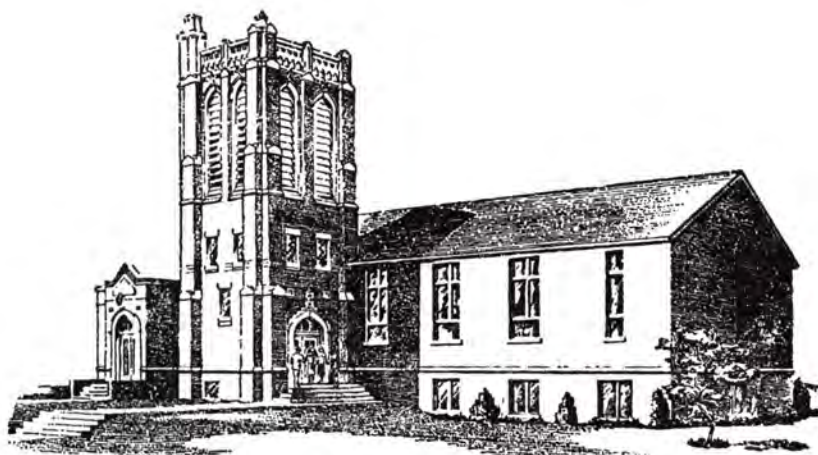


Durand
United Church of Christ

ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

*50th
Anniversary*



REV. AUSTIN B. CHESWELL, Pastor
MR. RICHARD MALMQUIST, Assoc. Pastor

March 16 - 17, 1968

4225 Culver Road



Who-So-Ever Will Chapel

*Remember the days of old. Consider the years of many generations:
ask thy Father and he will show thee; thy elders, and they will tell thee.*

DEUT. 32:7

Sea Breeze Christian Association
1914 - March 14, 1918

Who-So-Ever Will Chapel
1915 - March 14, 1918

First Congregational Church
of Sea Breeze and Vicinity
March 14, 1918 - January 26, 1930

Durand Congregational Church
January 26, 1930 - October 9, 1966

Durand United Church of Christ
October 9, 1966 - Present

PASTORS

REV. DAVID H. FINDLAY

Summer 1914 to October 1917

REV. ALBERT L. BRIDDON

November 1917 to May 1925

REV. N. COURTNEY JAMES

October 1925 to September 1929

DR. DELBERT D. WILSON

October 1929 to August 1933

REV. DENNIS D. BOUMAN

January 1934 to December 1939

REV. GERALD E. BOYCE

June 1940 to June 1, 1944

REV. LEE J. BEYNON, JR.

September 1944 to April 1945

DR. FRED H. WILKENS

June 1945 to January 1946

REV. DANIEL W. FOWLER

January 1946 to June 1946

DR. LEE J. BEYNON, JR.

July 1946 to March 1948

DR. JAMES R. BRANTON

April 4, 1948 to April 1, 1960

REV. A. B. CHESWELL

January 1961 and currently our Pastor

PROGRAM

Saturday, March 16th, 1968

Reception 4:00 P.M.
Pictures relating to church history will be on display.

Dinner 5:30 P.M.
Greetings, music, reminiscing, fun.
Toastmaster: Mr. Fred Emens
Pianist: Mrs. Robert Little

"Let's Watch Our Past" 8:00 P.M.
Slide program depicting our church history
Mr. Leonard Muhs

Sunday, March 17th, 1968

Church Anniversary Service 11:00 A.M.
Rev. Lee J. Smallsreed, Jr., *Speaker*
Special Music by Choir

Coffee Hour and Goodbyes in Fellowship Hall
immediately following service.

THE HISTORY OF THE DURAND UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

MARCH 14, 1968

It was in the fall of 1913 that Durand Church had its humble beginning. At this particular time in the history of Irondequoit, Sea Breeze was a popular summer "camping place" with only a scattering of permanent residences. As the years passed by, people began to close in and roof over their tents to make more permanent homes. A few women decided that there was a real need for a place of worship for the Protestant people in the community. These spiritually minded women interested a group of their neighbors and finally meetings were held at the homes of those with pianos. Mr. Henry Gazelle, a local resident was the lay preacher.

