

More Than a Century of Progress
Of Methodism
In Stamford, N. Y.

1832--1934

Observed
September 27 to October 7, 1934

BISHOP FRANCIS J. McCONNELL, D.D., L.L.D.
Resident Bishop, New York City

DR. JOSEPH CHASEY, Dist. Supt.
Kingston, N. Y.

REV. WILLIAM L. COMSTOCK, Pastor

Stamford
Methodist Episcopal Church
Stamford, N. Y.



Interior Methodist Episcopal Church, Stamford, N. Y.

Methodism in Stamford, N. Y.

From Munsell's History of Delaware County, published in 1880, Prattsville District Register, and other sources, we have the following:

WHEN or by whom the Methodist Society in Stamford was formed there is no means within our reach to show, but as John Bangs, who settled here with his elder brother Nathan in 1791 was a member of the New York Conference for thirty years and preached much longer than that in this vicinity, it is but natural to suppose that a society was organized here as early as in Harpersfield, which was about 1823. According to the New York Conference minutes, John Bangs entered that organization in 1819 and died in February 1848.

The building now occupied by the Methodist Society was the first of its kind in Stamford, and was built in 1831-32. It was not a denominational institution but a union meeting house. The original subscription paper named Thomas Rickie, Douglas McIntire, James Pudney, Nehemiah Whitney, Ralph Newell and Thomas Montgomery as trustees, and specified that the house should be forty-six feet long, thirty-six feet wide, one floor, and arched overhead, two aisles, four rows of slips with doors and desk, a small gallery or elevated seats for singers, and a cupola or bellena. No denomination was to have the right to occupy this church more than one-fourth part of the time, unless vacant, and if at any time there should be more than four denominations composing the societies, the time for using said house was to be equally proportioned to all.

There were seventy-three names attached to the list and the subscriptions ran from fifty cents to thirty dollars, amounting in all to five hundred and fifty dollars.

Two landmark dates were the payment by Nehemiah Whitney of \$2.00 to John W. Gibbs for surveying the church lot September 10, 1834, and to A. Campbell, at the Comptroller's office in Albany, \$1.00 for the patent for the church lot on June 8, 1835. According to White's Annals of Methodism, previous to 1821 Stamford was in the Sharon Circuit, and after that date, it was in the Jefferson Circuit, and then with Delaware until 1834 when it was attached to Kortright with which it remained until 1857 when the Kortright Circuit was discontinued and the territory was divided into the circuits of Bloomville, Hobart and Stamford. Up to 1832 the Methodists must have held their worship in private homes and school-houses.

From the records in the County Clerk's office a deed, transferring the property of the Union Church Society to the Methodist Episcopal Society in Stamford, was obtained from Lyman and Olive Goodenough on the 29th day of August 1870.

FROM THE STAMFORD MIRROR OF FEB. 1884

At a meeting of the members of the M. E. Church held on July 2, 1883, it was unanimously agreed to build a new church and use the old therein at a cost not to exceed \$2,500, or if this could not be done to build entirely new, and the pastor was requested to ascertain through a competent architect whether or not the first proposition was feasible. July 16th, the pastor reported that B. D. Price, architect for the Church Extension Society, gave his opinion that it would be safe to build within the appropriation named, and he was engaged to draw plans and specifications for the building. A building committee was appointed consisting of H. S. Preston, L. S. Reed, A. M. Martin, Richard Van Dyke and Rev. C. G. Deming. At a meeting held Oct. 10, 1883, bids were opened and the contract was awarded to Alfred Jenkins of Roxbury, said contract to be for an entirely new building.

The cornerstone was laid Feb. 4, 1884. The ceremonies just previous to this event were held in the Baptist Church, Elder King presiding. Among the prominent clergymen present were Revs. O. R. Bouton, Supt. Five Points Mission, New York; E. White, Jefferson; P. N. Chase, Pine Hill; L. E. Richards, pastor of the Presbyterian Church, Stamford; and C. G. Deming, the local pastor.

