

1864

Reverend William Butts

Pastor of the Peoria and Ohio City circuit began to preach in Ottawa occasionally, though he did not attempt to organize a church here.

Circuit riders, class meetings and conferences kept pace with the expansion of the west. They traveled on horseback with nothing in their saddlebag but scant clothing, their Bible and hymnals and books to sell. More than half of the circuit riders succumbed to the hardships of the wilderness and were dead before they reached thirty-five years of age.

Reverend William Butts, Peoria-Ohio City 1864

1865

Reverend T. S. Adams

Was assigned to the Ohio City circuit and later moved to Ottawa. See the panels about People for portions of his wife's autobiography.

1866

Reverend Farrell

At the 1866 conference, held in Baldwin City, the circuit name was changed to Ottawa and Rev. Farrell was appointed pastor. He lived in Baldwin City but did "some efficient work" in Ottawa. Rev. James Murray of Baldwin City, then an exhorter, worked with Rev. Farrell to organize the "First Methodist Society" in Ottawa in 1866.

1867-1868

Reverend H.P. Satchwell

“A live Yankee” as the early records describe him, came from Massachusetts to take this charge. The Western Home Journal, Ottawa’s first newspaper, said of him, “The Methodist Society is fortunate in the appointment of Rev. H.P. Satchwell to labor among them as a minister. He appears to be an intelligent and able gentleman and has thus far made a very favorable impression upon our people”. At the end of the year he went to Baker University and later transferred to the Minnesota conference for his health.

1868-1870

Reverend J.E. Nessley

He was sent from the Pittsburg conference. During his pastorate, the foundation of the first church at the northwest corner of 4th & Walnut was laid. During this year the Methodist Protestants disbanded and several joined this church. By the end of the year the church had grown to 100 members and probationers. In 1869 Rev. Nessley was returned to Ottawa and he renewed his efforts to complete the church building. The congregation was worshiping at Hamilton Hall at the northwest corner of Third and Main. In 1869 the basement of the new church was completed and services held there.

1870-1871

Reverend T.F. Houts

Rev. Rice in his history said, " He was an eloquent preacher and soon drew a large audience to the M.E. church. His health being feeble, he did but little outside work, but his superior preaching ability made him a great favorite among the people. During the winter, the church was visited with revival influences and some fifty souls professed conversion and united with the church on probation. At the end of the year, Brother Houts had to retire because of failing health. The church prospered because it was the largest in town, seating 600. It contained a lecture room, classroom and minister's study.

1871 (half a year)

Reverend H.D. Fisher

He was appointed by the conference from Atchison but was dissatisfied with the appointment and after a few months resigned to accept a position as agent at Baker University. With the church still under construction and without a pastor, it was discouraging to the congregation.

1871-1873

Reverend C.P. Rice

In October of 1871 Reverend C.P. Rice was appointed pastor. During his pastorate the church at 4th & Walnut was completed and dedicated . He wrote a history of the early days of the church in Ottawa.

“A little more enterprise and vital godliness would give Methodism a commanding influence in this place”

1873-1876

Reverend Bernard Kelley (Kelly)

1876-1879

Reverend B.R. Cherrington

1879-1881

Reverend G.W. Pye

1881-1883

Reverend T.J. Hanna

1883-1885

Reverend H.A. Tucker

Under Rev. Tucker’s ministry the east front of the church at 4th & Walnut was remodeled.

1885-1887
Reverend C.T. Guillette

1887-1889
Reverend F. Parker

1889-1892
Reverend C.E. Boaz

1892-1893
Reverend H.W. Chaffee

1893-1896
Reverend J.W. Stewart

March 1895 – Membership is 562 and the church is out of debt and the best spiritually and financially for 25 years.

1896-1898
Reverend H.J. Hoover

1898-1904

Reverend Cyrus S. Nusbaum



In 1900 he led in moving the parsonage to lots facing Walnut, remodeling it, adding to it and making it a modern convenient pastor's home. In 1902, Col. S.B. Rohrbaugh, at the solicitation of Rev. Nusbaum, agreed to give two dollars for every one the rest of the congregation would

give toward the erection of a new church. The building was completed and dedicated in August of 1903.

