

The Pastors of The First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls

Rev. John Stuart-----	1808 -1812
Rev. Charles Mosher-----	1814 -1815
Rev. Shipley Wells-----	1815 -1816
Rev. William Bacon-----	1819 -1822
Rev. A.G. Orton-----	1823 -1835
Rev. William Gray-----	1836 -1838
Rev. Aaron Judson-----	1838 -1839
Rev. P.L. Vail-----	1840 -1843
Rev. H.P. Bogue-----	1843 -1848
Rev. Alexander McCall-----	1849 -1851
Rev. Josiah Hopkins D.D.-----	1851 -1855
Rev. Charles Ray-----	1855 -1856
Rev. William J. Jennings-----	1857 -1862
Rev. A.D. Eddy D.D.-----	1862 -1864
Rev. Josephus D. Krum D.D.-----	1865 -1879
Rev. Lewis H. Morey-----	1880 -1888
Rev. Edwin H. Dickinson-----	1889 -1897
Rev. H. Grant Person-----	1898 -1907
Rev. William H. Schell-----	1907 -1913
Rev. Deane Edwards-----	1913 -1918
Rev. Robert D. Merrill-----	1919 -1937
Rev. Robert Youngs-----	1938 -1941
Rev. Sammuel J Holt-----	1941 -1958
Rev. Kenneth Holmstrup-----	1958 -1963
Rev. Leroy Hertzog-----	1964 -1971
Rev. William Knox-----	1972 -1981
Rev. Peter Crego D. Min.-----	1982 -2007



INTERIOR VIEW
Church Organ 1920

The Pastors of First Presbyterian Church 1807 - 1896

The First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls, was organized on the 10th day of August, 1807; by Rev. Jedediah Chapman of Geneva, as "The First" Presbyterian Church of Junius, of which town the present town of Seneca Falls was then a part. Its membership then consisted of eighteen persons. On August 20, 1808, Rev. John Stuart was installed as pastor and continued his services until 1812. He was then succeeded by Rev. C. Mosher, and he by Rev. Shipley Wells, from 1814 to 1816. Rev. S. M. Wheelock preached from 1817 to 1818. He was succeeded by Rev. William Bacon, who was installed as pastor and occupied the pulpit, from 1818 to about 1822, and then Rev. A. J. Orton was installed (in 1823), and remained in active and acceptable service for twelve years. His successor was Rev. William Gray, who was installed in 1835, and filled the pastorate until October, 1838, and was succeeded by Rev. Aaron Judson, who officiated as pastor for about eighteen months. Rev. P. L. Vail succeeded Mr. Judson in 1840, and acted as minister until the spring of 1843, when Rev. H. P. Bogue was installed. His services continued until 1848. In September, 1849, Rev. Alexander McCall began his services as pastor, which continued until May, 1851. Rev. Josiah Hopkins, D. D., succeeded him in 1851, and officiated until 1855, when Rev. Charles Ray was installed in May, 1855, and remained until June, 1856. He was succeeded by Rev. William J. Jennings, who served the church from 1857 to May, 1862. Rev. Dr. A. D. Eddy became the minister of the church in 1862, and remained until the autumn of 1864, and was succeeded October 1, 1865, by Rev. Dr. Josephus D. Krum, who continued in service until May 28, 1879. He was succeeded in February, 1880, by Rev. Lewis H. Morey, who ministered acceptably as pastor of the church until June, 1888. Mr. Morey was succeeded by the present pastor, Rev. Edwin H. Dickinson, in January, 1889, who is now in the eighth year of his acceptable service as the pastor of the church. During intervals that have occurred the pulpit has been largely supplied by professors from the Auburn Theological Seminary, years ago, frequently by Rev. Dr. Matthew L. Perrine, Rev. Dr. Josiah Hopkins, Rev. Dr. Edwin Hall and Rev. Dr. J. B. Condit. During the absence of Rev. Dr. Krum, in Europe, Rev. Dr. Willis J. Beecher of Auburn supplied the pulpit for six months. Rev. Prof. Riggs, of Auburn, has often supplied the pulpit during vacations.

The church for many years after its organization occupied a school house as a place for worship. It stood south of the location of the present church and upon land now occupied by the residence of Mr. Jacob Shoenmaker. About the year 1817 the first church was built by the society and was dedicated on September 17 of that year. It occupied the same lot whereon the present church stands. It is a frame building, a steeple, and was built by Jacob Hovey and Jabez Stark. "his building" was sold in 1842 and was removed to State street where it was long known as Concert Hall, and is now owned by T. B. Baird and occupied for residences. Immediately after its removal in 1842, a brick church was built upon the same lot by William Latham, and was occupied for nearly thirty years. It was removed in 1871 to give place to the present convenient and beautiful structure, which is the third church edifice erected by the society upon the same premises. This lot was given to the society by Col. Wilhelmus Mynderse for church purposes at a very early date. The present church was built by Ruel Taylor, who was not only a builder, but had formerly been clergyman. Its corner stone was laid with appropriate ceremonies on September 12, 1878 during the pastorate of Rev. Dr. J. D. Krum the building was finished, and its construction and furnishing was at a cost of about \$60,000. It has been thus described: The edifice is built in modern English Gothic style of pressed brick with cut stone arches. The front is flanked by a large and a small tower, the large tower being 166 feet in height and the small tower 90 feet. The entrances in these towers open into a spacious vestibule, from which are stairs to the auditorium, and to the basement, and to the gallery across the front. The front presents a Gothic gable with corbeled coping and beam tracery corresponding with the interior roof work. In the tympanum of this gable is an elegant rose window 13 feet in diameter and filled with intricate tracery. The flanks accord with the front, the walls being pierced with double recessed windows ornamented with stained glass. The basement includes the Sunday school room 42 by 57 feet, two parlors 24 by 28 feet each, kitchen 14 by 18 feet, all 12 feet high. The auditorium is 57 by 84 feet, 24 feet high at the sides, the whole being covered with an open timber gothic roof finished with ash, and showing the timbers of the roof richly molded and filled with tracery. The apse is recessed and finished with a grained ceiling of ash, and the walls are richly frescoed. The gallery and choir in front are well arranged, and the pastor's study is placed in the tower on the same floor. The pews are of neat design and comfortable and effectual agencies are employed for heating, ventilation and lighting.

The church at present, (1896), has a membership of over 500. It is aided in its work by various organizations, among which are the Kings' Daughters, the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor, the Church Aid Society, The Womans' Missionary Society, the Brotherhood of Andrew and Philip, the Boys' Mission Band and the Girls' Mission Band. The church has, for more than a quarter of a century, been remarkable among churches in this vicinity, for the size and efficiency of its Sunday school. The present membership of the school is about 400, divided into about 40 classes under various departments, and has an average attendance of about 300. It is under the superintendency of Mr. Seabury S. Gould, who is now in the fifteenth year of his very valuable and efficient service in that capacity. The benevolent contributions of the church are large. It contributes regularly to each and every one of the boards under the care of the General Assembly, and often times in aid of other religious and charitable organizations. Its local expenditures for charity are generous. The annual expenditures of the society for local expenses, for charitable work, contributions to the boards of the church, and to other organizations and enterprises, aggregate about \$6,000. It will, probably, during the present year, exceed its annual average; for it has paid its full quota of \$525 toward the "Million Dollar Relief fund", arranged for by the last General Assembly. The revenues of the church are obtained by a system of voluntary contributions, based upon weekly pledges known as the envelop system; and while sittings are for convenience assigned to members of the congregation, the sittings are practically free, and are wholly so at the evening services. The society during the past year largely extended the pastor's vacation, and Mr. Dickinson spent it in delightful and instructive foreign travel. The church is in a prosperous condition, receiving continuous and steady additions to its membership, and is happy in all its relations with the various organizations connected with it, with the other churches in the village, and in the efficient and acceptable services of its beloved pastor.



**Pastorate of Rev. Edwin Henry Dickinson
1889 - 1897**



Rev. Edwin Henry Dickinson, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Seneca Falls, N. Y., was born in West Springfield, Mass., October 16, 1855, where his father was a paper manufacturer. Both of his parents were of the old New England stock, his mother's father having been one of the prominent Congregational clergymen of his day, and pastor at the time of his death, of the First Congregational Church, Amherst, Mass. His parents removing to Springfield in 1865, he was placed in the public schools of the city, which deservedly rank among the best in the State and in which he prepared for college. Entering Amherst with the class of 1875, he was fortunate in receiving an election to the Psi Upsilon fraternity. He at once entered into the musical life of college and was elected leader of the college orchestra. In his senior year he was leader of the glee club and was also appointed by the faculty, leader of the college choir. The musical training he received in those positions has been valuable to him in his ministry.

