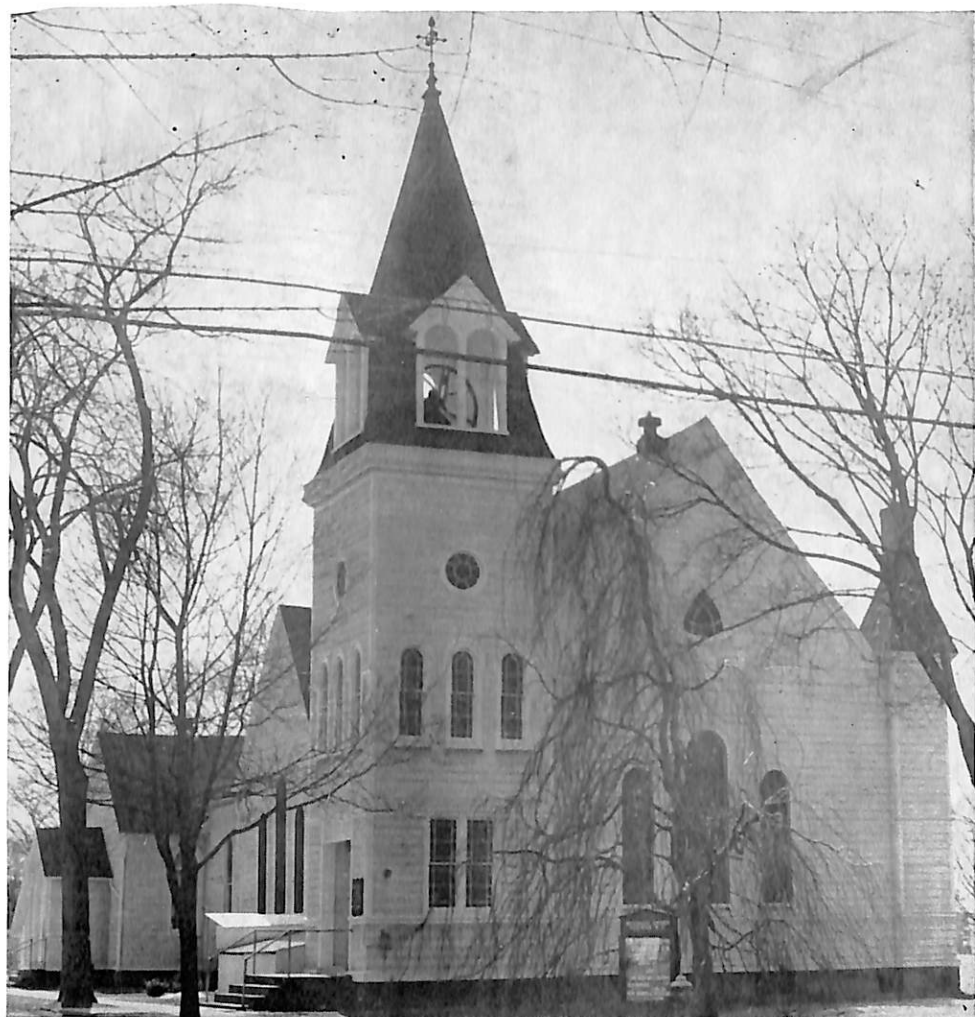


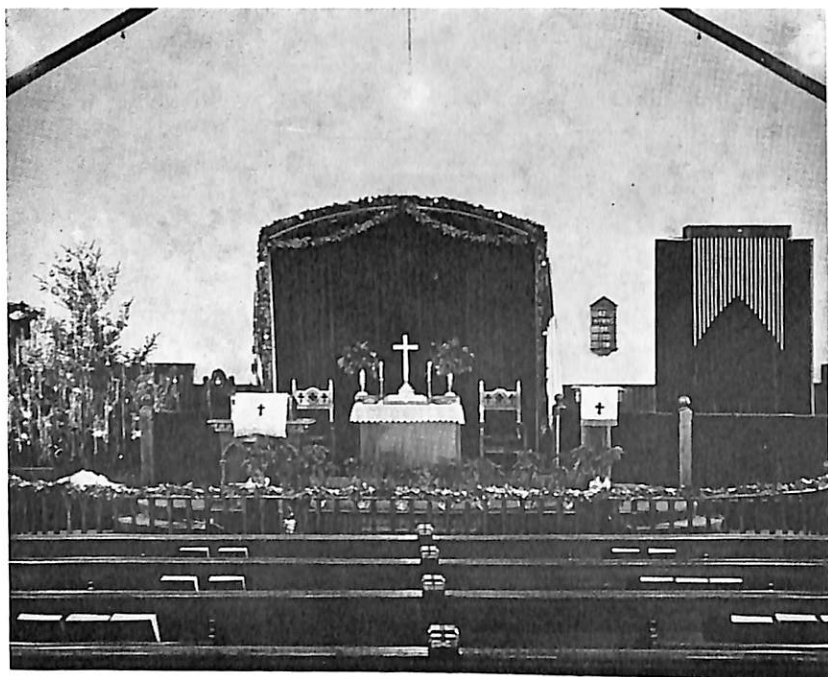
125th Anniversary of the Red Hook Methodist Church

Red Hook, Dutchess County, New York



1840

1965



SANCTUARY

PASTORAL LIST

According to his Memoir, published in the Minutes of the New York Conference for 1848, J. B. Matthias was serving "Red Hook Mission" during the period 1827-28. No mention of this however appears in the local archives which begin with the service of Samuel Cochran in 1840 as indicated.

