

SPECIMEN—

HILL

METHODIST

CHURCH

3. Though with a scornful wonder  
Men see her sore oppressed,  
By schisms rent asunder,  
By heresies distressed;  
Yet saints their watch are  
keeping,  
Their cry goes up: How long?  
And soon the night of  
weeping  
Shall be the mourn of song.
4. Mid toil and tribulation,  
And tumult of her war,  
She waits the consummation  
Of peace for evermore,  
Till with the vision glorious  
Her longing eyes are blest,  
And the great Church  
victorious  
Shall be the Church at rest.

THE SERMON: The President of the Conference  
the Reverend J.W.R. Westerman, B.A.

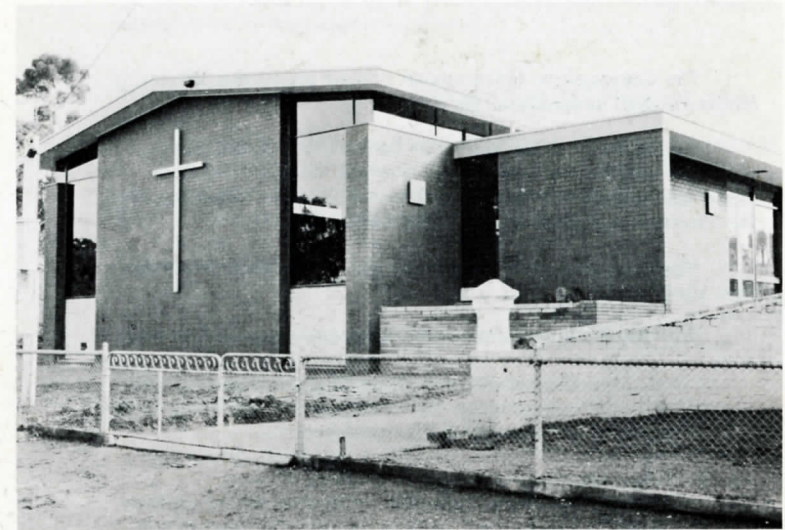
HYMN 745 (M.H.B.)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1. All praise to our redeeming<br/>Lord,<br/>Who joins us by His grace,<br/>And bids us, each to each<br/>restored,<br/>Together seek His face.</p>    | <p>4. Even now we think and speak the<br/>same,<br/>And cordially agree;<br/>Concentred all, through Jesu's<br/>name,<br/>In perfect harmony.</p>    |
| <p>2. He bids us build each other<br/>up;<br/>And, gathered into one,<br/>To our high calling's<br/>glorious hope<br/>We hand in hand go on.</p>          | <p>5. We all partake the joy of one,<br/>The common peace we feel,<br/>A Peace to sensual minds<br/>unknown,<br/>A joy unspeakable.</p>              |
| <p>3. The gift which He on one<br/>bestows.<br/>We all delight to prove;<br/>The grace through every<br/>vessel flows,<br/>In purest streams of love.</p> | <p>6. And if our fellowship below<br/>In Jesus be so sweet,<br/>What heights of rapture<br/>shall we know<br/>When round his throne we<br/>meet.</p> |

BENEDICTION.

Rev. E.B. Cousins

METHODIST CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA



SPECIMEN HILL METHODIST CHURCH

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

for the

OPENING and DEDICATION

Saturday, August 5th., 1967. at 3p.m.

OFFICIATING MINISTERS:

The President of the Conference:

The Rev. J.W.R. Westerman, B.A.

The Chairman of the Northern District:

The Rev. R.W. Allardice, B.A, Dip. Ed.,

A Former Minister:

The Rev. Walter Bampton, L.Th.,

The Resident Minister:

The Rev. E.B. Cousins.

The Superintendent Minister:

The Rev. E.B. Gamble.



## THE DEDICATION

The PRESIDENT:

"Beloved in the Lord, we rejoice that God put it into the hearts of His people to build this house to the glory of His name. On behalf of the Conference I have accepted this building and declared it open for the worship of Almighty God and the service of men. Let us therefore, as we are assembled, solemnly dedicate this place and all things to their proper and sacred uses.

### AT THE BAPTISMAL FONT

MINISTER OF THE CHURCH: Our Lord Jesus Christ gave commandment unto the Apostles that they should make disciples out of all nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

MINISTER: For the promise is to you and to your children.

CONGREGATION: And to all that are afar off.

PRESIDENT: Let us pray.

