

HISTORY OF ORLEANS COUNTY CHURCHES

BY

Helen E. Allen

Village of Medina

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## HISTORY OF ORLEANS COUNTY CHURCHES

by  
Helen E. Allen  
Village of Medina

Medina, the largest village in the county, is located mostly in the southern part of the Town of Ridgeway but extends into Shelby Township. The first few settlers came here when work on the Erie Canal through this area began. After the canal was opened for navigation on October 26, 1825, people came to Medina in greater numbers and the village was incorporated on March 31, 1832. The ~~early~~ settlers were religious people and by that date had organized four Churches: St. John's Episcopal, the First Presbyterian, the First Baptist and the Methodist Episcopal. Three more were formed before the close of the century, St. Mary's R. C. in 1850 and Trinity and St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Churches many years later. All of these Churches are active in 1972.

These seven Church Societies built 12 edifices and fitted one old school house for use as a house of worship during the nineteenth century. Four of those buildings are in use as churches today, one of the earliest, St. John's substantial stone edifice built in 1836, is now the oldest church in use in Medina. The other three, the Presbyterian and Baptist sandstone structures and the Methodist brick building were erected during the 1870s. The first house for public worship built in Medina is still standing after 140 years, as an addition to the now unused St. Mary's convent. It became too small for the rapidly growing Presbyterian congregation after only four years, was used as a school for a time and then purchased by a group of Catholic families for a church, and served for 75 years as St. Mary's parochial school house. Two of the early churches burned and two were torn down when larger buildings were needed. Only one old church in Medina was ever sold for commercial use. When the Baptists erected their present edifice on a new site, the old church on the north side of West Center St., next to the Bent Opera Block, which faced on Main St., became a store. Later it was moved to North Main St. near the canal and was used as a store and then as a garage. It burned down a half century or more ago. Three of the nineteenth century church buildings were in use after the present century arrived. St. Mary's beautiful sandstone edifice was completed in 1904 and the old church taken down some years later. The two Lutheran Churches erected new buildings about mid-century and in <sup>each</sup> case incorporated the old building into the new larger edifice.

Four religious societies have been organized during this century. Sacred Heart R. C. Parish was established in 1910 and the rectory and church built that same year. The Christian Science Society organized in 1918 and built a fine house in 1923. Glad Tidings Baptist Church, formed in 1926, purchased a small building for \$20.00. In 1932 they completed a larger church to which they built an addition in 1957. Grace Baptist Church organized in Shelby under a different name in 1932 and held services in the old Fletcher Chapel there for some years. They purchased a large residence on the corner of Park and West Avenues in Medina in 1942, which the men of the congregation gradually remodeled for use as a parsonage and church. When the work was nearly completed in 1951, the building was badly damaged by fire. The building was again restored with sanctuary and rooms for Bible School and Church fellowship. A house on West Ave. was purchased for use as a parsonage.

No Medina Church has ever given up and disbanded.



ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
MEDINA, N. Y.

This Church was incorporated under the name, "St Luke's Episcopal Church" on November 12, 1827, about five years previous to the incorporation of the village of Medina, and was the first Church in the village. It was organized by a missionary of the Episcopal Diocese of New York, the Rev. Richard Salmon. Bishop Hobart, whose headquarters were in New York City, visited Buffalo the following September and stopped over in Medina. He later reported, "On September 6 I went by canal boat to Medina and in this new but flourishing village, on Sunday, the 7th, I officiated morning and evening." The corporate officers of the Church for the first year were: Justus Ingersoll and Richard VanDyke, Wardens; Christopher Whaley, Elijah Beach, John B. Ellicott, Joseph Nixon, Henry Yerrington, Benjamin VanDyke, Jonas Billings and Hezekiah Warner, vestrymen. The fact that ten men were serving as officers of the Episcopal Church at a time when there were less than 35 families in the village would indicate that a number of people of that faith had settled in Medina. During the <sup>1828</sup> year the parish was organized with 15 families. Apparently, unlike most churches, which organize before legally incorporating, the Episcopal missionary proceeded in reverse order.

Rev. Salmon had hoped to proceed promptly with the building of a church edifice and in encouragement of that plan, the Hon. David E. Evans gave the parish a piece of land in 1828, on which to build. Mrs. Evans at about the same time donated a communion service to the Church. Not being able to carry out his plans for building Rev. Salmon resigned in 1829 and the Rev. Beardsley Northrup took over as Rector. He apparently gave his attention to winning new members to the parish, for at the convention of the Diocese in 1831, Bishop Onderdonk reported, "on Friday afternoon, August 19th I confirmed 17 persons in the parish of St. Lukes Church, Medina." This was the first confirmation ever held in Orleans County.

The parish being in a stronger condition, the next rector, Rev. J.M. Rogers had no difficulty in leading the members in 1832 to plan for the construction of a church which was begun later that year on the site given them some years earlier. The fine stone edifice was enclosed and the basement fitted for holding services by the fall of 1833. During previous years the congregation had met for worship in various available houses in the village. The rector had resigned in July so members had carried on the work of completing the basement without pastoral leadership. They had no rector for a year so it is probable that services were held irregularly when Episcopal rectors from Lockport or Batavia could come to Medina. With the coming of a new rector in the summer of 1834, services were again held every Sunday, congregations increased and the parish was ready to undertake the task of completing the building. This was accomplished in 1836. Bishop Onderdonk came to Medina and consecrated the fine stone edifice on September 13th, baptized five persons and confirmed eleven at that service. Before this date the name of the Church had been changed to "St. John's".

This 135 year old stone church is still in use by St. John's Parish and is the earliest church edifice in Medina in use in 1972.

St. John's Parish continued to grow in membership somewhat and to carry on on a Christian program for more than a decade but was not able to reduce the building debt to any extent. After 1848 there came a



the darkest period in the history of the parish. Several influential members who had generously supported the Church moved away from Medina about this time for various reasons. Burdened with a heavy debt and without a rector for three years the Church closed. In these depressing circumstances, the Rev. R. D. Stearns accepted a call to the parish in the summer of 1851, and by his consecration and enthusiasm awoke the members to new life. He remained as rector of St. John's long enough to really accomplish something. The debt was paid, membership increased and the building thoroughly repaired and renovated. As a part of the work on the building a number of members gave memorial windows in memory of departed loved ones. Also a Caen stone baptismal font and a Bishop's chair were given. Rev. Stearns left the thriving parish of 65 families in the spring of 1869. In December that year a bell was purchased at a cost of \$900.00 and placed in the tower. A special service held on Wednesday evening, December 8 to celebrate the event.

Mrs. J. R. Weld gave a beautiful new altar to the Church in 1890. That same year a new pipe organ was installed at a cost of \$1,800.00. Music is an important part of Episcopal worship and St. John's Parish had long had a good choir. At about the time the new organ was purchased a surpliced choir was introduced which has continued to the present time.

