

Annandale, Minnesota

January 1, 1942

To the "M" Club of the Methodist Church Annandale, Minnesota.

At your request I will write for you the history of our Methodist Church from the beginning to the present time as I can remember it now.

At first I want to say that the Soo railroad was built in the summer of '86 and the town site of Annandale was located and platted that same fall. I was among the first to locate a lot, put up a building and start in business. Other stores were soon located that winter and by spring and summer we had several business places located on main street. There was a small log school house located on the east edge of the village in which we had two terms of school. It became too small and unsuitable for a village school. In the spring of '88 steps were taken to build a new school house in the village. After several school meetings it was voted to build a 30 by 40 schoolhouse two stories high. It is now the southeast corner of our old schoolhouse. It was completed in time for the fall term of school.

The construction of this building occupied the attention of most of the people that summer but when this was out of the way they began to talk about another building, a church building. Now the trouble was although we had members from nearly all protestant churches, there were not enough from any one church to go ahead to build a church. There were only two whole families of the Methodist Church and few others but in all less than ten members. There were nearly as many Baptists, a few Congregationalists, also a few Episcopalians and some Lutherans. The writer was the only Presbyterian. There were quite a number that were not affiliated with any church. They all expressed a willingness to help to build a church saying if this village will amount to anything it must have a church. They wanted to avoid an over churching village as some of the villages were at that time in the county. One church was the talk of the town and this church to be conducted on a broad and liberal enough basis so that all could come and worship and feel at home and all help to support the church. This at once started the talk, Peoples Churches, Community Churches and so on.

Now in the same fall the Methodists at Fair Haven got a new pastor, a Rev. W. H. Wilson. He had the Fair Haven Congregation and Grace Church in Southside a little frame church located on the northwest corner of J. F. Lees farm. When he heard that we were talking about building a church he came down here right away and got in the game. He agreed perfectly with the people that one church should be enough in a little town like ours and it should be conducted in such a liberal way that all the people regardless of their church affiliations would feel at home in such a church, a people's church in practice; but he said in regard to peoples churches they are generally short lived and to make a peoples church a permanent institution it should be connected or supervised

by some strong church organization. He of course recommended the Methodist Church as one of the strongest and most liberal protestant churches.

He was a forcible and convincing speaker and quite a number adopted his views and some did not so the church question was pretty badly muddled up. One of his most convincing arguments and the one that carried the day was that if they concluded such a so-called Methodist Peoples Church he would raise every dollar to build it. He would start right out with a subscription paper and solicit every one in the village and outside the village within a radius of two miles for funds or labor to build the church. He also promised that when we were ready to build he would help in the construction of the building "Yes," he said, "Have no doubts about me. I was a blacksmith before I began to preach and I can handle tools as well as the next one."

Soon he had enough subscriptions so we felt safe enough to organize the church as a Methodist Episcopal Church. The first meeting of the trustees was February the 5th, 1889.

Now I will copy the minutes of the board of trustees:

"On February 5, 1889 at three o'clock P.M. the board of trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Annandale met at the Post Office in the vaillage of Annandale, Minnesota. Members present: Levi H. Dakin, F. Partridge, John H. Buri, James M. Pratt, W. H. Towle. John H. Buri was chosen secretary. W. H. Towle was chosen chairman. H. Huntington was elected trustee. J. J. Rennie was elected trustee. J.J. Rennie was elected treasurer.

On motion it was voted to accept J. M. Pratts' proposition, viz: To sell to the M. E. Church trustees the corner lot on Oak Avenue opposite his house north for the sum of Fifty Dollars and have the same applied on his subscription to the building fund. Adjourned."

John H. Buri, Secretary.

Our next trustee meeting was not held until we were ready to start the building in the spring. I will again copy the minutes of that meeting:

"Board of trustees of the M. E. Church at Annandale met at the post office at 9 o'clock A.M. April 3, 1889. Pursuant to a call of the chairman W. H. Towle in the chair. J. H. Buri, Secretary. Members present: H. Huntington, James M. Pratt, J. J. Rennie, L. H. Dakin. Meeting called to order by chairman. On motion it was voted to build a church on church lot fronting Oak Avenue, and the front of the church to be twelve feet from the avenue and four feet from north line of lot.

On motion it was voted to select three of the trustees as a building committee. John H. Buri, J. J. Rennie and Rev. W. H. Wilson were chosen as a building committee.

On motion it was voted to delegate to the building committee the power to buy lumber and building material and to employ labor and have general supervision in the erection of the building. On motion the record and minutes of the meeting were adopted. Meeting adjourned."

John H. Buri, Secretary.

The building committee got busy at once. We put in the stone foundation and then we hired a boss carpenter to have charge of the construction of the building, and charge of the workmen (mostly donated help).

Now Rev. Wilson was not satisfied with one building, he aroused the Fair Haven Congregation to also build a church. They did not have a church of their own but used the baptist church for their meetings. He divided up his time between the two churches. The both churches were rushed along as fast as possible. His idea was to have them dedicated on the same day before conference. Both churches were finished before conference. We had service in our church before conference.

