

80th
Anniversary

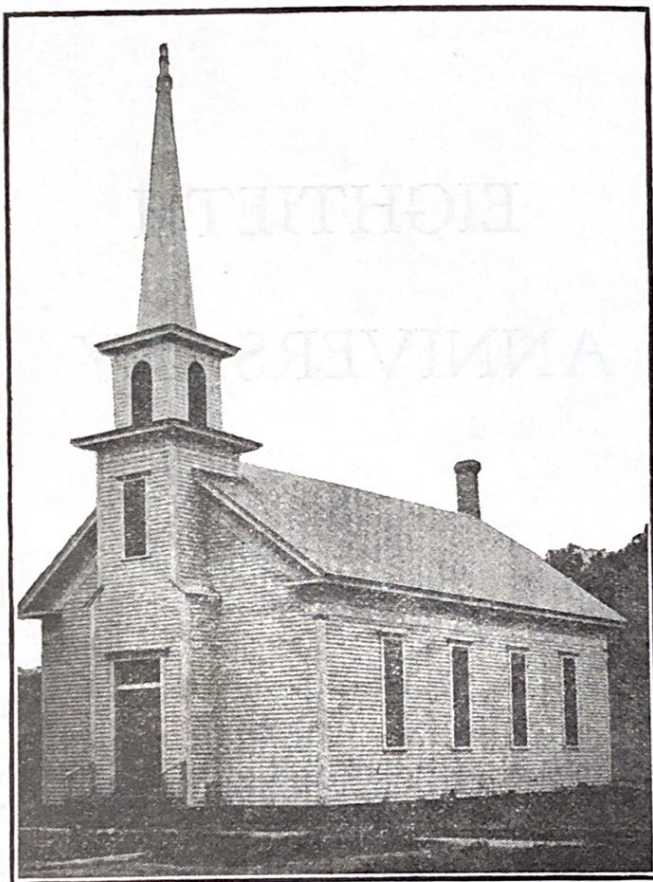
Clearwater M. E. Church



1858 - - - 1938

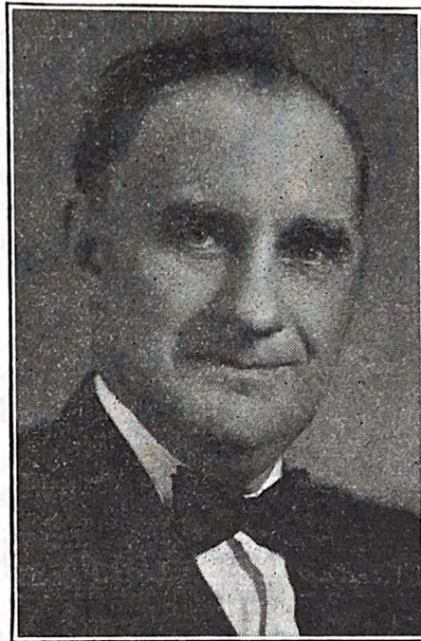
EIGHTIETH
ANNIVERSARY





Clearwater M. E. Church

*Dedicated to the Worship of God
and the Service of Christ.*



REV. CHARLES SHEFFIELD
PASTOR

DEDICATION

*To the memories of those who have lived,
served, sacrificed, and prayed without
thought of self for the Kingdom of
God. This volume is affection-
ately dedicated.*

Pastors Message

To all members and friends of the Methodist Church at Clearwater, we extend a cordial welcome to unite with us in our eightieth anniversary services. We sincerely hope that through Christian fellowship and worship you may truly say as did those two disciples of old: "Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked with us by the way."

May God's richest benediction rest upon every part of our program, every participant in the services until we can all say as did John Wesley, "I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for my salvation."

Our love and affection goes out to all those early faithful souls who have answered to the roll call of heaven. Our Church is their legacy of love to us. It was founded upon the faith and vision of our fathers.

"Other men laboured and we are entered into their labours." Eighty years of toil, testimony and triumph. Eighty years of service and sacrifice, of helpful influence and blessing. Who can measure the ministry of even one small church? Who can count the many young and old whose feet have been guided into the pathway of peace and truth? Only a study of the Lamb's book of life will reveal.

