

One Hundred and Seventy Fifth Anniversary

Allentown United Methodist Church

Allentown, New Jersey

October 20, 1985



DEDICATION

TO PASTOR DAVID T. WILSON

Your enthusiasm and inspiration kept us going when it seemed this project was too big for us.

HISTORYCOMMITTEE

Mary Clark, Chairman

Ruth Creed

Barbara Fennimore

Clarence Fennimore

Donna Funkhouser

Phyllis Heller

David Poinsett

Joseph J. Truncer

William F. Walling

To everything there is a season, wrote the ancient preacher, and a time to every purpose under the heaven. In those words is the abiding rhythm of the rolling seasons: the stately measure of rural life since the dawn of time. At the start of the nineteenth century Allentown moved to that rhythm through a world which is now almost beyond our comprehension. Of the titanic social and scientific revolutions which would shortly shatter that world forever, there was scarcely a sign. Of our modern world, there was scarcely a hint.

That old world took its religion very seriously, indeed, and placed a proper value on a proper pious face. Religion, after all, provided an eternal sanction for a peaceful and stable social order. If it were a thing of the spirit, it was the spirit of the home and the fireside. But, if for most it was a time of quiet piety, for a few it was a time of burning faith and a search for God's own truth.

Among those afire with the spirit were the Methodist circuit riders who left the comfortable life to travel the back roads, bringing the Word to all who would hear it. In a well regulated world such people are rightly seen as a disruptive influence. It takes a particular kind of heroism to follow your calling and foresake the good opinion of society. It takes another kind to stay at home and follow that call in daily life, there were heroines in that day, too. Consider the case of Mrs. Cafferty. On June 14, 1809, the session of the Allentown Presbyterian Church noted that she had joined with the Methodists "without privity of consent". A committee was appointed to lay before her "the impropriety and obliquity of (her) conduct". What such social pressures must have meant in a small community may only be imagined. Still, a year later, there were sufficient "improper" persons of a like mind to support the permanent establishment of the Allentown Methodist Episcopal Church.

The year 1810 has now slipped irrevocably from living memory. Were it not for the labors of one man, much of the story of those early days might be lost. In 1897, as the church approached its 90th anniversary, the Reverend Sherman G. Pitt wrote a brief history incorporating the memories of some who had seen the first decades of the church's growth. As part of the 175th anniversary celebration, we have chosen to reprint his text and make it available to a new generation. It is at once the basic source of our knowledge of that period and a piece of history in its own right — a prime example of 19th century ecclesiastical prose.

In the 20th century we have yet to see the successor of Sherman Pitt; to continue our story we must rely on fragments of memory, bits of memorabilia and snippets from the pages of the Allentown Messenger. If our story becomes episodic and a trifle chaotic, perhaps, in its own way, it reflects our century as Pitt reflected his.

History of the Allentown M.E. Church

The data from which to compile a history of the early days of Methodism are very meagre. Our fathers were laying foundations which are now out of sight, but which firmly support the superstructure which has since been reared upon them. Circuits then were as large as Presiding Elders' Districts now, and a single District of those early days has since become three annual conferences. It is not strange therefore that details are hard to find relative to the early years of a Methodist church that was organized nearly a hundred years ago.

A former historian of this church, writing for the *Allentown Industry* in 1880, states that the first Methodist sermon preached in this vicinity was some time between 1790 and 1795 by Rev. David W. Bartine. But the first time that this preacher traveled in this section was in 1796, when he was stationed on the Trenton circuit. If he preached the first sermon, it probably was not earlier than 1796. But other facts lead me to believe that Methodist sermons were heard here before that date. Only a few miles from here, at Milford, lived Joseph Hutchinson, who although a Baptist, welcomed the itinerant preachers at his home. He was the grandfather of Mrs. John H. Cubberly, now a member of this church. Four of his nephews, " Robert, Ezekiel, Sylvester, and Aaron Hutchinson, all four of whom afterward became Methodist preachers, went over to Uncle *Joseph's* to 'have the small-pox,' as they were accustomed to call it in the olden time, "they caught it, for they were all converted in 1786. The youngest one, Aaron, began to travel very soon after his conversion, and the last year of his life, 1790, he was appointed to Trenton. All of these brothers preached extensively while at home. and (I it is not unreasonable to believe that one or all of them proclaimed the gospel here so near home before 1790. Rev. Chas. E. Hill, who was stationed at Allentown in 1852, states that William Foster, mentioned later in this sketch, said that Francis Asbury preached here. I failed to find any record in his journal confirming the statement, but there are frequent references to his being entertained at Joseph Hutchinson's, at Milford, and one account of a visit to " Father Lovell's " at Crosswicks.

In connection with the sermon by Rev. David W. Bartine, mentioned above, one interesting incident is related which I quote as follows: Susan Robbins, afterwards Schuyler, heard the sermon. She was then a small girl. Her father was a Friend, but he consented for her to go, but he sent her under the following instruction. 'Susan, if thee goes to the meeting, thee must do just as they do,' and faithfully did she follow the program. She stood up with them when they sang, kneeled down when they prayed, and when the Preacher arose to preach, she stood up also. "We may add she continued to do as they did by becoming a life-long Methodist. The place where this sermon was preached was in a dwelling, the residence of Mr. Frederic Miller, whose good wife

said in German accents to the man looking for a place, "Preach here." That house stood on the site now occupied by the residence of Mr. George Busby.

Methodist preachers afterwards occupied the Episcopal Church, which stood near the old tanyard, now the property of Mr. Wilson Wright. The driveway to the church door is now the driveway to the lower hotel.

There was no regular preaching until the organization of the church in 1810. In this year John Dickson, John Imlay, Jr., Samuel Lanning, Anthony Borden, Edward Page, and Samuel Robbins, were organized into a body according to law.. About that time a church was built where the African M. E. Church now stands, and services were regularly held. We notice especially the name of Edward Page. He was at that time a "Young man, an exhorter, and a school teacher. He entered the ministry and was many years in the regular work. He was also one of the organizers of the first Temperance society formed in this place." His daughter, still living, is well known to Allentown people, as Aunt Phil. Southwick."

"Rev. Charles Pitman, of fame as an orator, and of precious memory as a christian man, preached his first sermon in this house, after he received his appointment by the Presiding Elder. On his way to the place he stopped his horse near where Mr. Asher Borden's (now James Hutchinson's) grove is, tied him, and went into the woods to pray. He came from that 'calm and sure retreat,' all on fire for his holy mission, and preached with great power."

This church was then on the Trenton circuit, which included "Trenton, Bordentown, Jacobstown, Crosswicks, Waln's Mills, Allentown, Sharon, Milford, Perrines, Brunswick, Vanhises, Bethel, Princeton, Tidds, Hopewell and Fidlers."

Prominent names of the early years are mentioned, and dates of their election given as follows March 29th, 1813, John Hughes; December 30, 1816, Joseph Imlay, Robert Imlay, Daniel Hankins and James R. Freeman. Joseph Hughes was the father-in-law of Hon. Enoch Knowles and Rev. Edward Page. "On Feb. 9th, 1821, Wm. Cafferty, John Hutch, (or Clutch), Wm. Foster and Daniel Bills were elected to fill vacancies. March 22nd, 1828, Charles Beatty, Samuel Cafferty, Charles Britton and Levi Burd were elected, and in 1832 the board was composed of Wm. Foster, Charles Beatty, Samuel Cafferty, Levi Burd, Charles Britton, Asher Hankinson, and Isaac Rogers. Wm. Foster was an ordained local preacher and held in much esteem. He was a blacksmith by trade. Mr. Isaac Rogers learned the trade of him, and married his daughter. Charles Beatty was the father of Wm. Beatty, "now a member of the church. "In 1838, the trustees were Asher Hankinson, Levi Burd, Charles H. Britton, Samuel Pulling, Isaac Rogers, John McCabe and Wm. I. Brown. In 1841 Anthony W. Kennedy was elected to fill a vacancy caused by the death of Levi Burd. Samuel Pulling and Asher Hankinson resigned in 1848, and Wm. C. Rockhill and Wm. Bunting were elected." Wm. C.

