

CHERRY VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
NEWSLETTER -- March, 2010

Spring has arrived with just a touch of green in the grass, the temperatures climbing into the high 40's and low 50's, and the birds are singing again. In Rockford we had 50.4" of snow this winter. Not bad.

Our museum room is full. We have talked of placing any overflow in our meeting room, but then we would have to find another place to meet.

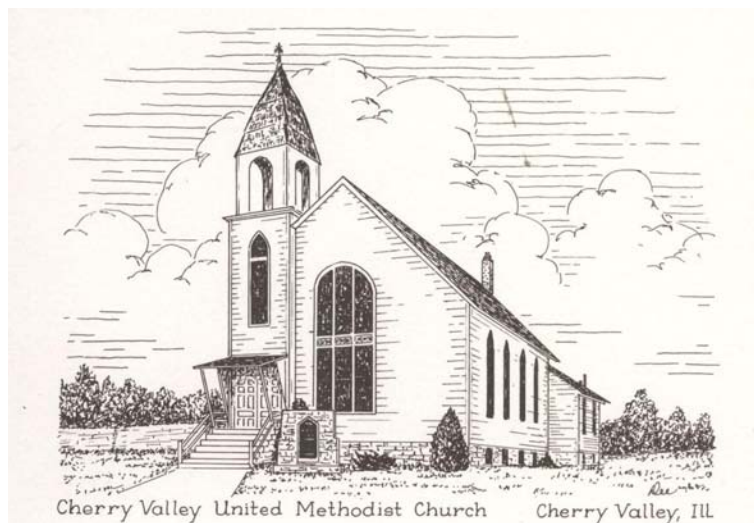
This is national Girl Scout month, and Sherry Robbins has set up a very interesting display of Girl Scout memorabilia in our museum room. Remember, we are open to the public on the second and fourth Saturdays from 10am to noon. Pee Wee and I will give you a tour any other time you choose. Please call us.

Our work will continue with the cemetery as soon as the ground is ready. Winton Page has been home for some time and is getting along very well. Joan Ronk will be back in Peterson-Meadows soon from FL. She is doing fair.

Dick Kanak and his wife have lived in Cherry Valley for five years. Dick is retired now, has many interests, and was willing to become our new treasurer. Our other officers kept their same offices.

The following have died since our December, 2009 newsletter:

Anita Anger (Mrs. John W. Anger)	85	Jan. 9
Michael S. Coppernoll	49	Jan. 17
Mary Colette Carlson (Mrs. Bob)	83	Jan. 20
Robert Lee Bowers	91	Jan. 21
Stanley E. Banks	73	March 1



## A BRIEF HISTORY of the CHERRY VALLEY CHURCH

In the fall of 1851, sixteen years after the first cabin was built in what would become the village of Cherry Valley, the little group of Methodists who had been meeting here under the direction of a Circuit Rider, were established by the Annual Conference as a station connected with the New Milford Church and Rev. C. S. Stocking was appointed to serve both places. Our earliest account of this period lists eight couples and three ladies as members, but also mentions a revival in the spring of 1852 which increased their numbers.

The building of the church began in May of 1852, so 1952 was celebrated as our Centennial. March 10, 1852 the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad reached the village. For a year this was the jumping off place where passengers going on toward Galena transferred to stage coaches. This optimistic spirit affected the church builders too. Before they had completed the 1 ½ foot foundation, they had decided to extend it to ten feet and have a basement. This ambitious project took all summer, but fortunately they were able to work through an open winter and had the outside structure done by spring. By the fall of 1854 the building was completed. One of the first things done was to lend it to the Freewill Baptists for their quarterly meeting, a nice piece of neighborliness to launch a church which has had little or no friction with other denominations.

By this time Rev. Henry Martin had replaced Rev. Stocking, and the connection with New Milford had been broken. However, through much of its history, Cherry Valley was a two-point charge with the little country church called Flora, five or six miles south-east of here. This connection continued intermittently until the 1960's. Flora church, by the way, in 1888 had an average attendance of 40 while Cherry Valley, which must have been going through a low period had only 45.

The two point system, among other things, meant the minister could never attend Sunday school after church because that was the time when he preached at the other.

Also, through much of our history, we have been served by student pastors, whose wives and children held the fort at our parsonage during the week while the minister was at Garrett Seminary in Evanston. This system at least brought us men from as diverse places as West Virginia, Alabama, and New York State. It also meant that most of them stayed an exact three years, the length of the seminary course.

A village history made up by school children in 1941, says the church then had 120 members, and had had 41 pastors. Depending on whether this does or does not include Rev. Russell Lowther, who came to us that year, there have been 13 or 14 since.

The church was rebuilt in 1890, according to one old record, but this does not say how much of the original building was retained. I was surprised to learn there had been a basement from the beginning, having heard my grandfather “helped dig the basement” after the family moved in 1905. Probably what was done at this time was to enlarge it and install the old kitchen at the street end, where the stage is now. Before that the Ladies Aid had served dinners in the Epworth League room, now the overflow room at the back of the sanctuary, but then separated from it by folding doors. They cooked on a portable kerosene stove in the entry. As the church had no well, water had to be lugged from a house across the street.

