

Shelby Wesleyan Church

48 Ferry Street *Shelby, Michigan*



*1894
to
1969*



FOREWORD

I'm a pilgrim,
And I'm a stranger.
I can tarry,
I can tarry but a night.
Do not detain me
For I am going
To where the fountains
Are ever flowing.

The "far-away look" and determination of the defenders of the faith, who served us in the past, made it possible for us today to enjoy the beautiful edifice provided for our worship on this, our seventy-fifth anniversary.

As recorded in Hebrews 11:32, "...for the time would fail me to tell of" the many who obtained their goals through faith. It would require pages to relate the experiences of former pastors and laymen who contributed to the successes of the Shelby Wesleyan Church. Therefore, we present the following letters written by former pastors and churchmen who are responsible for the accomplishments preceding this condensed history.

It is with deep gratitude that I salute each and every one who contributed history, statistics, letters and moral support toward our efforts to be a small cog in the anniversary wheel. Truly, God has been an ever-present help down through the past seventy-five years. May we sum it up in the glorious words of praise, "To God be the glory, great things He hath done! "

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PASTORS

Rev. Alfred Pierce	1894 - 1896
Rev. H. B. Thompson	1896 - 1899
Rev. C. C. Garnett	1899 - 1902
Rev. C. J.	1902 - 1906
Rev. E. A. Boyd	1906 - 1908
Rev. F. W. Teachout	1908 - 1909
Rev. S. W. Garnett	1909 - 1910
Rev. Bessie E. Newell	1910 - 1911
Rev. G. E. Rouse	1911 - 1913
Rev. A. N. Bullock	1913 - 1914
Rev. David Green	1914 - 1916
Rev. D. H. Younts	1916 - 1918
Rev. L. C. Hawkins	1918 - 1921
Rev. J. R. Miller	1921 - 1923
Rev. A. C. Worden	1923 - 1927
Rev. Orville G. Schantz	1927 - 1929
Rev. C. H. Coats	1929 - 1933
Rev. H. V. Dekker	1933 - 1936
Rev. W. J. Lamb	1936 - 1942
Rev. Sherwood Eddy	1942 - 1951
Rev. Alfred J. Clough	1951 - 1956
Rev. William Economan	1956 - 1960
Rev. John H. Bridget	1960 - 1965
Rev. Jack D. Cooper	1965 -

MEMORIALS
(Dedicated by families of the deceased)

Avolina Fairbrother 1898 - 1955
Picture in Sanctuary

Herman Blohm 1889 - 1956
Pulpit Furniture - Communion Table

Howard and Freeda Loew
1895 - 1953 1895 - 1956
Electric Organ

William Charles Wade 1894 - 1959
Student Loan Fund

Jesse Wiard 1886 - 1963
Snow Blower - Lawn Mower

Fred Fessenden - 1889 - 1963
Hearing Components

Rosa Mae Thorington 1908 - 1964
Classroom Cabinets

Clara Harwood 1894 - 1965
Student Loan Fund

John B. Wade 1903 - 1965
Carpeting

Edith M. Wing 1874 - 1966
Microphone

Edith Fairbrother 1896 - 1967
Communion Service

Steve Hren 1920 - 1967
Student Loan Fund

C. Peter Franklin 1904 - 1962
Communion Table

SERVICEMEN OF THE CHURCH

Orville Wright	Robert Wright
George Isley	Richard Wright
Wallace Brown	Donald Dykman
Stanley Brown	Lester Shaffer
Richard Fairbrother	Robert Gray
Franklin Howell, Sr.	Otis Bromley
Steve Hren	Franklin Howell, Jr.
Merle Huston	James Fleser
Corwin McClain	Duane Fleser
Maurice Shaffer	Richard Fleser
Darrel Shaffer	Dale Harpe
George Shaffer	Daniel Padilla
John Niles	LeRoy Richardson
Lawrence Crisman	Sam Palmer

Terry Fessenden

EARLY PASTORS, OFFICERS AND MEMBERS
(Beginning Jan. 2, 1889 as the first organization)

Pastor - Rev. James A. Crofoot
Class Leader - Ezra Brower
Steward - Keziah Knickerbacker
Clerk - M. Ada Babcock

1891 - 1892

Pastor - C. N. Babcock
Class Leader - Reuben Shaeffer
Steward - Reuben Shaeffer
Clerk - Ada Babcock

Reorganization - April 9, 1894

Pastor - Rev. Alfred Pierce 1894 - 1896
Class Leader - Reuben Shaeffer
Steward - B. S. Wade

Charter Members

Ann Wade
Kate Shafer
John Sutherland
Etta Keating
Inis Sutherland
Jeannette Inman
Mary Day
John Arner

Mary Babcock
Letta Wolcott
William Lariby
Mabel Lariby
Elsie Babcock
George Wolcott
Arthur E. Morris
Mary Arner

Annie Roberts
L. P. Roberts
Lena Shafer
Elzina Franks
James L. Franks
Martha Wolcott

