

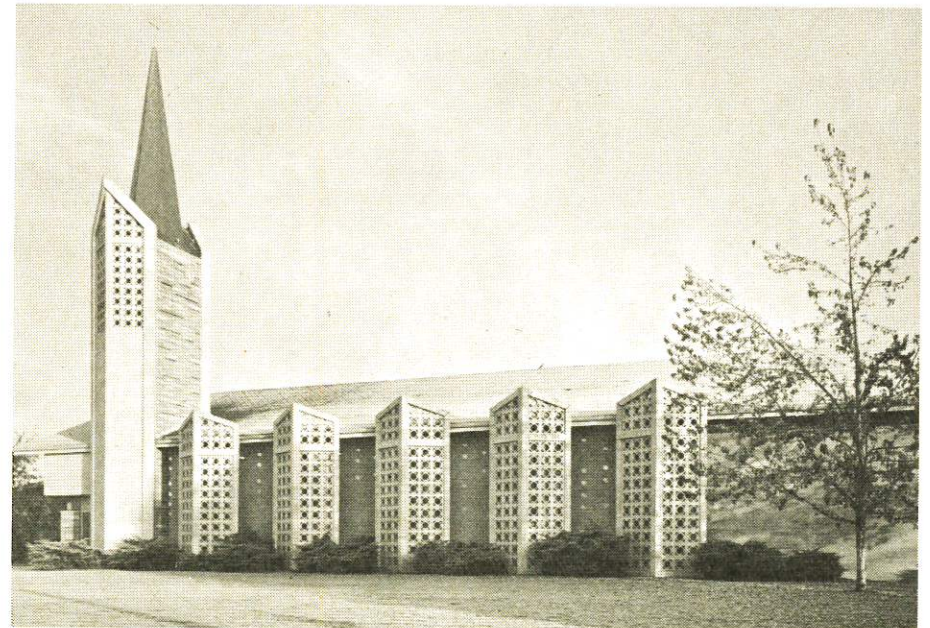
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

350 ELEVENTH AVE.
LONGMONT, COLORADO

1871-1971

100 Years of Service

To the Glory of God
and
The Longmont Community



Centennial Program

June 20, 1971

MINISTERS WHO SERVED THE CHURCH DURING 100 YEARS

R. J. Van Valkenberg.....	1871
F. C. Millington.....	
C. J. Milner.....	
J. S. Coffman.....	1875-76
H. L. Beardsley.....	
L. J. Hall.....	
T. J. Musgrove.....	
J. F. White.....	1883
A. C. Peck.....	1885
T. A. Brooks.....	
J. R. Madison.....	
J. A. Long.....	1887-88
E. J. Wilcox.....	1888-90
H. B. Cook.....	1890-91
C. H. Koyle.....	1891-96
D. B. Vosseler.....	1896-98
A. A. Johnson.....	1898-1900
H. M. Mayo.....	1900-05
A. L. Chase.....	1905-08
J. F. Porter.....	1908-10
C. A. Rowand.....	1910-11
A. J. Waller.....	1911-15
F. J. Krueger.....	1915-17
W. D. Waller.....	1917-22
O. K. Maynard.....	1922-24
R. S. Dum.....	1924-27
F. R. Hollenbeck.....	1927-34
P. E. Snider.....	1934-37
B. H. Christner.....	1937-41
M. L. Jackson.....	1942-46
C. R. Kinsley.....	1946-47
G. S. Upton.....	1947-53
D. J. Grooters.....	1953-62
K. Rice.....	1962-66
B. G. Martin.....	1966-

THE ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP

June 20, 1971

10:00 A. M.

The Organ Prelude "Voluntary On The Doxology" Henry Purcell

*The Choral Introit

*The Call to Worship Rev. Billie G. Martin

Minister: In the midst of the congregation I will praise thee.

PEOPLE: Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous, and give thanks to his holy name!

Minister: I will extol thee, my God and King, and bless thy name forever and ever.

PEOPLE: Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.

*The Hymn of Adoration: "All People That on Earth Do Dwell" (The Old Hundredth Psalm Tune)—arranged for choir, congregation and organ by R. Vaughan Williams.

1. Organ introduction

2. Congregation and choir in unison:

All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
Him serve with fear, his praise forth tell,
Come ye before him, and rejoice.