In the fall of 1879, he entered the Theological Seminary at Auburn, where he graduated in the spring of 1882. Having been called to the pastorate of the Presbyterian church of Knoxboro, N. Y., he went at once to the parish, beginning his ministry in a small rural community and remaining with this church for four years. June 29th, 1882, he was married to Miss Emma S. Carter, daughter of Walter S. Carter, a prominent New York lawyer. In May, 1886, Mr. Dickinson accepted the call of the Presbyterian church of McGrawville, N. Y., where his labors were blessed in frequent and large additions to the church. -In the fall of 1888 he was called to the pulpit of the First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls, N. Y., and began his work with the first of January, 1889. This pastorate is now in its eighth year. He was fortunate in following the Rev. L. H. Morey, who had most faithfully and successfully labored in this church for more than eight years, and to whom the people had been most devotedly attached. During Mr. Dickinson's Seneca Falls pastorate, between two and three hundred have united with the church and it is now, owing to the hearty cooperation of the people with their pastor, in a most flourishing condition. During the summer of 1895, the church granted him leave of absence for ten weeks that he might travel in Europe, and made him a most generous gift for the defraying of all the expenses of his foreign tour, besides supplying the pulpit during his entire vacation.

Pastorate of William P. Schell 1907 - 1913

After a successful pastorate of nine years, Rev. H. Grant Person resigned, to accept a call to the Pastorate of the Eliot Congregational Church of Newton, Massachusetts. The Church immediately appointed a committee to find his successor. The Committee was composed of two Elders, Herman A. Carmer, Chairman, and H. Delancey Knight, and one Trustee, Cornelius S. Hood, President of the Board. The first step taken by the Committee was to confer with Dr. Edwin H. Dickinson, former Pastor of the Church, then -Pastor of the North Presbyterian Church of Buffalo, New York. Dr. Dickinson suggested to them that they visit Springville, New York, and look up the Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church there, the Rev. William P. Schell. After two visits to Springville, the 'Committee invited him to come to Seneca Falls, to look over the Church and to meet some of the officers and members. Shortly thereafter the Church, upon the unanimous recommendation of the Committee, extended a call to Mr. Schell to become its Pastor. The call was accepted. Mr. Schell, a graduate of the Lawrenceville School, Williams College, and Auburn Theological Seminary, preached his first sermon in Seneca Falls on Easter Sunday, 1907. On June 13th, the Presbytery of Geneva installed him as Pastor of the church. The Moderator, Rev. Asher B. Temple, D. D., presided and asked the constitutional questions. Rev. J. Wilford Jacks, D. D., Stated Clerk of the Presbytery offered the Invocation, and read the Scripture Lesson. The sermon was delivered by Rev. John Q. Adams, D. D. of Waterloo. The Charge to the Pastor was given by Rev. Edwin H. Dickinson, D. D. of Buffalo, New York; the Charge to the People by President George B. Stewart, D. D. of Auburn Theological Seminary. The newly installed Pastor pronounced the Benediction.

The Centennial Celebration

The first responsibility assigned to the new Pastor was to write a Centennial History of the Church, and to plan and carry through a fitting Centennial Celebration. The Celebration, a happy occasion, was held in the early autumn of 1907. One interesting feature was an evening service, at which brief messages were given by the four former Pastors of the Church, - Drs. Krum, Morey, Dickinson, and Person. Each speaker emphasized one or two particular developments in his Pastorate. Dr. Krum told of the building of the Church. Dr. Morey, his successor, said that because of the huge debt Dr. Krum had piled up, he, Dr. Morey, had to spend most of his pastorate raising funds to clear away the debt under which the Church had been staggering. Dr. Dickinson said that Drs. Krum and Morey had apparently been so occupied in these projects that they had had little time to organize the work of the Church or to engage in much pastoral service. Dr. Dickinson then went on to speak of his own great interest in pastoral work, (he made nearly 2,000 calls a year), and of the growth and activities of The King's Daughters. Dr. Person said that Dr. Dickinson had spent so much time in calling on the ladies, that he had not organized the men of the Church. He concluded by stressing his special interest in men and told of the organization and work of The Tower Class, which then numbered 100 or more. Altogether an interesting -human presentation of four successful pastorates, a composite picture of many years of Church life.

The Church Roll

In May 1907 the Church Roll listed approximately 750 members "In good and regular standing. When the new Pastor began to call on them, it was impossible to locate scores of them, either through calls or correspondence. The Session held numerous meetings, discussing the situation. After continuing attempts to get in touch with these nominal, but absent, members, a few were located and brought back into the fold; but, in the end, nearly 300 names had to be put on the "Reserve" or "Suspended" Roll, leaving the actual interested membership at a little over 450. While, in some respects, this discovery of the real situation was a disappointment, it was good for the Church to know the facts.

Church Finances

For a number of years the Church year had closed with a deficit, which occasionally assumed large proportions. Instead of appealing to the Congregation to pay off these deficits, as they occurred, the Trustees reported the unfavorable outcome of the year to one generous man, who immediately signed a check for the entire amount. The Church was then lulled into a false sense of security. When the generous donor passed away the members of the Church suddenly woke up to the fact that deficits should be paid off, not by one member, but by the entire congregation.

Debt on the Manse

In 1907 the debt on The comfortable Manse which had recently been completed, amounted to \$7,500.00. In response to appeals for other Church improvements or for Missions and Benevolences, the invariable reaction was: "We cannot do these things because there is a large debt on The Manse." Satisfied, as he was, that The Manse debt was the stumbling block standing in the way of progress along other lines, the Pastor asked the Trustees to raise the entire \$7,500.00 and pay off the debt. The trustees expressed their conviction that they could not do it. They were willing, however, to allow the Pastor to try his hand at raising it. At the end of three or four months the \$7,500.00 was raised, the debt removed, and the Church breathed more easily. An interesting sidelight in connection with this effort was the response of a member, who had - lived in Paris for over ten years, and who, because of her residence abroad, had received no appeals for gifts from the Church in all that time. When she was informed of the debt on The Manse and of the need of linen, silver and China for the Church dining room, she sent the Pastor a check for \$300.00, toward the debt and sets of linen and china.

The First Ever Member Canvass

In order to increase contributions for Church support and for Missions and Benevolences, the Church was urged to conduct an Every Member Canvass. The trustees objected, on the ground that such a canvass was unnecessary. The Session, therefore, authorized a canvass for Missions and Benevolences. The result was so encouraging that the following year the trustees capitulated and an Every Member Canvass was successfully completed for Church support, Missions and Benevolences. The Church not only covered all expenses, but also made a great advance in its support of the work at home and abroad. Within a year or two the Missionary and Benevolent offerings totaled \$7,000.00 annually.



Church Services

In 1907 the attendance at the Sunday morning service was 400 to 450; at the evening service only 75. The Pastor proposed that a 5:00 Vesper service be substituted for the Evening service. The Session objected; but when their attention was called to the fact that of the nine elders only three were accustomed to attend the Evening service, they agreed to "Try the experiment of a Vesper service for six months." The change was made; a fine chorus choir, under the leadership of James Schoonmaker, was assembled and soon the attendance on Sunday afternoons reached 250 to 300.

Progress Along Other Lines

The King's Daughters continued their fine work; the Women's Missionary Society grew in membership and in influence; The Tower Class drew a large group of men every Sunday and its members rendered valuable service in many of the activities of the Church; The Sunday School and Christian Endeavor Society enrolled more and more children and young people; the membership of the Church increased slowly but steadily. During these years the Pastor was elected Moderator of the Presbytery of Geneva, and was appointed Chairman of Presbytery's 'Committee on Systematic Benevolences. He was also elected a director of Auburn Theological Seminary. This brief history has touched only upon some of the encouraging developments. There were also discouragements, which were faced and overcome by people and Pastor working together. No Pastor ever received more whole-hearted cooperation and support. After the lapse of nearly fifty years he remembers the Church with affection and gratitude.

Early in 1913 Mr. Schell received a call to join the Executive Staff of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions in New York. After prayerful consideration, with reluctance, but because of his strong interest in Foreign Missions, he accepted the call. In June his pastorate of six years was terminated and he began his work as Assistant Secretary of the Home Base (Promotional) Department of the Board. On April 17, 1948, after nearly thirty-five years with the Board, during which he visited a number of the mission fields and gave addresses in hundreds of churches in this country, Dr. Schell retired as the Senior Executive Secretary Emeritus. Secretary of the Board. Upon his retirement the Board elected him Secretary Emeritus.