1896 - 1899

Pastor - Rev. H. B. Thompson

Additional Members

Jay Wade
Myrtie Wade
Sidney Cram
Alice Cram
I. N. Vanderberg
Mollie Vanderberg
Lloyd Sutherland
Carrie Leyman

Willis Flasher
Lillie Flasher
Hiram Sanford
Mina Sanford
George Bennett
John Little
Edna Warner

Mrs. L.L. Clarke
T. E. Miller
Carrie Miller
Peter Peterson
Augusta Peterson
Syril Fling
May Fling

EARLY HISTORY

The Wesleyan Methodist Church of Shelby was first organized by the Rev. James A. Crofoot, January 2, 1889, with thirteen members. Rev. Crofoot was then the pastor of what was known as the Benona Charge, which with the new organization consisted of four preaching appointments. His address was Simons Landing, Oceana County, Michigan. It seems that this group carried on for about two years. With some of the group moving elsewhere, it was disbanded. Included in this nucleus were Charles N. Babcock, Ada Babcock, Esra Brower, Kesiah J. Knickerbacker, Reuben Shaeffer, Catherine Shafer, Dell Bennett, Samantha Bennett, Ethon Hulbert, Nanette Inman, Daniel Miller, Carrie Miller, and Claudia Stockford.

The Rev. L. D. Conklin of the White River Circuit reorganized the group in April of 1894, and Rev. Alfred Pierce became the pastor. Members of the reorganization included Rev. Alfred Pierce, Mary E. Pierce, Reuben Shafer, B. S. Wade, Ann Wade, Kate Shafer, John Sutherland, Etta Keating, Inis Sutherland, Janette Inman, May Babcock, Letta Wolcott, William Larihy, Mabel Larihy, Elsie Babcock, George Wolcott, Martha M. Wolcott, James L. Franks, Elyina Franks, Lena Shafer, L. R. Roberts, Mary Day, Arthur E. Morris, John Arner and Mary Arner. This formed a new class of twenty-six members, which held services in Hedges Hall.

The present building was built during the pastorate of the Rev. H. B. Thompson; being dedicated Sunday, September 10, 1899, with Rev. A. W. Hall of Syracuse, New York

preaching the dedicatory sermon. During this service an amount of \$490.00 was raised to pay all outstanding bills and the church was dedicated free of debt. The following comments are quoted from the Oceana Herald of September 1, 1891: "This church, which is a model of neatness and comfort, will be a lasting monument to the energy and effort of the Rev. H. B. Thompson". Mr. B. S. Wade was a faithful layman , who together with Rev. Thompson, made a great contribution to the building of the church. Mr. Wade raised most of the money by solicitation and took care of the bookkeeping and paid the bills, as well as spending much time helping with his hands to build the structure. Rev. Thompson supervised the construction and did a great part of the work with his own hands. There were many others in the community who donated labor, and the church was the product of pastor and people who "had a mind to work".

According to a story told, it was not beneath the pastor's dignity to labor in other avenues of endeavor. While Street Commissioner Prosser and a gang of men were laying the cemetery hill, Rev. H. B. Thompson drove by and it was suggested that he be called on to help with the work. A discussion ensued as to whether he would engage in that sort of labor. It finally resulted in raising a purse of \$10.00 to be given him if he did answer the summons and work a day shoveling clay. The matter was kept quiet and Rev. Thompson was promptly on hand, shoveled as much clay as any of the men, and was

not a little surprised when night came to be handed nearly \$11.00 for his day's labor. Shelby preachers are muscle as well as brains.

Taxes on the church lot before building started were \$17.40 in 1898.

In August of 1922 the Sunday School treasurer reported \$.50 on hand after paying \$5.80 for supplies and papers.

EXCERPTS FROM EVENTS OF INTEREST
Wesleyan Methodist Conference Report
Friday, September 29, 1899

The twelfth annual session of the North Michigan Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Church convened in the new church at Shelby, Michigan, September 6, 1899. The representation of ministers and laymen was good. Business was dispatched with rapidity.

Conference officers were elected as follows: President - George Smith; Secretary - T. C. Fisher; Conference Evangelist - L. D. Conklin. George Smith, T. C. Fisher, Margaret Smith, W. J. Tennant were delegates to the General Conference to be held October 18, 1899 at Fairmount, Indiana.

Harmony prevailed and the blessed Holy Spirit was present in all the services. Brothers A. W. Hall, Connectional Agent and W. H. Kennedy, Missionary Secretary, from Syracuse, New York were present. The Conference was cheered by their kind remarks.

The Conference was kindly entertained by pastor and friends.

Sabbath services were victories for the cause of God. Sabbath morning Brother Hall preached to a large congregation. At the close, an appeal was made for \$400.00 to pay an indebtedness on the church. The amount of \$400.00 was raised, after which the fine commodious brick edifice, 60' x 36', equipped with a fine furnace, was dedicated to Almighty God for divine worship.

