

---

---

WARD MEMORIAL  
METHODIST CHURCH

NORTHLAND

WELLINGTON



WARD MEMORIAL  
METHODIST CHURCH  
NORTHLAND WELLINGTON

1904—1954



Ward Memorial Methodist Church, Northland  
Opened 1930

## FOREWORD

### THE FIRST FIFTY YEARS IN THE HISTORY OF A LOCAL

Church is a story of faith and persistence. Those who began Methodism's work for Christ in Northland stepped out in faith that God would bless their efforts in the new suburb. As the suburb developed, so Methodism grew, and today there is a beautiful building, set in a fine position, with a worthy and active congregation. It has not been an easy growth—from time to time the faithful members were faced with difficulties and periods of declension. However, the light never went out. The people called Methodists in Northland have received a goodly heritage and are building upon the work of the past. In the following pages you will read an interesting and encouraging story. May God enable the present congregation as they enter the second fifty years to extend His Kingdom in this community.

The Church is most grateful to Mr J. Halket Millar, who prepared this brochure and arranged its publication.

*R. GRAHAM BELL*  
Northland Parsonage,  
June, 1954.

### THE FIRST FIFTY YEARS THOSE WHO PAVED THE WAY

Fifty years! Half a century of witness for the Master. In this year of 1954 the members of the congregation of the Ward Memorial Methodist Church at Northland, Wellington, look back on the years that have meant so much to them personally, so much to the community which has grown up around the unpretentious schoolroom which fifty years ago was the symbol of their faith in their Church, and of their faith in the future growth of a district.

At a time like this, it is interesting to hark back over that period—the days of the very beginning, the months of planning, the years of unfolding—and recall from personal experience, and from the records of the Church, how, step by step, the Church was consolidated.

In the limning of the whole picture, memory brings back the individual pieces, which, small in themselves, go to make the completed pattern. As they fall into place, there arises opportunity for expressions of thankfulness for the faith of those who started with so little, but who had always before them a vision, so well epitomised in the lines:

“We live in deeds, not years; in thoughts, not breaths. .

### **Ward Memorial Methodist Church – Northland 1904-1954**

He most lives who thinks most, feels the noblest, acts the best.”

At the opening of this century, Wellington was developing rapidly, and there was a new cry for land for residential building. Many eyes were turning to Northland, where comparatively few houses had been built. Up till then it had been somewhat neglected as a suburb, still looked on as Governor’s Farm, the land where a former Governor of New Zealand had established a farm, over the first line of hills to the north-west of the present main residential area. Access had been poor, and the main road was even then that which had led to the vice-regal farm, and still known as Farm Road.

This area was opened up, new roads formed, and sections of land were offered for sale, being readily taken up at prices round about £60. Among those who settled in the new suburb were a number of Methodists, whose Church affiliation up to that time had centred largely on the Sydney Street Primitive Methodist Church.

### **SOME PIONEER FAMILIES**

Perhaps the first of these were Mr and Mrs Isaac Clark, who lived down the hill a bit from the present Parsonage. It was to Isaac Clark and his wife that the Northland Church owed much in its beginnings. Then Mr and Mrs William Isaac Clark came to live at Farm Road. Next came the Florence family, and the Donaldson family went to live up on the hill. Mr and Mrs Peter Thomson came to live at Northland, and Mr James Russell kept the grocery business which stands opposite the present-day Church.

Mr and Mrs W. I. Clark had been enthusiastic members of the choir at the Sydney Street Church. It was there they had met, and there they had been married by the Rev. H. Mann.

The eldest girl in the Florence family married Mr Francis William Tighe, and they settled in a house next to the section that later was to be the site of the Church. Their house was built just before the schoolroom went up.

Mr and Mrs Matthew Murdoch had built a house in Creswick Terrace. They, too, were keen members of the congregation, and their son Walter later took a prominent part in the affairs of the new Church. Mrs W. Murdoch was a talented harpist, and her contributions to concerts were always a highlight.