"Grant, O Lord, that this Church may be so endowed with heavenly wisdom that it may nurture those received here by Holy Baptism and strengthen all who come into its teaching guide them into the way of Christ, that they may ever remain among that number of Thy faithful children."

### AT THE HOLY TABLE

MINISTER OF THE CHURCH: The Lord Jesus, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, "Take eat; this is My Body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of Me." After the same manner also He took the cup, when He had supped, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My Blood; this do ye as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of Me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till He come." In obedience to this command we will here administer the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

MINISTER: I will feed My flock, saith the Lord God.

PEOPLE: We are His people, and sheep of His pasture.

PRESIDENT: Let us pray.

"Almighty God our heavenly Father, who of Thy tender mercy didst give Thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption and to be the food of our pilgrimage in the Sacrament of His Body and Blood, hallow this table to His service, and give to all who come here with humble and penitent hearts the assurance of Thy forgiveness. Build them up to be a spiritual and holy temple, and grant that they may be partakers of Thy living presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

## AT THE PULPIT

MINISTER OF THE CHURCH: Our Lord Jesus Christ spoke to the Apostles saying, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature."

MINISTER: Thy word is a lamp unto our feet.

PEOPLE: And a light to our path.

PRESIDENT: Let us pray.

"O Lord, our Heavenly Father, graciously behold Thy servants, who will preach the Gospel from this place. Endue them with Thy Holy Spirit, and so enrich them with Thy heavenly grace that Thy word may go forth with power to the encouragement of the faint-hearted, the conversion of the erring, the recovery of the lost and the redemption of sinners; through Jesus Christ our Lord." Amen.

### AT THE ORGAN AND CHOIR STALLS

MINISTER: Praise God in His sanctuary.

PEOPLE: Praise Him in the firmament of His power.

MINISTER: Praise Him with stringed instrument and organs.

PEOPLE: Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.

MINISTER: Praise ye the Lord.

PEOPLE: Amen.

PRESIDENT: Let us pray.

"Be pleased, O Lord, to receive this organ which we dedicate to Thee, and grant that those that here lead the music of the Church may ever be mindful of the dignity of the office which is theirs. May their ministry bring Thy people to apprehend the beauty and wonder of Thy saving grace through Jesus Christ our Redeemer." Amen.

### UNVEILING OF PLAQUE.

#### AT THE SANCTUARY STEPS (The Congregation Standing)

PRESIDENT: To the glory of God the Father, who has called us by His grace.  
To the honour of God the Son, who loved us,  
and gave Himself for us.  
To the praise of the Holy Spirit, who illumines and sanctifies us.

PEOPLE: We dedicate his house.

PRESIDENT: For the worship of God in prayer and praise.  
For the preaching of the Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ.  
For the celebration of the Sacraments of His grace.

PEOPLE: We dedicate this house.

PRESIDENT: For the comfort of all who mourn.

PEOPLE: We dedicate this house.

PRESIDENT: For the hallowing of family life.  
For the teaching and guiding of the young.  
For the perfecting of the saints.

PEOPLE: We dedicate this house.

PRESIDENT: For the conversion of sinners.  
For the promotion of righteousness  
For the extension of the Kingdom of God.

PEOPLE: We dedicate this house.

PRESIDENT: In the unity of faith.  
In the bond of Christian brotherhood.  
In charity and goodwill to all.

PEOPLE: We dedicate this house.

PRESIDENT: In gratitude for the labours of all the saints.  
In loving remembrance of all those who have  
finished the course.  
In hope of eternal life through our Lord, Jesus  
Christ.

PEOPLE: We dedicate this house.

Then shall the President and the People say together:

We now, the people of this congregation, compassed about with a great cloud of witnesses, grateful for our heritage, sensible of the sacrifice of our fathers in the faith, confessing that apart from Thee we can do nothing, do dedicate ourselves anew, Almighty God, to Thy worship and service; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The congregation will be seated and the President and Ministers of the Church will return to their places.

Hymn No 677 (M.H.B.)

We love the place, O God, Wherein Thine honours dwells; The joy of Thine abode All earthly joy excels-	We Love to sing below Of mercies freely given; But O we long to know The triumph song of heaven!
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It is the house of prayer, Wherein Thy servants meet; And Thou, O Lord, art there, Thy chosen flock to greet.	Lord Jesus, give us grace, On earth to love Thee more, In heaven to see Thy face. And with Thy saints adore.
--	---

Amen.

We love the word of life,  
The word that tells of peace,  
Of comfort in the strife,  
And joys that never cease.

