

Methodist Church, Glenwood, Minnesota



The first date of organization for the Methodist Church in Glenwood is identified as May 20, 1881. The following were listed as trustees for the Methodist Episcopal Church: Dr. J.G. Whittemore, Kirk J. Kinney, George Rue, Joseph R. Geddis, and Gilbert Hayford. Dr. Whittemore came to Pope County in 1864, taking a homestead in Grove Lake and helped organize the Methodist Church in Grove Lake in 1869. He died in 1882 and was baptized on his death bed.

Kirk J. Kinney took a homestead on land that is now the City of Glenwood. He was born in Glenwood, New York in 1835, and graduated from college in Pennsylvania in 1853. Mr. Kinney was a land surveyor, developing the plat map and naming the City of Glenwood. He died in 1907, a life-long Methodist. A tribute to him says he was the spiritual and financial leader of the church, a fine Christian Man.

George Rue homesteaded a farm west of Glenwood. He died in 1877 and his sons and daughters were active residents of the county. M.M. Rue had the first hotel, located where the Minton Hotel once stood and is currently the site of Eagle Bank. Rue also sold groceries, drugs, and Yankee notions. The family came from Georgia and were always members of the Methodist church. Harvey Gloege was a great-grandson of George Rue. Harvey and Loville and family were major forces in the Methodist Church contributing in all areas.

Joseph E. Geddis was a teacher and county superintendent of schools.

Gilbert Hayford was one of the first to homestead in the Township of Reno, Pope County. His daughter married Kirk J. Kinney. Other charter members were Samuel Tate, George Winslow, H.C. Hallett, and D.A. Bingham.

The county was growing fast during the late 1800's. Pope County was organized in 1866, just after the Civil War ended in 1865, and settlers began immigrating to the area and taking homesteads. The county seat was moved from Stockholm to Glenwood in 1867. The population of the county in 1874 was 2,691. In 1880 it was 5,874. Glenwood population in 1874 was 213 and in 1880 it was 800. The Northern Pacific Railroad reached Glenwood about 1881 making transportation to Pope County easier.

The Quarterly Conference was held in the Lyman Prairie Church and the Glenwood Methodist church was formally organized and incorporated in March 24, 1884. In 1885, Thomas McClary, District Superintendent for the Fergus Falls District, reported Glenwood and Villard "To be supplied." These two churches remained as one charge until 1911. The pastors who served through 1958 are listed in the Seventy-fifth Anniversary program. In 1895, the Minnesota Conference was divided and this area became a part of the Northern Minnesota Conference, St. Cloud District. There were many evangelists and students who came for short periods of time. They can be found in a previous write up in the church file at the Pope County Historical Society.

There was a small cemetery alongside the original church, located on the current site of Central Square (Glenwood High School). These graves were moved to Glenwood Cemetery when the church was moved to the First Street NE location. The Glenwood Cemetery was located south of where the hospital is now located and later moved again to the present cemetery location on Memorial Drive Glenwood, Minnesota.

There was also an Epworth League founded in 1899 with Luella Falkner Johnson as the first president. This was considered the center of social life in the church. Many older people also participated in the parties and fellowship. The Epworth League eventually became the Methodist Youth Fellowship or MYF.

Minnesota Conference reports from the late 1880's Glenwood and Villard churches listed 24 members and 30 Sunday school pupils. The pastor's salary was \$120. Current expenses were listed as \$13. The pastor was usually paid after harvest. The presiding elder reported the best salary paid in Minnesota was \$1,000. Many pastors had to work extra and their wives also earned money by teaching school, teaching music lessons, or sewing. The Bishop received \$700 from the National Women's Home Missionary Society and divided this money among pastors. In the 1907 conference report for Glenwood and Villard, 55 members were listed with Sunday School literature at a cost \$55, and \$25 given to mission funds. T.J. Chappel was a very fiery preacher and received \$400 salary and allowed \$100 for house rent.

In 1911, William. J. Barr was pastor. He was met at the Soo Line Depot by William. J. Dobbin, who drove a horse and buggy. Mr. Barr came from Belfast Ireland. He wore a Derby hat, green and black plaid overcoat, and carried a cane.

