



*Barrington
Methodist
Church*

Our Church . . .

A Story of Faith and Service

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When you attend church, you are there for the primary purpose of worshipping God, in a place especially dedicated to that purpose. This act of worship could be, and often is experienced in an open field, an humble home, a jetliner zooming through the skies—in fact, anywhere people find themselves at any hour of the day or night. God is everywhere, and our act of worshipping Him can be rich and satisfying in an endless variety of circumstances and places. But it is undoubtedly most meaningful in God's house, because in this place of formal worship we come at special times set aside for putting our lives in order.

Churches have personalities, just as do individuals. Barrington Methodist Church as we know it today is the result of the work and worship of those who have met in this congregation for the past one hundred twenty years.

The first Methodist group in Barrington was organized in 1840, with but six members. They met in a schoolhouse the first few years. And as they grew in numbers, they planned. Their first sanctuary was a neat, frame building, 34 x 52 feet, with a short steeple and a bell. Total cost, \$2000. It was a part of the Dundee circuit, served by a preacher who rode on horseback from one charge to another, preaching the gospel to early settlers. This first church still stands at Barrington Center, a few miles southwest of the village.

Our present church has a direct physical link with this first house of worship. The bell which peals from the steeple today is from the original church. It moved with the congregation from that original building to the second, at Ela and Franklin Streets, then to the Cook Street edifice, and finally to its present location.

A student once asked a Professor, "Who got rid of the dinosaurs?" The Professor replied, "A change of climate." As a result of a change in physical climate, those reptiles which once stalked the earth ceased to exist.

Similarly, by a change in moral climate we get rid of bitterness, greed, revenge, poverty, war. We do not drive out evil with evil; we love it out, with Christ-like love.

This little booklet, beautifully prepared and written, tells the story of our church, its concern and effort to be a part of that better moral climate which is so urgently needed today. It is a story of accomplishments and opportunities to invest oneself, time, service, money, in the greatest cause on earth.

It pictures further an active and busy ministry. But the ministers are never too busy to give attention to your concerns. We are as near to you as the telephone. Please feel free to call upon us at any time.

*Carl G. Mettling,
Minister*

In this fast-paced space age, when families are often transferred before they have time to put down lasting roots in a community, the church offers an important link with the past and a continuity into the future available from no other single source. We are able to worship in the Barrington Methodist Church today because of the vision, love and devotion of congregations and clergy of bygone years. The church was here when we arrived. It has had to expand because we came. Those who follow us will find a church only as good as we help to make it in the years we live within her boundaries.

The founders, whose first church was lighted with kerosene lamps and heated by a wood stove, lived in times just as exciting as our own. How wonderful it must have seemed to them, in 1840, to read that a Harvard scientist had made the first photograph of the moon. The Barrington Methodist Church today represents the best available physical facilities, attractively designed and beautifully equipped. Such progress is in keeping with our times, when we plan to send men to explore outer space. But men still worship the same God. We still have the same human limitations, needs, faith and beliefs as those who founded our church.

Our church today offers a spiritual home, personal enrichment, and an opportunity to serve mankind in this crucial age.

SUNDAY WORSHIP AND CHURCH SCHOOL SERVICES

Sunday worship services commence at 9:30 and 11:00 o'clock each Sabbath morning. Holy communion is served once each quarter.

Church school for all ages—beginners through high school—meets at 9:30 o'clock. In addition, a nursery for the little ones is available during both services. A second church school session, at 11 o'clock, offers classes for beginners and primary grades. About 550 children are enrolled. Most come from homes of church members. In some cases, church school is our only contact with the family. Whatever the circumstance, these children

are all in our care for an hour on Sabbath morning. This gives us an opportunity for instruction and guidance in the history and principles of Christianity; it gives us our challenge to direct them toward a church-centered maturity.

During the summer months there is one worship service, at 9:30 o'clock. Older youth are encouraged to attend church with their parents. There is church school for the lower grades.

Aside from the primary importance of this formal worship service to all our members, there are many opportunities for volunteer service in connection with the morning services. Greeters and ushers are needed for each service, good singing voices are always welcomed for the large volunteer adult choir. This group is augmented by section leaders. In addition, children's and youth choirs sing at worship service from time to time. The total church music program is under the able direction of a talented minister of music.

The church school, too, provides another opportunity for important service to the church. A volunteer staff of 60 workers includes teachers, music leaders and department superintendents, all working under the guidance of a director of education.

METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

High on the list of activities and interests of our young people is the Methodist Youth Fellowship. Youth has its own perspective on the world, and MYF provides an opportunity for them to examine the world—all phases of it—under adult leadership.

The Intermediate MYF is made up of our 7th and 8th graders. The stated purpose of this group is "to offer the young people experiences that are meaningful to them and will help them grow into mature Christians." When children get into the habit of church fellowship and church work at this age they are forming habits likely to carry on into adult years. The

Intermediate MYF members help plan their own devotions, programs, missionary projects, and fun affairs. Parents not only participate from time to time in a variety of ways, but are also important in helping encourage attendance.