From the Prattsville Dist. Register, June '85, we learn—
"The new and beautiful church at Stamford was dedicated on Thursday, June 4, 1885. A large congregation was present, including the following ministers: Rev. Dr. James R. Day, New York; Dr. E. S. Osbon, Poughkeepsie; B. H. Burch, presiding Elder; Revs. Bouton, Chase, Deming, Green, Lord, Travis, Van Hoesen, Quick, White, Cornish, McConnell, Merchant, Powell and Richards. After the opening hymn, Elder Burch led in prayer, Scripture lesson was read by L. E. Richards and Dr. Day preached from "The Word of the Lord Is Tried." In the evening there was an audience which filled the church and Dr. Osbon preached on "For Our Conversation is in Heaven." A statement was made that \$2,700 was needed to dedicate the church free from debt. The blackboard was used by Dr. Osbon in both services and sufficient funds were subscribed to dedicate the edifice free from debt. Rev. O. A. Merchant, having recently been appointed the pastor, showed excellent judgment in arranging for and carrying out the program of dedication.

From the New York Conference minutes of 1901 we read from the report of Dr. Philip Germond, Dist. Supt. "Early in the year the church at Stamford was reconstructed. A choir loft was built in the rear of the new platform and pulpit. Heavy oak pews, ceiling of steel, handsomely decorated, new patterns of carpet for all floors and electric lights were introduced. These, with the judicious use of the painter's brush, both without and within, completes an up-to-date and valuable 'House of Prayer.' When we came to the reopening nothing had been subscribed of the \$2,200 needed. The work had been done in faith. Dr. Charles W. Millar delivered the reopening sermon. Before the day closed all necessary funds were subscribed, and I am happy to add nearly all of it has been paid." Rev. F. D. Abrams was pastor.

From Conference minutes 1905 we read in the report of F. L. Wilson, Dist. Supt.: "Stamford, beautiful for situation, joins in the chorus of re-

joining. Eleven hundred fifty dollars has been spent in improvements, one thousand of which was for a fine Estey pipe organ. Twenty-four have joined the church on probation and the missionary collection is the largest in the history of the church. This improvement took place during the successful pastorate of Rev. W. H. Moser."

From the report of Supt. Hough Houston to the Annual Conference 1913, we have "The Stamford Church has been greatly improved by painting the outside and redecorating the inside at a cost of \$2,400." This event happened during the happy pastorate of Dr. C. C. Marshall.

In 1926, Dr. George Benton Smith, Dist. Supt., reported that Stamford had added to the assets of the Kingston District \$1,200 by the addition of a gallery and dining room improvements.

The full members reported in 1859 were 110 and 35 probationers. There were 90 members in the Sunday School and the value of the church was estimated at \$800. In 1884, 252 members were reported from Harpersfield and Stamford and 27 probationers. The value of both churches was estimated at \$9,000.

In 1913 Harpersfield and Stamford were separated, the former joining with North Harpersfield as a separate charge.

In 1934 there was reported from Stamford 266 full members and 31 preparatory and the church and parsonage estimated at \$20,000.

The following pastors have served since 1857:

John E. Gorse, 1857-1858; Nehemiah O. Lent, 1859-1860; James M. Burger, 1861-1862; John F. Richmond, 1863; Gurden B. Crippen, 1864-1865; W. H. Mickle, 1866; Edwin Clement, 1867-1868; John J. Dean, 1869; Edward F. Barlow, 1870-1871; Richard Decker, 1872-1873.

The time limit was extended in 1864 from two to three years and Lyman S. Brown was the first to remain three years, 1874-1876; O. R. Bouton, 1877-1879; P. N. Chase, 1880-1882; C. G. Deming, 1883-1884; O. A. Merchant, 1885-1887; Edwin Hunt, 1888-1889; George Hearn, 1890-1895. George Hearn died here in February 1895.

Arthur Thompson, 1895-1897; F. D. Abrams, 1898-1901; W. H. Moser, 1902-1904; L. P. Tucker, 1905-1906; William Ackroyd, 1907; T. H. E. Richards, 1908; C. S. Oakley, 1909; Berthold Seeholzer, 1910-1911; C. C. Marshall, 1912.

The time limit was changed from three to five years in 1888 and E. E. Hart was the first to remain five years; he served from 1913-1917; A. M. Morgan, 1918; J. C. Coddington, 1919-1922; W. L. Comstock, 1923-1934.

"MORE THAN A CENTURY OF PROGRESS"

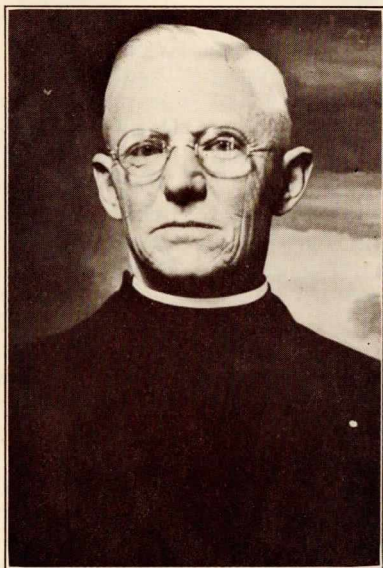
Program of Centenary Services—September 27 - October 7, 1934

All Evening Services at 7:30 p. m.

