

## Southfield Methodists Note 90th Anniversary

Southfield Methodist Church celebrated its 90th anniversary with ceremonies beginning Sept. 19 and continuing through Sunday.

The church was erected 20 years after the founding of Southfield-Berg in 1837, and the original building is still in use. The main alteration that has taken place is the addition of a furnace room and kitchen at the rear of the church, and a dining room on the East side.

Before the erection of the present building two pastors came from the Ohio Conference to serve the community, the Reverends Lelan Smith and John J. Young. They held classes and preached their Sunday sermons in the various homes and school buildings of the vicinity. Both men made their homes in West Bloomfield and went far afield to serve the outlying farms and districts. As the community grew, the need for a

permanent church building became apparent, and in 1857 it was erected.

**Purchase Plot**  
In 1852, when the Methodist Society was formed, this area was part of the Farmington Circuit, with the Rev. Isaac Collins as the pastor. The society was incorporated in 1853 and in 1854 a plot of ground was purchased from Archibald Green for \$28.00. The work of building the church was started the following year, with the formal dedication a year later. The first recorded meeting of the Board of Trustees of the church was on May 18, 1857, when nine men were elected to office. The deed of the property was given and recorded in 1863.

The first Sunday school, with Thomas Sharley, Sr. as superintendent, was organized in 1877, and a missionary society was formed in the church in 1880. In 1898 the Epworth League began to make its forces felt in the community, as was the Women's Society formed the year before by Mrs. Josiah Morgan, wife of the present pastor. They chose the name of the Gleaner Society, and this past year noted their 50th year of continuous service in the church.

The first officers of the church included Horatio Lee, L. F. Kneeland, Benjamin Fuller, Isaac Warren, John Hutchens, William Bruce, Humphrey Hickey, Horace Johnson and George Lee. Many of these names are still well-known in this vicinity, and are still active in church and community affairs.

following in the footsteps of their ancestors who gave their strength to the success of this veritable church in the wildwood.

Records do not show, clearly, but it is believed that in 1852 the Southfield Church left the Farmington Circuit and became a part of the Ball Branch, Delaware circuit, now known as the Calvary Church of Redford. The Rev. L. L. Houghton was pastor, and it was during his pastorate that the Peabodyville church was built.

**Full-Time Pastor**  
The relationship with Redford was a long and pleasant one, continuing until 1919, when Southfield became associated with Franklin, with the Rev. Edward F. Dunaway appointed pastor. In 1924 a church bell was hung, and a furnace room added to the original structure. By 1928-29, the activities of the church had increased to the point that it was rapidly becoming more and more of a social center for the community. To meet with this demand, a kitchen and dining room were added.

During the depression years, financial trials struck at the little church, as at everything else, and it was supplied with a series of student pastors from divinity schools. In 1936 the Rev. Elmon Schofield was appointed full-time pastor to the Southfield church, although his home was in Pontiac. This, by the way, marked the first time in its history that the little church had had a full-time pastor, and even though the distance between church and home caused considerable inconvenience for him and his parish, members of the church were jubilant.

The unification of three branches of Methodism, in 1939, was a major event in the history of the church. It meant combining the forces and membership of three already large groups—the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church South and the Methodist Protestant Church, united to form the Methodist Church.

**Societies Unite**  
Heretofore three societies for women had existed in the church, which now became one. The Women's Home Missionary Society, Women's Foreign Missionary Society and the Ladies' Aid now became the Women's Society of Christian Service. The officers of the Southfield W. S. C. S. were installed by the Rev. Schofield on December 3, 1940. With the former three churches and societies now united as one, the church felt a sense of security and power and influence which it had not enjoyed before.

In 1941 Southfield again was

affiliated with Franklin and was served by the Rev. Clifton Hoffman. Two years later it was designated as an out-post of Embury Methodist Church in Birmingham, with the Rev. Max O. Moore serving.

**Resident Pastor**  
In 1946, at the spring conference, the membership of Southfield Methodist Church requested that a full-time resident pastor be appointed to it. The District Superintendent, Dr. Sidney Evers, referred the request to the Conference, and it was granted in June. The Rev. James W. Deeg was named to the church and after some difficulty the parish obtained a parsonage. A house was purchased, through the aid of the Methodist Union of Greater Detroit, and for the first time in its long history Southfield Church had a pastor and parsonage of its own.

