

HISTORY OF NORTH METHODIST CHURCH

In 1842 Solomon Beers (my great grandfather) laid out forty acres of land and named this area North Columbus. He, at this time, designated and gave ground for a school at the corner of Hudson and Neil Avenues. This area was approximately bounded by North Street and Arcadia Avenue on the north, the Big Four Rail Road tracks on the east, Woodruff Avenue on the south, and the Olentangy River on the west.

The first church in this area known as North Columbus was built at the northeast corner of Wilcox and High Streets about 1874. It was a one story building, with a fairly high ceiling, wooden and painted white. There were two large windows on either side, with small panes of clear glass. Solid wood doors on the front gave it somewhat the appearance of a meeting house in a Quaker Settlement. My mother, Martha Elizabeth Brown, was thirteen years old when she attended this church and could not recall whether the seats were benches or straight pews. This church was called the Welch Congregational because of so many Welsh settlers in the area. Many Welsh settlers had moved into North Columbus because of friends that had preceded them to America. Among the Welsh settlers were the Richard Browns (my great grandparents) who came to this area in 1853 and attended this Welsh Congregational Church. Other ancestors of mine settled in this area in 1802 when there were Indians and few white people in the wilderness at that time.

In the early winter of 1880 a revival meeting was held in the Welsh Congregational Church by an Evangelist Way, who was a Free Methodist. The revival meeting was quite successful, but Mr. Way was asked to leave. Several families left the church at that time because of growing differences of opinions in the worship service. They started with Cottage Prayer meetings in the home of Tilman Grim on North High Street, just south of Tompkins Street, almost across the street from the Welsh Congregational Church.

Some half-dozen families; the Benjamin Rushmers, the William Browns; the B. F. Grims; the James H. Zinns; and the Corwins, were among those in attendance in this revival meeting and were instrumental in starting the Cottage Prayer meetings. The Prayer Meeting, or Society as they referred to it then, increased with interest and attendance, and they soon had to find a meeting place other than homes. In the late spring of 1881 they secured the District School building located on West Hudson Street at Neil Avenue, which was a brick building and would accommodate about fifty or sixty people. Hudson Street was then a mud road and Neil Avenue had not been surveyed.

The Methodist pastor who covered the circuit in this territory was invited to take charge, Rev. T. A. Turner, who served the Clintonville Circuit, Clinton Chapel. Thus, the

Society identified themselves with the Methodist Church. They were able to have Sunday School in the School building now, and 31 were present the first Sunday. G. A. Frambes was the first Superintendent, and Benjamin Rushmer was his assistant.

In 1882 the congregation decided that they needed a building and subscriptions were taken. A lot was purchased at the southeast corner of Duncan and High Streets and the Clinton Chapel congregation was invited to join in the building. Clinton Church was sold in October, 1882 for \$700.00. The new church was of red brick and was erected about 30 by 60 feet with a balcony in the rear.

The Methodist Conference united the two congregations and the new Church was known as the North Columbus Methodist Episcopal Church.

Many familiar family names now joined others in the new Congregation: Websters, Legg, Bacon, Immel, Hummel, Coe, Chestnut, Wilson, Smith, Westervelt, and many others. Rev. Turner was replaced by Rev. H. L. Whitehead until 1884. Rev. E. H. Nichols followed for a three-year period, 1884-1887, and while he was there the Church was completed at a cost of about \$3,000.00 and was dedicated. It was paid for, and from the beginning this building was filled in Sunday School, as well as both morning and evening services. A frame addition was added in the rear, 20 by 30 feet, which housed the primary department, young people's meetings, prayer meetings, socials, etc.

Rev. John L. Jones was pastor from 1887 - 1889, then the North Methodist Church became a station, with Rev. Louis Postle as the regular pastor. He served for five years, from 1889 - 1894.

In 1893 the horse-drawn cars were replaced with electric street cars. This transportation brought many families north and larger church-buildings were needed. The original Welsh Congregational Church was sold and moved across the street between Blake and Maynard Avenues to be used as a rug weaving factory. The Congregationalists had built their new building at Blake and East Avenue, and called it the North Congregational Church. It was nicknamed "White Church" because it was a frame building and always painted white.

