

Millerton Methodist Church

by
Mrs. Zora Bull



Methodist Church, Millerton, Iowa. (Photo by: Ortha Green)

In the fall of 1912, in September the Sunday School that met in Fry's Chapel hired Rev. Charles Knolls, who was pastor of the New York and Bethlehem churches, to preach once on Sunday for one year for one hundred dollars.

Rev. Knolls held a three weeks meeting, and on July 20th 1913 organized a class of eleven members consisting of the following; Oscar Grismore, Hattie Grismore, Earl G. Booth, Emma, Ora and Orville Perkins, Robert Thatcher, Iva Thatcher, Lewis Thatcher, Lula and Edith Denton. Grant J. Markley and Lenora, his wife donated Lots 3 and 4 in Block 5 to the trustees of the Millerton Church on June 24, 1916 (recorded Book 25-page 437). The lots were valued at \$300.00

When the New York church was torn down the lumber was used to build a parsonage. The first pastor to live in the parsonage was Rev. Thomas Teas, and wife.

In 1914 Rev. John Armstrong an Englishman was pastor. On Sept. 15th 1915 Rev. Emmett Bates was sent as pastor. He helped pay off the debt of \$325 on the parsonage. The Bethlehem church payed \$175 and Millerton paid the balance. In April 1916 a Board of Trustees was organized for the purpose of building a new church with John Krouse, president; Sam Fry, Secretary-Bass Thatcher, J.G. Markley, Sam Mumma, Fred Lewis, R.T. Thatcher and Jess Sheets. The treasurer was William Winslow.

The building was to be 32 x 44 ft. with a lecture room 18 x 30 with a full basement. The contract for the lumber was let to the Corydon Lumber Co., for \$1125. After waiting nine weeks for lumber, work was begun

November 15th 1916. William (Bill) Green was hired as foreman at 35 cents per hour. The building was enclosed before Christmas and work was resumed in early spring. The building was completed and dedicated July 22, 1917. The cost being \$4500. Rev Bates left the church and parsonage free of debt and it has been kept that way. Rev. Bates started the first young peoples group known then as the Epworth League. This group earned money and bought a Piano for \$200.

The next pastor was Rev. Kite and Rev. Butler. In 1918 came Rev. McCurdy and wife. The Rev. loved to sing and the mens quartet composed of Sam Fry, Lewis McMurry, Rev. McCurdy and J.N. Stark was greatly enjoyed. Frank Moore a student came in 1922, Rev. Kelley in 1924, Rev. Carter and family in 1928 and James Bulkena in 1923. Rev. Hamilton in 1932, O.T. Jones in 1935, Gerald Rogers in 1939, Rev. Crabtree in 1940. Rev. Peterson in 1945, Richard DeFever was a student from Des Moines and celebrated his 18th birthday while here. Rev. and Mrs. Bowers came in 1946 and lived in the parsonage. His motto was "Bring your children, don't send them". Rev. Jack Nash came in 1948 and organized the MYF. Mr. Moore was leader in 1949 until Sept. when Rev. and Mrs. VanEtten completed the year. Rev. Butler (Harvey) and wife came in 1950 and 1951.

In first part of 1950 came Rev. Leo Van Etten, with Rev. Robert Ropp, 52-1953-54-55. Rev. Helland and Shimer, 1958, - Mark Weston, 1960-1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-. Rev. Lawrence E. Jones 1970. The Millerton Church became a member of the new United Methodist group.