Brother Kennedy preached Sabbath evening. Thus closed one of the best sessions of the North Michigan Conference.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>Church Members</u>	<u>Sunday School Average</u>	<u>Total for All Purposes</u>
1908	26	30	\$ 557.24
1909	20	--	280.33
1910	11	--	178.16
1911	16	--	104.27
1912	--	--	--
1913	16	--	--
1914	13	--	29.50
1915	20	19	--
1916	20	25	625.91
1917	20	15	192.35
1918	17	13	438.51
1919	28	26	1592.57
1920	38	35	1169.59
1921	26	32	1269.70
1922	24	38	888.00
1923	41	42	1283.00
1924	60	75	1877.11
1925	76	75	1732.35
1926	71	50	1655.84
1927	71	50	914.08
1928	69	60	2139.10
1929	69	61	1904.83
1930	64	59	1900.28
1931	56	70	1242.74
1932	69	71	1189.62
1933	65	88	1580.75
1934	61	64	1324.07
1935	60	61	1287.12

<u>Year</u>	<u>Church Members</u>	<u>Sunday School Average</u>	<u>Total for All Purposes</u>
1936	45	46	\$ 951.71
1937	43	80	1436.58
1938	51	90	1613.54
1939	58	90	2215.47
1940	65	89	2179.88
1941	68	82	2136.21
1942	70	78	3091.20
1943	70	67	3693.89
1944	68	80	4682.13
1945	68	82	5895.44
1946	72	96	6398.76
1947	73	98	6421.53
1948	84	128	10,101.82
1949	84	134	9402.16
1950	80	134	8939.00
1951	83	140	14,495.37
1952	90	131	11,686.94
1953	88	145	13,590.66
1954	92	148	11,527.45
1955	86	152	20,563.95 (5600 Loan)
1956	92	141	18,586.65
1957	86	148	14,881.53
1958	86	152	19,319.98 (no loan)
1959	86	156	20,626.33
1960	90	158	25,619.13
1961	83	139	18,747.51
1962	81	134	19,913.00
1963	80	143	19,158.58

<u>Year</u>	<u>Church Members</u>	<u>Sunday School Average</u>	<u>Total for All Purposes</u>
1964	79	143	\$20,467.00
1965	79	147	17,999.00
1966	75	157	18,221.81
1967	83	159	23,684.00
1968	84	146	21,455.85

LETTER FROM JOHN M. THOMPSON
Son of the Rev. Henry B. Thompson,
of Boynton Beach, Florida

(Rev. Henry B. Thompson was pastor of the Shelby Class during the time of the construction of the first church building. You may see the building operations in the picture in the church entrance.)

"I was born in Shelby on April 30, 1897, during the church construction, in the Uncle Ben Wade house. My mother often told me that she carried me in her arms to the dedication services, so the dedication had to be after April 30. The reason I mention the dates of my birthday is that I believe you are celebrating the 75th anniversary of the church organization. I go further into the dates in an attempt to establish, within a year or so, the dates of the Shelby Church construction as follows: In 1892, Rev. Thompson, Alvin Walker and William Dragoo and others started and finished the construction of the Wesleyan Church building at Walkerville. This building was later sold to the Methodists and the present church was purchased. I have the records of that circuit, (sometimes called Colfax) and on a page in it the Subscription List heading is dated 1892. The building, now owned by the Methodists, has the date 1892 over the entrance.

Rev. Thompson was then moved to Benona, or West Golden. Here he started the construction of the West Golden Church, which is now at another location and owned by a branch of the Mennonites. A note from my mother's hand states that this building was not completed with Rev. Thompson as pastor.

We next find Rev. and Mrs. Thompson at Shelby. He was preaching in Hedges Hall, above a store building, where the present post office now stands. I have a Shelby paper clipping stating that a Sunday School was in operation and that eighteen were received into the church membership at one time. All this happened before the church was completed. Mrs. John Wade gave me this clipping.

A marvelous old Wesleyan traveling preacher, Rev. Crofoot, had been working in this region. His record is nearly forgotten. No one can estimate the value of the work of this man (advanced in years) in preparing the hearts of some people to be willing to start classes and build churches. I feel his name should be mentioned once again in connection with the work in West Golden and Shelby, with Rev. Thompson.

In the original platting of Shelby, there were a given number of lots designated for churches, among them the lot on which the church now stands. Rev. Thompson became informed of this fact and presented his request for the same to Mr. Churchill, president of the bank, and the village. Mr. Churchill presented the request to the Village Council. There was a degree of opposition, but it was finally voted to give the lot to the Wesleyan Methodist organization. Soon after, the dissenting members of the council called a meeting when Mr. Churchill was out of town and voted to rescind the transfer of the lot to the Wesleyan organization. Upon the return of Mr. Churchill, Rev. Thompson informed him of

the Council action. Mr. Churchill then declared the Council meeting was illegal because he was not informed of the meeting nor present for it. He called a legal session of the Council, the transfer of the lot to the Wesleyans was validated and never questioned again. There was yet some opposition.

One day, Rev. Thompson went to the lot with tools, lines, stakes, level, etc., and began to lay out the building. A neighbor living close by came where Rev. Thompson was working, took off his coat and threatened to give the pastor a thrashing. Rev. Thompson continued with his work, giving no heed to the threats. Finally the gentleman retired to his house and, in time came to point with pride to the building and said, "That's my church". He and Rev. Thompson became good friends.

