North M. E. Church Will Celebrate Its 80th Year

Methodism in Manchester had its beginnings as early as 1790 with the organization of a church of six members at the home of Thomas Spencer of Spencer street. In 1794, the first Methodist church in town was erected and the staunch Methodists from all parts of the parish traveled long distances over poor roads to attend the Sunday services on Spencer street. In 1822, the cornerstone of a new Methodist church was laid and the building erected a few feet east of the Congregational church in the Center of the town. The building was not completed and dedicated until 1836. The relationship of the Methodists and Congregationalists, which therefore had not been harmonious, improved as each grew older and stronger.

North Church 80 Years Old

As the town grew, and particularly that part of it known as the Union village, the need of another Methodist church at the North End of the town was felt. In 1850-51, the present church, a beautiful old New England type of building, was erected on North Main street, just 80 years ago. It has always been known as the North Methodist church. The exterior of the church has not been altered since, but if any of the first worshippers were to enter the edifice today, they would not recognize it, so great has been the transformation. This has only been accomplished during the present year. With the pastor, Rev. Marvin S. Stocking, as leader, all organizations of the church have worked with zeal to beautify their church, and add numerous up-to-date features for the comfort of all who worship there.

A special eightieth anniversary celebration program has been under consideration for some time, and the date set as of October 11 to 15. The services Sunday morning will include the session of the church school at 9:45, followed by meditation at 10:30 and the worship period at 10:45, with Rev. John E. Duxbury of Putnam as preacher. Mr. Duxbury was pastor of the church for a number of years, preceding Mr. Stocking.

At 7 o'clock Sunday evening a loy-