- Before 1840 Samuel Cochran — First Methodist itinerant preacher of local record. Erected first church.
- 1840 Albert Nash — First regularly appointed minister in charge.
- 1841 Bartholomew Creagh — Conference preacher and Gen'l Conference Delegate.
- 1843 Charles B. Sing
- 1845 Oliver V. Ammerman
- 1847 William C. Hoyt
- 1848 James N. Shaffer — Erected second church and first parsonage.
- 1850 E. O. Haven — Became famous Methodist Bishop.
- 1852 Salmon C. Perry
- 1853 J. A. Edmonds
- 1855 Oliver V. Ammerman — Second pastorate.
- 1857 William Bloomer
- 1858 Charles B. Sing
- 1860 Thomas W. Chadwicke — Did extensive repairs on buildings.
- 1862 Q. I. Collins — Brilliant orator and preacher.
- 1864 Valentine Buck
- 1865 John W. Selleck — Compiled first church history.
- 1868 John W. Ackerly
- 1870 J. Chester Hoyt
- 1871 William Stevens — Remembered as orator and preacher.
- 1874 Oscar Haviland
- 1875 George W. Knapp — Purchase of pipe organ.
- 1878 William H. Evans
- 1880 W. F. Brush — Successful pastor — Built first chapel.

PASTORAL LIST

- 1884 J. P. Hermance
- 1886 J. K. Wardle
- 1888 Van Ness Traver — Remodeled parsonage.
- 1892 Robert S. Crawford — Organization and planning for new church begun.
- 1893 David Phillips — Present church building erected.
- 1898 Platt N. Chase — Cemetery fence erected.
- 1901 Jesse Ackerman — Gas lighting installed in church.
- 1904 Benjamin H. Burch — Reserve delegate to General Conference.
- 1906 J. W. Ackerly — Retired after 49 years service — Union Lutheran and Episcopal.
- 1909 W. F. Brush — Conference Secretary for six years.
- 1911 T. Basil Young — Later Education Supt. New York Council of Churches and Religious Education.
- 1913 Isaac M. Foster — Died in pastorate.
- 1916 Raymond Coutant
- 1918 Roscoe Tarbox
- 1919 J. E. Spenser
- 1923 J. A. Hurn
- 1925 Conrad E. Metzger
- 1932 William R. Blackie
- 1935 S. S. Robbins
- 1936 Donald S. Stacey
- 1941 William R. Phinney — Chaplain, World War II
- 1942 William A. Tieck
- 1943 Newton Sundstrom
- 1944 Ottis Linger
- 1947 M. Charles Adam, D.D. — Hammond Organ and Chimes installed.
- 1958 Donald Charles — Church basement fixed for S.S.
- 1961 Dixon McGrath — Supply, Local Preacher.
- 1961 Russel E. Sargent — Red Hook Church becomes a station, plans for new Educational Center.



REV. RUSSELL SARGENT

PREFACE

On this great day of the 125th Anniversary of the Red Hook Methodist Church we are aware of the immense labors, sacrifices, and generousities of those who love the Lord through the years. It is a privilege for me to be the pastor of this church at this epoch in the church's life. God has seen fit to bring us together that we might work for His kingdom. With prayer and supplication we ask God for His continued guidance, inspiration and direction of His Holy Spirit for the future as He has in the past.