Pastorate of Deane Edwards 1913 - 1918

Personal Recollections

This attempt to revive the spirit and activities of the five years from 1913 to 1918 will have at least one virtue perspective. It was nearly forty-four years ago that I became pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls, New York. It is a long, but pleasant look back to these important years in my ministry. Though many other responsibilities have absorbed my time and strength through the years, the remembrance of the Seneca Falls days has not been dimmed. They seem but as yesterday. Seneca Falls was my first pastorate. I was graduated from Auburn Theological Seminary in 1912; had a year of study in Scotland and England as Alumni Fellow of the Seminary; spent the summer as a supply pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Little Falls, New York; and then came to Seneca Falls in September 1913. My first sermon was preached on Sunday, September 28th, 1913, on the theme "The Nearness of the Kingdom." On October 30th, 1913 I was ordained to the Christian ministry in the Seneca Falls Church by the Presbytery of Geneva, and was installed as pastor. On December 30th, 1913 I was married to Margaret J. Dulles of Auburn; and our two oldest children, Robert and Richard, were born and baptized while we were in Seneca Falls. It is not hard to imagine the personal sentiment attached to these years.

War Years

Having indicated some of the personal factors that gave these years significance, we turn to more important matters, the ongoing life of the church. It should be remembered that these were mostly wartime years. World War I broke out in August 1914; and the ministry of the church from then on went forward against this background. The first expression of concern for the world situation was the raising of about \$1500 for what was rather ambitiously called the "World Relief Fund." The committee in charge of this effort, in addition to the pastor, was H. D. Knight and C. E. Jewell for the Session; C. S. Hood and F. L. Story for the Trustees; and A. S. Davis and Elmer C. Wayne for the congregation. This money was disbursed to various war relief agencies. Then the church cooperated actively in the effort to conserve food, a movement nationally associated with Herbert Hoover. When the United States entered the War in 1917, many boys from the church entered military service. Early in 1917, Mr. Seabury S. Gould donated a beautiful Service Flag which was appropriately dedicated. As noted later, the pastor became a chaplain in 1918, and this terminated his official relationship with the church.

The Italian Mission

Much of the work of the church naturally went forward independently of the War. One of the first special projects undertaken during my pastorate was the Italian Mission. The pastors of the community felt that an effort should be made to minister to the Italians peaking citizens of Seneca Falls and vicinity. Accordingly the Mission was organized; and services were held in the basement room of the Presbyterian Church beginning in November 1913 under the leadership of Rev. John Ragione of Auburn. Our Church Bulletin reports that on Wednesday evening, November 20th, 1913, sixty people were present, and on the previous Sunday evening, eighty-one. After a period of time, as I recall, Mr. Ragione left Auburn; and services were temporarily discontinued, to be resumed in January 1915 under the ministry of Rev. John P. Stanziani. The Italian Mission was a sincere effort which served its purpose for a considerable time, and then for various reasons was given up.

Evangelism

An important factor in the life of the church during these years was evangelism. That was a period when mass evangelism was greatly in vogue. Billy Sunday was a world famous figure, and many lesser evangelists were active. The major evangelistic effort in Seneca Falls during my pastorate was the Tabernacle Meetings under the leadership of Rev. George E. Burgess. He came on the invitation of the Protestant Churches of the village; and held daily meetings from November 4th to December 14th, 1915. There was widespread interest, and when he preached his "Booze" sermon, 2,000 people were reported present in the Tabernacle. Another interesting feature was the Sunday School parade on November 28th, 1915 in which 800 people marched. At the Farewell Service, the offering was \$1,050. The building of the Tabernacle enlisted the services of many men, who with hammer and saw, turned to the task with a will. I remember scurrying around Seneca County with others in search of old hot-air furnaces which might be used to heat the Tabernacle. Another shorter series of evangelistic meetings came during the first week of February 1916. Dr. George G. Mahy, National Secretary of Evangelism of the Presbyterian Church, USA, came at the invitation of the Session to hold meetings in our church. He was a man of fine sensibilities and earnest Christian devotion who presented an appealing message, and left behind a quiet influence which remained to bless the church. Another important evangelistic influence was Billy Sunday. He held an extended and fruitful campaign in Syracuse in the autumn of 1915 which many from Seneca Falls attended. He was the means of interesting a number of our people; and for some months afterward we had active association with groups of men in the Syracuse area who were converted in the Sunday meetings. These evangelistic efforts served to arouse public interest in the Christian Gospel. They stimulated personal and corporate religion; and brought a real concern for the spiritual welfare of individuals and community. They exercised a strong influence on the life and work of the Seneca Falls churches during these years.

Tower Class

One group that benefited tremendously from these evangelistic efforts was the Tower Class. This was a Men's Bible Class which was organized in 1902 by Rev. H. Grant Person when he was pastor of the church. It had had an honorable record with the ups and downs characteristic of such groups. I was fortunate in that during my pastorate it experienced a period of prosperity; and I think of it as one of the choicest associations of my years in Seneca Falls. One of my prized possessions is a Bible presented to me by the Class at Christmas 1916. In it are the signatures of many of the members who were present then. When I returned to speak at the Class Annual Banquet on April 30th, 1926, signatures were again requested, so that the front and back pages of the Bible contain the names of the many men whose friendship and Christian fellowship I enjoyed. The Class grew because it furnished a natural association for those converted or spiritually stimulated by the evangelistic meetings; and it became one of the outstanding fellowships of the community. At the Class Banquet on June 2, 1916, eleven men gave brief testimonies. The list indicates some of the men who were leaders in the Class: Earl D. Clark, Charles Frank, John S. Gay, C. Frank



Hammond, Maynard W. Jacoby, Mervin A. Nearpass, George H. Parsons, William R. Simson, Frank L. Slater, Fred O. Spaid, Gerald E. Tallman. One project of the Class which excited wide public interest and a degree of understandable apprehension on the part of some members of the church was the Attendance Contest staged from January 7th to March 4th, 1917 with a similar Men's Class in the North Presbyterian Church of Geneva led by Mr. Charles K. Scoon for whom it was named. The plan called for an official registration of attendance during these Sundays; and at the conclusion, the Class having the largest total would be entertained by the losers. This Contest mushroomed far beyond all expectations. The Tower Class figures are interesting. January 7th 60; January 14th 85; January 21st 115; January 28th 156; February 4th 143; February 11th 118; February 18th 174; February 25th 235. At the end of January, the Tower Class was leading the Scoon Class 416 to 369. During the February Sundays, the numbers evened up; and great interest centered on the last Sunday, March 4th. On that day in Seneca Falls 800 people filled the church of whom 440 were members of the Tower Class. The address on that occasion was given by Prof. George A. Wilson of Syracuse University, leader of the largest Men's Bible Class in Syracuse. In spite of this fine showing, the Tower Class was outnumbered by the Scoon Class which had 701 members present! Due to the difficulty of determining what individuals should be counted, the Contest was graciously announced as a "draw;" but the Tower Class nevertheless played host to the two groups at an evening of entertainment on March 30, 1917. Needless to say, this attendance did not continue; but the Contest gave wide prestige to the Class and showed what could be done when a group of men were fully aroused.

Church Organizations

In spite of the interest in these special events, the day by day work of the church went on vigorously. A casual glance at the back of the weekly Church Bulletin will indicate that the Seneca Falls church was a busy place. Here are the organizations listed at one time or another during the five years: The Session, The Trustees, The Sunday School, Woman's Missionary Society, King's Daughters, German Sewing Society, Christian Endeavor, Tower Class, P'hilathea Class, Warfield Class, Boys' Mission Study Club, Busy Birds' Mission Band, Dorcas Society, Choir, Lightbearers Study Club, Lightbearers Band, Presbyterian Young Men's Club, Intermediate Christian Endeavor, Young Married People's Club, Young Ladies Reading Club.

