

GOLDEN JUBILEE

Of The

Sugar Grove Methodist Church

*In the Heart of Sugar Grove Township
For the Hearts of Men*



1889 - 1939

GOLDEN JUBILEE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mrs. John Shields
Thomas Frantz
Emily Ravlin

Mrs. Susie Judd
Byron Healy
Edgar Snow

Robert B. Pierce

MUSIC COMMITTEE

Byron Healy

Mrs. Ralph Dugan

Mrs. C. G. Frantz

HISTORY COMMITTEE

Mrs. Susie Judd
Mrs. Ed Kinney

Mrs. Daisy Needham
Mrs. Nelson Myers

INVITATION COMMITTEE

Mrs. Nelson Myers

Mrs. Seavey

Miss Minnie Dugan

PUBLICITY AND FINANCE

Thomas Frantz

DINNER CHAIRMAN

Miss Agnes Lind

HISTORICAL PAGEANT

Mrs. R. B. Pierce

COMMITTEE ON ARRANGEMENTS

The Sugar Grove Epworth League



SUGAR GROVE METHODIST CHURCH

SUGAR Grove Methodism has a heritage that is rich beyond compare. It is a heritage that is filled with tales of brave men and women, of preachers whose home was a saddle; it is a heritage that will compare to any nobility in things accomplished and goals gained.

It was over one hundred years ago that the first Circuit riding Methodist preacher visited Sugar Grove Township. His name was John Clark. There was no village in those days; only a few scattered settlers. Yet, for some reason or other, that first preacher chose to make Sugar Grove his home, and for many years after our township was the headquarters of Fox River Valley Methodism. At first services were held in homes. Sometimes the preacher was forced to be elsewhere, then one of the lay members of the congregation would preach. But there were always services. These men and women, opening a wilderness for colonization, knew the importance and the reality of their God.

In 1857 the first regular church building was erected just off of the Sugar Grove Road near the edge of Blackberry Township. It was known as the Sugar Grove-Blackberry Good Will Church.

There was no regular pastor for this church. The sudden growth of near by Aurora had changed the center of preaching. However, the pulpit was filled quite regularly by ministers from surrounding towns.

Later, still another church building was erected for public worship in our township. This building was located just one mile south of Jericho Corners and was not torn down until 1929.

Our own church building, whose fiftieth anniversary we are observing this year, was begun in the fall of 1888. We cannot attempt to enumerate here the names of those who backed this church venture in the "Grove", and who made it possible to dedicate the church in the spring of 1889 absolutely free of debt. However, we cannot pass on without mentioning the Ladies Aid, which society was organized in 1885, and "Uncle Dan" Gordon who gave the land upon which the church stands.

For many years after the dedication of the new church, services were held both in the morning and afternoon. The morning service was the regular Methodist worship service. In the afternoon the facilities of the church were thrown open to a group of men and women who desired to hold "union services". It was not many years, however, before this distinction was done away with; the services were united and, as one of the present members of our church has said in recalling the whole fifty years of history, "ever since we have worked together. We're all trying to be Christians here."

By the year 1890, the Ladies Aid which had accomplished so much for the infant church, found itself sadly lacking in support. So in 1892 our present organization, The Ladies Church Social Society, was organized. At the present time this organization has seventy active members, three of whom are charter members. In more recent years another Ladies society has developed which has taken the place of the old Ladies Aid. It is known as The Friendship Bible Class. This society, together with the L. C. S. S. has done many fine things, financially and otherwise, for the church. A third ladies organization, The Standard Bible Class, has also been very active in church activities in recent years.

In 1903 the Sugar Grove church was placed on two points with Kaneville. The minister resided at Kaneville and held services in Sugar Grove on Sunday afternoon. The first minister to serve these two churches together, was Rev. L. L. Hammitt.

In 1919 the tie between Sugar Grove and Kaneville was broken. For a few years the church enjoyed a resident preacher. For most of the years that have followed, however, our church has been served by ministers who were taking work at the Garrett Theological Seminary.

As we observe this anniversary, the members of our church cannot help but feel encouraged over the future. We have at the present time 108 active members, irrespective of those who shall

join the church on this occasion. For the last five month period our smallest church attendance was 61, our largest 197, our average 77. Recent improvements include a new bathroom in the parsonage, new hymnals, a musical tower, using our pastor's equipment, and some of the work of redecorating our church basement has already been done. We expect that in the very near future this will be completed. New organizations include a weekly Epworth League, a Sunday School orchestra, a Junior Girl's Choir, a children's story hour during the week and a nursery class during the worship service on Sunday, a daily vacation Bible school, a Cradle Roll Sunday School Class, and a Queen Esther and Women's Home Missionary Societies. Additional plans are already underway to provide hard of hearing aids in our sanctuary, and to secure robes for our splendid choir.