3. Congregation sings melody; choir in harmony:

The Lord, ye know, is God indeed,
Without our aid he did us make;
We are his folk, he doth us feed,
And for his sheep he doth us take.

4. Verses 3 and 4—choir only

5. Congregation and choir in unison:

To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
The God whom heaven and earth adore,
From men and from the angel host
Be praise and glory evermore. Amen.

The Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving (people seated)

Almighty God, Our Heavenly Father, we bless you for our creation, preservation and all the blessings of this life. Above all we thank you for your inestimable love made real in our Lord Jesus Christ and for the expression of that love through this church for a hundred years. We are indebted today to dedicated lives of the past for their loyalty to Christ and his church and for their responsiveness to opportunities and responsibilities.

As we face the uncertainties of our time enable us to show appreciation of the past by a dedication of our talents and abilities in the fulfillment of your will and purpose for this church. In the name of Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

The Anthem "For The Beauty of The Earth" Katherine K. Davis
Youth Choir

The Scripture Reading Hebrews 11:32-12:2

The Morning Prayer (Lord's Prayer) Choral Response

The Offertory Reverie on "My Faith Looks Up to Thee" Diggle

*Dedication of Offering Doxology

Informal Moments

The Anthem "With A Voice of Singing" Martin Shaw
Chancel Choir

The Sermon "Looking Backward and Living Forward"
Bishop R. Marvin Stuart

*The Hymn "O God Our Help In Ages Past" No. 28

*The Benediction Bishop Stuart

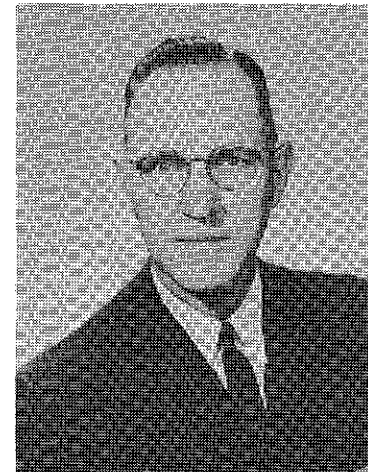
The Postlude "Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott" Bach
*Congregation standing ****Interlude for seating

Following this service there will be an all-church dinner served in the court yard. Immediately after dinner a brief program of entertainment will be presented at which time we will recognize and honor former ministers of this church. Former ministers who are living and invited to be present for our centennial observance are as follows:

- Ben H. Christner 1937-1941
- Monford L. Jackson 1941-1946
- Claude R. Kinsley 1946-1947
- Donald J. Grooters 1953-1962
- Kenneth H. Rice 1962-1966

The church has served the Longmont Community actively through the years. It has been identified with community-action programs, and is one of three denominations which built and operates the St. Vrain Manor, an apartment building for Senior Citizens. It regularly is used by youth groups—Boy and Girl Scouts. It houses the Head Start program and its Wesley Hall is a popular Luncheon and Banquet place. Organizations within the church have kept it viable.

In addition to being recognized as the largest protestant church in Longmont and a strong influence in the community, it is considered to be one of the strong churches of the Methodist denomination in the state of Colorado.



Billie Martin

A message from the minister:

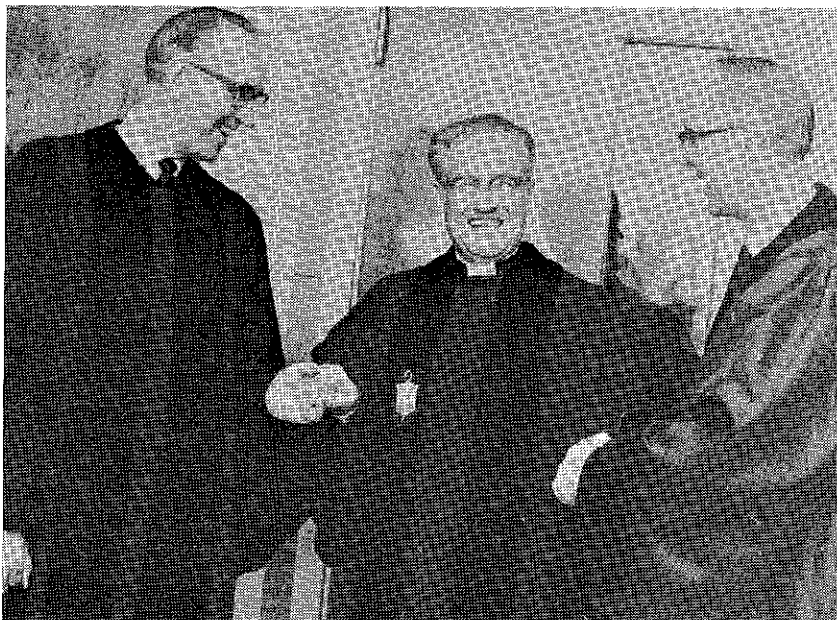
Today we are looking back over 100 years of church history—the history of Methodism in Longmont, Colorado. We recall with appreciation the planning, the labors and the sacrifices of dedicated men and women who have brought to reality the present First United Methodist Church. They endured hardships that are unknown to us but through loyalty and devotion to Christ and through dependence upon Divine Providence they were victorious. They planned, worked, lived and some died for "generations yet unborn".