The Senior MYF activities are divided into special areas of Christian concerns of youth at this age level. *Faith* deals with questions of our Christian faith and provides youth with opportunities for worship. *Outreach* expresses youth's world-consciousness. *Christian Witness* provides for sharing their faith and their MYF with friends in the community. *Citizenship* demonstrates their concern for Christian living, beginning at home. *Christian Fellowship* carries their beliefs into all realms of life. Thus is rounded out their motto of putting "Christ above all" in every phase of life. Here again, parents' influence is felt in a variety of ways, perhaps most of all in encouraging attendance.

Meetings are held on Sunday evenings, ten months of the year.

The assistant minister and a corps of devoted older youth and adults give unstintingly of their time and talents in directing these two MYF groups. These leaders are always happy to have suggestions and visits from interested parents.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Each year the church sponsors two confirmation classes, one a high school, one a junior high group. These classes prepare youth of the church for church membership through study of four important areas of Christian faith:

1. What it means to be a Christian.
2. What it means to be a Protestant.
3. What it means to be a Methodist.
4. What it means to be a part of our own church.

MEN'S BROTHERHOOD

Today's churchman is a busy creature—breadwinner, responsible citizen, he moves at a fast clip just keeping up with, or a step ahead of the demands of the day.

Our church is proud to be a men's church. Sunday worship finds an impressive number of men attending service. These same men find time on four or five evenings each year to get together at dinner meetings of the Men's Brotherhood where good food, pleasant fellowship and an engaging speaker offer a welcome break in the fast pace of daily living.

Church picnics, do-it-ourselves work projects, and the annual finance campaign find this group of men at the fore in getting things done.

SCOUTING

The church sponsors a Boy Scout Troop, and offers meeting facilities for a Girl Scout Troop. The merit of the Scout movement has proved itself over a half century. Our church expresses its belief in this worthwhile activity by not only providing the physical facilities for their meetings, but also through the men and women who work as volunteer leaders.

WOMAN'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Our woman's organization is one of the largest in the world, and is certainly the "workingest." The local unit of the Woman's Society of Christian Service counts in its membership of more than 250 women, some of whom are not affiliated formally with the Barrington Methodist Church, but who find this organization makes their life fuller and more meaningful. Every woman church member is automatically welcomed into the WSCS, as well as into one of the Circles which go to make up the Society. Both the Society and the individual Circles meet once a month for nine months each year. Programs offer worship, study, service and fellowship.

Individual pledges, contributions, and the monies earned from Society and Circle projects are spent in support of the church's Woman's Division national and world budget. In addition, our WSCS enjoys the fulfillment of many "over and above" activities each year. These special projects include scholarship aid to needy and deserving students, contributions of money, time and materials to Rock River Conference institutions, and "specials" gleaned from a constant stream of requests which come directly to the Society.

Members find spiritual enrichment in prayer groups which meet weekly in our homes for prayers and study.

Our women find satisfaction in serving others through Home Circle calls and other projects. Each Circle assumes responsibility for special food treats for shut-ins on the Home Circle list one month each year. Many members devote countless hours in volunteer work at Elgin State Hospital, where group entertainment for the mentally ill is so desperately needed. Others work with their hands in creating bazaar items for Lake Bluff Children's Home, Marcy Center, Newberry Avenue Center. And, as in every church, the women serve delicious meals whenever occasion demands the feeding of hungry Methodists.

ADMINISTRATION OF CHURCH AFFAIRS

To the Official Board is committed the administration of the affairs of the local church, both spiritual and temporal. The Official Board is composed of the trustees, stewards, officers, commission and committee chairmen. The ministers in charge are also members of the Official Board.

The Board of Trustees of our church is synonymous with the board of directors of a corporation. The Board is elected and organized as prescribed in the Methodist Discipline. It is empowered to acquire, in the name of the church, both real and personal property; it is responsible for the care of church property.

The Chairman of the Official Board presides over all Board meetings and is interested in and conversant with all Commission and Committee activities of the church.

The Board of Stewards, elected annually, is also prescribed by the Methodist Discipline. The Discipline directs that members of this group shall be "persons of genuine Christian character who love the church and are competent to administer its affairs." Ex-officio stewards include the lay leader, education director, church school superintendent, chairmen of the four required commissions, lay member of the Annual Conference, president of the Woman's Society of Christian Service, president of the Men's Brotherhood, the church treasurer, and the president of the MYF.

The Lay Leader is the liaison between the local church and the church generally, with particular reference to lay activities.

The Lay Member of Annual Conference is the local church representative on the basic body of the church.

The minister and assistant minister attend all Board meetings.

The Official Board meets once each month, except July and August. One meeting each year is devoted to planning the total church program for the ensuing year.

COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES OF THE CHURCH

The Methodist Discipline directs that each church shall have the following four commissions: (1) Membership and Evangelism, (2) Education, (3) Missions, and (4) Stewardship and Finance. The creation of other commissions is at the option of the local congregation, but these four are especially charged with the promotion and administration of the most important phases of the church's life and ministry.

Commissions are elected by the Quarterly Conference, held in May. They serve in an auxiliary capacity to the Official Board.