FIRST LESSON 1 Kings 8:22-30

A former Minister of the Church, Rev. W. Bampton, L.Th.

ANTHEM

SECOND LESSON: 1 Peter 2:1-9

Chairman, Rev. R.W. Allardice, B.A., Dip.Ed.

THE INTERCESSIONS.

FORMER MINISTER OF THE CHURCH: Let us pray.

"O eternal God whom the heaven of heavens cannot contain, much less the temples made with hands; graciously receive this house to the honour and glory of Thy name. Amen.

Make Thyself known to all who in this place share in the Sacraments of Thy Gospel, in the ministry of Thy word and in the fellowship of worship; let them so hear Thy voice within their hearts and so receive the food of their pilgrimage that they may go out to extend Thy kingdom to the utmost bounds of life. Make the door of this house wide enough to admit all in need of Thy mercy, and narrow enough to keep our pride, envy and discord. Make the threshold low enough that it be no stumbling-block to little feet or wanderers, yet high enough to turn back temptation. Let the doors of this house be the gateway to Thy Kingdom of grace. Amen.

Grant, O Lord, that here and everywhere Thy ministers may be clothed with righteousness, and Thy saints rejoice in Thy salvation. Amen.

May Thy people grow up into a holy temple in the Lord, and at last be received into the glorious temple above, the house not made with hands, eternal, in the heavens. And to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, be glory and praise, world without end." Amen.

THE NOTICES

THE OFFERING

The Dedication of the Offering

HYMN No. 701 (M.H.B.)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. The Church's one foundation<br>Is Jesus Christ her Lord;<br>She is His new creation<br>By water and the word;<br>From heaven He came and<br>sought her<br>To be His holy Bride;<br>With His own blood He<br>bought her<br>And for her life He died | 2. Elect from every nation,<br>Yet one o'er all the earth,<br>Her charter of salvation<br>One Lord, one faith, one<br>birth,<br>One holy name she blesses,<br>Partakes one holy food,<br>And to one hope she presses,<br>With every grace endued. |
|---|---|



1-9-58

# Returned to Old Church

# Methodist Centenary At Specimen Hill

Specimen Hill Methodist Church building, 100 years old yesterday, will revert to use as a Sunday School and Youth Hall in the "not too distant future."

On Saturday night at the beginning of the church's centenary celebrations, which are to last a week, Rev. F. V. Winn said the Trustees had decided to build a new church.

The history of the church from its erection to World War I is vague because no official records were kept, but it is recorded that in 1919 the church was then being used as a State School and Sunday School. It is probable that the building was converted from church to school, and school to church, many times since it was erected on the top of Specimen Hill in 1858.

The building was moved to its present site in 1918.

### 350 Attended

About 350 persons from all over the State attended the church on Saturday night to take part in the welcome tea and social evening.

A former member of the church who now lives in Melbourne, Mr. A. Kelland, summed up the occasion when he replied to the welcome by Mr. Winn.

Mr. Kelland said: "It is one of the greatest thrills

of my life to come back to Bendigo and see so many old faces at the one gathering.

"The influence of this church and Sunday school has remained with me from my childhood," Mr. Kelland said, "and I have come here tonight because I know I shall always owe a great deal to the church."

Mr. A. J. Miles of Bendigo also thanked the church members for the welcome. He spoke on behalf of the parochial clergy and Local Preachers' Association.

Mr. Winn said that about half the people present were visitors who had at one time been members of the church.

### Centenary Cake

A three-tiered cake surmounted by a replica of the church, moulded in icing, was specially made for the centenary by Mr. Roy Cronan, a former parishioner.

One hundred candles were placed around the bottom of

the cake.

The first to cut the cake were the two oldest members present, Mrs. W. Pearce and Mr. F. Courtis, both 82 years of age.

The 56th wedding anniversary of Mr. Cronan's parents was also celebrated on Saturday night.

### Stewardship Campaign

Mr. Keith Hocking of Melbourne, in an address, suggested that the church conduct a stewardship campaign similar to one recently conducted at Newport.

He said the campaign at Newport had been a "tremendous success," raising other £3000.

He said that such a campaign would greatly assist the trustees of the church in raising finance for the construction of a new building.

Mr. Hocking said the stewardship campaign had a threefold purpose—

- To raise money.
- To bring people closer to the church.
- To confirm the fellowship existing in the church.

### "Buckle Down"

Mr. Winn, who agreed with Mr. Hocking, said that it was up to the Trustees of the church to decide which method they would adopt to finance the new building.

