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# SOUVENIR

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Fifteenth Anniversary of the  
Vernon Methodist Church

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1893 - November 29 and 30 - 1908

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into  
His courts with praise. Ps. c: 4.

1893 - 1908

SOUVENIR  
of the Fifteenth  
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November 29th and 30th  
1908



THE METHODIST CHURCH AND PARSONAGE

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## Methodism in Vernon



**E**ARLY settlers in the Spallumcheen country, as in other places, suffered from many disabilities not the least of which was the lack of opportunities for religious worship.

In 1891 the country south of Sicamons was without a Methodist place of worship. During that year the Rev. J. P. Hicks, now editor of the Western Methodist Recorder of Victoria, B.C., conducted services in Vernon and also in private houses between Vernon and Enderby, the latter place being his headquarters.

The following year, 1892, Vernon and vicinity was entered on the list of stations as a mission in the British Columbia conference and the Rev. Thomas Neville, now of the Manitoba conference, was sent as the first settled pastor. Those were days of large fields and few laborers, and Mr. Neville often preached in Vernon in the morning and conducted a service in Kelowna in the evening of the same Sabbath. Vernon was then but a little village of a few hundred people, but they were enterprising, and by the time conference of 1893 had arrived a Methodist church was erected and opened. Of

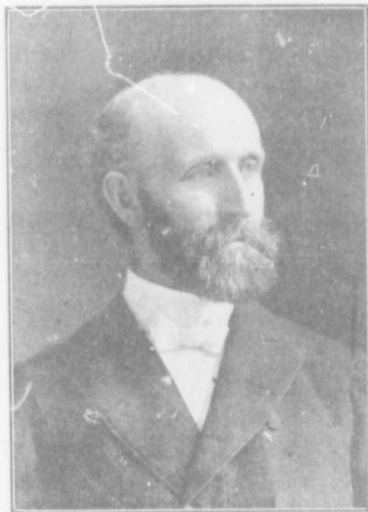


REV. THOMAS NEVILLE

the original trustees the only one remaining is Mr. W. C. Pound. The church was opened officially by a no less distinguished person than the Rev. Dr. Carman, General Superintendent of the Methodist Church of Canada, and Methodism was dec'ared well and firmly established in Vernon.

Upon the opening of the church the Rev. J. A. Wood was placed in charge, during whose pastorate of two years the

cause made commendable progress. Mr. Wood remained until the conference of 1895 when the Rev. S. J. Thompson assumed charge of the Mission. During his pastorate a scheme was set on foot for the erection of a parsonage, and considerable headway was made with the project; although it was not until the term of the Rev. J. P. Westman that the building was erected. The best comment upon the sterling qualities of Rev. Mr. Wood and Rev. Mr. Thompson is perhaps the fact that they both have more recently been honored by their brethren in the ministry by election to the presidency of the conference. Mr. Thompson succeeded in 1898 by the



REV. J. A. WOOD



REV. S. J. THOMPSON

Rev. Ebenezer Robson, D.D., who was also pastor for two years. Dr. Robson was the first president of B. C. Methodism (1887 and 1888), and is entitled to a place in the front rank of our veteran ministers.



REV. E. ROBSON, D.D.

When the history of missions in B. C. is written it will be found that few, if any, have contributed more to the extension of the Kingdom than has Dr. Robson. He was followed in the pastorate by the Rev. J. P. Westman. The Methodist Church of Canada was then busy raising its Twentieth Century Fund (\$1,000,000), and the records show that Vernon Methodists took an active interest in that connexional forward movement.

Mr. Westman removing to Victoria he was succeeded by the Rev. J. W. Bowering, B. A., who came to us from the Manitoba conference, remaining but one year. At the end of one year of faithful service he was followed by Rev. Dr. Courtice



REV. J. P. WESTMAN

for a still shorter time. This distinguished scholar and preacher came West to recuperate his health but was forced to return home after nine months' service. As an editor of the Christian Guardian he has left his mark on the annals of Canadian Methodism. We regret to record that his long courageous struggle with constitutional weakness has, on the 10th inst., culminated in his decease, to the great loss of the church he served so faithfully and with such conspicuous ability.

The intervening three months to the conference of 1904 were filled by the Rev. James Turner, now superintendent of Japanese and Chinese missions in B. C., whose name is a household word over a large portion of the Province, and who also has been rewarded for faithful service by the highest gift of honor his church can give. No minister of religion is better acquainted with early days in the "dry belt" and the "hunch-grass country" than the Rev. James Turner, and no one has more friends among the surviving pioneers of the Province. Cuts of Revs. Bowering, Courtice and Turner could not be procured in time for insertion in this booklet.

