

FOURTH QUARTERLY CONFERENCE
Barrington, Illinois
May 3, 1944 (Wednesday)

(Pastor's Report)

The purpose of this quarterly Conference is to get before us certain vital statistics so that we can see whether we have progressed in our Church Work this year. Much of this will be taken up in the various reports that are to follow.

Since we did not have a Standard Community Teacher Training School this year, the pastor conducted a six week's Session in our own Church, using Paul Minear's little book "An Introduction to Paul". A small group of teachers, and a few others met Wednesday evenings, beginning Wednesday, September 15, 1943.

The Rock River Conference Methodist Ministers' Pension Fund was presented and the quota accepted for the Church. Rev. Thomas Ream, a former minister of this Church and now retired preached in this Church on Sunday, October 17th. Mr. John Prentice worked on the Staff group for the Conference and also aided greatly in his local church. To date 75% of our quota has been paid in cash.

The attendance of the Sunday School and the Morning Worship Service has remained about the same as last year, in spite of the fact that 54 young men and women from our Church are at present in the Service of our Country. 39 new members have been added to our Church roll; 22 by letter and 17 on confession of faith. As is to be expected especially in War days, we have lost 18 members by transfer and 3 by death. There were 9 baptisms.

Continued progress has been made in the liquidation of the Church debt. This year the Trustees have liquidated a note at the bank for the new Oil Burner furnace, also the interest on the \$5000. Home Mission Mortgage on the parsonage has been almost brought up to date. The Women of the Church this past week received the final bond from Mr. Reinheimer of Elgin - thus in two years liquidating a \$2500. debt. Our next task is to work on Special Assessments which have been accumulating during the last dozen years. Continuing the progress we are making two or three years more should find this church entirely clear of all indebtedness.

There are some people, including the minister, who feel that the one thing this Church needs to make it complete is a pipe organ. Especially new people who are moving to Barrington, and have belonged to Churches which have a pipe organ, feel a definite lack here. I realize that there are members who feel that our first obligation is to clear the last \$10,000 indebtedness off the church before we begin to install an organ. However, I believe we can do the two things at the same time neither cause hindering the other. A Special Organ Fund was authorized by the Board the beginning of the year, and to date there is almost \$1100. in this Fund. A rebuilt two-or three manual Church organ would probably run about \$3500. completely installed.

Easter was as usual the high time of the year. Mid-week Services were held during Lent, with the pastor taking as a Series - "Church Reformers" taking the lives of such men as Martin Luther, John Wesley, Walter Rauschenbush to show the progress of the history of the Church.

A Probationer's Training Class was held ^{at} during the Sunday School Hour during the Lenten Season (led by the minister.)

During the past year the Sunday School has been under the handicap of not having a General Superintendent. We have fine departments and excellent superintendents to head up each department - but we have not been successful in securing someone who feels the challenge of this important task in the Church.

~~Fall~~ There were two fellowship meetings of the entire church held in the ~~Spring~~ and the Winter, sponsored by the Womans Society. A Father-Son Banquet, with Coach Lynn Waldorf as the speaker, was held in February, and a Mother-Daughter Banquet with Mrs. Almstutz as speaker took place last month. ~~X~~ These gatherings have greatly aided the fellowship of the Church. (Rev. & Mrs. Doenecke were pleasantly surprised and presented with a gift on their birthdays.)

Our Methodist Youth Fellowship has had a successful year. Twenty young people are already signed up for Hi-League Camp at Lake Geneva. Again we are having the \$5.00 scholarship plan, whereby each one in the League going to camp receives this help. The minister will be happy to receive contributions from anyone wishing to help in this worthwhile project.

The Nominating Committee in reporting this year has a suggestion to offer to the Quarterly Conference. The suggestion had previously come from the First Methodist Church, Elgin - whereby our Board would be divided up into four working committees with a Committee Chairman - The Four Committees are; Membership, Religious Education, Business Administration and World Service. The purpose of this new plan is to emphasize the total program of the Church.

At the close of this fourth year, I am never unmindful of the volunteer services of so many in the Choir and the Sunday School and on the Board who help to carry forward the work. I feel that through the leadership of the "Executive Committee" the Barrington Methodist Church has been put on a sound financial basis. We are now in a position to launch forward upon a spiritual advance, in the Sunday School, the young people's groups and the Church Membership.

That is our challenge for the next year,

Faithfully, your minister,

Christian J. Doenecke

The Sankey Room in which we are meeting tonight was repainted and some of the furniture re-upholstered thru the kindness & generosity of Mrs. John Prentice. We call this "The Upper Room" of the Church, and appreciate its usefulness for Wed-Week Meets, Class Meets & Board Meetings.