Within a year or two it was evident that Northland would soon become a populous district, and the thoughts of earnest Methodists turned to the future. The pioneering spirit that had guided others over the years was strong in them, and ever before them was the pressing necessity of carrying on and expanding the work of the Master. A Church at Northland was essential, and it was appropriate that the Sydney Street Church should undertake the task. So, about two years after the opening up of the suburb, decision was made to purchase a site for a future Church.

### **Ward Memorial Methodist Church – Northland 1904-1954**

Office-bearers at Sydney Street selected a corner section, perhaps one of the most important sites in the whole area, where Garden Road and Randwick Road meet Northland Road.

Small beginnings were decided on. The population was as yet not large enough to warrant a big expenditure. In 1903 the site where the present Church stands was purchased for £200, prices having advanced considerably as housing had increased.

Plans having been taken that far, the next step was near at hand. The building of a Church right away was out of the question. That could wait till the Northland congregation to be had gathered strength to tackle such a venture. But, in the meantime, there was much that could be done, and foremost was the construction of a building that could serve as Church premises in the meantime, and remain as a Sunday School hall when the time came for the building of a Church.

### **TRUST SET UP**

At a meeting on September 8, 1903, Messrs Matthew Murdoch, Walter Murdoch, W. Truman, J. Watters, Isaac Clark, William Isaac Clark, and Francis William Tighe were appointed first Trustees of the Northland Methodist Church. Mr Tighe was elected secretary, and Mr W. I. Clark became treasurer. The Rev. Samuel Bailey was chairman.

Messrs Truman, Watters, and M. and W. Murdoch were appointed a works and supervising committee, and it was left to them to at once prepare plans and specifications for the schoolroom.

It was agreed that when the hall was ready for use Sunday School should be conducted in it each Sunday from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m., and that a Church service should be held from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

No time was lost by the works committee in getting on with their job, and by the middle of February, 1904, when next the Trustees met, the schoolroom was all but ready for occupation, standing on the extreme north portion of the section, to leave as much space as possible for the Church that one day would come into being. At that time Mr W. Murdoch ceased to be a Trustee, and Messrs Nisbet McRobie and James Russell were appointed Trustees. A mortgage over the property of £500 at 5 per cent. interest had been arranged between the Trustees and Mr Freeman. The building had cost £350.

According to the arrangements, the new hall was to be opened at the end of that month, but it was not till February 15 that the Trustees decided on the nature of the furnishings. They agreed that the seats should be of the same type as those at the Sydney Street Sunday School, but certain improvements were to be effected. There was not much time, but the seats were made and in the building by opening day, workmen of that day having a greater appreciation of doing a job in a hurry than they have now.

#### **Ward Memorial Methodist Church – Northland 1904-1954**

At the same time the Trustees ordered three dozen Bibles, three registers, a supply of hymn books, and four small books for reading to Sunday School classes, and half a dozen chairs. Provision of a small organ as soon as possible was held to be an essential. Mr Tighe was appointed Superintendent of the Sunday School—a position he ably filled for many years—and the Minister was to assist him, while Mr McRobie was to be a teacher, and Mr W. I. Clark was to act as Sunday School secretary.

On second thoughts the Trustees decided to hold Sunday School from 2.45 p.m. to 4 p.m. each Sunday, and to hold a Church service in the hall at 6.30 p.m. A table desk with large Bible, collection plates, and a Baptismal Font were also among the items the Trustees ordered on February 15.

Church officers were appointed: Mr W. I. Clark as steward; Messrs Russell and McRobie as sidesmen; Mr J. Donaldson as usher and doorkeeper.

Provision of the organ was not going to be an easy matter for the young congregation, but Messrs Truman, I. Clarke, Salkeld, and the Rev. S. Bailey were appointed a committee to do what they could about it, as soon as they could. Actually the services did not have the aid of an organ for a considerable period, but from the beginning the singing was led by the music from a harmonium.