Rockhill was the father of Mrs. Addie H. Beatty, now a member of the church. Wm. Bunting was the father of David M. Bunting.

Others who have served as trustees are Robert W. Miller, David Bailey, Redding Leming, John H. Cubberly, Joseph Stackhouse, Joshua N. Carr, Wm. C. Beatty, Thomas Vanderbeck and Dennis M. Jones. The present board is composed of Edmund Evernham, Johnson Lutes, Randall R. Ford, Wm. R. Savidge, Wm. A. Burk, Wm. R. Forsyth, Edward I. Bills, Hillis C. Jones and Garret V. Dennis.

About 1832, the church was removed from its first site to its present location. In 1859, when the present edifice was built, the old church was moved off and made into the double dwelling-house now occupied by Mr. James Gordon and Mr. Joseph Messler. It was first occupied in 1860, by Mr. Charles Hutchinson in the south end, and Rev. Levi I Herr in the north end. It served for some time as the parsonage.

The contract for the new church was given to Messrs. Elias B. and Benjamin Rogers, on July 14th, 1859. At that time the timbers were all in the logs, but in thirty-one days it was all framed and raised. The contract specified that the basement was to be done by the New Year, but it was ready December 1st. It also called for the upper room to be complete by April 1st, 1860, but it was done and dedicated on February 20th. Two of the preachers on that occasion were Rev. George Batchelder and Rev. Isaac W. Wiley, afterwards Bishop.

The safety of the steeple has sometimes been called in question, and the Board of Trustees ordered it to be taken down by Jan. 1st, 1885. Again in February, 1896, they decided it should be removed, but in spite of decisions and cyclones it stands safe yet.

On August 31st, 1891, the first steps were taken toward the renovation of the audience room. A committee was appointed consisting of Wm. C. Beatty, Randall R. Ford, and Daniel L. Savidge. As a result of their plans and work carried on by Mr. William Killey, we have the present cheery place of worship.

At one time lots were purchased opposite the church for the erection of a parsonage, but on the 8th of October, 1852, when Rev. Charles E. Hill was pastor, the trustees decided to build thereon a house for Sunday-school prayer meetings, &c. "A building committee was appointed with instructions to proceed immediately. Part of said building was used for a school house til 1856, when it was sold with the lot adjoining." The building is now the dwelling house owned by Mr. Albert West, and occupied by Mr. Edward Dilatush.

On June 4th of the same year a house was purchased for a parsonage on Church Street. It was held until 1859, when the property being heavily encumbered, "a public meeting was called, church and congregation invited, at which it was resolved to sell the parsonage. It was offered at public sale amid purchased by the present owner and occupant, Mr. Daniel L. Savidge."

In July, 1866, a house was purchased on Main Street and occupied as parsonage until the spring of 1886, although it had been sold to its present owner, Mr. Samuel Thompson, in September, 1884.

Meanwhile the trustees had purchased for a cemetery five acres of land on Hamilton and Broad Streets, of Mr. Josiah Borden. This is a splendid location, thoroughly dry, and is now nicely laid out in lots. It is not however, to be regarded as a denominational ground. The removal of the bodies from the old cemetery about the church occasioned the delay in erecting a new parsonage after the sale of the old one.

However, on Jan. 9th, 1885, it was decided "to build during the coming year," and Messrs. Edmund Evernham, William Robbins and Daniel L. Savidge, were constituted the building committee. Mr. Joshua N. Carr took the contract, and the house erected is regarded as one of the handsomest in the town, and seldom excelled as a parsonage by any country church. There still remains a debt of \$900 on this house. The church and parsonage with the large lawn and garden make a valuable property.

In all their efforts for the improvement and furnishing of both church and parsonage the brethren have been ably assisted by the devoted women of the church. Among the elect ladies of the early days were Susan Schuyler, the Misses Bills and the Misses Robbins. As early as "1841, Susan Thorne, Jane R. Bills, Beulah Robbins, Hannah McCabe, and Clementine S. Brown, formed a sewing circle, and with the aid of other females of the church, and friends of the society, held a fair at which they secured a sum sufficient to make several purchases. A statement of the expenditures is as follows: 'They paid seventy-five dollars on the church debt, bought a table for fifteen dollars, a plated communion set for twenty-four dollars, tablecloth for two dollars, two spittoons for one dollar and twelve and a half cents, cushion for the bible one dollar, pitcher and bowls for seventy-five cents, for the use of the church.'" From that time the ladies have worked together, their organization now being known as the "Mite Society." However their contributions are no small mites as we should realize if the amounts they have handled for the church could be estimated.

Some of the prominent Methodist families of the earlier days are John Borden, Joseph Hughes, John Hughes, Isaac Imley, Robert Miller, Asher Hankinson, John McCabe, Wm. I Brown, Charles Britton, Charles Beatty, Daniel Bills, Wm. Cafferty, Sr., Samuel Cafferty, John Rulon, and Isaac Rogers. Among the exhorters and local preachers who used to do effective service on the circuit, who lived here and near-by, were Wm. Foster, David Bowman, Daniel Bowman, John Dixon, James McCabe, Samuel Chambers, Enoch Knowles, Dr. Armour, Charles Dippolt, Bloomfield Kirkpatrick, Israel Pierce, Vincent Messler, J. Slocum, Isaac Chapman, Joseph Asay, Jacob Foulkes, and Allen Thompson. Those holding exhorter's licenses in the church today are Mr. Francis Messler, Jay Messler, and Wm. Brown.

When Allentown and Sharon became a station, in 1852, there were only two on this charge, yiz.: Robert N. Miller, and William I. Brown. Bro. Hill, the pastor, appointed the following to fill out the Board: Anthony W. Kennedy, John McCabe, John H. Cubberly, Wm. Foster, Joshua M. Beatty. Others who have held this office are J. H. Rulon, Wm. C. Beatty, Wm. Ruse, Isaac Rogers, D. Singleton, and Thos. Vanderbeck, Mrs. Johnson Lutes, Mrs. David M. Bunting, Mrs. A. A. Jones, Mrs. Anna Robbins and John Steward. The present Board of Stewards is composed of the following Edmund Evernham, who has served continuously since June 23, 1860; Johnson Lutes, Randall R. Ford, Wm. R. Forsyth, Wm. A. Burk, Dennis M. Jones, Wm. R. Savidge, Geo. V. Leming, Howard D. Bunting, Joseph Messler, John Steward, Albert H. West, Thomas Patterson and Geo. E. Hunt.

The Sabbath-School was long presided over by Mr. Isaac Rogers, and at his death Mr. Wm. R. Savidge was elected and still holds the office.

The Epworth League was organized by Rev. W. A. Lilley, the charter, No. 10.471 bearing date of June 21st, 1893. There is a membership of about eighty. The presidents have been Rev. W. A. Lilley, Rev. S. G. Pitt, and Alfred R. Bradley, now in office for the second year. This organization is a great help to the church.

