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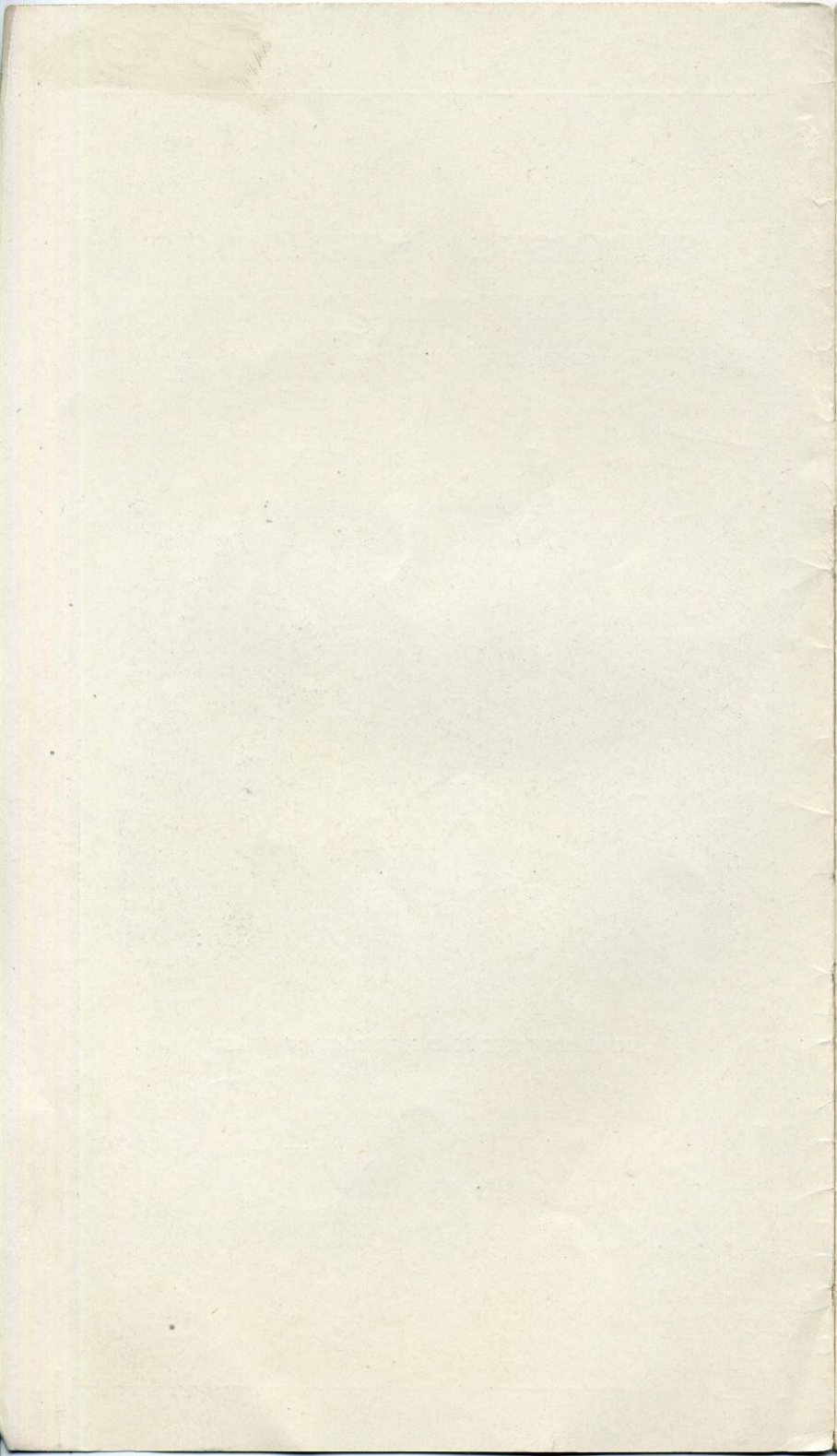
SHINNSTON METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

SHINNSTON, WEST VIRGINIA



CORNER PIKE AND REBECCA STREET

PROGRAM OF
DEDICATION SERVICE





OFFICERS

Rev. Joseph F. Berry, D. D., LL. D., Bishop.
Rev. G. D. Smith, District Superintendent.
Rev. Roy McCuskey, Pastor.

TRUSTEES

Wm. J. S. Harmer, B. T. Harmer, Wm. Fleming,
Geo. A. Ferguson, Allison Robinson, Richard S. Startzman,
A. J. Rice.