We organized a Sunday School right away in our new church. The writer was elected Sunday School Superintendent which position he had for a good many years. Rev. Wilson was a busy man that summer, worked on the two churches and preached in three different places. Fair Haven; Grace Church, southside; and at Annandale. Before our church was ready we had our services in the schoolhouse.

I must say that Rev. Wilson was a wonderful man and with the limited education he had he was really a remarkable man, all energy work and aggressiveness. It seemed the more work he had the happier he was. He was not much of a pulpit man and some of the people in Annandale got somewhat tired of his loud and aggressive sermons. Some called them "Hammer and Tongs" sermons.

We dedicated the two churches on the same day, Fair Haven in the forenoon and Annandale in the afternoon. After the conference Rev. Wilson was sent to Delano. He was not assigned to our church by the conference but was assigned to Fair Haven and Grace Church which position he held until he left.

Rev. Noah Lathrop - - 1889 to 1890

Our next pastor was Rev. Noah Lathrop. He was so different from Rev. Wilson in almost every respect. He and his wife were along in the sixties both easy going and did not care to stir around very much or mingle with the people much. He was a well educated man, a college man. He gave us very fine sermons and generally had pretty fair congregations. They stayed with us only one year. He had a son in business in North Dakota who was doing pretty well and wanted them to move out there. I do not know whether he retired from the ministry or not. He was talking about that when he was here.

REV. FRANK E. HIGGINS - - 1890 - 1892

Our next pastor was Frank E. Higgins. He was so much different from the other pastors. He was a young man or rather a boy. He came from Canada and applied to the conference for a position as pastor. He did not have much more than an eighth grade education at that time. The conference took him on trial and also gave him a course of studies to prepare and he examined on each conference and if he would pass their studies from year to year they would ordain him as pastor. The conference was short of pastors and they took in quite a number of students that way in those days. He was not much of a student and he failed in some of his studies the first year. He had so friendly a disposition and made friends

wherever he went and especially here in Annandale. He improved somewhat the second year. The following year he was sent to Delano where he got married at the end of the year. That year the conference dropped him as he did not keep up his studies as he should and the Delano people did not stand by him as we did. Now he was without a job but he had some good friends in the Presbyterian Church and they gave him a job. Of course, they could not use him as a pastor as he was not ordained but they had a job for him as a missionary among the lumber camps in the northern part of the state. The northern part of the state was full of lumbering camps in those days. He made quite a hit with the lumber jacks. They all liked him and they also gave him a new name. They called him the sky pilot. It happened one day that a Minneapolis newspaper reporter got hold of him and wrote a long article in the Minneapolis paper about the "Lumber Jack Sky Pilot" and his work and experience up there. That at once advertised him so that he soon got calls from some of the churches to lecture about his work in the northern part of the state. He lectured in different states of the union. I was a subscriber to the "Literary Digest" at that time and I noticed Frank Higgins's picture in there and something over a page of his experience among the lumber jacks, mostly comical and laughable. He continued in this work until he died. He passed away while quite a young man. He was buried in Delano where his wife's folks lived.

REV. G. W. KENNISTON - - 1892 - 1894

Our next pastor was G. W. Kenniston, a young man married and one child. He was a very ambitious worker and put on considerable work and time preparing his sermons. He was a man with a hobby. His hobby was to become a public speaker, a lecturer. He showed me some of his books on oratory and public speaking. He worked in some of his oratorical stunts in his sermons, mostly in his evening sermons. One of his stunts I remember distinctly. It was in his evening sermon. He imitated a man hanging on the lines of a run-away team. He ran across the full length of the platform hanging and jerking on the lines of a run-away team of horses. He made it so real that you could almost imagine to see the horses run.

All his acting in these evening sermons seemed to fit in with his service. It somewhat helped to illustrate his sermons. He generally had good sized congregations both morning and evening. We generally had a good choir. The same choir sang for both services.

He was a painter and house decorator before he started in the Ministry. There were few painters in town who could handle a brush as well as he could. He did some decorating in town for people that wanted a good job done. Our church walls were somewhat smoked up by this time and he made us this proposition. If we would furnish the material and help him put up the staging and take it down, that he would decorate the walls free of cost. We accepted his offer and he did a fine job for us in alabastine finish. That was all we did on the church during his stay here.

He was sent from here to Thief River Falls, at that time a small station on the Soo Line. He was greatly disappointed and came very nearly throwing up the job, but the Bishop told him to stay for one year at least and they would give him a better town next time, so he moved up there. From there he went to South Dakota and we lost all trace of him. About ten or twelve years after that he passed over the Soo Line and he stopped off between trains and rushed right to my store. When he came in he said, "Do you know me yet, John?"

"Yes," I said, "I never forget you Brother Kenniston".

We had a short visit as he wanted to see a few more parties in town. I asked him how he was getting along and what he was doing. He said he was still in the ministry, but he spent a good share of his time lecturing for Chautauqua Companies. Chautauqua meetings in those days were quite popular. I asked him what were his subjects he lectured on and he mentioned a few, but his best subject was he said, "The Great Corsican", meaning of course, the "Old Napoleon". He went out and that was the last I saw him. He could not stop, he had to make the next train. He was on his way to a Chautauqua meeting.