As a result of these meetings, the "Sea Breeze Christian Association" was formed. By Summer of 1914 these services were transferred to a vacant cottage owned by the brother of one of the group, Mr. Richard Williams. Each Sunday these earnest and eager people turned out in good numbers to sit on benches made of planks and worshipped God in their own place of worship. The ladies even formed a "Thimble Club", the forerunner to our Womens Fellowship, to help raise money to secure a better place in which to hold their services.

Beginning in 1914, the Church services and the Sunday School were led by Mr. David H. Findlay, a representative of the American Bible Society. Certainly Mr. Findlay was a devoted servant of God and must have inspired this small group by his faithfulness. Each Sunday, in good or bad weather, Mr. Findlay journeyed from the city to lead his small, but enthusiastic flock in worship. It is difficult for us today to realize the trials of such a trip into the literal "wilds of Irondequoit" over fifty years ago. It was a singular devotion to a great cause which impelled Mr. David H. Findlay to such faithfulness.

In 1915, Mr. Boucher, who owned considerable farm property in the area, gave a lot at the corner of Park and Culver Roads (then Woodman Road) to the group to be used as a site for a place of worship. Building the church became a real cooperative enterprise. Not only did the members raise the necessary money, but also performed much of the work themselves under the direction of the same Richard Williams whose brother's cottage was then being used as a place of worship. When the building was completed, even to a bell for the cupola, it was named the "Who-So-Ever Will Chapel". The first wedding in this Chapel was solemnized between Miss Myrtle Meyer and Mr. Geo. Goettel in September of 1917. Mr. and Mrs. Goettel are still active members of the church.

It was in May of 1917 that an application to affiliate with the New York State Conference of Congregational Churches was filed, and on

March 14th, 1918 at a special Ecclesiastical Council convened at the Who-So-Ever Will Chapel, the Council unanimously voted into its membership the local fellowship. The name First Congregational Church of Sea Breeze and Vicinity was adopted, and papers of incorporation were filed. This year then, has become the occasion of our 50th Anniversary celebration as a corporate and affiliated church.

In March of 1918 the records show that the population of the Town of Irondequoit was 5,500 and it was estimated that 3,000 people lived in the three mile radius from the site of the new church building. At the time of incorporation as a Congregational Church the statistics show further that there were "21 male members and 21 female members".

The first minister, the Rev. Albert L. Briddon, was called in November of 1917 and served the church effectively until he accepted another call in May of 1925. It was during Rev. Briddon's pastorate, on April 11, 1920 that the corporate body made application to the New York State Conference Church Building Society for a loan of \$1,000.00 to assist the congregation in completing its parsonage. The application stated that the congregation was in possession of a church building 40 feet long, 28 feet wide, and 18 feet high and could seat about 220 people. The total cost of this property was \$4,350.00 including the land, and the furnishings were valued in the amount of \$500.00 which had been either contributed by or were constructed by the members.

In October of 1925 the Rev. N. Courtney James was called and he served until September of 1929. During his pastorate we find in the record that in 1925 the total church budget was \$3,000.00 of which \$1,800.00 was for the minister's salary. In 1926 the budget was \$4,500.00 with the minister's salary remaining at \$1,800.00. It was during the tenure of Rev. James and as a result of groundwork laid by Rev. Briddon, that the church began to appeal to the young people of the community.

By 1928 the membership of both the Church and the Sunday School had outgrown the building, and larger quarters were urgently needed. Being a group to never rest when something needed to be done the congregation met on April 23, 1928 to plan a campaign to raise funds for a new Church building. A committee was formed with Mr. Charles Pundt as Chairman to conduct the campaign. Although the original goal of \$50,000.00 was not quite realized, the campaign was successful and all indications were that at last the dream of an adequate church building would come true.

