
Fiftieth Anniversary

of the

Arenzville Methodist Church

1905 - 1955

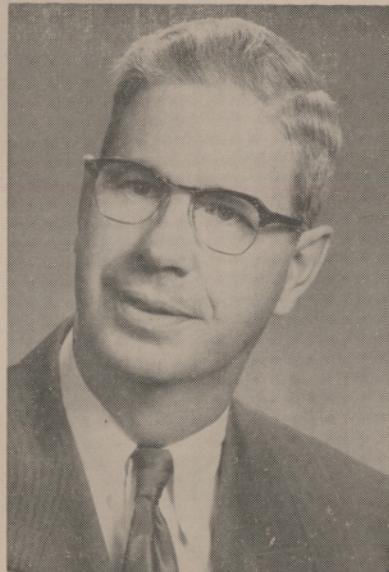




CHARLES W. BRASHARES
Bishop



DR. J. DEWEY MUIR
District Superintendent



REV. AUBREY DUNNING
Pastor

CHURCH HISTORY

The Arenzville Methodist Church was organized at The Methodist Episcopal Church of Arenzville by Rev. A. C. Hunter of Concord in the conference year of 1894-95 with a membership of twenty-four. He endeavored to build a church building, but because of poor health and other difficulties did not succeed. Prior to 1895, Methodist Protestant ministers from Concord served this community in what is now the Presbyterian Church. At that time it was a union church, and was used by any denomination.

The Methodists worshipped in this union church from the time of organization in 1895 until 1905 when the present building was erected. The Methodist pastors serving during that period were A. C. Hunter, R. W. Ennis, W. T. Evans, T. F. Pierson, C. L. Flowers, and T. A. Adams.

In 1905, under the leadership of Rev. T. A. Adams, a new church building was planned. Rev. Adams, with a committee of lay members, consisting of John L. Weeks and Charles E. Williamson, assisted by the community and other lay members, built the present church at a cost of \$3,789.00. The lot was donated by Mr. William Arenz. At the time of the building of the church Rev. Adams reported a membership of 43. The large stained glass windows were given by Mrs. Ada

Saylor, in memory of her husband, by the Ladies' Aid, by the building committee, and by the Junior League.

This church was dedicated October 29, 1905. An all day program was held, consisting of morning, afternoon, and evening services. Sunday School was held in the morning, followed by a sacramental service by Rev. Robert Stephens, presiding elder of the Jacksonville district, and the dedicatory sermon by Rev. A. C. Byerly, presiding elder of the Springfield district. (At that time district superintendents were called presiding elders.) At 3 p.m. addresses were given by Rev. Stephens and by Rev. J. C. Nate of Beardstown. The services in the evening consisted of a sermon by Rev. Byerly and a consecration service by Rev. Stephens.

In 1939 the Methodist Episcopal Churches, the Methodist Episcopal Churches, South, and the Methodist Protestant Churches of America merged into one church and became known as THE METHODIST CHURCH. Now this church is known as "The Arenzville Methodist Church." It has always been a part of the Concord Circuit. We hope and pray that our church will be here for many years to come and we eagerly anticipate the day when it will become a station and can support its own minister.

THE LIVING CHURCH

I love Thy kingdom, Lord,
The house of Thine abode,
The church our blest Redeemer saved
With His own precious blood.

I love Thy Church, O God!
Her walls before Thee stand,
Dear as the apple of Thine eye,
And graven on Thy hand.

For her my tears shall fall,
For her my prayers ascend,
To her my cares and toils be given,
Till toils and cares shall end.