A living church is a grand memorial to those who have fallen asleep in Jesus, but such a church stands as a challenge to the living to keep alive the torch of faith. And to carry on with the spread of Christ's Gospel.

Anniversary time is a time for review and rejoicing over the blessings of the past. It is also reveille time, when we hear again Christ's call to advance; to reconsecrate ourselves to the tasks of the present; to square our shoulders to carry responsibility; to keep our hearts always aglow with fire Divine; and our faith fixed in an omnipotent God.

A young farmer in a New York hospital lay dying of fever. One morning the delirium lifted for a moment, and he asked the nurse, "What month is this?" When she replied, his lips moved and leaning over she heard him say, "It is ploughing time. I cannot die now. It is ploughing time."

We recall the words of the Master, "No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." Christian friends, it is ploughing time, sowing time, reaping time for Christ in Clearwater.

His love in time past forbids us to think,
He'll leave us at last in trouble to sink,
While each Ebenezer we have in review
Confirms his good pleasure to carry us through.
We thank God and take courage,

Yours in Christ's service,

Charles Sheffield



BISHOP J. RALPH MAGEE
L.H.D., LL.D.



REV. J. W. LILICO D.D.
SUPERINTENDENT

Historical Sketch

Clearwater is the most northern town in Wright County and is separated from Sherburne County on the east by the Mississippi River while on the west the Clearwater River marks the line, separating it from Stearns County.

The early settlers were for the most part men and women of eastern birth, ancient lineage, and splendid training; and to this wilderness they transplanted their high ideals, their religious faith, their intellectual keenness and their lofty traditions. From the village these people settled in neighboring townships in Wright and Stearns counties and in time the neighborhood took on all the aspects of an eastern community. A few of these families still remain. For the most part, however, the children have found other fields of labor.

Very early in the history of Clearwater, Rev. Samuel T. Creighton, a Methodist minister who was stationed at Monticello, held services at the home of John Dow, two miles from the present village of Clearwater. On January 8th and 9th, 1858, Rev. S. T. Sterrett, presiding elder of Monticello District, presided at the quarterly conference at Orino and assigned Rev. Levi Gleason to the Clearwater charge. Rev. Gleason and Rev. Sterrett made their first visit to Clearwater January 9, 1858. They stayed over night at the home of Eli B. King at a place called Neenah, some 7 miles north-east of Clearwater. Rev. Gleason with headquarters at Mr. King's, remained to inspire an interest in the hearts of the people.

On the morning of January 23, 1858, Rev. Gleason preached at the Freemont schoolhouse on the banks of the Clearwater River, about one and one-half miles from the village. In the afternoon he preached in the village in a building owned by Francis Morrison but used as a schoolhouse. This was the first Methodist sermon preached in the village of Clearwater.

A class was organized with James Lee as leader, the first stewards were: B. T. Lyons and Joseph Pratt. The other members were: Rebecca Lee, Eliza Pratt and Lydia Lyons, also Martha Pratt and William Long, who were afterward received on probation. This was known as the Freemont Class of Clearwater charge. Today the names of Lee and Lyons, direct descendants of these first stewards, are to be found among the list of members of the church board; while Miss Mable Lee, a daughter of James Lee, the first leader, is a missionary of the Methodist Church in Japan.

The Minnesota annual conference was held in April, 1858, at St. Paul and during the session on April 15, Rev. Gleason was appointed to the Sauk Rapids and Clearwater Circuit. Aside from the work of Clearwater he preached at Main Prairie, Freemont, Neenah, St. Cloud, Sauk Rapids, Watab, and Winnebago Prairie.

Actual facts concerning the early history of the church seem very vague, but Rev. Noah Lathrop, pastor in the year 1877, tells: "In the summer of 1876 the grasshoppers alighted on almost all of the territory of the circuit and deposited their eggs. This cast a gloom over the whole community. Considerable damage was done and finances greatly embarrassed, for up to the 4th quarterly meeting there had been collected only a little over \$300. The year had not been one of especial spiritual progress, the minds of the people seeming to be engrossed in other matters. I trust the future will prove propitious."