At some time during the last quarter of the nineteenth century an addition was built on to the south end of the church to provide living quarters for the rector and his family. This was used as the rectory for some years but during the first quarter of the present century, property on Park Ave., was purchased for use as the rectory. The rooms in the addition were then ~~fixed~~ over to provide a church office and an apartment for the sexton.

St. John's Episcopal Church increased in membership considerably during early decades of this century but later as population trends changed, growth has been more slow. The Church has continued to carry on her Christian witness in Medina, to provide the Episcopal form of worship for the members and religious instruction for the children of the parish, to keep up the church property and to cooperate with other Churches and organizations in projects for the benefit of the village.

The church was completely remodeled in 1952 in line with the original plans. A new pipe organ was installed at that time - the gift of William Castle in memory of his wife and of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Castle, who were among the founders of the Church. In 1957 a beautiful side altar was given in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hood by their children and in 1964 an unusual font cover was given in memory of Andrew Shimmel by his wife. This lovely wood carving of St. John was done by a Mexican wood carver especially for St. John's Church in Medina, under the direction of Lawrence Wilkinson, brother of the Rector. Expert woodworker, E. L. Youde of Medina, carefully fitted a cover to the font of matching wood to which he attached the statue.

The Rev. J. E. Wilkinson served St. John's Parish for the longest period - 26 years - of any rector in the history of the Church. He was an authority on ecclesiastical law and procedures governing Episcopal Churches and for that reason had been appointed to the the Advisory Council for the Bishop. Members of the Council were given the title, Canon. As part of his duties Canon Wilkinson presided at certain ceremonial affairs in the Diocese. In 1963 Canon Wilkinson celebrated the fortieth anniversary of his ordination to the Priesthood at a beauti-



ful service in the presence of the Bishop, members of the clergy and friends. Members of the parish and other friends in the village gathered in February 1965 in celebration of Canon Wilkinson's 25 years as rector of St. John's Church. A little over a year<sup>later</sup> he retired from the active ministry. The Rev. R. B. Moss became rector in August 1966.

St John's Episcopal Church in Medina is in the Buffalo Diocese of which Rt. Rev. Harold Robinson is Bishop at present.

Jan. 1972 membership- 400;

Officers: Wardens - LeVerne C. Wright, Norris Webster;  
Vestry - Geo. L. Clapp, Thurston Dale, Wm. Jackson, Mrs. Vernon Bar-  
num, Gerald Schuyler, Mrs. Garra H. Smith, James Tuttle,  
Francis Tylec, F. W. Hill, R. C. Howell, Mrs. John. Walsh,  
Miss Lillian Boyle, Clerk of the Vestry; Treasurer - Delwyn  
Kegley; Organist - Samuel S. Dick;

Organizations: - Altar Guild, Bishop Brent Guild, St. Agnes Guild,  
Couples Club, Lay Leaders Corps, Acolytes, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts  
Troop No. 37 organized 1967.

St. John's supports the Orleans Chapter of the Ministry of Concern,  
is a member of the Medina Area Association of Churches. The Church  
regularly has the schedule of Sunday services and weekday meetings  
printed in the Friday Church section of the Medina Journal-Register.

Rectors who have served St. John's Episcopal Church are as follows:  
The Revs., Richard Salmon 1828-'29, Beardsley Northrup 1829-'31,  
J. M. Rogers 1831-'33, J. O. Stokes '34-'37, Wm. Allenson '37-'40,  
Stephen Douglass '40-'43, P. E. Coe '43-'48, R. D. Stearns '51-'69,  
W. W. Walsh '69-'72, Edward Dolloway, '72-'75, J. J. Andrew '75-'78,  
H. D. Dennis '79-'84, W. W. Walsh '84-'89, G. W. West '89-'95, R. L.  
MacFarlane 1896-1900, Chas. Turner 1901-'04, C. D. Laferty '05-'06,  
J. H. Herenden '06-'10, C. B. Sparks '11-'18, G. A. Shaw '19 - '25,  
Canon Bird (Supply) 1926, D. A. Pearson '27-'39, Canon J. E. Wilkenso  
1940 - 1966, R. B. Moss 1966 -



FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
522 Main St.  
Medina, N. Y.

This Church was organized on March 19, 1829 as the First Congregational Church of Medina, by the Rev. George Coan with the following charter members: Mr. and Mrs. Theophilus Cook, Mr. and Mrs. Ephraim Scovel, Orin Scovel, Vina Scovel, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Fenn, ~~Mr. and Mrs.~~ Mr. and Mrs. Colton Denio, John Burden, Titus Coan, Mrs. E. A. Bathgate, Miss Adeline Warner, Miss Sally Hotchkiss, Miss Anna Jewell and Miss Huldah Moore. It became a member of Niagara Presbytery on February 22, 1830 and adopted the Presbyterian name and form of church government. The Rev. George Coan served as first pastor

The First Presbyterian Church, like most other early religious groups, held services in the homes of members for a time. This arrangement was apparently satisfactory to most of the members. Deacon Theophilus Cook, however, wished to have a regular meeting house and also felt strongly that there should be a house for public worship in the growing village of Medina. Not being able to interest others in the project, he started alone to cut down trees and hew out timbers for the building. Impressed by the deacon's zeal for the House of God, Ephraim Scovel soon joined in the labor and other members inspired by their dedication gradually began to donate labor or money for the task and the small but substantially built meeting house was soon ready for their worship services. All of the members were then happy to have had a part in building that first House of God in Medina in 1832. The Presbyterians used this church, which stood on Cross St. (now Pearl St) for only four years. It was used as a schoolhouse for some years and in 1840 sold to a group of Catholic families for use as a church again. So well built was that old meeting house, that at least a part of it is still standing in 1972, as part of St. Mary's Parish, now unused, convenient  
↳ Torn down 1974?

Membership in the Presbyterian Church increased rapidly in early years. The first building was outgrown and in 1835 a larger stone edifice was begun on the west side of Main St. This was dedicated on February 17, 1836. The congregation contributed money for a bell to be placed in the belfry of their new church. Before the end of that year Edmund Fuller drove his team and heavy sled to Albany to get the 2,100 pound bell at the foundry and bring it back to Medina. The story is told that in Albany, two men who wished to go to this area arranged to ride with Mr. Fuller. The sled overturned on the way so he was very thankful for their company, for it was with great difficulty that the three men were able to reload the heavy bell. It was said to be the only bell between Albion and Lockport at the time and had cost \$625. For some years it was used not only to call the people to worship on Sundays but was rung on week days to regulate hours of labor and also used as the fire bell. On December 26, 1870, the stone church was destroyed by a fire which spread from a building next door. The congregation was invited to hold their services in the Methodist Church, also on Main Street.

The work of clearing the ruins from the site was started promptly. Plans were made during the early months of 1871 for the erection of the present larger stone edifice and construction started in late spring. The interior was finished and furnished that winter and the first service held in the new church a century ago on March 13, 1872. S. Mainville Burroughs, son of an early Medina family, died in 1995 leaving an endowment to the Presbyterian Church, which in 1902 made



possible extensive repairs to the building and the installation of a new organ. This legacy also provided money in 1924 for the renovation of the sanctuary with a sloping floor, new pews and indirect lighting. The Church in 1926 reported a membership of 320 of which 281 were resident members.

