

Methodists Observe 75th Year in Medford

First Church Was Organized in 1885 By 18 Valley People

The First Methodist church, Medford, this week is commemorating the 75th anniversary of its founding Nov. 15, 1885. Commemorating services will be held today and continue through next Sunday.

Methodism came to the Rogue valley in 1853 when the first Protestant church was started in Jacksonville.

The beginning of the fourth Protestant church in Medford was Nov. 15, 1885, when a group of 18 people met and organized the Medford Methodist Episcopal church. Among this group was the family of John William Redden, including their 17-year-old daughter Cora, Mrs. Cora Redden Carder is today the only surviving charter member of the church.

Official Organization

The official organization was conducted by the Rev. W. G. Simpson, who had been appointed by Bishop Walden Aug. 31, 1885, to serve the Ashland and Jacksonville Methodist churches on a circuit. The first meeting place was upstairs in Wolfe's hall on the northwest corner of Central ave. and Sixth st. Later the Methodists were meeting in the old Washington school, which stood where the Jackson county court house is now located.

In 1887, through cooperation with the new Presbyterian church, services were held in their sanctuary once a month. With the continued increase in attendance at church and Sunday school services, in 1880 the Methodists rented Howard's hall, a building on Main st. between Central ave. and the railroad tracks.

Mrs. Charlotte Hubbard was the first Sunday school superintendent. D. T. Lawton, father of Mrs. Clarence Pankey who has furnished much historical material on the church, served 15 years as superintendent.

First Church Building

In 1889, while the Rev. J. W. Miller was pastor, the first church building was erected. The lots, on the southeast corner of Bartlett and Fourth sts. were donated by Lawton and Clark Taylor. The building, completed the same year at an approximate cost of \$4,000 has housed the Salvation Army since 1924.

Before coming to Medford in 1887, the Lawtons lived in Portland, where they attended the old Centenary church. In 1892, when that church was being torn down, Mrs. Lawton went to Portland where, for \$100 she purchased the old bell from that church. The bell had been cast in Philadelphia in 1866 and shipped around Cape Horn in a windjammer. The bell now hangs in the present church tower and may be heard every Sunday.

For the first seven years of its existence, the church was a part of a circuit, the pastors living in Ashland or Jacksonville. In 1892, it was made a separate appointment and I. J. Phipps donated a lot on North Riverside ave. on which was erected the first parsonage.

Additions Built

As the size of the congregation grew, the church built additions. The one on the east side was built in 1912 while the Rev. E. O. Eldridge was the minister, and the one on the south side was erected in 1916 while the Rev. C. J. Rolands was the pastor. Later a tent was set up for use by Sunday school classes, and nearby residences, including the Lawtons also were used.

A "sewing society" of 10 members was organized in 1888 at the home of Mrs. Mary Childers, with Mrs. Carder secretary. The group was later known as the Ladies Aid.

The Woman's Foreign missionary society was organized in 1890 with five members. Mrs. Charlotte Hubbard was the first president; Mrs. Lawton, secretary; Mrs. Laura Hoxie, treasurer; and Mrs. Ruth Fielder, corresponding secretary.

On March 14, 1907, the Woman's Home Missionary society was organized with 11 members. Mrs. J. C. Wines was the president; Mrs. Lawton, treasurer; Mrs. Kellogg, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. George Mickey, recording secretary. The three organizations merged in 1940 and are now known as the Woman's Society of Christian Service.

Epworth League Organized
During the Rev. E. L. Thompson's pastorate in 1891,

the Epworth league was organized. The young people's organization grew to have three divisions: the Wesley league, the high school Epworth league, and the intermediate league. Mrs. Bernice Kunzman, daughter of Mrs. Carder, recalls the annual February 22 Washington's birthday dinner sponsored by this group to earn money for missions, and that they would serve about 100 persons each year. Today the same age groups are served through the Methodist Youth Fellowship.

Bishop Matthew Simpson Hughes of the Portland area of the church visited Medford in the summer of 1919, and instituted the movement which culminated in erection of a new church building.

Because of this active personal interest in the Medford church, the suggestion that the building be called "The Matthew Simpson Hughes Memorial" was made. The board received the suggestion with enthusiasm, and action was taken accordingly. One of the large stained glass windows was given by the annual conferences of the Portland area as a memorial to Bishop Hughes.