Much interest was taken in the construction of the schoolroom, which was the first hall of any kind in the district, and organisations of several kinds inquired about the use of it. Even before they had taken possession of it, the Trustees were called on to decide who might use it.

Their first venture in the direction was to agree to place the schoolroom “at the disposal of the Northland residents for the purpose of a kindergarten, provided a reliable and trustworthy person could be obtained to take charge at a rental of 5/- a week, to be paid monthly.” School hours were set from 9.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m., Monday to Friday.

For some time this offer was not taken up, but later there was a kindergarten, in charge of Miss Cowie, but it did not last long.

As a preliminary to the holding of the first services in the new building, a tea meeting was held at 6 o'clock on the evening of Thursday, February 25, 1904, this to serve as the formal opening. The actual ceremony was an honour given to Mrs M. Murdoch, wife of one of the Trustees, and the Revs. J. Dumbell, J. Dawson, E. Hunt, Campbell, and the resident minister (Mr Bailey) took part.

Afterwards there was a concert, billed, as was the custom in those days, as a “grand concert”. No doubt it was. At any rate there is evidence that it was a great success. So the Northland Primitive Methodist Church was launched, and though there still were a number of things to be done about the building before it could be called complete, it was sufficiently advanced for an impressive opening day the following Sunday, February 28, when the morning service was taken by the Rev. J. Dawson and

### **Ward Memorial Methodist Church – Northland 1904-1954**

the evening service by the Rev. S. Bailey. A children's service was held in the afternoon.

Initiative, planning, and faith had come to fruition, and Methodism was established in Northland, fortified by the enthusiasm of its congregation and its officers, uplifted by the realisation that another worthy bulwark had been well and truly raised.

Numerous offers of assistance in the many phases of the work came in, and, of course, foremost were those of the women of the congregation. They set themselves to collecting funds toward the cost of the building, while on all sides there were efforts to raise the price of an organ, the first donation toward this being £5 from the Sydney Street Sunday School.

It was evident, too, that there should be a local committee which could settle many problems that cropped up from time to time and cried out for quick decision. Messrs Bailey, McRobie, Russell, W. I. Clark, and Tighe were appointed as this committee. One of the first tasks given to them was the formation of a choir.

On its opening day, the schoolroom had no covering on its floors, but this was rectified three weeks later when door mats and linoleum were provided. As families came to live at Northland, there was seen to be a need for a school of some sort, and in June, 1904, the Trustees offered the use of the schoolroom to the Wellington Education Board at a rental of £32/10/- for the first year, and at a rental of £39 for the second year. This offer was not accepted by the Board, and it was not till insistent demands had been made by the residents of the suburb that the Board decided to build a school. The tender for that building was accepted in February, 1906.

## **THE FIRST YEAR**

Sydney Street came to the rescue with a gift of £4 worth of hymn books, some with music, the efforts of the Trustees to furnish hymnals having been left a little late, but on June 16 they ordered 60 hymn books, and 12 others with music. At the same date they set aside £45 to be paid to the man who built the schoolroom.

Money was needed for a variety of purposes, and in August it was decided to ask the Connexion Loans Fund for £50 immediately, and a like sum later in the year. Though not without suffering a number of inescapable growing pains, the first year passed successfully.

Out in the front of the schoolroom, where the Church now stands, there was bare land, bare, that is, save for sundry patches of hardy weeds that flourished in spite of desultory cuttings down and the inhospitable-looking clay in which they had taken root. This clay caused some degree of nuisance when the rains came, and it required steady navigation on the part of the Church-goers to keep to more stable and less clinging spots. It was not till October, 1905, that the Trustees decided to place blue metal along a path which had been formed along the western side of the section.