G. E. PICKARD - - 1894 - 1896

The next preacher G. E. Pickard, a young married man was a student pastor not ordained as yet. He was a great student and worker. He finished his studies that conference gave before the time was up, and was ordained before he left Annandale. He put considerable work on his sermons and preached good sermons for a young man. He had always good congregations. Yes, he also had a hobby beside his church work and that was gardening. He always had the finest garden in town and he was always willing to show others how to plan and plant a garden and even trying to make gardeners of our Sunday School scholars. All those that were willing and had a little patch of ground, we gave garden seeds with the understanding that they were to bring samples of their yield in the fall. When we had a regular harvest festival and Thanksgiving program for our school and congregation, the church platform was filled with a fine display of garden vegetables. A fine display and a fine program. The Pickard family moved from here to North Dakota and from there we lost all trace of them. Some years after that, Mr. and Mrs. Pickard called on a lot of Annandale friends. He told us that he occupied one of the New York City churches. They remained here a few days and preached for us on Sunday. We learned sometime after that he died in New York soon after he left here.

REV. W. H. BARKALOO - - 1896 - 1898

Mr. and Mrs. Barkaloo were elderly people nearly sixty years. He was a well educated man and a good pulpit man, but he was not much of a mixer among the people in town and also he did not take very well with the young people and our church began to decline somewhat. Now when he came he could hardly find a suitable place to move into. We had no parsonage up to that time and the board did not feel ready to build a parsonage at that time. The following year we took steps to build a parsonage after considerable urging by the pastor. He offered to pay rent for the parsonage. Rather

pay rent to the church than to an outside party and that would help pay for the building.

Well, we built and finished the new parsonage in the fall and winter 1897. We did not charge him any rent, although we had to borrow some money from the bank to pay the balance of the cost of the parsonage. There were no improvements or repairs on the church during his stay. He went to the southern part of the state and we have not heard from him since he went away.

RHODERICK MURRAY - - 1898 - 1900

Mr. Murray and wife came here from Howard Lake church. They were middle aged people about 40 years. No children. They were both preachers. She could preach about as well as he could. He had some trouble with his throat and so she relieved part of the time. They were evangelists and their sermons were of the evangelistic order--exhorting and pleading, and towards the last quite a number of the members preferred a change of sermons. We, however, kept them for two years. They were great workers in the Sunday School and other departments of the church. They moved out of the conference and we lost all trace of them.

A.L. FISHER - - 1900 - 1902

They were both young people, married only a few years. Two children. They were active workers in different departments of the church. Very sociable and friendly and very well liked by all the people. We had good sized congregations and large Sunday School. Our Sunday School enrollment was from 120 to 130 pupils. Nine large classes in that small church building. Talk began to start about enlarging the church. Well, that was about all it amounted to the first year. The following winter, we began to plan how to enlarge it. There were two ways we could enlarge it, one was to take down the rear wall and build an addition to it. Another was to move the church back enough and build on a new front and belfry. The first would have been much cheaper, but the church front and belfry were not altogether satisfactory. Also, we had to raise the church and put in a new and higher foundation so the board concluded to build a 16 foot addition in front. It was such a complicated job that we could not very well do it by contract. We did it by day labor. We employed a boss carpenter to take charge of the work and men.

The work progressed very slowly. It took nearly all summer to complete it. Our funds ran out during the summer. The men claimed they must have their pay while they were working. I, as secretary gave them their orders on the treasurer. He could not pay it and as some couldn't wait, I cashed their orders. We could not let them go before the church was completed. By the time the church was completed, I cashed a little over \$300.00 in orders, taking the money out of my business. At conference time we had the church complete as it now stands. During this summer, we had our services in the new town hall.

We had a new church, but with a big debt on it. It cost us so much more than we expected. Labor cost ust so much more

than we expected. It seemed to take so long to do the work. Also, we bought a furnace and put in a heating plant. The pews cost us more. We put in all new pews. Before that time we had common kitchen chairs bolted together. There were also other things we had to furnish which we did not plan on, so altogether we were in pretty bad shape financially. Rev. Fisher and family had to leave after conference. He was called to Michigan so we waited to see what our next pastor would be like.

REV. HENRY NOBBS - - 1902 - 1904

We were very fortunate to get a man like Rev. Nobbs. He was a thorough business man. Energetic and a worker. He reminded me very much of Rev. Wilson, our first pastor. When he looked over our accounts, he was greatly surprized at our financial condition. He said we must raise the greater part of this indebtedness by subscription before we can set a day for dedication as the church must be clear of debt before they will dedicate it. So, he went with a new subscription to see all the members again for a new subscription. Also, others around the village. He raised nearly enough to pay the indebtedness of the church so we made arrangements for the dedication which was held in the latter part of November. The balance of indebtedness was subscribed at dedication. The payments came in rather slowly so we had to borrow some money to pay our debts. Rev. Nobbs and wife were great workers in all departments in the church and we had a large congregation and Sunday School. Their whole family with their daughter helped and taught classes in the Sunday School. Their daughter Florence taught also in our high school. Rev. Nobbs and family went to the southern part of the state to preach. Mrs. Nobbs died soon after they left here.