In 1880 Rev. Leland P. Smith was appointed pastor of the Clearwater charge. There was no church building at Clearwater and the society was embarrassed with debt both on the parsonage and for hall rent. By diligent effort the debts were paid and a church erected at Clearwater and dedicated by Bishop C. D. Foss, October 16, 1881. A class was organized in Becker in March, 1883. The Sunday School was organized in 1887 and the Ladies Aid about 1890.

Rev. Doran, pastor in 1890, stated his circuit embraced Clearwater, the Lee schoolhouse, and the McClellan schoolhouse where he found peace and harmony generally prevailing.

The charge now is in the Litchfield District of the Northern Minnesota Conference which was formed from the Minnesota Conference in 1894. In the past eighty years we have had 41 pastors who have served well and faithfully. At the present time Rev. Charles Sheffield is our pastor. The organizations of the church are: a Sunday School, with a Home Department and Cradle Roll; Epworth League Society, Junior and Senior Choirs, a Country Choir, Men's Chorus, Ladies Aid, Church Supporting Groups No. 1 and 2, a Community Mother's Club, and a Prayer Band. The Church Supporting Group No. 2 is composed of members of both men and women and this year (1938) its presiding officers are men.

Our present pastor came to take up the work of the church in 1932, and to him goes the distinction of having read the service for the only two weddings ever solemnized in our church. Under his leadership our church has prospered. In 1933 a piano was purchased. The envelope system has been introduced to meet the financial obligation, new church hymnals were presented by Church Supporting Group No. 1, and "Devotional Hymns" for the Sunday School were made possible by the various church organizations and personal donations.

As the time approached for our 80th anniversary the need to re-decorate the interior of the church was apparent. The problem of ways and means then presented itself. A community party was held early in November, 1937, which netted a substantial sum. On the 23rd of January, 1938, the actual anniversary of the first service, Rev. Sheffield installed the Joash Chest in which friends and members of the church could place their gifts.

On February 27, 1938, Bishop J. Ralph Magee preached the anniversary sermon at the vesper service. Rev. Arthur Dinsdale, Supt. of the Fergus Falls District, offered prayer; Rev. John Walker of Elk River, led the responsive reading; and Dr. Lillico read the Scripture lesson.

The stalwart pioneers of this church have long since gone to their eternal reward but their fruits abide in the lives and devoted service of those who followed them and those who now carry the responsibility. We still go on in the knowledge and love of our Christ to win others to his name. The church has done good service in the community, by the blessing of God and although it is a small one, there have been and still are many who love it and have been blessed by its influence.

- - Committee

1858 ----- Pastors ----- 1938

	1858 - 1859
Levi Gleason -----	1860 - 1861
Bartley Blain -----	1861 - 1862
S. T. Sterrett -----	1862 - 1863
T. N. Berlin -----	1863 - 1864
Levi Gleason -----	1864 - 1865
Moses S. Harriman -----	1866 - 1867
C. T. Barkuloo -----	1867 - 1869
W. W. Rork -----	1869 - 1871
Levi Gleason -----	1871 - 1872
A. H. Abbott -----	1872 - 1875
C. F. Garvin -----	1875 - 1877
Noah Lathrop -----	1877 - 1879
M. B. Smith -----	1879 - 1880
J. A. Henry -----	1880 - 1883
Leland P. Smith -----	1883 - 1884
W. M. Wright -----	1884 - 1885
O. Burnett -----	1885 - 1886
D. S. Smith -----	1886 - 1888
E. S. Gardiner -----	1888 - 1890
D. S. Wigstead -----	1890 - 1891
John Doran -----	1891 - 1892
G. G. Vallentyne -----	1892 - 1892
W. J. Heapes -----	1892 - 1893
James Thompson -----	1893 - 1897
W. H. Barkuloo -----	1897 - 1899
J. M. Mower -----	1899 - 1901
S. Fairbanks -----	1901 - 1902
F. W. Peterson -----	1903 - 1903
J. A. Lewis -----	1903 - 1904
Geo. E. Reeder -----	1904 - 1905
Jesse Underwood -----	1905 - 1907
Howard Robinson -----	1907 - 1909
J. L. Parish -----	1909 - 1911
W. C. Follinsbee -----	1911 - 1913
F. A. Turner -----	1913 - 1916
F. J. Bryan -----	1916 - 1919
Justus Parish -----	1919 - 1923
Alex J. Abbott -----	1923 - 1930
Claude Spicer -----	1930 - 1932
John Lowe -----	1932 -
Charles Sheffield -----	



Program

Anniversary Dinner

Masonic Hall

May 13th, 1938

Price 25c

6:30 P. M.

