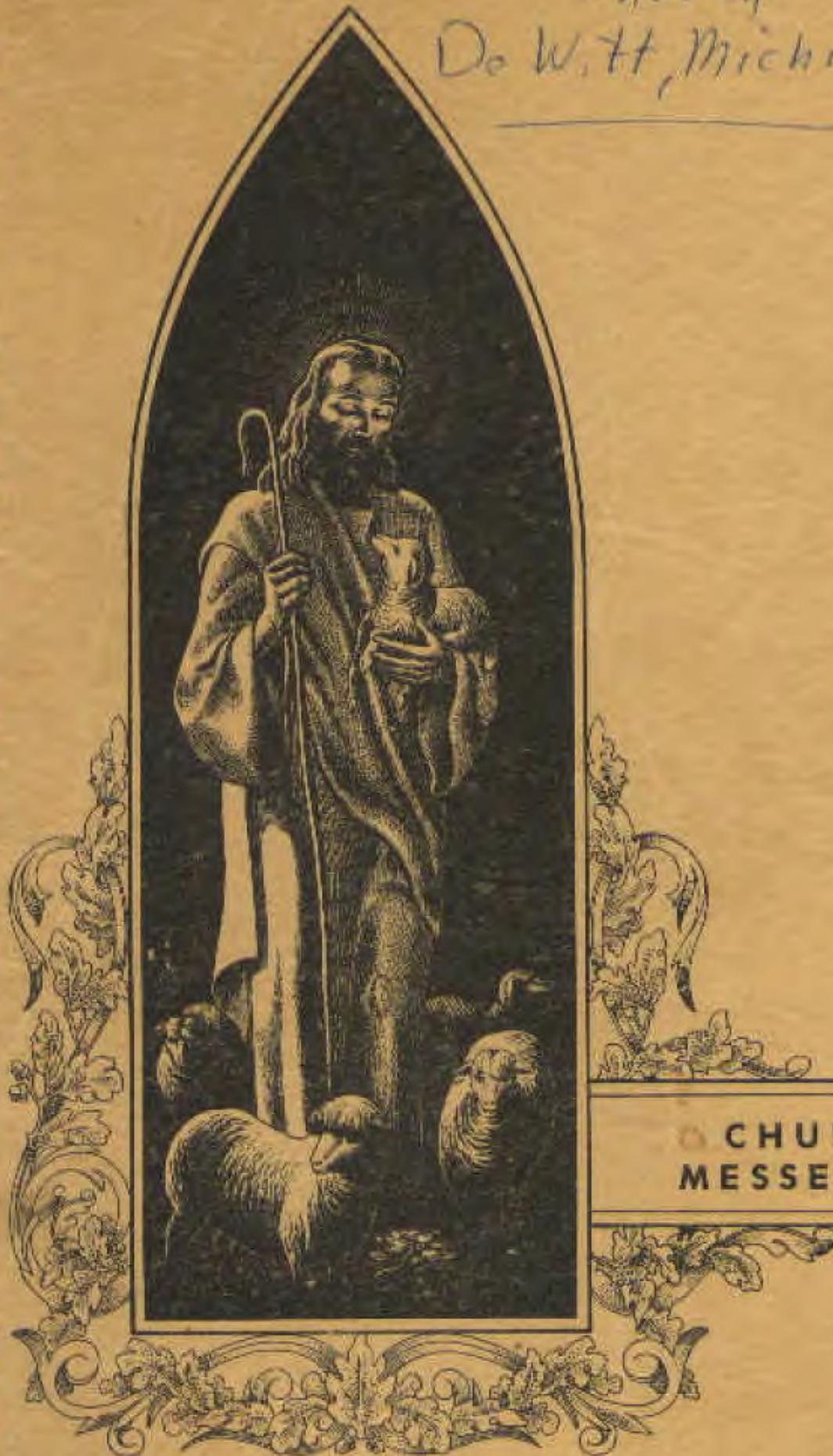


De Witt Methodist  
Church  
De Witt, Michigan



CHURCH  
MESSENGER



## THE EARLIEST PIONEERS AND CIRCUIT RIDERS

Mrs. Joseph Turna

During the earliest part of the 19th Century, the Methodist life of the vicinity of DeWitt was but a part of the great pioneer field in the great pioneer Territory of Michigan. The first Methodist Missionary was sent to Detroit, then the capital, to hold religious services in the cabins of the villagers scarce thirty years before he was sent here. The first log church was built there less than twenty years before religious services were held in the log cabins here.

Migration was moving westward. In this Territory it was due, largely, to three circumstances, namely: a better knowledge of the topography of the country furnished by surveyors and explorers; the use of steamboats on the Great Lakes; and the opening of the Erie Canal. This last project was accomplished through the efforts of DeWitt Clinton, then Governor of New York. It was in his honor that our county was named "Clinton" and our township and village "DeWitt".

The earliest pioneer of our community was Captain David Scott and his family, who settled here in 1833. With the consent of the Indians his family lived in one of their wigwams until his log cabin was built. From then on, men and their families, in oxcarts and covered wagons, slowly forded streams and rivers and trekked through swamps and dense woods. They put their trust in God's protection. With faith in this wild wooded land, they had courage enough to endure its struggles and hardships. After they had built their log cabins they realized that these were their only places of worship.

Methodism endeavored to keep pace with these new settlements. In 1836, the same year in which our State Government was organized and the

Constitution framed and ratified by the Legislature, the first Methodist Conference was created in Michigan. Prior to this, the Territory had been but a part of the New York Genesee Conference.

Reverend Elijah Pilcher, a man of keen insight and unusual ability was the first Presiding Elder. In attending the Quarterly meetings of his Grand Rapids Circuit, he found that most of the settlers were located along the Grand River. To the North and East to Saginaw, the Territory was covered with dense forests. In these great woods, here and there, were found small clearings and the log cabins of the pioneers. These homes were frequently located by the rings of smoke which arose from the chimneys and formed light clouds above the trees.

It was to these early settlers that the first saddle back preacher, Reverend Isaac Bennet, came in 1836. With Bible and tracts in his knapsack and an axe with which to blaze his trail, he came as a welcome guest to the lonely pioneers. It was to him they turned for words of comfort and spiritual guidance. During that year he organized the first Methodist Class of DeWitt. The earliest members of this class were, namely: John and Pamelia Gould, Asa and Mary Parker, Sarah Goodrich, Judge Hiram Wilcox, Samuel Smith, and Lewis and Lucinda Coburn.

The next year, Reverend Bennet, with the help of Reverend Washington Jackson of Wayne, ministered to this class and went further into the forests, meeting the settlers and holding services in the homes. They rejoiced when there were enough newcomers to create a class. Among these new classes was that of Rochester Colony. It consisted of a group of sixteen families, who, together had come from New York State and had settled in the north part of the County on the present site of Duplain. This colony later became DeWitt's rival class.

The circuit rider endured the same hardships of pioneering as did the settlers. Traveling by foot or



on horseback was slow and difficult because of pathless forests and marshy lands. Streams and rivers must be crossed also. If caught in a rain, he often would need to stop at a clearing, build a fire to dry his clothes and to warm his chilled body. If he reached a cabin by nightfall, he would be welcome to the best it afforded, even though it might be a board to sleep on, or the ground floor of the humble home to be shared by his host. If he were not that fortunate, he would tether his horse nearby; and rolling up in his blanket and listening to the howl of the wolf or the snarl of the bob cat in the woods, he would finally find rest and sleep on Mother Earth.

#### THE MAPLETON CIRCUIT

In 1839, Reverend Pilcher sent Reverend Zebulon Brown, a man of keen business ability, and Reverend Levi Warriner, a kindly earnest Evangelist, to continue and to extend the labor of the first circuit preachers. Lyons, a newly formed circuit was their headquarters. To cover the entire circuit it was necessary to travel more than three hundred miles. However, they felt recompensed and their hearts were gladdened to find a goodly number of classes organized by the other missionaries. With his warm and earnest message, Reverend Warriner helped many of his listeners to become Christians. This strengthened the classes of the entire circuit. DeWitt and Rochester Classes were the largest and strongest.

It was decided, in 1841, to create a new circuit to be known as the "Mapleton Circuit". It included most of Clinton and part of Shiawassee and Ingham Counties. Rochester Colony was the headquarters. Here the first Quarterly Conference was held under the leadership of the Presiding Elder, Reverend Pilcher. Reverend Levi Warriner was appointed pastor in charge of the entire territory. Each year four Quarterly Conferences were to be held, each at a different class. The members eagerly looked

forward to these meetings which always lasted one, if not two, days. Camp meetings also were looked forward to with great pleasure. The first one recorded was held in Victor Township near Daniel Blood's home, June 1845.

The Quarterly Conference was composed of members of the various classes. The DeWitt members were Samuel Smith, Judge Hiram Wilcox and Lewis Coburn. Samuel Smith was one of the first class leaders of the Quarterly Conference and Judge Wilcox one of its first examiners. At each meeting the members were questioned concerning the status of their Christian lives and were admonished to live according to the highest ideals of the New Testament. One question was: Do you have daily Scripture reading and prayers in your home? Another, Have you signed the total abstinence pledge? If a member did not sign this temperance pledge, he was considered unworthy to be a representative of his class. By this Conference, Lewis Coburn was made a local elder in 1842 and was licensed to preach. He conducted the Sabbath Services of his DeWitt Class the greater part of the time, as the Circuit Minister was unable to meet each class more than once a month, and often not more than once in three months. Besides farming and serving his own class, he frequently went out to help organize other classes, and also led them.

The first parsonage on the Mapleton Circuit was built at Rochester Colony in 1844 so that the pastor might reside on the circuit with his family. Within two years the settlement of the territory increased so that two ministers were needed. It was decided to have a second parsonage, built in the South part of the circuit. DeWitt was chosen as the most suitable site and the house was erected in 1846 during the pastorate of S. O. Bessey and his assistant, Seth Reed. It was a frame building, located just east of the present Masonic Hall. In all probability that parsonage was built of lumber sawed by Judge Wilcox, as he was the first settler of DeWitt to own a sawmill.

A new District, Grand River, was created in September 1847 at the Annual Conference. Reverend James Shaw was appointed Presiding Elder. He fixed his residence at Lansing and included it in the Mapleton Circuit. Strange as it may seem, Lansing then was a dense forest and had no existence, even in name, before the spring of 1847, when the State Legislature voted and fixed so wild a place for the Capital of the State. True, it had a few scattered inhabitants. To these people, Reverend Francis Blades, pastor of DeWitt was sent in September, 1847, to hold a meeting. Lansing was then made into a station. The following Spring, Reverend Blades and Lewis Coburn were sent to Lansing to hold the Quarterly Conference at the Capitol.

The need of a church was presented. The Mapleton Record states: "On motion it was adopted that there be a committee of five to estimate the amount necessary for the building of a house of worship in Lansing. Bros. E. Thompson, Kelly, Wm. Whedon, Jacob Page, Jas. H. Taylor were appointed the committee." From this beginning came Central Church. It is a distinctive honor to our church that its pastor and local elder should be so instrumental in helping to found this house of worship at the Capitol.

