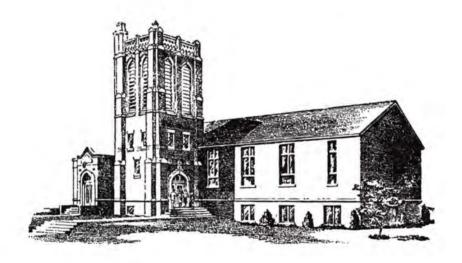
# Durand United Church of Christ

ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

# 50th Anniversary



REV. AUSTIN B. CHESWELL, Pastor MR. RICHARD MALMQUIST, Assoc. Pastor This page is blank.



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.

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

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

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

#### HISTORY:

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# TRANSPORTATION:

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#### 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 Mrs. Martha Williams Mr. W. P. McPhail Mrs. Isabella McPhail Miss Elizabeth McPhail

Mrs. Isabella McPhail
Miss Elizabeth McPhail
Mr. Percy McPhail
Mr. A. C. Vogelsang
Mrs. A. C. Vogelsang
Mrs. J. Bernard Vogelsang

Mr. Charles Pundt Mrs. Charles Pundt Mr. John Nuijens Mrs. John Nuijens

Mrs. Nellie Knight Frank Mrs. Minnie Woelfel Mr. August Woelfel Mrs. Christine Weidman

Mr. Henry Ubbink Mrs. Hattie Ubbink Mr, Harry J. Banham Mrs. Addie Banham Mr. Henry S. Johnson

Mrs. Alice E, A. Johnson Mr. A. Kuschel

Mrs. A. Kuschel Mrs. Harris Mr. Miles

Mrs. Mabel Miles

Mr. Folk Mrs. Folk

Miss Grace Folk

Mrs. Eunice May Ocorr

Mr. Jacob Ederle Mrs. Jacob Ederle Mrs. Esther Higgins

Mr. William Meyer Mrs. Elizabeth Meyer

Miss Lillian Meyer Mr. Harry Niblack Mrs. Harry Niblack

Mr. Charles Sharpe

Mr. John Stehler Mrs. Bertha Stehler Mr. Clester J. Stehler

Mr. Charles E. Snyder Mr. Charles M. Snyder

Mrs. Louise Snyder Mrs. May Anslam Mrs. Myrtle Goettel Mr. Edward Spitznagel

Mrs. Fred Spitznagel Mrs. Edw. Spitznagel

Mrs. Catherine Spitznagel

Mrs. George Plantz Mrs. John Phillips Mrs. A. Flesch

Mrs. Clara A, Barker Mr. Edwin T. Golden Mrs. Augusta Golden

Mrs. Butts Mrs. K. Schell Mrs. V. S. Reed Mrs. Mary A. Lord

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Mr, and Mrs. Leonard Muhs

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Mrs. Frank Houser

Mr. and Mrs. Erwin Setzer

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Pugsley

Mr. and Mrs. Philip Hahn

Mr. and Mrs. Leo Littman

Mrs. Paul Moore

Mrs. William Bender

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Stein

Beginner's Sunday School Class

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Mr. and Mrs. Armond Briddon

Mrs. Emanuel Herrmann

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Little

Mr. Steven Little

Ruth Circle

Mr. and Mrs. William Bailey

Mr. and Mrs. William Cook

Mrs. Gertrude Gould

Mr. and Mrs. Randolph E. Haller

Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Maeske

Mr. Melfort Prince

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Boes, Sr.

Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Schram

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Champion

Mrs. Myrtle Poersch

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Graumann

Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Pierce

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Abel

Miss Ruth Cripps

Mrs. Amelia McAdam

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Niedzielski

Mr. and Mrs. John Briddon, Sr.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Schenk

Mrs. Mabel Beachner

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Mrs. W. E. Cummings

Mr. and Mrs. George Diem

Mrs. Hilda Howe

Mrs. Carrie Beachner

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Barrett

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Mr. and Mrs. Edward Matthews

Mr. and Mrs. John Graham

and Scott

Mr. Harry L. Thompson

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Mohr

Mrs. G. Irwin

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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

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