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c 1164 - Centenary M. E. Church, Provincetown, Mass.



The new Church in the same spot, dedicated Nov. 7, 1909. This year (1946) this church is not in use.



# Nears 30th Birthday



CENTENARY METHODIST CHURCH

## Cape-tip Church to Observe Anniversary of Dedication

### Lend-a-Hand Club Arranges Exercises; Pastor Compiles Brief History of Parish

PROVINCETOWN, Nov. 10—The 30th anniversary of the dedication of the Centenary Methodist Church here will be observed Monday night with a special program in the rectory to which the general public will be invited, the Rev. William H. Moseley announced today.

Exercises, including a brief talk by Mr. Moseley, a play, vocal and instrumental music, will be in charge of the Lend-a-Hand Club, recently-organized young married couples' group.

Cast of the play, "The Church in the Hills," will include Arthur Bickers, Leona Batt, Edward Rose, Josephine Leonard, Gladys Taylor, Jane Cabral and Grace Haywood. Music will be by the Misses Helen Guilfoyle, Marion Lincoln and Margaret Crawley, with readings by Miss Grace Goveia.

#### History Compiled

Although the present church building is only 30 years old the

Centenary parish group has been in existence 102 years. A brief but comprehensive summary of the church's history has been compiled by the present pastor, the Rev. William H. Moseley, from church records and information contributed by Mrs. Mary Sparrow.

This history states in part: "In the Autumn of the year 1847 some of the prominent members of the only Methodist Church in Provincetown were led seriously to consider the matter of a second Methodist Church to be located in the western part of the town for the better accommodation of many whose residences were in that section.

"Accordingly in January of 1848,

Freeman Atkins, Samuel Soper, and Rufus Thatcher, in behalf of the new society, purchased an edifice which had been the property and place of worship of the Universalist Society. In the following March carpenters were set to work remodeling the building and in six months time the building was ready for occupancy.

#### Society Formed

At this time, September, 1848, a group of 91 members of the Center Church withdrew for the purpose of forming the new society.

"Arrangements for the construction of a new building were realized in 1866 and until March 14, 1908, the Centenary group worshiped in this edifice. Then it was destroyed by fire during a thunderstorm. Lightning struck near the ball on the spire and the fire slowly burned down, despite all efforts to reach it by water. It was a sight never to be forgotten. The church was doomed and by 5 a. m. all that remained were the skeleton walls and the charred vestry.

"On that same afternoon the official board and parish committee met and made plans for the new church that was dedicated on Sunday, Nov. 7, 1909."