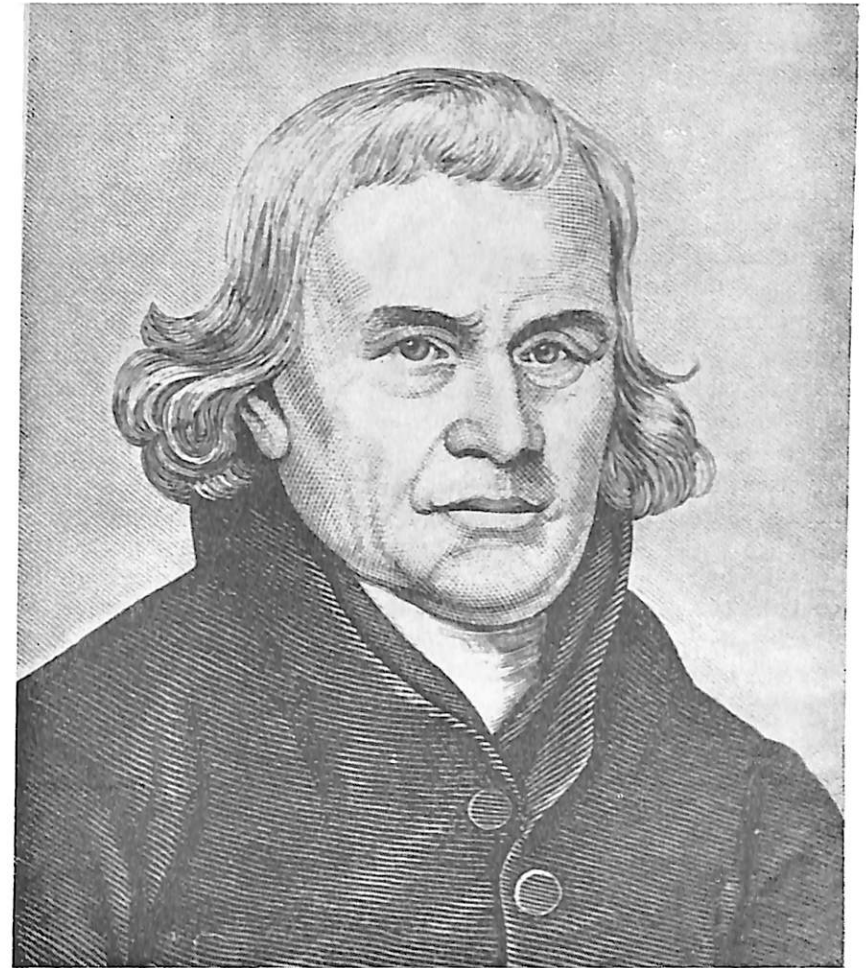
Let us ask the question, what is the purpose of the church. Certainly we must lay a broad base that the church might be relevant in the day and world we live. Let us mention only a few and add more as we are led. As in the primitive fellowship of the Disciples with their Lord; we are called to the leading of children, youth and adults to the saving love of Jesus Christ; it is providing a spirit of love where growth, understanding, and where disagreements may come about without its members and others being scandalized; it is providing educational facilities sufficient for our youth and a sanctuary conducive to the spirit of God; it is a family fellowship where joys, sorrows, fears and mistakes can be shared without its members shunning one another or using this confidence for news; it is the challenging of all youth to feel the call to a vocation that they can serve their Lord; it is to provide service for all its members in which they can put their faith into works; and it is to provide the oneness of all faiths in the total worship and doing of God's will.

We express our gratitude to Mr. Walter Miller, Columbia County historian, who has served as historian with the permission of the Dutchess County historian. We want to thank those who have contributed to the cost of the publishing of this booklet. We wish to thank the History and Records Committee, Fred Briggs, Harris Cook-ingham, Anna Mae Smith, Elroy Hand, and Mrs. Ernest Feller and all others who have assisted in any way to this celebration.

The sources of this booklet are the following: (1) the journals, records, and Quarterly Conference reports of this church, (2) the 100th Anniversary Blue Booklet of this church, (3) the New York Annual Conference journals, (4) and the histories of the Methodist Church and civil history of the county. The Conference records list this church as, "The Red Hook Mission" in the years 1927-1928. You will note that the word "Episcopal" has been deleted from the official church name by the request of the Annual Conference to the New York State Legislature in 1965.

Rev. Russell E. Sargent, *Pastor*

HISTORY



BISHOP FRANCIS ASBURY

This year of 1965 marks the 125th anniversary of the founding of organized Methodist in the Red Hook area. Although the earliest known record in connection with the establishment of Red Hook Mission on a regular basis dates back from about 1840, the story of Methodism in this locality really extends back into the closing decades of the 18th century, to the time of the historic Conference held at New York City in the Old John Street Church in 1788. It was at this conference that *Bishop Francis Asbury*, the "Father of Methodism in America", asked Freeborn Garretson to take charge of a group of nine young men and "extend the march of the Church up the Hudson".

Garretson was a native of Maryland and had been ordained a minister in 1775 at the age of 23 years. This man was regarded by Asbury as one of his most trusted helpers. How well he fulfilled that trust here in the Hudson Valley is a matter of history.

The history of the conference has it that, after organizing his men, Garretson and one of his helpers came upriver and stopped at Poughkeepsie. Earlier there they met Dr. Thomas Tillotson, also a Marylander, who invited them to visit him at his home in Rhinebeck. While at the Tillotson home, Garretson preached a number of times in a barn on the Tillotson estate, and when he and his helper left the area, "Rhinebeck had been added to the Circuit then forming". This was Dutchess Circuit dating from 1788, with Cornelius Cook and Andrew Harpending the first men in charge. Tillotson had married Margaret B. Livingston, sister of the Chancellor and member of one of the oldest and most prominent families in the Valley. It was while at the Tillotson home that Garretson met Catherine Livingston, sister of his hostess and, according to one account, already interested in Methodism.

Garretson's next stop on his way northward was at Clermont, home of the Chancellor and his mother, Margaret B. Livingston the elder. The family at Clermont was deeply moved and impressed by their visitor's manner, devout conversation, and earnest prayers, but when they learned of his deep interest in, and attachment to, Catherine Livingston, opposition developed which, for a time, threatened the growing relationship between the two. This situation became acute in 1793, but all obstacles were later withdrawn and the parental blessing given. Freeborn Garretson and Catherine Livingston were united in marriage in the Methodist Church in Rhinebeck, June 30, 1793. Rev. Peter Moriarty, close friend of Garretson, performed the ceremony.

For some time after his marriage Garretson was active in the Philadelphia District. The following year, however, he returned to Dutchess as Presiding Elder of the District, and located at Rhinebeck, which became his headquarters for the remainder of his life. The District of which he had charge at one time extended from New Rochelle to Lake Champlain, and from along the New England Border to Utica.