STEWARDS

Lawrence E. Hawkins, Recording Steward, Charles
Gerrard, Miss Josephine Harmer, A. M. Hess, E. Frank
Smith.

BUILDING COMMITTEE

Geo. A. Ferguson, Chairman; A. J. Rice, Secretary;
Wm. J. S. Harmer, Treasurer; Wm. Fleming, Richard
S. Startzman.

Sunday School Superintendent, Wm. J. S. Harmer.
Epworth League President, A. J. Rice.
Junior League Superintendent, Jesse B. McCuskey.
Ladies' Aid President, Estella Lowe.
Chorister, Charles Gerrard.
Organist, Eva Duty.



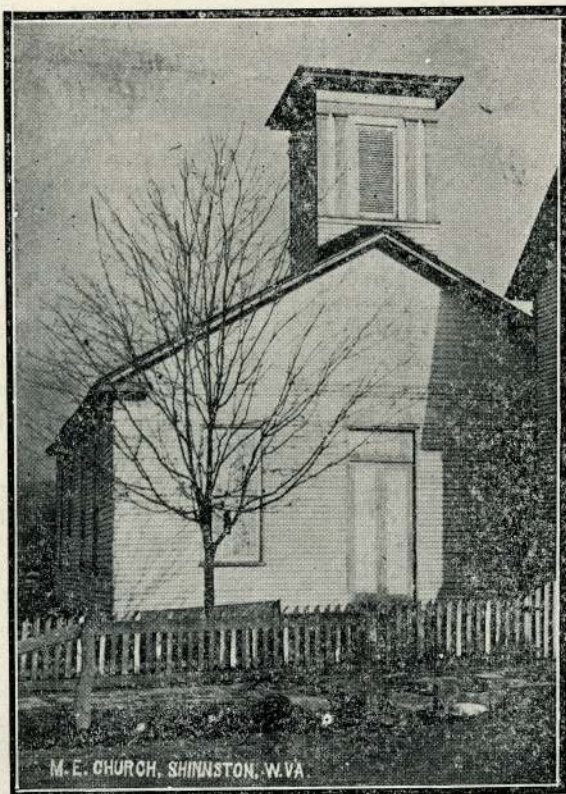


**Bishop Joseph F. Berry, D. D., LL. D., Presiding
Bishop, and in Charge of Dedication Services**

History of the Methodist Episcopal Church
in Shinnston, by
Hon. Harvey W. Harmer

The history of Methodism in Shinnston is older than that of the town itself, for Shinnston was established as a town by an act of the Legislature in January, 1818, but the streets of the town were laid out as early as 1802, and included only that part of the town lying between Charles Street on the south and the eastern end of Bridge Street on the north. About 1776, Jonathan Shinn, one of the first three settlers, built his house just northeast of where the town was afterwards laid out. The house of Dr. Ogden now occupies the site and is about 350 feet immediately northeast of where this church now stands, and at this house a Methodist organization was formed in the year 1786. At that time John Smith, Robert Ayers and Stephen Deakins were pastors of the Redstone Circuit (Now Brownsville, Pa.) and it was one of these pastors who, stopping at the house of Jonathan Shinn, organized this church as a part of the Redstone Circuit, one hundred and twenty-five years ago. The following year another organization was formed at Clarksburg, and the same year the Clarksburg Circuit, embracing all of what was then the vast territory of Harrison county reaching westward to the Ohio River, was formed with Shinnston as one of the appointments, and Robert Cann and Richard Pearson were appointed its first pastors. These circuits were in this early day a part of the Baltimore Conference, but in 1825 the Pittsburg Conference was organized and Clarksburg Circuit fell within its bounds; later Pruntytown Circuit was formed and Shinnston was transferred and made one of its appointments. The West Virginia Conference was organized in 1848, and Shinnston remained a part of Pruntytown Circuit until 1882, when it was attached to the Bridgeport Circuit and remained a part of the same until 1897, and then, after one hundred and eleven years, Shinnston first became a circuit. This church therefore enjoys the distinction of being the oldest Methodist Church in Harrison county, and of having been a part of three circuits and three conferences.

For many years after its organization few, if any,



THE OLD CHURCH

church buildings existed in this region of country and religious services were held at the home of some member, or out of doors in suitable weather.

