



**The History of the First Methodist Church
of Lawrence, Kansas**

1915 – 1954

by Mary Patterson Clarke

**Compiled and edited by the
Sesquicentennial Committee**

Preface

In July 2001 Rev. Sharon Howell contacted my wife, Judy, and me to seek our leadership for planning the Sesquicentennial celebration for our church for 2004. Among other planned activities she requested that we compile and publish a history for our church with emphasis on the most recent 50 years. In the historic and time-tested tradition of our church, we formed a committee. Members of our committee are:

- Jerry and Judy Niebaum (co-chairs)
- Phil and Diane Stiles
- Phil and Phoebe Godwin
- Ruth Ann Paddock
- Dan and Carol Abrahamson
- Judy Dailey
- Ken and Rowena Pine
- H. Sharon Howell

Our committee met for the first time for dinner in our home in rural Douglas County on September 11, 2001, my birthday. Our minutes for that meeting recorded the following: “With heavy hearts and great sympathy for the victims of the terrorist tragedies against our country, our committee moved forward to consider the past and plan for the future.”

Several committee members were aware of a typewritten history of our church for the years 1915-1954 written by Dr. Mary Patterson Clarke, which had never been published. We proudly present it here, edited and in print form for the first time. We apologize to her for the fifty-year delay. Sometimes church committees move slowly. Mary Clarke had also written our prior history from 1854-1915.

The history we present here is incomplete. It is, at best, *some* of the history. Some events and persons have passed from memory; others may have been overlooked. It is a snapshot of some of our times, past and present. It is a glimpse of what we may become. We offer it as a memorial to the faithful who prepared the way for we who followed.



Jerry Niebaum