

An Educational Building Is Erected

Immediately after the reuniting of the northern and southern churches the members purchased adjacent property and began planning for a future Educational Building, which was erected in 1948. Eleven years later (1959) the sanctuary of the original building was remodeled, including the choir loft and chancel area. Again church members responded to the need for a more worshipful church setting. The altar we see today was given at that time in honor of Judge Raymond C. Campbell by the Wesley Bible Class; the baptismal font was given by the Robert E. Little family. New pews were given by members in memory or in honor of loved ones. The red carpet was given later in memory of Judge Campbell.

Following the opening of the educational building in 1948, it was decided that the church could expand its educational and community services by sponsoring a week-day kindergarten. With the approval of the official board, the educational committee, headed by Mrs. S. E. Nelson, superintendent of the Children's Division, set up policies and organization of a self-supporting weekday pre-school program with the motto: "We Deal in Children," suggested by the pastor, Rev. E. H. Ogle. This weekday school is still a community service our church is proud to provide.

The United Methodist Church

The union of the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church in 1968 gave the present name "United Methodist Church" to the denomination, which endeavors to be a community of faith in which all persons, regardless of racial or ethnic background, can participate at every level of its connectional life and ministry.

The already-mentioned Women's Missionary Group became the Women's Society of Christian Service, with the Wesleyan Service Guild as an auxiliary in 1940. In 1972, after the merging of the churches, this missionary arm of the church was renamed United Methodist Women. Their activities focus on spiritual, physical, and social needs of families, women, and children around the world.

A recent highlight in our history is the adoption of the new 1989 Methodist Hymnal which gives emphasis to John Wesley's term, "singing Methodists." This user-friendly hymnal includes many Wesley hymns, other denominational and gospel hymns, spirituals, and modern hymns, as well as revised liturgies and a new Psalter. It is a boost to enthusiastic music for worship services.

Recent Improvements

Other more recent highlights include the beautiful Memory Garden in the church courtyard. The elegance and charm of this sacred area keeps fresh in our minds the loved ones whose memory is enshrined there. Improved accessibility was also a dream of this church. At last, spurred by a bequest from Miss Grace Crow, the generous gift of the Tetrick family, and countless additional gifts from members of the entire church family, the elevator has become a reality. We are grateful also for the work and support of the trustees. The elevator was dedicated in April, 1995.

In 1997 the church also purchased the small house known as the "Black" house which sits next door to the old parsonage on D street. This house is being rented out until that time comes when we need it for church use, a new facility, or parking space. At the same time the old parsonage, which sits