**THE HISTORY OF HANOVER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**1846 - 1996**

On July 2, 1846, Williamson Dunn and his wife Mary deeded Lot No. 6 in Trustee's Addition in Hanover to the following trustees: Nathan T. Reed, Benjamin Thomas, David Thomas, Edwin E. G. Leland, and Basil H. Warfield, provided that they erect on this property a house of worship for the Hanover Methodist Episcopal Church. James Polk was President of the United States, which had just added Iowa as its 29th state. The Mexican War had just started. The Methodist Episcopal Church had split the year before over the issue of slavery and would not be reunited until 1939. Williamson Dunn was the founder of the town of Hanover in 1809. Bob Craig, a

current member of our church, is Dunn's great-great-grandson.

The first church was built in 1847. Although there was hoped to build a larger church building, it was about 1878 before the structure was rebuilt and enlarged into a white frame three-room

church. It was also at this time that the "sweet-toned bell" as referred to by earlier church historians was presented to the church by Samuel H. Tull, who was the grandfather of Miss Fannie Tull and of Mrs. Hazel Beck. He had acquired it from a defunct church of another denomination near Lancaster. This is the very bell which still serves us.

The names of the earliest pastors of the Hanover Methodist Episcopal Church are known, but without their dates of ministry. They are:

S. Potts E.W. Melander Gilbert Curtis W.W. Snyder

Michael Black ÁB. Morrison Samuel Weeks W.R. Lathrop

Sidney Tinker William McGinnis .S. Jordan A.B. Hester

C.C. Haliday S.A. Bright J.G. O'Neal R.S. Golbert

William Weeks C.B. Larabee L. Forbes W.W. Snyder

Lewis King William Harrison D.C. Benjamin A.M. Lowden

John Miller J.G. Chafee J.L. Funkhouser L.D. Adkinson

James Beswick E.P. Jewett I.W. Allen W.C. Crawford

W.R. Plummer

Ministers of the church since 1900 are:

J.N. German 1900 Robert Roland 1945-46

H.M. Elwyn 1901-02 Byron Bastin 1947-48

H.S. Broadwell 1903-04 Edward Richards 1948-49

S.A. Morrow 1905-07 Ronald Woodall 1950-52

H.J. Liddel 1908 -10 Rev. Farr 1952

H.J. Hart 1911-13 Clyde Black 1952

Rev. Henderson 1914-16 Roland Williams 1952

Joseph Cooper 1917-18 Orville Carmichael 1952-58

I.W. Dennis 1918-19 William Huckabone 1958-64

Rev. Regan 1919-20 Jack A. Wallace 1964-66

Enoch Brindley 1920 John Beatty 1966-69

R.W. Parsley 1921-23 James Taylor 1969-71

Guy E. Lowry 1924-25\_ Stephen Cherry 1971-74

Grace Harris 1925-28 Allen Amstutz 1975-84

H.L. Holden 1929 Mitchell Gieselman 1984-87

J.M. Taylor 1930-32 \_ Patrick Walden 1987-88

C.O. Carnes 1932-36 Betsy Baxendale 1988-91

George Curtis 1936-40 Larry Stewart 1991-96

Clyde Onyet 1940-41 Vickie Perkins 1996-

Lawrence Terrell 1941-42

Emory Fulling, 1943-44

From 1900 to 1929 Hanover Methodist Episcopal Church was part of a three or four-point charge. The other churches that the Hanover Church has been a part of a multiple charge with

are Zoar, Paynesville and West Madison.

In 1908 the trustees of the Hanover Methodist Episcopal Church were Addison Turner, Willliam Trout and Richard Lawson. Other early trustees, dates of service unknown, were Nathan Reed, Benjamin Thomas, Edwin Leland, Mrs. James Arbuckle, Basil Warfield, John Park, Addison Turner and S.W. Tull.

During the ministry of Rev. Guy Lowry in 1924 the Epworth League, forerunner of the Methodist Youth Fellowship, was formed. Shortly thereafter, while Rev. Grace

Harris was pastor, the Sunday School rooms were added to the church building. Rev. Harris later married a Baptist who was Leonard Lichlyter's great-grandfather. Also, at this time the Ladies Aid Society, the forerunner of the United Methodist Women (UMW) was founded. Under Rev. Carnes' pastorate the land known as the Aunt Mary Stillhammer property was purchased and its house remodeled to serve as the parsonage.