1904-1906

Reverend Alexander R. Maclean

Very human, frank and bluntly direct

1906-1907

Reverend J.F. Jenness

Dignified and reserved - scholarly

1907-1910

Reverend J.D. Smith

The Evangelist, friendly and a good pastor

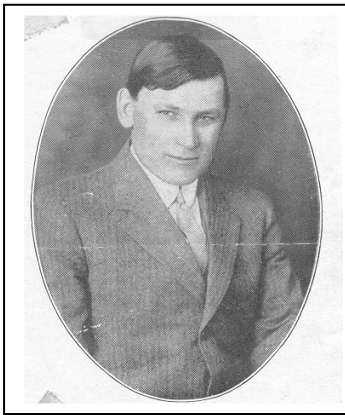
1910-1914

Reverend John Maclean

A great spiritual leader and preacher

1914-1918

Reverend Fred Bailey

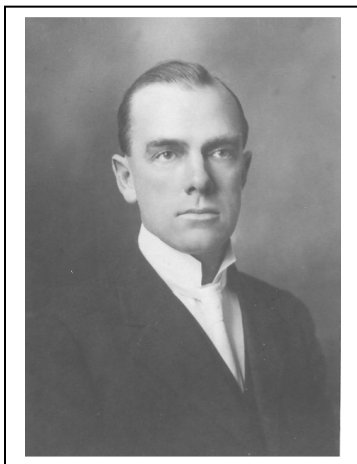


Dr. Bailey said these were his beginning days and that they were happy days. As a young pastor, he took charge of this big church here and he will be long remembered by many of its members.

The United States was involved in World War I from April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918.

1918-1921

Reverend Harry C. Case



Was killed in a tragic automobile accident October 1, 1921. In the midst of goodly work, tragedy entered in. He was killed at a railway crossing at 7th and Walnut. Probably this was the most startling thing that had entered the church history.

1921-1925

Reverend Franklin F. Lewis

The Sunday School Temple addition was undertaken. Probably when we think of this pastor, two things are most vivid. His undaunted courage in the promotion of the building of the Sunday School Temple, the value of which can not be named, and his organization of the large chorus which was his special pride and joy.

1925-1927

Reverend Christian B. Zook

The Sunday School Temple addition was completed. A much beloved pastor. It was he who worked so faithfully while the Temple was being completed. The Annual Conference was held here that year and the Temple dedicated. He was very successful in raising funds and completing the building.

1927-1931

Reverend Ernest F. Buck

He carried on the work of the larger church. He remembers with great pleasure the many loyal and faithful workers and members who "stood by" and thus made possible the success of his ministry

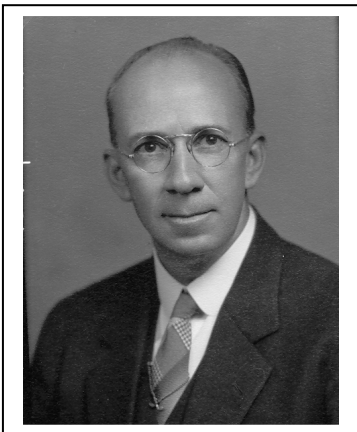


“A notable day was observed the first Easter we were there, April 17, 1927, at which time we had a great combination service and the Sunday School records for that day registered an attendance of 966 in Sunday School. In November of the second year we had a big flood when our ladies fed several of the refugees in the church before the flood waters drove them out of the kitchen and dining room ”

Rev. E.F. Buck letter, August 26, 1936

1931-1935

Reverend L. Frank Waring



He of the happy smile and the cheery encouraging word--an untiring worker. He says the four years his family spent in Ottawa were the best four years of their lives. He used his experiences here to encourage other churches that are discouraged and in great need. In 1931 the church celebrated the 65th anniversary of its founding with a week-long program. It began with a Founders Day program on Sunday, November 1 and ended with a banquet on Friday night and a pageant “Building for Peace” Sunday evening.

*In 1939 the Methodist Episcopal Society North and the Methodist Episcopal Church South and the Protestant Methodist Church became
“The Methodist Church”*

1935-1940

Reverend William I. Hastie



He organized the Sunshine Sunday School Class in 1937 for young newly married couples and taught the class himself. In 1936 the 70th anniversary of the church was observed. A Historical Pageant "Seventy Years in the Life of the Church" was given.

1940-1946

Reverend Resse Kester Sutton



Helped form the Oxford Service Forum Class in December of 1945 for returning military personnel, college students and young working people. Died October 12, 1946 at the parsonage at the age of 58 after an illness of three months. He was born in Garnett and was an outstanding athlete in high school. He played baseball at the University of Nebraska and refused an offer to become a professional. He was active in the community in 1945 serving as president of Kiwanis and chairman of the Franklin County drive for overseas relief.