Following Rev. Postle was the Rev. Thomas H. Clark who served North Methodist Church from 1894-1897. It was during his term that the present location was bought and the new church of red brick, costing \$14,000.00 was built. It was dedicated in March 1896. The parsonage was in back of the church facing East Avenue, and the Church entrances were on East Tompkins Street. The house used for the parsonage was on the lot when it was purchased, and had an outside hydrant for drinking and cooking water. There was a cistern with a pump on the sink in the kitchen, and there was an outside toilet which was also used by the church members.

Very few streets were paved, but Tompkins Street was. Medary Avenue School had been built a few years earlier, and Tompkins Street was paved with blue paving brick. East Avenue was mud in the winter and dust in the summer. Ravines were numerous in the area. Hudson Street was also unpaved, and Neil Avenue was impassable in many areas north of Woodruff Avenue. West Dodridge Street was paved after the covered bridge was replaced with an iron structure. West Lane Avenue was paved, and then later Norwich, Northwood, Frambes, and Woodruff, just west of High Street. I remember areas between East Norwich to Patterson Avenue as a woods where cattle grazed, with the exception of one house between Oakland and Northwood. It was the first fraternity house north of Ohio State University.

Following Rev. Thomas Clark was the Rev. Joseph Clark in 1897 - 1899. Rev. Joseph Clark had two daughters and they refused to live in the parsonage, so the Official Board rented a house at 61 W. Northwood Avenue with a nice stable for their horse and carriage. It had crude plumbing, as we had in those days, but in the house. Natural gas didn't come north of Eighth Avenue until 1902, so we had to use coal for heating in stoves. If a furnace was owned, it was made of brick and very dirty.

My family rented the parsonage when I was six years old, so I remember many church people of those days. It was wonderful. We were so near the church that people came often to visit or to get hot water for cleaning, etc. Churches were never heated in those days unless it was a special service, and on Sundays. The big coal stove heated the Sunday School room for prayer meetings, socials, etc.

In the first church at the present location, the altar was in the northeast corner. The platform for the organ and choir was elevated. Several steps down from the choir loft was the rostrum with a center pulpit and three large chairs for the pastor, visiting preachers, the District Superintendent and dignitaries. In front of the pulpit was the communion area with a semi-circle railing all the way around the altar. There was also a table in front of the pulpit where the Sunday School Superintendent and the Secretary sat for Sunday School opening exercises.

The organ in this first church was a pump organ. Using the foot pedals was rather strenuous, so the organist, Anna Rushmer, paid a boy five cents to pump the bellows. A velvet curtain on brass rings somewhat hid the choir when they were seated.

The chandeliers were beautiful. The center one had three tiers of coal oil lamps with chimneys, and lovely glass globes. There were side lights as well as two smaller chandeliers in the rear. There was two circular bay windows to the west side of the church and we often had receptions in this area. The Sunday School classes used this area for the study of lessons. The windows were lovely, too. The

large one depicted Christ as the Good Shepherd, and was very inspiring when the sun was shining on Sunday morning. Other windows were memorials given by the Epworth League (now known as Methodist Youth Fellowship) and were engraved with the emblem, "Look up, lift up!"

There was four sections of very comfortable pews. Green ingrain carpeting covered the floor. Excelsior was used for padding, and of course, there were no vacuums in those days, so we swept the floor with brooms and the dust rolled. Even with the vestibules, the muddy streets caused much extra work to try and keep the church clean.

The Sunday School room was one big room, heated with a coal stove, and we had our prayer meetings in this room, as well as church dinners. When we had a dinner at church we did most of the cooking in our homes, because the church was equipped with only oil and gasoline stoves which we then used to keep the food warm. In those days at the turn of the century, we had very few telephones, and no automobiles. A few families had a horse and buggy.

With the coming of Rev. Herbert Scott, who served from 1899 - 1901, my family had to move from the parsonage, because the Scotts were quite happy to live in the parsonage and be near the church. During Rev. Scott's pastorate many people my age and in their teens united with the church.