The Presbyterians of Medina were always concerned about the religious instruction of their children and youth. A Sunday School was organized as soon as their first meeting house was ready for use in 1832 with an enrollment of 50. During the passing years more space was provided and teaching methods adapted to changing times. The church basement was remodeled to a spacious Sunday School room which could be divided into separate class rooms, which was dedicated in March 1939.

During 1950 plans were again being made to provide more space for Christian Education and improvements to the sanctuary and church basement. A budget of \$10,000 was set up to carry out plans and work begun in February 1952. The Christian Education <sup>building</sup> was completed in 1953 providing much additional class room space in the basement and a large recreation hall above which can also be used for various meetings. The kitchen was modernized and several class rooms and the dining room redecorated during the renovation of the church basement. The property was then in excellent condition for the celebration of the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the First Presbyterian Church of Medina, March 14 to 21, 1954. An historical booklet was put out by the church at that time.

The chancel was rebuilt in 1964 as a memorial to Miss Stella Bigelow who had left a bequest of \$87,420.00 to the church. Among the many changes made were the removal of the pipes of the old organ which had long formed the background of the chancel, placing there an unusual memorial communion table, the front of which is a lovely woodcarving of the Last Supper, with a Celtic cross on the wall above and extending the center aisle of the sanctuary up and across the chancel. The sanctuary was also redecorated with walls painted colonial white, pews the same with natural wood trim and floors, including the chancel, covered with rich red carpeting. During the years many memorials have been given the Church, both for practical use and the enrichment of the worshipful atmosphere.

As the Presbyterian Church has carried on her active Christian ministry in Medina for 140 years many people have given generously of their time money and talents, some of them for many years. Mrs. Jeanette Tanner Hendricks served as organist for more than 40 years. Music has had an important place in the worship services and a number of talented persons have served as organists and choir directors. The Church has enjoyed the leadership of many able consecrated pastors in their long history. They have lived in various houses. A manse on Prospect St. was acquired at an unknown date, later a house on West Center St. was used for a few years. The present manse at the corner of Prospect and Park Ave. was willed to the Church many years ago.

Since the merging of two Presbyterian bodies in 1958, the Church at large has been known as the the United Presbyterian Church, U. S. A. and this Church is now known as the First United Presbyterian Church, Medina, N. Y. It is a member of Genesee Valley Presbytery and supports the World Mission programs of the U. P. Church U. S. A., in addition to financing its own Christian program and various Medina charities. It supports the Genesee - Orleans Ministry of Concern and is a member of Medina Area Assn. of Churches.

Medina Presbyterians had an interesting and unusual experience during 1968 when their pastor, the Rev. Clinton Kinney and his family exchanged pulpits and manses with the Rev. Philip Roberts and wife of Australia. The Rev. Roberts was pastor of a large Presbyterian Church in East Malverne, a suburb of Melbourne. Not only the Church but the entire community benefited from the exchange as they spoke at many different organizations in Medina.

Membership in this Medina Church passed five hundred in the first 50 years of the present century and has remained fairly stable since that time. January 1972 membership is 506. Present organizations: Women's Association, Westminster Class, Ruth Class, Couple's Club, Sr. High and Jr. High Youth Fellowships, Chancel and Junior Choirs, and Cub Scout Pack #31.

Pastor- The Rev. John H. Francisco, Organist -Mrs. Anthony Kozody, Choir Director- Mrs. Graydon Clack, Sr. Choir Dir.- Miss Cindy Clack. Officers: Session - Jack Graham, Clerk, Glenn Corser, Mrs. Harry Incho, Charles Minnich, Orren Roberts, Daniel Graham, Ronald Holbrook, Derrick McGaughey, Hervy Hunt, Dr. Fulton Rogers, Donald Canham, Virginia Roberts; Deacons - Mrs. Fred Benson, Charles Carr, Mrs. Walter Whittleton, Richard Smith, Laird McGaughey, Allan Gay, Bonnie Hunt, Frank Messor, Richard Hodom, Mrs. Donald Rook, Tom Dotts, Frank Berger, Chairman; Trustees - Robert Bottenfield, Lee Roberts, Dr. Robert Cogger, Milford Acer, Laverne Beeton, Barton Smith, Anthony Kozody, Dr. Joe Williard, Secy., Lee McAllister, Chm. Church Treas.--Robert Ketchum, Finc. Recorder - Miss Inez Reynolds, Church School Supt. Mrs. R. Martin, Ch. Sch. Treas.- Miss Laura King.

Pastors - George Coan 1829, Maltby Geldson 1832, H. A. Read 1835, Milton Buttolph 1837, George P. Prudden 1839, Charles E. Furman 1844, Edgar Clark 1854, L. I. Root 1861, C. R. Wilkins 1865, Alfred A. Graley 1868, George R. Merrill 1870, Henry T. Miller 1873, Wm. K. Tully 1875, George Harkness 1877, J. D. Countermain 1880, E. P. Gardner 1883, C. H. Lester 1886, Alfred T. Vail 1895, Henry F. Ellinwood 1900, Charles B. Chapin 1910, Frank J. Milman 1914, Truman A. Kilborne 1916, Walter Foss 1919, Wm. L. Findlay 1921, Edward J. Simpson 1946, Clinton E. Kinney 1960, John H. Francisco Jr. Nov. 1, 1970



## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MEDINA

The First Baptist Church of Medina was founded in 1829. The earliest pioneer to build a cabin at the place which later became the village, came about 1816. Cabins had been built by people who took up land along the trail known as the Ridge since 1810 and others had settled farther north. Enough people had settled along the Ridge and north and south of the trail so that the first school house was built on the Ridge near Oak Orchard Creek in 1815, and others soon afterwards. As soon as the school houses were built, the pioneers began to use them also for religious services when ever a preacher of any denomination could be secured. The Baptist Church at Yates was founded in 1822 and the pastor, Rev. Jeremiah Irons soon began to hold services in a school house near Ridgeway. The group increased in number for a few years and were known as the Ridgeway Baptist Church although there is no record of the actual organization of a church.

After the completion of the canal in 1825, the small settlement of Medina began to grow rapidly. At the same time the older hamlets of Ridgeway and Oak Orchard-on-the Ridge became less important. The small group of Baptists who had been meeting in Medina increased in numbers and began to consider organizing as a church. In February 1829 the brethren from Medina and Ridgeway met at the home of Charles Warner to consider the matter. After seeking guidance from God in prayer, they decided to proceed with plans. A second meeting was called on May 2, 1829 at the home of Cook Hotchkiss for the purpose of organizing and it was voted "That the church at Ridgeway hold their meetings for public worship in Medina and that this new organization be known as The First Baptist Church of Medina, New York."