In 1935 some of the Sunday School teachers were Miss Fannie Tull, Miss Sadie Barnes, Mrs. Tabnor Jackson, Miss Mona Simmons, Miss Rita Simmons, and Mrs. Belle Stillhammer.

In 1935 to 1937 the trustees were Tom Smith, Merritt Williams, John Davidson and Mrs. Belle Stillhammer.

In 1939 the Methodist Episcopal, the Methodist Episcopal South and the Methodist

Protestant Churches merged at the national level. The local church was henceforth known as Hanover Methodist Church. The Ladies Aid Society becomes Women's Society for Christian Service. In 1938 or1939 a Sunday morning bus route was established to help save on gas

during time of rationing. The bus driver was Mr. Raymond Kyle, a member of the congregation. Some of the riders were the four Henry children including Betty(Henry) Lichlyter and Patty(Henry) King; Myrtle(Gassert) Hay, the Martha Hayes family; Cora(McKeand) Wiley

and Bonnie(McKeand) Stockdale; the Sauley family; the Raymond Smith family; and Callamatta Manaugh and her family. All of this was on the site of the present-day Hanover Baptist Church on West Main Street.

In 1940 to 1941 the trustees were George Lutz, Thomas Smith, Merritt Williams, and Raymond Kyle. In 1948 Hanover Methodist becomes part of a two-point charge with Zoar Methodist Church. The Methodist Men were chartered in 1953. Wallace Patterson was president; Russell Smart was vice-president and Uyda Hartley was secretary-treasurer. In 1954 the youth group was split into two groups with Helen Kreeger as leader of the Senior M.Y.F. and Norma Croxton and Grace Jobe as leaders of Intermediate M.Y.F. Some of the other church officials were:

Superintendent, Church School: Leonard Lichlyter

WSCS Officers: Mrs. Albert Manaugh, Pres; Mrs. Robert Law, Vice Pres;

Mrs. Uyda Hartley, Sec-Treas

Sunday School Teachers: Miss Fannie Tull, Mrs. John Smith, Mrs. Ray Wingham, Mrs. Freeman Lowry, Mrs. Wallace Patterson, Mrs. Helen Kreeger, Mrs. Clyde Jobe, Mrs.

Eileene Hartley, Mrs. Frances Wilkerson, Mrs. Leonard Lichlyter

Choir Director: Ray Wingham

Pianist: Mrs. Norma Croxton

In 1952 Mr. and Mrs. Roy LaGrange donated a plot of land to the Methodist church. On this lot was built the following year a new parsonage, the one still serving that function today. In 1954

the LaGrange’s deeded two more lots adjacent to the parsonage for the construction of a new church building. Rev. Orville Carmichael, pastor at this time, relates that Mr. LaGrange said

that he would not sell these plots, but that, since God gave him the ground, he would give it back to God. A third lot, to the west was also obtained from them for parking and possible future expansion. On Sunday, September 4, 1955, a ground-breaking ceremony was held, with the District Superintendent, Dr. Lee S. Jarrett, presiding. The congregation moved in a body from the old building to the new site and consecrated it for the new church. The actual

construction got under way in May 1956. That summer the foundations and basement were completed, but work started in earnest only in late autumn. Rev. Carmichael says there was to be

no swearing during the construction, but if there was it would cost a nickel per swear word. The old church building was sold to the Baptist congregation, and a tentative date of Easter Sunday 1957 was given them for possession. On Palm Sunday, April 14,1957, the last morning worship was held in the old building, and the congregation, with mixed emotions of sorrow and joy, moved to the new building, which still had no pews and lots of work remaining to

be done. The first worship service was held Easter morning, April 21, in an unfinished building. By September 18, 1957, the building was virtually finished. Its total cost was approximately $57,500, and on that date the cornerstone was laid as a symbolic completion of construction. The relatively low cost of construction had been made possible by many hours of labor given freely by church members and by the considerateness of many suppliers. It is recorded that the lights often burned as late as eleven o'clock in the evening while members were at work. The bell was moved to the new building which still had no bell tower. Bill Cole and others erected a rather rustic frame like structure with a crossbar from which the bell hung. It was in use until 1963. Rev. Carmichael did much of the work on the church himself.