In 1901 Rev. William (Billy) Miller, his wife and two sons came to North Church. He was outstanding in his efforts to raise money, and we were soon able to pay the balance of the \$14,000 mortgage. Burning the mortgage was a great occasion for us. Seven years to pay a \$14,000 mortgage doesn't seem very big in these days, but it was quite a remarkable task in the early 1900's. Rev. Charles Laughlin served the church from 1903 to 1906, and his wife, four daughters and one son were glad to move into the six room parsonage, and they were a fine family.

About this time Broad Street Methodist Church was remodeling. Broad Street was the nicest church in Columbus at that time and they were buying a new organ, offering to sell North Church their old one. It was an electric pipe organ, and quite lovely. At about this same time we were able to purchase a beautiful Wilton velvet carpet from the Senate Chamber, as they were buying new carpeting then. Velvet carpeting was rare in those days, and we felt very fortunate to be able to replace our worn-carpet with velvet. At this time we installed electricity in the church, changing the lights and wiring for the organ. The choir loft had to be revamped to make room for the new, larger, organ, so there wasn't a lot of space between the rostrum and the organ. We usually had about twenty in the choir. Those were happy days at North Church.

In 1906 Rev. N. D. Creamer served North Church and they were the last family to occupy the parsonage. Their family

consisted of five girls, two of which had married, and three yet at home. During these years a rift occurred and we lost many fine families, who left North Church to start a new congregation, Grace Methodist Protestant Church (Now Maynard Avenue Methodist.) Rev. Creamer was a very courageous pastor and preached as he believed. He left in 1908.

The Haddox family came next, and Rev. L. C. Haddox served the church from 1908 to 1911. The Haddox family lived on E. Maynard Avenue, just east of Findley Avenue. They had a large family. Rosalie and Boyd were very active with young people, sang in the choir and helped in many other ways. Mrs. Haddox organized a ladies chorus and this chorus sang for many church-sponsored occasions. We had many social affairs in the homes of members and in the church. I met my future husband when he joined North Church in 1905, and we were married in 1909.

Rev. Haddox was transferred by the Conference in 1911 and died a few weeks later in his new church.

Rev. J. N. Eason was our eighth pastor, and served the church from 1911 until 1915. He had three daughters and two sons, and they moved into a nice brick double on North High Street just south of Maynard Avenue. (now the parking area for the Rutherford Funeral Home.) The old parsonage was sold and moved to the corner of Tompkins and Adams Avenues.

These were years of progress. Many folks were moving north and we had an active, prosperous church. In 1912 there was a large class of men in the Sunday School, and an orchestra of twenty-five to thirty was organized. The congregation had grown to the extent that we needed more room. The Sunday School facilities were completely inadequate. The Official Board decided to remove the old Sunday School room, and build a larger two-story building, utilizing the lot where the parsonage had been. The new building had a nice, modern, kitchen and dining area which was used for the primary children on Sundays. We now had rest rooms in the church for the first time, and hot and cold running water was a real joy to the members. Approximate cost of the parsonage and the new addition was \$18,300.00.

The first floor now had class rooms that could be separated, or with folding doors that could be opened in to the Sanctuary for overflow, which we needed. This new addition now afforded us with ample room for Sunday School classes, board meetings, religious drama, etc. The second floor added more individual class rooms, and was also used as a balcony for church services.

During Rev. Eason's four years with us, the Ladies Aid went to the Ohio State Fair for the first time and sat up a lunch stand. Mrs. T. C. Lentz was President. They used a tent, gasoline stoves, and other borrowed equipment, and had a real successful project. It was such a success that they leased the ground and built a permanent frame building on

the Fair Grounds and initiated a project that continued until 1941. During World War II our building was used to store ammunition. At the close of the war we were reimbursed for the loss of our equipment, but never returned to have a concession stand at the Ohio State Fair again.

The present parsonage was built and the Eason family moved in as soon as it was completed. The Official Board had purchased the lot where the parsonage now stands, selling the house that was on that lot, moving it elsewhere on East Tompkins Street.

