

*Faithful Past,
Prayerful Present,
Promising Future*



**Some of the History of First United Methodist Church
Lawrence, Kansas**

1954 - 2004

**Compiled and written by the
Sesquicentennial Committee**

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Preface

First Church has been served by 38 different senior pastors in 39 pastorates in its 150 year history. Rev. Levin B. Dennis served for a few months in 1855 then returned for a one-year term in 1862. He is pictured twice in the gallery of senior pastors on the following pages. More than a third of the pastorates were prior to 1875. The longest pastorate has been Rev. Virgil Brady at sixteen years beginning in 1983. In our past 50 years First Church has been served by seven senior pastors and a multitude of associates, staff, and lay persons.

The pictures of senior pastors printed here are taken from digital photographs of the gallery of portraits on the walls near the church offices.

At the time of this writing there exists an excellent Web site about our first pastor, James Griffing, created and maintained by his Great Great Grandson, Bill Griffing, at www.griffingweb.com

A timeline of the seven senior pastors included in this history is shown here.

1	1	1	1	1	1	1
9	9	9	9	9	9	9
5	6	6	7	7	8	9
2	2	6	4	6	3	9
Bramble	Garrett	Sundbye	Castle	Johnson	Brady	Howell

Forward

It is a thrill to take a family into the sanctuary for the first time. It's beauty literally takes their breath away. Most don't know whether to focus on the overall structure, the stained glass windows, the organ, the pews or the chancel cross suspended over the altar. It is a holy moment. Usually I find myself repeating Psalm 100:

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.
Worship the Lord with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.

Know that the Lord is God.
It is he that made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise.
Give thanks to him, bless his name.

For the Lord is good;
his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.

For 150 years the congregation of First United Methodist Church has been praising and blessing the Lord of all creation. Worship and music have been at the center of our thanksgiving. Discipleship has been our expression of God's love for our neighbors near and far

As you read this volume of our history, remember to say a thank you to the Sesquicentennial Committee for their two year commitment to this project. Jerry and Judy Niebaum have tirelessly led the committee and congregation into many celebrations. The writing and publishing of this volume of our history has been a joyful task and I am thankful for the Niebaums and the other committee members: Dan and Carol Abrahamson, Judy Dailey, Phil and Phoebe Godwin, Ruth Ann Paddock, Ken and Rowena Pine, Phil (deceased May 2004) and Diane Stiles who have served with passion and a great love for this church.

As I write this forward I am celebrating the thirtieth anniversary of my ordination as an elder in the Kansas East Conference of the United Methodist Church. The three elders who participated in my ordination are all rejoicing in God's heavenly home. Their commitment to Christ's transforming love in the world is passed on to those they helped mentor in ministry.

It reminds me that the stories in this volume are another way of honoring those who have helped shape, mold and influence the mission and ministry of First Church over these last 50 years. It is a testimony to their faithfulness. Thanks be to God for each and every pastor, staff person, member and participant who has walked all or a portion of their faith journey at First Church.

We are invited by God to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ and make faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. I believe that invitation calls First Church into a challenging and ~~to~~ future!

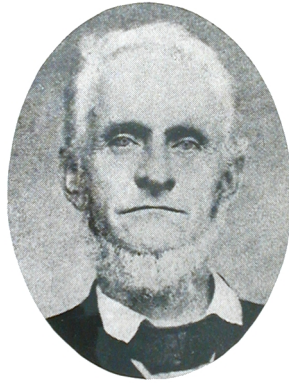
Put on your walking shoes as your read and prepare for the next part of the journey.

Blessings,
H. Sharon Howell, Senior Pastor
November 2004

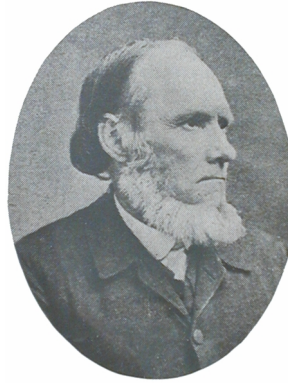
Following are the senior pastors of First United Methodist Church of Lawrence, Kansas