REV. A. L. SPENCER - - 1904 - 1905

When Rev. Nobbs left us in the fall of 1904, we were without a pastor several Sundays and were supplied by other pastors. Our district Superintendent supplied the pulpit one Sunday. He told us at that time that he had an application from a pastor from Iowa who applied to him for a job. He said he did not know anything about him, but if we were willing to take him, he would send for him to occupy this place. We were anxious to have a resident pastor so we told him to send for him. It was not very long when he arrived with his family of six children, all to be crowded in that little parsonage.

He made trouble right away. Found fault with almost everything. Now the new church was completed and settlements made for the payments and he would not have to trouble himself about that, but he was not satisfied when he learned what it cost to build the new church. He claimed it should have been built for considerable less and began to insinuate that there must have been some crooked work done by the board members in spending so much money. He got in trouble with the chairman and some others of the board.

Well, I want to say that I sized him up right away as somewhat of a crank. I made up myself that I would be as

friendly and work with him the best way I knew how to avoid trouble as I did not want any trouble with the pastor. But, with all that he had it in for me. When he learned that I was not a Methodist, but a Presbyterian, he wanted me removed. He wanted a Methodist to take charge of the Sunday School. It seemed that he did not council with any of the church members about that, but took it upon himself to discharge me. Soon after this trouble, I joined the Methodist church here. One day I received a letter through the post office from Rev. Spencer notifying me that I need not take charge of the Sunday School as Superintendent any more as I had been relieved of that office. I showed this letter to a few of the board and they were surprized and told me to go right on as Superintendent. The church would stand by me. That was what I intended anyway, so I answered his note through the post office saying that I was elected by the members of the Quarterly meeting and I intended to continue until I was notified by them. I will be there at the Sunday School and take charge of the school as superintendent. He did not show up at the school and everything went on as usual. I continued as Superintendent. He continued this way, from bad to worse and the Official Board of trustees saw that if it continued this way, he would break up the church, so they sent for the District Superintendent and had a regular trial and the superintendent removed him. He left the town and no one knew where he went and did not care. This was the only time that we had any trouble with the pastor anyway as bad as with Rev. Spencer.

REV. F. W. HILL - - 1905 - 1907

What a change now! A young couple full of smiles and cheerfulness. Friendly and sociable with everyone. Active workers in all departments of the church, Sunday School, Ladies Aid, Epwork League and so on. Yes, both taught Sunday School classes and helped in Sunday School programs. Very well pleased and satisfied with everything as they found it when they came here. Of course, the church building was new and needed no repairs or decoration. The parsonage no doubt needed some decoration inside, but the Ladies Aid looked after that. They were good in making friends among the people. Not alone, the church members but others also. He preached pretty fair sermons for a young man and had fair congregations mornings and evening. He was only with us for two years. From here he was sent to Coleraine and filled several other appointments. He is now located at Breckenridge and has been there since 1925.

REV. JAMES M. BURNS - - 1907 - 1917

I want to say that we were again fortunate in getting Mr. and Mrs. Burns among us. Only a few years ago they came from the old country and they both had a very decided Scotch accent when they came here. Mr. Burns soon began to lose some of that accent and by the time he left here, he talked about the same as the rest of us natives. Mrs. Burns still hung on her accent and even today a person can detect a little of that accent. I always liked to hear it and listen to them no matter how much

they thrilled their "r"s. Yes, they were great workers in Church. Both taught classes in our Sunday School. They helped in Ladies Society and Epworth League work. Mr. Burns was the first pastor that introduced a Catechism class in our Church. I may say here that it was brought about a good deal on account of my wife and myself. We were both teaching classes in the Sunday School, but considered that a Sunday School was not sufficient. It was good as far as it went, but it needed more. It was too superficial. It needed a class by itself where a pastor can have a heart to heart talk with the class and explain what Christianity and religion really meant. Our daughter was getting along in age at that time to join the church so he formed a Bible class to teach them more of the Bible truths using the Catechism as an outline to follow. He taught that until he was satisfied that they knew and understood what they were doing when they joined the church. He held these classes either Saturday afternoons or Sunday afternoons. I asked him a few years ago if he still taught it in every Church he preached. At Hutchinson Church some of the members were surprised that Methodist preacher should talk about a Catechism class. Well, Mr. Burns made many friends. They all knew him for miles around regardless of Church affiliations. He could call them all by name, it seemed. Well, I want to say that we all regretted to see Mr. Burns and family leave us. Since he left us he occupied some of the principal churches in the Litchfield District. He is now located in Excelsior, Minnesota.

DR. H. W. KNOWLES - - 1917 - 1919

Our next pastor was an elderly man nearly seventy years old. He was a widower when he came here, but he got married during his stay here. He was a man of experience and well educated. He gave us several lectures on different subjects. He was a good pulpit man and gave us splendid sermons mostly too long for some. He had no horse and buggy and did most of his visiting on foot and of course he could not get out very much. It was mostly in town. His wife was a widow from a physician and had no experience as a pastors wife. It was all new to her and she did not help very much in church work. He generally had fair congregations. He did not help in Sunday School work nor young peoples meetings. He considered that his pulpit work Sunday morning and evening was all we should expect from him. From here he went to Anoka. He now is at Breckenridge on the retired list.