In 1913 during Rev. Eason's pastorate we secured a deaconess, Miss Octavia Hicks. She organized groups of girls and boys into Clubs, the Queen Esthers, and Standard Bearers (now Mary Reed Circle). Also the Home Guards, and Mother's Jewels. She taught a large class of young ladies; a combination of single and young married women. She assisted Rev. Eason by calling on new and old members, the sick, as well as many in destitute circumstances. All welfare was the responsibility of the church in those days, as there were no City Funds for any welfare work. Miss Hicks never divulged the names of those she helped.

Ohio State University was growing rapidly in those years, also, and many moved into the area for educational reasons. We had a large group of students who attended the University, who came to both Epworth League and to church on Sunday, either walking from the University area or coming by streetcar.

During the last year of Rev. Eason's pastorate at North Church, Mrs. J. M. Bowman was chosen as Director of the Choir. She served in this capacity for thirteen years, and organists who played for her during those years included Mrs. Edward Alcorn; Mrs. Dorris Lentz Barns; Miss Frances Beal; Mrs. J. C. Bickel; Mrs. Harry Grashel; Mrs. E. Taylor; and Mrs. Parker Galbraith. Choir members who sang in Mrs. Bowman's choir at one time or another during this time were Mr. and Mrs. Harry Grashel; Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Pierce; Mr. and Mrs. Walter Herron; Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Turner; Mr. and Mrs. J. Harvey Zinn; Mr. and Mrs. C. Morley; Mr. and Mrs. C. Robinson; Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Thomason; Mr. and Mrs. C. Hatton; Mrs. Belle Snyder Taylor; Miss Alice Philo; Mrs. Ottis Wolfe; Mrs. Frank Miller; Mrs. W. M. Carlisle; Mrs. Jessie Cameron; Mrs. Daisy Cunningham; Mrs. Sarah Williams; Mrs. Vera Sedden Beam; Miss Mary Ann Woodcock; Mr. and Mrs. W. Richmond; Mrs. Seth Parker; Mrs. Keneth Gulick; Mrs. Ella Mae Denn; Miss Madge Hager; Miss Bulah Eason; Mrs. Carrie Shettler; Miss Margaret Jaycox; Mrs. C. Hoover; Mrs. H. C. Elsas; Miss Ruth Poore; Mr. Allen Trumble; Mr. John Weese; Mr. Clark Wetherholt; Mr. H. C. Elsas; Mr. Harry Placier; Mr. J. Bishop; Mr. J. DeWitt; Mr. John Cummings; Mr. Arthur Weed; Mr. Charles Bowman; Mr. John Bowman; Mr. Joseph Bowman; Mr. Charlie Snyder; Mr. C. M. Wells, Mr. Bernard Schettler, and Mr. O. W. Evans.

In 1915 Rev. John Crawford Bickel and his family came to North Church. Rev. Bickel served as pastor for 15 years. Rev. and Mrs. Bickel had a son, Paul, and daughter, Eunice. Rev. Bickel was a very dignified person who always dressed in clerical attire, and was never mistaken for other than a preacher. They were fine folks and our church was very active during these years.

Mrs. Bickel could play the pipe organ if necessary, and son Paul was an accomplished violinist. It was during these years that we started the Sunrise Communion service on Easter Sunday, with Paul and his mother furnishing the soft background music. Mrs. T. C. Lentz and Clara Grim Jones planned this service and it is still a continued, impressive custom at North Church. Eunice was a young girl and very active in the Church groups. Mrs. Bickel (Idylla) taught the Ladies Bible Class of about 50 or 60 ladies.

We had many fine Evangelists during the Bickel regime, including George Wood Anderson, and Billy Phiffer, and the meetings would usually last two weeks, with afternoon Bible Study classes. These were well attended, and there was always a large crowd every night and twice on Sunday, with the entire family in attendance.

The First World War began while the Bickels were at North Church and after we entered the war the churches were closed for seven weeks to save fuel. All churches were included in this request from City officials, and this set back some church plans for awhile.

The twenties were busy, interesting, and active years at North Church. Sunday, March 10, 1929 will always be remembered by the membership at that time. Those who were in church that Sunday morning spoke of extreme heat in the Sanctuary, and it was most fortunate that people had gone home before fire broke through from an over-heated furnace. Rev. Bickel, with the help of some parishoners, was able to save only dishes, silver, other kitchen articles, and the theatre seats from the Sunday School auditorium. Some of the pews were soaked with water as well as the pulpit furniture. These were stored at the lumber yard and later sold to a colored church, together with the communion rail and pulpit chairs. The fire took its full measure of damage and destruction.

