

## **Stanley River Methodist History 1977**

Here we are on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June 1977. This is something of a Historic occasion because this will be (the) last church service we conduct as a Methodist Church. Next Sunday the Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational churches will be one Uniting Church. So it is fitting that we look back over the years and see where the church has come and then try to look forward to where we are going. As Christians we are a pilgrim people and the church could be likened to a covered wagon carrying us to the Promised Land. We are on the move.

This area of Kilcoy, Woodford, Peachester, Mt Mee, Jimna, etc became the Stanley River Circuit on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 1966. It seems that at the turn of the century these towns were preaching places served from neighbouring circuits. Peachester was with the Landsborough circuit back in those days. Woodford and Mt Mee separated from Caboolture around 1910, and Peachester joined Woodford about 1935. In 1902 the Kilcoy area was part of a vast area taking in Manumbar, Blackbutt and Nanango etc. Kilcoy, by the way, was known as Hopetoun up until 1906.

The first pulpit Bible was a gift from the Sunday school at Woolmar – and it bears the inscription  
***“Presented to the Hopetoun Methodist Church by the Woolmar Sunday School – October 1905.”***

In 1904, the South Burnett area of the Hopetoun Home Mission station became a separate Home Mission station. Also in that year Mr Holland gave the church the land on which the Kilcoy Church and Parsonage now stands. The church was built by Messer’s Fester and Gittins in 1905 and in 1907 the Home Mission station became a circuit with the appointment of Reverend H.J. Potter.

In the Jubilee Booklet printed in 1955, Rev. RP Watkinson, who was the minister at Hopetoun from 1903 – 1906, says: names that stand out in his memory from those days are: Traves, Bradley, Lanes, Litschner, Young, Carrick, Runge, Atthow, Porter, Holland, Wagner and Duncan.

The Parsonage was opened in 1924 and occupied by Rev and Mrs Whitehead and family; the first “married” appointment to Kilcoy. The Sunday School Hall was opened in 1946. A quote again from the Jubilee Booklet, ***“The work of the missionary Peel in scrub, mill, and on the site were much appreciated by the trust”***. The labours abundant of HH Garden and C Gray have been highly valued or recent years.

The Ladies Guild was formed in 1907. The Church thanks God for the ministry of the Ladies guild who have been unceasing in their efforts to keep the Quarterly meeting and the trust in the fulfilment of their financial obligations and the ministry of keeping the Sanctuary clean and beautiful is to them a continual labour of love.

The Kilcoy choir is as old as the church. The Rev. RP Watkinson started the choir during his ministry 1903 – 1906, but it has not always been able to function. It is recorded that the choir rendered excellent service during the ministry of Rev. HR Heaton with Mr J Young as conductor and Mrs Heaton as organist. And in Rev Godfrey Williams’s time Mrs B Jackson was choir mistress with Mrs B Clarke as Organist. At the present time both Senior and Junior choirs under the leadership of Mrs. E Clarke render most accomplished service and are part and parcel of our weekly worship service. In the early days a CE Society and a band of helpers served the needs of the young people. A Girl Guides unit was formed in 1940 and became a Y.P. Club in 1941. OKs and Comrades started in 1944 with Mr Peel as K.C. and Mrs Jess Gray as Director. At the time of the Jubilee in 1955, the leaders were Mrs R Springall and Mrs WB Clarke. OKs and Comrades have now folded and are to be replaced by MYF.

The Jubilee celebrations were during the ministry of Rev. Ken Delbridge. In the forward to the Jubilee booklet Rev Delbridge had this to say:

***“In celebrating the dedication of the Jubilee Gifts which include seats, chairs, windows, carpets, panelling and other furnishings, we remember with grateful hearts those who have served God through the work and worship of this church. It can be truthfully said that the past has challenged the present, the generous response of people near and far surely indicates that the church is ready to go on to greater adventures of the Spirit for our Heavenly Father and His Kingdom. “***

I trust that the spirit of adventure that was true of the church in the mid fifties is also true in the late seventy's and as we enter a new era in the churches history and take with us into the Uniting Church the best of the Methodist heritage that is ours, to be mingled with the best our sister denominations brings with them.