In 1946 the churches of the United Brethren in Christ and the Evangelical Church became the “Evangelical United Brethren Church”

KOFO Radio broadcasts of the Sunday Service began in September, 1949

1946-1950

Reverend Robert B. Pruitt

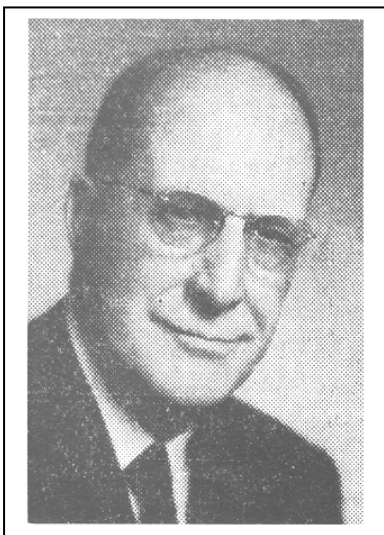


The Chapel was built after the church became a beneficiary in the will of Mary Elizabeth Bunyan. Beginning in 1948, a Christmas Pageant was given annually with a new baby and its parents as the Holy Family. The Christmas offering went to the Mary Johnston Hospital in the Philippines.

The United States was involved in the Korean War from June 25, 1950 to July 27, 1953

1950-1952

Reverend Gordon B. Thompson



Served the church until his retirement. The Flood of 1951 occurred during his pastorate.

1952-1955 Reverend G. Russell Fosmire



He was an energetic man with a cheerful personality, always smiling.

During his pastorate, the Joy Sunday School Class was organized.

1955-1967 Reverend Charles P. Knight



He served one of the two 12-year pastorates in the history of the church. He was very well-liked.

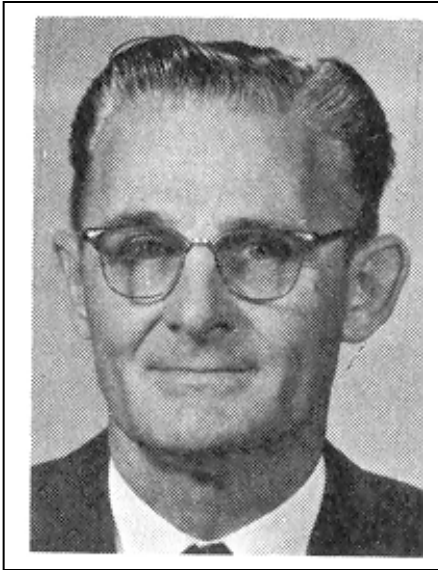
During this time the Koinonia Sunday School Class was formed.

In 1959 the new chancel was installed.

The United States was involved in the Vietnam War from August 6, 1964 to January 27, 1973

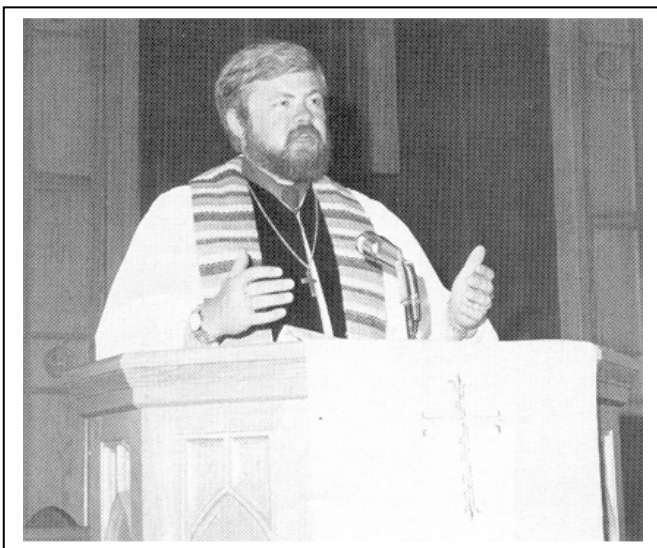
1967-1974
Reverend Paul W. Pentz

A soft-spoken and kind minister.