Mr. Winn said: "In the past, pioneers were faced with big difficulties when it came to erecting a church. Today, methods for setting about such a task are slightly different, but if we buckle down to it like the old pioneers did we will undoubtedly achieve our ob-



"Advertiser" photo. Returnees for the Centenary celebrations of Specimen Hill Methodist Church on Saturday were Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Tilson (Murrumbeena), after 30 years, Mrs. E. Wilson (Healesville) after 50 years, and Mrs. J. Eadie, a local member.

last night, expressed the feelings of most of the hundreds of people who had attended the celebrations of the church's centenary during the weekend.

"The pioneers of those early days had a robust faith and a strong belief in God as One living and active in creation, preservation and redemption," he said.

Their faith has been handed on to the generation of today to receive and live by. The age of miracles is not past. We can still sing:

'Great God of wonders:  
all Thy ways,  
Are matchless, Godlike  
and divine.'

"Jesus tells us that we are called to be workers in God's kingdom; that we have a deep responsibility in the matter; that there are certain rules and laws by which



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Mr. Winn said the Trustees had shown great initiative. As one example, they had just completed by their own work a modern toilet block which was connected to the recently installed sewerage system.

The Mayor (Cr. T. R. Flood), accompanied by Mrs. Flood, were welcomed to the celebration by Mr. Winn.

"I feel that it is a great honor to take part in this memorable occasion," said Cr. Flood. "Bendigo has always been a God-fearing city and we can proudly follow the history of the city through our churches."

The Mayor congratulated Mr. Winn and thanked everyone present for the loyal support they had given the church.

Mrs. J. Simons supervised the cakes and sandwiches.

After all the speeches, solo singing by Mr. N. Thirlwell and community hymn singing, led by Miss M. Thomas, resounded from the little church until quite late in the night.

Two hundred electric bulbs which formed the word "welcome" were still alight at 11 o'clock.

## THE CHURCH--AND UNDERSTANDING OF LIFE

"It was the Church which gave me a right understanding of life. It opened my eyes to the wonder and beauty of God's universe."

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"Jesus tells us that we are called to be workers in God's kingdom; that we have a deep responsibility in the matter; that there are certain rules and laws by which we must be guided if we are to build aright; that if we build aright, we shall find our reward in being accepted as part of God's eternal kingdom, which means that we shall have eternal life.

### The Call of Today

"This involves heavy responsibility and hard work, but shall we be less willing to face these tasks and duties than our forebears?"

"The call today is not simply for clever men, but for saintly men; not simply for money, but for prayer; not for feverish endeavor, but for searching out the deep things of God.

"This is the task for Christians everywhere — to see the new thing that God is doing each new day and so point the way to others.

"When the world got badly off the track and men were relying on military strength and on human force and brutality instead of on the principles of God, Jesus came to show, with matchless clarity and with great beauty, how men might through love and faith find their way back to God.

"And a world spiritually off the track today can be saved by the same Christ if—and only if—men and women are prepared to yield their lives to Him and give evidence of their devotion in Christian discipleship."



Specimen  
Next

IT WAS  
CHURCH  
BAND

Churo

Adv. 29.8.58



"Advertiser" Photo.  
REMEMBER THE TIME when a Bendigo church had its own band?

It was this one—the Specimen Hill Methodist Church's brass band that regularly took part in services. The photo was taken in 1907 at the Ravenswood picnic grounds.

Members were (left to right): Back row, W. Roy, R. Evans, J. Taylor, J. Nankervis, W. Hocking, T. Eddy, J. Eddy, J. Thirlwell. Front row, W. Eddy, T. Eddy, senr., T. Chisholm, F. Curtis, Y. Pearce, B. Eddy, G. Boxall.

Mr. Curtis and Mr. Pearce are still members of the church.

● STORY ON P3.

before 1919 it was situated on

treasurer and first church steward.

MESSRS. Lanthorn, Widdop, Johns, Grainger, Nankervis, Cott, McQuillan. Present superintendent is Mr. T. Chisholm.

Ministers

Ministers of the church since the beginning of this century, as they were appointed, were Revs. Adamson, Haw, Worrell, Bradbury, Lodge, Rankin, Trigg, Graham, Lawton, McConchie, Lancaster, Woodford, Hay, Horton, McLaughlin, Old



# Specimen Hill Church 100

ON THIS SITE  
SINCE 1919

## Next Week

In 1918, the congregation of the Specimen Hill Methodist Church—which will celebrate its centenary next week—decided the church should be moved from its original site at the top of the hill to the present more central one. And the contractors charged only £45 for the whole job!