In 1911 there was an organized class called "Plus Ultra." These organized classes were registered with the National Board of Education of the Methodist Church. Lyla Dobbin Fish taught the beginners class. Old written articles describe a large Sunday School. Lyla Fish was a teacher for 40 years. She is the grandmother of Lila Mattson Gaffaney and Bob Mattson. In 1922 the attendance was around 120 each Sunday, with a large men's and women's Bible class. Other known superintendents and teachers were Kirk Kinney, C.C. Smith, George Hurst, W.J. Dobbin, J. E. McBride, Mrs. R. Peterman, Mrs. Seats, D. Fisher, Mrs. J. Dutchak, and Jack Carlson.

Lyla Dobbin joined the church with her parents and sister Anna September 14, 1911. The marriage of Lyla Dobbin and A. L. Fish is listed as February 8, 1916. Anna Dobbin and Ross Rittgers were married the same day. Lyla not only taught Sunday School, she was secretary of the church's official board council from 1930 to 1958. Approximate church attendance at this time was 120 people each Sunday, with large men's and women's Sunday school classes.

The old church was sold to J. R. Serrin sometime between 1915 and 1919. Serrin moved the church and remodeled it for a dwelling. The lot was sold to the Glenwood Public School for a new high school. The property for the new church was purchased from Henry and J. Atkinson in 1915. Excavation started for the new church basement in 1916. Services were held temporarily in the city hall. The plan was to raise a building fund of \$4,000 to build a modern church basement, roof it over and use it as a place of worship until the congregation was financially able to complete the church building. From the July 1915 Glenwood Herald, Rev. Hanna was selected by the Trustees to make a canvass of the city and raise the required funds. He reported that he is met with the hearty good will of the people of the city and that he expected to have subscribed \$2000 by the end of the week. One interesting feature of his subscription plan was his attempt to get 500 contributions of one dollar each or two sacks of cement. The church was completed in 1922 and dedicated by Bishop Mitchel on July 30, 1922. A postcard with a picture of the new church sends back greetings to her sister Miss H. S. Lewis from Mrs. J.J. Parish and states "We built this church last year." (1921).

The Ladies Aid was formed at the same time the church was forming in 1881. The President was Mrs. Mary Whittemore; Vice President, Mrs. J.W. Simmons; Secretary, Mrs. George Rue; and treasurer, Mrs. Tory Thorson. It was purposed to meet on the Wednesday afternoon of each week. Their goal was to raise the money to help support the church and provide a social time for the parish. The women raised money by serving meals and tied and sewed quilts. They sold a quilt for \$5 with a material cost \$4.25. (Times have not changed, only numbers are larger). They tied a quilt for \$1 for customers.

The Ladies Aid served lunch for the ski tournament at 15 cents a plate in the basement of the Pope County Bank and made a profit of \$19.90. They held a kitchen shower in 1916 and used \$10 to buy a stove for the church kitchen. In 1920 they agreed to earn \$1,000 to help pay for the new church building. At times the Ladies Aid paid all utility expenses, such as coal, lights, and repairs. Records show that once they paid a coal bill that was eight years old.

There was a group of Junior high school age girls that formed a Home Guard Group. Their program was entirely missionary.

The Ladies Aid voted in 1922 that the lunch for the group was to consist of four things besides pickles and cheese, at a charge of 15 cents before 5:30 and 25 cents after 5:30.

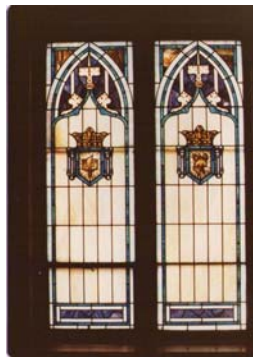
In 1917 the Ladies Aid met at the Rogers Hotel with Mrs. Hutchins as hostess. Mrs. Myrtle (McCrary) James died in 1937, when she was president of the Ladies Aid, sixty hymnals were purchased as a memorial. February 13, 1946 it was voted to give \$5 to a Memorial Fund for members of our WSCS and \$2.50 for others. In 1950 it was voted to pay \$5 for any member of the church.