To attempt to enumerate the many good things that have been done and are being done through our church, material things true, but of more importance the spiritual things, and all in the name of Christ, would require words, space, and time that would be impossible here. But we may say that it is the sincere wish of every person in Sugar Grove who is trying to live a Christian life that our church may continue to grow and prosper tomorrow as it did yesterday; that her members and friends may so conduct themselves as to be truly worthy of the great heritage that is given to them; that her influence for the kingdom of God in our community may increase from year to year until all men may know the love of God; remembering always that Christians may not rest upon past laurels for—

"New occasions teach new duties;
Time makes ancient good uncouth;
They must upward still and onward,
Who would keep abreast of truth."

The following men are those who have guided our church through the years:

Rev. J. M. Phelps	Rev. George Gable
Rev. Wilbur Fisk	Rev. Claire Hewitt
Rev. John Neeley	Rev. L. V. Sitler
Rev. E. Laing	Rev. E. F. Hughes
Rev. J. C. Stoughton	Rev. F. C. Schmidt
Rev. G. W. Snell	Rev. J. E. Steen
Rev. S. W. Kelley	Rev. W. S. Rowe
Rev. G. M. Richmond	Rev. F. W. Moore
Rev. C. E. Stevens	Rev. R. I. Snider
Rev. Joseph Rapson	Rev. F. A. Fields
Rev. L. L. Hammitt	Rev. J. C. Hofstetter
Rev. J. E. Fluck	Rev. O. S. Hall
Rev. C. K. Kleihaur	Rev. Earl Dorff
Rev. W. H. Otjen	Rev. Henry Teele
Rev. H. H. Tate	Rev. R. B. Pierce

OUR GUEST PREACHERS



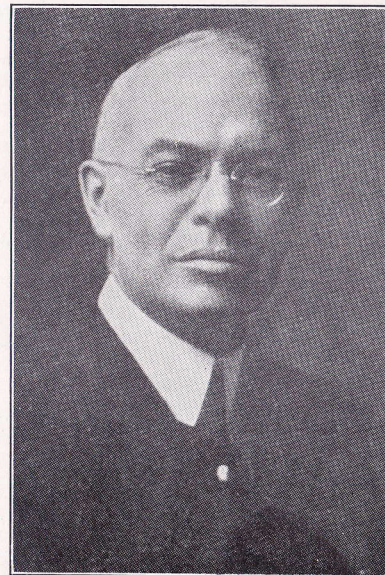
BISHOP E. L. WALDORF
Bishop of the Chicago Area
of the Methodist
Church

DR. RALPH M. PIERCE
District Superintendent of
the Joliet-Dixon District,
Rock River Conference.



DR. AUBREY S. MOORE
Superintendent of Home M-
sions and Church Extension
in the Chicago Area of the
Methodist Church.

REV. J. E. FLUCK
Pastor of the Olivet
Methodist Church,
Chicago.



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Friday Evening, June 23

PRELUDE Mrs. Edgar Snow

THE OPENING HYMN 381: "The Church's One Foundation"

THE CALL TO WORSHIP Choir

UNISON PRAYER

Our Heavenly Father, who by Thy love hast made us, and through Thy love hast kept us, and in Thy love wouldst make us perfect, we humbly confess that we have not loved Thee with all our heart and soul and mind and strength, and that we have not loved one another as Christ hath loved us. Thy life is within our souls, but our selfishness has hindered Thee. We have not lived by faith. We have resisted Thy spirit. We have neglected Thine inspirations. Forgive what we have been; help us to amend what we are; and in Thy spirit direct what we shall be; that Thou mayest come into the full glory of Thy creation, in us and in all men, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

THREE FOLD AMEN Choir

SERMON IN SONG Sugar Grove Young People's Choir

RESPONSIVE READING—page 592 in the Psalter—the evening reading followed by the Gloria Patri

PASTORAL PRAYER
Followed by Our Lord's Prayer

CHORAL RESPONSE

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY Sugar Grove Men's Quartet

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

THE HYMN OF CONSECRATION 266: "O Young and Fearless Prophet"

THE ADDRESS Bishop Earnest L. Waldorf

THE CLOSING HYMN 359: "Awake My Soul"

PASTORAL BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Mrs. Edgar Snow

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday Morning, June 25

Let the people bow in prayer upon entering the Sanctuary

PRELUDE Mrs. Edgar Snow

INTROIT Choir

THE HYMN OF PRAISE 162: "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"
Azmon

O for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of His grace.