REV. E. LEADBEATER - - 1919 - 1921

We were now again without a pastor for several Sundays and had to be supplied. Supt. W. C. Lee preached for us one Sunday and had our quarterly meeting and the question about getting a pastor was brought up and Supt. Lee said he knew of a pastor in New York who wanted to come west and he recommended him highly. We had him come. He had 4 children the oldest a boy about sixteen. He came and brought some of his household goods with him. When he presented the bill for moving expenses to the Ladies Aid for \$250.00 they were considerably surprised

at such a large bill. They always looked after the moving expenses of the pastors, but they never had such a bill to pay. They saw Supt. Lee about this bill and thought as the pastor came from another state into this conference that the conference should pay part of it. Mr. Lee said it could not be done. So, Rev. Leadbeater compromised with them and took \$125.00 as he said he was anxious to come out west anyhow and he would pay one half the expense. Mr. Leadbeater got down to business right away. He was a very energetic worker. One big job that the Church placed upon him in the start was to raise the sum of \$5,000.00 for world service. This was either in cash or subscription. Those that wanted to could make it in 5 equal annual payments.

The General Conference was in session that year. It was just after the first World War and so much was needed to build up the churches and other work in helping churches in the war zones. Well, the general conference followed the plan that the Government used in raising money for Liberty Bonds by setting the amount to be raised and then divide it among the states and the states divide it among the counties and the counties among the cities, villages, and towns. So the conference voted to raise \$125,000,000 for world service. They apportioned so much to each Bishop and each Bishop divided it among their churches in the district and the pastors were to raise their apportionment from their members. Of course, all these apportionments were distributed according to their ability to pay. Mr. Leadbeater told me that Annandale Church was assessed \$5,000.00 and it was left to him to raise it. Well, he sized up his congregation pretty well to see who to approach first and he made no mistake. The first two families he approached each signed \$500.00 each and from that to 300, 250, and so on down to \$5.00. This no doubt will seem to us now as a big sum, but we were used to signing big sums. During the war we subscribed liberty bonds. Our village was during the war assessed from \$20,000 to \$25,000 in liberty bonds each time. We had three assessments and expected another but our boys we sent over there finished the job quicker than we expected and so the Government did not call for any more money and we were all pleased as it would have crowded some of us pretty hard to raise another liberty bond as we were getting short on funds. So this Church fund looked small to us in place of what the government demanded of us. Well, he considered this such an easy job to raise \$5,000, he planned and studied on a bigger job--to build a new church. He claimed that our church was not good enough or imposing enough for a church building and if we had a better looking building we would have more people to attend our church. So, he set a time for the Official board to meet. Most of them turned out, also some trustees. He made his argument for a new church and some joined right in with him. One member got so enthused about it he said he would start the subscription list with \$1,000 for the new church. He looked around among the members but no one said anything. Well, he said all he would ask of

the Official Board now was to appoint a committee to confew with the board of trustees about a new church building not to exceed \$30,000. Well, the committee met with the trustees and that ended that. I want to say that this failure did not discourage him. He went right on with another scheme. The Ladies Aid had no suitable place for their meetings in the church and for their dinners they would rent the town hall. He suggested to them that they should have a full basement in the church for their meetings and suppers and would see what could be done about it. So one Sunday at the close of the sermon he announced that he wanted to see the trustees in the League room at the close of the service. So, we all went in there, five or six of us. It happened that quite a number of trustees were in church that day. He came in with a stranger and introduced him saying that he was the man he employed as architect to view the basement and make a blue print with him and that he would like very much to get his pay so he could go on the afternoon train for Fergus Falls, his home. Well, that was a surprise for the goard as no one knew anything about this deal, not even Mr. Lee the chairman. He was asked what his bill was. He would be pretty reasonable under the circumstances and for the church, make it an even \$100. What are we going to do about if the question arose. The most of them said right away let's reach in our pockets and pay for it and forget it. Those who were there paid their share and the balance Mr. Ives said he would take the man to his office and advance the money for the trustees that were not there and he would see them and get it from them. So the man got his money in full and went on his way rejoicing. This deal went the same way as the new church deal.

Some of our board gave our pastor to understand that this was the limit, after this they want things done the American way. He was recently from England and they claimed that he brought that domineering way from there, but they claimed that it would soon wear off if he stayed in this country a while. Well, with all his peculiarities he was well liked and respected. He was full of energy and work. The trouble was he had not enough work to keep him busy and occupied. Both taught in the Sunday School and helped in every way they could. They had three girls and one boy. From here they moved to Browns Valley where he remained for four years. He is now located in Aitkin, Minnesta.

REV. H. C. KISHPAUGH- - 1921 - 1927

Our next pastor came from Raymond, Minnesota. Married and their son, Harland with them. He was a very pleasant and sociable man. Made friends wherever he went. A good man in the pulpit. Gave us very good sermons. He had pretty good congregations nearly every Sunday morning and evening. His wife died during his stay here and was buried in our cemetary. He and Harland and Elizabeth, his adopted daughter, kept house in the parsonage together. He had two other sons, one in the state of New York and one in Oregon. There were not many improvements made on church or parsonage. From here he was

sent to Frazee, Minn, from where he was placed on the retired list. He died in Florida and was buried in Annandale beside his wife.