The People

The most important factor in any church is the people. Seneca Falls had its splendid quota of delightful, earnest Christian workers whom it was a privilege to know, and whose friendship has blessed the years since. I wish I could mention them all for each played his part in the life of the church. The best I can do is to list the names which appear on one of the Church Bulletins chosen at random from the mid-point of my ministry. They will have to represent the rest. The Session: C. A. Hawley, H. D. Knight, H. A. Carmer, B. N. Baker, W. H. Beach, C. E. Jewell, C. W. Kittle, C. F. Hammond, M. W. Jacoby, M. A. Nearpass, F. L. Slater, F. I. Long. The Trustees: F. L. Story, T. J. Yawger, A. M. Feltus, El. W. Addison, S. S. Gould, F. W. Lester, C. S. Hood, L. H. Hood, F. O. Spaid. The Choir: Miss Wilhelmina Brown, Director, Miss Helen Gale, Mrs. R. W. Cady, B. N. Baker, Mr. Bacalles. Officers in Church Organizations: Edward A. Frank, Milton R. Sanderson, Harry V. Packer, Miss Marjory M. Howell, Mrs. B. J. Kime, Miss Clara Ullrich, Mrs. F. I. Long, Mrs. William Forshee, Miss Margaret Isenman, Miss Alice Westcott, Mrs. E. Lester, Miss Eleanor E. Binney, Mrs. Roscoe B. Johnson, Mrs. Sidney C. Hull, Miss Stella Sharp, Miss Mary Henion, Mrs. Fred Lobuschefsky, Howard B. Withers, Miss Emma Mills, Miss Lena Brown, George E. Stahl, Edwin Ullrich, Lucy Cardwell, Carol Lester, Agnes Beach, John S. Gay, Gerald E. Tallman, George B. Graves, Miss Myra E. Viele, Mrs. John Kreutter, Mrs. William Vreeland, Mrs. Charles Frank, Miss Katherine George, Miss Lillian Henion, Mrs. Ray C. Pugh, Miss A. B. Crossley, Miss Irene Ament, David Lowe, Ellis Kreutter, William Mills, Blake Fisher, Clair Forshee, Miss Minnie Ullrich, Miss Estella Lobuschefsky, Joseph Bocker, Sexton.

Church Statistics

Church statistics should be noted. The annual reports of the church to the Presbytery of Geneva show modest gains during the five years. In 1914 the roll showed 431 members; in 1918, 513. Sunday School enrollment in 1914 was 262; in 1918 250 (possibly due to changes in adult classes). Benevolences in 1914 were \$2,566; in 1918 \$4,989. Current expenses in 1914 were \$5,260; in 1918 \$5,666 (fifteen months).

Incidental Remembrances

At the risk of prolonging this record unduly, I would like to mention some matters which come to my mind as illustrating the incidental factors which add their touch to the picture of the five years. First in point of time was my personal gratitude for the Book of Acts! It tided me over the Vesper Services during my first year at a time when sermon topics were not too plentiful! We trudged through the interesting incidents of that important book Sunday by Sunday to the relief of the young pastor and the limited edification of the congregation. Another remembrance of a different kind illustrates the generous and thoughtful character of many of the members of the church. I refer to the habit of Mr. H. D. Knight who from time to time slipped me a \$20 bill to be used for incidental expenses in the church or for helping some one in need. This was characteristic of a man whose devotion and generosity were a precious asset of the church through many years. He was not alone in this spirit. Then I remember with astonishment at my energy once personally delivering on my bicycle Christmas greetings to every home in the parish, nearly 250 of them! Another remembrance was accentuated by a conversation which I had recently with Lora Lester, one of the girls who was in my first communicants class, and whose family were active in the church through many years. She said that she had attended service in one of the New York churches with her sister Agnes, and that they had sung the hymns without reference to the hymnal! This achievement, she said, went back to the Memory Hymns which she and others had learned as children during my pastorate. Thus was fulfilled the Scripture promise, "Cast thy bread upon the waters for thou shalt find it after many days!" Another pleasant memory was my association with the other pastors of the community: Dr. William Bours Clark of the Episcopal Church who was the dean of the group; Rev. J. C. Luke of the Congregational Church; and Rev. R. C. Hebblethwaite of the Methodist Church. We worked happily together on many projects.

Termination of Pastorate

Feeling the urge of war service, I was granted by the Session the privilege of spending two and one-half months in Washington, D. C: during the autumn of 1917 working among service men through the churches there under the District War Service Commission. I returned to Seneca Falls; but in July 1918, I resigned from the church, and became an Army chaplain stationed at Fort H. G. Wright opposite New London, Conn. Thus terminated five happy and active years in the Seneca Falls church, leaving a pleasant memory which I have carried with me these many years.



Pastorate of Robert D. Merrill 1919 - 1937

On the 5th of May, 1919, came the installation of the new Pastor. The occasion was marked by the presence and participation in the service of two former Pastors of the Church, Dr. Edwin H. Dickinson, at that time Pastor of the First Church of Geneva, and Rev. Deane Edwards, the preceding Pastor. In addition, the Presbytery was represented by the Moderator, A. J. MacMillan, and Dr. J. W. Jacks, the Stated Clerk. Rev. W. W. Weller, who had been the Acting Pastor, took part, and also the two brothers of the Pastor-Elect, Rev. Francis G. Merrill, of Rahway, N. J., and Dr. William P. Merrill, of New York, N. Y.

The following January Mr. and Mrs. Merrill began the custom of holding a New Year's Reception at the Manse. These were largely attended for a number of years. Miss Wilhelmina Brown, who had been organist for several years, resigned that year and the place was filled by Clarence Kissel, who gave excellent service for more than twelve years, when the work was taken up by Miss Mary Day. She is still thought of under this name by her many friends in the Church although she has been Mrs. Gould for years, as she still continues her outstanding work. In 1921, a pageant, "The Story of The Mayflower," was presented in the church by the Daughters of the American Revolution before an audience which filled the room. Also in that same year, the Presbytery of Geneva met at this Church, and had on its docket two items of great interest to all the Church people: the licensure of two of our young men, Howard B. Withers, and Clinton Beach. The year following, Mr. Withers was ordained to the Christian Ministry in an impressive Church service.'

In 1923, a Ford Sedan stopped in front of the Manse: it proved to be the generous gift of the Church to its Pastor, and served him well for a number of years. Mr. Seabury S. Gould at the time was about to have a two-car garage built, and offered his garage to the Church. The building was moved across State Street to the Manse property. A service in memory of a former Pastor, Rev. 'H. Grant Person, was held on August 23rd, 1923. His tragic death and that of Mrs. Person came as a sad and sudden end to a happy European tour, the result of an automobile accident in France. Choir gowns were used for the first time in the year 1926; that same year the outdoor bulletin board was given to the Church by the Gould family. The young people's work was far from satisfactory, so the experiment was tried of having a special worker for them. Miss Andrews, a student of the Auburn School of Religion, took the position for a time and did some good work. However, the results did not seem sufficient to justify the additional expenditure for many months. The Church parlors were improved by the addition of a stage and more class rooms and better flooring. An even more important improvement was the building of the stairway at the west end of the Church by which it was possible to pass from one floor to the other, - a fire escape as well as a great convenience.

The year 1927 was marked by a substantial addition to the then small endowment. Mrs. Wilhelmus Mynderse bequeathed to the Church the generous sum of \$20,000. A memorial tablet in honor of Cornelius S. Hood was placed in the Church in 1928 by Mrs. C. S. Hood and Mr. Louis Hood. His death had occurred the year before. He had long been chairman of the Board of Trustees and he was a genial and most active Church worker. For years he had supplied the coal for the Church at wholesale rates, with no profit for himself. In the year 1930 one of the windows at the north side of the Church was replaced by a window in memory of Charles E. Jewell, for years the Clerk of the Session, who had kept the records with the utmost care, and as well had prepared the Church bulletins and had attended to many other details of the Church work. His daughter, Miss Elsie Jewell, was the giver of the memorial window. Other memorials followed in later years, after the close of this Pastorate: they are in honor of some 'Church members and workers who were active in the earlier years. A tablet was placed in the vestibule in memory of Blanchard N. Baker. Mr. Baker was ready to help in almost any kind of work: he sang bass in the choir, led the singing of the Sunday School, made minor repairs that were needed, put in electric lights, and was a wonderful help in countless ways. It was not with the least touch of sarcasm, but in all innocence that one Sunday, at a Children's Day Service, a child asked the question, "Does Mr. Baker own this Church?" Another Memorial window was given by Dr. Frederick W. Lester in honor of his mother, who was a most loyal member, especially interested in the Missionary Society, although devoted to the Church in every way. The last Memorial window was given in honor of Mr. Fred L. Story by Mrs. Story. Mr. Story had given long and faithful service to the Church. He sang tenor in the choir for many years, both when a quartette provided the music, and when a fuller choir came into being. He served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees; he saw to needed work at the Church or Manse, and supplied plumbing or other material at wholesale rates, making no profit on such supplies. He was another of our most active and devoted members and officers.

The 125th anniversary of the Church was celebrated in 1932 by a dinner at which a large number were present; many greetings came in letters or telegrams from former active members now living elsewhere and former Pastors and friends. The same year was marked by the entry of another son of the Church into the Christian ministry. David Ayers applied to the Presbytery of Geneva and was taken under the care of the Presbytery as a student for the Ministry. He carried on his theological studies at Auburn Seminary. The winter of 1933-34 brought some unusually severe temperatures, and due to that and even more to faulty valves in some of the Church radiators a number of the radiators cracked and could not be used until repaired. Services were held downstairs in the Church Parlor, but that room was far from comfortable. One Sunday a few brave worshipers stayed through a brief service with a temperature in the room of 58 degrees. In the year 1935 our beloved Dr. Dickinson reached his eightieth birthday anniversary. The Church held a reception in his honor at which a large number of his good friends were present to offer to him their congratulations. There was, of course, a fine birthday cake, but the candles did not reach eighty in number. There was also a program of music and a few simple speeches. Few Pastors have been so loved by this Church, or possibly, by any Church.