Not many people remember that the little church on the hill once had its own brass band that took part in the services.

Members and adherents of the church are looking forward to the centenary celebrations to be held for a week from tomorrow to Sunday, September 7.

Hundreds of invitations have been issued to former members of the church and Sunday School to join in this important event.

To those who may not have received an invitation because of unknown addresses, the congregation extends a warm welcome.

The little church, situated on the slope of a hill and facing Chum Street, lined with its huge shapely gums, holds many fond memories to the people of Specimen Hill and those who have since gone to other parts of the State and Commonwealth.

To the older generation, this was not the setting of the church they knew, for before 1919 it was situated on

the summit of Specimen Hill, south of where the present State School now stands.

Little is known of the early history of the church because of lack of records, but the following extract appeared in "The Bendigo Advertiser" of March 27, 1919:—

"The present officers know little of the early history of the church through not having books dating back earlier than 1873. In that year a meeting was held at the Golden Square parsonage. The Rev. John Harcourt presided over Messrs Allingham, Ferber, Grainger and Hiersing.

"It was resolved to give the Minister of Education notice that the committee wanted the building (which they were using as a State School) vacated so that they could put it in proper order for the holding of religious services."

Tenders were called and the tender of Mr. Taylor was accepted. Mr. Grainger, who was at the time Inspector of Mines, was appointed first treasurer and Mr. Widdop first church steward.

### Prospered

The work prospered so much that the building had to be enlarged on two occasions. In 1897 half the present building was erected and then in 1900 the building was completed.

In the latter part of 1918, a meeting of the congregation unanimously agreed to ask the trustees to have the building removed to a more central position.

On January 23, 1919, the Church was moved to Chum Street to land previously occupied by Mr. G. Vine. The contract was let to Brazier and Co. for £45.

The re-opening ceremony took place on Sunday, April 20, 1919, the preachers being Mr. W. Leggo, Rev. Rankin, minister of the church, and Mr. Manley.

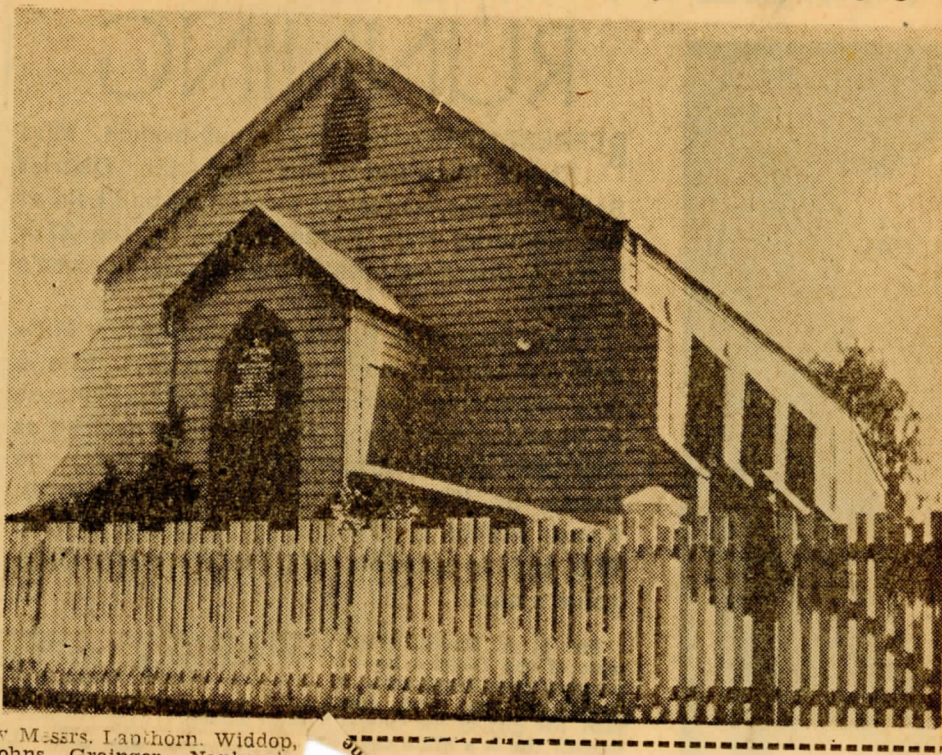
### Band

Many remember the Brass Band connected with the church.

It was accustomed to assemble each Sunday evening at the corner of Chum and Booth Streets where it played several hymns and then marched to the church where it led the singing in the service.