REV. L.H. ALLEN - - 1927 - 1929

Rev. Allen, wife and daughter came here from Howard Lake. They started right in with considerable enthusiasm. Both helped in Sunday School and young peoples meetings and Mrs. Allen in the Ladies Aid, He preached good and interesting sermons and generally had fair congregations. They made good many pastoral calls together and did all they could to help the church along, but with all of that they seemed to be loosing ground mostly on account members moving away, by deaths and other causes. No one could be blamed. The Allen family were sent to Montrose after being with us for two years. During their stay there he died in 1937 and was buried in Annandale. Mrs. Allen still resides at Montrose.

REV. J. E. DOWLER - - 1929 - 1933

Rev. Dowler and family came to us from Coleraine, Minn. They had three daughters and one son. They started right in with the work with full enthusiasm. Both took classes in the Sunday School. I did not expect much help from Mrs. Dowler in the Sunday School as their youngest daughter was only a few months old, but she insisted to help in the school. In the Epworth League they built up a big class and now right here I cannot help to mention what wonderful work they did with the league. The Ministerial Association of the Litchfield district brought up the question in one of their meetings as to what they could do to get more enthusiasm among the Epworth Leaguers. Some suggested some competitive contest referring to the High School games - how much enthusiasm they create among the schools and communities. But, of course, the Leaguer's contests were to be of a different nature. More of the mental and other abilities, attendance, highest attendance average and other similar points. We..., when Mr. Dowler came from their meeting he was quite enthused about it and told me all about it. They were going to start to win the prize. Well, I did not want to say anything that would dampen his ardor, but I could not help to remind him that our league was small compared with the leagues of the larger churches. Well, he said it is not always numbers that win, but ability and "get there" what generally wins. We have considerable ability in our league and we are going to start right in to prepare.

The first contest was held at St. Cloud. Well, it seemed that the other leaguers had not woken up early enough for this contest or pastors and leaders did not enthuse them enough for this contest. So, when the first contest was held, our league took pretty nearly everything in sight. That woke up the other leaguers in the district. Rev. Burns from Litchfield was there and he invited the leaguers to meet at his church for their next contest. Well, when they began at Litchfield, it was a harder struggle than at St. Cloud and when the judges made the report Annandale was ahead by two points. The next contest was held at Montevideo over 50 miles away. Mrs. Dowler took their car loaded up with leaguers and another car full

with leaguers they went on their way to Montevideo, Now the leaguers all over the district were better prepared than ever. They felt they could not afford the prize going to Annandale again, as this contest would decide the prize if Annandale won again as the first league that won the third contest would win the prize. The contest began. All seemed to be well prepared nearly everything was 100%. It took the judges a long time to decide and when the decision was made Annandale was ahead with one point. So Annandale won the silver cup which was the prize for the league which won the first three contests. They brought the cup with them and we had it displayed on the piano in church for a long time. This was considered by all of us wonderful victory considering our small Eqworth League in comparison with some of the larger leagues of the other churches. Now in our Sunday School we had a class of young boys mostly high school students that I had a hard time to get teachers for them. They would teach a while and then quit. Most of the time I taught the class. The first Sunday that he was in Sunday School, he asked me if there was a class he could take. Yes, I said there is that class of boys in the corner that I have a hard time to get a teacher for them - he could take that class. Why, he said that is just the class I like. A class of boys. Well, I said we could settle that right away, so I took him over to the boys and introduced them and told them that they would have Rev. Dowler as teacher. They were all pleased and considered it an honor to have the new pastor as their teacher. This little class of six or seven boys soon grew to ten, thirteen and eighteen boys mostly high school age. He would go out with them on different hikes, rabbit hunting and so on. In the winter he got permission from the school board to use the gym to practice football and other athletic stunts. Dowler was quite an athlete himself. Mrs. Dowler had quite a large class of high school girls. Mr. Dowler was not considered an able pulpit man, but he made it up in other work. From here the Dowler family was sent to Delano. They are now at Ely, Minnesota.

REV. CHARLES H. BLAKE - - 1933 - 1939

Our next pastor and family came from Wadena. Richard, their son, came with them. Richard was about 18 and a very fine pianist. He was a great help in the church services and programs. He played most of the time in the church choir. Rev. Blake was a good pulpit man and gave us fine sermons. During his administration considerable work was done on the church building and parsonage. The church building received a new shingle roof, also the inside walls were painted and pews varnished, also the outside and belfry were painted. The parsonage received a new coat of paint on the outside. The chimneys on both church and parsonage were repaired. The entire cost was about \$550. We had \$150 from the fire insurance co. Indemnity paid by the insurance company for a fire we had on the roof of the church caused by sparks from the chimney. The balance of \$400 Mr. Blake went around with a subscription paper and collected from the members and others. Mr. Blake was a very active man, a hard worker for his age. He looked

after all of the little details of the church work. Am sorry to day the last year he broke down in health, was confined in bed for some length of time. At the close of the year he retired from the ministry. He, Mrs. Blake and Richard are now living in Red Wing, Minnesota. We all regretted very much to see the Blake family leave us.

