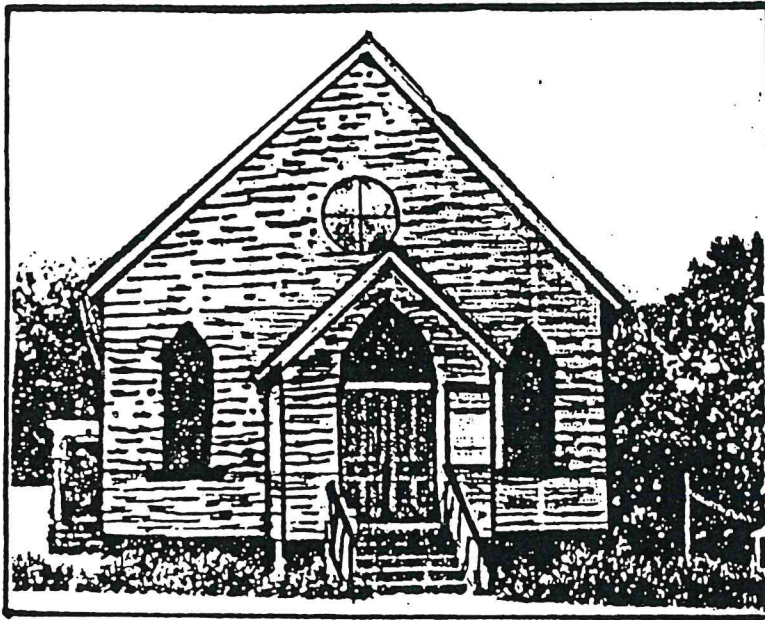


HISTORY
JOHN WESLEY CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE -
CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
466 MAIN STREET



JOHN WESLEY PENTECOSTAL
SOCIETY OF MANCHESTER
466 MAIN STREET

The earliest archives of our church describe its founding as follows: "Rev. Wm. Howard Hoople, chairman of the Missionary Committee of the Association of Pentecostal Churches came and began a series of meetings in the Manchester Town Hall on the 11th of November, 1897. On the 18th of November, he called the little band of holiness workers together about the altar and organized them into a Pentecostal Church. It was thus that the Pentecostal Church of South Manchester was born." This followed conversions in the great Methodist revival, after which several received the blessing of entire sanctification. Subsequently, for several years holiness meetings were held in homes in Manchester.

To give some historical perspective, in the late 1890s radios, airplanes, world wars, computers, and the internet were unheard of. The Statue of Liberty was a decade old. It was only thirty years after the civil war and the assassination of president Abraham Lincoln. One hundred years before that were John Wesley's ministry, the American Revolution and the founding of our country. Two hundred years earlier, during colonial days in the 1600s, the Podunk Indians were residents of Manchester and Center Street was the Great Trail -- a foot path that led from the Connecticut River to Bolton Notch.

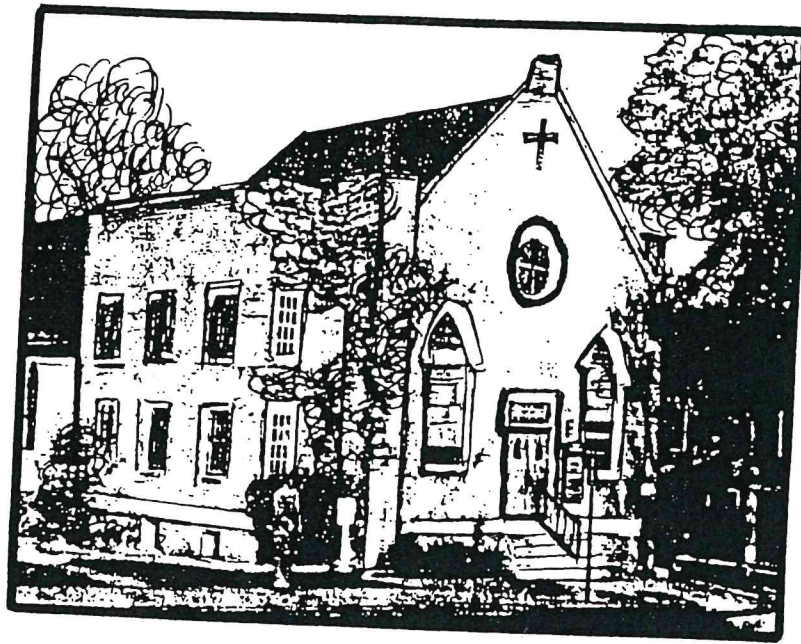
The area of Manchester was first called the Five Mile, because of its size. East Hartford and Manchester were called Orford Parish. The Congregational Church was the state church and center of the community - that was changed by a new Connecticut Constitution in 1818. Manchester became the home of the Cheney silk and textile mills, partly because of the availability of water power. This industry provided employment for thousands for many years. In 1823, Manchester became a town, named after Manchester, England, also a textile center.