The founders of the new church were: Charles Warner, Lewis Warner, John Knapp, Mamre Knapp, Hannah Knapp, Rufus Reed, Polly Reed, Louise Reed, Joseph Davis, Mrs. J. Davis, Loren Hotchkiss, Farem Wilson, Bennett Bates, Mrs. B. Bates, R. Nickerson, Mrs. Nickerson, E. Peese, Mrs. Peese, Hannah Gambel, Sally Bullard, Sally Farnham.

Soon afterward the new church met in an upper room on Main Street, and the Rev. John R. Dodge of Lockport preached. Then the congregation went to Oak Orchard Creek and eight persons followed their Lord in baptism and were added to the Church. For six months the members met in private homes with occasional help from visiting ministers. Then the Rev. Eleaser Savage, on his way west, stopped in Medina over Sunday and preached at their service. "The Church earnestly besought him to remain in Medina as their pastor, and Rev. Savage, feeling that he had been directed here by God, accepted the call. He began his pastoral duties on November 1, 1829." A barn on Center Street was secured as a meeting place. The members made some improvements and fitted it with seating to adapt it as a school house and place of worship.

Ministers salaries were very small in pioneer days, often only fifty dollars a year, half of which might be paid in grain. In order to add to his income, Rev. Savage opened a select school. "He faithfully taught his pupils the three "Rs, readin', 'ritin', 'rithmetic. But he also taught his pupils the larger, most important R., namely Righteousness." A deep religious interest was awakened in school, community and the surrounding country. The barn soon became filled to overflowing on Sundays and a new house of worship became a necessity. The new edifice was built across the street from the barn and was dedicated on March 30, 1832.

A group of Baptists who had held services in Knowlesville for a number of years before the Medina Church was organized joined that church as soon as Rev. Savage became pastor. Sixteen months later this group decided to form their own church and requested letters of dismission, which were granted to the 45 members



from the Knowlesville area in March 1831. The Medina Church had grown so strong within two years that the loss of so many members in no way weakened the Society. During Rev. Savage's pastorate of less than 4 years 158 persons were baptized and 56 united with the church by letter. From among the converts eight young men entered the gospel ministry.

The second pastor, Rev. E. Weaver, served for only one year but during that time 107 new members were received by baptism and letter. During the first five years church membership had increased ten fold to 301 besides dismissing the considerable number who formed the Knowlesville Church.

From the beginning Medina Baptists were missionary minded and they gave of what they possessed. Among early reports of missionary offerings are such entries as:

"A gold chain valued at \$6.28, four strings of gold beads, twelve finger rings, ten bosom pins, four pairs ear drops, a lace veil, one set ear nubs, a silk handkerchief, one pair of socks, four pounds of butter, a silver spoon valued at \$1.75."

In 1840 the membership had dropped to 74. After growing so rapidly during the first five years the casual observer might think the Medina church was dying. The truth, however was quite different. Some members were dropped because they failed to continue the high standards of Christian living which the church required of members in those days, but a much greater number had been dismissed to form new churches. This was a period of a great westward movement. Michigan was being opened for settlement with cheap land available. Many of the early settlers in Western New York, or their sons, owned a pioneering spirit and were ready to again clear fine farms from a wilderness, so large numbers went to Michigan. An unusual number of Medina Baptists seemed to have this spirit. Loren Hotchkiss led one group to Adrian, Mich. and founded a church there. Deacon Cook Hotchkiss led another colony which founded a village they called Medina and a church about 12 miles from Adrian. So at the age of ten years Medina Baptist Church was the mother of 3 thriving new churches.

For the decade following 1840 this now small church was some time without a pastor and the faithful members worked hard to keep going. Gradually new members were added until there were 146. Then the anti-masonic movement which caused dissension in many western New York churches provoked trouble in this church and the membership again dropped to 70. The Rev. Daniel Reed who accepted a call to the Medina Church at this time, was a man of great consecration and energy. He not only conducted the usual church services but held meetings in school houses outside the village and won many converts so that when he went to another pastorate 3½ years later he left the Church much stronger in numbers and spiritual growth. But just when the church seemed to be prospering again a number of the older members were removed by death and another westward movement called away many younger people so that in 1858 membership was down to 58.

The Rev. David VanAlstyne became pastor that year and remained for a decade of faithful labor. Even though his ministry covered the time of the Civil War and many young men enlisted, it was a time of growth. A considerable number of young people were baptized and some new Baptist families moved to the area at this time and brought letters from their former churches. Thereafter the church continued to grow and enlarge her Christian program for many years. The women formed a Serving Society which later became the Dorcas Society. By 1870 the members, realizing the need for a larger building, instructed the trustees to purchase the lot on the corner of Center Street and West Avenue. Plans were made for a substantial building of Medina grey sandstone and the contract for the mason work was let to Mr.



Patrick O'Grady. The people were well pleased with the ability and conscientious labor of Mr. O'Grady and his helpers and with the imposing edifice they erected. It was completed in late 1871 at a cost of about \$45,000 which was gladly paid by the members during the following 10 years. The dedication service was held on Jan. 7, 1872. The women, always active in the church, organized a Missionary Society in 1874 which has continued for nearly a century although at present under a different name.

One of the best loved of all their pastors who served the church was the Rev. Seth T. Farnham who came in 1883. Although he only served for one year and died of Typhoid Fever while on vacation the following year, the influence of his christian character went on for many years. He was a man who developed wonderful cooperation not only among the members of the church but among all the Christian people and organizations of the village.

During the 16 year ministry of the Rev. Frank T. Latham beginning in 1888, many were added to the church and other important events took place. Two young men were ordained as ministers of the gospel: the Rev. James M. Baker who served for many years as a missionary in Ongole, India and the Rev. Lyman R. Swett of Boston, Mass. The silver bell which had called the congregation to worship in the old church had been hung in the tower of the new edifice but proved to be too small. At this time it was sent to Meneeley Bell Foundry, Troy, N. Y. to be melted down and incorporated in a larger bell. As a tribute to Rev. Latham, his name was cast on the new bell. More space was needed for Sunday School and social events as the congregation increased so an excavation was made under the church and a basement constructed. The church, which had never owned a parsonage, was at this time given a residence on Park Ave. for this purpose by Mr. and Mrs. James McCormick.

Some years later when the parsonage was destroyed by fire the trustees sold the lot and purchased land adjoining their property on the west. Here a beautiful new parsonage was built in 1910. & 11. The Medina church was aided in this project by the gift of a thousand dollars from the Knowlesville Church. At the time of the fire, that church disbanded because their small membership could no longer support services and most of the remaining members had united with the Medina church. The money probably came from the sale of the Knowlesville parsonage. While building the parsonage an extensive redecorating and remodeling of the sanctuary was carried on. The front of the sanctuary was rebuilt to accomodate the placing of the organ which was moved from the back, walls were repainted and new windows, lighting fixtures and carpeting installed. The cost of the work was as usual met by the gifts of the members with help from the Ladies Aid Society which had been organized a short time before.

During World War I thirty-four young men from Medina Baptist Church went into service for their country and two were killed. The pastor, the Rev. VanNostrand was granted a leave of absence and went to France to work among the soldiers under the auspices of the Y.M.C.A.