For sure the different church structure and terminology will take w while to get used to but our aim and objective is the same to move forward together to declare the good news of the Gospel to all. Who so ever will /may come.

Mrs Grigor - Property Board treasurer for Peachester had kindly written down some of her memories for me.

### **PEACHESTER**

The Peachester district commenced having Methodist church services in the very early 1900's. We were then part of the Landsborough Circuit. The first Minister in Charge of the Landsborough Circuit that I can recall was the Rev James Moorhouse, he lived at Landsborough, and his only mode of transport in those days was a horse and saddle, that being about 1903. He needed to ride across very rough mountainous country tracks from Landsborough to Peachester, when it was Peachester's turn to have a service he used to arrive at my parents home on the Saturday evening, stay overnight with us for the 11am service on Sunday morning. After the service hew would ride back to Landsborough. In those days the services were held at Mr & Mrs Cahill's residence or the local hall. The congregation was small and we sand Sankey Hymns unaccompanied.

As time passed a folding portable organ was purchased and we continued in this way until 1922, when the Methodist Church was built at Peachester. It was a wonderful and happy achievement as Peachester had a very small population. The church was completed and opened free of debt on 10<sup>th</sup> Dec 1922. The total cost being approximately £183 which included the deposit on the organ. All timbers were donated by W.A. Grigor (who owned a saw mill) and the work of construction was carried out on a voluntary basis with the following names being prominent at the working bees. WA Grigor, W Emblidge, Ernest Otto and many others assisted, even the ladies. When the stumps were all in a stump capping ceremony was held, it being a very happy and successful occasion.

The original trustees of the church were WA Grigor, William Vieritz, Walter Walker, John Simpson and Daniel Cahill. The allotment on which the church now stands was donated by Mr & Mrs K Hendren. The Pulpit was donated by Mr & Mrs Cahill, in memory of Mr Cahill's parents who were among the first settler of the district in October 1884. The communion set was a gift from Mr & Mrs Hendren, the stove; chair and table (were) from Mr & Mrs Vieritz.

The church seats were purchased from the Beerburrum church when the Soldier settlement plan had to be abandoned when the area was demolished. [We think Peachester came into the Woodford circuit in 1935]

The Minister in Charge of the Circuit for the opening of the Peachester Church was Rev Thomas Bainbridge.

We celebrated the Golden Jubilee of the Peachester church in October 1972 (I have forgotten the date) it was a very happy occasion with Rev Edgar Wells being the preacher. He being stationed with us whilst in the Woodford circuit about 40 years ago. After the service we all enjoyed a basket lunch with lot of reminiscences and happy get-togethers. The first Sunday school to be held at Peachester was in a small barn on the banks of the Stanley River on what was then, Mr R Denny's property and Mrs Denny was our teacher. About 10 children attended.

My mother (Mrs Vieritz) also taught at our home for many years, there were several more children then, and I assisted her. There was also a period when both Mrs Denny and my mother worked together and had the Sunday School in the Hall. As there was no transport in those early days we used to hold the school where it was most convenient for all concerned as there was a lot of walking to be done. The after the opening of the church and as people were able to own cars, the school was held in the local hall every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday.

There was a very large and happy Sunday School during the years of 1940 to 1960. There were at that time quite a number of young families living at Peachester and, at one stage; over 60 children were on the roll. Mr Dunning from Woodford came every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday. He was the Superintendant assisted by Mrs Breton of Peachester (an \_\_\_\_\_ teacher) and a couple of other helpers. A very good Sunday School existed for quite some years. Happy times were enjoyed by all. Mrs Breton was very good with the children and used to arrange Christmas trees and concerts for and with the children. Each child received a book at the Annual Break Up. The population used to fluctuate considerably but they were very happy days. The congregation at Peachester these days is small but faithful and generous. Repairs to the ceiling and organ have recently been carried out.