On March 14, 1898, it was voted that the Pentecostal Church of South Manchester be given the name of John Wesley Pentecostal Church of South Manchester. Soon the group decided to purchase a 22 foot by 29 foot tent for \$55.25, and some folding chairs, at \$2.75 per dozen. At several official meetings, the closing is recorded as follows: "Moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. All in favor said 'Praise the Lord'".

Within ten months of the initial organization, the congregation was making plans to build. At a special meeting on Tuesday, September 20, 1898, the church voted to incorporate. Within a week they voted to expend \$400.00 to purchase a lot on Main Street, north of Center Street, and adopted a constitution and by-laws. The cost of incorporation was \$3.80! The unofficial groundbreaking was one September evening - by moonlight. The group decided that the building should be wired for the electric light. The records indicate that dedication was scheduled for December 11, 1898, only eleven weeks after the decision to build. The cost was approximately \$2000, and it carried a \$1000 mortgage.

At its founding, the John Wesley Pentecostal Church of South Manchester was associated with the Association of Pentecostal Churches of America, based in New York. In 1907, at a General Assembly in Chicago, the association merged with the Church of the Nazarene from Los Angeles, to form The Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene. At that time the local church was called the John Wesley Church of the Nazarene. In 1908, the Holiness Church of Christ from Texas merged with the Church of the Nazarene in Pilot Point, Texas -- an event we consider the founding of the Church of the Nazarene denomination.

Between 1908 and 1911, the church was remodeled to include an attached parsonage. In 1931, the original church was moved to the back of the property and a new brick front was constructed.



MANCHESTER
CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
466 MAIN STREET

In September, 1943, while Rev. James Young was pastor, there was a mortgage burning service and a dedication of new pews in the enlarged facilities at 466 Main Street. (That building now houses the Manchester Council of Churches Samaritan Shelter.)

In 1947, in honor of the 50th Anniversary, the church voted to adopt a special medical missionary project in Africa. One thousand dollars was given to build the Sharpe Memorial Church at Bremersdorf, Swaziland.

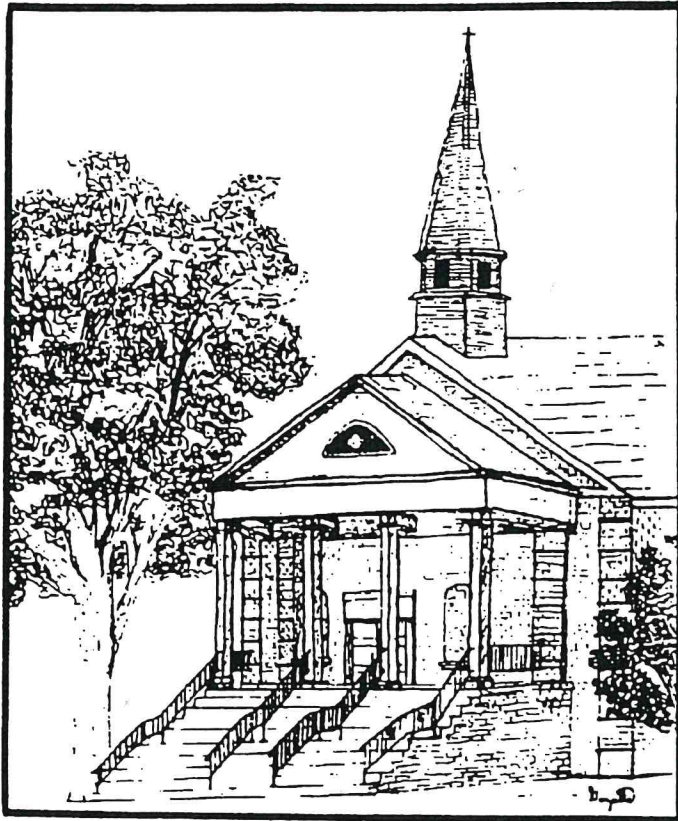
From November 11 to November 16, 1947, the 50th Anniversary Commemoration Services were held with Dr. G. B. Williamson as the guest speaker.

In September of 1948, a six room colonial style house was purchased at 31 Flower Street for a parsonage. It required a cash payment of \$5,000.00 and a mortgage of \$2,500.00. The parsonage apartment at the rear of the church was then used for classrooms and various meetings.

On December 26, 1948, the church voted to pay the parsonage mortgage in full with \$1,400.00 from the reserve fund and \$1,100.00 from the checking account.