The Junior League was also organized by Rev. W. A. Lilley, the charter, No. 3621, bearing date of April 24th, 1895. The Superintendents have been Mrs. A. A. Jones, Addie Ford, Eliza Savidge (now Ford), Mrs. Joseph Messler, and Rev. S. G. Pitt.

In the spring of 1853, at the close of Bro. Hill's pastorate and the first year of the Allentown station, there were in the society 140 members and 48 probationers. The net gain of the church since that time has not been large although there have been some large and precious revivals. Large additions were made under the pastorates of Bros. Stanger, Tullis, Green, Provost, Gaskill and Pitt. The present membership is 230, and four probationers.

The pastoral support has run through all the stages common to Methodist churches in their various periods of growth. Brother Hill's estimate was one hundred dollars for himself, one hundred dollars for his wife, six dollars per year for each of his two children, and one hundred and eighteen dollars for table and fuel expenses. Then came the estimate of a certain sum and a "giving visit." Then the salary was a *larger* fixed sum with no provision for a "giving visit." Now the salary is \$800. The giving visits have not ceased by any means, as the pastors can all testify, though they are not of the old type. The total amount contributed since 1852 for ministerial support, including Conference Claimants, Presiding Elders, Bishops and Pastors, is about \$28,000. The offerings during the same period for the various benevolences amount to about \$5,000.

This charge was first on the Jersey District of the Philadelphia Conference. In 1823, New Jersey was divided into two districts, and this belonged to the East Jersey District. April

12th, 1837, the New Jersey Conference was formed, including all of New Jersey, and this was a part of the Trenton District. In 1857, the New Jersey Conference was divided, that part of the State lying north of the Raritan River being known as the Newark Conference, while the southern part retained the name of the New Jersey Conference. In 1860 Allentown was put on the Burlington District and so remained until 1867, when it again became part of the Trenton District, and so remains.

Allentown has successively belonged to the "New Brunswick and Trenton," and "Trenton" charges, "Trenton Circuit," "Crosswicks Circuit," "Allentown Circuit," "Allentown and Sharon," and the "Allentown" charge.

Although the church was not organized until 1810, doubtless there was frequent preaching by the men who rode the Trenton Circuit. No doubt these regions have resounded to the shouts of such men as David W. Bartine, John McCloskey, Solomon Sharp, Jos. Osborn, Gamaliel Bailey, Thomas Ware, Samuel Budd, Daniel Higby, William Bishop, William McLenahan, Peter P. Sandford, William Fox, Jacob Hevener, Benjamin Abbott, Lorenzo Dow, Jacob Gruber, and Freeborn Garretson.

In the 20th century, we have yet to see the successor of Sherman Pitt; to continue our story we must rely on fragments of memory, bits of memorabilia and snippets from the pages of the Allentown Messenger. If our story becomes episodic and a trifle chaotic, perhaps, in its own way, it reflects our century as Pitt reflected his.

The Era of Prohibition

From January 16, 1920, to December 5, 1933, the sale and manufacture of alcoholic beverages was officially prohibited in the 48 United States and its' territories. The United Methodist and Baptist churches were leaders in the Prohibition Movement and they continued to be its foremost apologist throughout the twenties and beyond. As the tide of history began to turn against the movement, some remained sublimely convinced of its bright promise. In 1928, the Reverend Albert F. Morris, of Allentown, proclaimed that "A very large share" of the Coolidge prosperity was due to Prohibition. "There is one passenger automobile to every 1¼ families; and one radio set to every five homes in our country. Colleges have doubled their attendance in four years and schools of every kind are full to overflowing." As pastor of a rural church, he was also glad to note a 45% increase in milk sales.

Today we are more likely to see the dark side of a movement which unintentionally glamorized liquor and turned half a generation into scoff-laws. Herbert Hoover called Prohibition a great social experiment; some experiments fail. This one did and with it went much of the church's belief in legislative solutions to moral problems. Today the reliance is on individual self-discipline to achieve the church's "ideals of excellence of mind, purity of body and responsible social behavior".

The Church Buildings

The church appears to be a fixed stage on which the passing generations play out their allotted roles. But it has not been immune to changes in taste and style or to the social and economic forces which have affected Allentown since 1859. We have no picture of the sanctuary in the very early days, though a few surviving pews show that it was an austere meeting place of serious note which indicates that these staid old walls had a flamboyant and colorful youth. "The main audience room of the ME church now represents a marked change through its recent painting and redecoration. The whole of the old papering was entirely removed and oil colors have been used in the new work. The ceiling is finished in three shades of ivory, with pearl predominating in the center piece and the ornamental corners of the panels. The sidewalls and the panels are all in shades of pale green. The wooden arch and columns of the pulpit are a pale ashes-of-roses tint with touches of gilt in the moulding and carved work. A very fine effect has been obtained at the rear of the niche, which represents sunken panel work. A very noticeable change is that of the oak grained pews, wainscoting and blinds."

Other changes were made in 1909. "The altar rail and pulpit have been moved several feet outwards and the location of the organ has changed from the corner to the rear of the pulpit. This position will give a much better position for the choir which will hereafter occupy the space between the pulpit and the organ."

The outside of the building has changed as well. Reverend Pitt noted that the steeple had been judged unsafe as early as 1885. February 27, 1913, the Messenger reported, "on Monday...the steeple which has pointed heaven-wards from the roof of the M.E. Church for over 50 years was removed". It had begun to point rather more toward the neighboring Long home than heavenwards. Sawn off twelve feet from the point, it was toppled over into the street and carted away. Among the spectators were one of the original builders and the man who had made the weathervane nearly 60 years earlier.

In 1914 the sanctuary was again redecorated and this time in a way which would make it familiar to today's members. In the issue of November 19th, 1914, the Messenger described the changes. "The metal ceiling is all on and decorated and the memorial windows have all been put in. With the painters now hard at work on the side walls, woodwork, etc. the putting down of the new floor and the new seats, carpet and pulpit furniture, the pastor and the congregation will have a church to be proud of."

On Sunday, January 17, 1915, the church reopened after 3 months of renovation. The new metal ceiling was finished in buff color decorated with brown, also. The woodwork over the pulpit and in the rear of the church was finished in white with gold lead trim.

Besides the Memorial Windows, which are described elsewhere, the following Memorials were given:

A large pulpit chair by E. August Beekman and Deborah R. Miller
in memory of **Robert W. and Catherine A. Miller.**

Two side chairs by Mrs. Mary Everham and Miss Belinda Everham one in
memory of **Rev. C.F. Garrison**, former pastor, and the other in memory of his
wife, **Susan H. Garrison.**

Pulpit and two altar chairs by Mrs. Matilda Lutes in memory of her husband **Johnson Lutes**.

Communion Table by Mrs. Evernham in memory of her husband **Edmund Evernham**.

Hymn Board by **Belinda Evernham**.

Individual Communion Service by Mrs. Thomas H. Evernham in memory of her brother **Rev. Nathaniel R. Foster**.

Pulpit Hymnal by Mrs. **Linda Beatty**.

The Messenger of January 21, 1915, described the dedication follows:

“Total cost of improvements amounted to about \$2,500 which, with the exception of \$325, was raised by subscription and through the persistent efforts of the Ladies Working Band, together with the "Allentown Dramatic Association.” At the morning service the debt was reduced to \$114. A female quartet composed of Miss Anna Leming, Mrs. Nathaniel Cafferty, Mrs. Evans Ford, and Mrs. Walter Chamberlain sang. Mrs. Evans Ford played the pipe organ in the absence of Mrs. W.R. Savidge, who was absent because of her mother’s death.”