Frequently we reflect upon the life of the early pioneers and meditate upon their hardships and struggles; but we fail to realize that each generation lives its own life in its own surroundings. Life, then, had its joys as well as its sorrows, its pleasures as well as its disappointments, its successes as well as its failures. For, after all, true happiness and abundant living come from within the individual, not from without, from sharing not alone receiving, from ministering to others and not being ministered to entirely.

This spirit is exemplified in the following incidents as told by Reverend Seth Reed in his book, "The Story of My Life". "My second appointment

was to the Mapleton Circuit (1846) with Reverend Samuel Bessey in charge.--- It was largely a wilderness country. Often there were stretches of several miles without a house. One day I rode some six miles south from DeWitt and came to the home of a family named 'Page'. Father Page said to me: 'If you will stay overnight with us, I will go to my nearest neighbor, two miles from here, and get some hay for your horse'. I thanked him but dined with his family and rode on the next clearing. That man, Page, then lived where the City of Lansing now stands."

"I was walking, one day, on the Grand River Road and saw, off to my right coming toward the road, two bears, an old one and her cub. As they came near, the view was obscured by bushes that grew beside the road so that the bears could not see me, neither could I see them until they crowded through the bushes into the road which happened to be within a few feet of where I stood. We both expressed surprise; she by standing up on her hind legs and opening her mouth wide, and I by standing up on all my legs and opening my eyes wide. We were both interested; I in studying Natural History, and she, I suppose, in studying Theology. While we thus stood gazing at each other, the young bear ran up a tree that stood near and the old one turned and ran into the woods as though she were disgusted with her observer. In a few minutes a man came along, walking with a cane which was also a gun; with it he shot the cub which fell dead on the ground. So I escaped with a thankful heart and a good story to tell."

"A pleasant year was spent on the Mapleton Circuit, though there was no great revival. Some of the most genuine and lovely Christians of all my acquaintance lived upon that charge. My salary for the year, including hay, oats, socks and mittens and cash amounted to \$59.56."

The finances of these early classes were met through the tireless efforts of the early Christian

pioneers. They paid not only in money but in produce. The meager salary was divided into a number of parts: quarterage, table board, house rent, horse feed, and later wood for fuel when there was a parsonage.

The first financial report registered was at the second Quarterly Conference held at Rochester February 13, 1847. Classes called for Quarter:

Rochester Colony	\$ 1.37 1/2
Little Prairie	1.35
North Riley	2.31
Riley	1.80
DeWitt	6.40
Merrihew (Olive)	4.50
Allen Smith	.50
Okemos	.30
Pine Lake	1.00

The finances of these classes varied from quarter to quarter and from year to year.

The next financial report a year later, February 12, 1848.

Rochester Colony	\$ 10.53
Little Prairie	1.00
DeWitt	13.64
Olive	8.01
Pine Lake	3.85
Conklins	.00
Allen Smith	9.47
Victor	8.32
Capital	5.00
Public Collections	4.75

List of the Mapleton Circuit Riders as taken from the Secretary's Record of the Mapleton Circuit beginning with the first Quarterly Conference November 14, 1840 and continuing until DeWitt was made into a separate Circuit.

1840 - Levi Warriner  
1841 - Washington Jackson  
1842 - W. E. Bigelow  
    Assistant F. W. Cowles  
1843 - S. C. Woodard  
    Assistant Nathan Mount  
1844-5 - G. F. Hemmingway  
    H. Hall  
1846 - S. O. Bessey  
    Seth Reed  
1847 - (S. O. Bessey until November  
    (Orrin Whitmore  
    Francis A. Blades  
1848 - George Hoag  
    Francis Glass  
1849 - W. Benson  
    Wm. McKnight  
1850 - Noah Fassett  
    Eli Westlake

#### DeWITT A SEPARATE CIRCUIT

After the fourth Quarterly Conference Report of the Mapleton Circuit, July 1851, no further mention is made either of the DeWitt Class or of any of the classes of Riley, Olive and Victor Townships. However, during the Annual Conference in September of the same year, Reverend J. Boynton was assigned to the DeWitt Charge. He also served four other classes. These probably were North Riley, Riley, Olive and a Victor Class. In the Conference Minutes (1851-2) DeWitt is listed as having 150 members, 5 Sunday Schools, 58 teachers and officers, 180 scholars and 480 volumes of books in their libraries.

For the next few years one pastor was able to ride the Circuit, serve incoming settlers, and supply the needs of his Classes. In 1855 it was decided that for the good of the circuit two pastors were essential and so, for the next ten years, with the help of an assistant, the borders of the Circuit were extended

and more classes developed. Again in 1865 further divisions were made and DeWitt was once more given one pastor who could devote more time to the parish. Up to this time all services were held either in the schoolhouse or in the homes of the members. A House of Worship was needed and the people wanted to build a church home. Money was subscribed and in 1866, during the pastorate of Reverend William Jenkins, our first church, a frame building, was erected on the same site as the present one.

For many, many years DeWitt had at least two other appointments. Prior to 1878 the circuit embraced DeWitt, South Riley, the Grove schoolhouse in Victor and a part of Olive. In that Autumn it was changed to embrace Bath Station No. 1 and South Riley. The next year it was again changed and included Wacousta, Jason, South Riley and Gunnisonville. In 1881 Delta Mills was added in place of South Riley. The Circuit was again changed in 1888 and DeWitt included the appointments of Olive and Gunnisonville. This Circuit remained the same for quite a number of years. Some of these Circuits have become stations, some have been discontinued and some have united with other denominations.

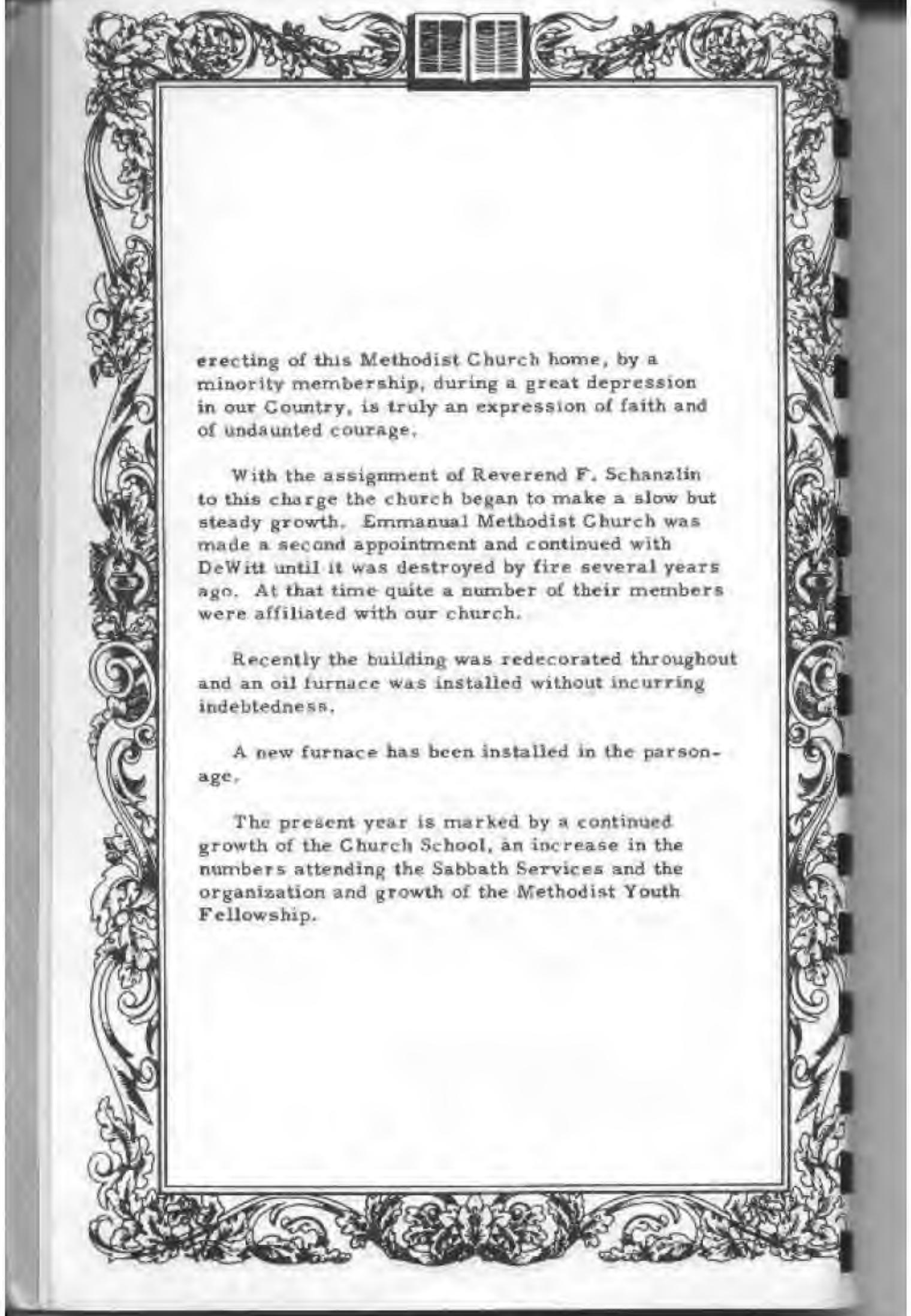
In the fall of 1895 Reverend Fred L. Niles was sent to DeWitt. In an old Historical Record he wrote the following report. "I found the Society of DeWitt greatly in need of a New Church and parsonage. After working up the matter for several weeks, I called the Trustees of the DeWitt Methodist Church together and laid the matter of a new church before them. Every trustee voted to build a new church. The names of the trustees at that time were S. M. Cook, S. E. Scott, M. D. Clary, A. D. Forward, Heber Hill, Orton Drake and Chas. Moon. Steps were immediately taken to build. Plans and specifications were secured from the Church Extension Society, the ground broken, and contract let--. The building of the church progressed finely and along

the first of September the new church was dedicated by Reverend Washington Gardner, free from debt." This church was a brick church, erected on the same site as was the frame church which was sold and moved a block east and is now used as the home of the modern Woodman Lodge. During the pastorate of Reverend Niles, both South Olive and Gunnisonville paid the full indebtedness on their church buildings.

Five years later Reverend S. B. Ford was assigned to DeWitt. While he was here, lots were purchased and the present parsonage was erected. This building is especially well arranged to meet the needs of a pastor and his family. After the new parsonage was finished, the old one was still retained by the church and was rented until later, when it was destroyed by fire.

The membership of the church had been making a steady growth until 1927 when this house of worship, scarce thirty-two years old, was destroyed by fire from an over heated furnace. At once the Baptist people opened their doors to the churchless members and established their church into a community place of worship. A goodly number of the Methodist members united with this church. However, there were some who preferred to remain with their own Methodist organization. They continued to hold their Sabbath services in the study of the parsonage with their Methodist pastor, Reverend Milford Bowen.

In 1930 after a conference with the Bishop and District Superintendent Reverend Hugh Kennedy, it was decided to rebuild the church on the same site. It was to be of brick with a full basement. With the help of the insurance of the destroyed building it was financed, erected and finished in the early fall of 1931. The cost of the building was \$7,000.00. The last \$500.00 was to be raised the morning of Dedication, October (1931). It was over subscribed and \$600.00 was raised. This house of worship was then dedicated by Bishop Nicholson, assisted by the District Superintendent Clark S. Wheeler. The



erecting of this Methodist Church home, by a minority membership, during a great depression in our Country, is truly an expression of faith and of undaunted courage.

