, Gae Reidel, Ruth Bonzer, Carl Bonzer in 1911, and Hart Collins in 1912, Gladys Graham and Ray Reidel in 1915.

In 1908 the desire for a more fitting place of worship for the younger generation was fanned into action under the untiring efforts of the pastor Rev. S. D. Wyand. Eight thousand dollars was raised for the erection of the present edifice which was dedicated with no encumbrance. Since then many improvements have been made by the zealous members of the church, both men and women, who have been eager to maintain the House of God for a fit dwelling place as they have their own homes.

In 1949 the interior of the church was covered in nutwood and the basement was repainted at a total cost of about \$3,000., all paid by generous subscriptions of the membership and the Women's Society. The heating system for the church was first a wood and coal furnace. It was latter converted to oil. When this could no longer be repaired a new oil furnace was

installed in 1954. The Kum Again Sunday School Class undertook the project of putting in a cement floor in the basement and a tile floor over the cement. They drew a floor plan and sold blocks to pay for the floor and tiles. In the late 60's the roof was shingled and new eavespouting installed. The windows have all combination windows and the attic insulated. The sanctuary floor was sanded and refinished.

Dauntless women of the church, fired by an unselfish devotion to the cause of Christ, have since its formation, given of their time, money, and energy to promote the welfare of the church, and to help their sisters in other lands. In 1888 the women's Foreign Missionary Society was organized with 12 charter members. Like all new movements, the society suffered setbacks through loss of members by death, lack of interest and shortage of funds, but the women labored hard and diligently and at the close of the Conference year in 1890 had raised \$10.15. The following year this amount was considerably increased, the treasurer reporting that \$32.50 had been raised and disbursed. In later years the membership increased to 60 or more and the women through perserverence and sacrifice, raised close to \$450. each year for the cause of missions.

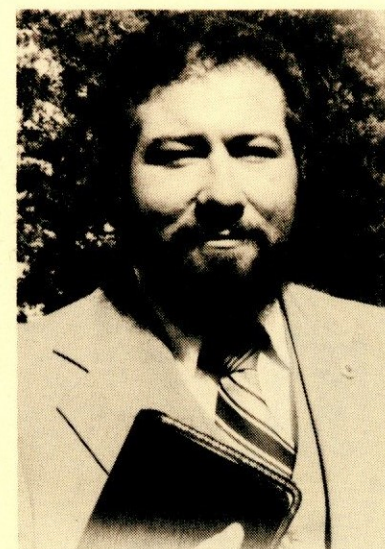
Members and money have not been the only contributions of the church to foreign missions, for two Albion girls have gone out to work in foreign fields as missionaries. In 1905, Ruth Collins went to India and later married Lyle Thoburn, a nephew of Bishop Thoburn, and continued to devote her time to the people of India until her retirement in 1937. She chose to spend her last days on her native soil and is laid to rest among her people in the Albion Cemetery. Another Albion girl, Josephine Packer, a graduate nurse, spent several years in a Mission School in Rasario, Argentina. Her last days were in Mountain View, California. Both young women were birth-right members of the Friends Church, but later chose to identify themselves with the Methodist denomination.

Carl Crouse who became a member of our church in 1911 studied to become a minister and is now living in Red Oak, Iowa. He has served many years as a Methodist minister. Elgin Howard became a member of our church under Burno Wendlant in 1959. He went on to become a minister and is now serving the Bethany Methodist Church in Marshalltown as a director of Christian Education and director of Evangelism.

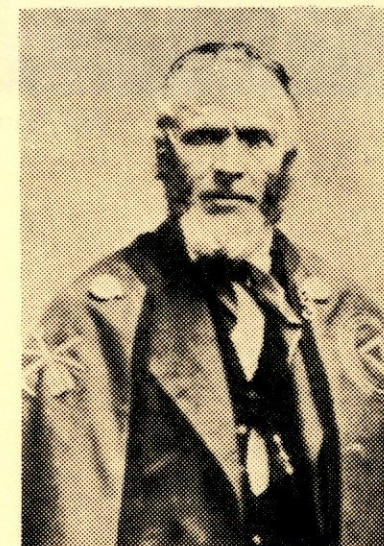
Women of the church have long been depended upon to aid in keeping up repairs on the parsonage and supplying