In September of 1951, an organ committee was formed to secure funds to purchase an organ. In January, 1952, the board voted to purchase a Baldwin Organ for \$3,250.00.

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
236 MAIN STREET



MANCHESTER
CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
236 MAIN STREET

In October, 1952, due to the need for more Sunday school classrooms, a committee was appointed to assess the facilities and formulate plans for classrooms and future buildings. In May, 1953, a committee was appointed to investigate the possibility of finding a new location and selling the 466 Main Street property.

Property on Main Street at the corner of Sterling Place (approximately 3.5 acres) was purchased for \$23,500.00. A little later a bordering one acre strip of land was purchased.

In April 1953, an anonymous gift for youth work was used to establish the Youth Commission Fund which remained in force for forty years. For years this fund enabled many of our Sunday school children to attend the district boys and girls camps. In March, 1954, the young people undertook a project to erect a Youth Building at the rear of the new church property, to be used for youth work. Money from the youth fund and other funds solicited by the youth, funded the 28 foot by 54 foot building of frame construction with brick veneer. An auditorium, kitchen, and library room with fireplace were on the first floor; and a large workshop, restrooms, furnace room and four classrooms were located in the basement. The building was completed at a cost of \$12,000.00.

In June 1954, the church voted to sell the parsonage at 31 Flower Street and build a seven room brick veneer parsonage at the rear of the new property, adjacent to the Youth Building. This building was completed in November at a cost of \$18,000.00.

In February 1957, the church property at 466 Main Street was sold for \$42,000.00. The church kept the pews, altar rails, organ, piano, and other furnishings that had been given as memorials. Under the leadership of Rev. C. E. Winslow the board approved a \$65,000.00 loan for 4½% interest for twenty years, and construction was begun.

The groundbreaking ceremony was set for June 16, 1957, with District Superintendent J. C. Albright as the guest speaker. On October 28, 1957, the cornerstone was laid by Pastor Winslow, assisted by Nelson Kilpatrick the chairman of the Building Committee.

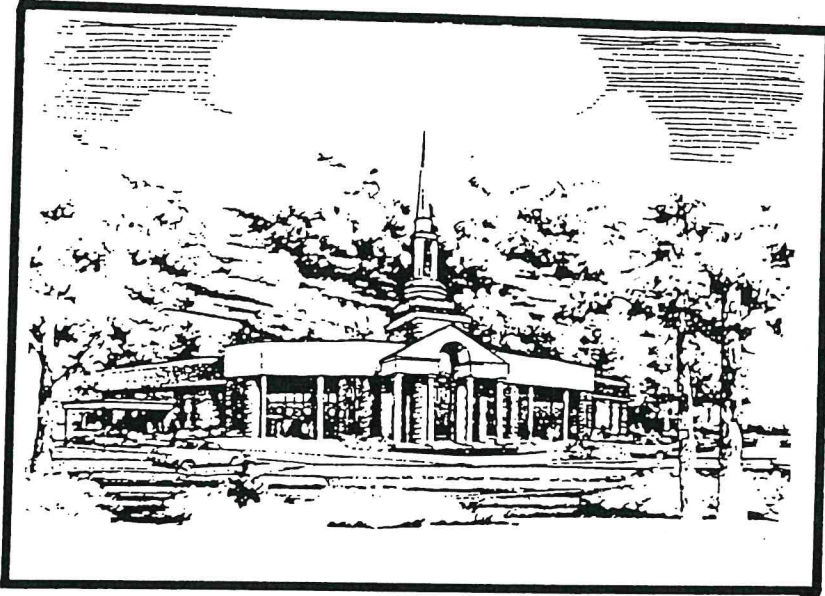
On August 28, 1958, Pastor Winslow ascended ninety feet in a boatswain chair and placed the four foot cross on the church steeple. This event received national coverage!

Dedication of the church was held on September 7, 1958, with General Superintendent Samuel Young as the guest speaker. The church, valued at \$225,000.00, was constructed for \$150,000.00 through the ardent labors of members and friends. The nave, including choir and balcony, seated 450 and the chapel on the same floor seated 100. The educational facilities would accommodate a Sunday School of 500 or more.