#### **Ward Memorial Methodist Church – Northland 1904-1954**

A tank had been placed at the west side of the hail to catch rain from the roof (water mains had not then been laid), but the overflow always seemed to run in the wrong direction, and everyone at times was most vexed about this. But it was rectified.

To save expense, members of the congregation took it in turns to keep the building cleaned, and the women of the Church, on a number of occasions in succeeding years, received the thanks of the Trustees for their constant attention to the cleaning.

A choir was formed soon after the schoolroom was placed in use and its members continued to lead the singing and give inspiration over a number of years. Prominent among them were Mesdames W. I. Clark and F. W. Tighe, and the Misses Elsie and E. E. Florence, whose interest in the Church has been maintained over the whole life of the Northland Church.

In those first years the congregation owed much to Mr and Mrs Isaac Clark, who threw themselves heart and soul into whatever had to be doi for the betterment of the Church. All through the history of the Church, in fact, the name of Clark appears in the van of endeavour.

### **THE WOMEN'S PART**

From the beginning the women were organised, and the work they carried out for the Church was beyond praise. Their first effort was to raise money toward the costs of establishing the new Church, and by means of sales of work and bazaars, with here and there a concert, they brought in very satisfying sums of money. It is noteworthy that these efforts were I fully appreciated by the Trustees, who, on numerous occasions, according to the old minute books, conveyed their thanks for what was being done.

Time moved on, and Mr Bailey gave way to the Rev. C. E. Ward, who is still remembered for the manner in which he carried out his visiting, and the success he achieved in recruiting new members. Mr Bailey had had wonderful help in his work from Mrs Bailey, who, on numerous occasions, took her place in the pulpit.

These early ministers walked long distances around their flocks, and seemed never to tire in carrying out their work. Bell-topped and bewhiskered, they were familiar figures in the district. Later Mr Ward acquired a white horse, which conveyed him more frequently to his people and took him even farther afield.

Mention has been made that the Rev. H. Mann officiated at the wedding of Mr and Mrs W. I. Clark at Sydney Street. Mr Mann was himself married in that Church, his bride coming out from the Old Country after he had established himself here. One of the first things he said as he stepped ashore from his boat was: "Are any of my people sick?" Throughout his ministry, he was noted for his sick-visiting, and his tragic death was a severe blow to his Church. Mr Mann was suffocated by an escape of gas at his home.



#### **Ward Memorial Methodist Church – Northland 1904-1954**

For the first few years mo of the supervision of the Church fell on Messrs Clark (.2), J. Donaldson, Anderson, and Tighe, and as time went on there were inevitable changes. By 1915, Messrs A. Brown, H. Shapcott, D. Y. Wilson, J. H. Collier, A. Kennard, and A. Swift had come to help the Clarks (father and son) and Mr Tighe.

From time to time some financial assistance was forthcoming from the parent Church at Sydney Street. The years. of the 1914-18 war came, and with them many difficulties foi the small Church. Anniversaries were observed in traditional.manner, and always the musical side was stressed. From the records it appears these were highly successful and inspiring.

After the war there came to the Church a young minister, the Rev. George E. Brown, and at once there was a tremendous upsurge of interest in Church affairs. Mr Brown gathered about him the full forces of the organisations of the Church, and especially was new life infused into the youth sections. Bible Classes, boys and girls, grew by leaps and bounds; the women's organisations responded even more heartily than before; the choir increased wonderfully. They were heartening years.

### **AN IMPORTANT MOVE**

Soon it was obvious that the schoolroom could not adequately serve the Church. Replacement was indicated, and it was at a meeting of the Trustees on August 31, 1920, that Mr Brown took the first step toward the building of a Church in front of the hall.

He moved that a new Church be built, that it be called the Robert Ward Memorial Church, and that the name be registered.

This name was chosen in honour of the pioneer of Primitive Methodism in the Southern Hemisphere, the Rev. Robert Ward, who arrived in New Zealand in 1844 and began his ministry at New Plymouth. He carried on his work for 32 years in various parts of New Zealand, his last Church being Sydney Street, Wellington.