Evening Worship

M. E. CHURCH

8:00 P. M.

Miss Evelyn Welch

Miss Martha Dooley

Prelude

Opening Response

Hymn

Prayer

Prayer Response

Anthem

Responsive Reading

Scripture

Duet

Announcements

Anthem

Historical Sketch

Sermon

Hymn

Benediction

Doxology

Postlude

References

Organists

“Faith of Our Fathers”

No. 256

Old Folks Choir

Lowe Sisters

"The Fullness of Earth"
Jr. and Sr. Choirs

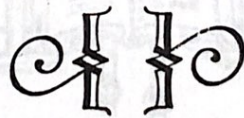
Moore

Mrs. B. R.. Nordell

Greetings from Former Ministers

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

No. 416

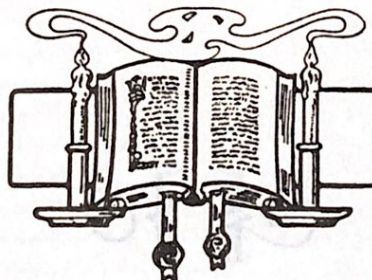


Memorial Service

*"Blessed are the dead
which die in the Lord"*

May 14, 1938
8:00 P. M.

Prelude					
Opening Response					
Hymn	-	-	"Providence"	-	No. 70
Prayer					
Prayer Response					
Special	-	-	-	-	Quartette
Responsive Reading					
Hymn	-	-	"The Eternal Life"	-	No. 517
Scripture					
Announcements					
Anthem	-		"Remember Now Thy Creator"	-	Adams
			Jr. Choir		
Sermon	-	-	-	-	F. J. Bryan
Hymn	-	-	"I Will Sing You a Song"	-	No. 525
Benediction					
Doxology					
Postlude					



CHURCH DIRECTORY

Bishop
J. Ralph Magee

Dist. Supt.
Dr. J. W. Lillico

Pastor
Rev. Charles Sheffield

Trustees

Pres: W. H. Lee

Sec'y & Treas: M. D. Boddy

B. F. Lyons, John Lee, Wesley Mitchell,
Frank Hyatt and James Lyons.

Stewards

Disbursing Steward	-	-	-	-	-	M. D. Boddy
Assisting Steward	-	-	-	-	-	Mrs. M. Trafton
Recording Steward	-	-	-	-	-	Mrs. D. M. Sheldon
Communion Steward	-	-	-	-	-	Mrs. D. W. Palmer
District Steward	-	-	-	-	-	Frank Hyatt

Finance Committee

M. D. Boddy, Henry Hinz, W. H. Lee, B. F. Lyons, Frank Hyatt,
Miss Jennie Stokes, Wesley Mitchell.

Music Committee

Mrs. F. Hyatt, Mrs. C. McLaird, Mrs. D. M. Sheldon, Miss Ruth Humphries	
Benevolences	Mrs. S. Worden, Mrs. L. H. Gleason
Sec'y - Treas.	Miss Blanche Stewart
Membership	Mrs. J. E. Hansen
Religious Education	Mrs. Frank Hyatt,
	Miss Ruth Humphries, Mrs. J. E. Hansen.

Social Service and Hospitals	-	-	-	-	Ladies Aid
Auditing	-	-	-	-	B. R. Nordell, David Stokes
Church Records	-	-	-	-	B. F. Lyons
Parsonage	-	-	-	-	Ladies Aid
Pastoral Relations	-	-	-	-	W. H. Lee, Mrs. F. Hyatt,

	Roscoe Stokes, Andrew Ferguson, Mrs. B. R. Nordell
Pulpit Supply	Wesley Mitchell, John Lee, Mrs. S. Worden
Nominating	M. D. Boddy, B. F. Lyons, David Stokes,
	Mrs. C. Hansen, Mrs. B. R. Nordell