With the assignment of Reverend F. Schanzlin to this charge the church began to make a slow but steady growth. Emmanuel Methodist Church was made a second appointment and continued with DeWitt until it was destroyed by fire several years ago. At that time quite a number of their members were affiliated with our church.

Recently the building was redecorated throughout and an oil furnace was installed without incurring indebtedness.

A new furnace has been installed in the parsonage.

The present year is marked by a continued growth of the Church School, an increase in the numbers attending the Sabbath Services and the organization and growth of the Methodist Youth Fellowship.

Names of the Ministers of the DeWitt Methodist  
Church from 1851 to the present time.

1851--J. Boynton  
1852--S. J. Sutton  
1853--Alfred A. Dunton  
1855--E. D. Young  
1856--E. D. Young  
    J. F. Hill  
1857--J. F. Hill  
    J. Fowler  
1858--Almond Gore  
    Henry P. Barker  
1859--A. L. Critendon  
    C. B. Holbroke  
1860--Wm. Stafford  
    F. J. Freeman  
1861--Wm. Stafford  
1862--Charles Chick  
1863--Charles Chick  
    L. M. Gartick  
1864--A. L. Hoag  
    James Roberts  
1865--James Roberts  
1866--Wm. F. Jenkins  
1867--E. Wilkenson  
1868--Thomas Clark  
1869--Henry D. Jordan  
1870--F. J. Freeman  
1872--J. R. Chadwell  
1873--Wm. Swift  
1876--J. Gulick  
1878--W. R. McEwing  
1881--G. R. Sheer  
1882--O. H. Perry  
1884--Thomas Riley  
1885--Wm. Taylor  
1886--W. H. Thompson  
1887--James Roberts  
1888--Wm. Taylor  
1889--D. W. Ward  
1891--Thomas Young  
1893--A. W. Burnes

1895--Fred L. Niles  
1898--J. W. Buell  
1900--S. B. Ford  
1903--O. W. Simmons  
1906--J. W. Hayward  
1908--George T. Fisher  
1914--F. H. Wright  
1918--Carl Seipp  
1922--H. R. Strong  
1925--W. C. Coleman  
1927--Milford Bowen  
1933--F. Schanzlin  
1938--Ralph Bates  
1940--L. E. Price  
1945--E. E. Carpenter  
1948--H. M. Swan  
1950--Joseph Tuma  
1952--B. F. Nade  
1956--Richard W. Barker  
1961--Paul Kreider  
1962--DANIEL DALLAS  
1964--H. ERNEST COMBELLACK



*Our Minister*

## THE PASTOR

Reverend Joseph Tuma, formerly of Nebraska and of pioneer parentage, was converted at the age of sixteen. After receiving his A.B. Degree from Nebraska Wesleyan University in 1910, he attended Boston University School of Theology from which he was graduated 1916 with a Degree in Sacred Theology.

He then united with the Nebraska Conference where he served for eight years. In 1918 he went into the World War I Y.M.C.A. work. Returning home, he, with his family, went to Boston. At the University in Boston, he continued graduate work in Philosophy and New Testament. During this time, as pastor, he served the First Congregational Church at Norton, Massachusetts, the home of Wheaton College. While in Boston he received his A.M. Degree and completed all resident work for his Ph. D.

In 1921 Reverend Tuma came to Michigan where he has since served the Detroit and Michigan Conferences.

Before being assigned to the DeWitt charge last June he served three years at Three Oaks, and just prior to that, five years at Ganges.

Mrs. Tuma is also of Nebraska pioneer parentage and took her collegiate training in both Wesleyan and Nebraska Universities.

The Turnas have three sons: Captain James of the United States Marine Corps, is a specialist in Radar and is doing research work in Chicago. Joe, Jr. is on the G. I. O. Staff in Detroit and Stuart is in the Federal Communications Department in Boston, Massachusetts.

## MEMBERS

Arlene Balderson  
Herbert Bauerle  
Mabel Bauerle  
Ruth Joanne Bauerle  
Russell Henry Bauerle  
John Boyd  
Nellie Boyd  
Katherine Courtland  
Howard Courtland  
Martha Helen Courtland  
Wesley Custard  
Zella Custard  
Andrew Dalman, Sr.  
Martha Dalman  
Arthur Dalman  
Walter Dalman  
Richard Dalman  
Robert Dalman  
Andrew Dalman, Jr.  
Aletha Dalman  
William Dalman  
Margaret Dalman  
Shirley Dalman  
Bruce Dalman  
Raymond Davis  
Irene Davis  
Gertrude Doak  
Jack Doak  
Robert Doak  
Lloyd Eddy  
Lillie Eddy  
Virginia Eddy Wagley  
Earl Hendrix  
Mary Hendrix  
Urwin Hendrix  
Frank Henning  
Anna Henning  
Ronald Henning  
John Henning  
Adeling Henning  
Henry Hepfer

Bertha Hepfer  
Earl Klaver  
Esther Klaver  
Edward Klaver  
Clara Klaver  
Harold Klaver  
Charles Klaver  
Mabel Klaver  
LaVerne Klaver  
Margaret Krumm Smith  
Carol Krumm  
Wendell Krumm  
Albert Lietzke  
Kate Lietzke  
Frank Lietzke  
Herman Lietzke  
Emma Lietzke  
Lester Lietzke  
Lucile Lietzke  
Loren Lietzke  
Mary Lietzke  
Richard Lietzke  
Oswald Lietzke  
Margaret Lietzke  
John Lietzke  
William Lietzke  
Gertrude Lietzke  
Ray Magsig  
Florence Magsig  
Harry Moon  
Virgil McGinnis  
Mary Peterson  
Barbara Tarbert Peltier  
Ray Price  
Clara Price  
Eldon Price  
Chester Raby  
Ruth Raby  
Tillie Raby  
Harlan Raby  
Lorna Raby  
Henry Raby  
Lynwood Raby

Edmund Raby  
Julia Sargent  
Emma Scott  
Ernest Shafley  
Margaret Shafley  
Charlene Shafley  
Leonard Shafley  
Paul Shafley  
Blanche Shafley  
Roy Shafley  
Carl Strähle  
Esther Steppey  
Clement Frank Stewart  
Eileen Stewart  
Howard Sweet  
Helen Sweet Godoshian  
Margaret Sweet  
Kathleen Sweet  
Esther Sweet  
Adah Wood Tuma  
Katie Trumble  
Clifford Volz  
Elinora Volz  
John Volz  
Victor Volz  
Julia Volz



## THE CHURCH FINANCES

The response that every Christian makes from Sunday to Sunday by attendance upon the worship services of his church and by a generous sacrificial offering unto the Lord will determine in large measure the advance of Christ's Kingdom.

To be sure that there will be system, order, and method in the discharge of our stewardship practices, the consistent use by church members of the weekly Church Offering envelope made available to us by our Methodist Publishing house is, beyond any debate, a desirable first step toward achieving a successful stewardship program. The systematic use of weekly offering envelopes will be helpful to your church officers in keeping their records and enabling them to meet the various obligations of the church as they become due.

Make your checks to Mr. Chester Raby, Church Treasurer, and give your envelopes to Loren Lietzke, Financial Secretary, or better still attend church service and drop them in the offering plate as part of your worship. The treasurer of benevolences is Mr. Ernest Shafley.

The budget for the church year beginning June 1, 1950 and ending May 31, 1951 is herewith presented for your information.

### \$2200.00 PASTOR'S SALARY

(Set by Quarterly Conference)

200.00 Car and Traveling Expense (For pastor)

62.00 DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

(2% of pastor's cash salary plus a pre-determined amount per member)

38.50 EPISCOPAL FUND

(1 3/4% of pastor's cash salary. For support of our Bishop)

184.00 CONFERENCE CLAIMANTS

(Our retired ministers. 5% of pastor's cash salary plus 65 cents per member)

\$ 33.00 MINIMUM SALARY FUND  
(Helps to pay underpaid ministers in our conference. 1 1/2% of pastors cash salary. Our pastor also pays 1 1/2%).

49.00 Administration Fund  
(To help pay for conference expenses)

17.00 Moving Expense Fund  
(To move pastors to a new charge)

7.00 DISTRICT PARSONAGE  
(For district superintendent)

4.00 DISTRICT EMERGENCY FUND

2.00 BOARD OF LAY ACTIVITIES

13.00 RALLY DAY

14.65 ADVANCE FOR CHRIST

10.00 METHODIST YOUTH FUND

13.75 WEEK OF DEDICATION

319.00 GENERAL BENEVOLENCES AND WORLD SERVICE (68% is for world service which includes foreign missions. 32% is for ANNUAL CONFERENCE BENEVOLENCES which includes Michigan Christian Advocate, Methodist Children's Village, Clark Memorial Home, Bronson Methodist Hospital, Board of Education and Colleges, Board of Missions, Pastors School, and Commission on Evangelism).

180.00 JANITOR'S SALARY

180.00 FUEL (estimate)

45.00 ELECTRICITY (estimate)

132.00 INSURANCE

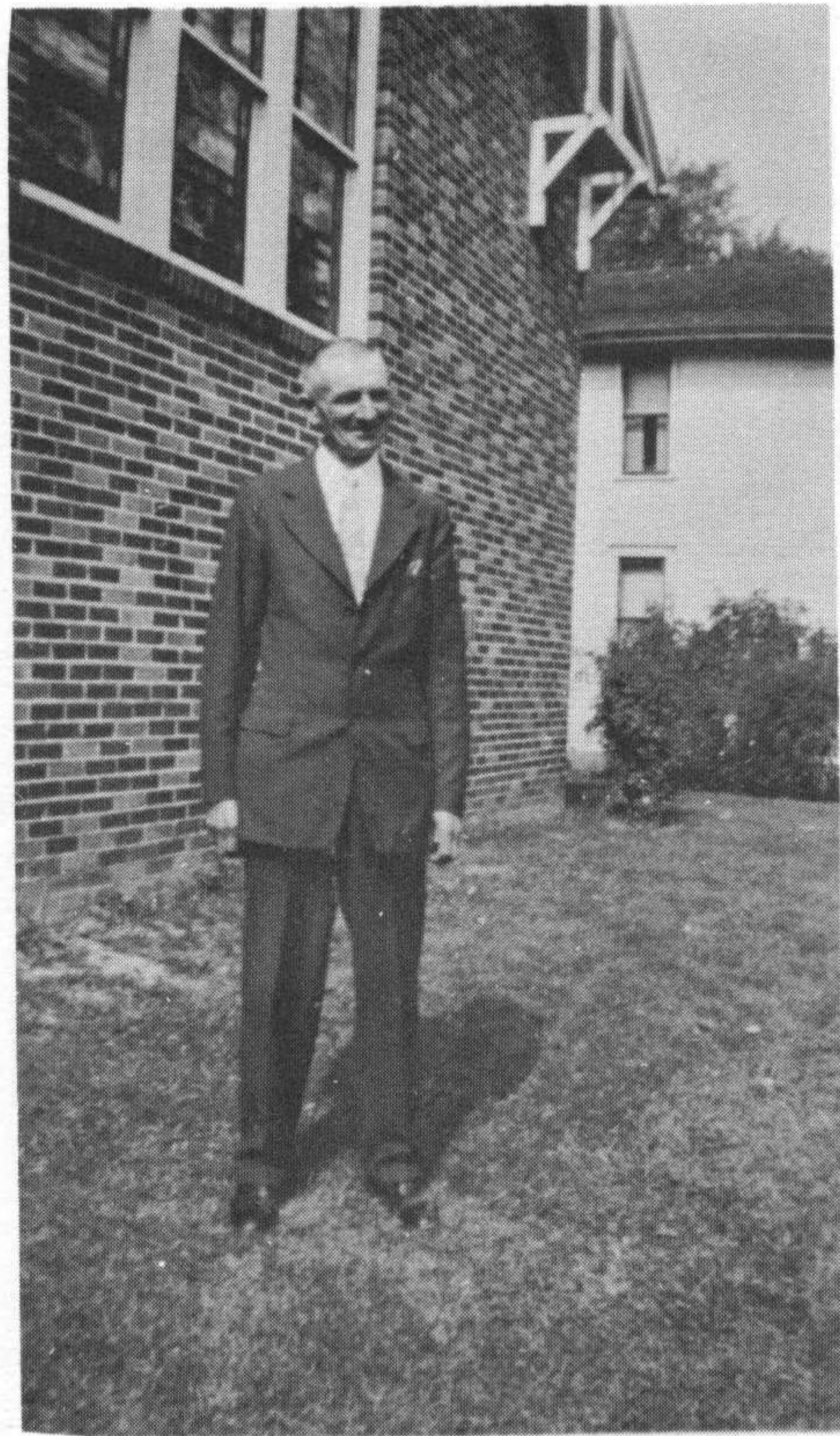
40.00 PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