The first church building in the town was built about 1835, and stood in the rear of what was then an open common on three sides, or to be more exact, on the rear of the lot now just east of the opera house on Walnut Street. This was a one story, weatherboarded, unadorned, unpainted structure, standing on stone pillars high above the ground, never quite finished. It was what was known as a "Union Church" and used on alternate Sundays by the Methodist Episcopal, Methodist Protestant and Baptist congregations, and also served as the village school room, and other purposes until the

church on East Pike or Bridge street was built. Some years after it ceased to be used as a church, Dr. Peter Davis moved it to the street line and converted it into a stable, and only in recent years was it torn away.

^{N.B. 41-27}
June 26, 1854, Seth Shinn conveyed a lot situate on the extreme north side of the town, as it then existed, to Aaron Vincent, B. Tyson Harmer, George Long, W. C. Denham, Dr. James Denham, Dudley E. Rogers, Charles McClung, John Barnes and John Coon, trustees for the Methodist Episcopal church in Shinnston, and the same year the church now on East Pike or Bridge Street, a one story rectangular frame building, was erected thereon by "Bart" Clark, and in that day it was probably considered a fine structure and well suited to its pur-



Rev. G. D. Smith, District Superintendent

poses. Upon its completion in that year it was dedicated by the Rev. Moses Titchnell, a former pastor, assisted by G. Jones, the then pastor of the church.

Twice at least has it been overhauled and repaired and has been continuously occupied as a Methodist Church until the present time, and in it more than a thousand souls have been converted and gone out and blessed the world.

The building of this old church was largely due to the efforts of Rev. Aaron Vincent, who was one of its pillars until his death in October, 1892, and Misses Agnes and Hannah Hartley and Mrs. Margaret J. Harmer are the only persons living whose membership dates back to the old "Union Church."

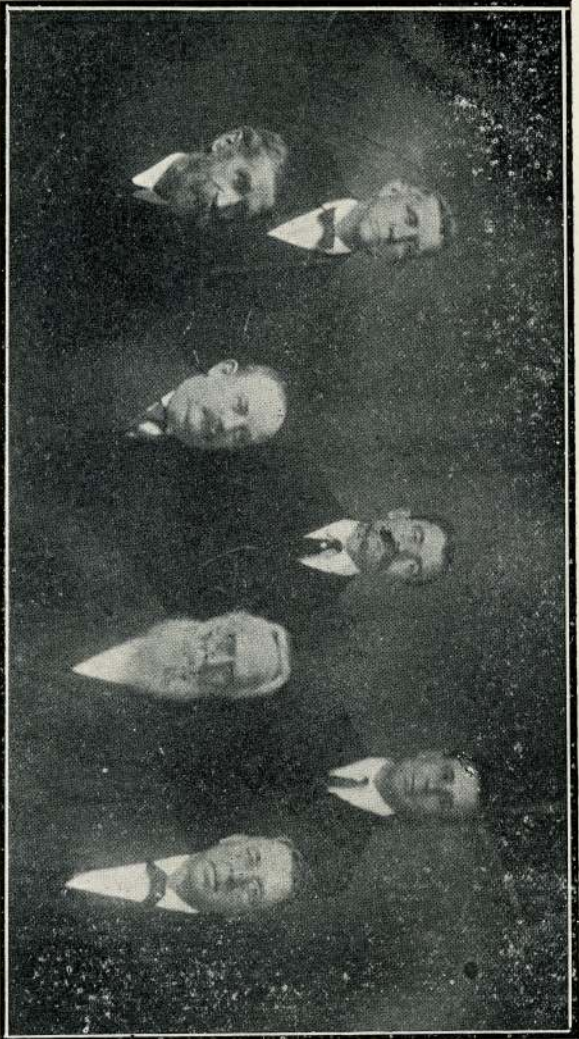
The nine men who composed the first Board of Trustees were without exception strong, influential men, all of whom have long since crossed over the river to their reward, and William J. S. Harmer, Allison Robinson and B. Tyson Harmer compose the present Board of Trustees to whom on the 1st day of May, 1911, Mary C. Lucas conveyed the lot upon which the beautiful new church of today has been erected.

The Quarterly Conference on the 11th day of February, 1911, passed an order to re build and George A. Ferguson, A. J. Rice, Wm. J. S. Harmer, Wm. H. Fleming and R. S. Startzman were appointed a building committee. Plans were prepared by B. D. and Max. C. Price and the contract awarded to C. A. Short, and on the 1st day of September the corner stone was laid by District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. G. D. Smith, assisted by the pastor, Rev. A. M. Hammond, Rev. Dr. H. C. Howard and Rev. Larkin Bowers of Fairmont. The church is a brick structure of the Gothic design, and has a seating capacity of four hundred persons and is modern in all its appointments. The total cost of the church including the lot is fourteen thousand five hundred dollars.