---Timothy Dwight



EARLIEST LIST OF MEMBERS

Arenz, W. F.
Arenz, Mrs. W. F.
Beard, Mrs. H.
Beeley, Joseph
Beeley, Mrs Joseph
Cire, Miss E. H.
Dahman, Mrs. H.
Dyer, Mrs. J. L.
Feldner, Mrs. A.
Feldner, Miss Eda
Frye, Mrs. Lula
Green, Miss Anna ****
Green, Miss F. **** (Kloker)
Green, Mrs. Wm.
Hackman, Miss Cora **** (Burrus)
Hackman, L. C.
Hackman, Mrs. L.
Ham, Mrs. Robert
Hegener, Miss Eva
Hill, Hulda
Hoagland, Miss Florence
Hoagland, Mrs. Geo.
Lightholder, Mary
Long, Mrs. Clara

(Starred names **** indicate those who are active members now)

Two charter members: Mrs. Florence Green Kloker and Mrs. Katherine Wood, remain as active members of the twenty-four at the time of organization in 1895.

Mrs. Florence Green Kloker, Mrs. Katherine Wood, Mrs. Emma Dahman, Mrs. Cora Hackman Burrus, and Miss Anna Green are active members of the forty-three at the time of building in 1905.

LIST OF FORMER PASTORS AND THE YEARS SERVED

A. C. Hunter	1894-1897	S. C. Hilburn	1921-1923
R. W. Ennis	1897-1900	P. J. Rinehart	1923-1924
W. T. Evans	1900-1902	Henry Hibbard	1924-1925
T. F. Pierson	1902-1903	C. B. Stephens	1925-1926
C. L. Flowers	1903-1904	Paul Ragland	1926-1927
T. A. Adams	1904-1907	C. W. Andrew	1927-1939
F. M. Gibson	1907-1908	David Long	1939-1940
Sheridan Phillips	1908-1910	Chas. H. Junk	1940-1942
A. B. Frye ---Cundy	1910-1911	Nelson Chasteen	1942-1947
H. J. Floreth	1911-1912	Robert Pitsch	1947-1951
J. H. Howsman	1912-1914	C. W. Leonard	1951-1952
W. P. Bowman	1914-1917	Aubrey Dunning	1952-
Thos. Symonds	1917-1921		

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

1905-1955

Chas. E. Williamson
John L. Weeks
Roscoe Linder
H. W. (Bert) Wood
Herman Wilson
Mrs. Katherine Wood
Walter Peck

CHURCH PIANISTS AND ORGANISTS

1905-1955

Mrs. Eve Hegener Lambert
Mrs. Marcus Weeks
Mrs. Lyda Willey
Mrs. Farrell Cooper

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The building committee of 1905 would scarcely recognize the present church. To make our church more inviting to others and more efficient, the following changes have been made:

Since 1905 a full basement, with finished walls and floors have been built.

Then a hand-fired furnace sat in a scooped out pit under the floor. This has been replaced by a modern stoker furnace with forced air.

A modern rest room has been installed. Rooms have been equipped for the Junior Department.

Artificial lighting, originally, was furnished by kerosene lamps, then by acetylene lights, and now by electricity with modern fixtures and controls.

The musical instrument in 1905 was a piano. Later a reed organ was used. Now our church is equipped with a Hammond electric organ.

The following improvements were made for this fiftieth anniversary:

The church sanctuary was completely redecorated.

The basement of the church was redecorated by the men of the church.

A new Communion Table was presented by Mrs. and Mrs. Bob Hierman, Mrs. Laura Hierman and Mrs. F. H. Burrus in memory of their loved ones; Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Hierman, M. L. Hierman, and Charles M. Burrus.

A new pulpit and two chairs were purchased by the redecoration committee.

The dorsal curtain was contributed by an interested member and wife.

A lighted cross was given by a party of four individuals.

Another member and wife contributed a bulletin board with changeable lettering.

FUTURE PLANS

For over fifty years the Arenzville Methodist Church has enriched the lives of the people of Arenzville and surrounding territory. There have been countless ups and downs for all the citizens of the community and members of the church. But through it all God has been faithful. His promises have never failed.

When lives have been given to Christ, the church, the living body of Christ has welcomed them. When our youth have sought to link their lives together in marriage, the church has blessed that union. When babies have filled the church homes, those infants have been

blessed by the church. When the angel of death has broken the family circle, the church has laid away the physical body, giving the promise of a general resurrection.

