

Chapel celebrates 145th anniversary

The members and friends of the White Oak Ridge Chapel will celebrate the chapel's 145th anniversary Sunday.

The chapel was first organized as the Oak Ridge Sunday School Association in 1831 and is the oldest house of worship in Short Hills. The original building, which is now the sanctuary of the chapel, was dedicated October 22, 1891. In 1875 a wing was added to the chapel for a primary class. It is currently the vestibule and library and a newly organized high school and careers class meets there during the 9:45 Sunday School hour. In 1936 there was an addition to the primary room and this section now houses the rest room facilities and the kitchen.

Rev. Leroy Lincoln, pastor from 1935 to 1965, broke ground for the educational wing in 1960. On the lower level off this wing there is also a new junior high Sunday school room, dedicated to the memory of the Rev. Lincoln. Another area of this lower level educational wing is used for the nursery and beginners'

departments during the Sunday School hour and for nursery during the morning and evening worship services. The upper educational wing provides for the youth activities, Sunday School classes, general meetings and for the fellowship suppers.

The Rev. Peter H. Burgess was installed as pastor of the chapel September 7, 1969 and continues to serve in that capacity.

The congregation is interdenominational in nature and polity. The Chapel Journal for 1865 records that there were Presbyterians, Baptists, Methodists and Episcopalian families working together. The chapel has been completely independant since its organization in 1831.

The anniversary celebration this Sunday will feature guest soloist Stephen Jacobsen, a former member of the church who now resides in Randolph. The Rev. Burgess will bring the anniversary message entitled "This Is The Lord's Doing." A catered dinner will be served at 12:30 p.m. under