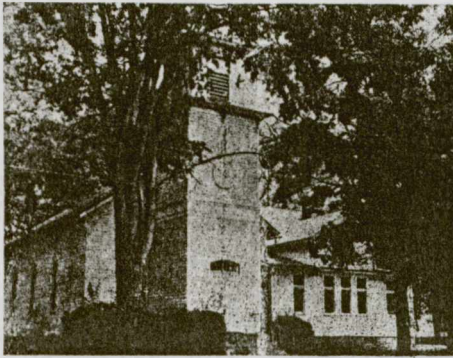


# METHODIST CHURCH 1859 = 1959

## HISTORY OF THE VERMONTVILLE METHODIST CHURCH



Methodist "classes" were organized in this vicinity as early as 1845. These classes met in school houses or homes and were visited periodically by circuit preachers of the Eaton Circuit.

In September 1859 the Michigan Conference, held in Marshall, voted Vermontville a separate charge with Rev. Josiah Fowler as pastor. The first Quarterly Conference in Vermontville, November 5, 1859, elected stewards and trustees. It also set the pastor's salary at \$420.00 apportioned among the eight or more preaching places. One of these was Bismark, at that time called West Sunfield. Throughout its history Bismark has been a part of Vermontville charge. In 1954 Gresham Church was also added.

The first church building was erected in 1862 north-east of the village about two miles. In 1866-67 a parsonage was built. The first regular preaching in the village of Vermontville was after 1872, for in that year the Quarterly Conference appointed a committee to arrange for establishing such a regular preaching appointment. In 1877 the church building was moved into the village. The south wing was added in 1889 and enlarged in 1926-27.

The preceding paragraphs state merely the facts in the development of this church. Around each fact cluster many stories of sacrifice, perseverance and faith. It is indeed a duty, as well as a pleasure to acknowledge appreciation of our heritage and gratitude to the leaders and workers who have made this church possible. There remains for the present membership to accept the challenge and carry forward the work of building Christian citizenship.

### Centennial Anniversary 1859 — 1959

### PROGRAM

Vermontville Methodist Church

September 20, 1959

Morning Worship 10:15 a m

Guest Speaker — Rev. Clark Phillips

Rev. Clark Phillips started his ministry at the Vermontville Church in 1927-1930. He is former District Superintendent of the Big Rapids District, and is now pastoring the Muskegon Heights Methodist Church.

Sunday School 11:15 a m

Dinner 1:00 p m

All Welcome

Sacred Music Concert 4:00 p m

Presented by the Choir from the Quinn Memorial African Methodist Church of Flint, Michigan

Methodist Youth Fellowship 7:30 p m

### METHODIST MINISTERS STILL LIVING

Out of the fifty-two ministers who have served the Methodist church in the past 100 years, there are 13 still living. They are:

- Rev. C. A. Whaley, retired
- Rev. C. H. Phillips, Muskegon
- Rev. V. B. Niles, Howard City
- Rev. T. W. Thompson, retired and living at Clark Home in Grand Rapids.
- Rev. J. R. Pollock, with the Pennsylvania Conference
- Rev. H. R. Kinney, District Superintendent of Kalamazoo district
- Rev. Kearney Kirkby, Dearborn
- Rev. C. T. Wheaton (address unknown)
- Rev. Arlo Vandlen, Weidman
- Rev. Lynn Chapel, Traverse City
- Rev. Richard Leonard, Indiana
- Rev. Marcus Taber, Pentwater
- Rev. Howard Lindsay Vermontville.

The Niles family spent a total of seven years in Vermontville, Rev. F. L. Niles served the church twice, and the youngest of his three sons (all ministers) Rev. Victor Niles, who was born here, came back and served the church as pastor.

Rev. Marcus Taber, now of Pentwater served the churches for the longest, being pastor here for five years.

### HALLENBECK NAME CONNECTED WITH CHURCH SINCE 1848

The second group of colonists coming in the 1840's from Albany, New York, included the Jacob Hallenbecks. Two of their sons were particularly interested in the local Methodist Church.

John, architect and artist, became a Methodist minister building and decorating several churches during his pastorates around the state.

Cornelius, a life-long member, board member, and choir director of the local church, built his farm home here in the 1860's during leaves from the Civil War. His wife, Etta Kent, came from a pioneer settler family of Kalamo. On display this Sunday are her New Testament published in 1853, and the hymnals and Sunday School song books she used of this same period. Also shown is a baby dress she wore in 1848.



Their only son, Byron, is still an active member along with his family. His grandchildren are the fifth generation members to attend the church.