REV. EVERETTE GROVES - - 1939 - 1940

Our next pastor was a student from Hamline University. His first attempt in preaching; in fact, his first sermon here was the first he ever preached. It seemed that he hardly knew what the pastors duties were. On the following conference he was sent to Pine River and he remained only a short time when he retired from the ministry and studied for some other profession.

REV. FLORENCE RESOR JARDINE - - 1940 -

The conference could not send us a pastor immediately, so we were supplied for nearly two months. Several different pastors supplied our pulpit. Mrs. Jardine supplied the pulpit for a while and the people and members were so well pleased with her services and work that they requested the Dist. Supt. to appoint her as our resident pastor. Mr. and Mrs. Jardine moved into the parsonage early that fall. They started right in to work in earnest. In her first pastoral report to the quarterly meeting, Mrs. Jardine reported 500 pastoral visits. So, they did not only visit the members of the church, but so many more others and invited them to our church. Our congregation began to increase right away and we have had fair congregations ever since. Through their efforts, considerable changes have been made in front of the church. The platform was enlarged, an altar built, front railing placed and other changes made so that it now looks like a real church chancel. Enough new hymn books have been purchased to supply the congregation. During their efforts, a young peoples society has been organized called the "M" club. They are a great help to our church. Now, I want to say that I am not going to give our pastor all the bouquets, but am going to save some for her good husband, Mr. Jardine, who has been a great help in the different departments of the church, Sunday School, young peoples meetings, trips around the country making pastoral calls with the pastor and other duties.

I sometimes think a woman pastor alone could hardly attend to all the duties that are demanded by the churches today, but with the help of both, everything is looked after and nothing neglected. And we only hope that we have them with us again after the conference.

Now this ends the history of our church including the 19 pastors. As I had so much to say about the pastors, I did not have a good chance to say anything about our Sunday School and other societies.

MY SUNDAY SCHOOL - - 1889 - 1942

The Annandale Sunday School was organized in the fall of 1889. It has continued continually without a vacation for 53 years. In the 53 years we had only two superintendents. The writer was superintendent for 47 years and the balance

of six years was occupied by Mrs. Cora Kurz, who is our superintendent now. She is doing fine and proficient work in the school and we hope she can continue for a long time yet.

Now right here I wish to mention some of our faithful workers in our Sunday School. I cannot mention them all as there were so many faithful workers, but will mention those who have served the greatest number of years. So, I will mention first Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Lee. The Lee family bought their farm in Southside in the early nineties and while there they attended Grace Church as long as that church continued. Mr. Lee would work his farm and also taught in their own school during the winter. He also taught one year in our village school as principle. Then he was elected County Superintendent of schools in this county which office he held for several years. During this time he rented his farm and moved into Annandale. Mr. and Mrs. Lee were great workers in all departments of the church, especially in the Sunday School. They both taught classes for many years. The same as my wife who has taught classes for many years and helped in all the Sunday School programs. The Superintendent taught classes part of the time also. Another faithful worker in the Sunday School was Mrs. Emma Cofield. She began in the second or third year of our Sunday School as Supt. of the primary department and continued over 30 years. When she retired, Mrs. N. C. Smith was superintendent of that department for many years. Mrs. Wm. Schnackenberg is Superintendent now of that department. She has taught different classes for a good many years. Now, in looking over my long career in Sunday School work, I cannot forget those many faithful Sunday School workers. Many have gone to their reward. We had a large Sunday School in the early days, as many as 125 to 135 enrolled. Our present school seems small in comparison, but it is not the church, pastor or teacher's fault, the children are not here. Also, there are three Sunday Schools in this village, so I think we are getting our share of the young people. I think all the children in this village are looked after by the Sunday Schools. Our Sunday School has always donated something for missions and when we built our new church, they paid a little over \$60 for the building fund. They were always willing workers for the church financially or otherwise. May it always continue in its good work is the prayer of this old retired superintendent.

LADIES AID OF M.E.CHURCH - - 1890 - 1942

Now, I cannot pass on without saying anything about the Ladies Aid. I do not pretend to write their history as they can do that better than I can, but I simply want to touch some of the high spots in their history especially where they have helped our church financially and otherwise. They were fully organized during Noah Lathrop's pastorate. During that time to the building of the new church they helped some on the pastor's salary. There was not much other call for help outside the pastors salary until we began to build the new church. In the summer of 1902. They were a pretty strong organization at that time and they paid something over \$200 in money to the

building fund. When the board was planning the kind of windows to put in the new church, they found out that the board was going to put the same windows in front as they had on the side. They came to the board and asked the privilege of putting in one large window instead of two small ones. Of course, the board gave them the privilege if they paid for it. And the Ladies Aid put in that beautiful window with its colored glass - beautifully blended colors set in loaded frames. A work of art. The window cost them a little over \$75. Now, it came to the floor. When they heard the board was talking about leaving the old floor, they came to the board again and begged them to put in a new hard wood floor as the old pine floor would not match with the new pews. It would have a cheap look and appearance and would not harmonize with the new polished pews at all. When they saw that the board hesitated somewhat, they offered to pay part of the material or pay it all before they would let it go as it was. They paid part of it. I do not know now how much.