In the late 1940's, during the pastorate of Rev. Jesse Hugh Roberts, the “new addition” at the east end of the church was added, containing what are now the minister's study, the choir room, and the church office, as well as the present kitchen and rest rooms. Two separate remodelings in 1960 and 1966 put in new stairs and made the cry room out of what had been a small, little used, upstairs class room. This also changed. In recent years (the mid 70's) the sanctuary was redecorated and the fellowship hall downstairs was redecorated and carpeted.

The parsonage in my youth was the house on State Street, facing the length of East. Street. During the pastorate of Rev. Eldon Beery (1958-60) the church purchased the small house on its' south side with the intention of eventually having an education building there. This was used as a parsonage until the house on Richard Drive was bought in late 1973. Rev. Ralph Wilson was the pastor at this time. Early in the next year the house next door was fitted up for Sunday school use in one of the most enthusiastic drives I can remember.

Our history includes no fires, floods, or other dramatic events, just a lot of ordinary Christian people working and worshiping together through the years. The radio program, sponsored by some of us on WQFL for about five years, was dropped last year as it required more money and more of the pastor's time than the results could justify. But the name of the program was “Witness from the Valley” and that, God helping us, is just what the Church in the Valley has always been, and trust we will always continue to be.

The above was written by Dorothy Shelden, chairman of Records and History Committee  
- 1982

**FIRST WEDDING IN  
50 YEARS SATURDAY  
AT VALLEY CHURCH  
1940**

Cherry Valley, June 6 — In compliance to Miss Elsie McNeal, who will be married Saturday to Elmer Johnson in the first wedding in 50 years to be solemnized in the local Methodist church, a series of pre-nuptial showers have been given. Saturday Miss McNeal was guest of honor at a miscellaneous shower given by Mrs. Ira Carlson, Mrs. Martin Johnson, and Mrs. Clarence Johnson, who entertained 43 guests at the home of Mrs. Carlson in Rockford.

Mrs. John Evans of New Milford entertained eight guests at a crystal shower Tuesday.

Wednesday Miss McNeal and Miss Gladys Manson, another bride-elect, were guests of honor at a crystal shower given by the Mmes. Vivian Cummings, Fred Houden, David Klontz, and Fletcher Landquist, and the Misses Mary Ellen Green, and Dorothy Beckner for 25 guests at the Home-stead in Belvidere.

Delbert Anderson and Melvin Watson were hosts at a stag party for Johnson at the Grant cafe, Friday, presenting him with a smoking stand and an electric clock.

At the same time Mrs. Delbert Anderson and Miss Mae Manson were hostesses at the Anderson home in Rockford at a bathroom shower for Miss McNeal.

Saturday Mrs. Gust Anderson entertained 30 guests at a personal shower for the bride-elect, who found her gifts in a bucket of a wishing well, surrounded by apple blossoms.

Tuesday of last week the Busy-Bee circle, of which Miss McNeal is a member, presented the bride-to-be with a kitchen cabinet at a shower given at the home of Mrs. Lester Knighton.



THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHERRY VALLEY METHODIST CHURCH, 1933-34

Year ending October 1

<u>Ministerial Support</u>	(Claim)	(Paid)	<u>Sunday School</u>	
Minister, incl. house rent	\$700.00	\$602.70	Total enrollment	132
Paid to Rev. Newton		90.00	"        "        students	118
Rental value of parsonage	100.00		Average attendance	71
District superintendent	30.00	30.00	Paid to World Service	\$10.00
Episcopal fund (Bishops)	18.00	18.00	Paid to other benevolences	12.83
Conference claimants	52.00	<u>52.00</u>	Expenses: -Lesson supplies, etc.	89.74
Total		\$792.70	Average collection	1.49

Church Membership

Baptisms	4
Received into full membership	18
Full members on the roll	152
Inactive members	26
Removed by transfer	5
Deaths during the year in membership	4

Church Property

Estimated value of buildings and land	\$6500.00
Paid by church on improvements	46.00
Paid on old indebtedness, not including interest	301.00
Present debt	197.00

Miscellaneous

Paid on coal bill	\$ 66.00	
"    " insurance	24.70	
"    " electric lights	39.75	
"    " taxes	21.15	
"    " other bills	42.00	
World service	\$ 60.00	35.00
Deaconess Board	13.00	2.00
Wesley foundation	13.00	2.00
Area expense	7.00	2.00
General conference	13.00	5.00
Lake Bluff orphanage	26.50	26.50
Woman's For. Miss. Society	50.00	75.00
Amount contributed by L.A.S.		591.25
Amount contributed by Men's Assoc.		65.00
Paid to the Lake Bluff orphanage		25.50

Epworth Leagues

Total membership (Senior and Intern'te)	50
Total paid World Service	\$ 7.64
Purchase of New Hymnals for Am. Youth	35.00
Paid on church improvement	9.65

Minister's Report

Calls	863
Weddings	1
Funerals	7
Sermons preached	85
Average att. at church services	72
Official board meetings conducted	16
Outside speaking engagements	11
Sunday school lessons taught	42

( Detailed reports are on file at the parsonage for your reference at any time.)