During the early years of their residence in Dutchess County, the Garretsons lived in a small house not far from the old Methodist Church which was located on the Milan Road, some distance out of the Village. In 1799 however they occupied Wildercliffe, the lovely home located overlooking the Hudson some little distance below Rhinecliff. This was the place called "Traveler's Rest" by Bishop Asbury who often visited there.



REV. FREEBORN GARRETSON

The exact extent of the labors of these early-day stalwarts is unknown, but one can be reasonably certain that they were active in every place in the area where there was possibility of establishing a Society, this section as elsewhere. Garretson was active in many places up and down the Hudson, and Billy Hibbard, ordained at Rhinebeck by Bishop Asbury in 1813, covered a dozen miles and more each way from his base. One tale has it that the hamlet of "Hardscrabble" had already become the forerunner of the present Village of Red Hook by the time of Hibbard's ordination. In 1806 Rhinebeck was named a District with Dutchess, Lebanon, South Britan and Pittsfield Circuits, and, in 1829, Dutchess and Milan Circuit with A. M. Osborn and Andrew Harpending as Riders, is listed as reaching well up into Columbia County.

According to Rev. J. W. Selleck's history of Methodism in this area, Red Hook was originally an appointment on the Milan Circuit and supplied with only occasional preaching, this sometime prior to 1840. Another researcher, also a Methodist Clergyman, has it that Rev. J. B. Matthias was serving "Red Hook Mission" in 1827-28. This is substantiated by Conference records, and would indicate at least an attempt to establish Methodism here somewhat earlier than commonly supposed.

From all accounts these early itinerants preached and held services wherever they could find place, and Mrs. Christina Moul who came to this village from Milan sometime about 1840, was in the habit of offering them use of her home. This house was located just south of the present Lutheran cemetery, and known in later years as the *Peter Dodd place*. Rev. Samuel Cochran, another worker of the early days, held services in the old schoolhouse, located on, or near, the site of the school destroyed by fire in 1936.



PETER DODD HOME

In 1840 the Red Hook appointment was made a station and called Red Hook Mission, with Rev. Albert Nash in charge, this again according to Rev. Selleck. Services were held in what was then called *Fancher's Hall*, located in the rear of the *Elseffer*, later *Anderson*,



FANCHER'S HALL

house. It was during Rev. Nash's pastorate that a parcel of land was purchased from Samuel Fancher, a small building erected thereon, and services held therein. This building was located on Divison, now Graves, Street, and was later sold to Orson Graves and used for a time as a tin shop. This structure, still standing, was later used by the Elseffers as a carriage house. The building shown herewith could well be the one referred to, the general style of construction belongs to the period, and the location fits the description given in the old record. Membership was small, not over a dozen at first. Among these were Samuel Fancher, Christina Moul, and Mrs. Jane Nicks. Other early members were Hannah Cookingham, admitted in 1836; and Griffin and Catherine Barringer, Gertrude and Charlotte Benedict, Cordelia Jackson and Catherine Traver, all dating from 1843. One pastor of a later day who questioned some of the older members found that they could not all remember the date of their reception into the church.

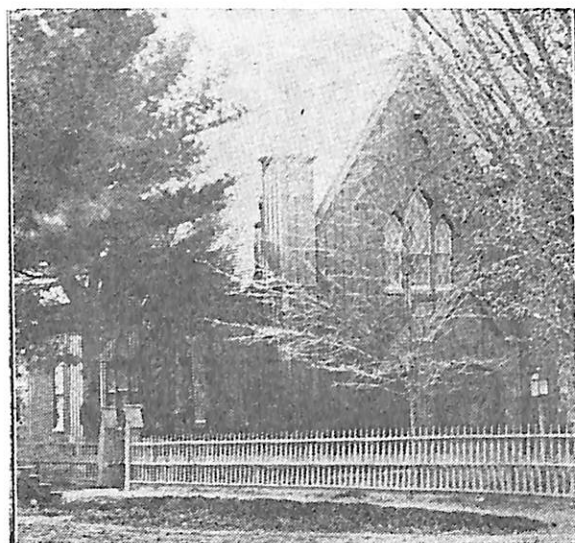
Rev. Bartholomew Creagh was named to Red Hook in the spring of 1841. This man was an able worker and powerful preacher, and drew a number of the more prominent families of the neighborhood into the fold of the growing church. Mrs. W. B. Astor, Mrs. Edward Livingston, and the wife and daughter of Col. Armstrong became regular attendants. Mrs. Barton and Mrs. Mary Garretson were also worshippers.

From the time of its first settlement, this entire section had been served by Dutch and German Reformed, and Lutheran churches. These were firmly established, and this rendered it difficult indeed for a newcomer in the ranks to gain a foothold. At about this time however, the old German Reformed Church was converted to a Lutheran organ-

ization. A goodly number of the following were not too well pleased by this change, and some of them became Methodists. A very successful revival also took place during Creagh's pastorate, and the fruits of this also added to the Church's membership.

Rev. Charles B. Sing came to the pastorate in 1843, and a goodly number were added to the flock during his stay. Rev. O. V. Ammerman then served the church for two years, and was followed by Rev. W. C. Hoyt who remained for one season.