Supt. Sunday School	-	-	-	-	Mrs. F. Hyatt
Pres. Ladies Aid	-	-	-	-	Mrs. N. Welch
Pres. Group No. 1	-	-	-	-	Mrs. C. McLaird
Pres. Group No. 2	-	-	-	-	Mr. Henry Hinz
Pres. Epworth League	-	-	-	-	Miss Evelyn Welch
Sec'y-Treas. of Extension Circle	-	-	-	-	Mrs. N. Welch
Delegates to the Annual Conference	-	-	-	-	Mrs. S. Worden
Reserve	-	-	-	-	M. D. Boddy

ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

Chairman	-	-	-	-	Rev. Chas. Sheffield
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History

Chairman	-	Mrs. B. R. Nordell, Mrs. C. McLaird, Mrs. D. W. Palmer
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Program

Chairman	-	-	-	-	Rev. Charles Sheffield
Committee	-	Mrs. B. R. Nordell, Mrs. C. McLaird, Mrs. D. W. Palmer,			
		Mrs. F. Hyatt, Mrs. J. E. Hansen, Mrs. D. M. Sheldon, Miss Evelyn Welch, Miss Ruth Humphries.			

Centennial History of Clearwater Methodist Church

No doubt it was a cold and wintry day, that January ninth in 1858, when Reverend Gleason in company with Reverend Sterritt P.E. of the Monticello District of the Methodist Conference passed through Clearwater, then a village of about one hundred people. They spent that night at Neenah about seven miles from St. Cloud. Reverend Sterritt returned to Monticello, subsequently Reverend Gleason made his home with the Eli Kings.

It was the plan of Reverend Sterritt that Reverend Gleason should organize a circuit consisting of Orono, Fair Haven, Maine Prairie, St. Cloud and Winnebago Prairie (Brockway). Very early in the history of Clearwater, Reverend Samuel Creighton, a Methodist minister stationed at Monticello had held services in Clearwater at the home of John Dow.

The next Sabbath, January 16, Reverend Gleason preached the first sermon by a Methodist preacher in Maine Prairie and the following Sunday, January 23, he preached in the Freemont school $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Clearwater and in the afternoon in Clearwater, in a building used for a schoolhouse and owned by Francis Morrison. This was the first Methodist sermon preached in Clearwater. Here was organized the first class with James Lee, leader. The first Stewards were Benjamin Lyons and Joseph Pratt. Eliza Pratt, Rebecca Lee and Lydia Lyons were also members. Martha Pratt and William Long were afterward received.

It was at this time that the community was plagued with grasshoppers and Reverend Gleason notes, "The people became very destitute, none perished by many suffered." Reverend Gleason must have been fired by a calling from on High to lead his fellow-men to better things, it

surely was not for pecuniary reasons, for he writes, "for my labors until the Minnesota Conference met, I received a coat, pants and vest worth perhaps fifteen dollars and my board."

The Minnesota Conference was held in April, 1858 at St. Paul and during the session, Reverend Gleason was appointed to the Sauk Rapids and Clearwater circuit. On May 7, 1858, he preached the first Methodist sermon in St. Cloud, in a schoolhouse in Lower Town. The first District Quarterly meeting was held in Lower Town St. Cloud. This note was made - "This summer there was a campmeeting at Nennah near E. B. Kings. It was a glorious thing; nearly a score were converted.

Reverend Noah Lathrop, appointed at a conference held at Red Wing in 1875 laments the fact that the record books have been so neglected, as it occasions much embarrassment.

Reverend Leland Smith, pastor from 1880 to 1883, says, "I have visited Garden Valley near Kingston where there is a class of twenty six that needs service, which gives an idea of how great an area the influence of the men covered, and how great was the need." Reverend Smith also writes, "I was appointed pastor of Clearwater charge in 1880. There was no church building and the society was embarrassed by debt, both on the parsonage and for hall rent. By diligent effort the debt was paid and a church erected at Clearwater and dedicated by Bishop E. D. Foss October 16, 1881". The record dated September 10, 1883 continued, "At present writing it is unincumbered by debt and the charge is in good financial condition." Ponder that for a moment - with eggs 5 cents per dozen; butter 8 cents per pound, oats 10 cents and wheat 50 cents per bushel; and 50 cents was paid to a man for a full day's labor and no over time. *paid?*

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Reverend Doran was pastor in 1890. He stated that his circuit embraced Clearwater, the Lee schoolhouse and McClellan schoolhouse where he found peace and harmony generally prevailing.