This Pastorate came to an end in 1937. Mr. Merrill had reached retirement age one year before this time, but stayed on for the one additional year. In the fall of 1937 a farewell reception was held at which many offered their good wishes for the years of retired life or for the work elsewhere which might be taken up.

Pastorate of Robert W. Youngs 1938 - 1941



In January, 1938, a young Seminary student, Robert W. Youngs, supplied the pulpit of the First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls. He reached upon the subject "When God Says No". It was a memorable occasion for him, the beautiful Church, the fine music under the direction of Bertram Hole, the friendly people. Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Wayne entertained the Youngs for dinner in their gracious home by the lake, reminiscing with Mrs. Young about Edgewood, Pennsylvania, the former home of both.

A few weeks later Mr. Lewis Hood arrived at the manse at Throopsville and told the astonished Youngs that the Seneca Falls Church had sent him to see if Mr. Youngs would come to them as Pastor, finishing the year at Seminary at the same time.

A file of the Church bulletins from March 6, 1938, to August 1941, printed by Earl Clark, a Trustee, provides a factual outline of the events of the pastorate of this young man in an old Church. The names and announcements call to mind many happy friendships and accomplishments. Dr. Edwin Dickinson frequently told the story of how he advised the committee that if it were worrying about Mr. Youngs' youth, that was one ill which time was sure to cure! For three and a half years, the Dickinsons at Sheldrake were a constant source of guidance and rich friendship to the young pastor.

Along with the announcement in the March 6th Herald that a reception would be held for the Youngs on March 18th, was an interesting note advising that a new assignment of church pews was being made by Mr. William Forshee who would be glad to receive all requests. On April 8th the solemn occasion of Mr. Youngs' ordination and installation occurred, at which time the King's Daughters presented him with a handsome silk robe.

Mr. Youngs announced that he would call on every home of the parish by July 1st, as the best means of getting acquainted with his people. To meet the deadline proved more difficult than he had imagined but the successful accomplishment of it convinced him forever of the worth of the pastoral calling.

When the Youngs first came to Seneca Falls, someone said anxiously to Mrs. Youngs that she didn't know how they could manage, the two of them rattling around in that big manse. From the experience of their former parish, Mrs. Youngs replied that she imagined the manse would soon be full of the young people of the church. During the first month, the Herald announced that the Tuxis Society and the communicants' class would meet at the manse Sunday afternoons. Some of these same boys were in Mr. Youngs' Boy Scout Troop, while Mrs. Youngs had many of the girls in her church school class. Every Sunday afternoon they had supper and their meeting. The boys and girls came earlier each week, even to the point of arriving at 2:00 o'clock, before the dinner dishes were done. One mother called and asked if her son were at the manse. Receiving an affirmative answer, she said "Well, I always know where to find him now." Mrs. S.S Gould with her interested observation from the opposite side of the street, loaned a ping-pong table for the young people to use. From this group of young people whom they came to know so well, still come Christmas cards every year, and occasional visits. One of these boys, Bill Wayne, wrote from a foxhole in Europe during World War II to Mr. Youngs who was on an aircraft carrier in the Pacific, in this vein: "During the long watches I often think of the things we talked about at the manse--what it means to be a Christian, for instance."

The Herald made the proud announcement in September 1938, that the Sunshine Circle, under the direction of Mrs. Stowell Jacoby, had won first prize in an international Bible contest. The same bulletin tells that an older young peoples' class was being taught by Mr. Youngs after Church each Sunday. Soon after, the organization of a Junior church was announced with Miss Maud Davis as the leader. A young Men's basketball team was formed and entered the church league, Douglas Cousins as captain. The Christmas pageant was directed by Mrs. Thomas Redcleft. In January a Father-Son Banquet was held.



February saw more steps forward. Lenten study groups on the New Testament were taught each Thursday night by the pastor. Four Business Men's luncheons with outstanding speakers were held during Lent in cooperation with the other Protestant churches. A committee was formed to begin study and preparation for the erection of the Parish House. A Junior choir was organized, with Mrs. Robert Mills as leader. A Palm Sunday Vesper service featured the Tunica Jubilee Singers from the home town of Mrs. Guy Doane in Mississippi. The first Young People's Sunday was held on April 23rd. It was arranged for a church school to be held all through the summer, thanks to the consecrated efforts of such teachers as Mrs. Earl Sanders and Mrs. Harold Grahling. The Heralds of the fall of 1938 contains many interesting notes of progress. Weekday Religious Instruction with released time from school, was started in cooperation with the other Protestant churches. At a vesper service on October 29th the Sicilian's Tale from Longfellow's "Tales of a Wayside Inn" was presented with Deforest Mills as a featured performer. Two Young People's societies were formed to accommodate the growing numbers of interested young people. The pastor conducted a week night adult study group on "Church History". On November 19th Mrs. E.C. Rolfe enriched the sanctuary with the gift of a church flag in memory of her husband. The following week the choir presented Gaul's "Holy City" at vespers service. As the season advanced, Mrs. Redcleft again prepared the Christmas Pageant. A watch night service for New Year's Eve was innovated.

In the first Herald for the year 1940 is the note that Miss Caroline Lester was taking over the teaching of the Women's Bible Class. Later in that month, the Young People's Sunday was held and proved to be a real spiritual milestone for the young people who had toiled long hours in preparation. February saw the Lenten study groups for adults get under way again, as well as the Business Men's Lenten Luncheons. The next month the new church chimes were dedicated. In May a Church Council was formed to further cooperation among the Protestant Churches of the village. At this time an announcement was made that a fund was made available by which taxi service would be provided for anyone who needed transportation to the morning worship service. In June the Willing Workers circle organized a rental library of religious books, with Miss Maude Davis in charge.

The fall opened with the pleasing note of a redecorated lower auditorium. Three Young People's societies were formed instead of the two of the previous year. A Board of Religious Education evolved and started work. Mr. Bertram Hole had resigned and during the interim Mrs. Harry Weart directed the choir. The Music Committee secured the services of Donald Merriam, beginning on November 24th. During December the Herald had many interesting notes. Mrs. John Davis gave a candelabrum to the sanctuary in memory of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Richard P. Vanbenschoten. The Christmas play was "Why the Chimes Rang," again directed by Mrs. Redcleft. During this month a Young People's Club, started to function under the leadership of the president, Mr. Wallace Smith,

The new year of 1941 started auspiciously, according to the Herald, with Young People's Sunday. Three young people who had attended Aurora conference the previous summer Virginia Ayers, Janette Little and Janice Olmstead - gave sermons, while Isabella Sanderson rendered a solo and other young people read Scripture and prayed. February saw the beginning of the redecorating of the sanctuary, with Mrs. S.S. Gould as chairman. The Lenten study groups for adults and the Business Men's Luncheons continued as in other years during Lent. Charles Rann Kennedy's play, "The Terrible Meel" was given on Palm Sunday evening by the young adults, who derived great inspirational benefit from their study. That was a memorable Palm Sunday, for Dr. William Peter Schell preached in the morning.

Mr. Youngs received a call to the Historic First Presbyterian Church of Watertown, New York, during that spring. On May 25th the congregation of Seneca Falls voted to dissolve the relationship between the church and the pastor so that Mr. Youngs might accept the call in Watertown. In August a farewell reception, under the leadership of Mrs. Lawrence Van Cleef and Mrs. Fred Story, was given to the Youngs. When they departed for the north country, their family had grown from two to four as a daughter, Ruth, and a son, Edwin, had been born to them in the three and a half years at Seneca Falls. Although the Herald does not contain this note, the facts remains that they left a part of their hearts behind in Seneca Falls.



Pastorate of Samuel J. Holt 1941 - 1958

As one looks back to the tense days of 1941, when this nation stood on the brink of war, one is conscious of those who served this church valiantly for many years on its boards who will not be with us on May 21, 1957. From that September day, they include H. A. Carmer, E. C. Wayne, B. N. Baker, H. D. Knight, A. G. Withers, C. W. Kittle, Wm. Forshee, F. L. Story, W. B. Vreeland, Dr. F. W. Lester, L. H. Hood, H. F. Miller, W. D. Ayers and Miss Myra Viele. In some cases, old family names are no longer part of the roll of this church. This is always the sad part of looking back across the years faithful companions, who could always be counted on for their loyalty and their high conception of the church, have passed on to the life eternal. When you consider losses such as these and the changes that they have involved, you realize that the church has been passing from one era to another. It has been a time during which the community has passed from the stage in which one new house had been built in the ten years prior to 1941 to the extensive building of the last ten years. The road to the lake with farms on both sides has changed to practically a street of homes. Sylvania has changed a closed factory to the largest employee plant in the village. It has been an era in which many events have taken place in the church.