PASTORS WHO HAVE SERVED THE METHODIST CHURCH IN ALBION

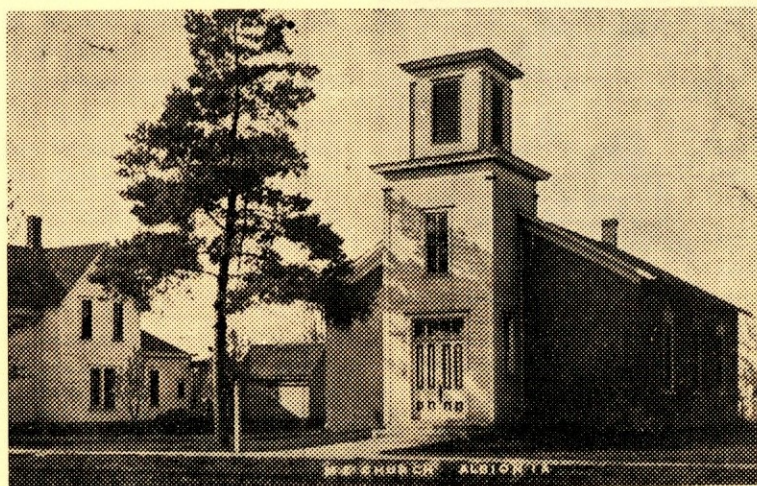
PASTORS	YEARS	PASTORS	YEARS
Rev. Solomon Dunton	1853-1854	Rev. M. A. Goodell	1901-1904
Rev. D. H. Peterfish	1854-1855	Rev. Hiram Bailey	1904-1906
Rev. W. M. Armstrong	1855-1856	Rev. H. A. Barton	1906-1907
Rev. A. T. Shinn	1856-1858	Rev. E. H. Marshall	(4 months)
Rev. John Montgomery	1858-1860	Rev. S. S. Wyand	1907-1908
Rev. Mr. Bell	1860-1861	Rev. J. S. DeLong	1908-1909
Rev. Mr. Dindley	1861-1863	Rev. A. W. Smith	1909-1910
Rev. Mr. Thompson	1863-1865	Rev. T. P. Potter	1910-1913
Rev. W. S. Dunton	1865-1866	Rev. C. E. Luce	1913-1917
Rev. J. S. Eberhart	1866-1867	Rev. A. B. Saule	1917-1919
Rev. John Montgomery	1867-1868	Rev. D. C. Perry	1919-1921
Rev. Orlyn D. Dowles	1868-1869	Rev. Samuel Knoer	1921-1924
Rev. D. M. Malery	1869-1871	Rev. A. W. Gable	1924-1927
Rev. W. Eberhart	1871-1873	Rev. L. C. Smith	1927-1930
Rev. J. A. Ward	1873-1874	Rev. Geo. M. Shoemaker	1930-1932
Rev. W. B. Frazell	1874-1875	Rev. E. R. Kildow	1932-1935
Rev. U. Eberhart	1875-1876	Rev. C. K. Hudson	1935-1938
Rev. J. M. Hedges	1876-1878	Rev. Orville Dillion	1938-1939
Rev. W. F. Barclay	1878-1880	Rev. O. E. Atkinson	1939-1942
Rev. John Dalph	1880-1882	Rev. C. W. Cleveland	1942-1946
Rev. J. H. Keppel	1882-1883	Rev. E. E. Clements	1946-1950
Rev. W. H. Slingerland	1883-1884	Rev. H. M. Tiffany	1950-1952
Rev. C. M. Wheat	1884-1885	Rev. Clifford Polson	1952-1955
Rev. R. A. Chase	1885-1886	Rev. Robert Johnson	1955-1957
Rev. C. H. Marsh	1886-1889	Rev. B. A. Wendlandt	1957-1961
Rev. W. M. Lemen	1889-1890	Rev. Duane O'Tool	1961-1963
Rev. D. S. Stabler	1890-1891	Rev. Leonard Baldwin	1963-1966
Rev. A. A. Mason	1891-1892	Rev. Dwight Garrington	1966-1967
Rev. A. A. Luce	1892-1893	Rev. Robert Winter	1967-1968
Rev. George E. Shear	1893-1894	Rev. Harlan Faris	1968-1972
Rev. E. F. Brush	1894-1895	Rev. James Riley	1972-1977
Rev. R. Swearingen	1895-1899	Rev. Donald Gerken	1977-
Rev. O. R. Newell	1889-1901		



Present Minister
Rev. Donald Gerken 1978 -



Rev. Solomon Dunton 1853-1854



Old Church