We join with the former pastors who regret the lack of records but will try to add a few pertinent facts. We have had to date 44 pastors who have served us faithfully and well. We were fortunate in having had for a short time Dr. Valentine as our pastor. Later years (note V) we have enjoyed visits from him and many of our former pastors. The late Reverend Bryan and Reverend Abbott and also Reverend Spicer and Reverend Sheffield have each returned from time to time to give us inspiring messages. We all looked forward with pleasure to the occasional visits made by the late Reverend John Lowe.

We have been glad to welcome Mr. and Mrs. Earle Thompson and Mr. and Mrs. Roy Neal who often bring us a bit of enthusiasm. Mrs. Thompson is the daughter of the late Reverend Bryan. Mrs. Neal and Mr. Thompson are children of the late Reverend James Thompson and his wife, Ethel Trafton.

From our church went Miss Mabel Lee, daughter of James and Rebecca Lee, to spend many years as a missionary in Japan. Many of us have heard her speak from our pulpit. We have had several licensed preachers, among them Thaddeus Woodworth, I. G. Humphries, Clyde Shattuck, Ernest Lowe and A. B. Ferguson. Mr. Woodworth passed on before our time. Mr. Humphries many of us remember as a neighbor and friend. His daughter, Mrs. Ruth Evans has often gladdened our hearts with her music and now we are happy to see the grand-daughter, Mrs. Lucy Jensen Warren, keeping up the family tradition in carrying on the Lord's work. We all enjoyed Reverend Clyde Shattuck so much and with his family deeply mourned his early passing. Reverend Ernest Lowe we rarely see but we are all proud of the fine work he is doing and are

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most appreciative of his coming today. It is a well known proverb that a prophet is without honor in his own country; but we are very glad that brother Andrew is right here with us for he always gives us something to think about that is really worth while.

While Reverend Spicer was here, he instituted our Fall Church ~~Fall~~^{Fair} which was of interest to the whole community and left much good feeling among us all. How many of you remember that those three elms along the street in front of our church were placed there by Reverend Spicer, and on that Sunday morning I think it was Memorial Sunday after service, they were dedicated to George Boutwell, James Lyons and Dexter Collins and the one across the street by the former First State Bank to Ralph Humphries. They were just little saplings then but today they give grateful shade to all who pass by.

Mrs. John Lowe was instrumental in the organizing of our groups. There had been a Ladies Aid in town for many years but no organization in the country. Later, when Reverend Sheffield was here, the country group met in the evening and included the whole family. During those lean years in the "thirties" it also provided recreation. At one time all of its four officers were men. With the coming of the Women's Christian Service Society there was no place for the men so they dropped out. The country ladies still maintain an active group and the two groups work together efficiently and harmoniously.

While Reverend Sheffield was here, we celebrated the 80th. anniversary of the organization of our church. To raise the money to redecorate the sanctuary several methods were employed and on Sunday, January 23, 1938, Reverend Sheffield installed the Joash Chest (Second Chronicles Ch.24) in which members and friends of the church might place their gifts. On February 27th. Bishop McGee preached the anniversary sermon at a vesper service; Reverend Arthur Dinsdale,

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Supt. of the Fergus Falls District offered prayer, Reverend John Walker of Elk River led the responsive reading and Dr. Lillico read the Scripture. On May 13th. we had an anniversary dinner followed by an evening service. There were also services on Saturday and Sunday. Following the Sunday morning service, nine adults were taken into membership in the church. We were very much uplifted by the services during this celebration. Dr. Earl Baumhofer presented the morning service and the late James Burns of Excelsior preached at the evening service.

In October of 1941, we celebrated the 60th. anniversary of the dedication of our church building by dedicating our church parlors, made possible by a gift of the late Alice L. Ponsford and by the generosity of loyal members and friends of the church as well as by the ^{physical} physical labor of many men with horses and tractors in digging the basement. Many of us recall several Sundays when we attended church with the building setting on blocks just north of the present site. The fact that we had wanted something of this kind for so long made us doubly appreciative.