“In the evening the Presbyterian and Baptist congregations joined in the celebration with their respective pastors, Rev. Matheson and Rev. Newell. Misses Jennie Laird, Augusta Cafferty, Marion Cafferty and Etta M. Graham acted as ushers. The \$114 balance was ‘readily given by the union congregation’ freeing the church of debt. “Praise God From Whom All Blessing Flow” was sung at the conclusion of the service.”

On Memorial Day 1917, the Men’s Bible Class spent the forenoon installing city water in the church. With the 20th century well and truly arrived, at Methodist Church, the pace of change slowed and became less newsworthy until 1959.

Some have called the 1950’s the era of the “edifice complex” within the church. Allentown, as many other communities was experiencing a rapid growth in membership in the church and church school. By the mid-fifties it was obvious that an educational building must be provided for a Sunday school population of 150 that severely strained the existing facilities.

In January of 1956, the Official Board discussed the purchase of the neighboring 3/4 acre parcel belonging to Sering Thompson (later purchased), and an Expansion Committee was established chaired by Leon Black. Other members of the committee were Harry Williams Sr., Nelson Wilbur, William Mannering, Elvin Kirby, James Homer, and Gordon Poinsett.

At the July 3 meeting the Board authorized the Expansion Committee to request that Mr. William Duble, architect, draw up preliminary plans for a building. No fee was involved, but Mr. Duble would be the architect if the plans were considered feasible at a fee of 6% of the contract. By Oct, 2, 1956, the Expansion Committee presented plans

for an addition, costing approximately \$50,000. A meeting was set for Oct. 8 for congregational approval.

Sometime in the spring of 1957, a Building Fund Campaign was approved. Mr. William H. Matthews, Jr., of Department of Finance and Field Service of the Board of Missions (National Division) of the United Methodist Church, was employed to conduct the campaign. On July 2, 1957, Mr. Harry Williams, Sr., Building Fund Chairman, reported pledges of \$42,741 (of which \$37,600 was received by May 1960). In November the Official Board approved, signing a contract with Mr. Duple as architect and a beginning time of spring 1959 was set for construction, with completion by the following spring.

Three bids were received, Harry Williams, Jr., \$47,549, W.R. Hancock, \$51,016 and Emlin Hutchinson & Bro. \$54,745. At a special Quarterly Conference authorized by the Reverend F. Elwood Perkins, District Superintendent, held June 24, 1959, the Building Committee recommended acceptance of the Harry Williams, Jr. bid. It was approved unanimously by those attending: Pastor John Merwin, Mrs. Edward Mount, William Forney, Mr. & Mrs. George Parry, Mrs. Eleanor Sherrand, Mrs. Charles Book, Allen Taylor, Donald Pepler, James Homer, Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Poinsett, Leon Black, Nelson Wilbur, Charles Burtis and F. Esther Messier. The Building Committee was authorized to spend up to \$60,000 for the contract, contingencies, architect fees, and equipment (later this amount was increased).

Construction began in July 1959, one hundred years to the month, from the building of the sanctuary. The building was completed for consecration on Sunday, May 15, 1960, at the time of the 150th anniversary. A report on the Building Fund in April 1960, by Treasurer Donald W. Pepler, indicated receipts of \$69,002.77 (\$37,602.77 in pledges and contributions and \$31,400 borrowed from Farmer's National Bank), with expenses of \$68,886.10 (this included \$2,500 toward the \$10,500 cost of Thompson property and \$12,419 stone and blacktopping the parking lot).

A second financial campaign was held in July 1960, by Rev. Leon Blackman, of the Department of Finance and Field Service, with a goal of \$35,000 to pay off the debt. There were 340 members on the roll at the time, 60 members of the Woman's Society of Christian Service, 30 Methodist Men, 12 Junior High and 12 Senior High M.Y.F. members. Average attendance for worship was reported as 145 and Sunday school was 140. The church budget was \$24,261, divided between current expenses \$12,261, benevolence \$2,000 and building fund \$10,000.

The mortgage burning and dedication was held on Sunday, April 19, 1964. Participating clergy were, Pastor Earl Snyder, Rev. George Propert, District Superintendent, and the former pastors, The Reverends John Merwin, Paul Greiner, and Edmund Carlisle. Members of the church participating were Hal Runner, Lay Leader; Nelson Wilbur, President of the Trustees, Leon Black, Chairman of Building Committee; Miss F. Esther Messler, Organist; and Mrs. Ruth Poinsett, Pianist. Three memorials were also dedicated for use in the church: two brass floor candelabras given in memory of Elvin Kirby by family and friends, a Knabe grand piano given by Mr. & Mrs. Harold Black, and the communion display center in the vestibule given in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Charles Schisler, Sr. by the family.

The educational building has been a great asset to the ministry of the church and to the community. It has been used by Cub and Girl Scout groups, The Garden Club,

Camp Fire Girls, Community Chorus, the Allentown Cooperative Nursery, and by the public school system for two years

A fire set by an arsonist in the Palmer Room, Thursday, September 17, 1981, destroyed most of the furnishings in the room and caused over \$15,000 in smoke damage throughout the building. The fire was discovered about 7:00 A.M. by a neighbor passing through the parking lot. Firemen arrived within minutes of the alarm and put out the smoldering fire in the furniture that had been piled in the center of the room. Smoke was so thick that firemen could not see the front of the sanctuary from the rear when they went upstairs. Incredibly, the Farmer's Reliance Insurance Co. and its agent, Charles A. Rue, had their contractor, Associated Restoration Services, Inc. out for an inspection that afternoon and a cleaning crew on the job Friday morning cleaning and deodorizing so that the congregation was able to worship in the sanctuary Sunday morning. It took about two weeks to complete all the cleaning and painting.

Real Property of the United Methodist Church of Allentown, NJ

The church is a church of individuals each with his own talents and interests. It is to the particular interests and talents of Joseph J. Truncer that we owe the following historical notes.

Over the past 175 years the Methodist Church in Allentown, New Jersey, has been involved in many real estate transactions. The first one was April 1, 1810, when the Trustees got a lot on Paine street of John Imlay, where they '—shall erect a house worship". The street is now named "Church Street" and the lot is now occupied by the African Methodist Church. The church was erected soon thereafter, for when the Trustees on April 14, 1814, sold the rear part of the lot to a neighbor, the deed identified it as—the lot lying in the suburbs of Allen Town — where the Meeting House now stands."

On April 4, 1833, the Trustees bought from George Sinclair the lot where the church now stands at 21-23 Church Street; our present church was constructed at a cost of \$5,000 in 1859 -1860. Although the lot measured only 141' x 119' the land around the church was used as a graveyard for several decades. After land for the present cemetery, located at Broad and Hamilton Streets, was purchased on March 9, 1880, the remains of those buried near the church were removed to the new site. This freed the land so that the present parsonage could be built next to the church in 1885.

The Official Board of the church recognized in January 1956, that an educational building and off-street parking were needed if the church was to grow. At that time an Expansion Committee was established to study the problem and to make recommendations. The Committee proceeded to negotiate for the Thompson property containing 1.44 acres of land beside the parsonage and to the rear of the church, and to retain an architect to prepare preliminary plans for the addition to the church. In order to expedite the land purchase, seven members of the Church formed a limited partnership called Church Enterprises, Limited. The partners donated a total of \$2,500 which made it possible to buy the Thompson property for \$10,500 and to hold it until the church was ready to accept it. Deeds: May 9, 1959. Deeds: June 1, 1962.