- Sept. 27th—"In Customs and Costumes." Old Fashioned Dinner with Old Time Songs and Events. W. H. McAlpine, presiding.
- Sept. 28th—"In Missions." Address and Installation of Officers by Miss Alice Smith of Cornwallville. Miss Smith has been a missionary in Asia. Don't fail to be present. Mrs. Banks Cornell, W. F. M. S., Pres., presiding.
- Sept. 29th—"In the Cradle Roll." Health Talk to Mothers by Miss Ru-anna Taylor, Hobart. 3:00 p. m. Mrs. F. L. Bates, presiding.
- Sept. 30th—10:30 a. m. "Isaiah's Conversion." By Rev. Joseph Chasey, Dist. Supt., Kingston. Mrs. Frances Christman, soloist. 7:30 p. m. "Greetings from the Presbyterian Church," by Rev. P. McKenzie. "In Music," by Rev. J. P. Galloway, assisted by his Boys' Choir from Hobart. C. Fuller, presiding.
- Oct. 1st—"In Christian Education," by Rev. Arthur Thompson, D. D., from Beacon (former pastor). L. H. DeSilva, presiding.
- Oct. 2nd—"In Methodist History," by Rev. S. A. MacCormac from Ho-bart. R. A. Lynch, presiding.
- Oct. 3rd—"In Evangelism," by Rev. Fred Deming, D. D., from Kingston. (His father was pastor when this church was built). Walter Kinnin, presiding.
- Oct. 4th—"In Prayer," by Rev. George Thompson, Grand Gorge, (sec-etary of Prayer League). Elmer West, presiding.
- Oct. 5th—"In Worship," by Rev. D. B. McBain, Jefferson. George La-mont, presiding.
- Oct. 7th—"In Breaking Of Bread." Preparatory members meet at 10:00 a. m. Sacraments of Baptism and The Lord's Supper at 10:30 a. m. Sunday School Rally Day—100% attendance—11:45 a. m. The pastor will also be assisted in the Centenary services by Revs. W. H. Quinn, Roxbury; C. P. Harder, Grand Gorge; C. P. Hunter, Ash-land; R. Don Ocheltree, Windham; W. A. Fox, West Fulton; and Arthur Magee, Manorkill.

Let us lay a foundation of Prayer and Purity of Living that the next 100 years shall be more progressive in Spiritual Dynamics than the last has been.

- Nov. 11th—"Victory Sunday." "More Than a Century of Progress in Finance." All bills paid.