In these fifty golden years of serving Christ, the church has grown from the 24 charter members to 152 members. Therefore in light of the past, the members of The Arenzville Methodist Church pledge themselves to expand the scope of Christ and His Church; and to render to the citizens of this community the same Christ-like spirit our fore-fathers reflected.

ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM

November 13, 1955, 2:00 P. M.

PRELUDE	"If With All Your Heart"	Mendelssohn
	Mrs. Farrell Cooper, organist	
"HOLY, HOLY, HOLY"		1
GREETINGS BY THE PASTOR		
"PRAYER PERFECT"	Stensen	Girl's Sextette
PRAYER		
SCRIPTURE READING		
GREETINGS BY FORMER PASTORS		
"THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION"	Stone-Wilson	Choir
ADDRESS: "Foundations That Endure"		
Dr. J. Dewey Muir, Superintendent of the Jacksonville District.		
"O GOD OUR HELP IN AGES PAST"	533
BENEDICTION		
POSTLUDE	"Postlude on a Choral"	Volkmar

PRESENT MEMBERSHIP

Allen, Roger Dale
Ater, Mrs. Charles
Ater, Charles III
Ater, Francis Floyd
Baird, Thomas
Baird, Mrs. Thomas
Beard, Allen
Beard, James
Beard, Max
Beard, Raymond
Beard, Mrs. Raymond
Beard, Roland
Beard, Mrs. Roland
Beets, Adam Russell
Beets, Mrs. Adam
Beets, Beverly Ann
Beets, Brenda Sue
Beets, Jean Evelyn
Beets, Mervin Russell
Beets, Thomas
Beets, Mrs. Thomas
Bottens, Clifford
Bridgeman, Mary Elizabeth
Butler, Mrs. William
Burrus, Mrs. F. H.

Burrus, Mrs. Lorenzo D.
Burrus, Martin
Burrus, Mrs. Martin
Carls, Mrs. Grace
Clark, Horace
Clark, Mrs. Horace
Clark, Landis Dean
Clark, Ralph Hamilton
Clark, Mrs. Ralph Hamilton
Cloyes, Lucretia Mason
Cooper, Farrell
Cooper, Mrs. Farrell
Cooper, Kent Leon
Craven, Joseph
Crawford, Mrs. Floyd
Crawford, Mrs. John
Crawford, Linda
Crawford, William Frederick
Dahman, Emma
Delaney, Mrs. Eugene
Ebrey, Mignon Zulauf
Edwards, Mrs. Andrew
Fanning, Edward
Fanning, Mrs. Edward
Fernandes, Peggy Crawford

Fozzard, Carl
Fozzard, Mrs. George
Fozzard, Howard
Franke, Karl
Franke, Mrs. Karl
Franke, Linda Ruth
Grant, Charles
Grant, Sara Lee
Giger, Alice
Ginder, Clyde
Ginder, Mrs. Clyde
Greeley, George Crum
Greeley, Wilcox
Green, Anna
Greer, Norman
Greer, Mrs. Norman
Hacker, Dorothy R.
Hall, George
Hall, Mrs. George
Hall, George Hardin
Hall, Verle
Hall, Mrs. Verle
Ham, Albert
Ham, Charles
Ham, Mrs. Charles
Ham, Edgar Allen
Ham, Robert, Jr.
Ham, Mrs. Robert, Jr.
Hansmeier, Mrs. August
Hansmeier, Shirley
Harper, Mrs. Harry
Hierman, Laura
Huey, Tim
Huey, Wilbur
Huey, Mrs. Wilbur
Huss, Mrs. Willard
Joeckel, Marilee Eloise
Joeckel, Marlene
Joeckel, Martin
Joeckel, Mrs. Martin
Johnson, Hal C.
Johnson, Mrs. Hal C.
Jones, Jimmie
Jones, Mrs. Jimmie
Kline, Ray
Kline, Mrs. Ray
Kline, Francis
Kloker, Mrs. Florence
Kuhlman, Mrs. Nettie
Long, Helen
Mason, Floyd Donald