Some of the members of the band were Messrs. T. Eddy sen., T. Eddy jun., B. Eddy, Jim Eddy, W. Eddy, Jack Eddy, W. Tresidder, F. Curtis, J. Taylor, W. Hocking, G. Schmidt, T. Carter, T. Chisholm, W. Pearce, W. Kessel, W. Roy and G. Roy.

Two members of the band, Mr. F. Curtis and W.



BY MESSRS. LANTHORN, WIDDOP, JOHNS, GRAINGER, NANKERVIS, SCOTT, MCQUILLAN. Present superintendent is Mr. T. Chisholm.

### Ministers

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Trustees of the Church at present are Messrs. S. Hocking (secretary/treasurer), W. Pearce, N. Chalmers, D. Sleeman, R. Henry, L. Knipe, A. Chisholm, and T. Chisholm.

Several years ago a new classroom was added to the present building.

Working bees have been held over the last three months, erecting a new toilet block, decorating the interior of the church and many other minor tasks.

The present trustees have decided to procure plans for the erection of a new church on the site of the tennis court and to utilise the present building entirely for Sunday School and youth work.

### Celebrations

The celebrations will commence tomorrow at 6 p.m. with a welcome tea and reunion social to follow.

On Sunday, the Church Anniversary will be celebrated and former ministers Revs. Woodford and Bampton will return to conduct services.

Sunday, September 7, will be children's day and the preachers will be Mr. A. McLaughlin, Mr. C. C. Wood of Castlemaine and Rev. Winn.

Throughout the week, the celebrations will continue with a concert by the ladies on Monday evening, an afternoon for the ladies on Wednesday when a programme will be given by Kangaroo Flat C.W.A.

On Thursday night a Young Peoples' fancy dress social will be held and the re-



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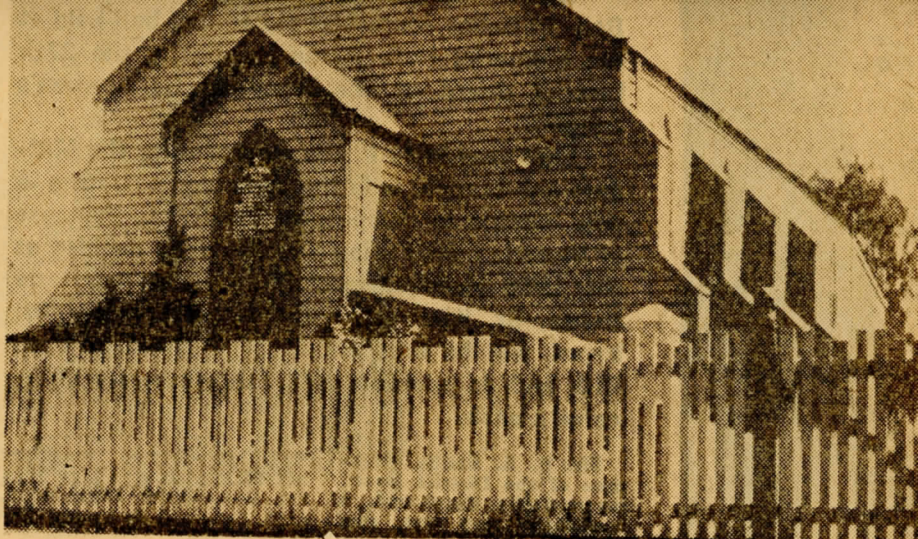
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Two members of the band, Mr. F. Curtis and W. Pearce, are still members of the church.

The following were some of the trustees before the removal of the church from the Hill—Messrs. W. Johns, I. Nankervis, J. Williams, Tom.



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On Thursday night a Young Peoples' fancy dress social will be held and the results of the coloring competition will be made known and on Saturday, September 6, a "Minstrel Show" will be presented by the men of the Church.



# Week-end Celebrations Of Specimen Hill Methodist Church.

Adv. 6-5-48  
Members and adherents of Specimen Hill Methodist Church are looking forward to the "Back To" celebrations to be held during the coming week-end, and extend invitations to all who care to join them in this important event in the history of the church.

The little church situated on the slope of a hill and facing Chum Street lined with its huge well shaped gums holds many fond and dear memories to the people of Specimen Hill, and those who have since gone to other parts of the State and Commonwealth. To the older generation this was not the setting of the church they knew, for prior to 1919 it was situated on the summit of Specimen Hill, south of where the present State school now stands.