It must have been at about this time, or a little earlier, that the members of the growing organization acquired the land on Cherry Street that was to serve as a final resting place for their dead. Actual date of the purchase of this land is unknown, tradition places it at about 1848 which would make it coeval with the acquisition of the present church site on West Marker St. There have been a goodly number of burials in this lot down through the years, and the inscriptions on some of the earlier stones are no longer eligible. The oldest that can be deciphered places the date of death as 1847. This cemetery was mapped in 1856 and stands today, well kept and tended, a reminder of the earlier days of Methodism in Red Hook.



1848 CHURCH

It was during the pastorate of Rev. James N. Shaffer, who came to Red Hook in May of 1848, that talk began regarding the erection of a new building, the Society had grown and more room was needed. Gilbert Fraleigh and, "others named in the deed", conveyed land to the organization. This property was that upon which the present church buildings are located, and offered the organization an excellent site

for a new building. This land was conveyed for "\$1.00 and other valuable considerations", for church purposes only, and the deed contained a reversion clause. Trustees for the Society at this time were Abijah G. Benedict, William Waldorf, David Wager, Christian G. Barringer, and Richard Nicks.

Contract for the erection of the building was awarded to Jonathan Beers of Bridgeport, Conn., cost \$1,700.00. The building was cut and framed in Bridgeport, shipped by water to Barrytown, and then transported to Red Hook and erected upon the site chosen. From all accounts, and from an old photograph, this early church building must have been typical of the so-called "Victorian Gothic" style of ecclesiastical architecture so popular at the time. One man who preached in the old building speaks of its vaulted "galleried interior", filled with "dim religious light" from its arched windows.

This building was dedicated in the autumn of 1849 by the Rev. G. F. Kettell, D.D., of Poughkeepsie, who preached the dedicatory sermon in the morning, and presided at the formal dedicatory service in the afternoon, at which the sermon was delivered by the Rev. L. M. Vincent. This building program did not stop with the completion of the church, for it was also during Rev. Shaffer's pastorate that the first parsonage was erected, this on, or near the site of the present manse which indeed may be but an enlargement of the original building. Pastor Shaffer seems to have built both wisely and well from both temporal and spiritual points of view.

Rev. Oliver Ammerman, who came to the Red Hook pastorate for the second time in 1855, must have been both surprised and delighted with the growth of the little group that had once convened in Fancher's Hall. During the pastorate of Rev. T. W. Chadwick, 1860-62, the church building was extensively repaired and renovated.

1866 marked the Centennary of Methodism in America, and the event was observed with fitting ceremony and acclaim by the local church, \$120.00 was given by the Congregation for the furtherance of this program. A new reed organ was also purchased for the church at this time. Miss Georgianna Andrews was named organist, a post that she filled both ably and well for many years. In the autumn of 1867 the interior of the church was refurbished and improved, pews were cushioned, a marble slab purchased for the altar, as well as new altar and pulpit chairs. The old fixtures, the ones original with the church, were moved to the parsonage. There were many new names received into membership at this time and, in 1868, Pastor Sellerk compiled the church history that has served as basis for every account of the organization written since that time.

In February and March of 1877, the church building was lengthened by 12 feet, new floors laid, pews rearranged, new lamps installed and new carpeting. A pipe organ was also purchased at this time.

Rev. George C. Ezray preached at both morning and evening services when the church was reopened, March 25, 1877. It was also sometime during that month that the church choir presented a concert with James L. Gilbert of Boston presiding at the console of the newly installed organ.

A number of revival meetings were held down through the years, those of the winter of 1869 added about 30 to the membership of the Society. Extra services were also held during the pastorate of Rev. Geo. W. Knapp, who was assisted by Rev. A. Hunt of the New York Conference. Special meetings also resulted in the addition of a number of memberships in 1882 and '83.

The young people's portion of the program must have also been on the increase, for it was at about this time that the chapel was built to accommodate the Sunday School which previously had held meetings in the church auditorium. H. H. Conklin and B. B. Hoffman were building committee in charge, and this structure, costing \$1,400.00, was opened in the autumn of 1882. Rev. J. N. Shaffer, during whose pastorate the church had been erected, was present and delivered an address. The entire Sunday School program was reorganized during the pastorate of Rev. J. P. Hermance, 1884-87.

Building again came to the fore in 1890 when the old parsonage was completely remodeled at a cost of some \$2,000.00. A new heating system was installed in the building at the time. Committee in charge was composed of Pastor Rev. V. N. Traver, D. W. Wilbur, and Le Grand Curtiss.

The next man to serve the church at Red Hook was Rev. Robert S. Crawford, who arrived from the South Dakota Conference in 1892. This man was to remain at Red Hook for less than a year, but it was during his pastorate that the long-discussed project of a new church building to house the growing congregation at Red Hook, began to become something more than a cherished hope, and to take concrete form. On the evening of October 3, 1892, the Official Board gathered in the chapel and outlined the preliminary plans for the building of a new church. Present at this gathering were: Rev. R. S. Crawford, H. L. Cookingham, D. W. Wilbur, D. G. Hodges, R. G. Fraleigh, P. E. Fraleigh, E. F. Massonneau, John A. Fraleigh, and B. S. Hutchings.