He first came to Wellington in 1847, and through his efforts a section was purchased in Sydney Street, where a fine wooden Church was built. The Church for long was an influential centre of religious activity. It was while preaching at this Church that Mr Ward collapsed (Sunday, October 1, 1876). He died on October 13. Mrs Ward died four years later. They are buried in the Sydney Street cemetery.

There were seven sons and four daughters. Three of the sons became ministers—Dr Frederick Ward, who subsequently was editor of the *Sydney Daily Telegraph*; the Rev. Charles E. Ward; and the Rev. Josiah Ward.

It was known that money for the new Church would be made available when the Sydney Street property was sold, but steps were taken to augment these funds. When Church union came in 1913, the Sydney Street congregation gradually transferred to the Church in Molesworth Street, but the Sydney Street Sunday School continued to flourish till it was amalgamated with Molesworth Street in February, 1916.

#### **Ward Memorial Methodist Church – Northland 1904-1954**

At Northland there was urgent need for more classroom space, so in October, 1920, the Trustees decided to proceed with the building of a separate room for the Bible Classes. This was to have been of a somewhat substantial nature, but at that time the Board of Trade was rationing cement, so the Trustees agreed to put up the new rooms in wood.

Some years before this a small organ had been obtained. Much time was spent in finding a suitable instrument, and inspection of one was made at Napier, but it did not suit. Then one that had been installed at a private house at New Plymouth was purchased. This served its purpose well enough, but there are frequent references in the minutes to the payment of accounts for repairs.

### **STALWARTS AT THE HELM**

And still the stalwarts of the Trustees—Messrs. Clark, Shapcott, Swift, Wilson, Brown, and Tighe—were making regular appearances at the meetings. From the increase in the size of the minutes of their meetings it was evident they had much work to do, and from the great success of the Northland Church in all its branches they drew continued inspiration.

Approach was made to an architect regarding plans for the Ward Memorial Church, and it was agreed that “we make a great effort to have the foundation stone of the new Church laid in March, 1922, and that we make an effort to raise the sum of £1000, and more if possible.”

Almost at once there was a bazaar and sale of work, and the goal of £200 for this function was far exceeded.

In February, 1921, the first plans for the new Church were submitted, and the general elevation was accepted, though changes in regard to the placing of the pulpit were called for. Up to that time the section had a more or less square corner jutting out toward the south-east. The increase in traffic around that corner called for more space. The City Council asked for the rounding of the section, and in return promised to erect a low concrete wall around the whole property to take the place of the paling fence which formerly had served and which had been sold (for £1) some time before because it had become somewhat dilapidated. Though there were negotiations from time to time, the wall was never built.

About the same time a minute records that “we accept and appreciate the offer of the Sydney Street Trustees to hand over the Petone Communion Service set, and that we hand over our present Communion set to the Sydney Street Trustees to be cleaned up and a suitable engraving placed upon it, the same to be handed to the Rev. C. E. Ward and family as a memento and a relic of the early pioneer days of the late Primitive Methodist Church.”

This has reference to the Communion set which was received by the Sydney Street Church when the Petone Primitive Methodist Church amalgamated with the Petone

### **Ward Memorial Methodist Church – Northland 1904-1954**

Methodist Church on union. The Northland set, which was eventually handed over to the Ward family in accordance with the above resolution, was the one which had been acquired when the Northland Church was first established.

So it came to the laying of- the foundation stone, in faith, of the Church yt to be built. This ceremony was performed on Saturday, February 18, 1922. Under the stone were placed a copper container with records of several kinds, newspapers of the day, and current coinage. This was placed in the ground at a spot which would be at a suitable point in the front foundations of the new Church.

The ceremony was performed by the Rev. C. E. Ward. The tone, suitably worded, was the gift of Mr H. Glover. It was placed just under the surface of the ground.