On December 8, 1957, Bishop Richard Raines presided over the consecration of the building. The budget for 1958 was $18,700. During the pastorate of Rev. William Huckabone, the bulletin

board was erected (1960) and the bell tower was added (1963). The bell tower was dedicated on June 14, 1964. The cross and candlesticks on the altar were given by the M.Y.F. It was also

during Rev. Huckabone's time that the Looseknits, the organization of Methodist students at Hanover College, became active and that students became a larger part of the church's program and life.

The next minister, Rev. Jack Wallace, served for two years, during which time a church newsletter was started. Joe Bottorff, a college student from Seymour, became church organist,

volunteering in this capacity and using his own organ. He served for nearly three years and has since been ordained and served in our Conference many years.

Rev. John Beatty served as pastor for three years. In September 1966, several ladies of the church, in cooperation with ladies from the A.M.E., Presbyterian, and Zoar churches, opened a

Thrift Shop in the Hanover Garage. This Thrift Shop, located since 1967 in the basement of the Presbyterian church, has been a very effective missionary enterprise. On February 26, 1967, the church was dedicated, after the complete paying off of the mortgage. As a part of that ceremony, Everett Schwarm and Paula Davis made presentations to Rev. William Burton, Executive Assistant to Bishop Raines. In May 1969, the Official Board was reorganized into a

Council on Ministries and an Administrative Board, a change resulting from the merger of the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren into the United Methodist Church. The

Women's Society for Christian Service became the United Methodist Women.

Rev. James Taylor served two years, until June 1971. There was a big resurgence of college student attendance during his pastorate, as well as a revitalization of the Youth Fellowship. On

July 25, 1971, the church celebrated its 125th Anniversary with Homecoming Day.

Rev. Stephen Cherry served for three and a half years. He is remembered for his innovative worship services, but this period also witnessed a big step in the life of Hanover United Methodist Church the move to a one-point charge, which included the purchase

of Zoar Church's share of the parsonage. On another level this period is also memorable for the April 3, 1974, tornado. The tornado did no damage to the church, but it devastated the homes

and businesses of a great many members of the congregation. The church building itself also served valiantly in the weeks after the tornado as a relief and supply center, headed and staffed by, among others, members of our church.

Rev. Allen Amstutz arrived in January 1975. A major step forward during his first year

was the addition of a room to the church, known as the Blue Room; at the same time the pitch of the roof was changed to elevate the flat areas. A less happy event occurred the following winter when there was a termite infestation of the church. However, the fact that the gnawing sounds of the swarming termites were quite audible during worship service one Sunday seems to have helped in the emergency financial drive which resulted in their extermination shortly.

A lot of firsts occurred around this time. In 1975 the church had its first Ice Cream Social and in 1977, the UMW held its first Harvest Festival. In 1978 bells were purchased by Helen Kreeger and soon afterwards, a bell choir was formed under the direction of Nettie Post.

In September 1980 the church, partly to accommodate increasing worship attendance, began having two Sunday morning services, sandwiched around Sunday School hour. Also that year a long-awaited steeple and cross were erected as memorial gifts from Helen Kreeger. The following spring a project that had been in the works for well over a year came to fruition when a new church pipe organ was installed. It was dedicated on April 26, 1981. Its purchase was implemented by memorial funds and by a large bequest in the will of Mrs. Hazel Beck, a longtime member. Late in 1981 the Pastor/Parish Committee began discussions and then plans which resulted in a truly major project, the addition of two bedrooms, a family room, and a

bathroom to the parsonage, in the original house. Through much of 1982 work was done on this project by many members of the church under the leadership of Russell Smart. There was a dedication service November 7, 1982. Present for this service was Rev. Carmichael, first resident of the parsonage nearly thirty years earlier, and an old hand at pitching in and working. In fact, on this occasion, he related that back in 1957 he himself had fashioned a large cross for temporary use in the sanctuary. It is indeed the one still a dominant and majestic symbol in our church. Other valued gifts to the sanctuary from church members include the baptismal font made by Leroy Gassert around 1972 and the ceramic Nativity scene made by Mrs. Bonnie Smart. In 1982, to help raise funds for the parsonage addition, the church sold pie and ice cream

at the Pilot Club' Old Court Days. The Pie and Ice Cream booth has been a fund raiser for many special projects since, plus helping out when the General Fund ran a little short.

