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Methodist Protestant Church organized in 1829.

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VI. MEMOIRS

GROVER CLEVELAND BUCHER

Grover Cleveland Bucher, for forty years a minister of Jesus Christ in the Genesee Conference of the Methodist Church, filled with zeal in the service of the Kingdom to the very end, was born on August 13, 1884, in Brighton, New York.



As a boy, he attended Fairport Union School in Fairport, New York. He had further training in Genesee Wesleyan Seminary and later in the School of Theology of Boston University. He was graduated from the Conference Course of Study.

After his conversion at the age of 18, he united with the Methodist Church in Victor, New York, where his parents had established their home. Here, he and the Reverend Earl Rugg started out together in the Christian ministry.

He received his Local Preacher's License in 1909, joined Genesee Conference on Trial in 1910, was ordained as Deacon and received into full membership in 1912, and was ordained as Elder in 1914.

On June 30, 1908, he married Elizabeth J. Barr of Rochester. To their home came six children, all of New York State: the Reverend Glenn E. Bucher, Hornell; Morris R. Bucher, Newfane; Dr. Charles A. Bucher, Port Chester; Gordon E. Bucher, Scarsdale; Virginia A. Bucher, now Mrs. Roy Johnston, Kenmore; and Quentin C. Bucher, Rochester.

Over the course of the years this servant of God ministered in East Groveland, 1909-10; Conesus, 1911-13; Hemlock and Canadice, 1914-17; Spencerport and Elmgrove, 1918-21; Lyndonville, 1922-26; Oakfield, 1927-29; Akron, 1930-34; Newfane, 1935-38; Buffalo, North Delaware, 1930-40; Hornell, East Avenue—Almond, 1941-45; Arcade, 1946-51.

Father started the year 1951-52 with as great zest as usual, for he never relaxed in making his ministry count as best he could. On Wednesday, July 25, he was stricken suddenly with a heart attack and died the same day in Wyoming Community Hospital in Warsaw, New York.

A memorial service was held on Saturday afternoon, July 28, at 1:30 o'clock, in Arcade Methodist Church, which he had served as pastor for more than five years. The Reverend Charles Bollinger, superintendent of Olean District, officiated with the assistance of the Reverend Arthur Gregson and myself. Interment was in Mount Hope Cemetery in Rochester.

During the last few days of his life, he spoke often of a little book, *Preaching Unashamed*, by Dr. Joseph R. Sizoo, which had come to mean a great deal to him, because it expressed the purpose and meaning of his own ministry. In it he marked these passages among others as being especially significant, "A new day always dawns for the world when from among the faithful remnant there come those whose feet have been 'shod with the preparation of the gospel,' whose words and lives bear witness to the truth that is in Jesus Christ"; "We must make ourselves much more effective if we are to win the confidence of our day. We must take ourselves in hand and, after careful self-analysis, inquire how we may increase our effectiveness that in the end we may become good ministers of Jesus Christ".

He loved life, and was able to say along with Coleridge, "O God, how wonderful it is to live". He frequently mentioned toward the close of his life how he wished he could start his ministry all over again with the knowledge, skill, and wisdom which the years had brought. Having heard the Master's call, he has moved on to his last appointment and a higher ministry in which his fondest hopes and dreams are fulfilled.

One of the thoughts on eternal life which he lived was this: Dr. W. B. Hinson of Portland, Oregon, was advised by his physician that he was in the grip of an unyielding disease. After stating in a sermon the verdict of his doctor, this great man of God said:

"I walked out from where I live five miles out of the city, and I looked across at the stately trees that are always God's poetry to my soul. Then in the evening I looked up into the great sky where God was lighting His lamps, and I said, 'I may not see you many times more, but Mountain, I shall be alive when you have gone; and, River, I shall be alive when you cease running into the sea; and, Stars, I shall be alive when you have fallen from your sockets in the great down pulling of the universe.'"

This was the faith of my father and the faith which he passed on to his children.

GLENN E. BUCHER

JOHN WESLEY McGAVERN

John Wesley McGavern, son of William McGavern a member of Genesee Conference for more than fifty years, was born in the East Aurora Methodist parsonage November 4, 1867 and died in Rochester August 4, 1951. He attended Genesee Wesleyan Seminary, Ohio Wesleyan University, Rochester University and received his degree from Syracuse University in 1898. During his University years he supplied the East Groveland Methodist Church and there met Miss Nellie Harison whom he married January 31, 1899. To them were born two sons, Dr. John Harrison McGavern who was physician for a number of years in Honeoye Falls and who preceded his Father into the eternal home by just one month, and Charles Leighton McGavern who is rector of the Church of the Holy Cross, Episcopal, Tryon, North Carolina.

John McGavern was licensed to preach in 1893, was received on Trial in the Genesee Conference in 1896 and into full connection in 1899. He served sixteen Charges while a member of the Annual Conference.

He was an omnivorous reader. Every book in every field, history, science, philosophy, language, religion, he claimed as his own. He purchased new books, he collected old books and read them. At the Conference session when there was no order of the day you might find him at the book stall or at some second hand book store. He knew books as few men do. He had a keen memory and was ready of tongue. Those who knew him best enjoyed his wit and humor. A poetic verse or doggerel might flow from his lips at any time. A quotation from the classics or from a modern writer might be the answer he would give to a question put to him. Some thought he was a little abstract in his thinking, but he was certainly concrete in his application.