When the three great branches of the Methodist Churches united in 1939 and 1940 the women followed the guidelines of the Conference plan. This changed the name to Women's Society of Christian Service or WSCS. It did not change the duties of the society. They still cleaned the church and kitchen and paid some on the budget. They served lunches and chicken suppers.

The men formed a club called the "Fix It Club" to help with painting, plumbing, and carpentry work. In 1916 the opera seats from a movie theatre in the Webster Block were purchased. Pews, organ, and a pulpit were bought from a church that closed near Royalton.

In 1922 the church was completed and first service held in the sanctuary on December 11, 1921. The church was dedicated by Bishop C. B. Mitchell on July 30, 1922.

In 1943 the stained glass window over the altar was installed and dedicated. In 1949 memorial gifts purchased the rest of the stained glass windows. The exterior of the church was given a new covering of stucco, renovated and the steeple was repaired. An all-new altar was installed



in 1950. The Cross was given by the MYF, candelabra by Gleaner's circle. A new pulpit and chairs were installed and dedicated in 1953. John L. Parish was pastor at the time. His sermons droned on and on especially for kids in the Junior choir sitting in the front row. Pat (Cooley) Dalager was of those choir members and remembers Rev. Parish stopping his sermon and telling the Junior choir members to pay attention.

It was not all work for the church members. In 1937 they performed a concert. The Schaub Quartet performed (Wendell, Charles, Donovan, and Fred) and the women did a play called 'Clothes Line Gossip', 'Mandolin Sols' and a 'A Tambourine Dance' with vocal presentations by Mr. Harold Brundin and Mrs. T.B. Clark.

In 1954, Harvey Gloege was appointed chairman of the committee to plan a new parsonage. The north and south wings of the old parsonage were log structures, built about 1870 by L. Rising. His son Henry was postmaster for two or three years and operated a newspaper business in the house until 1874. Mrs. Rising died in 1898, and soon after it was sold to J. Atkinson who remodeled the building. Very few changes were made over the years and it looked much the same as it did at the turn of the century. Rumor says he kept some horses in the basement, as he had a horse barn and livery stable. This house is said to have had the first indoor plumbing installed in town.

Plans for the new parsonage were drawn and an estimated bid of \$13,500 was received. A notice had to be read four consecutive times to the congregation when there are plans for a building or sale of property and then presented at a quarterly conference meeting before being voted on at a congregational meeting to accept or reject the bid proposal. In September 1954 the congregation voted and was unanimous to build the new parsonage. There was hope to recruit church members to join Ogdahl construction in building the home. Many local businesses offered good discounts and low cost labor.

An open house was held April 17, 1955 with 150 signing the guest book. Rev. and Mrs. Overmire were the first occupants of the new parsonage. A dedication service was held November, 1955. The next adventure for the parsonage was the move to First Avenue NE.

At the same time, June 1955, a new furnace was being considered for the church. Callaghan Hardware was to install the furnace in August. However, a report by Morton Olson says part of the furnace was lost in transit so it would not be installed until after the chicken dinner in October. Storm windows were ordered and installed on the basement windows by Cal Smith for \$450.

Fund raisers were also being held to purchase an organ. UCC and Methodist choir members were performing some wonderful concerts. In April 1957, an electric organ was installed using memorial fund money, Rev. Ray Overmire was pastor. Fred Schaub gave the baptismal font and pulpit Bible. Nathan Brundin the lectern and two brass flower vases with flower stands. In 1959 a piano was purchased for the auditorium from a memorial given by Mrs. Ray Overmire in honor of her parents. Some of the pianists and organists that we know of were Izetta Stoke, May Jensen, 1915; Ethel Heggarth about 1923 and 1924; Lowell Fox, Ernest Galbraith, Dorothy Brundin, Audrey Simmons, Clarice Rittgers Buchholz, who served about 17 years, Marlene Johnson Rittgers and Myrna Johnson. Donovan Schaub was the director of the music.

