

Oct. 22, 1972

## Chair, Ministers & Congregation

I am again privileged to review the history of our church here in Weathers — and although we celebrate our 116<sup>th</sup> anniversary as being British Methodist's the congregation is older than that by, <sup>at least</sup> four years, because they built a <sup>small</sup> frame church in 1852 and purchased land as registered in deeds at registry office.

Isn't it amazing that in ten years with the influx of more blacks fugitives the church was far too small, and these valiant people purpose to build themselves a larger brick church?

By 1863 the foundation <sup>of brick & stone</sup> was laid of ~~brick and stone~~ and the cornerston was laid. The building brick walls were 18 inches thick, and were laid by members of the congregation and others,

headed by the early trustees - ~~men~~  
~~was~~ Wylie Reynolds, Washington Fleury,  
Isiah Keyes, Rasson Coleman, Richard  
Shoecraft, followed by Henry Offelt,  
Charles Keley, Henry Simpkins, William  
Jackson, Thomas Jones, Samuel Whited -  
names we must not forget as they  
gave so much for us to inherit.

During Rev. Richard A Ball's pastorate  
about 1900 many changes and improvements  
were made. The Sunday School auditorium  
was made by raising the floor level of  
the sanctuary, and pews and stained  
glass windows were installed. The  
movement to acquire the great pipe  
organ was initiated by Rev. Moses Newsome  
in 1916 and came to fruition under  
Rev. J. H. Edwards during his ministry  
1916-1923.

~~A~~ <sup>down</sup> \$1000 was needed to acquire the organ and money was raised by concerts put on by Mrs. Minnie Chickler, and choir dinners, as well as pledges etc.

Throughout the years changes were made through the efforts of the various societies as well as individuals to improve the facilities of the church. For example the outer doors were gift from Esker Bars. Inner doors to sanctuary in memory of Britelara Chatters.

Baptismal font - by Mr + Mrs. John Richardson

Office desk - in memory of Alfred + Georgina Melton

Stained glass windows donated by

Sunday School

Official Board

Epworth League

Women's Home + Foreign Missionary Society

Rev + Mrs. T. H. Jackson

Stewards Board

Britannia Club

Brotherhood of Andrew + Philip

Choir

James Davidson

Lydia Society

Mr + Mrs. George Smith

Lighted cross - in memory of Jessie Lawson

Clak. - in memory of Mrs. Marnie Ball

Church office - was a Choir project - they purchased a Hestetwar and typewriter, and the Missionary Society gave chairs and Mrs. Louise Cook a filing cabinet - all done in 1956 on Centennial Year.

The old kitchen was remodeled once thru the efforts of the Church Aid Society headed by Mrs. Jessie Lawson in the '30's, and again in 1956.

The church walls were reinforced by battresses in the 20's (1923) when it was found that the vibrations of the organ were weakening the walls & n rather that the building was not made to house such an organ.

An exciting time in the history of the church occurred when a portion of the south wall was blown out during a violent storm in 1931. Rev. Stewart <sup>410</sup> said it sounded like an explosion.

The congregation held services in Leadrum Hall until the wall was fixed.

Throughout the years alterations and repairs were made to the church building within and without - to the extent that the building though built of times with inexperienced hands stood for 96 years as a monument to those great souls who with a little have left us much.

The church assisted greatly in the formation of the Central Citizens Association organized about 1929.

The Hours a Day Study Club had its origin in our Sunday School and an executive of the Sunday School was its first president.

The "Official Farewell" was held Oct 29, 1961 with a full turnout of members and friends at both the H. and

and special evening service arranged  
by Mr. Ernest Browning.

The old church was vacated on Dec 27, 1961  
with the Sunday School under Mrs. Anita  
Travis, holding the final service - a  
Christmas program which was well attended,  
so instead of the weeping & sadness that  
would ordinarily mark the close of such  
an era - the auditorium rang with the  
laughter of children.

The building was torn down Jan 22, 1962.

The Trustee Board was  
Thomas Millben chairman  
Archie Ball - sec.  
James Steele - treas.  
Wylie Hurst  
Fred Caston  
Ernest Browning  
M. C. Rock