

N. MEMOIRS

FULL MEMBERS – RETIRED

Edwin Bradford Towle: Born 1-24-1925 – Died 5-31-19
 Harold (Hal) Orvis Perry, Jr.: Born 5-26-1936 – Died 6-16-2019
 Franklin A. Nash, Jr.: Born 12-6-1932 – Died 2-17-20
 Bruce Edward Cornely: Born 11-10-1933 – Died 5-16-20

SPOUSE OF RETIRED FULL MEMBERS

Doris Friesz Lange: Born 9-9-1936 – Died 5-16-19
 Susan Kay Patrick Norman: Born 4-3-1949 – Died 6-20-19
 Patricia Lynn Hill O’Donnell: Born 6-27-1949 – Died 11-30-19

SPOUSES OF DECEASED FULL MEMBERS

Velma Irene Gardner Green: Born 7-7-1921 – Died 10-16-19
 Barbara Patch Showalter: Born 11-19-1935 – Died 11-30-19
 Geraldine “Geri” Ann Vance: Born 7-1-1922 – Died 4-26-20
 Jack H. Severns: Born 5-25-1930 – Died 4-7-2020
 Elizabeth “Beth” Harrison Hanson: Born 12-12-1930 – Died 5-26-20

SPOUSES OF DECEASED LOCAL PASTORS

John Russell Weir: Born 5-25-1936 – Died 6-19-19

LAITY IN THE LIFE OF THE CONFERENCE WHO HAVE DIED SINCE THE LAST ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Janet Kaiser ~ Jama Letuu Orphanage + Hope for the Children of Africa,
 WJ UMVIM coordinator
 Connie McBride ~ Inland District Lay Leader
 Myrna Overstreet ~ Bishops Award for Deaconess Children’s Services
 LeRoy Schoot ~ CLM in Goldendale and District Committee on Ordained Ministry
 Ruth Steach ~ PNW UMW, Bishop’s Award, original namesake + first recipient of
 Ruth Award
 Burl B. Wyckoff ~ PNW Conference Lay Leader

These individuals will be honored next year at the 2021 Annual Conference Memorial Service. Their Memoirs will be printed in the 2021 Pacific Northwest Annual Conference Journal.



DISCONTINUED CHURCHES

NORTH MASON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (1992-2020) —

North Mason United Methodist Church in Belfair, Washington was chartered on November 29, 1992 with Bishop Calvin D. McConnell preaching and presiding. The church had its roots in a Bible Fellowship group that organically began in October of 1988. The first gathering of the Belfair United Methodist Fellowship was held November 18, 1988 in the basement of the Belfair Community Baptist Church with 16 adults, 2 teenagers and 10 children present. Adult bible study moved from being held at the Fire Station to the Library. Once a month the Shelton UMC pastor came to serve communion and hold worship services. The Mary E. Theler Community Center was to be the location for the fledgling group from March 4, 1990, under leadership of the retired Reverend Bill Foster and Pastor Philip Harrington who came in October of 1991. On the first Sunday of Advent in 1992, the new NMUMC was chartered with 57 chartering members.

The next steps for the church were to grow with community service activities, worship and numbers to fill the Theler Center each Sunday morning as the chairs were set up for worship, the altar display and banners were hung and fellowship including potlucks followed the service. The Log Cabin Plaza was the administrative location for the church where youth activities, meetings of the new Board of Trustees, Administrative Council and the UMW were held. Fundraisers began for the dream of a building to house the growing group.

In December of 1993, a parcel of land had been acquired north of Belfair just beyond the railroad bridge on State Route 3. Now the reality of a special place was taking shape. Golf tournaments, rummage sales and pledges of donation grew the building fund. Construction on the new building began on January 17, 2000 and was completed in March of 2001 with many hours of sweat equity provided by the men and women of the congregation. The Sanctuary furnishings were accented with metal and glass which were selected to support prayerful worship for all who entered the space. The “Tree of Life” theme appeared throughout the sacred furnishings and the cross shaped window.

The beautiful welcoming space served as a place of worship, fellowship, celebration and hope. The church, throughout its history, had a unique outreach to the greater Belfair/Allyn community. Many church members and attendees also participated in outreach activities such as support for North Mason Food Bank, North Mason Resource Center, Faith in Action (HUB) senior activities, Coalition of Churches Youth Food program, North Mason Humane Society, Relay for Life, Wednesday Community Lunches, Youth Kayak Program as well as other school and musical groups. Intergenerational activities were at the core of the church programs and the groups had the typical Methodist appreciation for good food. In November of 2017, a celebration of the 25 years of ministry was held with many surviving charter members present.