600.00 PROPERTY IMPROVEMENTS  
(new furnace for parsonage)

45.00 CHURCH SUPPLIES

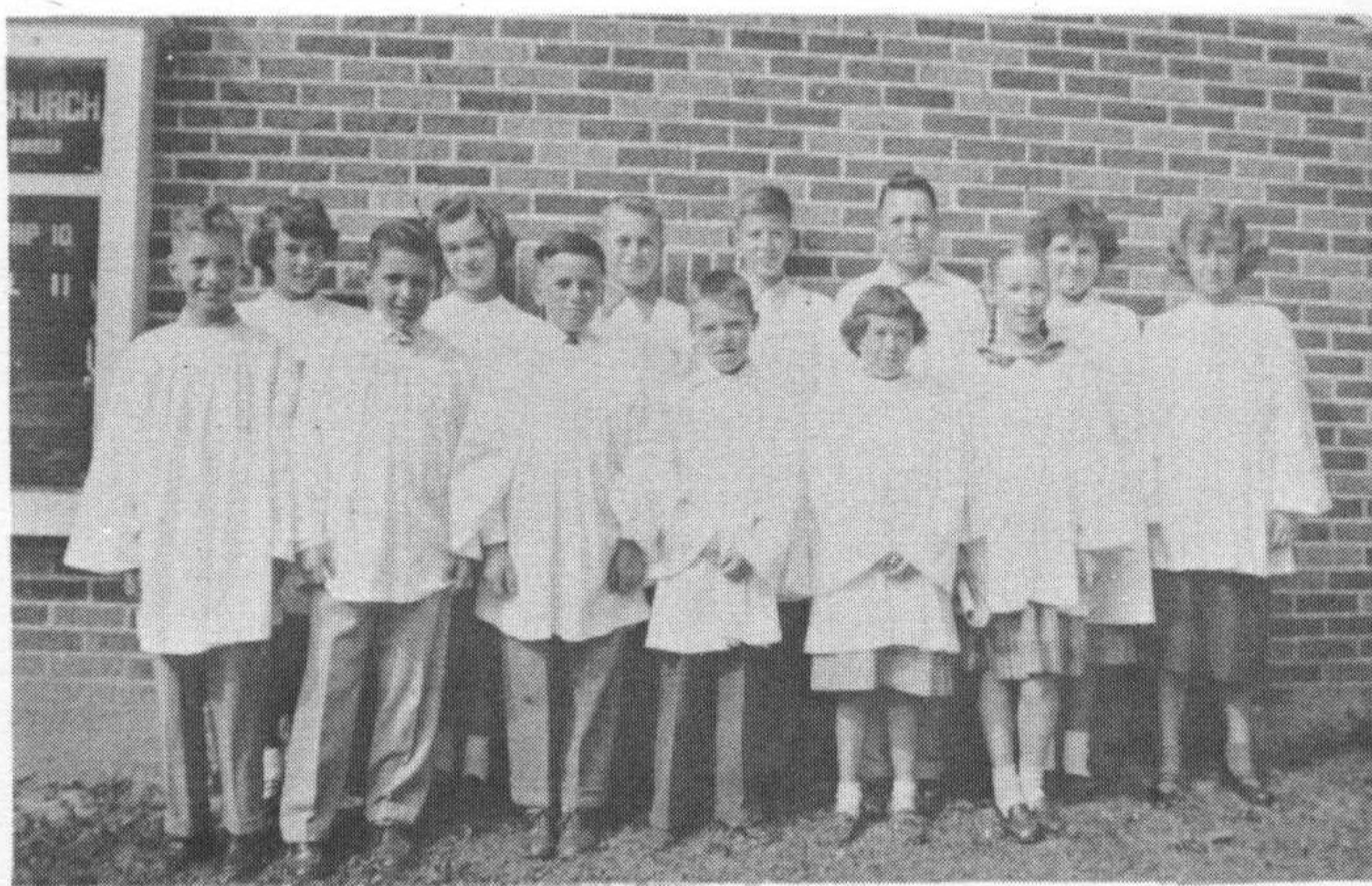
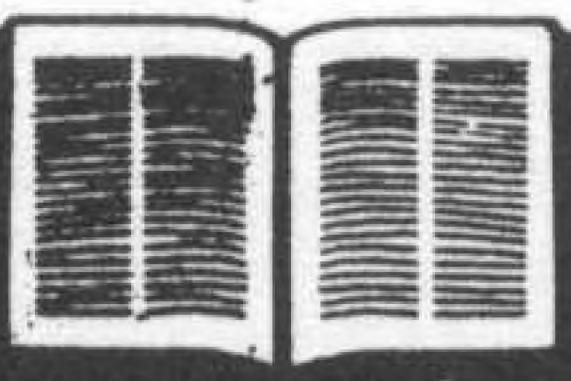
25.00 MISCELLANEOUS





MR. JOHN HENNING  
Sunday School Superintendent

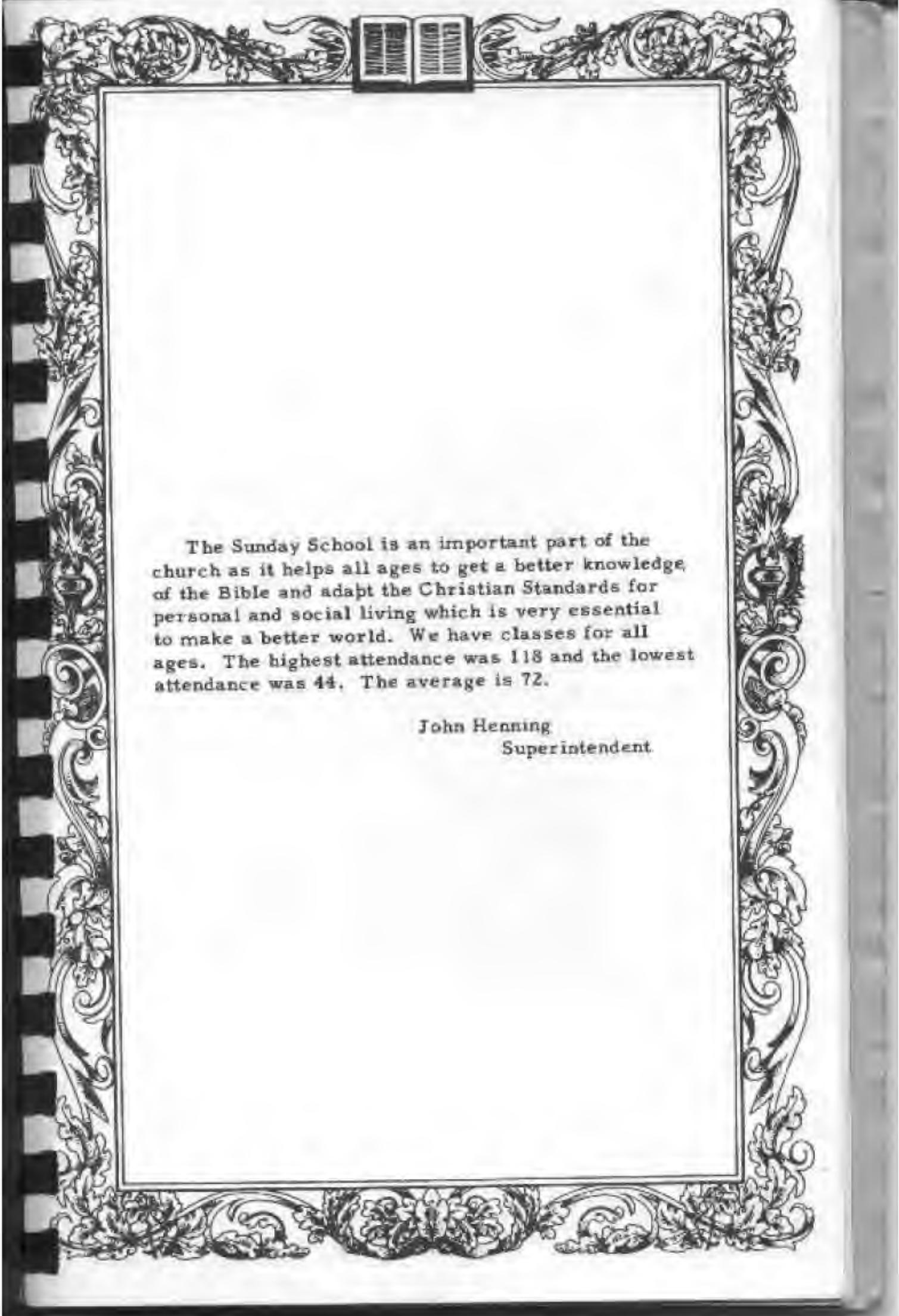




**CHILDREN'S CHOIR**



**SENIOR CHOIR**



The Sunday School is an important part of the church as it helps all ages to get a better knowledge of the Bible and adapt the Christian Standards for personal and social living which is very essential to make a better world. We have classes for all ages. The highest attendance was 118 and the lowest attendance was 44. The average is 72.