The old church was dear to all of us, and for varied reasons. Many had been enrolled on the cradle roll and had grown up through the Sunday School, dedicating their lives to Christ at the altar. Many had met their future wife or husband at the church and had their children baptized there. The emotions of those who stood and watched their church burn were full, and our hearts were close to each other on that sad day.

Our friends and neighbors at North Congregational Church and the Christian Advent Church came to our aid, and insisted

that we use their facilities until we could rebuild. As always, in darkest times, it is the Church and the members of God's House who holds out a hand to those in need. However, the Official Board was able to rent the North High School auditorium for Church services and Sunday School, and we met there the following Sunday.

Calamity had overtaken our people and now came the time for the decision; whether or not to rebuild. Most of our people felt we should rebuild yet a few others thought we should unite with another church, reminding us that the depression would greatly effect building. But when we considered that North Methodist Episcopal Church would lose its identity and be no more, it was practically a unanimous decision that we rebuild. With the \$28,000.00 insurance payment, plans were made to this end.

It was during this time that Rev. Bickel was sent to the Dayton District as District Superintendent by the Conference, and Rev. John Lewis, his wife and son Paul came to serve North Church from 1930-34.

These were difficult years. Mrs. Lewis worked hard to organize prayer meetings in the home and also started a Junior Church on Sunday.

A building committee, J. Harvey Zinn, Carson W. Damron, and J. W. (Jack) Weese was selected by the Pastor. The first Building Finance Committee was headed by Walter T. Lloyd and Floyd L. Relyea and these fine gentlemen along with some thirty others were successful in securing pledges for the estimated amount. Mr. Ralph Orr, was retained as Architect, and Mr. Frank Brown was General Contractor.

The excavation for the basement started May 16, 1931, which was over two years after the fire. October 11, 1931, Dr. I. E. Miller, then the District Superintendent, laid the corner stone.

The church structure was erected and under roof and the basement finished. With a grand processional we marched from North High School on Sunday morning, December 27, 1931 and held our services there for the balance of the winter. The next summer we used a part of the upper floors for Sunday School classes, even though we had only sub-flooring and no window glass.

The building committee inaugurated the "pay as you go" plan and as monies were received we finished parts of the building most needed. It was necessary to enclose all parts from the elements, and we secured our beautiful windows made by Von Gerichten Art Glass Company, of the style found in the Gothic Cathedrals of Europe of the Medieval period.

In 1934 Rev. Lewis was sent to Zanesville, Ohio and Rev. Fred Riley came to North Church in an exchange of pulpits. Rev. and Mrs. Riley were native of England, coming to

America soon after they were married. They had one daughter, Freda. Mrs. Riley was an ordained preacher in England, and had rode a bicycle to go about her circuit there. She taught the Sunday School Class which Miss Hicks had started, and also organized a health and physiology group of women in the church and neighborhood. Rev. Riley was an excellent preacher. He resigned from the Methodist Conference in January, 1936.

The next rung of our building ladder was reached on April 21, 1935 when the Church Auditorium was used for the first time for services, and our new organ, a gift from the Ladies Aid, was dedicated. Shortly after that we completed the second floor rooms, the upper stairways, and all the original plans, with some additions were completed.

Rev. Charles B. Harrison followed Dr. Riley, as pastor of North Church in 1936. It was mainly through his efforts and continued interest that we completed the furnishings, and the interior of the Church. The Harrison family included his wife, Mary, two sons, Everett and Edison, and daughter Marjorie. They were with us for many years and loved by the membership.

Twelve years after the plans for the new church were made, Bishop H. Lester Smith dedicated our debt-free church on September 27, 1942. We had four Sundays of triumphal celebration, and thanked God for the many blessings that had come to North Church.

So many group and individual gifts were acknowledged at this time, and I think it important that they be recorded in this history. The Women's Society of Christian Service gave the beautiful three-manual pipe organ, valued then at \$8500.00. They also furnished the parlor at a cost of \$1700.00, purchased the pews for \$1620.00, bought the pulpit and made many other donations of equal value and beauty.