In 1920 the Baptist denomination launched the New World Movement which called for a great advance in missionary giving. The Medina church was assigned a quota of \$34,637.00 which the members oversubscribed by \$6,874.00. And better still, four years later reported \$40,525 had actually been paid in, an oversubscription of \$5,888. During that same period the church had again been redecorated, the basement improved and a beautiful stained glass window placed in the archway back of the pulpit. The window was given by Miss Annette Stearns in memory of her mother and sister, Mrs. Stearns and Miss Frances Stearns.



In 1929 the Medina Baptist Church celebrated her centennial. The little church which had been organized with 21 members now had a membership of 492. A roll call of members showed 6 who had been members for 60 years or more. During the years members of outstanding ability in music, Christian education, business administration and all phases of the church program had served with consecration. Their names are too numerous to mention. The Sunday School, Missionary Society and Young Peoples Society were all active and the church sponsored Boy Scouts and a Daily Vacation Bible School. For many years Orleans Baptist Association had had associational organizations of Women's Missionary Societies and Young Peoples Societies and in both of these the Medina societies were active.

The Rev. A. S. Lowrie was the pastor who led the church during the closing years of her first century and well into the second century. The church continued to grow until in 1937 membership reached 528 after which it gradually declined. During Rev. Lowrie's ministry Boy Scout Troops were started in the church. A few years earlier a D.V.B.S. was started and a Girls Missionary Society, the World Wide Guild.

During the following years church property was kept in repair, improvements made from time to time and programs were changed to meet changing conditions. Members continued their generous support of missions. The Orleans Baptist Association was absorbed by the Niagara Association in 1938.

Improvements to the church edifice in more recent years have been a new pipe organ in 1949, basement partly remodeled in 1956, construction of a nursery and toddler room, and office and study for the pastor. In 1969 a new slate roof was placed on the south slope of the roof and some repairs made in the basement. Membership has dropped gradually during the past thirty or more years partly due to the changing population.

In 1971 membership is 333; Sunday School enrollment 80. Present organizations are: American Baptist Women (which includes all the women of the church) the Elizabeth Circle, Friendly Circle, and King's Daughters, Couples Club, Doris Wiseman Fellowship Guild (successor to World Wide Guild), Baptist Youth Fellowship.

The Medina Baptist Church is affiliated with the American Baptist Convention and contributes to the missionary programs of the A.B.C. Church groups have supported Korean and Indian orphans. The church supports the Orleans Chapter of the Ministry of Concern and cooperates with other Medina churches in various community projects and in Union Lenten services.

The usual schedule of services is: Sunday 9:30 a.m. Church School, 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, 6:00 p.m. B.Y.F. Wed. 7:30 Prayer Fellowship, Sat. 12:30 p.m. Jr. Choir, 6:00 p.m. Sr. Choir. Various organization and Board Meeting are during each month.

Officers: 1971 Minister-H. Burton Entrekin, Organist & Choir Director - Harold Suzanne, Clerk-Mrs. Louis Kimmich, Treas.-Fred W. Alderson, Moderator-Ward Johnson, Chmn. Bd. of Deacons-Edward Cavers, Chmn. Bd. of Trustees-Ward Johnson, Chmn. Bd. of Christ. Ed.-Miss Irlavere Brege, Sunday School Supt.-Miss Janice Cramer, Pres. A.B.W.-Mrs. Meth Burke, Pres. D.W.F. Guild-Robyn Scheu, Pres. B.Y.F.-Heidi Entrekin.

Pastors who have served the Church have been: The Revs. Eleaser Savage Nov. 1, 1829-1833, E. Weaver 1834-35, J. Chadwick 1835-38, S. Wilkins 1838-40, R. K. Bellamy, P. C. Dayfoot and supplies 1840-49, Daniel Reed May 1849-Oct. 52,



P. B. Haughwout, Nov. 1852-55, J. B. Pittman 1856-57, David VanAlstyne 1858-68, Earl W. Launsbury 1868-70, Charles Thompson 1870-73, C. E. Becker 1873-75, William F. Taylor 1875-83, Seth T. Farnham 1883-84, T. G. McKeaver Dec. 1884-88, Frank T. Latham 1888-1904, George Laughton 1904-10, Thomas DeGruchy 1910-12, M. E. VanNostrand 1912-18, Joseph Allen 1919-25, A. S. Lowrie 1926-43, Ralph Ross 1943-53, Alfred Scipione 1954-56, H. Burton Entrekin 1956-



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
Medina, N. Y.

Methodist families who began to settle in the Medina area when work on the Erie Canal reached that section about 1822, soon began to meet together informally and have occasional preaching services conducted by Ridgeway Circuit Riding Preachers. After some years as their numbers increased they wished to form a church. The Rev. Josiah Brakeman and Mifflin Harker of Ridgeway Circuit helped to organize the Methodist Episcopal Church of Medina on September 27, 1830. Trustees elected at that meeting were; H. H. Parker, Ephraim Masten, Cyrus Ramsey, Elijah Bent, Seth Morris and H. Morris.

Membership in the Church increased and on March 12, 1833 they began to raise funds by subscription to build a church. Eighty-One persons signed with promises to give amounts which totaled \$3,108.75. Two of the signers gave \$300.00, each. Plans appeared to be developing most propitiously. In June the building committee contracted for the erection of a stone church on the west side of Main Street about midway between Center and Pearl Streets. After the walls were up, Historian Arad Thomas stated that "in raising the roof the timbers gave way and eleven men fell with the ruins." No one was killed but several suffered broken bones. Work was then discontinued until the following spring. It was completed and services <sup>held there</sup> before the close of 1834. A few years later the steeple was blown off. The building seemed to be always in need of repairs and was only used for 14 years when the members decided to tear it down. Membership had increased so a larger building was planned. The stones were used to construct a basement on the same site and a frame church was built there which was ready for use in 1850, at a cost of \$7,000.00. Eighteen years later this church was rebuilt at a cost of another \$7,000.00. In December 1874 this building burned down in one of the many fires that plagued the village of Medina during the latter part of the 19th century.

The village had been growing during the years and the Main St. lot was now in the midst of the business section so the Methodists sold it and purchased land on the north side of West Center St. There they spent \$32,000.00 to erect the fine red brick edifice where they have worshiped God and carried on their Christian ministry for nearly a century. The church was dedicated on December 8, 1876. Sunday school rooms, kitchen and dining room were on the ground floor with the sanctuary above. The belfry was topped by a tall graceful steeple.