## **DIFFICULT DAYS**

General work went on very satisfactorily about this time, and among the money-raising efforts (made with the cost of the new Church always in front of them, it not being clear how much money would become available through the sale of th Sydney Street property) was a “whirlwind campaign”, which fully justified its name, and was a worthwhile fundraiser.

From about 1927 depression conditions began to make themselves felt throughout the world, and even in Northland there were results from the chill wind that was blowing up. Funds in all the Church accounts fell to low levels. Indeed, toward the end of 1926 the Trust Funds were so small that no donation could be made to the cost of the Theological College. Sydney Street made a grant of £35 to the Trustees, this amount to be added to the new Church building fund when time was opportune. At the same time, the Petone Trustees made a grant of £10 toward the building fund.

Money was owing on the new classrooms, and the Ladies' Guild came to the rescue, paying over a sum of £30 to keep the accounts square. The Church balance sheet was then showing a deficit of 6/9.

May, 1927, saw the adoption of the Methodist Hymnal, 40 copies of which were ordered for congregational use and 12 for the choir. It was decided that all old tune books, with the exception of the organ book, should be destroyed.

Advice that the Sydney Street property had been sold, and that the Northland Trustees could proceed with the preparation of plans for the new Church, was received in March, 1929.

There was then activity in the direction of getting on with the work, but it was agreed that the original plans were not now suitable. Mr W. T. Clark submitted the plans of a new Church at Bryndwr, Christchurch, and the Trustees were favourably disposed toward them. Mr Clark was asked to view this Church, and he did so, going to

#### **Ward Memorial Methodist Church – Northland 1904-1954**

Christchurch with Mrs Clark and the architect, Mr W. Fielding. A favourable report on the building there was also received from Mr H. J. Atkinson, a Northland Trustee.

As a result, Mr Fielding drew up the plans for the building as it now stands. At that date the Trustees were Messrs W. I. Clark, A. Kennard, F. W. Tighe, D. G. Cody, F. Sellens, H. Hodge, H. J. Atkinson, and C. L. Blackburn (secretary), with whom Mr W. E. Aked was associated in the preparations for the new building.

The Sydney Street building, after its abandonment as a Church, became a factory operated by an organ-maker. These premises and the section were sold for £5500. Of this amount, the Trustees gave £1000 to the Molesworth Street Church, and the balance was retained as a gift to the Northland congregation to supply the new Church.

### **THE NEW CHURCH**

The tender of Mr C. H. Downes, at £3490, plus £59/10/- for a dwarf wall around the property, was accepted on July 17, 1929. The tiled roof was to cost a further £129.

All went smoothly with the construction of the Church, with the exception that it was found the builders were placing a solid brick wall where the organ was to be located. This mistake was rectified before the opening, but all efforts to obtain a new pipe organ for that event were unavailing.

The Young Women's Bible Class offered to provide two collection plates, and Mr W. S. Potter gave money for a brass bowl or other ornament for the Church. The Ladies' Guild provided the furnishings for the minister's vestry, and Mrs Humphries (who travelled to New Zealand with her father, the Rev. Robert Ward, in 1844), on behalf of the children and grandchildren of the pioneer minister, offered to provide communion rail and table, two chairs, and panelling for the chancel.

At a cost of £160, a new manual pipe organ was purchased, and preparations were made for its operation by water power after its installation. It was too late for the organ to be in position in time for the opening, however.

The new Church was opened on Saturday, February 8, 1930, only seven months after the tender had been accepted. The Rev. E. D. Patchett, District Chairman, presided, and was assisted by the Rev. J. Dennis. The dedication address was delivered by the Rev. J. F. Goldie, President of the Methodist Church of New Zealand. The doors were opened by the Rev. C. E. Ward.