The sum of eight thousand dollars was to be pledged before building operations could begin. Of this amount B. B. Hoffman and Edward Martin had already pledged one thousand dollars each. The Official Board, headed by the Pastor, was to be Committee in charge of solicitations of funds and, by April 5, 1893, \$4,800.00 had already been pledged. Pastor Crawford was moved to another charge at this time and replaced by Rev. David Phillips. At a Board meeting held May 1, 1893, B. B. Hoffman informed his fellow members that, if six thousand dollars could be pledged, the additional two thousand would be forthcoming. The needed balance was secured and Edward

Martin pledged the additional money needed to begin building operations. This man also gave the bell for the new church and, in addition, the land for the church sheds.

B. B. Hoffman, Edward Martin, Dr. H. L. Cookingham, and Rev. D. Phillips were named as building committee and, on May 19, 1893, Corydon Wheeler of Poughkeepsie was commissioned to draw plans and specifications for the new building, these were delivered June 24, 1893, cost, \$150.00. Contract for the building was awarded to Daniel Van DeBogart of Red Hook for \$6776.00, David Kipp and Sons, also of Red Hook, to do the carpenter work. This contract was signed July 19, 1893.

The final service in the old church building was held on the evening of July 23, 1893. On Monday, July 31st following, workmen began taking down the old building. The new church was to stand approximately on the site of the old, with 13 feet added to the front and 8 feet to the west. The corner stone of the new building was laid by Pastor Phillips at a special service held on Aug. 26, 1893 (see front cover of booklet).

During the interval while their new church was being erected, the Methodists had transferred church activities to Massonneau Hall in the Village. At about this time however, illness forced the pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Red Hook to relinquish his duties, and the Lutheran and Methodist congregations united with Pastor Phillips serving both. Services were held in St. Paul's and collections divided between the two groups. Sunday School and other church activities of the Methodists however remained at *Massonneau Hall* upstairs.



MASSONNEAU HALL

The new church and chapel were dedicated on Thursday, Feb. 4, 1894. This was an all-day service which opened at 10:30 A.M. at which time Rev. Geo. W. Miller, D.D., was speaker. In the afternoon the sermon was delivered by Bishop Edward G. Andrews, D.D., and the building presented for dedication by Dr. H. L. Cookingham, President of the Board of Trustees. Bishop Andrews presided at the dedication, assisted by Rev. Richard H. Travis and other members of the Clergy. A platform meeting was held in the evening with divers of the former pastors of the church addressing the gathering.

Total cost of the new building was \$10,004.00. After some discussion, it was decided that the old organ, purchased in 1877, be retained for a time at least.

Special meetings were held in January of 1899, and a number joined the church on probation. About four years after dedication the church, chapel, and parsonage were repainted and the walks flagged and curbed. Church and parsonage grounds were graded and bathroom installed in the parsonage in 1901. In 1900 the church became a unit in the fire protection system of the Village and surrounding area when its bell was incorporated in the new electric fire alarm system in the steeple. This hook-up remained in use for many years.

During the pastorate of Rev. Dr. Jesse Ackerman the audience room of the church was thoroughly renovated, walls frescoed, and gas lighting installed to replace the old kerosene illumination. The change-over from kerosene to gas was supervised by H. E. Miller. Dr. Ackerman was called to a higher charge in 1907, his ministry at Red Hook is recalled as a rich and productive one.

Financial conditions in 1905 brought about the introduction of the envelope system of church finance under the direction of Miss Susie Gedney, who had been named to take charge of the monetary affairs of the organization. This lady's labor and careful management carried the church safely through the depressions of 1907, 1921, and 1929, and also the trying years of the First World War. Miss Gedney's genius and ability served her church both ably and well until her retirement as Treasurer in 1935 and as Trustee a year later.

Among the other members of the church whose service to the Society can be reckoned in decades instead of years are: John A. Galvin, who served as Secretary of the Official Board 1901-1953-54; Dr. H. L. Cookingham, who served ably and well for some 40 years in divers capacities; E. F. Massoneau, who was active for more than 50 years; and Ernest Coons, J. A. Fraleigh, H. G. Clearwater, J. A. Curtiss, and others who devoted years to the service of the Society.

Red Hook must have been a charge to which older men were named during this period. J. W. Ackerly, who came to the field in 1906, retired at the end of 1908, terminating 49 years of Ministerial

service; and W. J. Brush who came in 1909, sought and secured a superannuated relationship in April of 1911.

In March of 1911, Dr. H. L. Cookingham turned over to the church the Certificate of Incorporation, the deed for church and parsonage, deed for church sheds, and agreement regarding use of the church bell as part of the fire alarm system. At Quarterly Conference it was moved, seconded, and carried, that the officers of the Church be organized into an Official Board. An individual Communion Service for use of the congregation was purchased in 1913, and much more work done in connection with the lecture room.

In May of 1914, Mrs. Mary Nicks, oldest member of the congregation, passed away at a very advanced age.

Rev. Dr. I. M. Foster, who came to Red Hook in May of 1914, was called to his final charge in December of the following year, the first pastor to die while serving the charge.

In 1916 an Official Board Committee under direction of Curtiss Fraleigh revised and rearranged the church records, the first such overhauling of the archives since 1868. Mr. Fraleigh again headed a committee which brought the records down to date in 1936. Electric lighting in the church apparently dates from some time after May of 1917, at which time a Committee composed of Miss Crouse, George Ham, William Meade, and John Kilmer were named to take charge of the matter and procure figures thereon.