The education building attached to the rear of the church was constructed and dedicated April 5, 1960.

Parsonages

The Allentown Methodist Church did not need a parsonage prior to 1852 because it was part of a Circuit served by traveling ministers. After Allentown was assigned a minister in 1852, the Trustees purchased the house at 39 Church Street from Enoch Cafferty for \$925. This property was sold in 1857 for \$1,337. (For financial reason)

From 1860 until 1866 the pastor resided at 12 Church Street in rented quarters. This was actually one half of the double dwelling that John Rogers had made by moving the old church from across the street and converting it into two dwelling units.

On September 4, 1866, the Trustees bought the house and lot at 42 North Main Street for a parsonage. This property was sold in 1885 after the present parsonage next to the church was ready for use.

The Methodist Academy and Other Properties

On January 1, 1851, the church bought a lot from George Robbins at 24 Church Street, and exactly one year later bought the adjoining lot at 26 Church Street of Abel Cafferty. The Academy was built on the Robbins' lot, but evidently it was not a financial success as it was sold March 31, 1857 for \$531. The Church sold the Abel Cafferty lot to David C. Rulon on April, 1869, for \$181.

On September 18, 1812, the Trustees of the Methodist Church of Sharon, purchased from Isaac Imlay, for \$21, a lot on the west side of Old York Road where they built a meeting house and established a cemetery. This church was abandoned before 1947, so the Southern New Jersey Conference sold the building to Frank Taylor, who used it to build his home on Extonville Road. The cemetery still occupies the church lot, so it was conveyed to the Church of Allentown, August 6, 1966. C0 1 Tf6, the Trustees bou

In Honor of Rev. Henry B. White
In Honor of Gussie M. White

Given by Mrs. Mary Evernham and Miss Belinda Evernham

Rev. Henry B. White was pastor at Allentown from 1914-1917. He is noted for two accomplishments. First, the complete renovation of the church, including the metal ceiling, hard wood floor, strained glass windows, pews and pulpit furniture which are still in use. The work was completed for a dedication service on January 17, 1915. The Second accomplishment was the organization of a Bible Class. The Allentown Messenger of Thursday, February 3, 1916, carried the story of a Bible Class being organized the previous Thursday with the help of six men and the pastor from the ME Church of Palmyra. About 30 men, "with an equal number of the opposite sex" were present. "Nearly 50 members signed cards, and the membership committee expects to hustle to make the class a very important body of the church." Officers were elected for six months. They were "President, George Wilbur, Vice President, A. C. Errickson, Secretary, William B. Mannering, Treasurer, G. V. Lemming...Rev. H. B. White, Teacher." The class met Sunday afternoons at 2:30 P.M.

Nothing is available in the church records about Rev. White's wife, Gussie, but it may be assumed that the pastor and his family were much loved and honored. A quick check of the record book of 1915-1965 reveals that 45 new members were added to the rolls by Rev. White.

In Honor of Leita Bernice White and Charles Henry White

Given by Rev. Henry B. White

Two small windows in the narrow alcove behind the pulpit were removed in 1960 when the educational building was added and the alcove deepened for the choir.

According to the January 21, 1915 Allentown Messenger they were given by Rev. White "one in honor of his daughter Leita Bernice, and one in honor of his son Charles Henry." The Anniversary Committee intends to place these two windows somewhere in the church with back lighting. Clarence Fennimore, present Lay Leader, is restoring them.

In Honor of Mary Ellen Johnson
In Honor of Beatrice M. & Robert T. Johnson

Given by Mrs. Harris P. Johnson

Mary Ellen Johnson was born Mary Ellen Tams, the daughter of the Tams who established the Greenwood Pottery in Trenton. She had three brothers and two sisters. They lived on Greenwood Avenue in Trenton. Her father was a good friend of Dr. Harris P. Johnson, a country doctor in Allentown. Dr. Johnson, born June 9, 1855, graduated from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia. Although Mary Ellen was 20 years younger than Dr. Johnson, Mr. Tams thought they would be a good match and

they were married on June 18, 1901. Mary Ellen loved good music and played the piano well. They lived at 98 S. Main Street, Allentown.

Dr. and Mrs. Johnson had two children, Beatrice Montgomery Johnson, born August 5, 1902 and Robert Tams Johnson, born July 15, 1905. On December 1, 1907 Mrs. Johnson was baptized in the Allentown Methodist Episcopal Church and received into probationary membership under the ministry of Rev, E.A. Robinson. Dr. Johnson was a member of the Allentown Baptist Church. On June 14, 1908, Beatrice and Robert were baptized by Rev. Robinson. After completing the probationary membership period Mary Ellen was received into full membership on September 4, 1908, either under Pastor Robinson or William Stone (the record is unclear). The children, Beatrice and Robert, grew up in Allentown and both were received into full membership on October 18, 1914, when Henry B. White was pastor.

Dr. Johnson died on January 21, 1920 at his sister's home in Pennsylvania after an illness lasting several months. People said he wore himself out caring for the influenza victims that year. A monument "erected as a fond tribute of esteem by his many friends and admirers" stands in front of the former Baptist Church on S. Main Street. The monument reads, "1855-1920 - Sacred to the loving memory of Dr. H.P. Johnson, an honored citizen and faithful physician of this community whose entire life of self-sacrifice was devoted to kindly deeds of mercy."

After Dr. Johnson's death, the family moved to Trenton. The 1915-1965 church record book indicates that Mrs. Johnson died in 1954. Robert Johnson was "removed (from membership) without certificate" (no date recorded). Beatrice Johnson married Harry Williams and they purchased the Johnson family home at 98 S. Main Street in Allentown. Harry Williams transferred from the First Methodist Church of Trenton to the Allentown Methodist Church June 6, 1926. Both were actively involved in the ministry of the church until their deaths, Harry on September 8, 1970 and Beatrice on February 9, 1974. They are survived by a son, Harry H. Williams, Jr. who was the contractor for the church educational building in 1959-60 and a daughter, Mary Ellen Williams who served as a Baptist missionary in Burma for six years, took a degree at Hartford Theological Seminary, and married Rev. Donald Eastridge who now teaches at Northeastern University.

In Memory of Charles T. Jones
In Honor of Alice A. Jones

Given by A.A. Jones

The 1879-1915 church records book gives little information on the Jones family. Charles' name was transferred from the previous book (which is misplaced or missing) so he had been a member before 1879. The only information given is "Deceased May 7, 1887. He died happy."

Alice was received into the church a few months after her husband's death, January 15, 1988, by letter from the Presbyterian Church. The 1915-1965 record lists her as "deceased" but gives no date.

Clara Mae Wilbur remembered her. "Everybody knew her as Aunt Alice. She had a candy store where Eva Theoharis now lives (4 S. Main Street, Allentown). She was a

little lady. She had the store at least 75 years ago. We went there to get our penny candy. Aunt Alice had a wonderful disposition. She'd let you stand there all the time to pick your candy."

In Memory of Edward R. Totten
In Honor of Kyle H. Totten

Given by Coleman Totten

The records show that Edward was received into full membership June 30, 1901 from probationary membership. The book recording his baptism is lost or misplaced. He must have been 15 years of age, for he died at age 25, ten years later. "Deceased by accident with gun, February 6, 1911, very sudden and sadly", records the pastor, C.F. Garrison. The brief account in the Allentown Messenger is more graphic, "Edward Totten, son of Coleman Totten, was killed apparently when his gun discharged accidentally on Monday, February 6, 1911. He was 25 years old. Mrs. Totten (nee Chamberlain of Lawrenceville) found her husband with his head nearly blown off behind the barn." He was a farmer and owned land where Sharon Country Club is now located, but his death is in the Hornerstown column in the paper.