Mason, Mrs. Floyd
Mason, Howard Wallace
Miller, Mrs. Dan
McLain, Orville
Niemann, Arthur
Niermann, Mrs. Oscar
Newbern, Charles
Newbern, Mrs. Charles
Noble, Florce
Noble, Mrs. Florce
Noble, Larry
Noble, Tommy D.
Orr, Marilyn Ruth
Parkerson, Barbara
Parkerson, Ernest
Parkerson, Mrs. Ernest
Parkerson, Janis Eileen
Parlier, Thomas
Peck, Alice Pauline
Peck, Benjamin
Peck, Carolyn
Peck, Charles Edward
Peck, Mrs. Jennie
Peck, Walter
Peck, Mrs. Walter
Pfolsgrof, Arthur
Schnitker, Raymond
Schnitker, Mrs. Raymond
Smith, James
Smith, Mrs. James
Stock, Mrs. Phillip
Stock, Ruth
Strickler, Ernest
Strickler, Mrs. Ernest
Taylor, Burlene
Taylor, Jerry Ray
Taylor, Walter Ray
Taylor, Mrs. Walter Ray
Thornton, Mrs. Mary
Tribble, Mrs. Harold
West, Marvin G.
West, Mrs. Marvin
West, Norman
Wilson, Herman
Wilson, Mrs. Herman
Wood, Clara
Wood, Katherine
Wood, Wayne
Young, Mrs. Eugene
Zulauf, Marvin Dale
Zulauf, Pearl
Zulauf, William Harrison

EXPLANATION OF THE DESIGN AND SYMBOLS OF OUR CHURCH

The walls of our sanctuary are a grey-green. Green donates growth and when used in the church, means spiritual growth.

The ceiling is white which signifies purity.

The shade of pink used in surrounding the symbol above the arch and within the chancel, denotes life---Everlasting Life. (This color is made by mixing vivid red and white.) The vivid red signifies life's blood and the white is purity. Thus giving the Christian everlasting life through Jesus Christ.

In the symbol above the arch, you will find the Greek letter Alpha to your left and Omega to your right. The cross is used with these letters as a symbol of the redemption of mankind, through Jesus Christ. Then this cross and letter is placed in a shield, which represents faith. In the center above the arch is a fleuron.

It is a flower shaped ornament used in architectural decoration, which signifies the Holy Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Then the grapes and vines mingled through the symbol are to represent the Tree of Life. The gold band around the symbol, tells us of God's riches and His bountiful love to mankind.

The Dossal curtain is placed to give a sacred spot to God's house. This curtain is of deep velvet, denoting the Regal power of God. He is King of kings and Lord of lords.

The lighted cross is the symbol of man's redemption through Jesus Christ and the light meaning the Light of the world. As you see this cross, may you be deeply grateful that: "God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

The Ladies' Aid was organized in 1897 and served the church for many years. In 1935 the Pastoral Helpers group was formed and served instead of the Ladies'

Aid. In 1940, the Woman's Society of Christian Service became the women's organization in the Methodist Church.

LISTS OF PRESIDENTS

1897-1955

Ladies Aid

Mrs. Ada Saylor
Mrs. Joseph Beeley
Mrs. Andy Proudfit
Mrs. Walter Pfeil

Pastoral Helpers

Mrs. Lulu Hofstetter
Mrs. Lee Braner
Mrs. Lyman Peck
Mrs. Farrell Cooper

Woman's Society of Christian Service

Mrs. Farrell Cooper
Mrs. M. L. Hierman
Mrs. Robert Ham, Sr.
Mrs. Floyd Mason
Mrs. Floyd Crawford
Mrs. Clifford Plunkett
Mrs. Walter Peck