Plans for painting the church and redecoration of the chapel were in order in 1924.

Mention of Milan in connection with Red Hook apparently begins sometime in May of 1925. This connection endured until 1936 when Milan was removed from the circuit and replaced by Elizaville. The old church sheds and property were sold to Wilford Metzger in 1938 (corner of W. Market and Church Sts.), and that same year one finds mention of selling the parsonage "if same can be done legally".

In 1937, during the pastorate of Rev. D. S. Stacey, the first history of the Red Hook Church to be compiled since that of Rev. Selleck in 1868, was published. 1940 marked the Centennial of the church in Red Hook and "a celebration" is mentioned in the church annals. 1944 marked the 50th anniversary of the present church building. This was observed with a fellowship dinner held on Thursday, February 10th. Guest speaker for the occasion was the late Rev. Dr. Howard D. McGrath of Poughkeepsie. Devotions for the evening were in charge of Rev. N. F. Sundstrom, Pastor of the church; Herman Wilkens was present as guest soloist, with Louis Rhynders as accompanist. The history of the local church was presented by Mrs. N. F. Sundstrom. Mrs. Curtiss

Fraleigh, Mr. and Mrs. John Kilmer, Alvah Fraleigh, Mrs. Mervin Coons, and J. A. Galvin, all of whom had been present at the dedicatory services a half-century before, were present. Guests of the gathering were: Mrs. W. R. Phinney, wife of a former pastor now serving with the armed forces as Chaplain, Mrs. M. Paul S. Huntington, Mrs. Hermann F. Vesper, and Mrs. Charles Rignall, also Mrs. Chester Hapemann and Mrs. Earl Sherman representing the Elizaville congregation. Addresses of congratulations were given by Rev. M. P. S. Huntington, Rector of Christ Episcopal Church of Red Hook; Rev. Hermann F. Vesper, Pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Red Hook; and Rev. Fred L. Lars, Pastor of the Methodist Church of Rhinebeck; and a greeting read from Rev. Chester E. McCahan, Pastor of St. John's Reformed Church of Upper Red Hook who was unable to be present.

In 1948 a new organ and chimes replaced the instrument that had been in use since 1877. The old organ had been fitted with an electric blower about 1922-23, and had rendered yeoman service for nearly three-quarters of a century.

When the West Market Street portion of Highway No. 199 was widened in 1951, a portion of the church property was involved. For the land thus relinquished the church received the sum of \$1475.00. According to action of the Official Board, this money, or a goodly portion thereof, was to be used for repairs to the chimneys of both church and parsonage, repairs to the front and rear porches of the parsonage, painting of the chapel, garage, and parsonage roofs, and painting of the parsonage. Subsequent entries indicate that these plans were carried out. The much discussed "new roof" and siding for the church, so often mentioned in church minutes during the latter 40's, must have been attended to prior to this date or they would have been mentioned here also.

The above events took place during the pastorate of Rev. M. Charles Adam, D.D., who came to Red Hook in 1947 and, according to record, was succeeded by Rev. Donald Charles in 1958. The church groups were reorganized or reactivated, and some additional members added to the congregation. It was during Pastor Charles's pastorate at Red Hook that a portion of the church endowment was used for some much needed repairs and changes that added some 2000 square feet of much needed floor space to that already in use.

Pastor Charles left Red Hook in September of 1960 and, for some 7 or 8 months the church was minus the services of a Conference named pastor. During this interval Dixon McGrath, son of the late Rev. H. D. McGrath, D.D., worthy son of a worthy father, served the charge ably and well as local preacher. All lay units and organizations of the church remained active and rendered fine support wherever needed during this interval.

Rev. Russell E. Sargent, present Pastor, came to the Red Hook-Elizaville charge on April 1, 1961. During the interval that has elapsed since that time, the congregation at Red Hook has increased to 255, with 153 on the Preparatory Membership roll. A nine months Confirmation Class has been conducted each year during Church School time.

Growth has been steady, and in 1963 the home church voted to "Go Station", a move that became a reality in June of 1964. This year found the church at Red Hook with a budget of \$13,890., largest in the history of the organization and, incidentally, the only budget in the history of the church to be oversubscribed. This is a far cry indeed from the \$2,700. budget of the middle 1950's. It was in 1964 also that the New York and New York East Conferences united.

In the autumn of 1964 the church gave its approval to the engagement of an architect, and the launching and conducting of a campaign for the financing of the construction of a new Educational Unit to be erected on the present parking lot south of the existing Sanctuary. This drive netted \$43,500.00 in three-year pledges.



PROPOSED EDUCATIONAL UNIT

The old barn-garage on the parking lot was torn down in 1963. Since 1962 the four local Protestant Churches have been co-operating in a yearly vacation church-school. A Protestant Chaplaincy has been organized for the Northern Dutchess Hospital, and for the past three years, services have been held for the Migrant Worker groups. The Church and Church School have supported a Korean Orphan, and also work in Chile and Costa Rica. The church has also voted to sponsor a Cuban family, escapees from the Castro regime in Cuba, by the names of Carmen and her son Nelson Castellanos. Another first was the ordination of Miss Vivian Hand, the first to come from our church into the ministry, daughter of Mayor and Mrs. Elrody Hand.