Northland Methodism now had a monument to God which its congregation might well be proud of, and over the intervening years, some more richly blessed than others, it has been a source of comfort and further inspiration.

### **Ward Memorial Methodist Church – Northland 1904-1954**

Provision of a Baptismal Font, at a cost of £15, was made in a donation from the Donald McLean Street Trustees, and this was installed shortly after the Church was opened, and a crystal bowl for the font was given by the Northland Sunday School teachers. Turfing of the ground around the Church and the schoolroom was the gift of Mr W. I. Clark, and the wayside pulpit board was given by Mr Clark and Mr H. J. Atkinson.

By this time the world depression was at its height, and the Church funds again suffered severely. There was no money to meet a request from the choir for a small sum to purchase hymn books.

Then came the years of the second world war, when so many calls were made on members, and so many of the Church's members and its younger officers were caught up in the conflict. Those were difficult times for all phases of the Church work, some of which went into temporary eclipse.

Over the past 50 years, Northland Methodists have much for which to be thankful, and the way is now open for fresh endeavours to mark the coming years, so that at the end of the Church's centenary there may be many who will look back over the pioneering period and truly say, "Well done!"

## **SOME NOTES**

In the Church there are four memorial plaques, and in the main entrance is one which commemorates the centenary of the founding of Primitive Methodism at Wellington in 1847.

Two brass plaques bear testimony to the work and worth of Francis William Tighe and William Isaac Clark, two foundation members, who were office-bearers throughout the whole time they were associated with the Church.

Mr Tighe was secretary to the teachers' meeting at Sydney Street from August, 1898, till he transferred to the new Church at Northland in 1904. Between this date and his death in 1933 he was at various times secretary to the Trustees, treasurer to the Trustees, Sunday School teacher, Sunday School Superintendent, choir member, choirmaster, and steward. Mr Clark held a number of offices up to the time of his death in 1946, and his advice was always sought when complex problems raised their heads.

Another plaque sets out that the pulpit in the Church was the gift of the children of Isaac and Maria Clark.

In the chancel a brass tablet states that the appointments in the chancel were the gift of the Ward family in memory of Robert Ward and his wife Emily.

Numerous organisations have made use of the Northland schoolroom. The first was the Juvenile Templars, which, in 1904, was granted the use of the small room (where the kitchen is now) from 6.30 p.m. to 8 p.m. on their meeting nights, at a charge of 2/-

#### **Ward Memorial Methodist Church – Northland 1904-1954**

a night. A general charge of 15/- a night was made for meetings held in the schoolroom, a limit of 11 p.m. being fixed, after which a further charge of 2/6 an hour would be made.

All the Church organisations have held functions there at some time or another, and at one time there was a flourishing gymnasium class fostered by the Girls' Bible Class.

One of the keen women members in the first two years was Miss Annie Neilson, who married Mr W. Murdock. She was a harpist of some talent, and earned the special thanks of the Trustees for the musical assistance she was to the Church at the beginning.

If there was any payment for the organist in the early days it was very small, and as a compensation the Trustees allowed the organist (Mr Anderson) the free use of the schoolroom on one night a year so that he might conduct a concert as a benefit for himself.

In 1906 the Independent Order of Good Templars was granted the use of the small room (then the Vestry, now the kitchen) at a rental of 30/- a quarter.

Use of the large room was granted to the Foresters' Lodge in July, 1907, the charge to be 10/- a night, provided that no smoking was permitted in the room.

In 1915 the Boy Scouts were permitted to use the schoolroom for meetings, and two years later similar permission was granted to the Northland Girls' Peace Scouts, whose first appearance there was to give a concert for patriotic funds. The girls gave a donation of £2 toward the piano fund out of the proceeds of their concert. This followed a letter which the Trustees had sent them asking them not to interfere with the piano.

A tennis club for members of the Bible Classes and Sunday School classes was formed in 1920, after Mr F. Gapes had offered the use of his tennis courts for play. The presentation key with which the new Church was officially opened in 1930 was the gift of Mr A. Kennard, one of the Trustees.