In October of 1929 the Rev. Delbert D. Wilson was called. Unfortunately, by the time the Building Committee was ready to proceed with the construction of the new church facilities the Nation was well into the great depression which many of us can still remember. Slowed down, but not stopped by this blow to their hopes, the Committee placed before the congregation a revised plan to build only that part of the building which we know as the "crying room", alcoves, offices, library,

tower, kitchen, and boiler room areas. This plan was adopted, and in the spring of 1930 the newspapers carried an account of the laying of the cornerstone by Mr. Leon M. Hill, then president of the Board of Trustees.

In August of 1933 Rev. Wilson accepted a call to the First Congregational Church of Oswego, N. Y. and in January of 1934 the Rev. Dennis D. Bouman was called from Clarkson, N. Y.

To chronicle the depression and post-depression years of the financial struggles of our church to meet its obligations would be a story of heart-ache and great personal sacrifice of many of its members. Suffice to say that at one time a committee of trustees called on the president of the Genesee Valley Trust Co. and offered to turn the keys of the church over to the bank and literally close up shop. The church could no longer make principal and interest payments. Shocked by the action, the bank countered that if the church would make only interest payments the bank would continue the mortgage in good standing.

In December of 1939 Rev. Bouman accepted another call and in June of 1940 the Rev. Gerald E. Boyce was called.

By January 1943, the indebtedness of Church had been reduced by regular quarterly payments to \$9,300.00 owed on a first mortgage to the Genesee Valley Trust Co., and \$9,025.00 owed on a second and third mortgage held by the Congregational Building Society. This rate of progress was felt to be much too slow if Durand Church was to realize its full opportunity to be of service.

In December of 1943, Mr. Douglas White and Mr. Charles Pundt presented to the Board of Trustees and the Church Council a plan to speed up liquidation of the church debt. The plan was to urge all interested individuals and groups to purchase United States War Savings Bonds and present them to the Church for the express purpose of reducing the principal indebtedness of the church.

In June of 1944 the Rev. Boyce accepted another call, and the Rev. Lee J. Beynon Jr. was called in Sept. of 1944.

By 1945, aided by the sale of the former parsonage and the original church building, enough money was obtained to pay fully the second and third mortgages. This left the Church with only a first mortgage which had been reduced by the regular quarterly payments to \$7,500.00. By the end of 1945 the Bond Plan Fund had grown to over \$4,900.00. It was during this period that the present parsonage on Brandon Rd. was purchased. In April of 1945 Rev. Beynon enlisted in the Navy and in June of 1945 the Rev. Fred H. Wilkens was called as interim pastor.

During 1946, by the redemption of one group of bonds in May and another group in July, the remaining debt on the Church was further reduced to \$1,843.15. The goal was now within easy reach and by means of the regular quarterly payments, the debt was finally wiped out in

April of 1949 and the mortgage cancelled. This indeed was a saga of sheer determination and perseverance and a few years later in the financing of our present sanctuary the committee was to learn that we were one of a very few that met their obligations during those trying years.

The Rev. Daniel Fowler served the church briefly from January of 1946 until June of 1946, at which time Rev. Beynon returned from service and served until March 1948 and Dr. James R. Branton was called as pastor in October of that year.

There was still the urgency to complete the structure of Durand Church, and in October of 1951, under the leadership of Mr. Fred M. Emens, a committee of 120 canvassed the membership in a drive to obtain pledges in the amount of \$60,000.00 to complete the church complex. The drive was successful and on Sept. 27th, 1953 the present sanctuary was dedicated. The dedicatory service was presided over by Dr. James R. Branton. Dr. Robert Bruce, Supt. of the New York State Conference of Congregational-Christian Churches, was the principal speaker.

In the spring of 1960 Dr. Branton tendered his resignation as pastor and on February 1st, 1961 the Rev. A. B. Cheswell began his pastorate with us.

To attempt to take you through the endeavors, failures, achievements and successes of our past ministers would be difficult and for many it might become dull and uninteresting. Let it be said for the record, however, that each man was dedicated and loyal. Each brought to the community new ideas and varied experiences; they were all earnest and Builders of the Kingdom as they felt it in their hearts. We must not forget either the First Ladies of the Parsonage for they have all been a real working part of the ministry. They have lent a graciousness unexcelled, and have added friendship and leadership to the ministry of their husbands.