Also about that same time, some discussion was going on about the kitchen stoves which were gas. During a supper one of the ovens had gone out and when the oven door was opened, the fire from above ignited the oven which was full of gas. Two ladies were burned one being Evelyn Cooley and it is not remembered who the other was. Some of her hair and eye brows were burned off. Her glasses had protected her eyes. When that bang went off, Dr. Burton Kolp who was eating in the dining room, literally flew into action and into the kitchen. Everyone else was frozen in place.

In 1960, Jack Carlson suggested the church enter a float in the Waterama pontoon parade. Ralph Weeks offered his pontoon. Wendell Schaub stated at the board meeting "If the church has a float, then let it be a good one, worthy of the church." The Rev. Don Haarup and Ethel Douma were elected to plan the float. The theme was "Christ as my Pilot". Lee Paulson directed the youth in building a frame and gave it an oriental appearance. The Villard Methodist church furnished the amplifier to play recordings. Alan DeBoer portrayed the character of Jesus. Don Schaub did the lighting. The Float was tremendously effective as it moved slowly in the moonlight, the blue cross on the main mast flashing its testimony, the spotlight beaming straight down on the pure white robe and flowing hair of the portrayal of Jesus and gospel songs played over the loud speaker as the pontoon floated across the calm waters, a sense of peace hovered over the multitudes.



Christmas programs were always a festive time for the church. The sanctuary was filled as the Sunday school classes preformed their plays and sang Christmas carols. After the program, Santa Claus arrived and delivered bags of treats to all. Vale Schaub contributed this story of Jerry Vincent. Jerry was getting his treat bag from Santa when he got a surprised look on his face and said “Well look at that, Santa is wearing my Dad’s shoes.”

The Schaub family joined the church in April 1936. The family has been involved in every facet of the church’s being. Vale Pauline Tipton and Wendell Phillip Schaub were married in June 1940. Vale served as church treasurer for many years and also as WSCS District Treasurer. Wendell and Donovan Schaub are noted for their many contributions to the church and their musical contributions were outstanding.

Carmen Schaub Caporale sends her memories of growing up here.

During the late summer, August of 1959, I attended a National Methodist Convocation of Youth at Purdue University. I was 16 and it was a hot humid trip by bus from Minneapolis to Indiana with other Minnesota kids. The trip was a result of attending Glenwood Methodist Church as it was known then and other trips through the years to Northern Pines camp. It was an adventure for a small town Midwest girl to a huge college and exposure to worship, music, art and ideas that were to change plans for life. One that my mother remembers is that upon return I was determined to attend Hamline University in St. Paul rather than St. Cloud. Yes, looking back I have a strong memory of that shift in my plan. Otherwise, attending that week probably gave me courage to make other trips to far away places and attend concerts and plays and serve on lots of Methodist committees. I heard the Dave Brubeck quartette play, Odetta sing and Eleanor Roosevelt speak which was heady stuff and it planted lots of seeds. In May of 2003, I attended another convocation for Pacific Northwest Conference Youth at University of Puget Sound in Tacoma some 44 years after the Purdue adventure. Our local youth group needed a fill-in, one night chaperone and there I was sleeping in a dorm with both girls and boys on the same floor. Some things have changed since Hamline! But the sharing, wonder learning and fun were all still there like that first convocation. So thanks to the upbringing in the Glenwood Methodist Church I have experienced a wonderful education and full life of learning.

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The Bowen family also has longevity in the Methodist Church. Emma Jean Ewing Bowen’s, mother, Anna Peacock joined the church on February 20, 1921. She married Howard Ewing on July 15, 1927. They had two children Robert and Emma Jean.

Emma Jean Ewing Bowen remembers a very, very hot Saturday in July 1943 when she and her dad, Howard, went to town and bought apple cider. That evening, tragedy struck for our church family. Jean was just six years old in 1943 and witnessed her father instantly killed and her Mother seriously injured by a wind storm. Jean was with her Mother Anna trying to get to a safer place when the barn came crashing down on them. An old boat that had been stored in the hayloft came down and partially covered them. The boat held the debris up and saved them. Robert went to a neighbor for help and found no one home. He came back and took the car to another neighbor. At 11 years of age he had not driven the car alone but was able to get help for them. Jean said she could see a strip of light and a way to get out but wanted to stay with her Mother who had major injuries. Anna was told she would never walk again but with her strong determination she walked and found employment to support her family. Anna married Ray Johnson in 1961. Jean and her family the Seaburgs, Bannisters, and David Bowen are current members.