*In 1968 the Methodist Church and the
Evangelical United Brethren Church united to form
the “United Methodist Church”.*

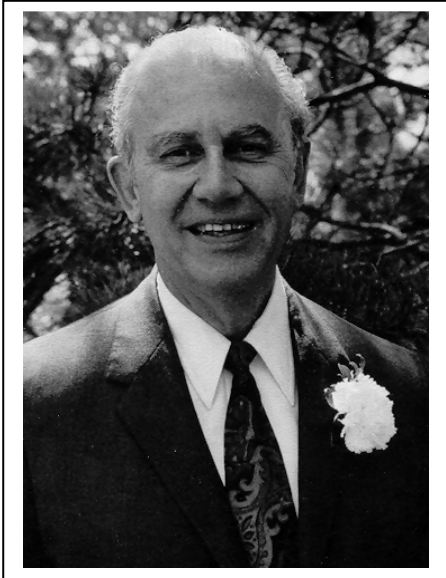
1974-1978
Reverend Allen Polen II



He brought contemporary ideas to the Church. He was the first minister to regularly leave the lectern during his sermon and move closer to the congregation.

1978-1980

Dr. Fred J. Ackman



He was a scholarly pastor who encouraged study groups on Sunday evenings.

1980-1992

Reverend Jerry Harnden



An outgoing, warm, and friendly pastor with an excellent speaking voice. He enjoyed working with the youth.

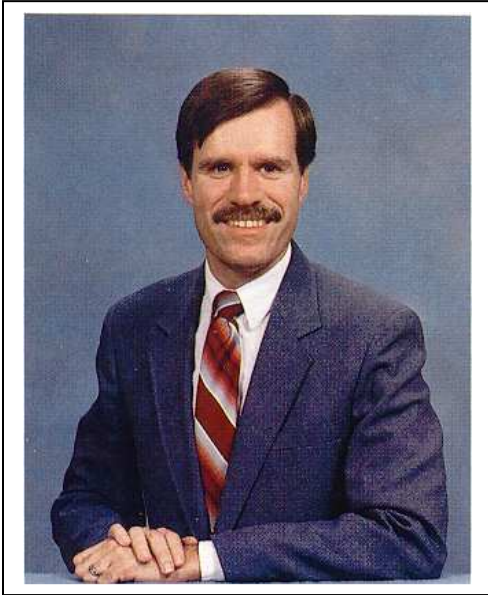
A \$500,000 church renovation was undertaken and completed.

He served one term on the USD 290 School Board.

The United States was involved in the Persian Gulf War in 1991.

1992-1995

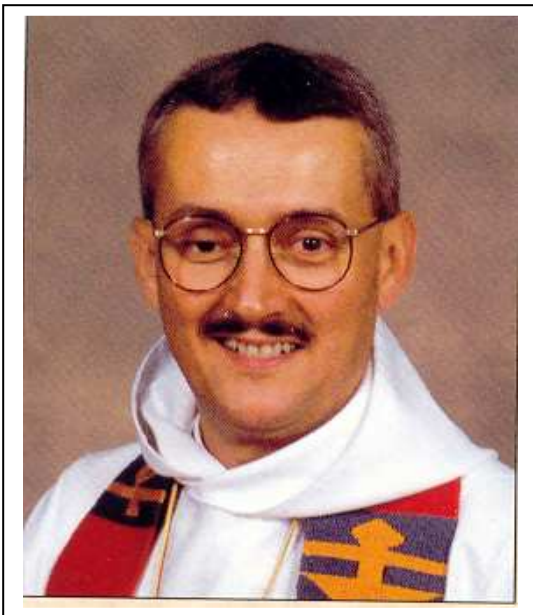
Reverend Gary A. Beach



A diplomatic pastor, soft-spoken, likeable, a favorite. He encouraged Bible study.

1995-2002

Reverend Kent M. Melcher



He initiated the Spirit 2003 Renovation and the Disciple Bible Classes and was an excellent preacher and teacher. He and his family had outstanding singing voices that added a wonderful quality to the music of the church.

2002-2007
Reverend Jim Stigall



He came from the United Methodist Church in Osage City. The major portion of the Spirit 2003 renovation of the church was completed during the first year of his pastorate. He is an excellent story teller, a good preacher and listener.



2007 - Present
Dr. F.D. Burrows, Sr.

Dr. Burrows came to us in his 17th year of ministry after serving congregations in Chicago & Kansas City, KS. He specializes in Community Based Urban Ministry. He is an adjunct Professor of Doctoral Studies at the United Theological Seminary, Dayton, Ohio, teaching Congregational Development and Church Administration in an Urban Setting. Dr. Burrows enjoys teaching Bible study and preaches in several revivals each year.