The Philathea Sunday School Class furnished their room, bought forty chairs and donated the lectern. The Crusader and Fellowship Classes also furnished their own rooms. The Women's Bible Class donated the iron railing for the balcony, two flags, and other articles. Mr. and Mrs. Walter T. Lloyd donated the twenty-five bronze plates to designate the donors of the memorial windows.

Mr. Frank Howard gave the carpet for the center aisle of the Sanctuary. Dr. Carl Damron gave the cross and brass candle sticks, and the hard-of-hearing equipment. The Baptismal Font was given by Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Pierce, and the brass flower vases were given by Mrs. Bell Snyder Taylor in memory of her son, Charles, who was killed in the war.

The memorial window over the altar in the Sanctuary, depicting events in the life of Christ, was donated by Mrs. James (Elizabeth) Zinn. Mrs. J. Harvey Zinn donated all the shrubbery around the church in memory of her parents. Mrs.

W. C. (Emma) Pavey donated the money to start our beautiful rose garden, and others added to this as time went on.

Prior to the dedication the interior of the church was newly painted, which involved several months of hard volunteer labor by Mr. A. N. Deckard, O. H. Grant, A. A. Monroe, and others. Rev. Harrison contributed many hours of labor himself. Mr. Alex Immel finished the outside doors and did much work on the inside as well. Mr. George Fox donated many hours of carpenter labor before the dedication.

My husband and I made many donations, as did many other loyal, generous members. Such individual items as chimes, kneeling pads at the altar, desk, clocks, to mention only a few, were donated.

In 1940 Rev. Harrison inaugurated the Anniversary Dinners, to honor the older, long-time members of North Church. This was the 60th Anniversary of the Church, and a happy occasion. Gold members (those who had belonged to North Church from fifty to sixty years) included my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward C. (Martha) Grove; Mrs. Dora Herron; Mrs. Stella Herron; Mrs. Mary Slyh; Mrs. Callie L. Slyh; Mrs. Elizabeth Zinn; Mr. and Mrs. Harry (Ellen C.) Snyder; Mr. and Mrs. William R. (Nellie) Swoish; Mr. and Mrs. J. Jarvey (Emma) Zinn. Those taking part in the Banquet program included Harry E. Grashel, Toastmaster; William R. Swoish; J. Harvey Zinn, Dr. T. C. Lentz; C. W. Damron; Mrs. J. C. Bickel; Clark R. Wetherholt; Mrs. Homer S. Bailey; Mrs. T. C. Lentz; Elwood Geyer; and of course, our pastor, Rev. Harrison.

Silver members (those who had been members from forty to forty-nine years) included Mr. Alex Immel; Mrs. Samuel F. Maize; Mrs. Libbie E. Pease; Mr. Frank M. Howard; Mrs. Percy J. Ohlen; Mrs. Edna Evans' Mrs. J. J. Hagens; Mrs. Ada Lentz; Dr. and Mrs. (Linnie) Lentz; Mrs. David Knox; Miss Minnie Galbraith; Mr. Walter L. Herron; Mrs. Lottie E. Thrush; and Mrs. Stella Evans.

The young people were most active at North Church in these years. They promoted recreation activities, cook-outs, youth work in relation to other churches, and sports competition. Youth Fellowship flourished. The Harrison family was always involved in all church activities. Mrs. Harrison taught the Philathea Class and was a part of every project the ladies sponsored.

Rev. Harrison started and promoted the Waffle dinner in 1937, which became an annual affair at North Church. This always proved to be a big social gathering, as well as a source of money-raising for the Church.

In 1940 it was a decision of the Conference to combine the three Church Societies: the Ladies Aid; Home Missionary, and the Foreign Missionary Society, into one unified group. The newly organized group was called the Woman's Society of

Christian Service, and it has been a great success in the Church. One meeting was now taking the place of three.