This, then, is a brief history of the Durand United Church of Christ from 1918 until 1968; of its slow but steady progress since its humble beginning. While the names of a few of the people responsible for its growth were mentioned throughout the above account, many more were left out. This is deliberate because this is in the main, the story of a church as a congregation and not a chronicle of individuals however great they may have been. Those few names which were mentioned have been included only because they were essential to the continuity of the account, or to an understanding of the situation being described.

The most fitting tribute that we as heirs can pay to many, many people who have contributed so much to Durand Church is for us to perpetuate their deeds by building on the foundation which they have so strongly laid with the help of the ministers who have served with them. Only in so doing can we fulfill their dreams to advance the teachings of Christ towards a more perfect life in our Community, our Nation, and our World.

COMMITTEES

GENERAL:

Mrs. Robert Stein
Mrs. Leonard Muhs
Mrs. Carl Pugsley
Mrs. William Arthur
Mr. Leonard Muhs

INVITATION LIST:

Mrs. Arthur Pundt

MAILING:

Mr. Charles Snyder
Mrs. Leonard Irwin
Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Houghtaling
Mr. and Mrs. Erwin Setzer
Mrs. Harold Beachner
Mr. and Mrs. Freeman Boyer
Mrs. Gary Davis
Mrs. George Diem
Mrs. Walter Graumann
Mrs. Philip Hahn
Mrs. Eugene LaBrecque
Mrs. Robert Little
Mrs. Harry London
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Pierson
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ubbink
Mrs. Winfield VanHorn
Mrs. Donald McElwain
Mrs. Clayton Schwind
Mrs. Harry Shearer
Mrs. Herbert Johnson

ANNIVERSARY BOOKLET:

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Welch
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Smith

HISTORY:

Mrs. William Arthur
Mr. John MacFarlane
Mr. Leonard Muhs

TRANSPORTATION:

Mrs. C. Wilson

PUBLICITY:

Mr. William Arthur
Mrs. Eugene LaBrecque

PROGRAMS:

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Matthews

TELEPHONE:

Mrs. Fred Steinorth

GUEST BOOK:

Mrs. Anton Betlem
Mrs. Morris Vanderbrooke

ARTS AND CRAFTS:

Mr. and Mrs. Edward VanHorn
Mr. and Mrs. William Haller
Miss Georgia Burke
Miss Shirley London

HOSPITALITY:

Mrs. Ralph Donehew
Mrs. Kenneth Abel

CHECKING:

Mr. Richard Malmquist
Young People

BANQUET:

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Prince
Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Pierce
Mr. Thomas Street

DECORATIONS:

Mrs. Walter Champion
Mrs. Hilda Howe

SATURDAY RECEPTION AND
SUNDAY COFFEE HOUR:

Mrs. Lillian Crowthers
Mrs. William Daansen
Mrs. Herbert Benjamin
Mrs. William Bender
Mrs. John Farrant

GREETERS:

Mrs. C. R. Van Horn
Mrs. Bert Cheswell
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ubbink
Mrs. Roland Beachner
Mr. Donald Schenk
Mr. and Mrs. Leo Littman
Mr. Charles Snyder