Lillian L. Chamberlain was baptized October 20, 1907 by Pastor E.A. Robinson. I assume this was his wife. Kyle H. Totten was their son. There is no mention of Kyle in the records and no further entry regarding Lillian Totten. James Coleman Totten (the father of Bernice Totten Van Kirk, who is presently our local librarian) was one of Edward's brothers. Mrs. Van Kirk said that Kyle worked for the NJ State Dept of Transportation and lived in the Flemington, NJ area.

In Memory of Francis Messier
In Honor of Harriet E. Messier

Given by Mr. & Mrs. Nathaniel Cafferty and daughter, Marion

The records reveal that both Harriet and her husband, Francis, were received into membership May 1, 1877 by certificate (no granting church is given). Francis must have been very active. He is mentioned as a Trustee in a 1904 Allentown Messenger article on "Methodists of Allentown" (April 7, 1904). The records show he was a trustee in 1908 also. He was a class leader (no date) and was listed as a local preacher from 1907-12 when the license was not renewed. No reason is given; perhaps his health was poor, for he died April 27, 1914. Harriet died January 29, 1915.

Clara Mae Wilbur remembers their daughter Kate Messier Cafferty. "Their granddaughter, I'm sure, was Marion Cafferty. She taught me music. Some people will remember Kate Cafferty and her husband Nat. They lived in a little house on Hamilton Street. They had an ice cream store on Church Street where Art Burris now has his newspaper store. The children all called him Nattie (his name was Nathaniel). I used to always get ice cream free of charge. I'd go in with my little nickel and sit up at the counter and ask for an ice cream cone. He'd give me a cone and I'd offer him my nickel, and he'd say 'Oh, no, no. This is for you.' And, of course, being very polite — because

mother taught me never to ask for anything - I used to beg him to take my nickel hoping he wouldn't."

"We don't know where Marion Cafferty, their daughter, is anymore. She moved and married. Her name was Mrs. Edgar Lewis. She may still be alive. But Marion Cafferty, Esther Messier, and Betty West Homer were all young ladies in high school when I was just a little girl."

Presented by The Junior League

"We had a very active Junior League," said Clara Mae Wilbur, "when we were intermediate age." The Junior League was composed of a group of children who went to the church after school one day a week and received Bible instruction. Etta Sprague Graham's mother, Mrs. Merrill Sprague, and Clara Mae's mother were the teachers. "We learned the 10 Commandments and Beatitudes. We learned the fundamentals of the Bible."

The Epworth League, which was primarily older youth, met every Sunday night at the church. Mrs. Wilbur remembers the Junior League and the Epworth League as separate organizations, but they probably seemed so because they were for different ages and met at different times, much like a Junior High and Senior High Youth Fellowship might be today. In the "Around Home" column of the June 1, 1911, **Allentown Messenger** the 18th anniversary of the Epworth League is noted. "This Chapter (Allentown) No. 10471 was organized in 1893." It also notes that George W. Wilbur presided at the Sunday night anniversary meeting and "the officers of the six departments of the League spoke very earnestly of the duties and desires of their departments."

The Willing Workers

Reverend Pitt mentions the "Mite Society," an association of church women active in his day. In this century their place was partially taken by the Willing Workers one of whose members, Mrs. Ruth L. Creed, prepared the following history.

On April 17, 1922 a Sunday school class of sixteen young women met at the parsonage with teacher, Mrs. Emma Palmer. Mrs. Palmer was the daughter of one Methodist minister and the mother of another. The young women wished to be of service to their church and so formed the Willing Workers. They chose as their motto "Everything to help, nothing to hinder" and picked Lavender and Old Gold as their colors and appointed a Flower Committee to call on sick members of the church. The only surviving member of that first class is Anna M. Schisler.

In October of 1922, they started a fund to put electricity in the parsonage; Mrs. Palmer gave each member 25 as talent money to be increased any way the member wished. When in February of 1923 the members handed in their money the receipts totaled \$339.15.

Beginning December of 1922, they paid the parsonage telephone bill and continued doing so for the next 45 years.

Between January of 1934 and September of 1968, the Willing Workers assumed responsibility for paying the Church's apportionment of the District Superintendent's salary.

The Flower Committee was active from the beginning and is today still responsible for seeing the flowers are in the church each Sunday.

Over the years the group has contributed furniture, rugs, linoleum, hardwood floors and steps, a gas stove and refrigerator for the parsonage. They have also made the following material contributions to the growth of the church.

1924	\$100 toward kitchen fund
1926	One hundred hymnals
1927	\$100 toward fixing vestibule of church
1930	\$50 toward church budget
1936	gas stove for church kitchen
1937	\$264.54 toward church budget
1942	paid for new lights in sanctuary
1946	choir gowns for Junior Choir
1947	gave to pension fund and toward church budget
1948-50	gave to cemetery fund
1953	paid Church's assessment to Quadrennial Program
1954	senior choir robes and minister's robe
1955	new stove in church kitchen
1960	furnished Palmer Room and \$300 to Church Building Fund
1971	\$150 to Church Drive, \$300 to paper and paint parsonage dining and living rooms
1975	\$50 to United Methodist Women to help them meet their budget
1976	new light fixture for church vestibule
1978	\$50 to church treasury
1979	folding table for Palmer Room (\$75)
1981-83	for three years gave \$50 toward the Blanket Fund
1981	paid for refinishing the marble-top table in Palmer Room

The Willing Workers, for many years, took responsibility for the White Gift Service on the Sunday before Christmas.

April 24, 1982, the Willing Workers had charge of plans for the "Open House" for Mr. Leon Black who was celebrating his 100th birthday.

It was the Willing Workers idea to have a bazaar in November of 1970, so that we would have money available for things that we might want and which could not be paid for from the Church's budget. We had a profit of \$1,800 from the bazaar and took responsibility for those bazaars held in the next five years.

The following are some of the ways the Willing Workers have earned money for the church:

- Food and Bake Sales
- Rummage Sales
- Bazaar held in the church in December in the early years
- Suppers once a month for the Lion's Club (1951-1968) and two Boy Scout dinners
- The selling of vanilla, knives and dish cloths

In 1941 and again in 1942 the Willing Workers put on dinners for the "railroad men" of the Masonic Lodge at the Crescent Temple in Trenton. This earned money for the new lights put in the sanctuary in 1942.

Mrs. Palmer entertained her class at dinner every year during the Christmas season and the Willing Workers bought the brass cross in the sanctuary in her memory. Every June the Willing Workers and their husbands had a picnic with Mrs. Palmer at her home.

The Willing Workers contributed \$25 yearly from 1938-1956 to the Harvest Home Fund (then the church discontinued having a Harvest Home).