John Henning  
Superintendent

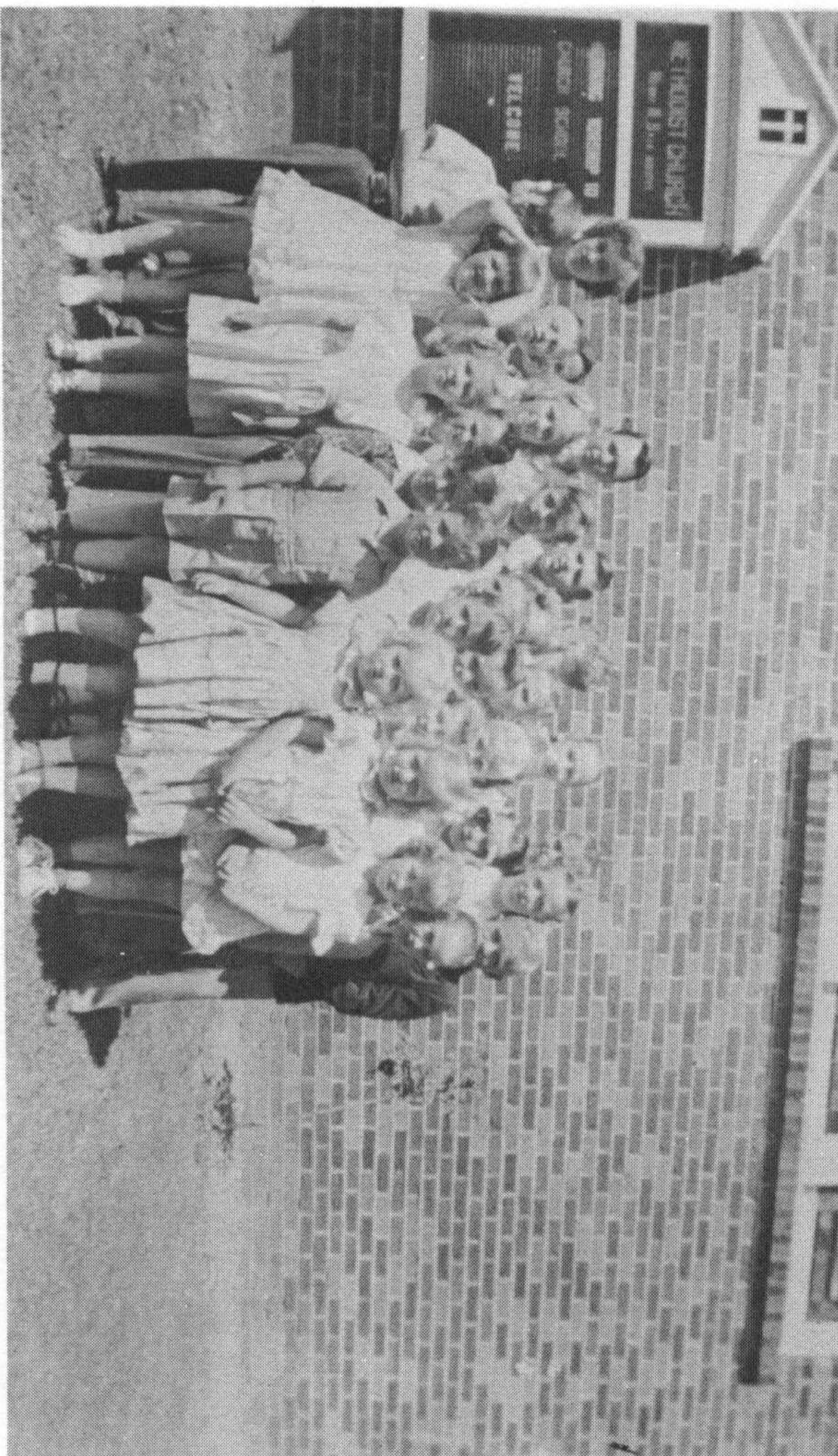
BANNER CLASS





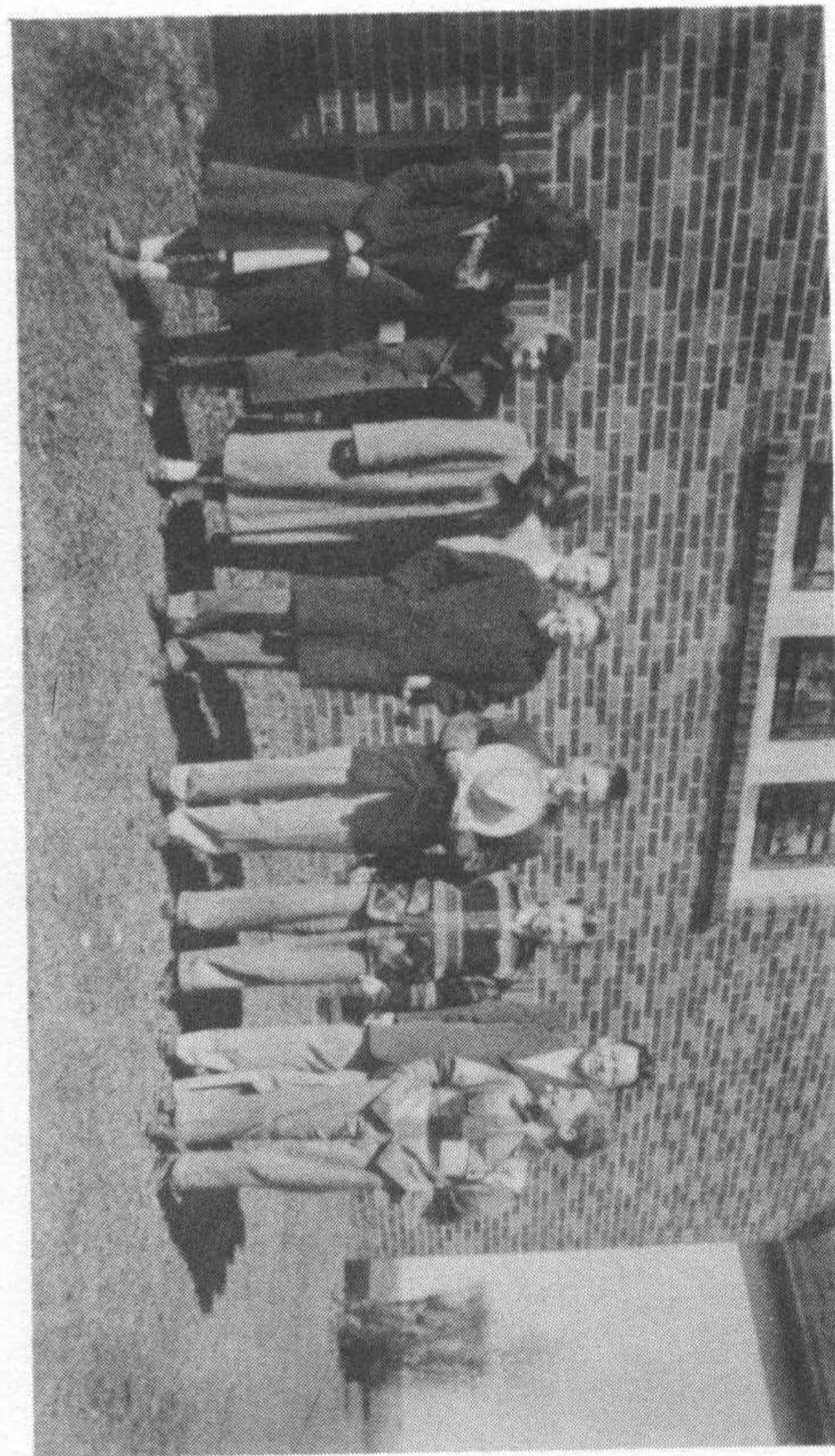
BIBLE CLASS

DAILY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL





SENIOR HIGH CLASS



INTERMEDIATE

Our Primary Department of the Sunday School has a total enrollment of 47 with an average attendance of 33. Our department is divided into 4 classes.

We have 5 in our nursery class of up and including 3 year olds. We have happy times in our nursery class learning to live and play together as Jesus would have us to do, sharing and helping each other.

Chuck Stewart  
Betty Jo Alford  
Melody Lyon

Jimmy Dalman  
Billy Johnson

We have 14 enrolled in our Kindergarten class, of four and five year olds. Here by means of picture, story, songs and activity suitable to their ages we teach living together as Christians.

Rosalyn Bauerle  
Mary Ann Gingrich  
Duane Dalman  
Nancy Gingrich  
Diane Holland  
Dickie Volz  
Kay Drew

Alan Lietzke  
Brenda Alford  
Stephen Lietzke  
Danny McConnell  
Dennis Mayes  
Tommy Brown  
Judy Holland

There are 15 enrolled in our Primary class of 6, 7, and 8 year olds. Here our aim is to teach the children more of God's love and laws and how to apply the teachings of the Bible to our everyday life.

Vickie Mayes  
Bruce King  
Jon Eddy  
John Sturgis  
Jimmy Lyon

Karen Snyder  
Lyle Drew  
Mary Jean Rule  
Leanne Sturgis  
Gary Dalman

Gordon Gingrich  
Janice Dalman  
Sandra Balderson

Roberta Bauerle  
Judy Brown

We have 13 enrolled in our Junior Class of 9, 10 and 11 year olds. We try to have the child make a decision to follow Jesus Christ and unite with the church by the time he is ready to leave this class.

Bruce Dalman  
Nannette Jean Mullen  
Dennis King  
Vandra Drew  
George Rule  
Gordon King  
Nancy Vermillion

David Lietzke  
Gary Lee McCall  
Susan Buys  
Kay McConnell  
Ruth Raby  
Marilyn Lietzke

Each Sunday we gather together for a time of worship in song, prayer and story. We also take our offering at this time.

We have the "Cross and Crown" pin system for attendance. Two Sundays absent are allowed, and times of sickness are excused. We have 8 enrolled who have attended 2 years and have received their pin and wreath.

Rosalyn Bauerle  
Bruce Dalman  
Marilyn Lietzke  
Stephen Lietzke

Alan Lietzke  
Gary Dalman  
David Lietzke  
Ruth Raby

So far this year there are quite a few enrolled with perfect attendance in hope of receiving a pin next January.

We have our promotion exercises each Rally Day, the first Sunday in October. Each summer we look forward to 2 weeks of Daily Vacation Bible School.