The Elwood family has a very early family history in the Methodist Church in Glenwood, as well as Grove Lake. Lena Maude Elwood died in June 1927. Her service was held at the Methodist church by Rev. Parks. Mr. and Mrs. Elwood made their home in Glenwood in 1914. Her obituary says she was a good member of the local Methodist church. Her daughter Blanche became a member of the church on July 16, 1922. She married George Marvin in September, 1922. Their son Charles Elwood, David's grandfather, became a member February 20, 1921. The Elwoods moved to the Grove Lake area and attended church there while David was growing up. Today, Eleanor Elwood Dorweiler, David's aunt, David and Becky Elwood and their daughter Danielle Elwood and granddaughter Zoey continue the legacy at Glenwood United Parish.

One of David's fond memories as a youngster is having new Sunday trousers. A very heavy set man had passed away and David's mother was given a pair of his suit pants to make new ones for the boys. David was sitting between his parents and when he wiggled around his new pants got caught on a nail and he tore a hole in the seat of his new pants. His Dad took off his mother's shoe and with the heel, pounded that nail in, right then and there, during the church service.

Memories by Pat Dalager: My grandparents Charles and Selma Thompson and their four children joined the church June 29, 1924. Charles passed away in 1929 and Selma remained a member until her death in 1976. Their daughter, Evelyn married Othneil "Bud" Cooley in 1929 and remained a member until her death in 2005. Now, Bud and Evelyn's daughter, Patricia Dalager, has been a continuous member since her confirmation and Pat's daughters, Jayne Nyhammer and Beth and Jeff Snider and their families are fifth generation members, an unbroken chain of family participation in the church.

I remember being an active member of MYF. Attending some very interesting meetings around the area. The group met often with the UCC youth group and their minister enjoyed dancing and provided some good music and instructed us in our dance steps. The Junior choir sat in the front pew after singing our song each Sunday and Rev. Parish stopped his sermon and told us to pay attention on several occasions.

As a teenager, I remember a Mother's Day service with a packed church. I was sitting behind my mom, Evelyn, and my aunt, Juliet, and other family members. Evelyn started laughing and giggling. Juliet who just had to know what was so funny and kept poking my mom and asking "What's so funny?". Finally, Evelyn was able to point at my brother, David's ear. He was scrubbed clean and sun burned from being in the dusty field all day Saturday but had missed cleaning out his ears which were black with dirt.

The 1960's brought several new active families to the church. We had a large Sunday school and vacation bible school and large junior and adult choir. Some of the young women got together for morning coffee on a regular basis. Vivian Fegan, the pastor's wife, planted tulip bulbs in front of the parsonage. This had been her first opportunity to plant fall bulbs for spring blooms. The tulips all were blooming beautifully for her birthday party. The young women with preschool children that met for coffee on a regular basis, had a party for Vivian in the morning. In the afternoon the rest of the women of the church were to come to the house for birthday cake. All the little children were playing outside and one little girl, the daughter of Chuck and JoAnn Benjamin, wanted to come in the house. In her small hands were all the tulip petals, pulled off so short they didn't even float in a dish of water.

On another occasion, I was to conduct the Women's Society Christian Service (WSCS) monthly meeting and just as I was leaving the house we received a phone call to take Dick's brother Hans to the U of M hospital as he was very ill. I arrived at the meeting right on time and presided over the business. I was ready to call for a motion to adjourn the meeting and go on to the program when Mrs. Mabel Akre got up with several pages of paper in her hand that she planned to read. I said "I am sorry to interrupt you but I have to leave for a family emergency. I need to close the meeting and then you can continue." Someone had one more business item and then we closed the meeting. I heard this stomping up the old creaky wooden stairs as she made her displeasure at being cut off from her reading known to everyone. I think the item she was planning to read was a history of the church which only became apparent as I read through the church histories to prepare this church history. One was written by Mrs. Akre, I had not thought of this connection until I was reading her church history. Dick's brother passed away a couple days later and no further thought was given to the proceedings of the meeting.