James S. Griffing
Nov. 1854-Aug. 1855



Levin Beauchamp Dennis
June 1855-Oct. 1855



Charles Hazeltin Lovejoy
Oct. 1855-April 1857



Ira Blackford
April 1857-April 1858



Jonas Dodge
Nov. 1858-Mar. 1859



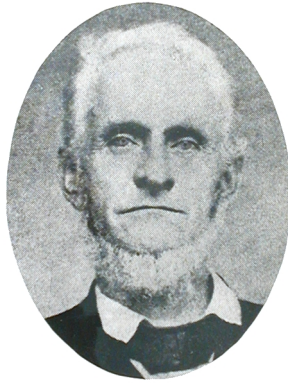
Homer H. Moore
April 1859-Mar. 1861



Hugh Dunn Fisher
Mar. 1861-Sept. 1861



Thomas J. Ferrill
Sept. 1861-Mar. 1862



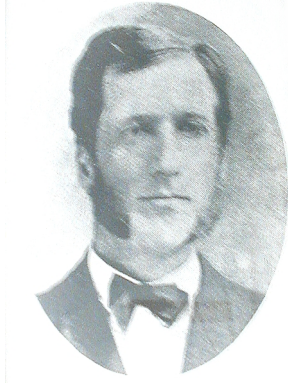
Levin B. Dennis
Mar. 1862-Mar. 1863



George W. Paddock
Mar. 1863-Mar. 1866



George Sullivan Dearborn
Mar. 1866-Mar. 1869



Robert Latimore Harford
Mar. 1869-Mar. 1872



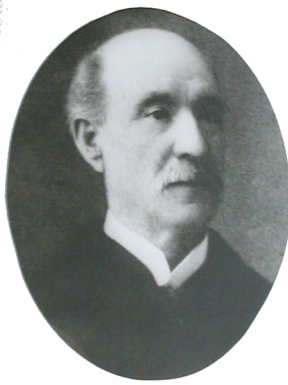
William Kennedy Marshall
Mar. 1872-Mar. 1875



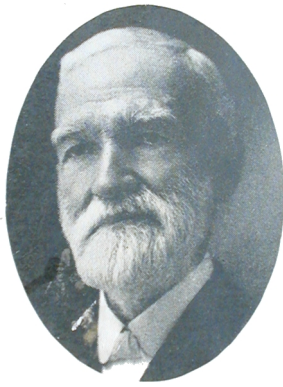
Sylvester B. Lloyd
Mar. 1875-Mar. 1877



Jephthah Howard Phillips
Mar. 1877-Oct. 1877



George W. Henning
Oct. 1877-Mar. 1879



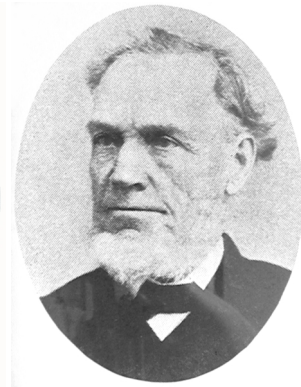
Simon Peter Jacobs
Mar. 1879-Dec. 1879



William Jones
Feb. 1880-Mar. 1883



James Watkins Alderman
June 1883-Sept. 1885



James Marvin
Sept. 1885-Mar. 1891



Joseph Kendall Miller
Mar. 1891-Mar. 1895



J. Wilbur Sommerville
Mar. 1895-Oct. 1899



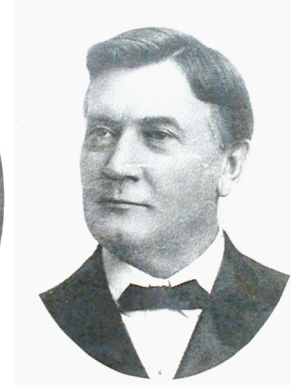
Morris Bamford
Oct. 1899-Sept. 1903



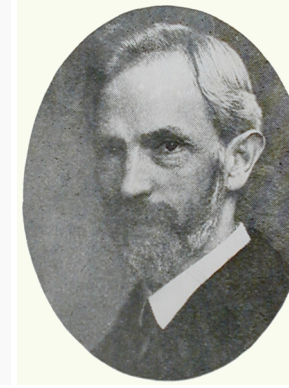
Frank Lenig
Sept. 1903-Mar. 1907



Milton Emory Nethercutt
Mar. 1907-Oct. 1909



Henry Emerson Wolfe
Oct. 1909-Mar. 1915



Henry W. Hargett
Mar. 1915-Mar. 1918



Samuel Sylvester Klyne
Mar. 1918-Oct. 1922



Edward Hislop
Oct. 1922-Oct. 1928



Harry A. Gordon
Oct. 1928-Mar. 1931



Robert A. Hunt
Mar. 1931-May 1941



Oscar Ethan Allison
May 1941-June 1952



Albert F. Bramble
June 1952-June 1962



Charles Wesley Garrett
June 1962-June 1966



Ron Sundbye
June 1966-June 1974



Wayne Castle
June 1974-June 1976



Richard Johnson
June 1976-June 1983



Virgil Brady
June 1983-June 1999



H. Sharon Howell
June 1999-Jan. 2006