Mrs. Mary Lietzke  
Superintendent



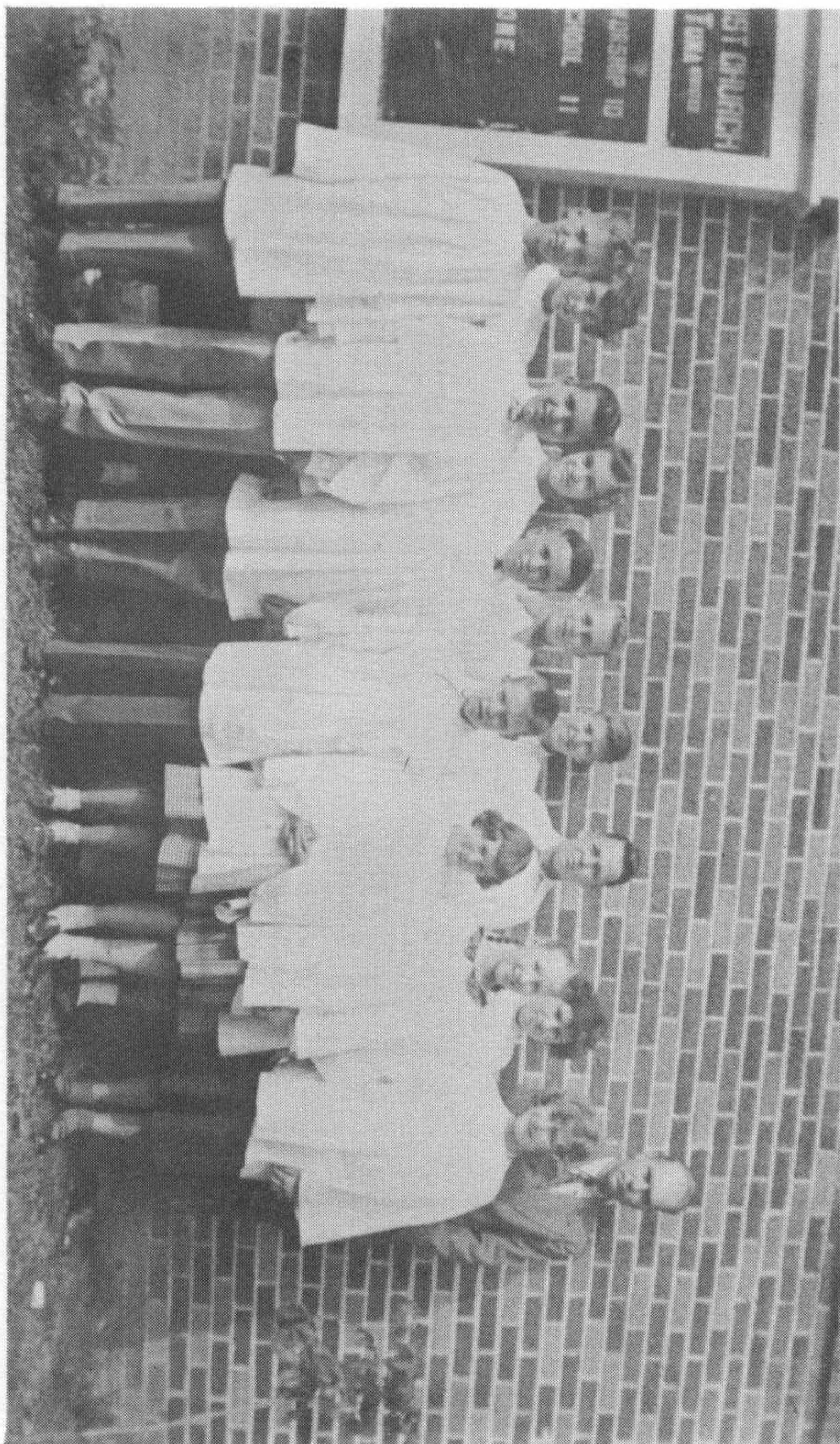
FIRST PRIMARY CLASS

BEGINNERS' CLASS





JUNIOR CLASS



## THE WOMAN'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Eva Cole	Margaret Lietzke
Kate Courtland	Mary Lietzke
Irene Davis	Kate Lietzke
Gertrude Doak	Florence Magsig
Lillie Eddy	Pearl Parks
Margaret Goodrich	Clara Price
Rose Goodrich	Lorna Raby
Mary Hendrix	Tillie Raby
Addie Henning	Marion Ritter
Anna Henning	Blanche Shafley
Clara Klaver	Margaret Shafley
Mabel Klaver	Margaret Sweet
Emma Lietzke	Adah Tuma
Gertrude Lietzke	Lucile Ward
Lucile Lietzke	Myrtle Ward

### W.S.C.S. OBSERVES 10TH ANNIVERSARY IN DE WITT

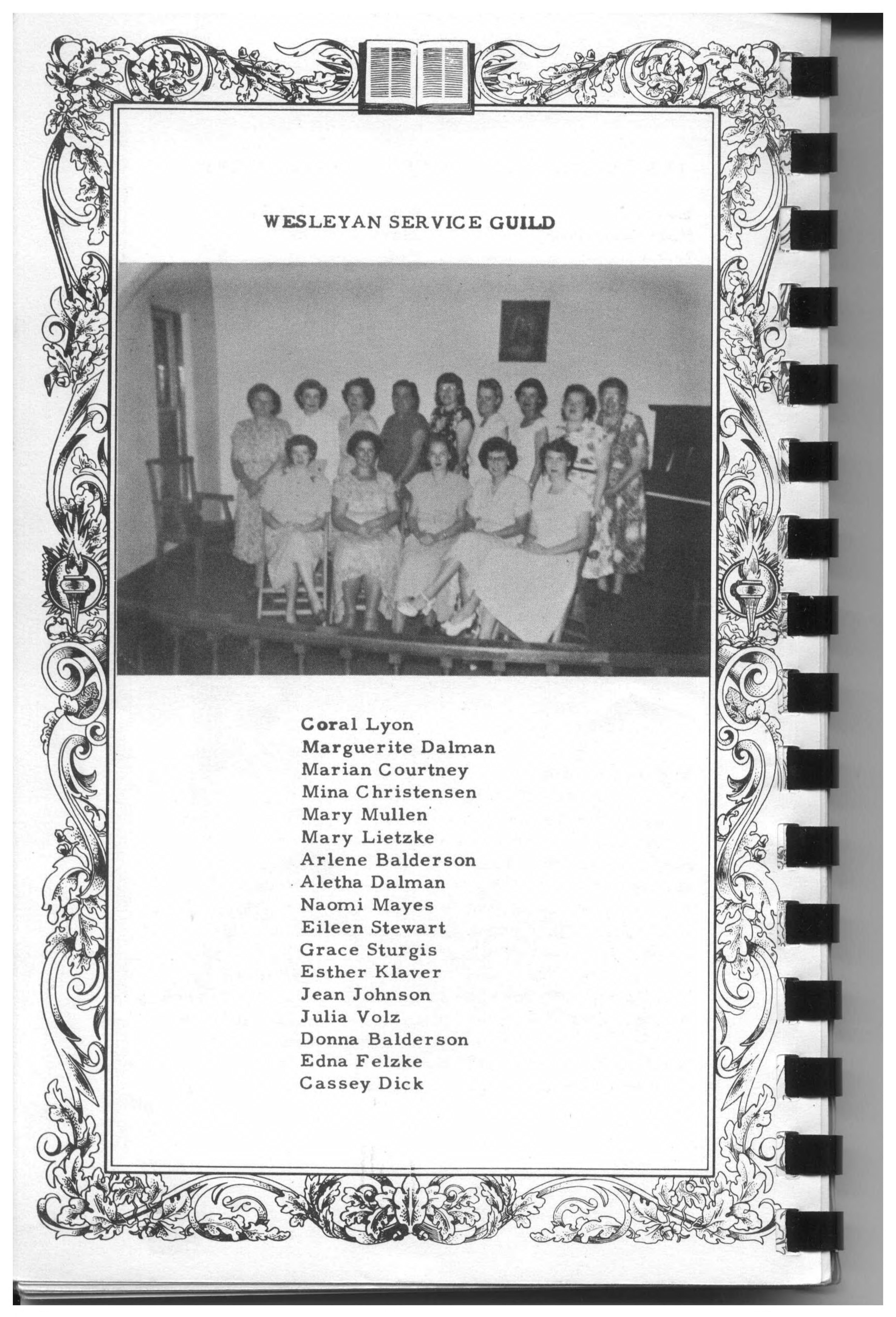
The 10th anniversary of the DeWitt W.S.C.S. was held at the Methodist Church Thursday, October 26, 1950. Women from the Price Church in Clinton county were guests.

The program included devotions by Mrs. Blanche Shafley and study program on the health of the nations by Mrs. Tuma.

Two guest speakers from the Central Methodist Church in Lansing were then introduced by Mrs. Ray Magsig, the president. Miss Castle spoke on the Near East and the Moslems. Mrs. Charles Millar spoke on the work of the Missionary Education Department of Central Methodist Church of which she is chairman.

Two fine selections, "Listen to the Lambs" by Harris and "Prayer Perfect" by Deis were rendered by the high school girls' sextette. Many thanks are extended to the girls as well as the speakers for participating in the program.

Refreshments were served in the church dining room.



