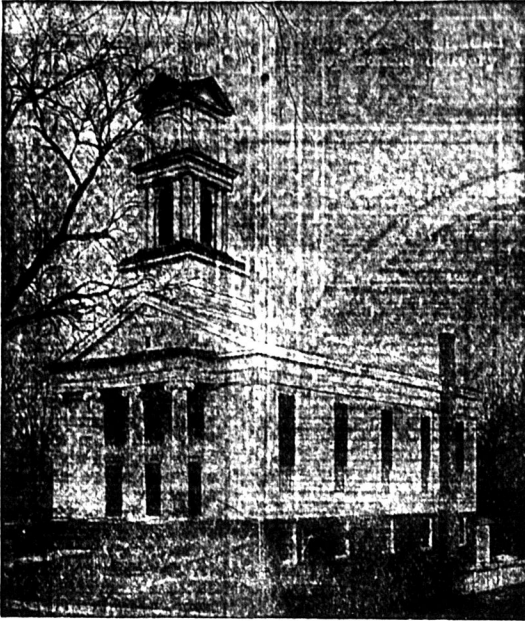


North M. E. Church Will Celebrate Its 80th Year



Methodism in Manchester had its beginnings as early as 1790 with the organization of a church of six members at the home of Thomas Spencer of Spencer street. In 1794 the first Methodist church in town was erected and the staunch Methodists from all parts of the parish traveled long distances over poor roads to attend the Sunday services on Spencer street. In 1822 the cornerstone of a new Methodist church was laid and the building erected a few feet east of the Congregational church in the Center of the town. The building was not completed and dedicated until 1836. The relationship of the Methodists and Congregationalists, which therefore had not been harmonious, improved as each grew older and stronger.

North Church 80 Years Old

As the town grew, and particularly that part of it known as the Union village, the need of another Methodist church at the North End of the town was felt. In 1850-51, the present church, a beautiful old

New England type of building, was erected on North Main street, just 80 years ago. It has always been known as the North Methodist church. The exterior of the church has not been altered since, but if any of the first worshippers were to enter the edifice today, he would not recognize it, so great has been the transformation. This has only been accomplished during the present year. With the pastor, Rev. Marvin S. Stocking, as leader, all organizations of the church have worked with zeal to beautify their church, and add numerous up-to-date features for the comfort of all who worship there.

A special eightieth anniversary celebration program has been under consideration for some time, and the date set as of October 11 to 18. The services Sunday morning will include the session of the church school at 9:45, followed by meditation at 10:30 and the worship period at 10:45, with Rev. John E. Duxbury of Putnam as preacher. Mr. Duxbury was pastor of the church for a number of years, preceding Mr. Stocking.

At 7 o'clock Sunday evening a loy-

alty rally of the different organizations of the church will be held. A record will be kept of the attendance to determine the society who has the greatest percentage of its members present.

Wednesday evening of next week will be "Old Home" night with Edwin A. Lydall presiding. Mr. Lydall is making every effort to have a large gathering of the present and former attendants of the North Methodist church present.

Thursday evening a historical pageant will be given. Miss Emma Colver, Mrs. W. D. Stevens of Vernon, Mrs. L. Theron French and a number of the women of the church are working enthusiastically on the different episodes assigned to them.

Sunday, October 18, the preacher at the morning service will be Rev. William D. Beach of the New York East conference, and in the evening Rev. Charles C. Noble, pastor of the First Methodist church of Hartford, will speak.

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