It was mentioned earlier that the next adventure for the parsonage came during its move to First Avenue NE around the time the United Parish was built on the hill overlooking Glenwood (circa. 1978). Moving the parsonage required a permit from the City of Glenwood. It is unknown if the mistake was noticed before the move or after but the permit indicated Glenwood United Parish rather than Glenwood United Parish. This proved to be an ominous prediction of events as the truck pulled the house up the hill, about half way to its destination, the brakes failed and the truck and parsonage rolled back down the hill. The driver maintained control and there was no damage to the truck, the parsonage, or any houses or cars along the path. When the house was eventually to its destination Dave Schramm and Ron Bowen were volunteers working on setting the house on its new foundation. However the job did not go fast and easy. The blocks had been laid and Ron and Dave had built a support wall of 2 x 4's across the basement. Then came a huge rain storm. The water came rushing down the hill and buckled the east blocks. The center wall was no longer straight and had to be redone. The house has had many general upkeep and improvements completed in 2010.



Glenwood Methodist Church-The First Pump Organ

Written by **Bonnie Claussen Tjaden 7/09**

I am the owner of the supposedly first organ from the Glenwood Methodist Church. I purchased the organ in 1995 or 1996 when the United Parish Church sold it to the person with the highest bid which was me! Before this time, Mr. Harold Skillbred, Music Teacher from the Glenwood High School, had owned the organ. The organ is, of course, a pump organ. It says "Metropolitan" by the

keyboard. It has a good sound. The exterior of the organ, however, could use some work. I do not know what year the organ was made. I have not had work done on it, but I know it is customary for workers to put their name and year of the work inside the organ.

Since I was married in the Glenwood Methodist Church in 1969, owning this organ has special meaning for me. During the late 1960's the organ was kept upstairs in the old downtown church. It was stored in the room where I had taught Sunday School with Doris Dutchak and Helen (Mrs. Mort) Olson when I was in high school. It was also the room where I got dressed for my wedding. I play the organ whenever I have time. I always wonder about the fingers from the past and who may have played it. Who was the first organist? What hymns were used as the organ was played at regular church services? How many funeral songs were played on the keys on sad days? We will never know. I do know that I love thinking about the past and days gone by as this organ is very special to me in remembering the history of the church.

Memories of the Glenwood Methodist Church

Written by **Barbara Claussen Iverson** (August 2009)

Our family moved to Glenwood in 1959. It was decided that we would attend and become members of the Glenwood Methodist Church which was downtown at the time. Today there is a city parking lot where the church and parsonage once stood. The first people I remember calling on us from the church were the Douma family, the Thompson's, and the Bartley family. They were farm families and lived in our rural neighborhood.

The Building: The main floor housed the sanctuary. It had beautiful stained-glass windows. Upstairs were some Sunday School rooms and a high window /door that opened, and you could look down into the sanctuary. We had "release time" upstairs, which was when students could leave school early to attend classes at church, and we were dismissed before the school buses left for the day. Classes were held on Wednesday afternoons around 2:30. Brides and their bridesmaids also got ready for their weddings in this area of the church.

The basement leaves me with memories of turkey dinners the church hosted in mid-October on a mid-week evening. The youth were asked to be waiters and waitresses, so we were allowed to walk to the church after school to help. On a Saturday in late fall we'd have a big church bazaar downstairs as a fundraiser. Everyone made crafts to fill the long tables full of home-made treasures and treats. The nursery was also housed here in one of the Sunday School rooms.

The church was left open-it was never locked. We could go there if we needed to use the telephone or meet our parents after a school event. None of us young people had our own cars in those days! In later years there were some new coffee servers stolen and they had to start locking the church. Things were changing!

Junior Choir: Several of us sang in the Junior choir. We had navy blue robes with gold stoles with a large "M" on them. The Senior Choir had the same design of robes with larger stoles. There was a bell in the church steeple which was rung every Sunday morning before services. As the choir lined up to enter the sanctuary, the ushers would sometimes let a junior choir member ring the bell. What a thrill, to pull that large heavy rope and hear the church bell ring out to the community. The bell is now on display on our church property.