This building has been kept in repair, redecorated and remodeled to meet changing conditions during the passing years. It is probable that the beautiful stained glass windows and fine pipe organ were installed during extensive renovations in 1888. A large new bell was placed in the belfry in 1894, a gift from Mrs. William Underhill. The steeple was taken down as a safety precaution early in the present century. During 1942 the sanctuary was redecorated and the very high ceiling lowered and a decade later the chancel was completely remodeled and new furniture purchased as a memorial to Miss Lulu Gilbert. At that time also an Allen electronic <sup>organ</sup> was installed to replace the pipe organ but the pipes, which add to the worshipful atmosphere of the sanctuary were left in place. A major project in 1966 was the addition of a modern educational building on the west side of the church, and the remodeling of the ground floor of the church, with the elimination of dining room and kitchen. The new building is of modern brick



It is much more difficult to record the spiritual accomplishments of a Christian Church than to list her material assets. The Methodist Episcopal Church in Medina proclaimed the word of God in Sunday services and gave religious instruction to children and young people in the Sunday School, which was established when their first meeting house was built. Adults also studied the Bible and praised God with hymns and prayers in Sunday School and in midweek meetings. Many consecrated members devoted their time and talents to teaching Sunday School classes for long periods. The list is too long to include in this brief sketch but those who served for 25 years or more are: Mrs. George Bronson, Miss Cora Newnham, Mrs. Wm. Seefelt, Sr., Miss M. Genevieve Smith, Mrs. Jane Welsh and Mr. Clifford Wise. The Church school since the 1920's has been organized by departments from nursery through adult. In recent years attendance has not been as large as in the past, as few adults now attend. During the past century and early decades of the present, evangelistic services and summer camp meetings were held in an effort to win people who were not members of any Church to the acceptance of Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour. Methodists have always been interested in the mission of the Church throughout the world and the Medina Church taught giving for such work in their Sunday School. The women organized Home and Foreign Missionary Societies about 1880 and worked diligently to inform the congregation about Methodist missionary work throughout the world and to promote financial support of the work. At an earlier date a Ladies Aid Society had been formed. In 1940 these societies were replaced by the Woman's Society of Christian Service. Young people were very active in the Epworth League for many years at a time when there were few other youth organizations in the village. About 1940 the Epworth League was reorganized as the Methodist Youth Fellowship with a smaller membership because of the many present day activities in school. Boy Scout Troop # 28 has been sponsored by the church since 1929 and has an outstanding record of having 17 boys who have attained the Eagle Scout award.

The Methodist Church has long used a high type of church music in the worship services and has had some fine organists and choir directors. Miss Alice Louise Chase served as the organist for 50 years. For many years now, children have received excellent training in music as they started singing in the cherub choir at 6 years and later continuing in the junior choir so the senior choir includes many excellent and well trained voices.

From the time of the organization of the Methodist Church in America after the close of the Revolutionary War, the denomination was called the METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH until 1939 when several Methodist groups merged and the official name became the METHODIST CHURCH for 19 years. In 1968 General Conference merged with a Methodist related body and the new Church was known as the United Methodist Church, so the Medina Church is now known as the United Methodist Church, Medina, N. Y. The Church is now in the Batavia District of Western New York Conference, which until 1965 was Genesee Conference. Membership in the Medina Church had increased to 300 by the close of the nineteenth century, and grew quite rapidly during the first quarter of the present century to well above 500 after which it decreased for a time but has remained at about that number for many years. In January 1972, 529 members are reported.

The Medina Church supports the World wide Mission program of the General Conference, contributes \$1500 a year to Christian work in



Alaska and for nearly 50 years has maintained a scholarship to Henderson Settlement in Kentucky and another to Raewind Institute in Pakistan. The Church supports various local charities and the Orleans Chapter of the Genesee - Orleans Ministry of Concern, is a member of Medina Area Association of Churches and works in the projects carried on by the MAAC, tutoring school children in need of such help. The fine facilities of this Church are available as meeting places for numerous Service Groups. Methodist Churches involve so many of their members in various official positions that space will not permit naming them all.

1972 Pastor- The Rev. Victor I. Smith; Organist- Mrs. Rob't Merlin  
Officers include: Lay Leader - David Wheatley; Church Treas.- Burton Thomas; Fin. Secy.- Mrs. Victor Smith; Memp. Secy.- Mrs. Fre Velo; Recording Secy.- Miss Nelda Blackburn; Trustees - Gary Blackburn, Sanford Brinsmaid, Edsel Grinnell, Ronald Furness, Robert Pettit, David Wheatley, Walter Smith, Normam Goheen, Edward Hibbard; Chm. Council on Ministries - Mark Heydt, Youth Mems Cncl. Ministrs. - Bruce Clark, Sr. Hi., Deborah Stillinger, Jr. Hi.; Communion Stewards - Mr. & Mr. Ronald Furness; Lay Mem. Annual Conf.- Mrs. Pearl Eddy; Head Usher- Charles Raymond; Rep's. Orleans Min. of Concern- Mrs. Robert Gates, Lauren Little, Ismael Rodriguez; Christian Education- Miss Janet DeBrine; Pres. W.S.C.S. - Mrs. Robert Gates, Pres. UMYF- Paul Owen

Pastors: Dates of service not known \* The Revs. Thomas Harker, A. Filmore, ... Durham, John Gulie, J. B. Lancton, D. F. Parsons, Jonatha Benson, H. R. Smith, S. C. Church, E. E. Chambers, A. P. Ripley, P. E. Brown, John Bowman, J. McEwen, J. G. Miller, G. DeLaMatyr, A. Steele, E. M. Buck, J. B. Wentworth, K. D. Nettleton 1868, P. R. Stover, S. McGerald, James E. Bills 1876-1879, G. W. Paddock, J. E. Williams, G. E. Jones, G. W. Peck, G. H. Dryer, C. E. Winchester, L. Rockwell 1891- 1895, S. W. Lloyd 1896-1898, John E. Williams 1899-1903, F. S. Parkhurst 1903-1906, C. E. Millspaugh 1906-1908, H. L. Brockway 1908-1909, W. H. Reese 1909-1911, W. A. Harris 1911-1916, E. M. Snodgrass 1916-1918, W. M. Heisler 1919-1921, L. Lincoln Rogers 1921-1929, Herbert Walton 1929-1930, L. A. Bradford 1931-1932, C. A. Scrimshaw 1932-1935, Arthur Gregson 1935-1941, Webb W. Ayres 1941-1947, R. E. Cory 1947-1962, Edward Hannay 1962-1969, Victor L. Smith 1969-

Schedule of Church Services and meetings:  
Sunday - 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship  
          11:15 a.m. Church School  
          7:00 p.m. Jr. & Sr. U.M.Y.F.

Many special Sunday Services during Lent and at other times

Week Days the buildings in use frequently by Church Organizations and Community Groups and for Ecumenical projects

This Church is fortunate in having had members who preserved important records. John Parsons who came to Medina in 1832 and joined the Church was one. He was among those injured in the accident in the building of the first meeting house. When the 50th anniversary of breaking ground for that church was observed in 1883, John Parsons was asked to give a history of those years. A tinsmith by trade he made a heavy tin case and placed therein the history and drawings of that first house and all of the second and the later reconstruction of that edifice. Another member, living in 1972, C. H. Wise, has recorded later history of the Church and arranged for the keeping up to date of a Historical Notebook in the Church office.



ST. MARY'S CHURCH  
Medina, N. Y.