For the first time in the history of this church, the Session has gone on the rotary plan of election. Prior to January 1956, election to the Session, while on the basis of a stated term, had continued to reelection upon the faithfulness and usefulness of elected elders. Now, election is for a term of three years with compulsory retirement from the Session for at least the period of a year. In this, we preceded the action of the General Assembly by a year, and placed service on the Session on the same basis as the Deacons and the Trustees. In January 1953, the first Board of Deacons was approved by the annual meeting and the first Deacons were chosen the following month. It is interesting to note that for the first time women were elected to an official board of the church - this in the birthplace of woman's rights. Provision was made in the enabling motion for this board that half of its members should be women. It has been a matter of satisfaction to the Pastor that, beginning in 1954, women are now members of all three boards of the church. There are two on the Trustees and three on the Session. They still may seem a little strange in their offices, and defer unnecessarily to the men, but they have properly come to the responsibilities which they have carried for years without official recognition. The Deacons have sought to extend the hospitality of the church. They have taken charge of the ushering and the greeting of strangers and members. They have carried on charitable work, helped with new members and with the sick. They have been an alert and active board that has shown its interest in the life of the church. They have also assumed the responsibility of preparing the elements for the observance of the Lord's Supper. The Board of Trustees has had increased responsibilities during these years. This has been a time during which costs and expenses have grown from year to year. It has seemed from time to time that some things might be left for the moment when prices might relax. Such a moment has never come during these years. To pass any item on from one year to the next has only meant that it would be more costly when it was finally done.

Beginning late in 1952, considerable work was done in the basement of church. This provided more room for the growing church school, but like the public schools of our village, we are again finding space for classes crowding in upon us. We installed a new heating plant and rewired the church. This last saved either the Pastor or the Chairman of the Board of Trustees from going to jail. At least, the Pastor received a pink ticket similar to a parking ticket warning of arrest unless the fire hazard of bare wires was corrected. At the present time, we are seeking to raise a fund for a Memorial Organ costing \$30,000. The organ that we now have was installed in 1898. It has been a good organ, and unlike the One-Horse Shay, it has gone apart only bit by bit. It is doing its best to last until it can be replaced. Present plans call for this to be ready next Christmas or the first of the year. The congregation has voted to purchase a Schantz pipe organ with three consoles that will be comparable to the present one but with greater versatility. The committee has presented a plan to purchase the organ over a three year period through memorial gifts.

After a period of considerable study and investigation, the women of the church decided to combine all of their organizations into a Presbyterian Women's Organization and the new society was launched in January 1954. For some years, there had been a desire on the part of some of the women to do this. However, the King's Daughters in this church had belonged to that organization from almost its start in the '80's, and the Women's Missionary Society was one of the strongest in the Presbytery. It was finally decided to accept the one society which is the approval made of women's work of the Board of Christian Education. It has been a source of inspiration to many of the women, especially to the younger and newer members. It has brought to them a greater knowledge of the work of their church and it has carried on a very active and complete program. Much of its success can be traced directly to the work and study that preceded their entrance into its program. They have adhered closely to its work, been well-organized and capably led.

During these years the Church School has tripled in size. This has been due to a number of factors. Families are larger today and Presbyterian families are larger too. We also have many more younger families in the church. There are more classes in the Young Peoples Department. Then there has been the addition of adult classes. We have found it harder to have a Woman's Class than for the men with their Coffee Hour. From this last, we now also have a Presbyterian Men's organization which has also felt the inspiration of the Men's Eastern Area meetings in New York. The Coffee Hour has been studying the total background of the Bible and now is studying the Gospel of Matthew. It has aroused the interest of men in other churches of the community and outside. We have had a Junior-Hi and Senior-Hi Westminster Fellowships and a number of our young people have served as Presbytery leaders. Miss Betty Schartzter and Miss Inge Sorensen have served as Moderators in successive years. The former was chosen for membership on the National Westminster Council in 1956 and the latter is a delegate to the National Westminster Assembly, this year. The Pastor and his wife have been in charge of the Senior-Hi Camp at Camp Whitman for the last two years.



In 1944, this church was left a bequest of over \$100,000 by Louise Parsons Greene. Beginning in 1956, the Church has created Greene Memorial Scholarships for young people attending colleges or taking advanced work beyond high school in her memory. However, across the years, this gift has permitted the church to undertake some projects that it might not have attempted to do otherwise. The brick structure to the rear of the church was purchased and opened in April 1946 as a youth recreational unit. The young people quickly named this "The Barn" by which name it is still known. It proved to be so popular that within several years, it was necessary to double its size. While the young people have paid for their own leadership, provided by various teachers, the church has provided the building, heat and light. It has averaged an attendance of a hundred and fifty to two hundred on Friday and Saturday nights. It has provided a place for young people of all groups throughout the community and helped meet the juvenile problems. It has been a constructive force in the life of the community and Mr. Willard Eastman, who has been in charge of it during all these years, deserves our appreciation and thanks.

The Barnstormers were organized by our young married couples in 1949. They soon expanded to include their friends and this organization has acted as a Newcomers Club for young people coming to Seneca Falls. It has had a wide membership; with some staying on and others using it as a means of becoming acquainted in the community. In either case, it has helped many couples make a happy and pleasant adjustment to the community. During these years, the Married Peoples Club has changed to the Westminster Supper Club. It has carried on an excellent program for the age group just beyond the Barnstormers. This has been more a group of our own members although it too has always had a larger circle than just our own.

During nearly half of these fifty years and that five ministers been writing about, Mrs. Mary Day has been playing our organ. She has been a tremendous pillar of help to three of the pastors with her great helpfulness and trustworthy service. In fact, she has done much by her skill in using the various parts of the organ to keep it playing. Mrs. Helen Hippisley, our Choir Director should be commended for her excellent work. There are two Choirs, the Chapel Choir of the youngsters and the Chancel Choir of adults and high school people. I want to take this opportunity to thank all the people in all the Boards and organizations of the church for the tremendous work that they are doing. I have avoided names except in a few instances for it is not only presidents, Sunday School Superintendents, and chairman that carry on these programs. They entail teachers such as Mrs. Jacoby who did a noble work in the Junior Department and who just died, and members of committees and those in the ranks. All have their part in the life of the church and the church depends on everyone. It is giving and sharing time, talents and money in a stewardship of life and of faith in a whole hearted loyalty to Jesus Christ that a church lives, serves its community and witnesses to God. All our tasks and opportunities are never realized and never will be by mortals, but we press forward in the high goal of our calling in Christ Jesus.

Pastorate of Kenneth Holmstrup 1958 - 1963

Our first newsletter called THE GOOD NEWS was launched during this pastorate.

The "Barn" was closed as a recreation center (with much "outcry" from the community who missed their youth dances on Saturdays) and was utilized for church use only.

Our "Worship" and "Ecumenical" committees were organized. Our present Schantz pipe organ was installed in 1958 with subscription money raised from the congregation

Mrs. Mary Gould, organist for many years, resigned with the challenge of our new Schantz organ. Mrs. Gould had commuted every Sunday for those many years from her home in Auburn. A number of organists took over this service including Mrs. Holmstrup, Mrs. Agnew until our own Mrs. John Webb had many years of permanence in this position.

Mr. And Mrs. Donald Wysham were chosen as our special missionaries to sponsor. Keith Morrow (one of our congregants) was approved for entering the ministry

Eisenhower College was "born" and became established with the foresight of a group of men in our Church's Men's Club (which met every Sunday morning during Sunday School Hour) The Congregation met and approved of donating \$100,000 from our endowment to the underwriting of financing this new College. The endowment had been enlarged recently by a will bequest of Louise Parsons Green (of the Gould family)

Upon completing his ministry here in Seneca Falls, Ken Holmstrup became pastor of a church in Fairfax, VA Upon the death of Ken Holmstrup in Sept. 2006, his wife, Barbara, wrote the following tribute in his memory

Ken was a first-generation American from Denmark. His father died when Ken was two, and his mother died when Ken was 21. After a year of college, he joined the Navy during WW II. When he got out of the Navy, he earned a degree in Chinese History. He then went to Cornell and got a degree in Agriculture. His original intent was to become a missionary. He attended Louisville Seminary and later got his doctorate from Union Seminary. At retirement he wanted to devote his time to counseling and got a Master's at University of New Mexico. Unfortunately, he had a stroke at the age of 64. Most of all, I want people to know that he was the best of husbands, a good father and grandfather to his children and mine and the same for his great grandchildren.