After the Junior Choir sang, they would sit in the front pews for the rest of the service. On one particular Sunday I was sitting next to Ginger (Kolp) Beck. My stomach was growling and I told her. "I'm hungry." She whispered back, "Well I have a sandwich in my purse. Do you want it?" You know how things aren't really that funny, but something about what she said just set us off into fits of contagious muffled-giggling. Of course she didn't have a sandwich with her (or a purse for that matter) which made us giggle all the more. The pew was shaking, and we were getting "the look" from other parishioners to "settle down" which we eventually did. I still chuckle about that comment today. Laughter is the best medicine but maybe not during the sermon!

I also sang my first solo in this church. I know that's hard to believe, but it is true! I can still remember the melody and title of the song-"Seek Ye the Lord". I can also recall most of the words. I don't think I've sung a solo since that day as I can still remember "shaking in my boots" over it! At that time, Carolyn Hellervik was the junior choir director. Don Schaub was senior choir director. When we were in high school we advanced to singing in the senior choir. Clarice Buchholz was the pianist/organist.

M.Y.F (Methodist Youth Fellowship)-We had an active youth fellowship group. We had many activities such as hayrides out to Douma's farm, Christmas caroling, visits to the Fergus Falls State Hospital, winter retreats as well as trips to the Twin Cities for different events. We also held suppers, car washes, etc., for fundraisers.

The youth had an annual soup and pie supper on a mid-winter Saturday evening to raise money for our different outings. Our moms would make the soup which was usually chicken noodle, vegetable beef and/or chili. One year when my sister had just got her driver's license, Mom asked us to take her pies to church for the supper. It had started snowing and the roads were getting very slippery. I was holding the pies as we slid into the ditch near the trailer court south of town. We were screaming as we came to a stop, but I never let go of the pies and they were eventually delivered for the supper intact!

We attended a lot of football games at Hamline University. Our drivers were always Evelyn DeBoer and Vale Schaub. We had the best time on those Saturdays, cheering Hamline on to a victory! On one event we toured the newly-built Methodist Hospital in St. Louis Park. Linda Mortensbak was in nursing school there and she led the tour. Her younger brother Julian was in our youth group.

One time several of us attended a winter retreat at Northern Pines (church camp) near Park Rapids. I think this was the late winter of 1964. Some of us who went were Shirley Bartley, Barry Schaub, Paul Buchholz, my sister Bonnie and me. I'm sure there were others too. Our chaperone, Mae Ferleman, was an elderly woman whom some said was too old to chaperone this event. She had the misfortune to fall on the ice as she left our cabin and was bleeding from a gash on her head. Barry and Paul went for help. We had no car as we had been dropped off for the weekend and remember, this was in the days before cell phones and calling "911" for emergencies! The boys found a car that they "borrowed" and since it was a stick shift only one of them knew how to drive it and he had only his learning permit! They got her to the hospital and it turned out she was fine. It was an event that we all had on our hearts as we left the campground that cold Sunday afternoon.

Sunday School and Vacation Bible School It seems that if you talk to anyone growing up in the church in the past 60 years they had Ellen Swanson for a teacher. I certainly remember being in her class and later being a helper in her classroom and at Vacation Bible School. Other teachers I remember from that era were Mrs. Pauline LaCroix, Mr. Dale Walker, Mrs. Ethel Douma and Mrs. Mabel Spooner. Our Sunday School Superintendent was Wendell Schaub.

Events: I was confirmed in the church in 1962. It was a large class of about 15 and included two grade levels. The minister was Rev. Don Haarup. I was married in the church in 1968 by Rev. Robert Fegan. It was a hot and humid August day and as we knelt in front of the minister, sweat dropped off Bruce's forehead onto Rev. Fegan's shoes! Our first child, Holly, was baptized by Rev. Paul Bosshardt in 1976 in this church. Shortly after that we built the United Parish Church on the hill north of Glenwood, the old Methodist Church was eventually torn down.

These are just a few of my memories growing up in the Glenwood Methodist Church. Fun times were had, and good memories made as we were learning and growing in the Lord. Blessed be the memories!

Compiled by
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2010