In 1984 the church membership had grown to 330 and its budget to $58,652. However early in 1984, as Marble Hill was about to close down, many vital church members associated with that facility would soon be leaving. Rev. Amstutz was moved that fall, and Rev. Mitch Gieselman became the new pastor. Ralph Seifert began playing the organ also early in 1984 and has continued in that role well into a second decade. In November 1985, during a worship service, we celebrated the burning of our mortgage on the parsonage. In May 1986 there was a dedication of the new chancel paraments, which had been made by Joann Stucker and Eileen Hartley. In the mid-1980's our church, devotedly led by Grace Ireland, began the practice of

providing cookies, and sometimes plants, for Hanover College students at the opening of the school year.

Patrick Walden became our new pastor early in 1987 and remained until June 1988. Alice Foster became our regular church secretary. A new copier was purchased for the office. The new

Administrative Council was formed, consolidating the Administrative Board and the Council on Ministries.

Betsy Baxendale was our next minister, and she remained three years. Many physical improvements were accomplished in this period, such as new doors for the back entrances, a new heating and air-conditioning system (which was dedicated on January 22, 1989), repainting of the sanctuary and hallways, new carpet, new drapes in the Red Room, and a new oven. Ken Schneider set up, and continues to maintain, a bulletin board in the hallway with photos of church events. In October 1989, the old hymnals were retired and replaced by new ones. The New Year's Eve service was also begun this year. Starting in June 1990 we went back to just one Sunday worship service.

Our new pastor in June 1991 was Rev. Larry Stewart. At about this time our average worship attendance was reported at just under 130. The Senior High youth were very active with sixteen members attending a youth conference in Missouri that August. Late in 1991, and on into 1992 the Trustees were considering the purchase of the land behind the church and had contacted the owner. That, of course, did not happen; three years later the Tinothy Trace subdivision brought many residences and new neighbors right behind the church. That fall both the church and the parsonage received new roofs, with some men of the church, under Gene Stockdale's leadership, doing the parsonage roof themselves. In 1992 the Timothy Award was established to recognize a person's help with the youth of the church. Paula Seng, a Hanover College student, was the

first recipient. A highlight of the past few years has been the addition of many stained-glass windows, including the beautiful trio in the front bay-windows.

Today, in 1996, the trustees are Mrs. Betty Lichlyter, Charles Hensler, Bob Craig, Paul Meredith, Mrs. Janet Davis, Bob Pimlott, Doug Hamilton, Mrs. Johnnie Davis, and Randy Cole. Some of the other church officials are:

Lay Leader: Bob Pimlott

Lay Member to Annual Conference: Thelma Mullett

Superintendent, Church School: Tom Patton and Leonard Lichlyter

UMW President: Mrs. Robert Law

Youth Group Leaders - Senior High: Kris & Roxie Kindelsperger and Jeff Shepherd

Junior High: Terry & Binnie Phillips

Sunday School Teachers: Mrs. Claudia Schneider, Mrs. Mendi Garrett, Mrs. Margaret Seifert, Rick and Selena Perry, Marc Gray, Keith Roberts, Ken Schneider, and Judy Roberts

Choir Director: Mrs. Claudia Schneider

Organist: Ralph Seifert

This past June Rev. Vickie Perkins began her pastorate here. We are excited that she is here and that we may be nourished and grow in God's love in the coming years. It's only a beginning...

A lot of growth has occurred at Hanover United Methodist Church through the years. The membership of the church in 1952 was 104, and the annual budget was $1,352. Today the membership is 221 and the annual budget is slightly over $80,000.

And as we celebrate our sesquicentennial year as a congregation in 1996, we remember our church's mission statement:

"It is the hope of Hanover United Methodist Church to strive to proclaim the Good News where we live and work, to inspire others toward their Christian potential, to nurture and provide openness to the Spirit of God through Jesus Christ in order that this church may be a place of healing for the needs of all people, to extend the loving and caring Spirit of Christ in this community and support one another as we go into the world to work for increases in Christian love and justice."

Church History updated and compiled by Dr. Frederic M. Mullett, August 1996