District officers participated in the organization. I remember Mrs. Bertha Willis and Mrs. James White were present and assisted in the ceremony. Officers were elected at the first meeting, and Rev. Harrison installed them. It was a lovely occasion. In order to become a member of the W.S.C.S. one had to pledge her prayers, her service, and her gifts for promoting the Kingdom of God. Mrs. H. S. Bailey was elected the first President, and she was followed by Mrs. Perry E. Rutherford, Mrs. Charles W. Pavey, Mrs. L. B. Hall, Mrs. Alfred Hale, Mrs. Charles Clark, Mrs. Robert DuBoux, Mrs. James Smith, and Mrs. Cyril Ward.

When the Charter was presented from the District it was signed by those joining, who then made a contribution. We have continued to have many fine years working together for one cause. The pledge to the District for 1970 is \$1200.00, which will be given by individual pledge of the members, and from the two main projects during the coming year. In the fall we have the Church Bazaar with a turkey dinner, and in the spring the annual waffle dinner. Many improvements at the church and parsonage are also taken care of by the Woman's Society of Christian Service.

The forties were busy, progressive years at the Church. In the summer of 1949 the water pipes broke in the parsonage causing much damage to the house and furnishings. It was modernized, carpeted, and a stove and refrigerator purchased for about \$10,000.00.

On April 26, 1952 Zinn Hall was dedicated. This was an addition to the west and built as a place of worship for the children. The Zinn family donated the money to build this lovely addition to the Church, which cost over \$40,000.00, in memory of their sons Clyde and Walter. The furnishings were donated by individuals and groups, such as the altar and chairs, and I cannot recall the particular gift or the giver. In the early fifties our Church membership was between 1100 and 1200 individuals, and these were peak years.

In 1954 the kitchen was refurnished, costing \$8,500.00.

October 13, 1955 was a happy occasion at North Church when we celebrated our Diamond Jubilee with an address by Bishop Hazen G. Werner, and a banquet honoring Gold and Silver Members of North. Members who had belonged to the church from fifty to seventy-two years were as follows: J. Harvey Zinn; Mrs. J. Harvey Zinn; Mrs. William Swoish; Mrs. Estella Herron; Mrs. Harry Snyder; Harry Snyder; Mrs. Percy J. Ohlen; Mrs. Edna Evans; Mrs. J. J. Hagans; Mrs. Ada Lentz; Mrs. T. C. Lentz; Mrs. Oscar Evans; Mrs. Ollie Foreman; Mrs. Perry E. Rutherford; Hugh M. Pavey; Mrs. Glen S. Pierce; Mrs. Emma Pavey; Herbert A. Slyh; Mrs. Pearl Yost; Mrs. Elsie Seyfert; Mrs. Hugh Pavey; Mrs. Nona Harris; Mrs.

Lillian Harris; Mrs. C. W. Damron; Miss Daisy Cunningham, and Perry E. Rutherford.

In 1958 a beautiful terrazzo floor was laid in the dining room, kitchen, hall and rest rooms. The ladies bought new carpet for the parlor and Sanctuary, and the Philathea Class replaced their carpet. We put the old carpeting in the Sunday School rooms on the second floor.

In 1959 the Harrisons, with the help of members of the church, went on a trip to Europe and the Holy Land, taking many pictures of interest. Rev. Harrison's hobby was traveling and picture-taking, and through the years he shared his trips by lectures and slides.

On May 27, 1960 a reception was given in their honor. Rev. Harrison was retiring from North Church after almost twenty-five years of devoted service. They said it was the finest affair in their lives. The church was packed, and the program, a surprise, was "This is Your Life, Rev. Harrison." My son, Bill Rutherford was the master of ceremonies and continued to surprise the pastor with the many details of his life that had been obtained and were then revealed. Mrs. Charles W. (Gwen) Pavey and I had worked for many weeks to make this program a reality. We had written all of their children for help, secured the family album and a scrap book that Rev. Harrison had kept of his ministry, and had invited old friends and relatives for the occasion. In all some twenty-three relatives and friends were here from all over the United States, spending the night and having breakfast the next morning at the church.

A silver chest made by Leonard Schletter was presented to the Harrisons with \$1043.00, which represented small and large gifts from the membership. Refreshments were served in the Dining room following the program, and we really had out all of our finery for the event...silver, dishes, flowers, and the parlor furniture made a nice background for the receiving line. Everyone helped to make this grand finale a memorable one for the membership and for a Pastor and his wife who had given so much of themselves and their talents to our church for twenty-five years.