Pastorate of Leroy Hertzog 1964 - 1971

Johanna Hayssen (one of our congregants) had her request granted to enter church work as a vocation. It was first established that we should have a Unicameral Board. One free day a week for the Pastor was approved. Approval was given of the Pastor's right to speak freely as a private citizen on any subject that he chooses. The Pastor's request for Communion to be held on the first Sunday of each month was granted.

The Louise Parsons Greene bequest made it possible to enlarge the "Barn" to form our present Eastman Hall (named for a deceased member of our congregation who had devoted a great deal of time to the community programs that had taken place there previously - Willard Eastman). Also through the week the Hall was allowed to house the ALPHA DAY SCHOOL, a private educational program for young children.

Mrs. Jean Morris (one of our congregants) was appointed Christian Education Director with a very enlarged Sunday School enrollment. Our church participated in an ecumenical program called FISH which provided food, clothing, transportation for needy people which operated for a number of years.

Pastor was appointed one of several volunteer chaplains for the newly formed Eisenhower College. The property connecting the Church property with State Street was purchased giving the congregation access to both State St. and Cayuga St.

Harold Sanderson's application to enter the ministry was granted. New robes for the Senior Choir were purchased. The Hawley Room was completed in its furnishings.

Upon completing his ministry here in Seneca Falls, LeRoy Hertzog became pastor of a church in Valley Stream, NY.

Pastorate of William Knox 1972 - 1981



Installation of Rev. Knox on Nov. 5, 1972 - reception followed. Young people were elected as Elders and Deacons - a new worship book and the church newly painted gave special inspiration to the church members. Over 50 church members participated in committees of the Boards. Through the Council of Churches, Meals on Wheels was formulated and a Summer Veteran's recreation project undertaken. Increased participation with the Methodists with Lenten breakfasts and youth activities.

In 1974, a Congregational Survey was held by the Stewardship committee testing goals and resources of the congregation. Same year, formed the Presbyterian Pairs and Spares group, Youth Choir, Library-Media committee and new membership directory. Our first Church Auction was initiated. Eisenhower students and faculty add to our church programs with Rev. Knox serving as chaplain.

1976, the Bicentennial Year of our nation was a stimulus for a new brass choir, plantings in front of the church and start of plans for renovation and redecoration of the sanctuary. Also, opened the church for use of the Family Counseling Service of the Finger Lakes as well as Seneca County Day Care Center. Ron Bullis and John DeHority were endorsed as candidates for the ministry.

1977 marks the finalization of plans for alterations in the sanctuary - much discussion as to what should be done with work starting in 1978 - painting of walls, new carpeting, reupholstered pews, new organ screen cloth, altering choir woodwork and suspended cross installed. Use of Eastman Hall continues to serve Alcoholics Anonymous, Family Counseling, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts and Eco-Justice Task Force of Ministries. Church choir was augmented by Eisenhower College students and Community Chorus to perform Mozart's Coronation Mass, the Faure Requiem including a small orchestra - the Warrens of Eisenhower directed these special music events.

1979 completed the church renovations - ventilation fans installed. Church education was enhanced by continued participation of professors from Eisenhower College - Dr. Murdoch and Campbell were frequent leaders in Coffee Hour programs.

Pastor continues to serve as volunteer chaplain at Eisenhower College even as the College moves into a relationship with RIT in Rochester during the years of 1980 - 81.



Pastorate of Peter Crego 1982 - 2007

The information presented for your reading came from annual reports for the years mentioned. Quite naturally not all is included for those years - only a quick overview that hopefully will make for a "good read" in future years. It would be impossible to neither capture the true essence of each year nor mention everyone that made a contribution to the up keep of the buildings of the church. God's work progresses with us and in spite of us and that's been true for the two hundred years of our existence.

1981 Membership was at 342, endowment at \$110,000, 35 in Church School, 120 pledges - \$49,328 budget, \$11, 500 for benevolences. Issues centered on Central America, especially El Salvador, Peacemaking, and Nuclear Freeze Church Movement. The manse was renovated in preparation for a new minister if he/she wanted to live in it. Church renovation fund completed in May. In December I agreed to candidate for the position as pastor.

1982 Sue Adams Circle, Merrill Circle (UPW), & Westminster Supper Club were regularly meeting. Repaired slate roof and repaired 16 mm projector. Removed old garage from manse property which was situated north of present garage. Pancake dinner put on by Sr. Highs/ confirmation class. Eisenhower College closed/ 24 Children toured channel 9 studio in Syracuse. There were 45 students in Christian Ed. Joanne Cox was the interim pastor from Jan-March. Comment made "no more skeptics" related to her role as pastor! Beginning of Hand bell Choir. Sue Ellen and Peter arrived March 1. Palm Sunday the choir performed "The Crucifixion". Pew Bibles were purchased, personal hearing devices installed, chair lift for back stairway ordered. Peacemaking group formed and continued support given to Laotian family. Communion continued at Johnson Home for Women.

1983 There were 155 pledges for a current expense budget of \$85,000 and \$14,698 for benevolences. A new back entrance was built to provide shelter for the existing back door. Church office was remodeled taken from the Helen Crimmons Fund. UPW was dissolved due to lack of participation. New roof installed on manse (third roof). Tom Dowd recognized for 25 years of service to church as custodian. Bell choir made its debut in worship. New robes for choir were made by Bobbie Plummer and others. There 40 in church school. There was strong opposition to Eisenhower closing with session voting to sue R.I.T. We supported blanket Sunday and the Nestle boycott. Flood lights were installed in front of church. Women's Peace Encampment opened in Romulus to protest nuclear storage at the Depot.

1984 Decided to close church office for July and three weeks in August. Contracts and job descriptions were introduced. There were 40 students in Christian Ed. A Prayer Group was started by Elaine Kilgore. A Bell Choir Festival was held in Feb. Lenten Luncheons served. Two rocking chairs purchased in memory of Priestly Doane and Helen Cline. Outreach Committee was formed and radio spots purchased for advertising.

1985 Sold existing parking lot to village but maintained ownership of driveway to State Street. Started using member/guest pads during worship. Troop 88 reported 35 scouts as members. Pack 88 reported 21 cub scouts. Roof Committee formed in January to look into replacing slate roof on church. 2 Cent a meal program started. Shirley Warren resigned as organist/ director of music. Minute for Mission instituted during worship. 40 students listed for church school.

1986 Purchased TV and VCR moving the church from 16 mm to tape. Church had the largest number of walkers for the CROP Walk plus contributions. Hired Joyce Lohr as church secretary after Miriam Murdoch resigned. Also hired Rodney Foster as organist. Risers added to choir loft. Children's Bell Choir formed under the direction of Meg Becker. \$40,000 pledged towards roof. Church photo directory completed. Welcome sign placed in Eastman Hall as an outreach project.

1987 Membership was at 275. Troop 88 had 20 scouts - Dave Brink, scoutmaster, received Silver Beaver award. Church had a very successful Fall Harvest Bazaar. Present outdoor bulletin board installed. 5 Thanksgiving Baskets delivered by Sr. Highs. Copper Roof and Fiberglass Dormers completed at a cost of \$89,135.00 reported by Chair, Mike Day. Sue Adams Circle sold 360 lbs. of pecans.

1988 Present hot water heater installed in "cold room." Church picnic held at the Seems in Tyre-60 in attendance. Memorial Committee purchased 12 card tables. 30 students in church school. Joyce Lohr resigned as church secretary and Miriam Murdoch came back.

1989 234 members reported. New Advent Wreath donated to church in memory of Wesley Brandon and Jane Crego. Participated in Bicentennial Fund for three years - pledged \$24,251 for local and beyond benevolences. New metal door with window installed in E.Hall. Served Lenten Lunch on Ash Wednesday. Purchased new refrigerator and microwave for church. Rodney Foster resigned as organist - James Douthit hired. Young people began lighting candles. Worship and Music, under the direction of Jannette Monterville, put on a dinner for the choirs. Charlie Bolinger retired from Trinity Church. There were 24 students in church school.

1990 Church received Steinway Piano from the estate of Emily Huntington. Had piano in Hawley room rebuilt. New dishwasher



installed and kitchen remodeled for "chef" Jim Clark! On average, Jim prepares a dinner or brunch for the church family each month from September through June. Women's Hall of Fame held Induction Ceremony in sanctuary. Narthex bulletin board and cabinets installed. Church picnic held at Al and Ruth Ferrel's. Mitten Tree introduced. Sponsored a Thai seminary student. 456 lbs. of pecans sold.