Presidents

		1956-1958	Mrs. Nelson Parks
		1958-1961	Mrs. Harry Baker
		1961-1962	Mrs. Frank Bohn
		1962-1964	Mrs. Daniel Pittman
		1964-1967	Mrs. George Tantum
		1967-1969	Mrs. Bernard Giehl
		1969-1971	Mrs. George Parry
		1971-1973	Miss F. Esther Messier
			United Methodist Women
		1974-1977	Mrs. Edward Rockhill
		1978- 1979	Mrs. David Poinsett
		1980-1981	Mrs. Edward Rockhill
		1982-1983	Mrs. Howard Scarborough
		1984-	Mrs. Eli Firth
Woman's Home Missionary Society			
1919-1927	Mrs. Thomas Evernham		
1927-1934	Mrs. A.C. Palmer		
1934-1940	Mrs. S.K. Homer		
Women's Society of Christian Service			
1940-1945	Mrs. Samuel Homer		
1945-1947	Mrs. James Graham		
1947- 1949	Mrs. Donald Peppler		
1949-1951	Mrs. Charles Edson		
1951-1953	Mrs. Wilbur Peppler		
1953-1954	Miss Betty Ann Snyder		
1954-1956	Mrs. George Parry		

The Sunday School

Some sources credit John Wesley with establishing the first American Sunday School in Georgia around 1735. The Sunday School movement really got underway in the early 1800's about the time the Allentown Church was organized. Although no formal history was ever prepared, it is likely that the Sunday School is as old as the church itself. As part of the current celebration, Donna Funkhouser collected the Sunday School reminiscences of Marion Bauer, Mary Clark, Louis Sprague Garrison, Carolyn Giehl, Robert Peppler, David Poinsett, Ella Schmidt and Hazel Sprague. Their

memories cover an unbroken period from 1914-1960. Despite the world changes that took place in those years the stories, themselves are similar.

All the former scholars fondly recalled colorful, dramatic and dedicated teachers: Clara Mae Wilbur, Mrs. Homer, who used dolls and a sand table to dramatize Bible stories, Marion Raab Challender, George Leber, Sunday School Superintendent George Wilbur, Mrs. Palmer and the Reverend and Mrs. Merwin were mentioned especially.

The days remembered were those before the educational wing was built.

“Sunday School class was held in the large 1st floor room under the sanctuary.”

‘After opening exercises, which included reading of scripture, singing of hymns and the taking of collection, we moved to various areas of the room for our respective Sunday School Classes.’

Many also remembered that “privacy was hard to come by in those days”; classes met in the kitchen, the Parsonage, the Sanctuary and in a lean-to behind the church while the nursery and first grades were in small rooms at the foot of the main stairs.

Some remembered the regular services: “there were old familiar songs and hymns that you seldom hear today”. Others looked back to days which were special to the church and to the child: “I remember a very active Junior Choir. Many of us played musical instruments and would play quite often during church services. Children’s Day was always a day when the children would take charge of the service. The Christmas Party for the Sunday School always left a nice impression. All classes would present a combined play and wait for a visit from Santa.”

And of course, they remembered the old-fashioned Sunday School Picnics.

“During those years the Sunday School (en masse) travelled for a summer outing to either Jenkinson’s Pavilion (Pt. Pleasant) or Clementon Park. Needless to say, we loved it.”

Without exception, these are happy memories. Sadly, it is now too late to personally thank many of those who struggled to make restless little heathens into decent Christians. Below we have listed the present leaders and staff of the Sunday School; we can, at least, thank them and honor their efforts in leading forward the church’s next generation.

1985-1986 Sunday School Leaders

Superintendent: Mrs. David (Georgia) Poinsett

Nursery and Kindergarten classes: Mr. & Mrs. David (Diana) Corrington

1st and 2nd grades: Mr. Hank Pierre and Mrs. Melinda C. Brown

3rd and 4th: Mr. Harry Cross and Mrs. Barbara Jennings and Mrs. Carol Wagg

5th and 6th: Mrs. Georgia Poinsett

7th and 8th: Mr. and Mrs. Bryon (Cyndi) Taylor

High School: Mr. Ronald Harrison and Mrs. Joanne Fisher

Youth and Young Adult Activities

The United Methodist Church has always been interested in providing appropriate social and recreational activities for its youth and young adults. In the following notes David Poinsett shows that the Allentown United Methodist Church is no exception.

In the 1940's, a Couples' Club was active under the leadership of the minister, Reverend Edmund Carlisle and his wife Helen. The group met in Fellowship Hall with two couples in charge of refreshments and entertainment each month on a rotating basis. Members included Ed and Peg Rockhill, Marion and Lee Challender, Hilton and Helen Wilbur, Delton and Everett Warriner, Don and Jean Pepler and Harry and Ann Baker. Some of the fun activities of the Couples' Club were hay rides, a trip to the boardwalk at Seaside, covered dish suppers and progressive dinners, a scavenger hunt and hot dog roasts at Bowman's Tower, in Pennsylvania.

In the 1950's, both a junior and senior Methodist Youth Fellowship were active. Leadership of the senior MYF was supplied by Danny and Shirley Pittman. Allan Taylor helped with transportation. Among the active senior high school age MYF members were Heather McGregor, Joan Hutchinson, Norma Cook, David Poinsett, Kathy Gibbs, Robert Sweel, Richard Laird, Charles Morris and Janis Miskoski. Activities included hay rides, youth rallies and retreats at Mt. Misery, square dances, Christmas caroling, bowling and picnics.

The MYF continued to meet in the church social hall in the early 1960's Judy Ferguson was the President of the group. Other members were Pat Lake Jean McGregor, Claudia Edson, Kevin McQuillan, Carole Eilers, Kathy Lemming, Donna Phillips, Judy Ireland, Phyllis Parry, Janet Runner, Richard Poinsett and

Gordin and Wavia Shindle. Roller skating at the Capital Arena was popular activity, as well as hay rides.

Today, in the mid-1980's, a high school/junior high group meets under the adult leadership of Ron and Lynn Harrison. There is also an active young adults couples' club that meets approximately once a month. The youth enjoy such activities as movies, bowling, miniature golf and picnics. The adult group has attended theater parties, the High School play and McCarter Theater. Other activities included cider making, progressive dinners, canoeing, bicycle hikes, and caroling at Christmas, the "hanging of the greens" in the sanctuary at Christmas has been sponsored by the adult group over the past several years.

Good leadership, fellowship and fun have been hallmarks of all of these groups over the years. The church family looks forward to a continuation of these activities as it moves toward the 21st century.

The United Methodists Women of Allentown

Ruth Firth prepared the following History of the Allentown Methodist Women:

On March 16, 1919, a missionary meeting preside over by Mrs. M.E. Snyder of Trenton, was held at the home of Mrs. Edwin Walker. At this time Miss Carrie Barge, a national worker, addressed the meeting telling of unbelievably sad conditions in our country. The outcome of this meeting was the organization of the Woman's Home Missionary Society of the Methodist Church. Mrs. Thomas Evernham was elected

President and held this office for 8 years. Mrs. W.E. Mannering was Recording Secretary.

The monthly meetings were held in various member's homes with an occasional meeting in the basement of the church. Rev. van Dwight was minister at this time and usually attended the meetings. In fact, most ministers during the early years of the society attended regularly and took an active part.

Attendance was taken at each meeting with members responding with a verse of scripture or recounting of a particular blessing. A Literary Committee was appointed to arrange each monthly program which consisted of prayers, singing and readings on special mission topics. Special music was often enjoyed through the talents of Anne Schisler, F. Esther Messler and Mrs. Albert Robbins.

Collections average \$1 to \$2 per meeting. The budget for 1923-24 was \$164.45. Often some of the money was used for church projects such as re-caning the choir chairs and buying new shades for the Sunday School rooms.

Money was raised through semi-annual mite box offerings in November and May at which time an evening meeting would be held in the church with a speaker or special program.

In 1923 the Allentown Society tied with Ocean City for first place in the Standard of Excellence category and Allentown graciously allowed Ocean City to have the flag for that year as Allentown had already had it in 1922.