First Superintendent of the Sunday School is believed to be Mr. Usher, followed by Messrs. Laphorn, Widdop, Johns, Grainger, Nankervis, Scott, D. McQuillan, and the present superintendent (Mr. T. Chisholm). The oldest scholar of the Sunday School now living is believed to be Mrs. Phair (nee Carter), who resides at 527 Hargreaves St., Bendigo.

It was on January 23, 1919, that the trustees decided to have the church removed to a more central position — a site in Chum Street formerly occupied by Mr. G. Vine. The contract for removal was let to Brazier and Co. (the price being £45), who removed the church to its present position in March, 1919. The re-opening ceremony took place on Sunday, April 20, 1919, the preachers being Mr. W. Leggo, Rev. Rankin (minister of the church) and Mr. Manley. Since then many improvements have been carried out, including the addition of a new class room. A tennis



SPECIMEN HILL CHURCH.

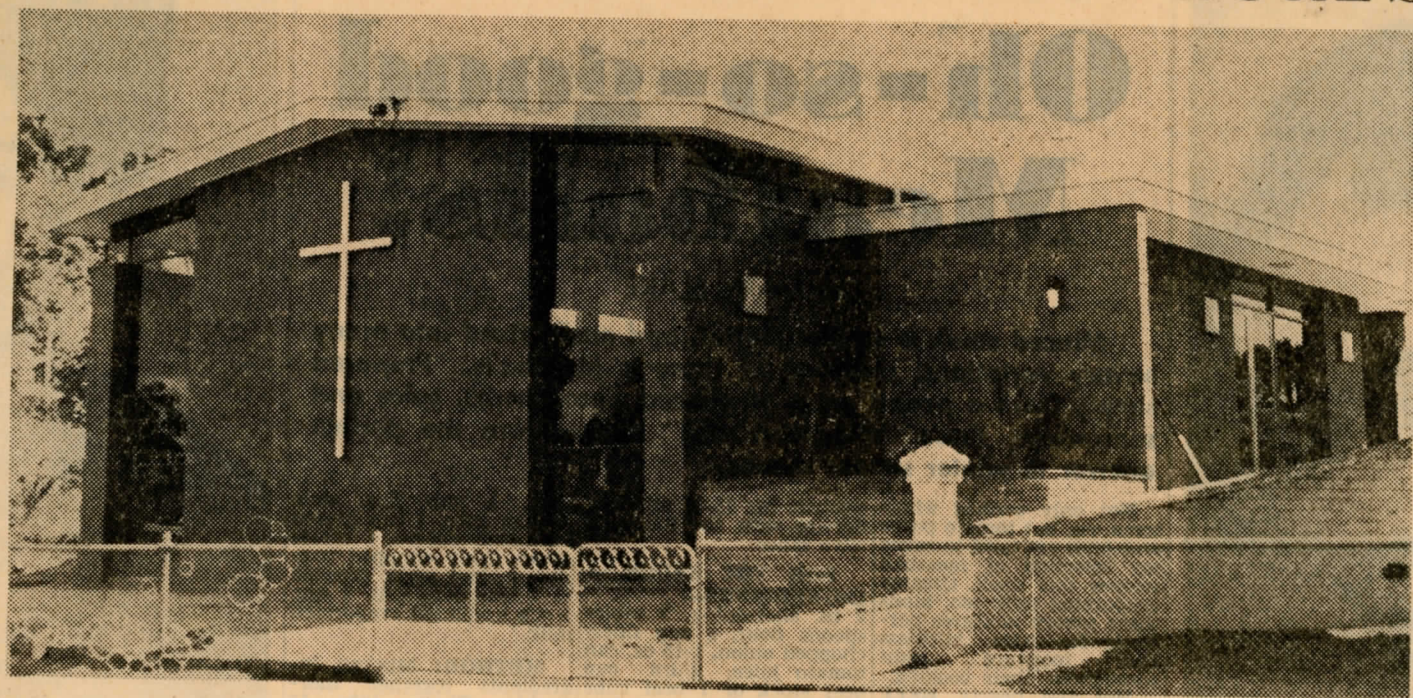
Although little is known of the early history of the church due to lack of records, the following information has been gleaned from records held which date back to the beginning of this century. Many remember the brass band connected with the church on the hill when it was customary to assemble each Sunday evening at the corner of Booth and Chum Streets where it rendered several hymns, and then marched to the church where it led the singing in the service. Some of the members of the band were Messrs. T. Eddy, senr., T. Eddy, junr., B. Eddy, Jim Eddy, W. Tresidder, F. Curtis, J. Taylor, W. Hocking, G. Schmidt, T. Carter, T. Chisholm, W. Pearce, W. Eddy, J. Nankervis, Jack Eddy, W. Kessel, W. Roy, and G. Roy. The following are some of the trustees of the church prior to its removal—Messrs. W. Johns, J. Nankervis, J. Williams, Tom. Bert and Jim Eddy; W. Hocking, senr. and junr., Spargo, N. Chalmers, H. Knipe, W. Pearce. Another well-known identity was the caretaker of the church (Mrs. Mary Mayne).