In June, 1960 the Rev. Walter D. Eyster came to North Church. His wife, Betty, sons John, James and Jerry, moved to Columbus from Chicago. Needless to say, his ministry was a difficult one, following a beloved pastor who had been at the church for twenty-five years. Prior to his coming to North Church there were many changes going on in the Methodist Conference, and he helped educate our Official Board concerning the different Commissions set up by the Conference. He organized the various Commissions, such as Evangelism; Visitation; Christian Social Concerns; Missions; Department of Christian Education in Sunday Schools; and Youth groups. Rev. Eyster secured our first paid Choir Director, and Mrs. Franklin (Phyllis) Wolf directed a youth

choir of the young people, and small children. Rev. Eyster was very faithful about taking communion to those members of the Church who could not attend.

The Eysters were an interesting family. Their older son John was in the University and studying for the ministry; James was a student at Ohio State University, and the younger boy Jerry was in Junior High School at that time. In June, 1962 Rev. Eyster was transferred to the northeast Ohio Conference and given a Church in Galion, Ohio.

Rev. Charles Lovell came to North Church from Biglow Church in Portsmouth, Ohio. We were happy to welcome Rev. Lovell, his wife Evelyn, daughter Ruth Ann, and son David to our Church family. An office had been set up in the Fellowship Class Room during Rev. Eyster's term, and we had a part-time Secretary at the Church. Rev. Lovell was given the Philathea Class Room for a much-needed Study, and it was very generous of these classes to make allowances for progress.

Rev. Lovell started having Christmas eve Candlelight services, which were well attended by members and the neighborhood. He also continued our interest in the Commissions, emphasizing the Missionary program.

The parsonage was re-decorated and recarpeted by the Woman's Society while the Lovells were with us, and the interior of the church was repainted. Small outside repairs were made as the need arose, and the church continued to serve its loyal members and the neighborhood. The sixties brought inter-city problems to the church area, and the immediate neighborhood was a changing one. Older members remained loyal, knowing that the need for the Church was more important than ever before.

Rev. J. R. Wynd, a retired minister, and his wife, joined us at North Church to assist the pastor in calling on the sick and shut-ins. He was a great help in many other ways to Rev. Lovell, and also filled the pulpit occasionally. He and his wife became a part of the congregation, and were loved by all who knew them. He retired again, in 1970.

During Rev. Lovell's pastorate our faithful organist for thirty-five years, Geraldine Wacker, retired. A reception was given in her honor with gifts in appreciation of her long service to North Church. Mr. James Eisenhart also retired as Church treasurer after thirty-five years. He was fine gentleman and had given many hours of service to the Church.

Rev. Lovell was with us for six years, leaving in 1968 to move to North College Hill Methodist Church in Cincinnati, and the Rev. Ray C. Greene came to North from Hilliard Methodist.

Rev. Greene and his wife, Alberta, moved into the parsonage, and the Woman's Society redecorated the kitchen, powder room, and second floor of their new home. Drapes were also purchased at this time.

In the later part of the sixties the Methodist Conference and the United Brethren Churches united, and North Church now was officially known as North United Methodist Church. It was with much regret that Mr. and Mrs. Ray Fullmer resigned as Communion Stewards after many, many years of faithful service. An altar Committee was organized with Mrs. Milton Holden as Chairman, and this committee functioned for all details connected with the Communion and the altar. The choir was disbanded during this time, and we had various paid soloists for church services.

After two years with us Rev. Greene retired due to ill health, and Rev. Howard Buckley, his wife and family came to us from North Linden United Methodist Church, in June 1970. His wife's name was Mary Jane, and his children were Ann, Phillip and Steven.

The seventies present new challenges to the Church and to every individual member. We have enjoyed the blessings of Christian fellowship and worship, but must realize that our responsibilities as Christians never end. May we each continue to serve by praying, working, and giving, to further the Kingdom of God in the world and in the lives of us all, as children of God.

Mrs. Perry E. (Ruth Ellen Grove) Rutherford