Assigned to Area

Following the death of Bishop Hughes in 1920, Bishop William O. Shepard was assigned to the Portland area which included the southern Oregon district. The Rev. S. A. Danford, as district superintendent, and the Rev. J. Randolph Sarnett, as pastor, with Bishop Shepard, steered plans for a new church building at West Main and Laurel sts.

The structure is of Spanish Renaissance style of architecture in its simplest form. The interior of the sanctuary follows the motifs of some of the ancient cathedrals of Europe, having the large timbers of the trussed roof exposed, clustered aisle and transepts and wrought-iron lighting fixtures suspended from the purlines. The walls are of solid masonry, reinforced with structural steel, and the roof is of var-colored clay tile.

The building, which is in use today, was dedicated Sunday, July 13, 1924. Bishop Even S. Johnson gave the dedicatory sermon. A feature of the afternoon service was an address by E. C. Boggs, chairman of the building committee, who presented the building to Bishop Johnson for dedication. The total cost of the building, including pipe organ, fixtures and furniture, was approximately \$105,000.

In Use Today
The pipe organ, which is still in use today, is known as the "Jane Carrol Memorial" as a tribute to her devotion and benevolence as a member of the church.

During depression years, members of the church were unable to provide enough money to meet the mortgage payments on the new building, and, on March 31, 1932, it was sold at a sheriff's foreclosure sale. The trustees immediately began negotiations to secure a lease for a period of one year.

In 1933, the Rev. Joseph Knotts was appointed to the Medford church, and he soon began to work on a plan for redeeming the church property. It was his idea to sell certificates to the children of the Sunday school for \$1 each.

In a few months time, the children bought \$200 worth of certificates. Not until then was a program proposed to the adult membership of the church. Mr. Knotts put the matter before the adults and asked for cash payments, not pledges, for certificates.

Inspired by Response
Inspired by the children's response to the "let's redeem our church" campaign, the congregation responded. By May, 1934, enough money had been paid into the church treasury that an agreement could be reached between the Mercantile Trust company of St. Louis, and the trustees of the church. The redeemed ownership was consummated in early September, 1934.

There was another branch of the Methodist denomination known as the Methodist Episcopal church, South, which was the result of the conflict over the slavery question preceding the Civil War. This church began in Medford in 1892 when the Rev. H. S. Shangle arrived shortly after being appointed presiding elder of the Roseburg district.

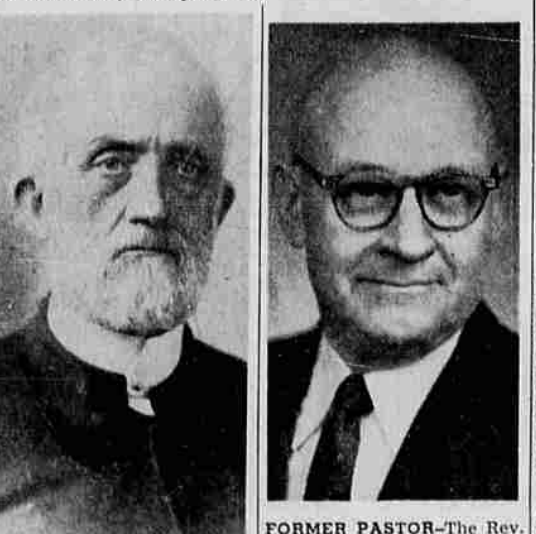
The Rev. H. S. Shangle (cousin of the father of Verne Shangle, Kings highway), directed the building of the



SOUTH CHURCH—The first building for Medford Methodist Episcopal church, South, was built under the direction of the Rev. H. S. Shangle in the spring of 1893.



CHARTER MEMBER—Mrs. Cora R. Carder, mother of Mrs. Bernice Kunzman, 607 West Eighth st., is the only living charter member of the Medford Methodist Episcopal church. Mrs. Carder, the first secretary of the Ladies Aid Society of the church, is 93 years old.



FORMER PASTOR—The Rev. Meredith A. Groves, now executive secretary of the Oregon conference, was minister of First Methodist church when the educational unit was built in 1951.

church in the spring of 1893, and it was dedicated in August of the same year by Bishop O. P. Fitzgerald with R. A. Reagan as pastor. It was located at the northwest corner of Main and Oakdale.