I wish to insert at this point that Rev. and Mrs. Thompson, my parents, supplied me with the facts and they were persons who believed in understatement.

Uncle Ben Wade, who owned the house I was born in, (across from the parsonage) was a man who was one of the unbroken threads in the long hard wear and tear of the church's survival. There have to be some like him in every period of a church's history. He was always able to raise money from the men on the street and in business places. During the building of the church he was a constant source of encouragement and means. Uncle Ben, like all of us, had some words he mispronounced. He called the "incidental fund" the "accidental fund". He was a Union veteran of the Civil War and I consider

it a high privelege to have known him very well in my mature years.

Mrs. Thompson, my mother, was a woman of clear-cut religious convictions and could tell when the trumpet was giving an "uncertain sound" as well as when it was giving a "certain sound".

One of the items which must be provided in a church, and is an added expense are the pews. Rev. Thompson learned of some pews in Whitehall which he could either have free or at low cost. He borrowed a wagon with a hay rack and a team, (he had only one horse) and one morning he started for Whitehall. He got the pews either that day or the next, and started back to Shelby, apparently a little late. As was often done in those times, when it became dark he stopped at a strange farm house and asked for the privilege of staying all night. He was welcomed. The next morning the farmer loaded Rev. Thompson with provisions. When he got home his wife was astonished and thanked God. I wish I could remember those provisions as mother could, one after another.

These pews were used until the beautiful recent remodelings and additions to the church.

During the period that Rev. Thompson was preaching in the hall over the store, a group known as the Crusaders made visits to Shelby. They wore gray, played instruments, and marched on the main street playing hymns. These people were fine Christians. Many people were converted to active Christianity through them. Two of those aroused by the Crusaders were Rev. and Mrs. Haight,

who are buried in the Shelby Cemetery. He became a Wesleyan Methodist minister. Rev. Thompson worked with the Crusader's methods and doctrines of salvation, and I believe many were added to the Church as a result of their work.

At this period in the history of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, pastors did not remain on circuits longer than three or, at most, four years. Conferences were held late in the summer. Preachers moved then and the children had to adjust to starting later than the others in the locality to which they moved. So, with completion of the Shelby Church, Rev. Thompson moved on to another circuit. There was a prevailing feeling, even among those who had to move, that the circuit should not become followers of a given preacher, instead of the cause of Christ, alone. They believed that a change of field of operation brought new fire and zeal to both pastor and circuit. St. Paul would appear to be sympathetic to this attitude.

No, we do not wish to go back to the old days of open cutters on winter Sundays, travelling from point to point, stone cold, and we enjoy the fine organs in the churches. There wasn't an electric current to drive the organ or light the church or school houses where the preaching appointment was. Mrs. Thompson, my mother, "raised" the hymns and the congregation followed. The circuit riders of those days were not so fine and grand. They took digress in hauling logs and clearing the land. But when one of them would rise to speak, I tell you, you

could smell the fragrant flowers of Paradise and the
stifling smoke of hell.

"They had an 'Amen Corner' there
Beside the pulpit stairs,
And while he raised his sermon bent
We lifted with our prayers.
We threw in many a loud, "thank God"
And we weren't obliged to go to
Give the Lord the glory to a
Classroom down below."

Author Unknown

The present is better than the past.

John M. Thompson

LETTER FROM MRS. A. C. WORDEN COLLIER
from Blanchard, Michigan

"My husband became pastor of the Shelby Church in August, 1923. Upon arrival we found a big pile of wood on the front porch, the lot north of the parsonage was planted to corn and garden with peach sprouts in abundance. This was soon cleared and put into lawn and flowers. Mr. Worden layed a sidewalk on the south side of the church, built a new entrance in front and erected a nice bulletin board. The city filled in the ditch beyond the sidewalk and after seeding things took on a new look.

Rev. J. J. Hunt was called for a revival and several joined soon afterward, who became pillars of the church. Everyone enjoyed having the Fisherman's Club of Muskegon come and hold a service occasionally, being composed of laymen and their wives.

One Thursday my husband had been out calling and came home about 11:30 for lunch, but said, "Not now. The Lord has told me to go to Muskegon." With the help of Rev. Collier, Mrs. Edith Wing and Mrs. Laura Rogers, a calling campaign was launched and a hall rented for services. This was the beginning of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Muskegon. We did not have money for gas and my husband had to hitch-hike both ways, arriving in front of the church in time for prayer meeting that night.

Our family, including three sons, have many happy memories of their stay in Shelby. In fact, when we moved to another pastorate, the neighbors on Ferry Street

gave us a farewell party, assuring us they thought as much of us as the church people did. They presented us with a hand-painted tea service. My husband called Shelby the "garden spot of Michigan".

Following my husband's death, I married Rev. Albert Collier, who lived only two years. I will be eighty years old in May, have had cataracts removed from both eyes two and a half years ago and am able to drive again. I have done much traveling since Mr. Worden's death, including three trips to California, four to Arizona, one to Florida, and several times to Pennsylvania where I am now visiting with my youngest son, Leonard. George resides in Battle Creek and Maynard in Washington. I have ten grandchildren and thirty great-grandchildren and they call me "the flying grandmother".