1991 Membership reported at 235. 95 pledges: Current Expenses \$60,556 and Benevolences at \$14,639. Purchased new Oneida Flatware and Corel dishes. Miriam Murdoch resigned as secretary. Joyce Lohr hired. Chancel choir presented Rutter's Requiem on May 19th. Merrill Circle disbands. 500 lbs. of pecans sold by Sue Adams Circle. Cap. Improvement Committee formed.

1992 "Roasted Pastor." "Amal and the Night Visitors" performed by choir on Sat. and Sun. New hymnals were purchased. Bobbie Chase made red covers for bell tables. 504 lbs. of pecans sold. Advent devotional booklets mailed to congregation. 12 teachers teaching six church school classes. Church ordered its first computer. Church served as a check point for YMCA cross state relay race.

1993 212 members reported in the stats. Lighting installed in driveway. Replaced beam under both towers and did brick work on east end of church under the direction of Bob Geraghty Installed copper eaves and drains. Rebuilt Steinway piano. James Douthit resigned as organist. Martha Mills and Diane Thomas filled in. Sherwoods continue to supply church with flowers from their garden. Al Ferrel continues to paint the basement. 504 lbs. of pecans sold. Wayne Lohr creates 2 cents a meal display of two pennies.

1994 Hired two music directors during the year. Cleaned membership rolls and reported 188 members. Nursery moved from E.Hall to church. New heating system installed in church. Remodeled manse kitchen. Tried 9 am for summer worship with Methodists. Jan Day will be hired as assistant treasurer effective the first of the year replacing Fran Webb. Church school supported Heifer Project-raised enough money to buy 5 rabbits, 1 pig, 1 goat, 1 sheep, 3 fish, 4 bees, and 1 chicken. Held neighborhood meetings for stewardship.

1995 Membership reported at 201. 89 pledges \$83,000. Bought new paraments (white and green). Plexiglas cover for communion table. Lisa Van Dusen hired as organist/director of music. Two receptions - one for Fran and the other for Meg Becker. Fans were installed in kitchen and basement. Old fuel oil tank removed. New front steps and railings. Plans approved for elevator/addition and upstairs manse bathroom. 38% savings on heating the church reported.

1996 Elevator completed as well as upstairs remodeling of manse. Organ not used from June to October due to remodeling in church. Marge Farenholz hired as Bell Choir Director. Lisa Van Dusen resigned as organist/director of music.

1997 Mary Kay Campbell was hired as organist/director of music. Handbell Choir played for Virginia Lay's wedding. Announced plans for "sing and ring" for children. Chair lift sold. New doors ordered for E. Hall. 50 baby hats knitted by members of Sue Adams/Merrill Circle. Remodeled church bathrooms.

1998 Worked on manse porch. New ceiling in narthex. Many events held for "Celebrate 98" at church. Computer purchased for Hawley room. Choir chimes and third octave added to bells. Pot washing sink added to church kitchen. Continued summer worship schedule with Methodists. 83 pledges: CE \$80,766 Mission: \$11,554.

1999 182 members. Hamilton College Brass Choir played during worship - arranged by Paul Damaske. "Tour of Pipe Organ" filmed by Al Johnson. Restored Rose Window/ new storms on E. Hall. E. Hall declared "smoke free." Pending contract for church bell tower to be used as a cellular tower. Returned to 10 am for summer worship with Methodists. Plans given for the remodeling of E. Hall - lounge, kitchen, and bathrooms. Free Wed. night dinners offered in E. Hall for outreach. Dinners offered after church for Sr's and friends once a month. Game night on Fri night. Care packages mailed for Kosovo.

2000 Remodeling of E. Hall completed under the direction of Karen Beals and Liza Merriam. Storage building purchased and placed next to E.Hall. Purchased electronic keyboard. Hand bell lights constructed. Women's Circle donated to Fingerlakes Counseling's Domestic Violence Program. Ongoing mission contributions to General Assembly, Synod, Presbytery, House of Concern, One Great Hour of Sharing, Christmas Joy, Peacemaking, Church World Service, Theological Education Fund, and the Peace Corps.

2001 Year of 9/11. Joyce Lohr resigns as church secretary - Doreen Huff hired as new secretary. Stained glass windows were refurbished. Church painted and Plexiglas windows installed in bell tower. Gas insert installed in E. Hall. 10 students in Christian Ed. Fingerlakes Girls Choir held concert in sanctuary. Served 3 brunches and 6 dinners. Assembled back packs with school supplies for children forced out of their homes by fire. Sponsored two Neighbors Night Out at Trinity Church.

2002 Completed stain glass window refurbishment. Barbara Schwartz joined us as an intern. Labyrinths walk at St. Pats. Christmas Play "12 Days of Christmas" directed by Marion Crull. Bell Choir played, as they have done for many years, at the Christmas Open at the Historical Society. Youth Bell festival held. Doreen Huff resigns as secretary and Carol Harnacker hired as her replacement. Sent "care packages" of medical supplies to aid Afghan children.



2003 Chicken BBQ at Wal Mart to purchase Christmas Gifts for needy families. Hosted beginning of Migrant Farm Workers March to Albany. Purchased fair trade coffee. Added hymn book supplements. New hymn number rack made and placed by Marv Lay.. Mary Kay Campbell resigned as organist - Lisa Compton took over. Scouts sold 300 wreaths.

2004 18 children's activity bags were made by Diana Becker and Sue Ellen Crego. A place holder for the activity bags was built by Cherie & Jim Clark with help from Don Heath. These activity bags hang from the back pew in the sanctuary. Clerk of the session, Betty Geraghty, reported that the minutes were approved without exception - 26 years as clerk. New roof on manse which involved a complete tear off. Had two joint worship services with Waterloo Presbyterian Church to explore possibility of merging. Home Health Kits assembled and sent by circle to Africa. 58 pledges: CE: \$81,102 Mission: \$12,127. 113 members.

2005 New Church Phone Directory completed by Marv Lay. Joint summer worship services with the Methodists discontinued at the request of the Methodists. Church became a member of the Covenant Network. Trim on manse painted. We now use only four elders to serve communion. Session size is 12. Upgraded sound system in sanctuary. 700 diapers collected by women's circle for House of Concern. Offering plates engraved with the addition of Jean Burtless' name.

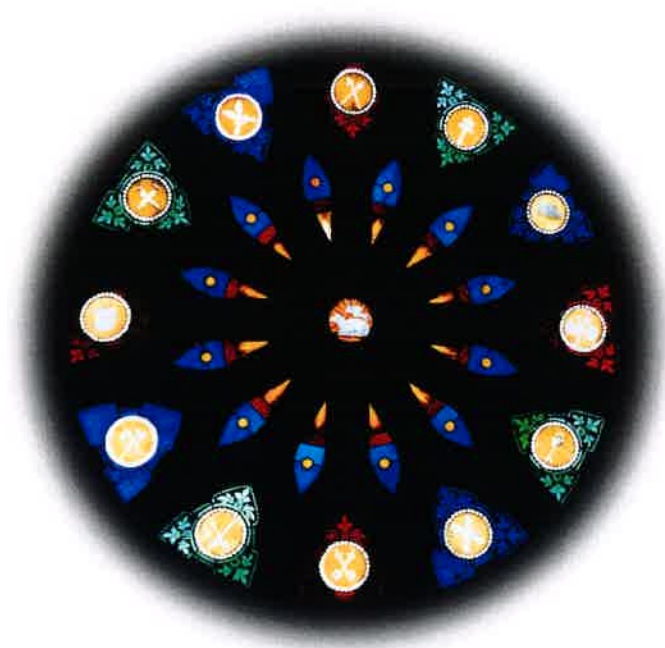
2006 Membership reported at 101. Reported that we over pledged our budget. Carol Harnacker resigned as secretary - Joyce Lohr returned. Lisa Compton resigned - Steven Kane was hired as organist/director of music. Church custodian Tom Dowd retires after 47 years of service. Session votes to support moratorium on NYS death penalty. Steve Beals commissioned as a Lay Pastor and enrolled in seminary. Endowment reported to be \$2,538,862.00. New boiler installed in E. Hall. Insulation installed in E. Hall attic.

Sue Ellen and I consider it a privilege to have served this church for 25 years or an eighth of its existence and to have been part of its rich heritage and tradition. It has also been a pleasure to have shared in your lives and to have ministered with you. Last but not least we have loved living in the manse - a one of a kind home and a one of a kind experience. Retirement is now imminent after 35 years in the ministry. I came here wanting to preach just once in your pulpit. God evidently decided once was not enough!

What the next two hundred years will bring forth remains to be experienced as we continue our faith journey. One thing I am confident of and that is God will guide you and sustain you as God has done for the past two hundred years.

Peace,

Peter & Sue Ellen.



Rose Window