Through the long years the church has witnessed many changes. It has seen its membership come and go, has watched depression and war cast dark shadows over the world. Today, it stands as a monument to the past, and a symbol to the future. The old village, as it was when the church was built is gone. The old mill is gone, the old members are gone, but still the church stands, a mark of the quiet confidence and faith in God.

## Classes Start Soon In Adult Education

Adult education classes will open in two weeks at the Community House, and registration of all interested in the program should be made as soon as possible. There are still openings for a limited number in these courses: Millinery, hooked rug making, clothing and sewing, silver jewelry making, ceramics, plaiting crafts for men, public speaking and slip cover making.

In addition to classes already scheduled, one has been organized to accommodate those interested in knitting. Mrs. Grace Duncan, who has taught at the Woman's City Club will be instructor in this course. Meetings will be held each Wednesday from 7:30 to 9:30 p. m.

Mrs. John Foster will teach a class of ceramics which has been organized for children. They will meet each Saturday from 10 a. m. to noon.

All classes will start on Sept. 29, and will run for a full ten weeks.

## Church Services

**First Baptist Church**  
Wilder at 24th St.  
"A Church That Cares"  
George Jackson, Sunday School Superintendent.  
Rev. Luther Turner, Organist.  
Sunday School—10:30 a. m.  
Morning Worship—11:00 a. m.  
Youth Meetings—6:30 p. m. Aubrey Darling, President.

**Prayer Service**—Wednesday, 8:00 p. m. We have a survey to care for all young children during the morning worship service.

**Southfield U. P. Church**  
10 1/2 mile over Labor Road.  
10:30 a. m.—Morning Service, Sermon.  
11:30 a. m.—Bible School.  
7:30 p. m.—Youth Service.  
Thursday, 8 p. m.—Choir Practice.

**First Church of Christ, Scientist**  
Chester and Willetts  
Sunday service—11 a. m.  
Wednesday Meeting—3 p. m.  
Sunday school—11 a. m.  
"Reality" will be the subject of the lesson-sermon in all Christian Science churches throughout the world on Sunday, September 29.

"The Golden Text (Psalm 138:3) is: 'For God, his way is perfect, the way of the Lord is tried; he is to be feared to all those that trust in him.' Among the Bible scriptures in this passage, Luke 1:1-3: 'The beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. All things were made by him, and without him was not anything made that was made.' Correlative passages to be read from the Christian Science textbook, 'Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures,' by Mary Baker Eddy, include chapters 1, 4:1-11; 10:1-11; 12:1-11; 13:1-11; 14:1-11; 15:1-11; 16:1-11; 17:1-11; 18:1-11; 19:1-11; 20:1-11; 21:1-11; 22:1-11; 23:1-11; 24:1-11; 25:1-11; 26:1-11; 27:1-11; 28:1-11; 29:1-11; 30:1-11; 31:1-11; 32:1-11; 33:1-11; 34:1-11; 35:1-11; 36:1-11; 37:1-11; 38:1-11; 39:1-11; 40:1-11; 41:1-11; 42:1-11; 43:1-11; 44:1-11; 45:1-11; 46:1-11; 47:1-11; 48:1-11; 49:1-11; 50:1-11; 51:1-11; 52:1-11; 53:1-11; 54:1-11; 55:1-11; 56:1-11; 57:1-11; 58:1-11; 59:1-11; 60:1-11; 61:1-11; 62:1-11; 63:1-11; 64:1-11; 65:1-11; 66:1-11; 67:1-11; 68:1-11; 69:1-11; 70:1-11; 71:1-11; 72:1-11; 73:1-11; 74:1-11; 75:1-11; 76:1-11; 77:1-11; 78:1-11; 79:1-11; 80:1-11; 81:1-11; 82:1-11; 83:1-11; 84:1-11; 85:1-11; 86:1-11; 87:1-11; 88:1-11; 89:1-11; 90:1-11; 91:1-11; 92:1-11; 93:1-11; 94:1-11; 95:1-11; 96:1-11; 97:1-11; 98:1-11; 99:1-11; 100:1-11; 101:1-11; 102:1-11; 103:1-11; 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