The Lord has been with me down through the years and taken me through many hard places, supplied my every need, for which I praise Him. I am now a member of the Blanchard Wesleyan Church and live near enough to walk to services.

Yours in His Service,
Mrs. Cora Collier

LETTER FROM MRS. C. H. COATS
Brooksville, Florida

"My husband and I moved to Shelby in August, 1929, from the Bay City Church. We stayed four years and moved on to Cadillac in 1933. Our pastorate in the Shelby Church was blessed of the Lord and I still remember the good revival and altar services while there.

My home is in Brooksville, Florida, but after the 15th of April I will be moving back to Marion, Indiana.

My son, Donald, lives in Houston, Texas and they have a twelve year old son, John, who is very dear to my heart. I am getting up in years and am alone except for a half-sister in California, and a niece. I expect to return to Florida in October for the winter.

Mrs. C. H. Coats

LETTER FROM HENRY V. DEKKER
(former pastor)

To the Members and Friends of the Wesleyan Church in
Shelby:

Greetings and congratulations on this your 75th
Anniversary.

A very good time to sing the Doxology! I appreciate the invitation to share with you in this part of your program. The date of our sojourn in Shelby was as follows: By a call from the church, we moved into the parsonage on Ferry Street in August, 1933, to begin our pastoral work, which terminated in August 1936. The older members will remember by these dates that it was the time of depression when money was scarce. However, with a weekly stipend of \$7.00 and many kindnesses and love gifts from friends inside and outside the church, we fared quite well.

If my memory serves me correctly, and some may remember the spirit of revival the Lord sent to the church the first six months of our labors there, with scarcely a barren altar in any of those services. Would to God they had continued much longer.

Now, about thirty-five years hence, finds me happily engaged in personal evangelism, calling on the sick and unfortunate in the hospitals, convalescent and private homes - singing, praying and witnessing for their benefit and the glory of God.

Since losing my vision and driver's license, I am dependent on my memory for Scripture and song; and a good bicycle to carry me around the city. Our family

at present is larger in number than Jacob's host when he entered the land of Goshen in Egypt. All of these are in good health except our oldest son, Willard, who is entirely incapacitated and gets around in a wheel chair. He and his wife have moved to their permanent home in Brooksville, Florida. Rheumatoid arthritis has done its deadly work, and unless the Lord undertakes, it will no doubt be fatal.

At this writing, (October 21) Mrs. Dekker and I are preparing to leave for our winter home in Brooksville on the Wesleyan Campground.

May the Lord of Glory give you all a precious time of refreshing with His presence and a renewed dedication for the work that lies before you, is my prayer. Now unto Him that is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. AMEN.

Your friend and former
pastor,

Henry V. Dekker

LETTER FROM WILLIAM J. LAMB
(former pastor)

"While pastoring in Shelby a period of six years, August 1936 to August 1942, we would be led to state "God undertook in a most miraculous manner". We recall we were in Shelby during the depression days, receiving seven dollars (\$7.00) per week in the beginning of our ministry. They were good days for developing true faith, but what wonderful days they were. Seeing the church grow from complete discouragement to one of the strongest churches in the district at the time of our leaving. Thus, to a God who was, and still is able, praise His dear Name! It was at the time of our ministry the building program was launched with a balcony included with the help of our beloved uncle, Rev. Otto Lamb, who was pastoring at Ferry.

Regarding the present, our labors are in full time evangelistic work, having been appointed by the North Michigan District as General Evangelist. Wife travels with me, journeying by house trailer, and we are enjoying some of the richest years of our ministry as we behold the salvation of scores of men, women and youth.

It is with reluctance we have written anything regarding our life and labors for the Lord, as He is keeping record of all things and we like it that way. Amen.

In His service with best wishes,
William J. Lamb

LETTER FROM SHERWOOD EDDY
(former pastor)

Dear Friends of the Shelby Church,

It is with many fond memories that we recall our days of ministry with you dear people. When we came to Shelby with our little family in August of 1942, Jimmie was three years old and Sharon was one year. About a year later Beverly was born there and six years after that, Becky. Now they are all married. Jim teaches school in Paso Robles, California, has a lovely wife and a little girl almost a year old. Sharon lives in Van Nuys, California, has a little boy four months old, and works in the Personnel Department for the city of Los Angeles. Her husband enjoys his work as an accountant. Beverly lives in South Dakota, has two girls, eight and six years old, and a little boy, nine months. Her husband is a regional sales manager for a firm in Iowa with the territory of North and South Dakota, along with Montana. Becky is married to an Air Force man who is currently stationed at Chanute Field in Illinois where they live close to the base. So our family, who all share with us many happy memories of Shelby, have given us some lovely grandchildren to love and enjoy.