### **Mount Mee Methodist Church**

The Mt Mee Methodist Church was officially opened on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December 1922 by the Rev WH Greenwood, President of the Queensland Methodist conference. Mr Greenwood conducted the first Sunday service of worship in the church on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December 1922 at 11am. The Rev. J Tainton, Minister of the Woodford Circuit, standing on the steps of the Church opened proceedings by welcoming the president of the conference and the members of the assembled company. He paid high tribute to the men and women Methodists and friends of other church who by their gifts and much hard work had made the erection of the church buildings possible. He outlined the steps taken to build the church.

The site was a gift of Mr & Mrs AL Kuhn. The Trustees were Messrs AL Kuhn, J Robinson, W Sellin, H Hewitt, P Smith and Eric Kerr-Scott. The Secretary of the Church Trust was Mrs J Robinson. The builder was Mr. W Franklin of Nundah and the total cost was £221, the present debt being £28.

The key was handed to Rev. WH Greenwood and before unlocking the door; he said that as the rain had fallen to be a blessing on the land, he hoped that the church now built would be a blessing to the people of the district. He then declared the Church open to the Glory of god and for all the services of Divine worship and the people followed him into the church to the strains of a suitable organ prelude played by Miss Jane Sellin. The organ was kindly loaned for the occasion by Mrs H Hewitt. Following the opening Hymn and prayer, the President said that there were two memorials to be unveiled and dedicated. The Pulpit, pulpit chair, pulpit bible and music book for the use of the organist were presented by Dr & Mrs. Kerr-Scott in memory of their friend Miss Tyrrell. The inscription on the front of the pulpit was ***“LET US NOT BE WEARY IN WELL DOING”***.

Mrs Kerr-Scott unveiled the silky oak pulpit while the congregation stood in silent reverence to the memory of one, who though young in years, had done much splendid work in the service of God, both in the Church and the Sunday School. Mr WB Robinson (father of Mr J Robinson) and Mrs A L Kuhn unveiled the silky oak Communion Table to the memory of Mr J Anderson, an old friend and one of the oldest residents of Mt Mee.

The Hymn Books for the use of the congregation were presented by Miss F E Thomas and the matting in the aisle by Mrs A L Kuhn. The net cost of the building was £221, 1 schilling and 11 pence, and after the offering was received at the opening the (remaining) debt was £18, 8 schillings and 11 pence.

The opening and dedication of the Mr Mee church was an occasion of great thanksgiving and rejoicing. It was a combined effort in which the whole community was involved. People willingly gave of their goods and money, loyally co-operated in all efforts, assisted in clearing the site, carting the timber and erecting the building as voluntary workers. To one and all the church expresses its thanks, over the past fifty years, many have ministered in holy things in the Mt Mee Methodist Church and may have been richly blessed "To God be the Glory: great things He hath done.:

**Compiled by Rev Joseph Tainton 9/12/1972**

## **Woodford**

The first meeting held to form Trusts was held in the residence of Mr WH Smith. Rev. Kleindienst was the Minister. The names of Smith, Fletcher and Unwin were placed on record with Mr R Dunning being added at the next meeting. Evidently the Congregational Union had the same idea as the Methodists as correspondence passed between two churches, after which it must have been decided to build the church. The thing that amazes me is the brevity of the minutes, knowing full well how Mr WH Smith could talk, I'm certain much more passed at meetings than were ever placed on record.