Rev. William L. Comstock
1923 - 1934

RECORD OF MEMBERS

- | | |
|--|---|
| Ames, Franklin | Corbin, Mrs. William |
| Armstrong, Blanche Van Deusen | Corbin, Robert |
| Baird, Charles E. | Corbin, Mrs. Kenneth |
| Baird, Mrs. Charles | Cornell, Mrs. Banks (Pres. W. F. M. S.) |
| Baldwin, Ellen | Cornell, Mrs. Frank |
| Barnes, Estella | Comstock, Charles |
| Becker, Nelle | Comstock, Ruth (S. S. Teacher) |
| Burr, Edward | Cook, Harry |
| Burr, Mrs. Edward | Clark, Wilbur |
| Beggs, John H. | Canfield, Gleason |
| Beggs, Mrs. John H. | Cook, Mrs. Harold |
| Bates, Mrs. Wiley | Champlin, Mrs. Floyd |
| Bates, Mrs. Floyd (Supt. of Cradle Roll) | Carl, Hattie |
| Bates, Ralph | Coons, Marian |
| Bates, Clyde (S. S. Treas.) | Chambers, Josephine |
| Benjamin, Guy | Cummings, Reuben |
| Brower, Carrie | Cummings, Mrs. Reuben |
| Butler, Frank | DeSilva, Leo H. (Trustee and S. S. Supt.) |
| Butler, Mrs. Frank | DeSilva, Mrs. Leo H. (Steward) |
| Butler, Howard | Demarest, Mrs. Clifford |
| Butler, Everett | Dibble, Perry |
| Bihn, George | Dibble, Mrs. Perry |
| Bihn, Elsie | Darling, Mrs. Fred |
| Blazier, Charles | Darling, Fred Jr. |
| Blazier, Mrs. Charles | Darling, Donald |
| Baur, John Jr. | Dart, Powell |
| Bloodgood, Mrs. Grant | Dart, Donald |
| Bloodgood, Mrs. Ernest | Dart, Ruth |
| Brown, George | DeLong, Harold |
| Brown, Mrs. George | DeLong, Mrs. Harold |
| Brown, Elizabeth | Denny, Mrs. Emry |
| Barlow, Herbert | Ellsworth, William |
| Barlow, Mrs. Herbert | Ellsworth, Mrs. William |
| Burnett, Inez | Effner, Mrs. Harry |
| Butts, Mrs. Leroy | Eklund, Algot |
| Briggs, Mahlon | Eklund, Mrs. Algot |
| Canfield, William (Steward) | Eklund, Astrid (S. S. Teacher) |
| Canfield, Mrs. William (Steward) | Eklund, Viola (S. S. Teacher) |
| Canfield, Wallace | Eklund, Ture |
| Canfield, Susan | Eklund, Carl |
| Champlin, Elizabeth (Steward) | Eighmey, Lee |
| Champlin, Wilbur | Fink, Mrs. Ella (Steward and Pres. L. A.) |
| Champlin, Mrs. Wilbur | Fink, Charles |
| Churchill, Frank | Fink, Mrs. Charles |
| Clark, Rulifson W. | Fisher, Easton (Steward) |
| Clark, Jennie M. | Fisher, Hattie |
| Coons, Mrs. William | Frisbee, Margaret |
| Coons, Howard | |
| Coons, Mrs. Howard | |

Fuller, Clarence (Steward and Asst. S. S. Supt., and Teacher)
 Fuller, Mrs. Josephine
 Goss, Ward (Steward)
 Goss, Mrs. Ward (S. S. Teacher)
 Goss, Charles
 Greene, Mrs. J. Irving
 Grant, Archie
 Grant, Mrs. Archie
 Grant, Dora
 Goodrich, Lynn
 Goodrich, Mrs. Lynn
 Goodrich, Natalie
 Hager, Winifred
 Hamilton, Mrs. Chauncey (Steward)
 Hamilton, Mildred
 Hamilton, Mabel
 Hamilton, Fred
 Henness, Elnora
 Hayner, Floyd (Trustee)
 Hayner, Mrs. Floyd (Trustee)
 Hoagland, Mary (Asst. Com. Steward)
 Hoagland, John
 Hoagland, Lee
 Hoagland, Mrs. Lee (Trustee)
 Howat, Maude
 Howat, Siebert
 Howat, Mrs. Siebert
 Hitchcock, Mrs. William
 Hitchcock, Elsie
 Hitchcock, Fred
 Hearn, Margaret
 Hicks, Lillian E.
 Hillis, Mrs. LeRoy
 Haney, Mrs. George
 Hillson, Clayton
 Hillson, Mrs. Clayton
 Jackson, Mrs. Wallace
 Jackson, Ruth
 Kinnin, Walter (Member in Greenwich N. Y., Steward)
 Kinnin, Mrs. Walter
 Kinnin, Helen
 Lamont, George (Steward)
 Lamont, Mrs. George
 Lawrence, Angelyn
 Lyons, Loren
 Loushay, Mrs. David
 Laidley, Mrs. Ida
 Laux, Mrs. John
 Lynch, Mrs. R. A.
 Lewis, Mildred (Member in Gilboa, S. S. Teacher)
 Lynch, R. A. (Choir Director and S. S. Teacher)
 Lynch, Hilda
 Mitchell, Mrs. Kathleen
 Mabey, Harry
 Mabey, Mrs. Harry
 Mabey, Ralph
 Mase, S. D. (Trustee)
 Mase, Theodore
 Mase, Stanley
 Mattice, Fred (Steward)
 Mattice, Mrs. Fred
 Mattice, Arthur
 Maynard, Nettie
 McGregor, Ella
 McAlpine, William (Steward)
 McKillip, Mrs. Anna
 McKillip, Melvin
 McKillip, Benjamin
 Mondore, Joel
 Mondore, Mrs. Joel
 Mondore, Everett
 Maginnis, Hattie
 Moore, Georgia
 McPherson, Mrs. Don
 Many, Cyrus (Steward)
 Many, Mrs. Cyrus
 Meeker, Mrs. Edward
 Myers, Doris
 Morrison, Mrs. Bortle
 Neal, Mrs. Robert
 Parks, Amasa
 Peters, Mrs. Richard
 Peters, Mary Louise
 Peters, Miriam
 Pierce, Mrs. Edward
 Pierce, Mrs. Harold
 Pierce, Clarissa
 Pells, Mrs. Marion
 Pruden, Ray
 Pruden, Mrs. Ray (S. S. Teacher)
 Pruden, Harry
 Pruden, Mrs. Harry
 Pruden, William
 Pruden, Jean
 Reed, Mrs. Jessie
 Reed, Mrs. James
 Raynor, Mrs. Cornelia
 Raynor, Harold
 Raynor, Howard