Today you and I are a part of those "yet unborn generations". We have received in abundance from our forefathers and from the abundance of God's providence.

As we look to the future, which no doubt is filled with unrest and uncertainty, let each of us dedicate ourselves anew to the fulfillment of the hopes of the past; to the fulfillment of God's will and purpose for our church and to a strong faith that will enrich the lives of "generations yet unborn". Ours is a rich heritage. Let us pass on to future generations an even richer heritage than we have inherited.

Billie G. Martin

On November 2, 1969, exactly ten years after moving into the new church, the indebtedness was fully paid. It was appropriate that Rev. Donald Grooters, who worked so diligently to guide the completion of the church building, should return as District Superintendent to take part in the Dedication. Bishop R. Marvin Stuart gave the sermon at this service.



Rev. Martin, Bishop Stuart, District Superintendent Grooters

The First United Methodist Church of Longmont has a total active membership of approximately 1600 at this time. There are 825 enrolled in the church school. It has experienced a steady and healthy growth since its organization. Rev. Billie Martin conducts two Sunday morning services, and an assistant minister has been on the staff most of the past nine years.

During the one hundred years, the church, in keeping with the world church of Methodism, has had three names. It began as the First Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1939, when three world-wide churches united, it became simply, the First Methodist Church. In 1969, when the United Brethren and Methodists became one, the name was changed to the First United Methodist Church.

THE FOUNDING OF A CHURCH

Longmont was founded in the spring of 1871 by the Chicago Colorado Colony, and the Longmont Methodist Church was organized on June 21, 1871.

The Rev. R.J. Van Valkenberg had the honor of being the first regular settled clergyman in the city.

On July 9, 1871, when regular Sunday services began, B.F. Vincent, presiding elder of the church, delivered the first sermon.

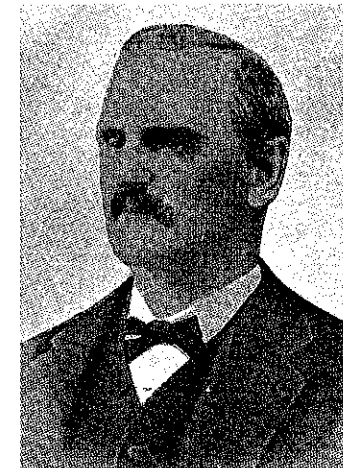
The Methodists used a store building on Main Street. This building had been used as a temporary school room before the Methodists occupied it.

A union Sunday School was organized with a constitution and full corps of officers and teachers. That first organization consisted of Mr. Seth Terry, superintendent, Mrs. Chancey Stokes, assistant superintendent; C. Bliss, secretary; Mr. A.W. Coffman, librarian, and Miss Isadore Terry, treasurer. The first quarterly conference was convened on June 21, 1871, with B.F. Vincent, presiding elder. Rev. Van Valkenberg was the circuit preacher at that time. The stewards were Messrs. E.J. Coffman, F.C. Beckwith, J.H. Goss, D.S. Coffman, E.B. Newman, J.E. Wharton, and W. Hopkins. The trustees were Messrs. J. Coffman, H. Manners, and E. B. Newman.

Actually, the history of the Methodist Church in Longmont began before the town was organized. It was active and functioning for several years in the Burlington Settlement south of the present site of the city of Longmont, on the south bank of the St. Vrain river.

Methodism began in Colorado when Rev. Jacob Adriaance came to the Rocky Mountain region in 1860.