Membership and Evangelism. The work of this commission offers the congregation an official way of seeking out newcomers to the community and extending them a welcome into the life of the church. This group also strives to restore to active participation in church life and fellowship those who have become inactive. This commission is charged with the promotion of the total program of evangelism within the church and the community.

Education. This commission determines the policies for the church school, and gives general direction to all the educational work of the church. They recruit and train teachers and other volunteer workers, counsel with them regarding study courses and literature used, provide for church school observance of special days and coordinate essential church matters into the education program.

Missions. This commission has long been the spearhead of special interest in our church. Officially, this group has studied the mission program of the General Board of Missions, as is done in all Methodist churches. Beyond this, our Missions Commission has recommended ways for our congregation to participate in meaningful, special projects. Following Official Board action on their recommendations, the Missions Commission has implemented these special projects.

Barrington Methodists have long hoped that a young man from this congregation would find in the ministry his answer to the search for a life work. This has not yet come to pass. In the meantime, we find real satisfaction in granting two \$500 annual scholarships to deserving students at Garrett Seminary, in Evanston. These students worship with us one Sunday in the spring of the year, at which time they are introduced to the congregation.

A 70-year-old church in a receding section of the city of Chicago has come to mean much to our members. Humboldt Park Church accents the positive needs of youth in that rundown community. We help support this

worthwhile work with a substantial cash contribution each year, and our members visit the church personally from time to time. Our Youth Fellowship groups have been particularly active and interested in this phase of the mission program.

The tiny mountain kingdom of Nepal has been brought close to our hearts through the devoted work and inspiring visits and reports from Drs. Bethel and Robert Fleming. Here, in a troubled, backward nation a small core of devoted doctors, nurses and sociologists are giving their lives toward the betterment of the life and spirit of these needy people. A world away, this work is perhaps closest to the hearts and minds of our church members.

Our church has, within the past decade, brought two families of displaced persons from Europe into our community and church, and started them on a new chapter in their lives. The outstanding success of these two experiences—richly rewarding to all concerned—prompted the congregation to embark on a third such venture in recent months.

A young Dutch-Indonesian couple has been assigned to us recently, and we all anticipate their eventual arrival in Barrington. As in the past, the church provides housing, seeks to help the breadwinner find suitable employment, and performs a myriad of other loving services as the need and opportunity arises.

Stewardship and Finance. This Commission is the lay group responsible for the proper and adequate provision of all the financial needs of our church. Their work goes beyond the purely local, to include provision for our district superintendent, conference claimants and bishops, world service and conference benevolences, and any other obligations assumed by the local church.

A budget is set up each year. In doing this, the church treasurer collaborates with the minister, other officials and commission chairmen,

to determine estimated needs for the financing of the total church program. These figures are then submitted to the Official Board for their examination, discussion and eventual approval. The approved budget is presented to the congregation members prior to the annual every-member canvass for individual pledges.

The budget reaches beyond the needs of the local church. It assumes our church's share in the support of Rock River Conference institutions, and in other areas of the whole church's work all over the world.

"Conference giving," as this is termed, covers such widely diverse activities as Lake Bluff Children's Home, Bethany Home & Hospital, Methodist Old Peoples Home, Church Expansion Revolving Loan Fund (to aid in establishing new congregations), the Chicago Church Federation, the National and World Council of Churches, Garrett Biblical Institute and student work at college campuses.

It includes as well our share in the more than 12 million dollars of World Service funds raised annually for Missions, Education, Evangelism, Ministerial Education, Temperance, American Bible Society, World Peace, Pensions, Hospitals and Homes, and Deaconess recruitment and training.

The local church's assessment for these world needs is based on actual membership figures.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR US? . . .

Here we have our greatest spiritual experiences: baptism, confirmation, communion, marriage.

Each church member is offered personal spiritual enrichment through all these church activities. Formal, group worship at Sunday services has special value to each individual attending, whether in the prayers, reading of the Scriptures, preaching, or worship through music. Quiet, personal meditation and prayers are possible at all hours in the small chapel. Church school learning and worship have special meaning to the children. Young

people gain in knowledge and spiritual understanding through Youth Fellowship affiliation. The WSCS offers worship, study and fellowship to every woman in the church. Men's Brotherhood is just that—plus excellent speakers and lively discussions.

Your opportunity to serve the church covers a wide range of activities, calling for many diverse talents: A place on the Official Board, work on commissions and committees, teaching in the church school, singing in one of the volunteer choirs, serving the Scout troops, being church greeters or ushers, friendliness to newcomers and visitors, calling on shut-ins or ill members, acting as responsible citizens in an ever-changing world, remembering the needs of your church in stewardship of your personal funds, giving thanks for all of life's blessings through special gifts, memorials and legacies.

The church's second greatest strength is her people. Their personal devotion, attendance at worship and faithful stewardship to the church will be the measure of much of its future service to Barrington and the world.

God is ever present. The clergy waits to serve. The rest is up to us.

A Room of Quiet

*A room of quiet,
A temple of peace;
The home of faith
Where doubtings cease;
A house of comfort
Where hope is given;
A source of strength
To make earth heaven;
A shrine for worship
A place to pray —
I found all this
In my church today.*

— C. A. ALBERTSON

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