

# PARK AVENUE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*Old 86th Street.*

*Worshiping after Jan. 1st. in*

**Parepa Hall, 3d Ave. and 86th St.**

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## A PASTORAL LETTER.

On January 1st, 1883, the old 86th St. Methodist Episcopal Church Building passes out of the hands of the Congregation which has worshiped on that spot for 45 years.

The new Church on Park Ave, (Cor of 86th St.) is being rapidly pushed towards completion, but two or three months must elapse, between our leaving the old Church, and our occupancy of the Chapel of the new.

In the interim—commencing with Sunday Jan. 7th—the congregation will worship in Parepa Hall—Cor. 3d Ave. and 86th St.

Services on Sunday at 10½ a. m., and 7½ p. m., and Sunday School at 2 p. m.

The weekly Prayer Meetings will be held, on *Thursday* Evenings at 7¾ in the Lecture Room of the Presbyterian Church, (86th St. Cor. Lexington Avenue.)

The Classes will meet at private houses.

The Pastor is solicitous that the removal from the Old Church to the Hall shall be accomplished without detriment to the congregation; yet he is not unconscious that there is danger of disintegration in every such removal. That danger can only be averted by the fidelity of all. For a church, like a tree, gets its roots well down into the soil of a community, with years of growth, and 45 years of church labor has built up, upon the old spot, a great congregation, one of the largest (if not quite the largest) of Methodist congregations in the city of New York.

The interest to be conserved is, therefore, a greatly important one, and it is a matter of no little anxiety that the congregation should remain compact, despite its removal from the old church to the Hall. Therefore this "pastoral letter."

May the Pastor be permitted an earnest word to each of the three classes of people which compose the congregation.

1. *To the Members of the Church.*

You are now between six and seven hundred in number. There should be no question that *you* will remain together. The temper of your devotion to Christ and the Church should firmly attach you to one-another, and you should form the substantial nucleus around which the whole congregation should gather. Perhaps this removal will require a more faithful attendance upon the services of the church *on your part*.

You will be expected at *both services on each Sunday*.

And is it unreasonable to ask that each of you will do *what he can* to aid in the conservation and the increase of the congregations and to assure the success of the services in the Hall?

2. *To the stated Members of the Congregation.*

Hundreds of you regularly worship with us, who are not strictly members of the church. (And yet you ought to be, every one of you.) It is earnestly hoped that you will continue with us, "going with us where we go." Many of you are greatly attached to the old church building—(and who is not, whom God has blessed there?)—but let us remember that bricks and mortar are not "the church." "The church" is the "body of believers." "The church" therefore goes with us. We do not leave it behind. "Come thou with us and we will do thee good."

3. *To those who occasionally worship with us.*

Many thousands of people have recently moved into this section of the city. Other thousands come yearly. We are largely a community of strangers. Among such masses of people individuals drift from church to church—or, alas! drift *from* the church altogether, almost unnoticed.

Many try, for a time, to continue their relations to downtown churches to which they are attached, and spend some hours of every Sunday *on the cars*. Is that well?

Hitherto there has been such insufficient and indifferent church accommodation, in this section of the city, that many have found, in that, a reason for going a long distance to church.

Hereafter that reason ceases.

The great Hall will hold many more people than the old church. The chairs also are more comfortable than the old pews. And when the new church is completed, there will be, on the corner of Park Avenue and 86th Street, a Methodist church edifice, having a seating capacity of more than a thousand, and not inferior, in thought, in design, finish, comfort and even elegance, and every auxiliary of worship, to any Methodist Episcopal church in this country.

Now this letter is not addressed to the world at large, but simply to this community. There are many people—living among us and yet unknown to us—who attend Methodist worship, whose attention we desire to attract to the new church we are now erecting, and to our services meanwhile.

Occasionally you may have worshiped with us in the old church, but have found it so over-crowded and uncomfortable that you have not regularly come with us. Hereafter there will be room for all, and a welcome as there always has been.

Will *you* not now join us? And will you not make yourself known to the Pastor and the members of the church?