Some goals for the new conference year:

1. "Every member a church-going member."
2. "A more efficient Sunday School."
3. The formation of an Ushers' Association.
4. "Clean up the debt."
5. A unified church.

These goals are not unattainable if the membership decides they can be achieved. The negative man always says: "I don't think it can be done," while the peptomist says: "I just did it." Get on the boat---it is more fun to row than to watch the race from the grandstand, especially in cold weather.

The Evening Worship Service, Oct. 7

PRELUDE		
CALL TO WORSHIP		
HYMN No. 34		
HYMN No. 22		
EVENING PRAYER		
ANTHEM		The Young Peoples Choir
OFFERTORY SERVICE	( The ushers will wait upon you for your evening tothes and offerings)	
HYMN No. 251		
RESPONSIVE READING	Page 296. Reading No. 369	The Congregation
SERMON	" THE GONNAS' HOMECOMING "	Minister
BENEDICTION	with choral response	
POSTLUDE		

Ushers will be announced in this bulletin each week for the following Sunday. Those for October 14 are Mr. Ferdinand Brandt and Mr. Will Brown. Each member will be asked to serve for one Sunday during the year. If it is not possible for you to be present kindly secure a substitute. This will form the groundwork of an Ushers' Association.

RECORD OF PASTORS  
OF  
CHERRY VALLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

(PASTORS.....CONTINUED)

Name	Years Served
Rev. R.K. Bibbons	1850 - 1851
Rev. S.H. Stocking	1851 - 1853
Rev. H.L. Martin	1853 - 1855
Rev. George Lovessee	1855 - 1857
Rev. J. Hartman	1857 - 1859
Rev. J.W. Sovereign	1859 - 1860
Rev. A. Cross	1860 - 1862
Rev. Leon Holk	1862 - 1864
Rev. William Fasker	1864 - 1866
Rev. Samuel Cates	1866 - 1867
Rev. John C. Wilson	1867 - 1869
Rev. Alongo Newton	1869 - 1872
Rev. M. Decker	1872 - 1874
Rev. A.H. Schoonmaker	1874 - 1877
Rev. G.C. Clark	1877 - 1879
Rev. S.L.S. Stuff	1879 - 1880
Rev. A. Newton	1880 - 1881
Rev. A. H. Needham	1881 - 1882
Rev. Joseph Odgers	1882 - 1883
Rev. J.A. Endmendon	1883 - 1884
Rev. Wm. Clark	1884 - 1887
Rev. C.W. Jaycox	1887 - 1890
Rev. J.P. Davis	1890 - 1893
Rev. Chas. Breckon	1893 - 1894
Rev. W.A. Adrowa	1894 - 1897
Rev. S.W. Lauck	1897 - 1899
Rev. W.L. Whipple	1900 - 1903
Rev. George W. Horton	1903 - 1904
Rev. A.W. Gillilan	1904 - 1905
Rev. J.J. Higgs	1905 - 1906
Rev. E.C. Lumsden	1906 - 1909
Rev. Clyde L. Kuhn	1909 - 1910
Rev. J.E. Robeson	1910 - 1911
Rev. F.K. Rich	1911 - 1912
Rev. Earnes Storer	1912 - 1915
Rev. C. Jaycox and Rev. Adams	1915 - 1919
Rev. V.W. Elston	1919 - 1920
Rev. F.F. Adams	1920 - 1921
Rev. A. Richardson (C.V.)	1921 - 1924
Rev. McNeir (Flora)	

Rev. E.B. Jewell	1924 - 1926
Rev. W. Clark Williams	1926 - 1930
Rev. Percy Newton	1930 - 1933
Rev. Russell Lambert	1933 - 1935
Rev. Theodore Potter	1935 - 1936
Rev. Harlan Paris	1936 - 1939
Rev. Leslie Palmer	1939 - 1941
Rev. Russell Lowther	1941 - 1944
Rev. Jesse Roberts	1944 - 1949
Rev. Donald Cobb	1949 - 1951
Rev. Edwin McClure	1951 - 1952
Rev. Clavin Moore	1952 - 1953
Rev. William Evans	1953 - 1955
Rev. George Groh	1955 - 1958
Rev. Eldon Beery	1958 - 1960
Rev. Roy Murray	1960 - 1962
Rev. Robert Townsend	1962 - 1969
Rev. Stephen Williams	1969 - 1973
Rev. Ralph Wilson	1973 - 1978
Rev. Gale Barkalow	1978 - 1980
Rev. Richard A. Wang	1980 -

From most of the history of the church until 1963  
Cherry Valley was a part of a two point charge  
which included Flora.



Rev. Richard A Wang	1980-1993
Rev. John D Bell	1994-1995
Rev. Nancy Weingartner	1996-2002
Rev. Young Seon Kim	2002-2005
Rev. Steve Mindrup	2006-2006
Rev. Nancy Rethford	2006-2010

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