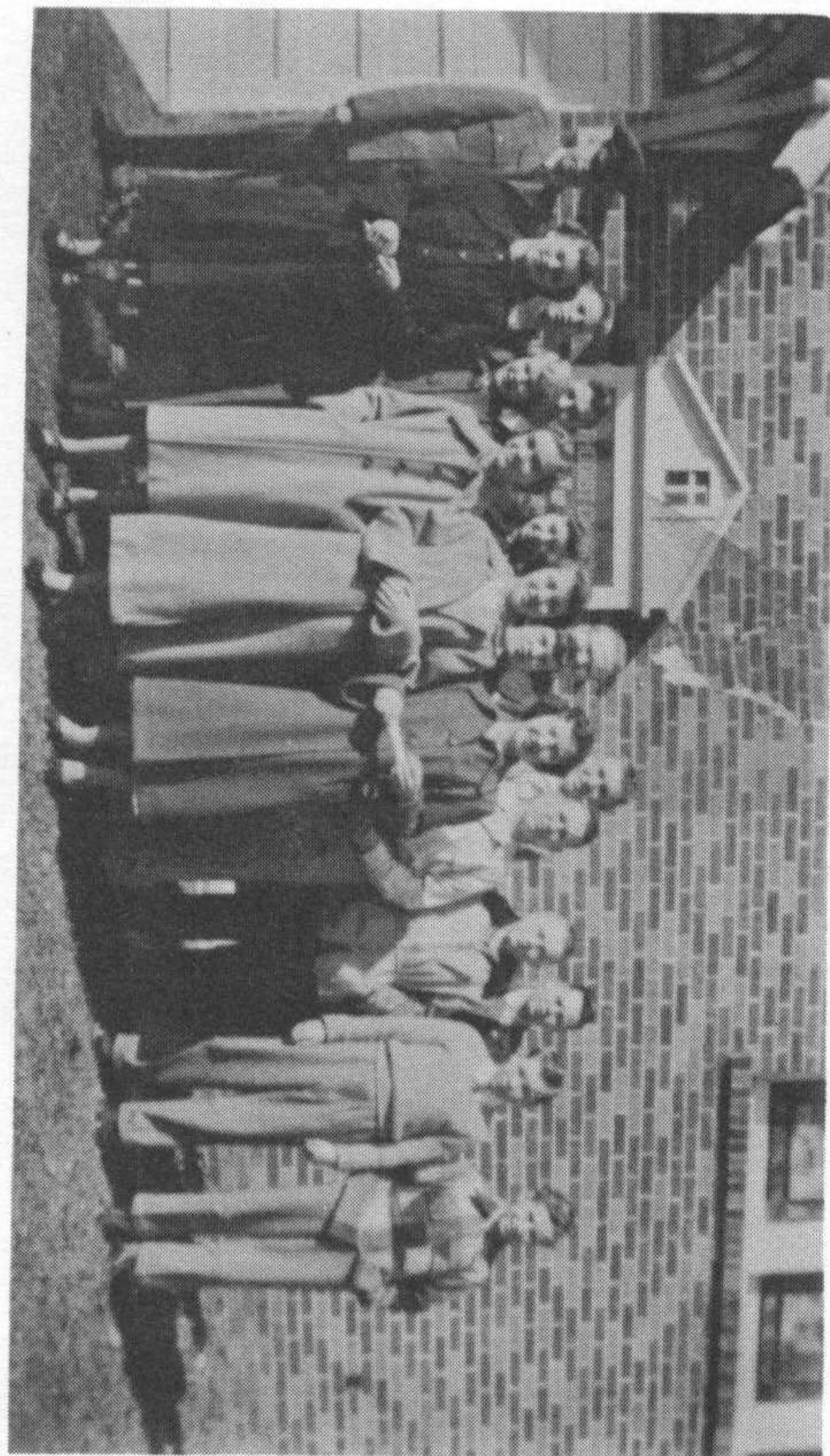
## WESLEYAN SERVICE GUILD

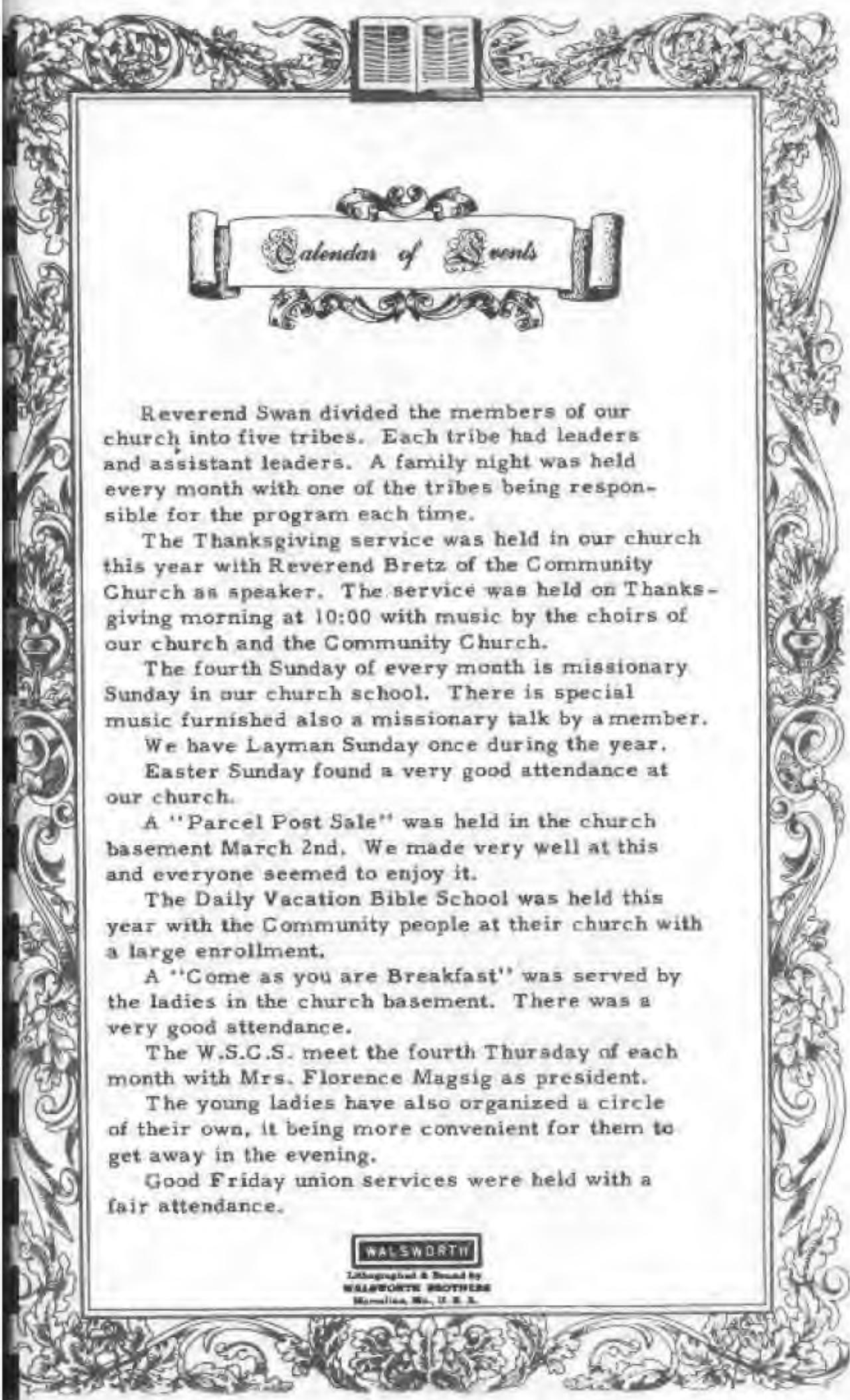


**Coral Lyon  
Marguerite Dalman  
Marian Courtney  
Mina Christensen  
Mary Mullen  
Mary Lietzke  
Arlene Balderson  
Aletha Dalman  
Naomi Mayes  
Eileen Stewart  
Grace Sturgis  
Esther Klaver  
Jean Johnson  
Julia Volz  
Donna Balderson  
Edna Felzke  
Cassey Dick**

Under the earnest and consistent leadership of "Bill" Forbes the M. Y. F. was reorganized last September. They have been most active carrying out projects not only for the benefit of the church but have extended their influence beyond the limits of the community.

To "Billy" and his loyal followers belongs the idea of starting the monthly Singspiration Services. These meetings include four other Methodist Churches besides DeWitt, namely: Bath, South Bath, Emmanuel and Gunnisonville.





## Calendar of Events

Reverend Swan divided the members of our church into five tribes. Each tribe had leaders and assistant leaders. A family night was held every month with one of the tribes being responsible for the program each time.

The Thanksgiving service was held in our church this year with Reverend Bretz of the Community Church as speaker. The service was held on Thanksgiving morning at 10:00 with music by the choirs of our church and the Community Church.

The fourth Sunday of every month is missionary Sunday in our church school. There is special music furnished also a missionary talk by a member.

We have Layman Sunday once during the year.

Easter Sunday found a very good attendance at our church.

A "Parcel Post Sale" was held in the church basement March 2nd. We made very well at this and everyone seemed to enjoy it.

The Daily Vacation Bible School was held this year with the Community people at their church with a large enrollment.

A "Come as you are Breakfast" was served by the ladies in the church basement. There was a very good attendance.

The W.S.C.S. meet the fourth Thursday of each month with Mrs. Florence Magsig as president.

The young ladies have also organized a circle of their own, it being more convenient for them to get away in the evening.

Good Friday union services were held with a fair attendance.

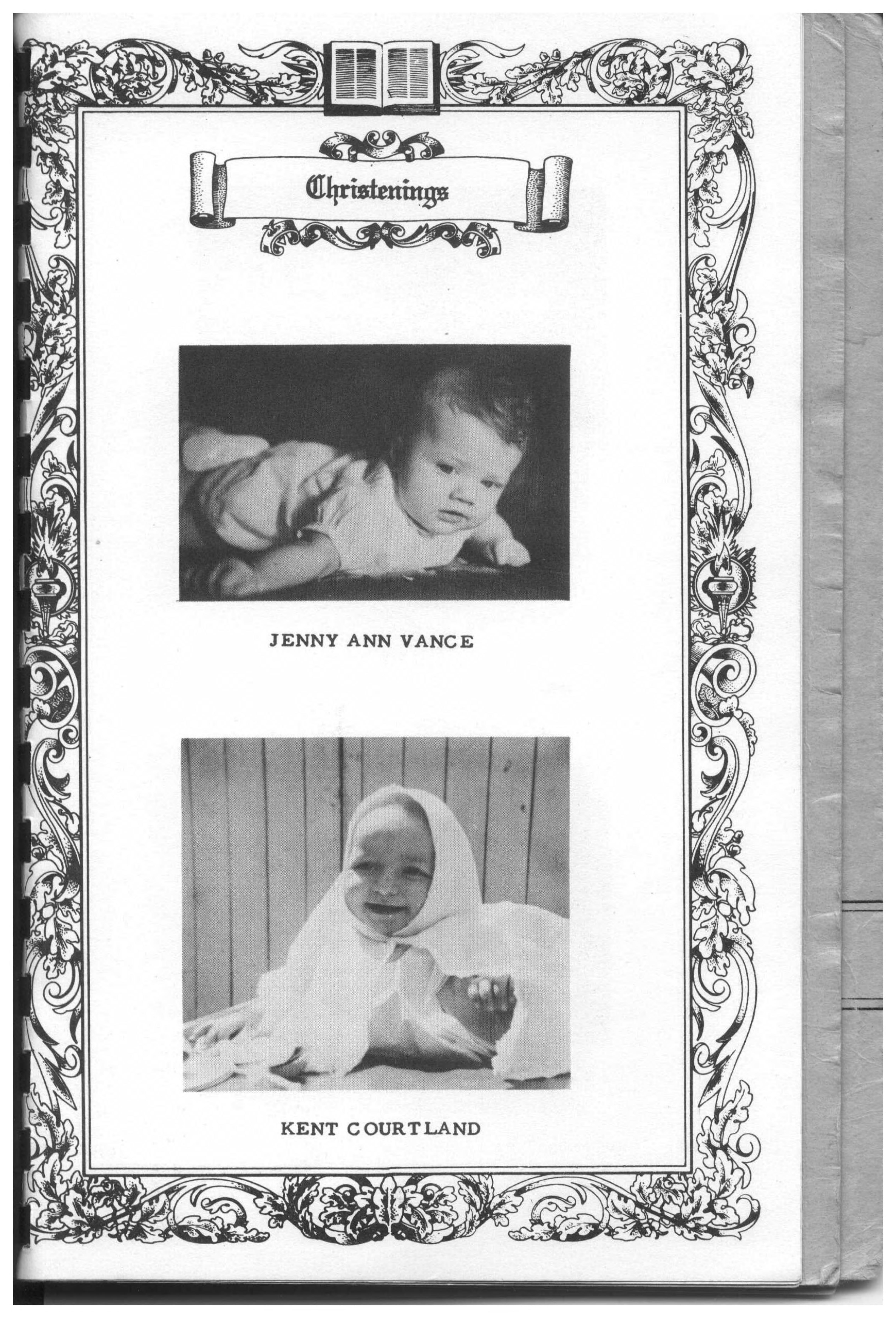
**WALSWORTH**

Lithographed & Bound by  
WALSWORTH BROTHERS  
Montrose, Mo., U. S. A.