Land Exchange
The land which was originally given to the church by the Southern Pacific Railroad company was so near the tracks it was considered unsuitable and exchanged for the lot on which the church was built.

Judge Silas Day gave the first Communion service to the church, having brought it here from England. The original frame structure was remodeled, enlarged and faced with brick in 1920 during the pastorate of Dr. J. J. Phipps. Dr. Bray, who still resides in Medford, served as pastor of this church on three separate appointments, in 1920, 1926 and again in 1939.

Auxiliary Planned
In the winter of 1892-93, the Woman's Parsonage and Home Mission Society was organized by the presiding elder, Mr. Shangle. That same year he organized a district auxiliary to the organization.



FIRST CHURCH—The First Methodist Episcopal church building was built at the corner of Bartlett and Fourth sts. It is currently used by the Salvation Army.



MINISTERS—Ministers of the two Methodist churches in Medford at the time of the unification in 1939 were Dr. J. J. Phipps (left), minister of Methodist Episcopal church, South, and the Rev. Joseph Knotts (right), minister of Methodist Episcopal church, and first minister of the united churches. Mr. Knotts, now of Springfield, Ore., plans to live at the Rogue Valley Manor.

Joseph T. Knotts who now lives in Springfield, Ore., but who will return to Medford to live in the Rogue Valley Manor upon its completion. The total membership of the church on Easter Sunday, March 24, 1940, was numbered at 756.

In 1945, a bequest from Mrs. Addie Halley made possible the extensive remodeling of the educational plant, making it easier to teach in the church school which at that time had an average attendance of 335 each Sunday.

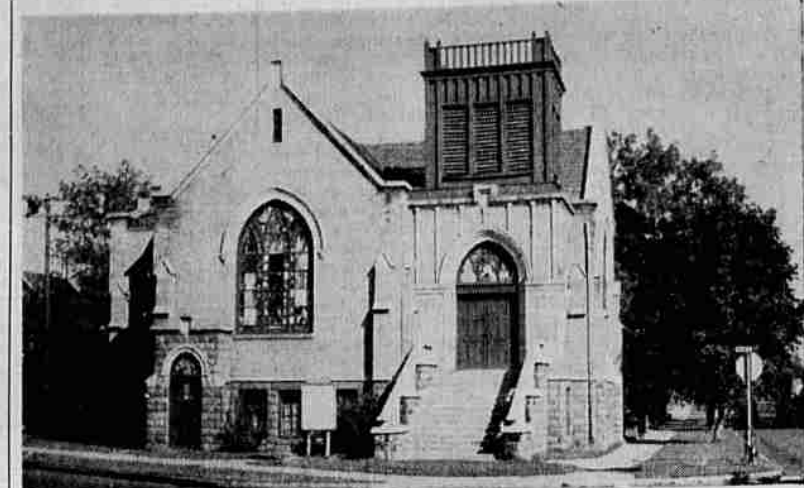
Late in the summer of 1949, the building of an educational unit for the church was discussed by the official board and in February, 1950, under the leadership of the Rev. Meredith A. Groves, the financial drive started. Construction began in July, 1951, to provide an addition of 21 class rooms, three assembly rooms, a fellowship hall, and new kitchen facilities.

This unit was dedicated on Oct. 26, 1952, by A. Raymond Grant, bishop of the Portland area. Dr. S. Raynor Smith, superintendent of the Southern district, presided at this service, and the Rev. H. W. Harshorn was pastor.

Dedication of Unit
May 13, 1956, saw the dedication of the Clarence A. Meeker Memorial chapel, completion of which was made possible by a memorial gift from Mrs. C. A. Meeker. The late Mr. Meeker had been an active member of the First Methodist church for more than 50 years when he died in 1948.

The total cost of the building and furnishing of the chapel was approximately \$15,000, of which \$8,500 was given as memorials. The chapel is of Spanish Mission design, conforming to the general architecture of the church. The chapel is designed for use in wedding, baptismal, communion, and funeral services. Electronic facilities make it possible to link the chapel directly with the main auditorium of the church.

In the fall of 1954, three members of First church decided that the Dead Indian Soda Springs resort area would be the choice location for a youth camp site. Ross Adams, who had assisted R. J. Bills and Charles Adamson in seeking a location, took an option on the land. The Oregon conference camp committee in December, 1954, purchased the land which is now



REBUILT CHURCH—The Methodist Episcopal church, South, was remodeled in 1920. It was located on the northwest corner of Main st. and Oakdale ave. where the Safeway store now stands.

gan services on June 17, 1956, with the Rev. Jack Taylor as the first minister. He was followed the next year by the Rev. Melvin Dixon who is presently serving.