The Colorado Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church was organized July 10, 1863 in Denver, Colorado with Bishop E.R. Ames presiding. Two districts were formed, the Colorado with three circuits, and the Denver with six circuits. A circuit is a charge with two or more preaching points.



R. J. Van Valkenberg



J. F. Coffman



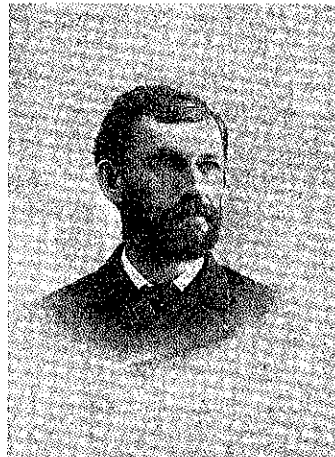
L. J. Hall

(It is interesting to note that Rev. Oliver Willard, the brother of the famous Frances Willard, preached to the early settlers on the St. Vrain when they met in cabin homes. He brought the first word of the assassination of President Lincoln to the St. Vrain people when he came to preach.)

June 22, 1865 Rev. O.P. McMains was appointed by the Colorado Conference, which was held in Denver's Lawrence Street church, to serve the Burlington circuit. This work embraced the valleys of Boulder, Left Hand, St. Vrain, Little and Big Thompson, and Cache La Poudre. Rev. McMains served the circuit for two years. In 1867 the circuit was divided and the following year Rev. W.W. Baldwin served the Valmont circuit, which included Boulder and Burlington. The next year Rev. P. Peterson served the Valmont circuit. At the conference session in 1869 Rev. Van Valkenberg was appointed to supply the Valmont circuit, "preaching regularly at Boulder, Valmont, Burlington, Hagers, Upper St. Vrain, Porters, Baileys, and Way's on Left Hand."

"In the spring of 1871 when the Chicago Colony laid out the town of Longmont "Van" at once moved up the church and Sunday School, preaching the first sermon and conducting the first Sunday School in that town."

The Longmont Methodists built their first church on south Main Street, where the Model Laundry now stands. It was first used for religious services about a year after the organization was founded, on July 7, 1872. This church was destroyed by fire in the 1930's.