The third meeting of the trusts disclosed a balance sheet of £133, 15 shillings and 0 pence, but no record shows how or when the money was raised, knowing how hard it is to raise money for trust affairs, I bet somebody worked awfully hard to get that much. Evidently the church was duly opened but previous to that a stump planting ceremony was held. The Late Mr A Fredin gave a concession of 10% on the price of cutting the timber. Logs for the timber were donated by Messers Unwin and Dunning. Mr Fletcher arranging to get them carted in and Mr Fredin to cut them up. The church building was erected by Messers: A McLean and A Jabis. Iron for the roof was purchased from Atthow and Proctor. Mr WC Kleindienst was then replaced by Rev French. In 1913 talk and discussion on erecting a vestry was started.

The following meeting was under the Chairmanship of Rev J Young. In May 1913, Rev Edmund Axelson was appointed Minister, no need for me to elucidate or enlarge on the popularity of "Axy" who at this time is living in retirement at Caloundra. Carbide lights were rented to illuminate the church and predictably a new man appointed to attend to same. 1914, the late Arthur Miller's name was added to the Trustees deed.

1915 it was decided to purchase hymn books.

1917 Rev Chowens was Minister and it was decided to provide means of Transportation for ministers.

A subscription list for funds to purchase a horse was opened.

1918 saw Rev Dellor as minister. 1919 Rev Moores. Woodford certainly went through some parsons.

1919-1922 nothing - but on 23 April 1922 shows the name of J Tainton as minister, evidently his stay was brief as the next minister was Rev Finnemore in 1924. Also in 1924 a Rev Whitehorse was here.

June 1925 gives record of appointment of Messers G Osmond & J Marshall as trustees, when the trustees sold property next to Old Alexandra Hall to Mr M P Lemon for £180. This evidently was nucleus for parsonage building on present site, as records show the present land on which the parsonage stands today was purchased from Mr Hobson on a deposit of £2, 10 shillings and then £2, 10 shillings quarterly. No record of price actually paid was shown. Rev Thomas was the Minister.

1938 which is the date of record of the next meeting held shows Rev S Hall and Roy Toft as being present.

In July 1940, the minutes show the first break in the chain of the original trustees, recorded by the death of WH Smith on 9<sup>th</sup> May 1940. Mr G Osmond predeceased him in 1936. Glowing tributes were paid to his memory and record of his service to Methodism in Woodford is shown in the Minute Book of the trustees.

The Minister at this time was Rev CC Seymour, a little man with a terrific voice. At this meeting Rev Mills who was present, nominated the new trustees in the persons of the late Thomas Smith and S Warehouse as trustees.

So this year I celebrate my majority as a trustee. This is the last record in the old minute book. The man who signed the Minutes of that meeting was a gentleman who I would say gained more respect and admiration from all walks of life in Woodford, a man who loved his work and worked fervently and tirelessly for the Church at Woodford. I refer to the late RJ Morrison, of course, who since has passed to his great reward.

No further records appear until 1950, when memory of J Savage was minuted. Evidently this was the last meeting of Mr Savages ministry in Woodford as the next name to appear in June 1950 was VC Elledge, one of the most democratic men ever in the Woodford Circuit. We had to put up with Rev Elledge for 4 years, a record period of stay for any Minister. During this time the names of T Becker, W Dunning and A Jones were added to the list of trustees, in place of members, who by death & infirmity and transfer from the district caused vacancies. These men are still serving the church as trustees faithfully and well and with the name of W Pedwell, whose name was added later, with that of V Draper form the body of trustees who administer the office of the church at this time.

We bring to mind during this time the names of ministers not mentioned but recalled by memories in the persons of L Kentish - killed by (the) Japanese; D Boorman, Presswood, Carter, Rabes, Tama and many others too numerous to mention but we can say in all sincerity, Thank God, that they passed this way.

### **History of the Hall**

I hope to be able to do more in the near future.

Complete reseating of the church and painting of the parsonage and many more incidentals which arise from time to time. Money is necessary for all this. Hope for funds, support to our appeals and cooperation of everybody in our efforts. 21 years of duty as a trustee and for happy and successful anniversary.