

HISTORICAL SKETCH -- First Methodist Episcopal Church

(Miss Mary Remy was Cradle Roll Supt. in 1907)

The First Methodist Episcopal Church of Yakima, Wash., is an outgrowth of early Methodist beginnings in Old Town. Prior to 1881 Methodism in Old Town was not thoroughly organized. In those days there was a circuit comprising Old Town, Ahtanum, Cowiche, Wenas, and Tampico (Ellensburg). Among the circuit riders who visited these points occasionally were the revered names of Father Wilber, Father Roe, Brothers Gascoigne and Frank Spalding.

In 1881 (1880) Rev. Richard Barrett was appointed to the above circuit and preached once a month in Old Town for two years. Through the efforts of Rev. Barrett and J. A. Leach (who came to Old Town in 1880) a lot was purchased and lumber was donated for a parsonage. The greater part of this parsonage was built by Brother Leach, who donated his labor. In 1883 Rev. George Strong was appointed to the circuit and he lived in the Old Town parsonage for two years.

Rev. Richard Fysh followed Rev. Strong in 1885. During this year most of the buildings of Old Town were removed to North Yakima and the Methodists came with their houses, bringing their parsonage with them. (Transferred from Old Town). The Northern Pacific gave the Methodists two lots and the parsonage was placed on one of these lots on the West side. Later it was moved to the lot it now occupies at 306 South 2nd Street. At this time the church had fifteen members.

In 1886 Rev. J. W. Bluett became pastor. During the year he relinquished the other three points named in the circuit above and became the first resident pastor of the Yakima Church. (A separate charge).

In 1887 Rev. W. E. Golding became pastor and he was followed in 1888 by Rev. John Uren. He added the name "First" to the "Methodist Church of North Yakima", and incorporated it with 53 members. During his second year here he built the first church.

During the first five years in North Yakima the church had no home. The first services were held in the old Centennial Hall, located on Second street, just south of Yakima avenue; then in the Presbyterian church, with the Presbyterian and Methodist

Sunday schools combined; then in a hall located about 12 or 14 North First street; then one block north, about 110 or 112; then across the street where the Salvation Army now is.

The lot given by the railroad for a church was on North Second street, across from the Court House. This was traded for the one at 101 South Third street. Here the first Methodist Church was built at a cost of \$6,000. The Ladies Aid paid for the larger part of this building. The old parsonage was sold for \$700 and a new one was build on the rear end of the church lot. Eight years later this parsonage was sold and the house and two lots just south of the church was purchased for a parsonage.

Among the names that ought to be mentioned in connection with the founding and development of our local Methodism are the following: Mr. and Mrs. Martin Vaughn, Mr. and Mrs. William Bland, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Leach, Mrs. Ruth Webb, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Crane, Mrs. Mariette Haines, Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Morgan, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Geizentanner, Mr. and Mrs. William A. Marsh, Rev. and Mrs. J. W. Denison, Mrs. J. H. Thomas, Dr. and Mrs. David Rosser, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Kelly, Dr. and Mrs. S. L. Monroe, Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Lawrence, Mr. and Mrs. Darius Stone, Mrs. Sarah Schwartz, Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Powell, Mr. and Mrs. George Remnant, Mr. and Mrs. A. S. White, Mrs. Eliza Shaw, Mr. and Mrs. Hawkins, Mr. and Mrs. George White, S. J. Neelands and G. P. Wilcox. (Mr. and Mrs. Capt. Thomas).

The present church building was erected in 1904 and cost about \$40,000. In 1906 the present commodious parsonage was built.

The church organization has steadily developed until it is now one of the outstanding Methodist Episcopal churches in the entire Northwest. During the past two years the church has enjoyed a remarkable growth. Nearly 700 people have been received into the church; the average attendance at Sunday school has increased nearly three hundred, and all other organizations in the church have experienced a corresponding growth. The sum of \$90,000 was subscribed for the combined church building and centenary fund. In due time we will have one of the best buildings for church and Sunday school work in the State.

All of the organizations within the church are thoroughly organized and are doing the best work in their history. The future of our Church is rich with possibilities. The opportunity confronting us is simply wonderful. God is calling all loyal Methodist folk in this community to a great and glorious task.

The following is the pastoral record since the beginning of our work in North Yakima:

1885--Richard Fysh

1897-99--U. F. Hawk

1886--J. W. Bluett

1899-03--John H. Wood

1887--W. E. Golding

1903-1907--A. H. Henry

1888-91--John Uren

1907-1910--C. E. Gibson

1891-95--Robert Warner

1910-1913--W. H. Sellick

1895-97--Nathan Evans

1913-March 31, 1919--W. F. Ineson

April 1, 1919--

, Robert Elmer Smith

July 1, 1920

, J. Fred Stillwell, Assistant Pastor