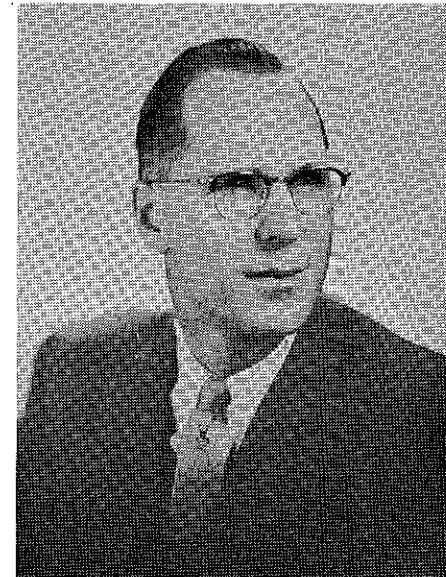
J. F. White
Built second church



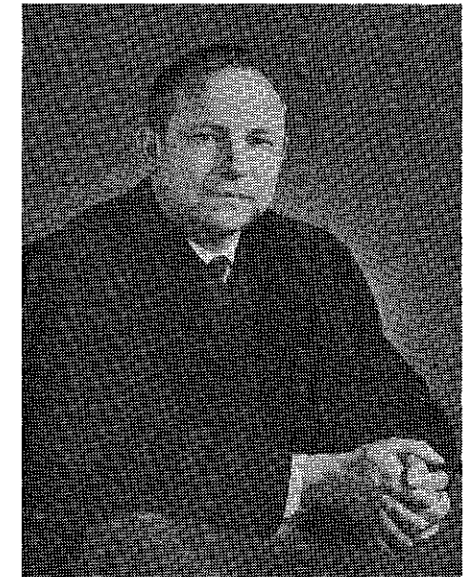
A. C. Peck



A. A. Johnson



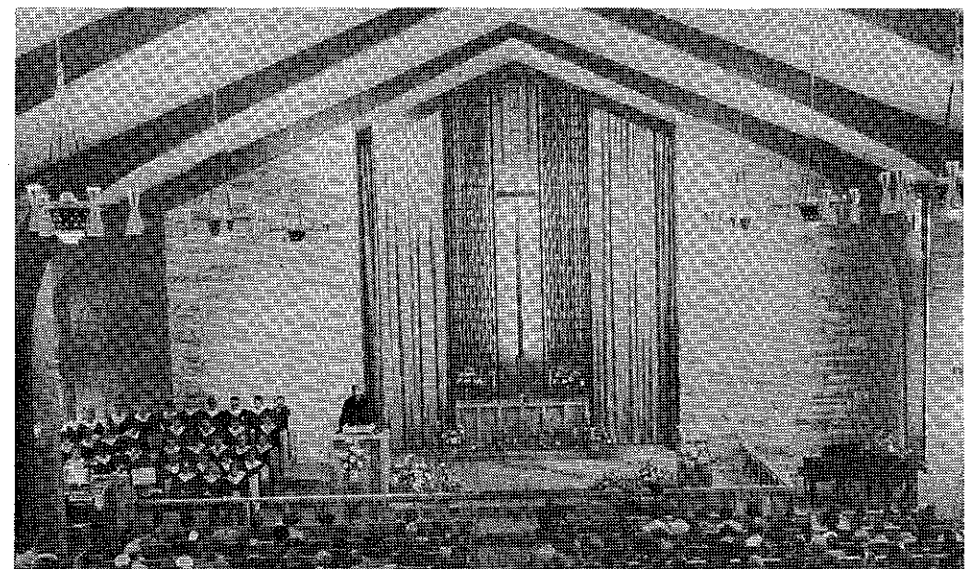
Donald J. Grooters



Kenneth Rice

On November 1, 1959 the first service was held in the new church home, with 825 people in attendance in a sanctuary designed to seat 630.

In 1963 Rev. Kenneth Rice became minister. During his ministry the old parsonage was sold and the present one at 1009 Corey Street was purchased.



First service in present church, November 1, 1959



Ben Christner



M. L. Jackson

In 1946, when Rev. Ben Christner was pastor, the Methodist Church observed its 75th anniversary. It issued an Anniversary Year Book which contained a "Brief History and A Directory" of the church.

Rev. Donald J. Grooters served the church for nine years, from 1953 to 1962. During this time the membership voted to build a new church home. A finance drive was conducted, land was purchased, and the present four-unit building was constructed at 350 Eleventh Avenue.

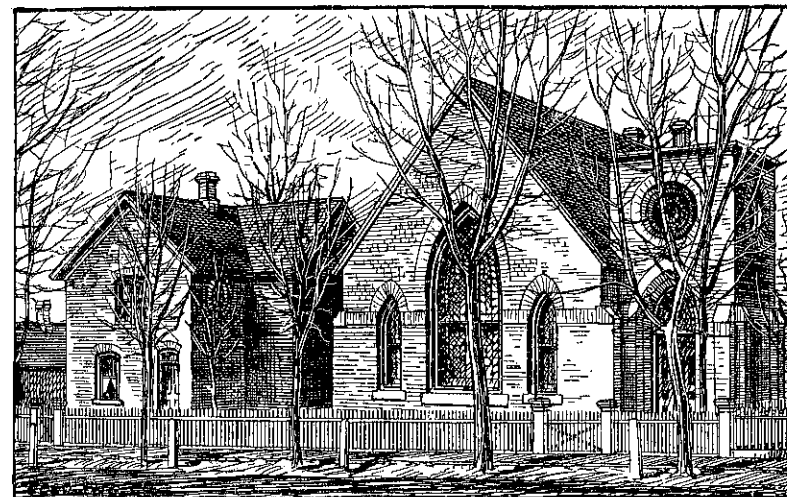
Ground-breaking was on September 14, 1958, and the cornerstone was laid on October 18, 1959.

The new structure contains 25,000 sq. ft. of floor space and cost approximately \$425,000.

The former church at 4th and Terry was sold in 1958 for \$55,000. The building was razed in 1964 to make way for the Times-Call Publishing Company building which now occupies the site.