My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread thro' all the earth abroad
The honors of Thy Name.

He speaks, and listening to His voice
New life the dead receive;
The mournful, broken hearts rejoice
The humble poor believe.

Jesus! the Name that charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease,
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,
'Tis life, and health, and peace.

He breaks the power of canceled sin,
He sets the prisoner free;
His blood can make the foulest clean.
His blood availed for me,

Hear Him, ye deaf; His praise, ye dumb,
Your loosened tongues employ;
Ye blind, behold your Saviour come;
And leap, ye lame, for joy. Amen.

Charles Wesley.

UNISON PRAYER

(congregation standing)

O our God, we humbly beseech Thee to purify our hearts from all vain and worldly and sinful thoughts, and thus prepare our souls to worship Thee this day acceptably, with reverence and godly fear. Kind Father, set our affection on things above, all the day long, and give us grace to receive Thy word which we shall hear this day, into honest and good hearts, and bring forth fruit with patience. Hear us, our Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

THREE FOLD AMEN

Choir

SERMON IN SONG—"Come Unto Me"

Schubert

The Golden Jubilee Chorus

RESPONSIVE READING

The Minister: Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord.

The People: Lord, hear my voice: let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications.

The Minister: If Thou, Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord who shall stand?

The People: But there is forgiveness with Thee, that Thou mayest be feared.

The Minister: I wait for the Lord, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope.

The People: My soul waiteth for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning: I say, more than they that watch for the morning.

The Minister: Let Israel hope in the Lord: for with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption.

The People: And he shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

THE GLORIA PATRI

PASTORAL PRAYER

"OUR LORD'S PRAYER"

sung by Byron Healy

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY—"Remember Now Thy Creator"

Wilson

The Golden Jubilee Chorus

DOXOLOGY

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

SCRIPTURE LESSON

HYMN OF CONSECRATION 179: "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart"

Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
Wean it from earth; thru all its pulses move;
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as Thou art,
And make me love Thee as I ought to love.

I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies,
No sudden rending of the veil of clay,
No angel visitant, no opening skies;
But take the dimness of my soul away.

Hast Thou not bid me Love Thee, God and King?
All, all Thine own—soul, heart, and strength, and mind.
I see Thy cross—there teach my heart to cling:
O let me seek Thee, and O let me find.

Teach me to feel that Thou art always nigh;
Teach me the struggles of the soul to bear,
To check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh;
Teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.

Teach me to love Thee as Thine angels love,
One holy passion filling all my frame;
The kindling of the heaven descended Dove,
My heart an altar, and Thy love the flame.

Amen

ADDRESS

Dr. Aubrey S. Moore

CLOSING HYMN 287: "A Charge to Keep I Have"

A charge to keep I have,
 A God to glorify,
 A never dying soul to save,
 And fit it for the sky.

To serve the present age,
 My calling to fulfill;
 O may it all my powers engage
 To do my master's will.

Arm me with jealous care,
 As in Thy sight to live,
 And, oh, Thy servant, Lord prepare
 A strict account to give.

Help me to watch and pray,
 And on Thyself rely,
 Assured if I my trust betray,
 I shall forever die. Amen

PASTORAL BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

"THE SEVEN FOLD AMEN"

POSTLUDE

Mrs. Edgar Snow

PROGRAM FOR THE DAY

9:45—Sunday School

10:45—Family Worship Service

12:00—Fellowship Dinner at the Community House

We invite everyone at the morning service to be our
 guest for dinner.

2:00—The Afternoon Program

Music by the Sunday School Orchestra

Address by the Rev. J. E. Fluck

Greetings from our District Superintendent

Dr. Ralph M. Pierce

Introduction of former pastors

The reconsecration of the members of the church

5:30—Fellowship Supper

Again, everyone is invited to share

7:30—RADIO PAGEANT—written especially for this anniversary — "Fifty Years in the Heart of Sugar Grove"

BRING THIS PROGRAM TO ALL SERVICES