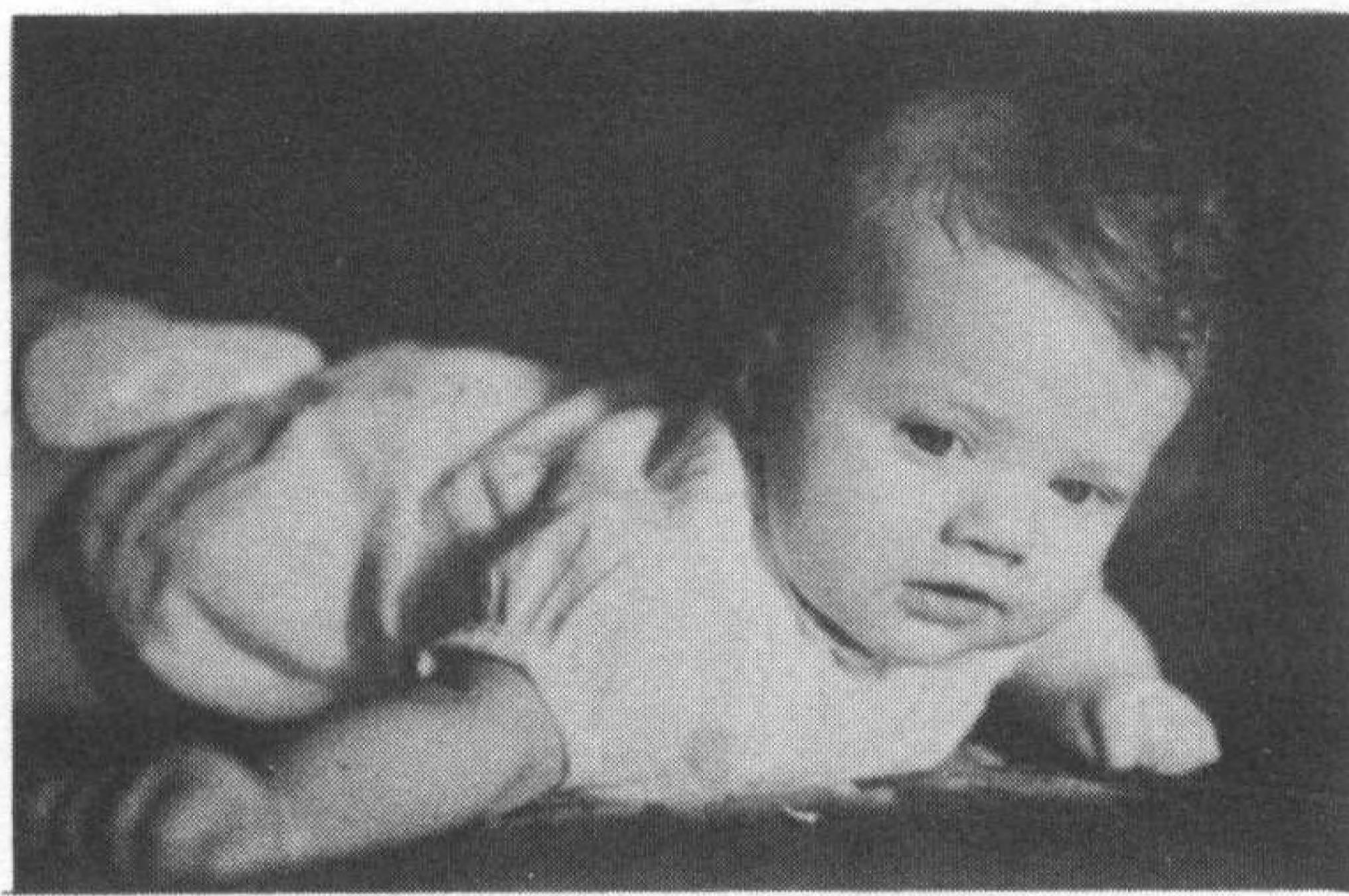


**FAMILY WEEK**





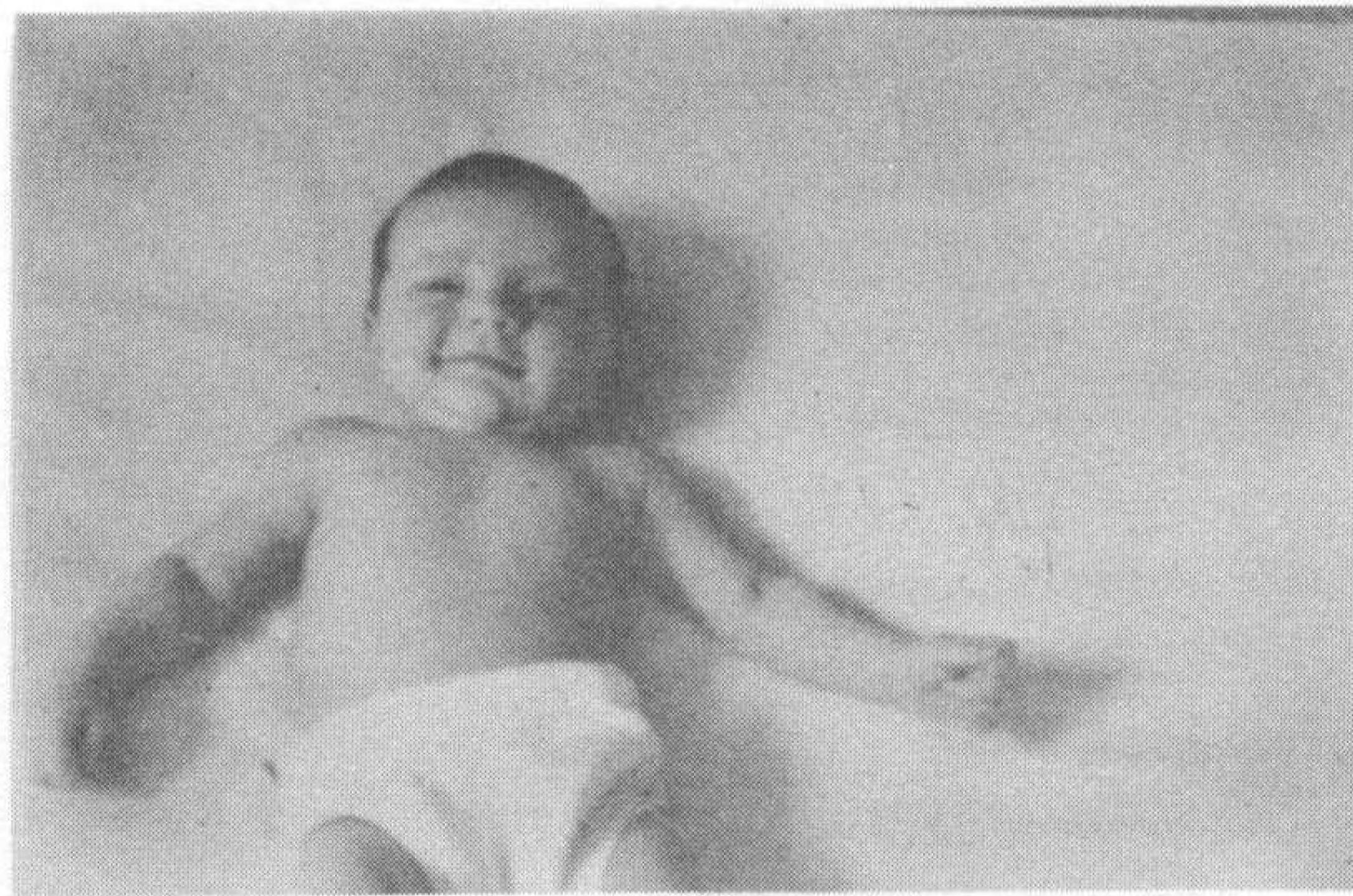
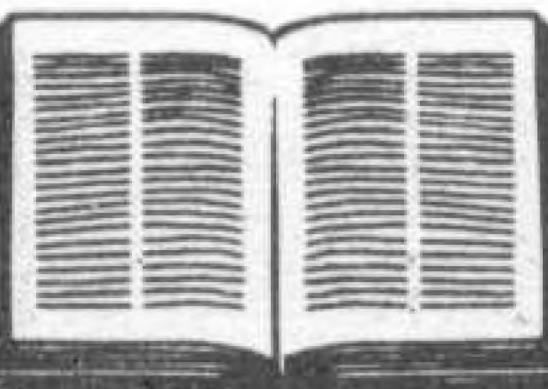
## Christenings



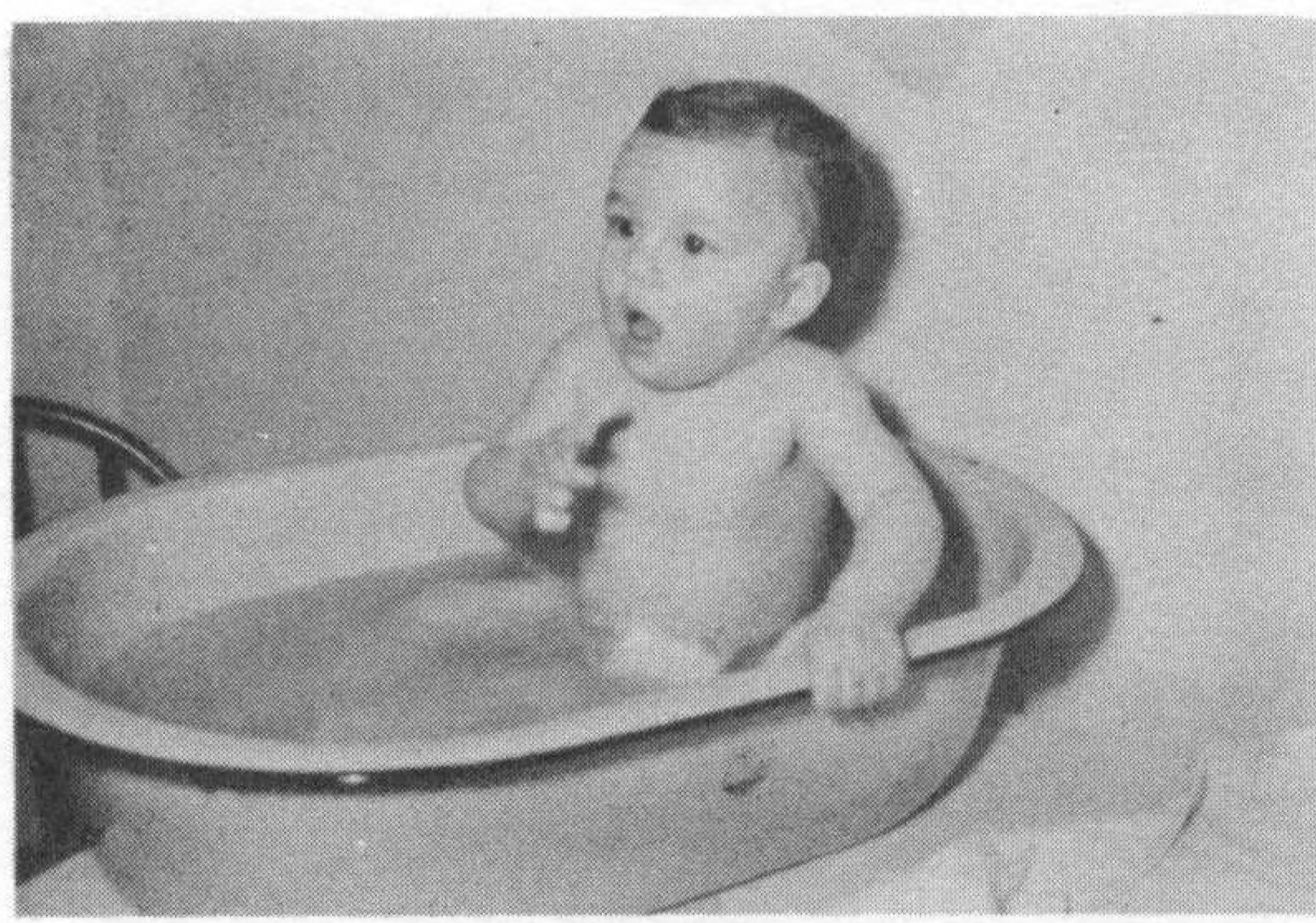
JENNY ANN VANCE



KENT COURTLAND



**MIRIAM HELEN SODOSLIAN**



**SANDRA CUSTARD**

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Celebrating Your 100th Anniversary

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