There has always been a feeling of good will among the various churches in Allentown. During the June 1923 meeting, the Baptist Missionary Circle was holding their regular meeting and picnic at the home of Mrs. Frank Harris near our meeting place at Mrs. Albert West's and a message of greeting and good will was sent to them. Later in the afternoon the following message was received from the Baptist Circle:

"The Missionary Circle of the Allentown Baptist Church in meeting assembled were greatly delighted to receive from the Home Missionary Society of the Methodist Church of Allentown a message of greeting and good will.

One of the great blessings of the work of the Kingdom in the Allentown District is the mutual understanding and good will that prevails among churches and societies engaged in the service of Christ Jesus, Our Lord.

May the blessing of God our Father enrich you in your work for Him not only in the local district but also in the great world service, signed by Mrs. W. Henrickson."

The Woman's Home Missionary Society was instrumental in organizing "Mother's Jewels" and "Home Guards" (15 girls). The boys of Miss Elsie Robbins class were also made "Home Guards."

An annual autumn collection of canned goods was distributed to Methodist Homes. This was discontinued in 1958 and replaced by donations collected through money barrels. The Society regularly sent representatives to the Summer School of Missions. In February 1927, the 4th Tuesday of each month was officially designated as its meeting time. This practice still continues today.

It is interesting to note that music was often provided by a victrola and stereopticon slides were used for some programs.

After the union of the Methodist Episcopal Church (North) and the Methodist Protestant Church in 1939, the official name for the women's group was changed to the Women's Society of Christian Service. Programs would now cover both home and

foreign missions and the money would be divided in half for foreign missionary society and one-half to the local treasury.

In 1941 Christmas gifts were sent to Fort Dix and the Society pledged to send cookies and sandwiches the 2nd Tuesday of each month for the soldiers. Hostesses were also sent to the U.S.O. at Lakehurst. In 1942, the financial system of pledging was encouraged for the members.

In 1968, the Methodist Church joined with the Evangelical United Brethren and in 1973 the women's group was officially designated as the United Methodist Women. Our budget is met through pledging and we have always met our total Northwest District pledge which in 1985 amounts to \$658. We are encouraged to use all of our funds for the support of the Northwest District United Methodist Women.

Western Monmouth Parish

In June 1972, in an experimental response to the problems of declining membership in rural churches, the Western Monmouth Parish was created. It included the Clarksburg, Emley's Hill and DeBow's churches, the combined Siloam and St. Paul congregations and the Allentown Church. As the only church staffed with a full-time minister, Allentown became the administrative center of the parish. After thirteen years of trial, error and achievement the parish was dissolved in June of 1985. As an experiment, it provided a useful learning experience, which may yet help other troubled congregations. All the churches remain intact and with growing populations in the western part of the country, they may well go beyond mere survival to vibrant growth. We wish them well and keep a special place for them in our hearts and prayers.

Preachers of the Allentown Methodist Church

The following (with appropriate updates) was prepared by the Reverend Horace M. Frantz in 1976.

While Rev. Pitt's history is very helpful, he was not aware of all who preached in our area before 1810. In addition to his list which included David Bartine (1795) and Freeborn Garretson, who called the preachers together up and down the colonies to meet at Lovely Lane Chapel, in Baltimore, MD. in 1784 for the historic Christmas Conference, we would add Francis Asbury and Thomas Webb. It may well be that Richard Boardman and Joseph Pilmore also reached our area.

The people who served this church as pastors follows: It should be said that at this period pastors were appointed for six months at a time, and this explains why two names are mentioned for each of these early years. The pastors and the names of the circuits are listed.

New Brunswick and Trenton: Jersey District:

1810 - Jos. Stratton, Thomas Neal

1811 - William Mills

1812 - Joseph Totten, William Mills

1813 - Jos. Osborn, John Van Schoick

1814 - John Van Schoick, John Fernon

Trenton:

1815 - John Walker, Thomas Neal
1816 - John Robinson, Jos. Rusling
1817 - Manning Force, Daniel Moore
1818 - George Banghart, Chas. Pitman
1819 - George Banghart, Jas. Aikens
1820 - Sylvester C. Hill
1821 - S.G. Hill, Eliphalet H. Reed
1822 - Edward Page, James Long
1823 - John Creamer, Isaac Winner
1825 - John Walker, R.W. Petherbridge
1826 - John Walker, James Moore
1827-8 - Thomas Davis, W.H. Bull
1829 - J. Finley, M. Lacost
1830 - John Finley, James H. MacFarland
1831 - R.W. Petherbridge, John Buckley
(1823- became East Jersey District)

Crosswicks Circuit:

1832 - Thos. Neal, Peter D. Day
1833 - Thos. Neal, Wm. H. Gilder
1834 - Wm. Williams, Mulford Day
1835 - James Long, Samuel Jaquett
1836 - Thomas G. Stewart
1837-8 - Nathaniel Chew
1839 - Zerubabel Gaskill, Edmund Hance
1840 - A. Gaskill, Wm. Rogers
1841 - William Hanley
1842 - J.S. Swain, H. Baker
1843 - Bromwell Andrew
1844 - Robert E. Morrison, J. Walker Jackson
1845 - R.E. Morrison, S.W. Hillard
1846-7 - O. Badgeley, H.M. Brown
1848 - W. Burrowes, J. Parker
1849 - W. Burrowes, Robert B. Yard
1850 - John Scarlet, ---Hill
1851 - John Scarlet, Edw. W. Adams
(1845- Became Trenton District)

Allentown and Sharon:

1852. Charles E. Hill
1853- Samuel Parker, John Atkinson
1854- Levi Herr
1855- 6 - F.S. Wolfe, Solomon Parsons
1857 - Joseph Chattle
1858 - 9 - D.L. Adams
1860 - Levi Herr

Allentown:

1861 - Levi Herr	1908 - William Stone
1862-3 - Firman Robbins	1909 - 11 - C.F. Garrison
1864-5 - George C. Maddock	1912- 13.J.C.Carman
1866-68 - William Margerum	1914- 17-HenryB.White
1869-71 - George C. Stanger	1918-21 - E. Van Dright
1872 - George Hitchins	1922 - 25- Charles S. Miller
1873 - 4 - Henry G. Williams	1926 - 29- Albert E. Morris
1875 - William T. Abbott	1930-34- Henry Johnson
1876 - 78 - John L. Souder	1935 - 39 - Charles H. Anderson
1879 - 80 - Garner H. Tullis	1940 - 41 - Paul C. Greiner
1881 2- E.E. Green	1942 - 43 - Charles A. Book
1883 -85 - Peter Provost	1944 -49 - Edmund H. Carlisle
1886 - 89 - Samuel F. Gaskill	1950- 59 - John D. Merwin
1890-92 - Levi Larew	1960 - 61 - Carl Price
1893- 94 - William A. Lilley	1962 - 66- Earl C. Snyder
1895- 98 - Sherman G. Pitt	1967 - 69- Lloyd Applegate
1899- 1900 - John Warthman	1970- 77 - Horace M. Frantz
1901 -AL. Iszard	1977-85 - David T. Wilson
1902- 5-John Allen	1983 - 85 - James Moos Student Assistant
1906- 7 - E.A. Robinson	1985- - Linda M. Porter

To The Future

Twenty-five years from now, at the 200th anniversary of this church we will have to tell the story of our stewardship. If we dare greatly, like the circuit riders and Mrs. Cafferty, it will be story worth hearing.

May the light of 175 candles burn like the flames of Pentecost to warm our hearts and serve as a beacon for those who follow.

Our special thanks to Mrs. Diana Corrington for typing out this history of our church. We would also like to say thank you to George Parry for his help with the printing and to William F. Walling our editor.