MEMBERS OF 1918

Mr. Richard C. Williams	Mr. Jacob Ederle
Mrs. Martha Williams	Mrs. Jacob Ederle
Mr. W. P. McPhail	Mrs. Esther Higgins
Mrs. Isabella McPhail	Mr. William Meyer
Miss Elizabeth McPhail	Mrs. Elizabeth Meyer
Mr. Percy McPhail	Miss Lillian Meyer
Mr. A. C. Vogelsang	Mr. Harry Niblack
Mrs. A. C. Vogelsang	Mrs. Harry Niblack
Mr. J. Bernard Vogelsang	Mr. Charles Sharpe
Mr. Charles Pundt	Mr. John Stehler
Mrs. Charles Pundt	Mrs. Bertha Stehler
Mr. John Nuijens	Mr. Clester J. Stehler
Mrs. John Nuijens	Mr. Charles E. Snyder
Mrs. Nellie Knight Frank	Mr. Charles M. Snyder
Mrs. Minnie Woelfel	Mrs. Louise Snyder
Mr. August Woelfel	Mrs. May Anslam
Mrs. Christine Weidman	Mrs. Myrtle Goettel
Mr. Henry Ubbink	Mr. Edward Spitznagel
Mrs. Hattie Ubbink	Mrs. Fred Spitznagel
Mr. Harry J. Banham	Mrs. Edw. Spitznagel
Mrs. Addie Banham	Mrs. Catherine Spitznagel
Mr. Henry S. Johnson	Mrs. George Plantz
Mrs. Alice E. A. Johnson	Mrs. John Phillips
Mr. A. Kuschel	Mrs. A. Flesch
Mrs. A. Kuschel	Mrs. Clara A. Barker
Mrs. Harris	Mr. Edwin T. Golden
Mr. Miles	Mrs. Augusta Golden
Mrs. Mabel Miles	Mrs. Butts
Mr. Folk	Mrs. K. Schell
Mrs. Folk	Mrs. V. S. Reed
Miss Grace Folk	Mrs. Mary A. Lord
Mrs. Eunice May Ocorr	

PATRONS

Mr. and Mrs. James Bartels	Mrs. Myrtle Poersch
Mr. and Mrs. Winfield VanHorn	Mr. and Mrs. Walter Graumann
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Kinzel	Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Pierce
Mr. and Mrs. Norman Graham	Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Abel
Mrs. Lucy Kelly	Miss Ruth Cripps
Mr. and Mrs. Freeman Boyer	Mrs. Amelia McAdam
Mrs. Elizabeth Ingersol	Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Niedzielski
Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Muhs	Mr. and Mrs. John Briddon, Sr.
Mr. and Mrs. William Arthur	Mr. and Mrs. Donald Schenk
Women's Fellowship	Mrs. Mabel Beachner
Dr. and Mrs. W. W. Bradstreet	Ladies Aid
Mrs. Frank Houser	Mrs. Esther Avery
Mr. and Mrs. Erwin Setzer	Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Johnson
Mr. and Mrs. Carl Pugsley	Mrs. W. E. Cummings
Mr. and Mrs. Philip Hahn	Mr. and Mrs. George Diem
Mr. and Mrs. Leo Littman	Mrs. Hilda Howe
Mrs. Paul Moore	Mrs. Carrie Beachner
Mrs. William Bender	Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Barrett
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Stein	Mrs. Gladys Marx
Beginner's Sunday School Class	Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ubbink
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Welch	Mr. John MacFarlane
Mr. and Mrs. Armond Briddon	Mr. and Mrs. Robert Smith
Mrs. Emanuel Herrmann	Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Pundt
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Little	Mr. and Mrs. Warren DeVeny
Mr. Steven Little	Mr. and Mrs. Adam Zickgraf
Ruth Circle	Mr. and Mrs. Edward Hudson
Mr. and Mrs. William Bailey	Esther Circle
Mr. and Mrs. William Cook	Mrs. Nidie Parker
Mrs. Gertrude Gould	Mrs. Robert Rowe
Mr. and Mrs. Randolph E. Haller	Mr. and Mrs. Edward Matthews
Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Maeske	Mr. and Mrs. John Graham
Mr. Melfort Prince	and Scott
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Boes, Sr.	Mr. Harry L. Thompson
Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Schram	Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Mohr
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Champion	Mrs. G. Irwin

ADDITIONAL ANNIVERSARY PATRONS

Everywoman's Club

Mr. Harold Stewart

Miss Thelma Stewart

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Snyder

Mr. and Mrs. Harry London

Miss Shirley London

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Ries

Mrs. James Kirkpatrick

Mrs. Lettie Haug

Mrs. Tillie Woehrlen

Naomi Circle

DURAND UNITED CHURCH OF
Christ
50th Anniversary

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