Well, this ended their help on the building unless some smaller help which I do not know. They also paid the traveling and moving expenses for the pastors ever since the organization. They also paid the fire and wind insurance since the new church was built except one wind insurance policy which the board pays \$4.00 per year. When the old furnace burned out and had to get a new furnace, they bought a new furnace for one church. I never learned what that cost them as they had it put in and they paid for it. Also, when the sewer and water works were put in this village, they had the parsonage connected up with the system and put a bathroom fully equipped. They got some help from the church extension fund, some of the members do not know how much. Also, they put in a new furnace in the parsonage. Neither do I know how much that cost. They attended to the decoration, paperhanging, etc. in the parsonage since the parsonage was built. They also pay from \$180 to \$200 on the preacher salary every year. They helped financially in putting on a new roof on the church and other repairs. Yes, in my long career in church work, I cannot see or imagine how our church could have gotten along or accomplished what it did if it had not been for the Ladies Aid. And we as a board of trustees and other members of the church have always appreciated and with greatest of gratitude have received their help financially or otherwise and hope and pray that they will continue and be prosperous and a great help to the church. The church needs them.

THE EPWORTH LEAGUE - - 1890 - 1942

I want to say a few words about this young peoples organization. They organized about the same time as the Ladies Aid as nearly as I can remember now.

They had a larger organization then they do today. But, I must say as I did about our Sunday School membership. It is not the fault of the organization or the leaders. The young people are not here now. There are young people societies in the other two churches. This we did not have in the early days,

but I see we are getting our share of the young people of this town. They helped the church financially and otherwise. When we build the new church they subscribed \$125 and they paid it and they earned the money to pay it. The greatest record they made was during Rev. Dowler's pastorate when they entered the contest with all the leaguers of the Litchfield District and they won the prize -- a silver cup. This contest is fully described on page 26 in Rev. Dowler's pastorate. The contest gave them quite a reputation all over the Litchfield District. They have had several presidents and leaders. I will only name one and that is Miss Alma Haggerty, who has served several years. She was president during the time they won the silver cup with Rev. and Mrs. Dowler as able helpers.

The Epworth League is a great and popular organization among the young people all over the nation. It is a social, religious and education organization and is doing a great deal of good among our young people. They are a considerable help to our church. We all hope and pray that they will continue in their good work.

THE M CLUB - - 1940 -

The M Club, a young peoples organization, was organized a little over a year ago. It is social, religious and educational. They are a small society of young people, yet but are getting new members right along. They are having a good social time at their meetings. They have helped the church considerably so far. They helped in the purchase of new hymnals for our church, also they prepare a service program to Sunday morning services. That is something new in our church. It is a great help. Yes, they have asked me to write a history of our church which I am now finishing for them. They are a fine organization of young people and we all hope that they will continue in the good work and make it a permanent society.

THE CHURCH CHOIR - - 1889 - 1942

No, I cannot close this book without saying something about the church choir.

We organized a choir and sang at the dedication of our first church in the fall of '89 and there has been a choir ever since. The writer sang in that choir at the first dedication and has sung in the choir continually until a few years ago. I am the only one left in this village who sang in the first choir. Now, I want to mention a few names of parties who have sung thirty or more years in our choir. Miss Ruby Cofield, now Mrs. B.H. Thayer, has sung alto by my side for over thirty years and is yet a member of the choir today. Miss Myrtle Krohn, now Mrs. P.L. Sawyer, has sung soprano for over thirty years and is still the leading soprano in our choir today. Mrs. J. E. Andrews, has sung and helped out the choir a good many years. We have a fine choir now and they are favoring us with fine anthems and hymns. I must admit when they sing one of the old anthems that I helped to sing in the choir it gives me a feeling of homesickness for the choir, but it is out of the question now. My voice, eyesight and hearing does not permit anything like that now. The committee on music is now; Mrs. P. L. Sawyer, Mrs. J. E. Andrews, Mrs. Wendell

Ponsford, Mrs. Ralph Sather and Mrs. N. A. Rundquist and they are to be congratulated for keeping up so fine a choir and giving us such fine music and singing at our church services. It is indeed a great help in our church services. I will now close this history of our church up to date April 14, 1942.

John H. Buri

P.S.

I want to say I hope the "M" Club will excuse my poor penmanship and writing. In my 84 years, I am not as good a scholar as I used to be.

J.H.B.

"Editor's Note"

Since this history was completed by Mr. Buri, there have been a few changes that could be noted here. Mrs. Jardine left here in June, 1944 and went to Weston, Oregon. She was replaced by Rev. T. B. Clark, who came here from Glenwood. He stayed until June, 1946 and was then transferred to Brownton, Minnesota. Our present pastor is Rev. Lee Paulson, who came here from Parker's Lake. Rev. Clark and Rev. Paulson served both Annandale and Kimball. Rev. Clark lived in Annandale during his stay here and Rev. Paulson is now living in Kimball.

This book is being permanently bound during the winter of 1946 - 1947.