

Asbury postpones groundbreaking

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Groundbreaking ceremonies for the new \$1.5-million Asbury United Methodist Church in South Whitehall Township scheduled for yesterday have been postponed because of rain until 3 p.m. April 28.

The ceremonies will be held on the new site at the southeast quadrant of Springhouse Road and Walbert Avenue in the township. The new structure, to replace an edifice destroyed by fire at Jefferson and Hamilton streets in Allentown, will be built on a 10.2-acre tract, according to the Rev. Earl C. Carver, pastor.

Asbury Church starts building

The congregation of Asbury United Methodist Church officially started on a new church building with a groundbreaking service yesterday.

The site is a 10.2-acre tract at the corner of Walbert Avenue and Springhouse Road in South Whitehall Township.

The old church, built in 1921, was destroyed by fire Oct. 24, 1972. That was

Photo on Page 7

located at Hamilton and Jefferson streets in Allentown.

About 200 attended yesterday's service.

The Rev. Harvey Marsland of Allentown told the gathering that there is a basic tendency down through the ages reflecting the need for persons of the Christian faith to build and focus their lives around an altar.

He said that God requests us to build altars to symbolize our faithfulness and our community in Christ.

Rev. Marsland is superintendent of the Allentown District of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

He turned the first shovel of ground. Next was the pastor, the Rev. Earl C. Carver.

First among those representing the congregation was Mrs. Frank Whittaker, lay leader.

In all, about 18 persons — including officials of South Whitehall — dug a spadeful of earth.

Then, a dozen shovels were handed out, and the entire congregation was invited to come forward to take a turn.

The congregation included several members who were part of the congregation when the old church was built in 1921.

Construction is expected to start within several weeks, according to the Rev. Thomas J. Gallen, associate pastor.

This is a \$1.5-million project, designed by Wallace and Watson Associates. E.C. Machin, Inc., is the general contractor.

The congregation is presently worshipping in the former Zion United Methodist Church at 9th and Linden Sts., Allentown.

Completion of the new building is figured for the summer of 1975.