Slowly the church experienced a numerical decline due to diminishing membership, elder residents needing to move to less remote services, an unsure business climate, and youth leaving the area. Solutions were attempted with change to part-time pastor appointment and yet the financial debt burden has taken its toll. On June 30, 2019, North Mason United Methodist Church held its final worship service. Although the church served for a brief time, there is still a need for the church in this area. It is with hope that the future will determine the form that the church will be again present to continue to “make disciples” and spread ministry to the people of Belfair, Allyn, and the Hood Canal region.

Pastors who have been appointed to the congregation at North Mason UMC from 1992 to 2019 include: Pastor P. Harrington, Pastor J. Harvey-Duncan, Pastor A. Aosved, Pastors A. Adkinson and spouse A. Adkinson (Lock), Pastor R. McCoy, Pastor A. Aosved for a short second appointment, Pastor D. Ford, and Pastor J. White.

—written by Rev. J. Mark Galang, Puget Sound Missional District Superintendent

MEAD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (1890-2020) — Our church in Mead had its beginnings in 1884 when the Rev. Mark Waltz conducted the first preaching service. Later, Elder Anderson was installed as the regular minister for the first Methodist Church in this territory (Peone Prairie) north of Spokane. This was before there was a village of Mead.

In 1888, the Rev. A J Loomis, circuit rider, and his family, arrived in the village of Mead, and in 1890, the Mead Methodist Episcopal Church was formally organized. Over the years the congregation resulting from this, met in six different Mead buildings including two on opposite corners of Bruce & Peone, the third one at 3707 E Third, the fourth one at 11820 N Market, the fifth one at Shady Slope & Farwell, and the sixth one located at 12611 N Wilson which also is the location of the Mead Food Bank.

Over the years sixty pastors served the church. In 2009 a Grand Celebration was held for the church’s 125th year. Mead United Methodist Church was a faithful church who served in many missions throughout the years, was a place of warm fellowship to several generations, and was proud of its rich history. The past four years (2016-2020) were more challenging as many members moved their membership to other churches and the remaining small group decided to file a lawsuit against the PNW Conference seeking to circumvent the trust clause. Upon resolution of those legal proceedings there weren’t any remaining members of The United Methodist Church, so we regretfully must close their charter as a United Methodist congregation.

—written by Rev. Gregg Sealey, Inland Missional District Superintendent

ROSALIA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (1888-2019) — German Methodism began in Rosalia in 1888, when the need for a church led Rev. George Hartung to hold services six miles south of Rosalia in a private home. He served as superintendent of the area and helped organize many early German Methodist Churches throughout Eastern Washington. English services began in 1908 when Rev. Roy O. Hadley began service in a hall. With more people continuing to move into the area, a church located at the same location as the present-day church was built and dedicated June 3, 1900. The building continued to evolve and was enlarged from 1912-1917. The social room and Sunday School room was built in 1938. During the construction, other churches in Rosalia were organized.

In 1917, Congregational, English Methodist Episcopal Churches united and formed the Federated Church. 1926 saw the dropping of Episcopal from the name. In 1936, continuing the uniting, the Federated and German Methodist Church Episcopal Church became the Rosalia Methodist Church. Rosalia was growing from 1900-1950s. After church members worked with architects to design updates for the church, members realized the best solution to enlarge the building was to start fresh but save the beautiful stained-glass windows from the old church. From 1956-1958 the current building was constructed.

The Rosalia Methodist pastor served Rosalia and Thornton with the parsonage and office in Rosalia but holding services in both churches. The church continued to evolve, becoming the Rosalia United Methodist Church in 1968, and Thornton United Methodist Church members uniting with the Rosalia congregation in the 1980s.

The evolution continues. Beginning in 2018 with discussions about their lack of financial sustainability church members began exploring connections with other churches in town. When people around town heard this, they saw an opportunity to convert Rosalia United Methodist Church into a non-denominational “community church,” and thus it was decided to structure this as a “disaffiliation” and ending the United Methodist charter rather than a “closure.” The remaining members have all transferred their membership to this new community church and the church’s vitality and viability has increased. The former United Methodist members declined to have a deconsecration worship service.

