

Heritage Sunday

April 25, 2004

Grace United Methodist Church

Celebrating 45 years of

Dedicated service to the

communities God has

called us to serve.

"We can learn from history how past generations thought and acted, how they responded to the demands of their time and how they solved their problems. We can learn by analogy, not by example, for our circumstances will always be different than theirs were. The main thing history can teach us is that humans actions have consequences and that certain choices, once made cannot be undone. They foreclose the possibility of making other choices and thus determine future events."

---Gerda Lerner

*Heritage Sunday shall be observed on April 23, 1968 when the United Methodist Church was created by the union of The Evangelical United Brethren Church and The Methodist Church, or the Sunday following that date. It falls during Eastertide, the season in which we remember the Resurrection and triumph of our Lord. Heritage Sunday call the Church to remember the past by committing itself to the continuing call of God.*

*From **264.1** The book of Disciplines, 2000*

This year Heritage Sunday is celebrated on April 25th . I thought this is an ideal time to share the history of Grace and the Methodist Church. The importance of history is the appreciation for people who have before us. It the previous ministers and members who laid the foundation that Grace stands on today.

I am grateful to my predecessor, Rachel Helkenn for all of her work that she has done through the years to keep Grace history alive. The information and pictures that are used today are due to her countless hours of archiving. I hope you enjoy the display and information as much as I had from putting it together.

Nancy Drake

# A Brief Church History

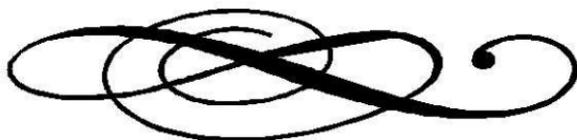
Grace Church began as the outgrowth of a Woman's Society of Christian Service. It was the only women's society within the Methodist frame work not affiliated with a particular church. The first service of Grace Methodist Church of Orchard Gardens met on October 26, 1958 at Orchard Lake elementary School. Thirty two adults attended and 41 children went to Sunday school. The Charter Service of Grace was held on Palm Sunday March 22, 1959. Forty-nine members were received into the membership at that service.

In June of            Reverend Ralph shoemaker came to serve at Grace and Rosemount. The church moved from Orchard Lake to the old Burnsville Town Hall where Worship Service and Sunday school were held. All other activities were held in homes of members.

As the church grew the Congregation was intent on having a permanent home and the building committee was formed. The site needed to accommodate the church's future growth and service the community. A site was purchased (the church's present location) overlooking Crystal Lake at the foot of Buck Hill. On August 20, 1962 ground was broken. The building progressed faster than expected and the corner stone was laid in October and Consecration Service was held on December 30, 1962.

Over the years, pastors came and went bringing their unique gifts and talents to Grace. Once again in the fall of 1985, a building study committee began meeting to determine the need for expansion of the Grace building facilities. On May 10, 1987 ground breaking for the project was held. In July the walls were being built and move in day was on Sunday February 7, 1988 with Consecration Sunday on March 27, 1988.

Grace has continued to grow in size and programs until the unfortunate day of July 13, 2003 when the 1987 addition of the church burned to the ground due to an arson fire. All though this shook Grace emotionally, the congregation rallied, rolled up their sleeves and began the work that needed to be done. The congregation held an outdoor service close by hours after the fire was extinguished. Fortunately the 1962 building was spared only sustaining smoke and water damage. By December 14, 2003 the 1962 building was cleaned up and ready to conduct services, continue it's activities and programs that were in place prior to the fire.



# A Short History Lesson On The Methodist Church

In the 1700's, John Wesley started a movement with the Anglican Church of England. His "plain message to plain people" resulted in the formation of the Methodist Church.

1735 - John & Charles Wesley came to Georgia as missionaries. They were not received well by the Colonist so they returned to England.

1738 - The "Aldersgate experience" marks the event when John Wesley at this meeting had a strange wonderful feeling, he had discovered Love of God. He spent the next five decades in productive ministry. He would preach on street corners and at coal mines, anywhere he could get a hearing. Because his message was so personal and the response of the people enthusiastic, the Anglican authorities became alarmed, and one parish closed its doors to him. This did not stop him, he considered the world as his parish. Traveling by horseback, he covered an estimated 5,000 miles a year over 50 years.

1784 - By the direction of John Wesley, Francis Asbury and Thomas Coke were ordained as the first bishops of the Methodist Church in America. This was the beginning of a new church, The Methodist Episcopal Church (Episcopal means a bishop led the Church.)

1791 - John Wesley dies at the age of 88. It is estimated that he preached over 40,000 times before he died.

1800s - Methodism was the largest Protestant denomination in the United States. While the 1800s saw the church divide into several separate organizations, the 20th century has seen them come back together again.

Like their leaders in England, American Methodist preachers rode from town to town on horseback, they were called circuit riders. They would preach three to four times a week in pioneer cabins, schoolhouses, or tavern bathrooms. A circuit rider would preach at these locations, thus covering his circuit every four to five weeks. They would carry all their worldly belongings plus Bibles and food in their two saddlebags. Its success was a factor in establishing Methodism in America.

1939 - The Methodist Church formed from the combination of Methodist Episcopal Church (South), the Methodist Episcopal Church (North), and the Methodist Protestant Church.

1968 - The United Methodist Church was formed when the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church joined.

Resources:

[www.infoplease.com/ce6/society/A0812295.html](http://www.infoplease.com/ce6/society/A0812295.html)

[www.infinisol.org/tumc/church-history.htm](http://www.infinisol.org/tumc/church-history.htm)

[www.osumc.org/umchistory.htm](http://www.osumc.org/umchistory.htm)