During the nine years we were in Shelby the recollections that come to mind are the gradual growth of our congregation and Sunday School over those years and the remodelling that was taking place over the last five or six years we were there. First, the hardwood

floors in the parsonage, then in the Church; - the excavation of the church basement and building in the walls and floor with hand-mixed and poured concrete; the dividing walls for the classrooms and rest rooms. Next was the excavation of the parsonage, building the wall with cement blocks all the way around and the pouring of the floor. We must not forget the "underground passage" between the church and parsonage. This was a project all its own and I'm sure has proven to be very useful.

I have not forgotten the many men of the church who worked so faithfully and participated in the Lord's work in this way. Our tools were an old dump-truck, a used belt conveyor, a portable cement mixer, picks, shovels, and lots of hard work.

Then, I shall never forget how God laid it on your hearts and how you shared with us in our vision the building of a new church in Whittier, California. You raised a love offering of over \$500 to help us move to this new field and build a beautiful new church and a new congregation.

After 15 years in Whittier and two years in Norwalk, because of a light heart attack in September 1967, I have retired from the pastorate and am continuing my ministry with Rose Hills Memorial Park of Whittier as a funeral chaplain. Having 10 to 14 services a week, I am grateful for a continued ministry to families in their time of sorrow.

We would love to be with you as you celebrate the

75th Anniversary and want you all to know what a big and warm place you all have in our hearts. Our Shelby days are a highlight in the ministry God has given us through the years!

May God's richest blessings rest upon each one of you!

Sincerely, in Christian love,

"The Eddys"

Rev. and Mrs. Sherwood Eddy

LETTER FROM REV. A. J. CLOUGH
(former pastor)

Dear Friends in Christ;

Greetings! We pastored the Shelby Church from 1951 to 1956 and, needless to say, these were good years. Much water has gone over the dam since that time.

It is difficult to sort out any outstanding event of our time at Shelby Church. However, one that stands out just now was the beginning of the remodeling of the old church building, which resulted in the present church plant. At the same time considerable work was done on the parsonage. When we first came to Shelby the parsonage basement was still unfinished. In fact, the building had just been let down on the new foundation. All this goes into the picture.

Of course, there were many spiritual victories as well during our pastorate. Several new converts were added to the church along with others who had transferred their membership.

Another outstanding thing that comes to my mind was the cooperation between pastor and people. How the menfolk (and the ladies) loved to get together and work on the church buildings. Few places have I noticed such working together -- before or since.

Concerning the present: no doubt everyone knows we resigned the Beulah pastorate after spending seven years the second time, and moved to Indiana to help Steve through his college years. Presently we are living six miles west of Warren, Indiana, pastoring the Plummer Chapel Church and working full time at Taylor Univer-

sity, Upland, Indiana. By working at Taylor, Steve will be able to go through college with a minimum of cost. Otherwise it would have been impossible for him to even consider college. Unless something happens to change our plans, we will remain in Indiana until Steve is through with his education.

Virginia is working as a dental assistant for Dr. VanOrnam in Plymouth, Michigan and enjoys her work immensely.

Judy and Dave live about fifteen miles south of us, as she teaches in Fairmount and Dave works at RCA in Marion, Indiana. David, Jr. is three and Barby is going on two years.

God bless you.

Rev. A. J. Clough

LETTER FROM REV. WILLIAM L. ECONOMAN
(former pastor)

I pastored the Shelby Church as a supply pastor for the conference year of 1956 - 1957 and accepted the pastorate and was appointed by the Annual Conference as of August 1957. I moved to Shelby from Whitehall, where I had been involved in establishing a pioneer work. When I moved to Shelby, I had four children at home - Laurel, a senior in high school; JoEllyn, just starting high school; Dale, a third grader and Sheryll four years old. Our family fell in love with the work while at Shelby and with the people of the church. Everyone was very kind to us.

In looking over the conference minutes I find the years of 1957 through 1960 were years of growth statistically, and I sincerely trust, spiritually, as well. During these years the Sunday School attained its highest average attendance; the property valuation rose from a total for church and parsonage from \$36,000 to \$85,000. When I accepted the pastorate in 1957 there was a current indebtedness of \$5,600; when I left the work in 1960 there was an indebtedness of \$9,000, all underwritten by pledges from the membership. In 1956 the church borrowed \$10,000, which is reflected in the church's total for all purposes for that year of \$20,563.95, making this the highest year in its previous history. The years of 1957 - 1960 showed the highest income ever with \$25,619 total for all purposes in 1960, without any of the funds being borrowed. Each year's statistics in the conference

minutes indicate an increase over the previous year during this period.

It is rather difficult making such an analysis without someone feeling that one might be boasting of a record. In my opinion, the above statistics reflect a oneness of purpose and a willingness to share together the great task of the ministry. As pastor, I always felt the church was behind every effort I put forth and I cannot be complimentary enough regarding the unity that seemingly prevailed.

As to outstanding events that transpired during this period, I would have to sight the building program; an addition to the existing structure was accomplished, including the remodeling of the old one. Consequently, the property value increased.

Shelby Church should be noted as one of the very finest of the churches in the North Michigan District. Not only a record of missionary zeal, giving sacrificially to all projects both on Denominational and District level, but have thrust into the ministry as many of its young men and women as any church in this District.