AUXILIARIES

Perhaps the oldest of the Auxiliaries connected with the church is the Sunday School. This organization dates far back in the annals of the church and, in all probability was set up at about the same time as the church itself. Available records date from Jan. 23, 1887.

Today the Society has a fully-graded Church School with a membership of some 224, with two Youth Fellowships, 53 participating, and a Home Extension Service with 55 on the roll. Week-day sessions and activities have an average attendance of 80, and church attendance average 140.

Two other of the older auxiliaries, the Epworth League and the Junior League, dating from 1889 and 1894 respectively, have their present-day counterparts in the Junior and Senior Groups of the Methodist Youth Fellowship.

Active Commissions on: Missions, Membership and Evangelism, Christian Social Concerns, Stewardship and Finance, Worship and Fine Arts, Communion, and Hospitals and Homes, all have their places in the church program. The Women's Society for Christian Service is active and well-staffed. The Methodist Men's Club has been reactivated during the past year, and the Golden Club for older members organized, the Couples' Club has a high average of attendance. Contact is kept with some 14 college students of the church and two have gone into the Peace Corps.

LINK WITH THE PAST

The strawberry festival, still a highlight of the social program, is first mentioned "Festival" in church records of 1865, and as the Strawberry Festival the year following. The "Donation", later termed "The Annual Visit" was another prominent event of an earlier day.

It can also be noted that our church has had young men and women in wars which involved the United States from the Civil War through to the present Vietnam struggle.

It may truly be said that the combined efforts of Clergy and Laity have indeed made the Methodist Church of Red Hook very much a going concern. One can only hope that the coming century and a quarter will witness still further growth and development of the church.

On September 12th Bishop Lloyd C. Wicke, Resident Bishop of the New York Area, brought the morning message at the 125th Anniversary celebration in the 11:00 a.m. worship service, and the congregation dedicated to the service of God.

MEMBERS OF THE OFFICIAL BOARD

Trustees

Herbert Conkey
Robert Bownman
Fred Briggs

Russell Keefe
Robert Beane
Elroy Hand

William Johnson Jr.
William Smith
Calvin Whitney

Elective Stewards

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Lawrence Hagen
Mrs. Donald Hague
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Mrs. Richard Iraca
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Roger Joseph
Mrs. Russell Keefe
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Krumm
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local preacher
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George Reid
W. Michael Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Wm. O. Smith
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Mrs. Lawrence Thomas
Mrs. Dorothy Triebel
Thomas Wesolka
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William Johnson

Parsonage Committee
W. S. C. S.

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Vocations*
Mrs. Russell Sargent

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*Lay Members of the
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Commission on Membership and Evangelism

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Kenneth Williams
Harriet Johnson

George Hildenbrand
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Krumm
Mr. & Mrs. Robt. Bowman

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Eleanor Keefe, Chairman
Kenneth Williams
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John Lidington
Thomas Wesolka

Jean Krumm
Betty Tabor
Joan Morrison
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Roger Clark
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Herbert Simmons
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Helen Whitney, Chairman
Helen Hagen

Anna Mae Smith
Mary Briggs
Carol Barnes

Judith Thomas
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MEMBERS OF THE OFFICIAL BOARD

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Harriet Johnson, Chairman	Mrs. George Dolecal, Greeters
Helen Roberts, Organist	Mary Briggs, Memorials
Billie Adams, Altar	Fred Brammer, Choir Director
Harriet Johnson, Flowers	William Johnson, Head Usher
Alma Bowman, Ushers	

Church-School Superintendent

Kenneth Williams

Secretaries of Stewardship

Fred Brammer Milford Morrison

<i>Communion Stewards</i>	<i>Hospitals & Homes Stewards</i>	<i>Recording Steward</i>
Mrs. Elwood A'Brial	Anna Mae Smith	Jean Krumm
Mrs. Richard Iraca	Billie Adams	

Other Officers

James Crisp, Conference Develop Crusade
Donald Brooks, Auditor

Committee on Pastoral Relations

James Crisp	Russell Keefe	Augustus Lawson
Ruth Zimmer	Myrtle Aucock	Lawrence Hagen
Robert Beane	Fred Briggs	Heads of Commissions

Committee on Records and History

Fred Briggs	Harris Cookingham	Mrs. Ernest Feller
Anna Mae Smith	Elroy Hand	Ruth Zimmer

Other Committees

Cemetery: Fred Briggs, Merric Coons, George Tabor, Ludwig Schuler
News Letter Editor: Anna Brooks *Illustrator:* Helen Dodds

Local Crusade

Pastor	Rev. Russell Sargent
General Chairman for Crusade Program	Fred Brammer
Chairman of Large Gifts	James Crisp
General Visitation	John Lidington
Prayer Vigil	Janet Thomas
Hospitality	Thomas Wesolka
Publicity	William Johnson, Tommie Dodds

Building Committee

George Reid, Robert Beane and Fred Brammer, Chairmen; Finance, John Lidington; Plans, Bill Dodds, Albert Hejnal, Mike Smith; Publicity, William Johnson Jr.; Hospitality, Thomas Wesolka; Trustees, Herbert Conkey; W. S. C. S., Judith Thomas; Church School, Eleanor Keefe.