court has been erected on the west side of the church, and is now in good condition. Ministers of the church since the beginning of the century as they were appointed were:—Revs. Adamson, Shaw, Worrrell, Bradbury, Hodge, Ham, Rankin, Trigge, Graham, Lawton, McConnachie, Lancaster, Woodford, Hay, Horton, McLaughlin, Oldfield, and the present minister, Rev. Bampton. The trustees for the church at present are Messrs. S. Hocking (Secretary), R. Porter (Treasurer), D. McQuillan, J. Taylor, R. Pearse, N. Chalmers, W. Pearce, R. Cronin, D. Sleeman, and T. Chisholm. The celebrations will commence on Saturday evening with the welcome tea and reunion social, followed by special church services on the Sunday conducted by Rev. Woodford in the morning and evening, while the afternoon service will take the form of a P.S.A. when speakers will be Messrs. J. Eddy and A. Kel-lond, former trustees of the church. The celebrations will conclude with a grand concert on Monday evening.



Ready "Advertiser" 4-8-69

# New Church After 109 Years



**THE new Specimen Hill Methodist Church will be dedicated tomorrow afternoon at 3 o'clock by the President of the Methodist Conference, Rev. J. W. R. Westerman.**

**The final church services in the 109-year-old church were held last Sunday.**

The little church has had a colorful history from the early goldmining days.

It was not always in its present locality. It was once on the summit of Specimen Hill south of where the present State School stands.

It was used by the Education Department as a State School until in 1873 when the trustees requested the Department to vacate the building so that it could be placed in proper order for religious services.

The cause flourished so much that the church was enlarged and on two occasions in 1897 and finally was completed in 1900.

### Band

It had its own brass band which marched along Chum St. each Sunday to the church and led the singing.

On January 28, 1919 the church was moved to its present position. An interesting article and photograph of the church being transported by Brazier and Co. appeared in The Bendigo Advertiser on May 27, 1919.

Cost of transport and placing in position was £45.

The reopening ceremony took place on Sunday, April 20, 1919.

Although showing signs of its age, the church will still be used—for Sunday school and social activities.

The planning of the new church, which has been erected alongside the old church, was first discussed some 15 years ago.

A Ladies' League was formed then and since has

worked on fund-raising activities which have been of immense value in financing the new church.

### Spacious

The new choc-tan brick church is of semi-contemporary design and has a spacious vestry. It will accommodate 120 people and the vestry can be used for overflow congregations.

The furnishings of mountain ash are in natural color and bronze carpeting within the sanctuary area and aisles present a pleasing effect.

Most of the furnishings have been gifts or memorials by present and past members of the church, including an electronic organ, the gift of the Ladies' League.

The opening and dedication service will take place tomorrow at 3 p.m. The president of the Methodist Conference, the Rev. J. W. R. Westerman, will be assisted by a former minister, the Rev. W. Bampton, and local church ministers, the Revs. E. B. Gamble and E. B. Cousins.

After the service, afternoon tea will be served in the Sunday school hall.

On Sunday three special services will be held.

The Rev. E. B. Cousins will conduct the service at 11 a.m., Mr. A. C. McLaughlin (a former minister of the church) the P.S.A. at 3 p.m., and Supt. Minister Rev. E. B. Gamble the evening service at 7 o'clock.

There will be special singing by the Junior Choir in the morning and the Church Choir at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.



Radio Adm. 7-8-67

## Opening Church At Specimen Hill



THE President of the Methodist Conference (the Rev. J. W. R. Westerman, at right) turns the key in the new church door at the opening and dedication of the Specimen Hill Methodist Church. At left is Mr. T. F. Chisholm, church steward, and the superintendent minister, the Rev. E. B. Gamble. The ceremony was well attended, and other officiating ministers were the Rev. R. W. Allardice, chairman of the Northern District, the Rev. Walter Bampton, a former minister, and the resident minister, the Rev. E. B. Cousins.