In memory of Ruth Powers Hallenbeck, a picture illustrating the Sermon on the Mount is being presented to the Sunday School. Four generations of the Powers family relationship are also honored through this gift by the donors: Mr and Mrs Harley Dorman, Byron Hallenbeck, and Mr and Mrs Elbert Carpenter.



Rev. and Mrs. Howard K. Lindsey  
Diane Kay and Deborah Ann

Rev. Howard Lindsay, came to Vermontville as pastor of the Vermontville, Bismark and Gresham churches in October 1956.

Before coming to Vermontville, Rev. Lindsay served as student pastor at Burlington, Iowa. He attended grade school in Fargo, North Dakota and graduated from high school at Menah

ga, Minnesota. He attended the Chicago Institute at University Park, Iowa. June 12, 1954 he married Dolly Miller at Perrington, Michigan. The Lindseys have two daughters, Diane Kay and Deborah Ann.

Since coming to Vermontville, Rev. Lindsay has been a student at Michigan State University.

### Church Leaders 1859

First Pastor

Rev. Josiah Fowler

#### Trustees

John Barrett  
William Clark  
Jacob Fuller

C. J. Hallenbeck  
Rufus Haner  
Jacob Moore  
L. C. Sprague

#### Stewards

Jacob Fuller  
C. J. Hallenbeck  
P. G. Huff  
Francis Reynolds

L. C. Sprague  
John S. Tyler  
James Young

### Ministers 1859 — 1959

Rev. Josiah Fowler  
Rev. Moses Carpenter  
Rev. Uri Mason  
Rev. G. D. Palmer  
Rev. E. Wilkinson  
Rev. Thomas Clark  
Rev. Hugh Caldwell  
Rev. J. Gulick  
Rev. H. D. Jordan  
Rev. J. K. Stark  
Rev. N. L. Brockway  
Rev. W. J. Swift  
Rev. F. J. Freeman  
Rev. B. S. Pratt  
Rev. O. D. Watkins  
Rev. C. C. Olds  
Rev. B. E. Paddock  
Rev. J. H. Thomas  
Rev. E. G. Lewis  
Rev. Wm. A. Taylor  
Rev. O. E. Wightman  
Rev. A. A. Stephens  
Rev. J. W. Steffe  
Rev. J. P. Durham  
Rev. F. L. Niles  
Rev. W. P. Mosher

Rev. J. W. Hart  
Rev. R. W. Merrill  
Rev. G. R. Millard  
Rev. T. H. Leamon  
Rev. Charles Nease  
Rev. F. L. Niles  
Rev. C. A. Whaley  
Rev. L. H. Cone  
Rev. R. E. Millard  
Rev. E. S. Scott  
Rev. C. H. Phillips  
Rev. V. B. Niles  
Rev. T. W. Thompson  
Rev. J. R. Pollock  
Rev. H. R. Kinney  
Rev. F. M. Clough  
Rev. Kearney Kirkby  
Rev. C. T. Wheaton  
Rev. V. J. Hufton  
Rev. Arlo Vandlen  
Rev. Lynn Chapel  
Rev. Blanche Nellers  
Rev. G. E. Whiteman  
Rev. Richard Leonard  
Rev. Marcus E. Taber  
Rev. Howard K. Lindsey

### Church Leaders 1959

Pastor  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Financial Secretary  
President of WSCS  
President of MYF

Rev. Howard K. Lindsey  
Mrs. Robert Todd  
Vern Reed  
Gerald Reed  
Mrs. Lynn Satterlee  
Nancy Imhoff

#### Trustees

Elbert Carpenter  
Dean Frith  
Donald Gaedert  
Earl Gehman  
Byron Hallenbeck

Kenneth Lautzenheiser  
Gordon Lovell  
William Moehring  
Cleo Prescott  
Gerald Reed  
Robert Todd

#### Stewards

Mrs. Donald Carey  
Joe Davis  
Mrs. Donald-Kelsey  
Mrs. Fred Kroger  
Mrs. K. Lautzenheiser  
Mrs. Wm. Moehring  
Earl Osgood  
Centennial Committee:  
Mrs. Vern Reed  
Miss Mabelle Sprague

Mrs. Earl Osgood  
Mrs. Cleo Prescott  
Mrs. Vern Reed  
Mrs. Lynn Satterlee  
Mrs. Arthur Stethenelm  
Mrs. Robert Todd  
Mrs. Chris VanderVeere  
Mrs. Chris VanderVeere  
Miss Celia Sprague  
Mrs. Robert Todd