The first settlers in the place which later became the village of Medina, probably came in 1822 when work on the Erie Canal was going on in this area. A few others came during the next three years as the construction proceeded but it was not until the opening of the Canal on October 26, 1825 that people began to come in greater numbers. LANDMARKS OF ORLEANS COUNTY states that in 1832 when the village was incorporated there were less than fifty buildings there including dwellings, stores, shops and schoolhouse. Most of the people were protestants who came from other parts of the county or from New England. There were a few Irish immigrant families who had perhaps come to work on the canal. Great was their joy when the Rev. McNamara, traveling from Rochester to Lockport late that year, stopped in Medina and celebrated Mass for them at the home of William Walsh. Father McNamara also administered the first baptism in Medina to Margaret Walsh. That house on North Main Street where that first Mass was celebrated stood for more than a century and was finally torn down to make way for the Loblaw supermarket.

The second Mass was celebrated the following year at the home of William O'Donnell on West Center Street by the Rev. Bernard O'Reilly of Rochester. He also officiated at the first Catholic marriage in Medina, uniting Miss Anna Kelly and James K. Kearney. The Rev. Mannion is known to have used the home of James Cullen on Laurel Hill as a chapel in which to minister to the spiritual needs of the little group of Catholics a little later.

In 1840, while they had no regular pastoral leadership, a committee of Catholic men, viz.: Dennis Bradley, James Cullen, John Rodgers, Michael Roche, John Clark and William Walsh, purchased a small church built by the Presbyterians in 1832 on Pearl Street between West and Main Streets, in order to have a permanent place of worship whenever a Priest could come to Medina. Priests from Lockport, Youngstown and Batavia came occasionally to serve them. In 1847 the Rev. Edward Dillon of Batavia began coming regularly every two months to hold services in the little church. Father Dillon bought a lot on West Street and the church was moved there.

In 1849, the Right Rev. John Timon who had been consecrated as the first Bishop of the newly created Diocese of Buffalo, visited Medina and celebrated Mass, assisted by Father Boyle who had accompanied him from Youngstown. The Bishop also administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to a class that had been prepared for the rite. Probably on this visit to Medina, the Bishop, seeing the devotion of the people, decided as soon as possible to send a pastor to organize a parish and minister to the congregation.

Bishop Timon appointed the Rev. Richard Harmon as the first resident pastor of Medina, on November first, 1850, with authority to organize the Parish and in addition minister to the Catholic families in Albion and Somerset. The young priest, who was born and educated in Ireland and trained for the priesthood in France, had emigrated to America a short time earlier. He entered upon his duties with great zeal and consecration, celebrating the Holy Mass every Sunday, beginning the practice of devotion to God which has never since been interrupted by the Catholic Church in Medina. He purchased a lot on



Eagle Street and had the little church moved there and baptized 34 persons and officiated at two marriages in Medina. In addition he served as pastor to the Catholic families in Albion and celebrated Mass there at least once a month in a room over a store which the congregation there had used for some years, and said the first Mass in Somerset. He lived in the old Vandemark Hotel during his brief pastorate in Medina which was cut short by his death from fever on April 15, 1951. Rev. Harmon was buried in Lockport but later, after the Catholic Cemetery was established in Medina, his body was brought back and reposes in the priests' and sisters' plot.

Bishop Timon promptly appointed the Rev. Martin O'Conner to the Parish and he came that same month. Bishop Timon purchased more property on Eagle Street during 1852 and '53. Father O'Conner first built a suitable parochial residence and in 1854 started construction of a stone church. It was completed that same year and in November dedicated by the Bishop for the worship of God. The first child baptized in the new Church was Adelia Shanley. The Priest then had the old frame building fixed over for use as a parochial school which was taught for some years by qualified members of the Church: Mr Quinn, Thomas Hynes, John Ryan and Kate Maloney.

In addition to his many duties in Medina, Father O'Conner served as pastor of the Albion congregation and supervised the building of the first church there on a site which had been purchased by the Bishop. The Albion Church was completed so that the first Mass was celebrated there on Palm Sunday, March 20, 1852. He also was responsible for the spiritual welfare of the Catholic families of Middleport and Somerset. In Middleport he said Mass for them occasionally in a private home until Bishop Timon procured a site for a church there in 1855 which the good Father erected and thereafter used for the services. He celebrated Mass for the people of Somerset in a Catholic home or the schoolhouse. Father O'Conner started to raise a fund in 1854 to erect a church but the money came in slowly and he was not able to complete the building before leaving the Parish. Because of his many duties in the large area for which he was responsible, Rev. O'Conner was usually provided with assistant priests. Among them were Fathers William H. Hughs, George McMahon and Thomas Clark. Just before leaving Medina in January 1858, Father O'Conner purchased land about one mile north of the village for a Parish Cemetery. It was a desirable place but not usable until an outlet to Gravel Road could be secured which was done the next year.

For a period of a little over two years a number of Priests served briefly.. However, during this period the Bridgetine Order of Nuns finally sent the Sisters, Father O'Conner had requested several years earlier, to teach the Parochial School. They were Sister Angela McKay and Sister Bridget and a Miss McGinn. At the time the request was made the Order had a Convent in Buffalo which was destroyed by fire soon afterward. The Order then moved to Titusville, Pa. A few years later a disastrous fire there caused the Bridgetine Order to return to Ireland and the Sisters who had come to Medina left. Even with the constant change of pastors at that time the Church continued to grow.

The Rev. John O'Mara was appointed pastor on April 8, 1860, and remained for seven years which covered the time of the Civil War. The graves of soldiers in St. Mary's cemetery is proof that the young men of the Parish served their country at that time. In spite of the financial difficulties of those years the church was enlarged by the



building of the transept. The altar was dedicated by Bishop Timon on the first Sunday in Advent, 1864. Two years later a pipe organ was installed in the church. At this period the Bishop appointed the first lay trustees: Dennis Bradley, Patrick Horan and John Rogers

On July 12, 1867 the Rev. Martin McDonnell came to St. Mary's as pastor. A few years later the pastor and members of the parish made arrangements with the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart of Ottawa, Canada to send Sisters to teach the children in the Parochial School and also to organize and conduct a select school to be called Assumption Academy. In preparation Father McDonnell purchased, on March 8, 1872, property on the corner of West and Eagle streets. The large house on the property was remodeled to provide a place for the Academy and living quarters for the Nuns. On January 16, 1873, Father McDonnell conveyed the property to the Grey Nuns "for use as the Academy of St. Mary's of the Assumption". A few years later the property was deeded to Stephen V. Ryan, Bishop of Buffalo, who had been consecrated as head of the Diocese after the death of Bishop John Timon who was appointed as the first Bishop, on October 17, 1847.