It has been a rare privilege for Mrs. Economan and myself to have had the privilege of pastoring the Shelby Church. We love the people and feel that we shall always cherish the many, many acts of kindness we have been the recipients of, because you cared.

At present, it is our privilege to serve the Lord and the church in an administrative capacity as District Superintendent, which office we have held for the last

seven years. At the last session of Conference, held in July, I was elected to a two-year term. Without a doubt the Shelby ministry helped in preparing our hearts and minds for this task.

Rev. William L. Economan

LETTER FROM REV. JOHN H. BRIDGET
(former pastor)

I pastored the Shelby Church from August 1960 to August 1965. It was a wonderful period of working with the people at Shelby. The outstanding feature that I noted was the high esteem in which the community held the church. There was a real welcome for the pastor in the community, which speaks well of the confidence they have in the people of the Wesleyan congregation.

One of the highlights of my pastorate was seeing the final payment of the mortgage on the remodeled and completed church. Immediately following our responsibility at home, you assumed a helping hand with the debt of our pioneer church at Flint Maple Grove.

Concerning the cancellation of the mortgage, I remember that wonderful day of the mortgage burning ceremony. Steve Hren had made a replica of the church, constructed of welding rods and covered with aluminum foil. We were literally going to "raise the roof" and place the mortgage inside. This was accomplished but before it had completely burned, the edge of the roof caught fire. Thanks to the calm and collected trustee, Glenn Irwin, the flame was extinguished, a catastrophe avoided, and the service proceeded without interruption.

They were five good years in the service of the King, and I extend on behalf of the Bridget family, our heartfelt congratulations to the Shelby Church on its 75th anniversary. It was a real privilege to have had a share in these years.

We have been at Fremont Wesleyan Church since leaving Shelby and have had a new experience of getting in on the ground floor of a building program - from the designing to the construction of a new sanctuary and Sunday School unit. One of our great desires is to again participate in another mortgage burning service - but unless the Lord moves in mysterious ways, it will be down the road considerably, before it can become a reality.

Jan is now a freshman in Marion College, Marion, Indiana, not exactly sure of what to prepare for, but grateful for the privilege of attending a Christian college.

Jim, (Mrs. Bridget's nephew who lived with us in Shelby) is now ready to graduate from Marion College. He was married this past summer to Joyce Compton, a Shelby girl, who will also graduate this year from Marion College. Joyce has prepared for the field of Elementary Education, and Jim will pastor the Midland Church in the North Michigan District. We feel that they will make a wonderful team in the Lord's work.

Again, I want to say, "thank you" for the years of training you added to my ministry.

In Christian Bonds,

Rev. and Mrs. John Bridget

LETTER FROM REV. J. D. COOPER
(present pastor)

Shelby Wesleyan Church

Dearly Beloved in Christ:

The Shelby Wesleyan Church will soon be observing its 75th Anniversary and pastor and people alike are now making plans for this observance.

My interest in past events, of changes, growth and pastoral families has been a real item of challenge to me.

Our fourth year will close this August, and during this time the Sunday School has enlarged its facilities and added a fourth department. The parsonage, at least temporarily, has been changed to an adjacent property at 54 North State Street.

The use of a senior college student as our assistant pastor has been another first for the church - the Rev. James Mowat has been the first to work in this capacity.

The home-going of many of the saints of the church has been a strong witness to the church that one can live and die for Christ. As laborers together with Christ Jesus we are honored to serve Him in our day.

In bonds of Christian love,

Rev. J. D. Cooper

IN HIS SERVICE FROM SHELBY WESLEYAN

Several young people have answered the call to Christian service outside the confines of the home church. The following are those whom the Historian recalls since her teen years in the church:

REV. AND MRS. LEO CORLISS. Leo Corliss came to Shelby at the age of eleven, graduated from Shelby High, and then attended and graduated from Marion College in 1935. Mrs. Corliss is the former Vera Howell, daughter of the Fred Howells. Together, Rev. and Mrs. Corliss served Wesleyan Churches in Lakefield, Hart, Beulah, Flint, and Muskegon First. It was while pastoring at Muskegon First Wesleyan that Rev. Corliss passed to his reward in 1962.

During his years of service, Rev. Corliss always took an active part in conference activities, serving as Conference Sunday School Secretary for 17 years, and also as Conference Secretary. He also devoted some of his time as a member of the Managing Board of Marion College for eight years.

Mrs. Corliss has, since the death of her husband, been employed as a proof-reader at Wesleyan Headquarters in Marion, Indiana. One son, Donald, is a Professor at Marion College; a daughter, Carolyn, is a student at Marion; and Stanley is employed at Fairmount State Bank in Fairmount, Indiana.

REV. AND MRS. LEONARD BROWN. Leonard and Marjorie Brown reside in Whittier, California. Leonard is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Brown of Shelby. Marjorie's parents were Fred and Esteena Howell, also of Shelby. The Browns'

four children: Max, Robert, and Ann are married and live away from home. One other son, Charles, is presently in the Military Service. It is interesting to note that the wives of their two married sons are both ministers' daughters. Together, Rev. and Mrs. Brown have served Wesleyan Churches in Mt. Pleasant, Dayton Center, and in California.

