

## HISTORY OF THE CHURCHES

The first church in Burlington was the Methodist, which was built in 1892. Funds were raised for the erection of the building mainly by soliciting. The women of the town also gave a play to raise money. The church at first was served by Rev. McDermott of Anacortes. The first resident pastor was Rev. J. W. Kern. The church was used part of the time by an Episcopalian group, who later had a church of their own. Several additions, including the basement, have been made to the building since the date of erection. The following are charter members of the Methodist church: Mrs. George Synder (Miss Adams), Mr. and Mrs. Varney, Mr. and Mrs. Burton, Mrs. Gregory, Mrs. H. S. Hutchinson, Mr. John Gould, and Mrs. Antensen.

The Lutheran church was built on the corner of Avon and Spruce streets in 1905, at which time Rev. Theodore Goeswein was the pastor. In 1911, Rev. L. Resmussen took over the charge as the first resident pastor and has served the congregation ever since. Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Knutzen, parents of the Knutzen brothers, Mr. and Mrs. E. Pulver, and Mr. and Mrs. Nels Tennyson were among the pioneers of the Lutheran church.

In 1906 the Catholic group obtained lots on Greenleaf Avenue for the erection of a church building from a Mr. McLean, an Easterner who owned lots here and apportioned certain lots to churches. Father Van Gothen was the first priest. He also served the Sedro-Woolley church. The church is now served by Father McGrath of LaConner. Pioneers of the Catholic church include; Mr. and Mrs. Weideman, Mrs. Kate Burns, T. N. Ovenell, and Mrs. Essie Jackson.

The Baptist church was built in 1907 on Washington Avenue. Prior to this date, meetings were held in the homes of the Baptist people. The Home Mission Society loaned money to the people so that they might build a church. Rev. J. Franklin Day was the first minister when the church was built. At one time the membership roll included 125 names. Charter members of the Baptist church are Mrs. Dennis and her daughter, Mrs. Merton McKee,

Many years ago there was a Christian church in Burlington which was situated on Fairhaven Avenue, the present site of the grade school gymnasium. The Episcopalians bought this church and later sold it to a Christian Science group, who moved the building to its present location on Anacortes Street.

The first United Presbyterian services were held in May, 1910, with Rev. A. W. Wilson of Mount Vernon conducting the services. In December, 1910, the congregation was organized with 35 charter members, and services were begun on the church building, which was dedicated in June, 1912. The manse was built in the

spring of 1914. Rev. J. B. Porter began serving the church in 1935. In January, 1936, the congregation celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary.

The Free Methodist church was built in 1911 on Hazel Avenue. Rev. O. F. Defoe was the first minister. Pioneers of this church are Mr. and Mrs. Joe Miller, who reside west of Burlington.

The first meeting of the members of the Faith Tabernacle was held in the theatre, with Rev. H. B. Taylor of Vancouver conducting the services. Mr. Morrison of Anacortes, donated a supply of lumber and, by means of volunteer carpenter work, a building was erected on Fairhaven Avenue. Work began on the building on a Monday and was completed on the following Saturday. However, additions have been made to the building in later years. The building was completed in 1925 and the first services were held on January 18 of that year. Miss W. Hutchins and Mr. and Mrs. John Batdorf are pioneers of the Faith Tabernacle.