An important phase of the Northland Church's activities in recent years -was provision of a Parsonage. With the appointment of a married minister pending, appropriate steps were taken, and on January 14, 1947, at a meeting at the Kaiwarra Church, a Northland-Thorndon Methodist Parsonage Trust was set up.

It comprised Messrs C. L. Blackburn, P. W. Blakely, C. L. Worboys, C. R. Ridding, A. S. Hill, C. W. Edwards, F. B. Silver, H. Sellens, with Mr M. E. Jessop from Thorndon, and later with Mr G. W. Clark as secretary.

When the Rev. R. H. Allen and Mrs. Allen arrived in 1948 they were found temporary accommodation at Karori. Early in 1950 the present Parsonage was purchased for £3000, and the task of raising the finance for this and for furnishings was entered on with characteristic enthusiasm. Among other things, a carnival, which extended over

### **Ward Memorial Methodist Church – Northland 1904-1954**

some months and in which all members of the Church and their families took part in some way, raised more than £800.

The Rev. R. G. Bell and Mrs Bell arrived in February, 1952. A study was added to the building in that year, and voluntary labour was utilised to build a garage in 1953.

Having successfully achieved their mission, the Parsonage Trust voted itself out of office in April, 1953.

## **OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH**

### **MINISTERS:** The Revs.

Samuel Bailey, 1904; C. E. Ward and G. S. Cook, over the period 1904 to 1915; A. Reader, 1915-1919; E. R. Warburton, 1919-1920; G. E. Brown, 1920-1925; F. B. Lawrence, 1925-1928; J. Dennis, 1928-1931; E. D. Patchett, 1929-1930; H. J. Odell, 1930-1936; C. Wickham, 1930-1932; C. Blair, 1932-1933; W. H. Greenslade, 1934-1935; J. Richards, 1935-1937; R. B. Gosnell, 1937-1942; F. Bateup, 1942-1943; C. E. Dickens, 1943-1948; R. H. Allen, B.A., 1948-1952; R. G. Bell, M.A., 1952-

Mr R. H. Allen was stationed at Northland 1939-1940 as assistant to the Rev. R. B. Gosnell. Sister Martha Coulter was assistant from May, 1940, to December, 1941.

### **TRUST SECRETARIES:**

Messrs. F. W. Tighe, 1904-1922; L. A. Swift, 1922-1925; D. G. Cody, 1925-1927; C. L. Blackburn, 1927-1933; C. McAllister, 1933- 1936; W. I. Clark, 1937-1946; C. W. Edwards, 1946-1948; H. W. Heyhoe, 1948-1953, G. W. Clark, 1953-

### **TRUST TREASURERS:**

Messrs. W. I. Clark, 1904-1921; F. W. Tighe, 1922-1923; W. I. Clark, 1923-1946; C. W. Edwards, 1946-1948; H. W. Heyhoe, 1948- 1953; G. W. Clark, 1953-

### **ORGANISTS:**

Mr Anderson, 1904-1910; Miss E. Florence, 1910-1916; Miss H. Swift, 1916-1921; Miss D. Tighe, 1921; Mr A. Blakely, 1921; Mr Beadle, 1922-1925; Miss Tighe, 1925-1934; Mr A. Gittings, 1934-1943; since that date, Messrs G. Bibby, C. W. Edwards, A. Gittings, Mrs Blackburn, Mrs C. L. Worboys, Miss H. Heyhoe have officiated in these duties, while Mr C. McAllister, Misses K. Stoddart and M. Cody have acted as assistant-organists.

### **CHOIRMASTERS:**

Messrs P. Cutforth, F. W. Tighe, A. R. Rowlands, A. Blakely, W. C. Burd, C. W. Edwards, C. L. Blackburn, A. G. Mackie, and C. L. Worboys.