—written by Rev. Gregg Sealey, Inland Missional District Superintendent

SOUTH BEND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (1871-2020) — Methodism in South Bend began with the establishment of the Oysterville Circuit in 1871, with *Rev. John Denison*, its first pastor, serving the territory from Oysterville and the Palix to the Willapa Valley. In 1875, W.T. Chapman appointed a committee to build a church “at the sawmill in South Bend.” This was the first organized church in this community. The first members were Mrs. Fannie McDonnell, Mrs. Fannie Peoples and Mr. and Mrs. Louis Pederson. South Bend Methodist Episcopal Church was dedicated in 1890, thereby separating from the Oysterville Circuit, and later incorporated in 1898. The church moved to its current location in 1905 when members realized climbing the hill to church prevented many from attending. The new building was finally dedicated in 1912 with *Bishop Charles W. Smith* officiating. *Bishop Calvin McConnell* preached at the church’s 125th Anniversary celebration in 1996, urging the 150 people in attendance “to build bridges to other cultures and belief. By doing so, the church can help pull down the walls of suspicion and mistrust which divide humankind” (as reported in the *Willapa Harbor Herald* on February 21, 1996).

Many ministries were hallmarks for the congregation throughout its history including the United Methodist Women (formerly Ladies Aid and Women’s Society), music ministry, Christian education and community outreach. Helen Davis, the artist who composed “Washington My Home”, was a longtime member, church pianist for 40 years and choir director. The centrality of the church’s music ministry was seen in the longtime tenures of its musicians: Shiela Lavinder was church organist for 63 years, Phil Davis pianist for 28 years and Lew Chapman brass accompanist for 20 years. The church also took pride in joining the community response to the 1998 hotel fire in Raymond that gave birth to “Darlene’s store,” a ministry serving families in need for the past two decades.

Sixty pastors served the church throughout its 145-year history. Over the past two decades, South Bend UMC was a part of the Pacific Parish along with Bay Center UMC and the United Church of Raymond to form the Pacific Parish. South Bend UMC became a lay-led congregation in 2018 with dedicated laity continuing to offer meaning weekly worship with vibrant music and ongoing assistance to those in need in the community. The remaining church members voted to bring ministry to its faithful completion on June 28, 2020. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the church has not yet had a deconsecration service and hopes to hold one once it is safe to gather in person for worship.

—written by *Rev. Kathleen Weber, Crest to Coast Missional District Superintendent*

WALLACE-BURKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (1900-2020) —

Methodist preaching services began in the Wallace, Burke and Gem area in 1894 with Rev. W. H. Selleck as their first pastor. Their first church building was consecrated in 1900 and the parsonage in 1901. In the early 1900's the Methodist pastor, Rev. Charles MacCaughy and the Congregational pastor joined together in a drive to eliminate gambling and vice.

The towns of Wallace and Burke were both thriving, hard-living silver mining towns with reputations. It was during these early 1900's, however, that a group of youth rallied to lay the foundation of what would be the Wallace Methodist church. A new north-end addition was built between 1907-1908 to house the new pipe organ. Stained glass leaded windows were added in 1915 and a new entrance was added in 1930.

The Great Depression followed, then the ramp-up to World War II. The town's population began to dwindle with the closure of several mines. The 50th anniversary of Wallace Methodist Church was celebrated in 1944 with Bishop Bruce R. Baxter delivering the sermon.

In 1956 town leaders learned the new Interstate 90 being planned would wipe out the center of their town. Thus, began a long struggle for this little town as it worked to fight off the freeway. For a time, I-90 went through town on a road designated as US Route 10 and used main city streets through the downtown. Their rebellious streak is also evidenced by the fact that until 1991, Wallace had the last traffic light on the coast-to-coast Interstate highway (on I-90).

From 1942 until the 1980's (the exact timeline is unclear) Burke United Methodist Church operated as part of a two-point charge and shared a pastor with Wallace United Methodist Church. Upon merging they became Wallace-Burke United Methodist Church. Especially over the past decade (and accelerating over the past few years) the congregation dwindled to a handful of faithful servants. They have decided to close their United Methodist Charter and become a "fellowship group" that occasionally will meet in Wallace, while their membership will officially transfer to Community United Methodist Church in Coeur d'Alene, ID. They declined to have a deconsecration worship service and the building will be rented to a non-denominational prayer ministry that will have some significant caretaking responsibilities.

—written by Cathy Lang and Rev. Gregg Sealey, Inland Missional District Superintendent