At the conference of 1904 the Rev. J. H. Wright was appointed pastor in charge. Up to this time Vernon church had been supported very largely by contributions from the Missionary Society. It was now felt by some of the members that, as the valley was opening and members were increasing, the church should make a strong stand for independence. Accordingly, in August, 1905, it was decided by the Official Board that Vernon should cease being a mission and forthwith become a self-supporting church. The city of Vernon at this time entered upon a period of prosperity and the church under the leadership of a faithful and zealous pastor kept pace with the material prosperity.

During Mr. Wright's ministry, namely in 1907, Vernon became the conference church, an honor only twice thus given to cities of the interior. This entailed an immense amount of work for the pastor and members of the church, but they did it all so well that every member of conference went away with favorable impressions of Vernon's strength and Vernon's hospitality.



REV. J. H. WRIGHT

but they did it all so well that every member of conference went away with favorable impressions of Vernon's strength and Vernon's hospitality.

Upon Mr. Wright's departure for Kelowna, where he is now stationed, the services of Rev. S. S. Osterhout, Ph. D., were secured and the circuit is now under his pastoral care. Of his work and its results we must leave it to some future historian to narrate. A man of strong personality, he has already won his way into the hearts and affection of our people. Under his care the work still prospers and every communion service witnesses an accretion to the membership of the church.

Such in brief is the history of the Vernon Methodist Church. True its career has been at times a chequered one. It has been affected very largely by the fluidity of western life, but we believe that it has very bright days ahead, and that it will ever strike with good effect in the great cause of righteousness and reform.

We must not however close without some reference to the various organizations connected with the church.

The Sabbath School has been in existence from the first and during the past year, particularly, has had a phenomenal growth. The Senior Bible class has been ably conducted for years by Mr. J. W. Glover. It has been recently reorganized according to the International Adult Movement with Mr. Mark Phillips as president. Another Adult Bible Class organized and conducted by the present pastor for the young people is now one of the largest in the interior of B. C. Mr. W. J. Walton is president of this class.

The Epworth League has also been in existence for many years and is now a strong working force with a large membership. During the past year the League undertook the erection of the annex at the rear of the church, the labor being provided gratuitously by the young men of the league and congregation. They have now a scheme well in hand for the formation of a Young People's Club.

An Evangelistic Band has been formed also during the past year with a large and influential membership to help forward the evangelistic features of the work.

A Women's Missionary Auxiliary was organized about a year ago and already have made their influence felt for good at home and abroad.

Last but by no means least mention must be made of the Ladies' Aid which during the whole of its history has rendered invaluable service to the church. Few parsonages are more snugly built or more well and tastefully equipped than the one attached to this church, and credit for the same is largely due to the untiring efforts of the Ladies' Aid. Nor is their sphere of usefulness confined here, for their interest finds expression in all the movements of the church, social and financial.



REV. S. S. OSTERHOUT, Ph.D.

## Officers of the Church, 1908-9



PASTOR: Rev. S. Stanley Osterhout, Ph. D.

LOCAL PREACHERS: Mark Phillips, Thos. H. Wilson, Robt. W. Ley, Geo. Calder Sr., Allan Pound, R. V. Clement.

SUPT. SABBATH SCHOOL: C. F. Pound.

PRES. EPWORTH LEAGUE: A. W. Richardson.

PRES. LADIES' AID: Mrs. J. W. Glover.

PRES. W. M. S.: Mrs. Dr. Osterhout.

TRUSTEES: R. W. Timmins, Geo. Woods, C. E. Mohr, W. C. Pound, J. W. Glover, Wm. Skinner, Joseph Dawson, John Speer.

STEWARDS: John Speer, J. W. Glover, R. E. Tennant, W. F. Switzer, W. C. Pound, Geo. Woods (Envelope Steward), R. W. Timmins (Recording Steward).

CLASS LEADERS: C. E. Mohr, T. H. Wilson.

CHOIR LEADER: J. A. Stewart.

CHURCH ORGANIST: W. B. Pearson.

SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVES: W. A. Cryderman, W. J. Walton, W. A. Bagnall, A. G. Maddock, J. H. Hunter, Mrs. G. Woods, Mrs. C. F. Pound.







## THE CITY OF VERNON

From a photograph taken about  
five years ago.