Following is a list of those who have served the church as pastors since the organization of the West Virginia Conference:

- 1848-49 Gideon Martin
- 1849-50 Moses Titchnell, B. Ison
- 1850-51 Moses Titchnell, H. Stephens

1851-52 J. W. Reger, F. H. Reed
1852-54 W. C. McCarty, A. Dixon
1854-55 G. Jones
1855-56 Asberry Stephens
1856-57 Wesley Smith, P. Green
1857-58 Wesley Smith, A. B. Rohrbough
1858-59 J. W. Webb, F. H. J. King
1859-60 J. W. Webb, W. C. Wilson
1860-62 B. Ison, H. D. Rice
1862-63 J. W. Snodgrass, Harvey Wallace
1863-64 J. W. Snodgrass, L. D. Casto
1864-65 J. S. Hall, J. B. Pinchon
1865-66 R. M. Wallis, J. B. Pinchon
1866-67 R. M. Wallis, M. W. Rider
1867-68 T. M. Leslie, M. W. Rider
1868-69 R. M. Wallis, J. Eckes
1869-70 R. M. Wallis, W. H. Young
1870-72 W. L. Hindman, J. Huggins
1872-73 M. Dowler, John A. Williams
1873 74 W. F. Cannon, R. T. VanMeter
1874 77 W. E. Lumis, Charles Conaway
1877-78 C. S. Alemond
1878-79 J. B. Feather
1879 81 William M. West, Willis Palmer
1881-92 W. W. Kelley
1882 83 D. L. Ash
1883-84 A. J. Lyon
1884-85 Samuel Harris
1885-87 Gideon Martin
1887-83 J. A. Hammond
1888-90 Gilbert Rogers
1890-91 G. W. White
1891-95 W. E. Lovett
1895-97 Cyrus Poling
1897 00 F. B. Davis
1900-01 J. A. Fullerton
1901-03 B. H. Shaddock
1903-06 S. E. Jones
1906 08 W. K. Stalnaker
1908-11 A. M. Hammond
1911-12 Roy McCuskey



THE TRUSTEES AND BUILDING COMMITTEE

The Building of the New Church

At the Conference of 1908, Rev. A. M. Hammond was appointed to the Shinnston charge. During that year there was some talk regarding the advisability and urgent need of a new building, but nothing definite was done. Towards the close of Rev. Hammond's second year as pastor, he appointed a soliciting committee, composed of B. T. Harmer, A. M. Hess and A. J. Rice. At the Conference of 1910 Rev. Hammond was returned for the third year, and at his second Quarterly Conference held in Shinnston, February 11, 1911, the soliciting committee reported that between three and four thousand dollars had been subscribed. The Pastor then nominated the following Building Committee and they were elected by the Quarterly Conference: Wm. J. S. Harmer, Wm. H. Fleming, Geo. A. Ferguson, A. J. Rice, Richard S. Startzman. A book of plans was ordered from B. D. and Max C. Price, Atlantic Highlands, New Jersey, and a set selected. At a subsequent meeting of the committee the contract for the construction of a building of brick and stone, was given to C. A. Short, a Shinnston contractor.

The location of the new building had not yet been decided upon. To many the site of the old property was undesirable, and the splendid property on the corner of Pike and Rebecca Streets was secured. The trustees of the old church property procured from the Circuit Court a decree to sell the same, and it was sold at public auction on Sept., 2, 1911 to B. F. Anderson Sr., for the sum of \$4000, of which \$2500. was to be applied on new property and the remainder reserved for new parsonage.

The corner stone was laid September first by the Rev. G. D. Smith, Superintendent of Morgantown District, assisted by Rev. H. C. Howard, Rev. L. B. Bowers and the pastor Rev. A. M. Hammond,

The fine art windows were made by M. T. Lamb of Brooklyn N. Y. The heating, lighting, and all plumbing was given to the Shinnston Plumbing Company. The building is plumbed for gas and electricity, and is to be heated by hot water system. The seats and pulpit furniture were bought of the Huntington Seating Com-

pany, whose factory is located at Guyandotte, W. Va. On Nov. 6, 1911, the contract for an eight room brick parsonage was given to Mr. C. A. Short.