RUTH ANN (HUSTON) POLSTON. Both Ruth Ann and Rev. Don Polston are graduates of Marion College. Ruth and Don met at Marion where both were very active in the College program. Prior to attending Marion, Ruth graduated from Shelby High School. The Polstons presently pastor the Falls Avenue Wesleyan Church of Waterloo, Iowa. Previous to this, they served churches in Fairmount, Indiana and San Antonio, Texas. They were privileged to make a trip through the Holy Land in 1968 and have witnessed many open doors to the gospel through the viewing of slides taken then. The Polstons' two children are Stephen, sixteen years of age, and Ann Victoria, twelve. These two young people are a real credit to the family and to the Lord through their testimony in song.

REV. RICHARD FAIRBROTHER. Rev. Fairbrother is the son of Guy and Avolina Fairbrother of Shelby. The Fairbrothers are at present living in Kaleva and pastor the Wesleyan Church there. While serving his time in the Military, Dick met and married his wife Marilyn whose home was in Iowa. Six children complete the Fairbrother family. They are: Dalene, Charles, Brian, Jolene, Jeraline, and Lonnie. Dalene became the bride of Gene Johnson on June 13, 1969

and will be attending college this fall. Prior to this time, the Fairbrother's served the Grass Lake Federated Church, the Kaleva Wesleyan on a previous call, and the Welston Community Church for three years.

REV. DAVID GRAY. Rev. Gray is at present our pastor at Oakwood Wesleyan in Muskegon. Following David's graduation from Hart High School with honors, he studied at Marion College and Asbury Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky. The Grays have also served our Wesleyan Church at Harbor Springs for two years. Shelby Wesleyan is proud to claim David, his wife Sarah, and their two boys Steven and Robert, as a part of the ministerial and missionary outreach of the Wesleyan Church.

MRS. CAROLYN (WRIGHT) STARRETT. Carolyn is married to Rev. Robert Starrett of Wilmington, Delaware. They have served Methodist churches in the Marion, Indiana area while attending Marion College. Bob is at present assistant pastor of Aldersgate Methodist Church of Wilmington. He and Carolyn met while traveling with the Marion College Choir. Two children complete the Starrett family: a daughter, Laurie Lyn, and a son, Robert Charles. Carolyn's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wright of Shelby.

REV. AND MRS. JAMES CAMPBELL. Jim and Joyce (Compton) Campbell are the most recent additions to the roll of former Shelby Wesleyans who are "In His Service." Both are graduates of Shelby High School and Marion College. During this last year, Rev. Campbell served as assistant pastor of Fremont Wesleyan, and has just recently accepted a call to our church at Midland where he and Joyce are

now serving. Jim is the Nephew of Rev. and Mrs. John
Bridget, former Pastors at Shelby Wesleyan.

DEAR READER:

As you scan this somewhat brief and sketchy history
of those "In His Service" from Shelby Wesleyan, won't you
pray with us that there shall be those added to this roll
who, like Isaiah will hear: "Whom shall I send, and who
will go for us?" And will respond with voice and heart
to that call, answering: "Here am I; send me." (Isaiah 6:8).
For we believe that "all things work together for good
to them that love God, and to them who are the called
according to His purpose." (Romans 8:28).

PRESENT FULL MEMBERSHIP ROLL 1969

Mildred Backa	Dorothy Fryer	John Niles
Richard Backa	Leora Gray	John Padilla
Elsie Bearss	Ronald Gray	Francis Padilla
Lillian Brown	Robert Gray	Mary Rash
Russell Brown	Grace Gray	Clare Sanford
Marilyn Brown	John Gray	Jessie Sanford
Stanley Brown	Ellen Hardy	Herbert Sanford
Joyce Campbell	Franklin Howell	Jennie Sanford
James Campbell	Velma Howell	Fred Sanford
Mary Cooper	Ruth Howell	Mae Sanford
Jack Cooper	Anna Huston	Lida Shaffer
Verna Craker	John Huston, Sr.	Darrel Shaffer
Betty Craker	John Huston, Jr.	Ruby Shaffer
Lawrence Crisman	George Isley	William Shaffer
Rosemary Crisman	Flossie Isley	Marjorie Sobers
Velma Croff	Albert James, Sr.	Alice Tennant
Agnes Dykman	Dema James	Chester Tennant
Jennie Dykman	Albert James, Jr.	Katherine Swinton
Donald Dykman	Ilene James	Carolyn Starrett
Mary Fairbrother	Irene LeFever	Gerald Tennant
Guy Fairbrother	Lavina Landon	Ora Wade
George Fessenden	Reta Manke	Barbara Wright
Irene Fessenden	Virgil Manke	Charles Wright
Claire Fessenden	Albert Nelson	Eleanor Wright
Gladys Fleser	Eva Nelson	Robert Wright
Willard Fleser	Eva Niles	Carol Wright
		Ruth Zaverl