Raynor, William
 Raynor, Arthur
 Raynor, Leslie
 Raynor, Marian
 Reynolds, Blaine
 Reynolds, Mrs. Blaine
 Rogers, Alice
 Ruff, Orrell
 Ryder, Harry
 Ryder, Mrs. Harry
 Scott, Mrs. William
 Scutt, Mrs. Stratton
 Simmons, Mrs. Maud
 Stevens, Orrie G.
 Stevens, Mrs. Orrie
 Stevens, Emerson
 Stevens, George
 Stevens, Elmer
 Stevens, Mrs. Elmer
 Stevens, George Jr.
 Stewart, Mrs. Flora
 Stilwell, Ira
 Stilwell, Mrs. Ira
 Stickles, Mrs. Ella
 Spaulding, Mrs. Harry
 Spaulding, Willis
 Stryker, Savella
 Skinner, Mrs. Peter
 Shelmandine, Mrs. Naomi
 Todd, Mrs. Frank
 Topping, F. Bessie
 Topping, Roy
 Townsend, Mabel
 Townsend, Edward

Turk, Frank
 TenEyck, Mrs. William
 Tuttle, Stewart
 Tuttle, Mrs. Stewart
 Van Deusen, Ward
 Van Deusen, Mrs. Ward
 Van Deusen, Lee
 Van Deusen, Mrs. Lee
 Walker, Preston (Treas. W. S.)
 Walker, Mrs. Preston
 Wood, Mrs. Marshall
 Walker, William
 Walker, Mrs. William
 Walker, Kenneth (Pres. E. L.)
 West, Robert A.
 West, Mrs. Robert
 West, Courtney (Sec. S. S.)
 West, Elizabeth
 West, Elmer (Steward)
 West, Mrs. Elmer
 West, Howard
 West, Marian
 Wirtz, Mrs. G. C.
 Wirtz, Conrad
 Willis, Mrs. Daisy (S. S. Teacher)
 Wardwell, Mrs. Zeh
 Wardwell, William
 Wardwell, Frank
 Wilson, Mrs. George
 Wallace, George
 Wallace, Mrs. George
 Woodhouse, Mrs. Mary
 Weldon, Mrs. Alice Canfield

PREPARATORY MEMBERS

Conro, Wilfred
 Deyoe, Ollie
 Dunham, Phyllis
 Dibble, Pauline
 Eklund, Holger
 Goss, Allen
 Harris, Genevieve
 Hayner, Millicent
 Kinnin, Eleanor
 Kipp, Charles
 Lee, Kathleen
 Lee, Donald
 Lee, Richard
 McMorris, Marian

McMorris, Winifred
 McMorris, Helen
 Pruden, Harry Jr.
 Peters, Elizabeth
 Pierce, Frances
 Spaulding, Dayton
 Stevens, James
 Vermilya, William
 Willis, Roger
 Willis, Alice May
 Willis, Margaret Anne
 Willis, Philip
 Westcott, Martha Elizabeth
 West, Dorothy

NON-RESIDENT LIST

Brewster, Mrs. Mary
Cornell, Edward
Cleveland, Mrs. Letha
Dumond, Carrie
Fuller, Mrs. Frank
Griffin, Mrs. Edward
Hyatt, George
Jaquish, George

Jones, Mrs. Howard
Jump, Glenn
Mattice, Mrs. Arthur
Moss, Mrs. Clarence
Metcalf, Francis
Hamilton, Mrs. James
Potter, Mrs. Leah

The Pastor appreciates the kind assistance of Mr. Don McPherson, who has furnished considerable data in connection with the historical portion of this booklet.