^{start} For a time Reverend Sheffield served Clear Lake as well as Clearwater, later the charge was changed to Waite Park and Clearwater. When Reverend Lorenzo Johnson came, the residence of the presiding pastor was changed to Waite Park, and thus for the first time in almost 90 years our village was without a resident Protestant minister.

Reverend and Mrs. Johnson went immediately to Waite Park to live. They remained with us for five years. During Reverend Johnson's pastorate our church accepted the responsibility of participating in the Advance for Christ movement which entailed a pledge to raise 1000 dollars for Methodist Expansion and Extension. The actual collection and delivery of this sum was delayed until the pastorate of Reverend Haggans.

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Reverend George Haggans followed Reverend Johnson to remain three years. During that time Mr. and Mrs. William Stewart presented our church with a gift of 100 dollars in honor of their golden wedding anniversary. It was to be used toward a new carpet for the dais. This started quite a complete renovation of the interior of the church. We also celebrated the 90th. and 91st. anniversaries of the church organization while Reverend Haggans was here. They were inspiration and very well attended.

I might mention here that in December, 1949, Mrs. Olive Rice passed to her Reward. She had been a member of this church for 76 years, a record not often surpassed.

Reverend Swan Mattson who is our present pastor, came to us in 1950. That fall the furnace was replaced and finally in 1958 the hot air pipes were arranged to give us a more comfortable temperature on cold winter mornings. In 1951 a God's Acre project was planned. The projects were many and varied and a nice sum was accumulated, a portion of which was allocated to the parsonage fund and the remainder to current purposes. The following year our attention and efforts were claimed in raising our allotment of the Minnesota Centennial Fund. For many years we have taken justifiable pride and have been happy in our World Service giving.

In 1952 Reverend Mattson trained a class of eleven young people all of whom united with the church. Among them were Karen, John and James Lee, great-grandchildren of James and Rebecca Lee who were members of that first class in 1858. This paralleled that Sabbath morning when James and John Collins and Robert Lyons, great-grandsons of the Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Lyons of that first class, were united with the church. For the full 100 years the names of Lee and Lyons have consistantly appeared

in the list of the official board. Since that time Reverend Mattson has had four other classes which have added 30 to our church membership. There have also been 17 added by confession of faith and 7 by transfer.

At present we have an active Sunday School of which Mrs. James Hansen is Superintendent. She has a very efficient corps of teachers, with a Cradle Roll and Home Department in connection. There is a Youth Fellowship Group and a Community Mothers' Club. One of the very interesting activities of the church is the almost annual visit of the Rust College Singers.

We have had many faithful lay workers, among them is Mr. Boddy who for years took care of our church as though it were his appointed task and without remuneration. Geneva Sheldon was always at the piano, sort of a part of it, as it were. I hope we sometimes showed a bit of appreciation for we surely missed her when they moved away. Also Mrs. Hyatt who for so many years was a faithful and able Sunday School superintendent, she was followed by Mrs. Carrie Schendal, who still is one of our main stays.

For 20 years and more, Mrs. James Hansen has been in charge of our music. She was instrumental in organizing our Men's Chorus of by-gone days. Now she concentrates on the Junior and Youth Choirs.

There have been many memorials given which have been used to great advantage. Some of these fund were applied on the purchase of our organ in 1955. We surely appreciate the faithfulness of our organist, Mrs. Oscar Strommer, who is the daughter of the late John Lowe.

In April of this year the basement was completely redecorated and more recently the sanctuary came in for its share of improvement. This work was done by the untiring efforts of many men and women. Now

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we pray the Lord's blessing may rest upon our labors.

Today we are celebrating our 100th. anniversary. Our church is a memorial to those who labored so faithfully for the Lord. Now it stands as a challenge to the living to keep alive the torch of faith. Anniversary time is a time for review and rejoicing over the blessings of the past. It is also a time to reconsecrate ourselves to the tasks which lie before us and keep our faith fixed in an Omnipotent God.

These lines by Bishop Ralph Spaulding Cushman seem to have been written for this occasion -

New frontiers lift their rocky heights
New deserts stretch before our years;
Renew in us Almighty God,
The spirit of the pioneers.

Renew their breed; we owe them more
Than we can pay with whines or tears
Almighty God, renew in us
The spirit of the pioneers.

Mildred Ponford Hordell
(Mrs B. R. Hordell)

Sept. 1958