The natural territory of this church is from 73d St. to 97th St., and from 5th Ave. to the East River. (Except the southeasterly portion of this territory, which belongs rightfully to the Cornell-Memorial church, 76th St and 2d Ave.)

Persons living within this territory, and desiring to worship God in conformity with the usages of the Methodist Episcopal church, are especially and cordially invited to join us.

Concerning the services about to be held in Parepa Hall, the following may be said :

1. The seats will be absolutely free.

The church is supported by the voluntary contributions of its attendants, paid weekly, "as God has prepared them."

2. The Trustees will be present at all services to "seat" the congregation.

3. It is hoped to organize a large chorus-choir, under the leadership of Mr. Charles Wiegand, Jr., to lead (but not to monopolize) the singing. Persons of suitable voices, who are willing to join such a choir, will oblige us by communicating with Mr. Wiegand (236 East 83d St.)

4. No effort will be spared to render the Hall thoroughly comfortable during the winter Sabbaths, the heat, light and ventilation receiving particular attention, and the services will be conducted as formerly in the church. No artifices of sensationalists will be resorted to to "draw a crowd," but the Gospel will be preached, and whoever desires to hear it will be welcomed.

5. Let us pray that there may go with us, during our temporary occupancy of the Hall, the continued favor and the increased power of that same Lord and Savior whom we have always worshiped.

If this "pastoral letter" should fall into the hands of some stranger, recently moved into this neighborhood, let him consider that *he* is personally and heartily invited to worship with us, at Parepa Hall, corner 3d Ave. and 86th St., on Sunday, Jan. 7, 10½ A. M. and 7½ P. M., and on every Sunday thereafter, and let him send his children to the Sunday School at 2 P. M.

If it should be read by some one who never goes to church at all (who hitherto has made that sad mistake), or who, since he moved up-town or from the country, has found himself so a stranger among strangers, that he has not yet sought a "church-home," let him come with us.

"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is."—Heb. 10, 25.

None are so poor as to be unwelcome, and none so rich as not

to need this treasure ; none so ignorant but they can here learn, and none so wise but here they may bow.

Finally, may this year be to you, good friend, "a happy New Year!" And to this beloved church, which begins the year with leaving its old edifice, and worshipping temporarily in a hall, and which, during this year, hopes to occupy its new chapel and, later, to dedicate and worship in its new church—to this people, one and all, their grateful Pastor, mindful of the responsibilities the year will bring to this congregation, wishes a "happy New Year," and may God bless you, every one,

Faithfully yours,

*A. J. PALMER.*

1470 Lexington Ave., }  
New York, Jan. 1, 1883. }

The Pastor appends the names and residences of the "Official Members" of the Church, to either of whom any inquiries may be addressed.

#### CLASS LEADERS,

Lewis De Groff, 165 E. 81st St.  
Hollis Hollman, 116 E. 78th St.  
John Westervelt, 206 E. 77th St.

W. A. Owen, 71 E. 86th St.  
Wm. Baldwin, Harlem,  
Miss S. M. Riggs, 104 E. 78th St.

#### TRUSTEES.

Chas. G. Keys, Pres., 54 E. 55th St.  
Wm. A. Owen, Sec'y 71 E. 86th St.  
John T. Young, Treas. 520 E. 87th St.  
J. M. Thorpe, 423 E. 88th St.

S. H. Vandewater, 50 E. 74th St.  
J. L. Durant, 125 E. 82d St.  
Walter Reid, 250 E. 82d St.  
Andrew Beacom, 207 E. 85th St.

#### STEWARDS.

E. C. Keys, 156 E. 78th St.  
S. C. Pullman, 1319 Park Ave.  
C. W. Turner, 105 E. 83d St.  
N. Wise, 124 E. 92d St.

E. J. Tichenor, 315 E. 82d St.  
Wm. Betty, 1319 Park Ave.  
Geo. Reid, 417 E. 88th St.  
J. H. McDougall, M. D., 127 E. 83d St.