In 1957, the old parsonage on Orange st. was sold and, under the direction of Dr. Raymond Balcomb, a new parsonage started at 3310 Hollywood ave. Dr. and Mrs. George Roseberry moved into the new home in November, 1957, and on June 26, 1960, following a fellowship dinner in the church, the parsonage was dedicated by the Rev. E. J. Aschenbrenner, superintendent of the Eugene district.

Unit Completed
In May, 1959, the educational unit started in 1950 saw completion when the basement was finished and decorated for use as a youth center. Restrooms and a small kitchen, in addition to the large hall, make a complete area for use as a recreation center.

It was the last week in May 1959, also, that First Methodist church was host to the Oregon annual conference for the first time in 32 years. Bishop Grant presided at the meetings and ministers and lay delegates from throughout Oregon were present. Guest speaker was Dr. Roy Nichols, minister, of Oakland, Calif.

First church has experienced what members feel is a rich experience in sponsoring refugee families since World War II. They have sponsored four families in this area and are awaiting the arrival of the fifth. The church now has a membership of about 1,500 and is providing for future growth in physical facilities by the purchase of the Woods property south of the church on Laurel st.

BEARLY ABLE TO VOTE
Hokkaido, Japan - UPP - Representatives of Bekkai village, on Japan's northernmost island of Hokkaido, have told the local election supervisors committee that the villagers will vote in the Nov. 20 general election only if the committee "guarantees" their safety from the wild bears that infest the area.

Hatfield Will Seek To Benefit Oregon During SA Journey

Salem - A mission to establish closer economic and cultural ties between Oregon and Latin American nations will be undertaken by Governor Mark Hatfield during a goodwill trip to South America.

The governor left New York Saturday with 30 other chief executives for visits to Argentina and Brazil at the invitation of heads of those states. The governor will seek to expand the already sizable volume of trade between Oregon and Latin America, and will investigate possibilities of teacher and student exchange programs to promote closer cultural relations.

Governor Hatfield will confer with the Presidents of Brazil and of Argentina to propose that those countries establish consulates for the Pacific Northwest in Portland. This proposal is being supported by the Portland Dock commission, the Port of Portland, and the city of Portland.

Trade Quadruples

Oregon's trade with Latin America has increased nearly four-fold in the past five years, the governor pointed out. Last year imports from the South American trade area through the Portland harbor totaled 132,611 tons, second only to Japan as a source of Oregon imports. Ore concentrates, coffee, gasoline, asphalt and crude salt account for bulk of the imported tonnage.

Latin America also is an important buyer of Oregon products. The total of 140,190 tons shipped through the Portland harbor to the South American area last year included paper, lumber, grain, flour and aluminum.

South America's wealth of mineral resources and Oregon's abundance of low-cost hydroelectric power for processing ores into metal offer one possibility for expanded trade between the two, the governor said. He cited current

importations of aluminum ores and of "rare earth" metal ores for processing here.

Ties Strengthened
Economic ties between Oregon and Latin America also are strengthened by licensing and marketing agreements now existing between some Oregon and South American manufacturers, he said.

Governor Hatfield will confer with Ministers of Education of several countries to investigate possibilities of working out exchanges between Oregon and Latin American educational institutions. He also will discuss other possibilities for expanding cultural relations to promote friendship ties.

The governor will have letters from Portland State college proposing exchange professors, and expressing Portland State's interest in establishing a Latin American center here. He will also discuss such relationships with other schools in the state system.

City Hall Contest Finalists Announced

Eugene - UPP - Three Eugene architectural firms and one from Portland were announced Saturday as finalists in the designing competition for the new Eugene city hall.

The firms are Balzhiser-Cedar-Rhodes, Stafford-Morin and Wilmsen-Endicott of Eugene and Stewart-Richardson of Portland, according to Dr. Walter Gordon of the University of Oregon, who is in charge of the competition.

The four firms were chosen from 25 entries throughout the state. The winner of the competition will be announced March 1. The winner will be selected from further detailed plans, which must be submitted by Feb. 24.

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