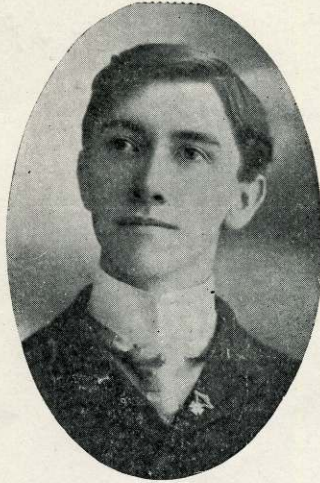
Too much credit can not be given to the noble women of the Shinnston Church, who by their undaunted faith and persistent zeal, inspired the movement. They have raised and paid to the Treasurer of the building Committee \$500 and are still busy raising more.

The special gifts which up to this time have been made, are: the sanitary combination for parsonage bath room, by Mr. George W. Bowers President and Manager of the Homewood Pottery of Mannington; the sanitary combination for the church basement, by Mr. D. F. Merritt, President of the Eljer Pottery of Cameron; the handsome communion table, by Mrs. M. J. Harmer.



REV. A. M. HAMMOND

Under Whose Pastorate the New Building was Begun



REV. ROY McCUSKEY, PASTOR

PROGRAM OF DEDICATION WEEK

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6 *1912*

8:00 p. m.--Entertainment in Church Auditorium by "The Normal Concert Party," A. W. Martin, Soloist, Nelle Casseday, Reader.

THURSDAY, MARCH 7

Supper in the Church Basement, given by the Ladies Aid Society.

SATURDAY, MARCH 9

2:30 p. m.—Second Quarterly Conference, Rev. G. D. Smith Presiding.

8:00 p. m. Lecture by Bishop Joseph F. Berry, D. D., LL. D., "What A Tramp Saw in Ireland." Prof. A. W. Martin of Fairmont, will sing.

If you have not been asked to give, consider this an invitation to do so, sign this note and hand it, together with the money, to the treasurer, Wm. J. S. Harmer.

\$ Shinnston, W. Va., 1912

I hereby subscribe and agree to pay to the Treasurer of the Building Committee of the Shinnston, Methodist Episcopal Church, the sum of Dollars as follows:

\$	Cash
.....	Within Six Months, Due 19
.....	" Twelve " " 19
.....	" Eighteen " " 19

Name

Address

SUNDAY, MARCH 10

1912

9:00 a. m. Sunday School

10:30 a. m. Public Worship

ORDER OF MORNING SERVICE

Anthem

Invocation, - - - - Rev. A. M. Hammond

Hymn No. 2, - - - "Come Thou Almighty King"

The Apostles Creed

Prayer, - Rev. G. D. Smith, District Superintendent

Solo - - - - Prof. A. W. Martin

Responsive Reading - - - Seventh Sunday

The Gloria Patri

Reading from the New Testament

Hymn No. 210 "Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken"

Sermon - Bishop Joseph F. Berry, D. D., LL. D.

Offering

Benediction

ORDER OF EVENING SERVICE

Anthem

Invocation - - - - Rev. C. E. Goodwin

Hymn No. 212 "Zion Stands With Hills Surrounded"

Prayer - - - - Rev. O. D. King

Scripture Reading

Solo - - - - Rev. C. E. Goodwin

Sermon - - - - Bishop Joseph F. Berry

Offering

Dedication of the Church

Monday evening, 8 o'clock, Fraternal meeting and Public Reception. Short Addresses will be given by the pastors of the town. All are invited to attend.

TUESDAY, REVIVAL SERVICES BEGIN

Services will be held every afternoon at 2:30 and evening at 8:30. The pastor will be assisted by Rev. C. E. Goodwin of Mannington.

DEDICATION SERVICE

The Call to Worship - - - - Bishop Berry
Hymn No. 208 - - "I Love Thy Kingdom Lord"
Prayer
Scripture Reading
Responsive reading, Psalm 122

I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord.

Our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is builded as a city that is compact together.

Whither the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord.

Unto the testimony of Israel, to give thanks unto the name of the Lord.

For there are set thrones of judgment, the set thrones of the house of David.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

They shall prosper that love thee.

Peace be within thy walls,

And prosperity within thy palaces

For my brethren and companions' sake, I will now say, Peace be within thee.

Because of the house of the Lord our God I will seek thy good.

Presentation of the Church - - By the Trustees
Declaration - - - - - By the Bishop
Dedicatory Prayer
Doxology
Benediction



C. A. SHORT

Contractor and Builder of New M. E. Church and Parsonage