Ground-breaking at 350 Eleventh Avenue



Parsonage and Church

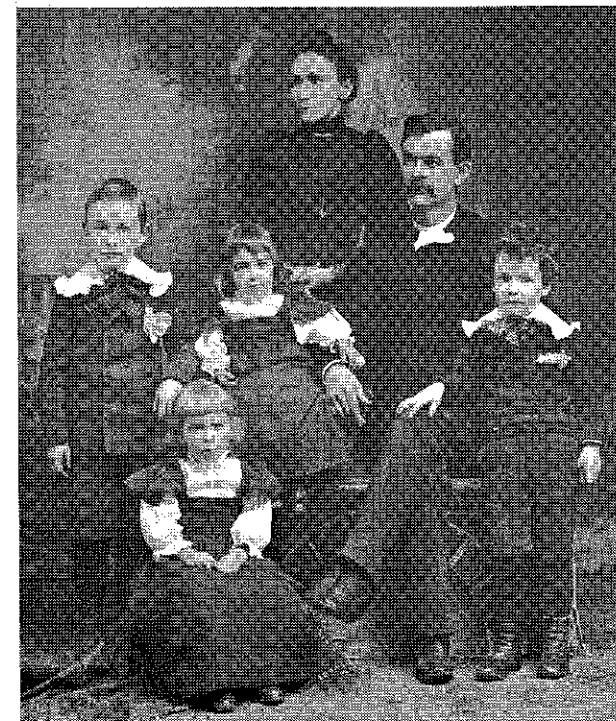
In 1878 a second church building was erected on Terry Street, between Third and Fourth Avenues. The cost of this structure was \$5,100. Dedication services were held on May 27, 1883. This building still stands. It was used by the First Lutheran Church for several years after the Methodists built their third church in 1903. Following the Lutherans' occupancy, the Seventh Day Adventists owned it. Now, in 1971, it has become the Ahlberg Funeral Home.



E. J. Wilcox



D. B. Vosseler



Charles H. Koyl



The third church home was erected in 1903 on the corner of Fourth Avenue and Terry Street. The Methodists "broke ground" in May. At this service Rev. H. M. Mayo, the pastor, held a religious service.

In June that year the church observed its 32nd anniversary. Bishop Warren preached and Rev. Van Valkenberg gave the church history. In the evening Dr. A. A. Johnson preached.

This new church home was dedicated on December 20, 1903.

An organ was installed in the church in 1916. The church Matrons assumed the \$2,400 project.

In 1924 Wesley Hall was erected on Terry street, just back of the church and connected to it. It was built as a community recreation center. The cornerstone of Wesley Hall is now at the Longmont Museum.

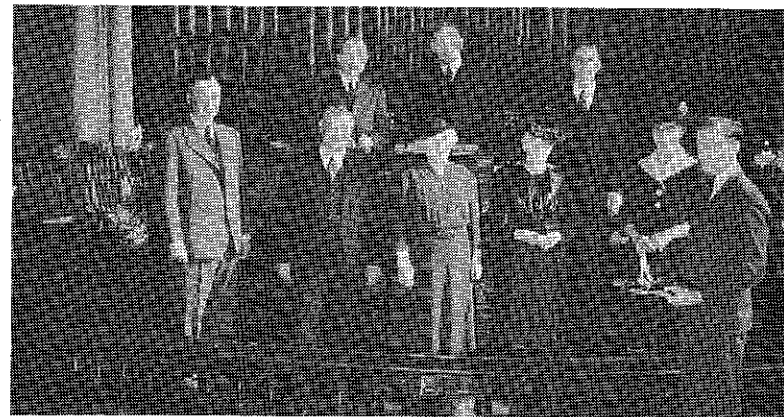


Sunday School Class—1919 or 1920



"A beautiful dwelling on the corner of Fourth Avenue and Pratt St. was purchased for a parsonage early in 1920. It provided a comfortable home for the ministers, consecutively, with their families"—until 1963.

On February 7, 1943, Bishop Wilbur E. Hammaker presided at a mortgage burning service which signaled the complete liquidation of all indebtedness against the church property. In November of 1945 an improvement program of \$20,000 was launched for the purpose of securing four needed improvements: the excavation and completion of the basement of the sanctuary, the purchase of a \$6,000 organ, the installation of a new gas heating plant, the enlargement and improvement of the sanctuary to seat from 500 to 550 people.



Burning of the mortgage

Top row: Rev. Christner, Bishop Hammaker, Rev. Jackson
 Lower row: E.J. Kinzer, Dr. Jernigan, Mrs. Lillian Pennock,
 Mrs. Joseph Noble, Mrs. Hugh Large
 Front: Jack Auger, President of M. Y. F.