...Prepared by Martha Seavey



CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
218 MAIN STREET



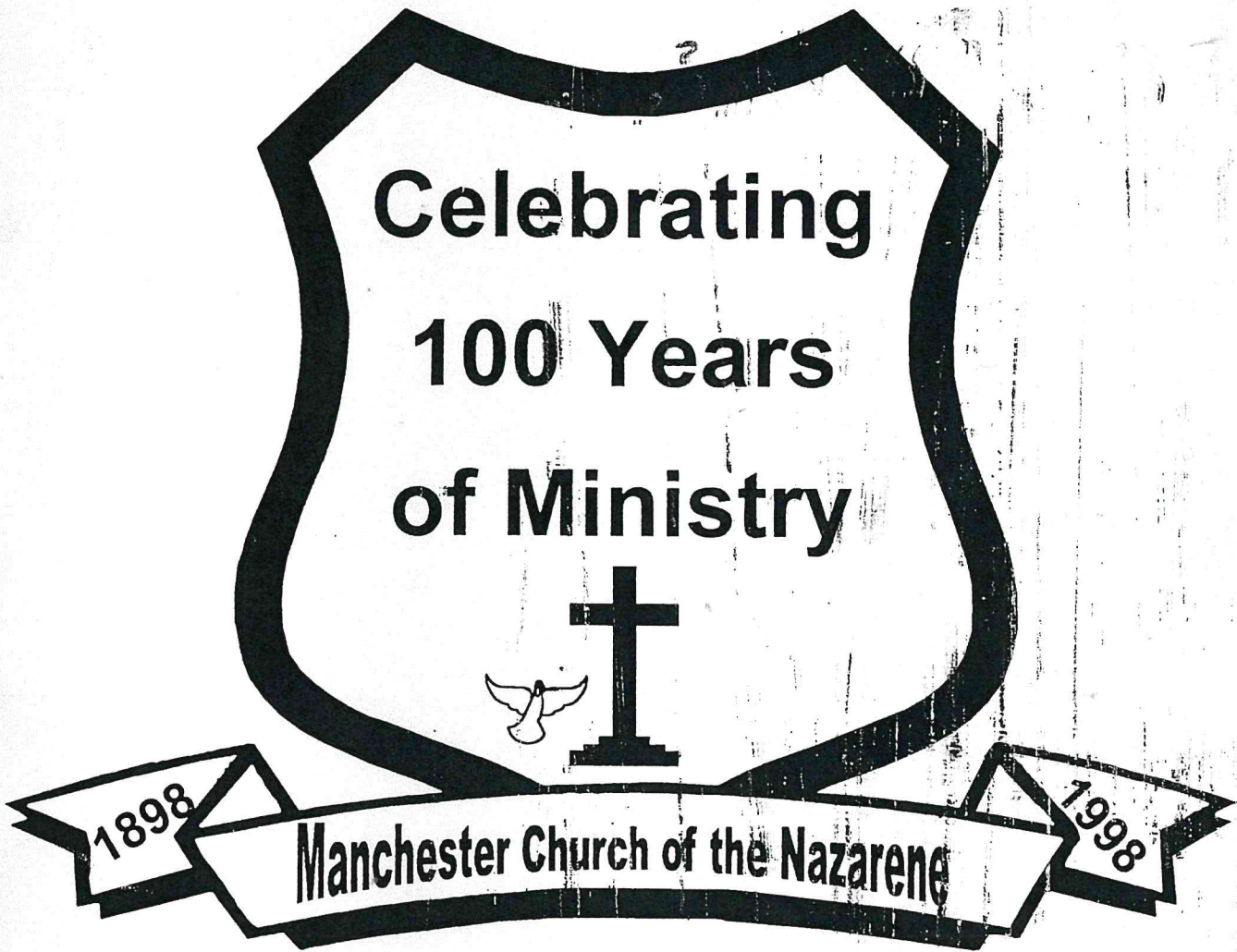
The Cornerstone Christian School was planned and dedicated under the ministry of Rev. & Mrs. Neale McLain. Pastor McLain and the board began serious discussions concerning changes to the 236 Main Street Church in order to make additional school rooms and a fellowship hall. However, Rev. McLain was elected to be the District Superintendent following the death of our former pastor and District Superintendent, Rev. William Taylor.

Rev. Philip Chatto, and his wife Margie, accepted the call to the ministry in Manchester. From 1985 to 1993, David J. Blaney served as Youth Pastor, with no remuneration. From 1982 to 1987, Rev. Mark & Marcia Green were part of the ministry staff. Rev. Green worked in Marriage Enrichment groups with the young adults, in addition to other duties. Under this ministry team the present church building was constructed.

Our present facilities can ultimately accommodate 800 for church services, and provide sufficient classroom space for the elementary grades of Cornerstone Christian School. Grades seven through twelve are housed in the former church building, which was renovated to include a gymnasium and youth center.

This proved to be the largest construction venture in our church history and considerable debt was incurred. In order to finance the construction, pledges were taken from the congregation and the church obtained a mortgage. Bonds were used to raise the additional funds needed.

*Cover of
booklet*



CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

MANCHESTER, CONNECTICUT

September 20, 1998