The Grey Nuns who came to Medina in 1872 were Sisters Shunley, Bertrand, Timothy and Hedwige. They taught Catechism, cared for the sacristy and conducted the parochial school and the Academy. They were indeed busy. In addition to all the details of establishing the Grey Nuns in the Parish and his priestly duties for the large congregation, Father McDonnell had found time to travel in Europe and had brought from Munich two statues, one of the Blessed Virgin and the other of St. Joseph, which he had placed over the side altars. At this time also the church was enriched by the installation of two fine windows in the sanctuary, given by Patrick Horan who had long been a devoted member of St. Mary's. Finally Father McDonnell was able to purchase all the land between the Cemetery and the highway, which greatly improved the appearance and usefulness of the cemetery.

Bishop Ryan appointed to St. Mary's Parish in August 1873, the Rev. William J. McNab, who served the longest pastorate in the history of the Church. During those 29 years it is recorded that he baptized 1744 persons and joined 345 couples in Holy Matrimony. During the first twelve years Father McNab was not burdened with the problems of education for the children, for the Grey Nuns took complete charge and conducted both the Parochial School and the Academy of which all members of the Parish were very proud. The annual commencement exercises were programs of high order and many premiums were awarded for excellence in various subjects. Programs included fine piano and vocal music, recitations, literary selections and dramatic productions which were greatly enjoyed by parents and other people of the parish. However, the Grey Nuns left Medina in July 1885 and the Academy was closed, the Parochial School again taught by lay teachers, for 15 years. In 1900 Bishop Quigley of Buffalo arranged for Mother Mary Ann of Mt. St. Joseph's Convent to send six sisters to Medina to conduct the school. There was a registration of 260 pupils that fall and classes were held in the old school and in the academy building. The Sisters of St. Joseph continued to conduct St. Mary's Parochial School to the complete satisfaction of parents, pastors, the Medina public school system and the State Board of Regents until 1969 when the Catholic school was closed for financial reasons. Rev. McNab served for a number of years on the Medina Board of Education and was highly respected in the village.



The Catholic people of Middleport had always been under the care of the Pastor of St. Mary's and Father McNab continued to minister to them for four years. IN 1875 he bought an unused Presbyterian Church there which Bishop Ryan dedicated for Catholic worship to replace the small church built for them in 1855. The Middleport congregation was growing and in 1877 was made a separate parish and Rev. John C. O'Reilly who had been assistant at St. Mary's was appointed as the first pastor.

Rev. McNab built a fine rectory in 1887 to replace the residence built a little more than thirty years earlier. The new residence was set in spacious lawns with white birch and mountain ash trees. A few years earlier new stations of the cross had been placed in the church and in 1889 a new main altar had been donated by James Kennedy and statues of the Sacred Heart, St. Joseph and Adoring Angels had been given by Miss Bridget Kelly of Buffalo.

On October 11, 1898, the Church was incorporated under the laws of the State of New York as "The St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church Society of Medina, N. Y." At this time all the property which had hitherto been held in the name of the pastor or the Bishop was turned over to the Society.

After serving St Mary's Parish for nearly thirty years, Rev. McNab would have liked to have completed his years in the priesthood in Medina. In February 1902, however, Bishop Quigley appointed him to the rectorship of St. Mary's Church at Niagara Falls. Having been trained in his student days to complete obedience to superiors, Father McNab left for his new field of service without hesitation. He administered his new parish for only a little more than four years, for after an illness of three months he died on September 23, 1906 in the rectory at Niagara Falls.

Bishop Quigley had appointed the Rev. Peter Berkery to take up the work at Medina on February 20, 1902. Although he was past middle age Father Berkery was full of enthusiasm and there immediately began a period of great activity and change. He was a good financier and business manager and he quickly changed the financial situation at St. Mary's. During all the years of growing prosperity the Parish had continued as the only source of income, the pew rent and the box offering or "Penny Collection" as the Priests often called it. Father Berkery abolished this offering and asked the people to make suitable pledges to support the work of the Church. The results were soon apparent. For years the annual income had been not much over \$3,000.00 mostly from pew rent. For ten months in 1902 the income jumped to \$12,000.00 not including a subscription of \$12,000.00 more for the building fund. The next full year of course even more was given. A fine rectory had been built in recent years but the school and church edifice had been long neglected. Only a few days after his arrival Father Berkery called a meeting of the parishioners to consider building a new church. There was a quick response to his request for a subscription to start the project and \$15,000.00 was pledged at that one meeting. The members were well aware that the old church was no longer adequate and they were ready to follow his capable leadership.

Plans for erecting a beautiful imposing edifice of Medina sandstone were quickly but carefully made and work started with Father Berkery turning the first spade of earth on Ascension Day, May 26, 1902. The corner stone was laid with appropriate ceremony on September 21, 1902, Rev. Francis Francis Sullivan of St. Joseph's Church, Albion



preaching an eloquent sermon for the occasion. Construction proceeded steadily and it was with pride and satisfaction that pastor and congregation watched the beautiful cruciform edifice of fourteenth century English Gothic style taking shape and rising 170<sup>ft</sup> to the top of the cross on the spire of the taller of the towers flanking the front central gable. Two years were required to complete construction and the interior finish and furnishing. The cost of the edifice was only \$75, 000.00 which is a tribute to careful management of Father Berkery and of this \$40,000.00 had been given by the people so that at the time of dedication only the loan of \$35,000.00 remained to be paid which was accomplished during the next few years.

Sunday, July 10, 1904, the day of dedication was a time of great rejoicing and praise to God. The recently consecrated Bishop of the Diocese, Right Rev. Charles Henry Colton, D. D. blessed the building and celebrated Pontifical High Mass assisted by a number dignitaries and other priests of the diocese. Two of these were boys who grew up in St. Mary's Parish and had entered the priesthood, Rev. Jeremiah McGrath of Buffalo and Rev. David Ryan of Bergen. In addition to those taking part in the service, many other priests attended the services. That afternoon the Bishop administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to 347 boys and girls. In the evening Bishop Colton celebrated Pontifical Vespers and preached his first sermon to the people of Medina. Everyone who attended the services was impressed by the beauty and richness of the interior with the lovely mullioned windows glazed with stained glass depicting many Bible scenes and stations of the cross, all given by individual members or organizations of St. Mary's, most of them in memory of departed faithful members.

With the completion of the church Father Berkery began planning for the erection of a much needed adequate school building to replace the peripatetic old Presbyterian church which had served Medina Catholic first as a church and then for many years as a schoolhouse. Before he could carry out those plans, death claimed him. He was planning to leave early Sunday morning to assist at the dedication of a new church erected in Canandaigua by his old friend, Father Dougherty. Saturday evening he lay down for a rest and died suddenly, December 15, 1905. His funeral, four days <sup>later</sup> was said to be the largest ever held in Medina. He was beloved by all of the members of St. Mary's and greatly respected in the village and throughout the Diocese. Bishop Colton celebrated Pontifical Requiem High Mass, assisted by many priests and dignitaries of the Catholic Church.

During his very active pastorate of less than four years at St. Mary's, Rev. Berkery had been ably assisted by his nephew, Father Peter J. Berkery.

The Rev. Daniel O'Brien was appointed to the vacant pastorate, coming to Medina on January 24, 1906. That spring He began work on a beautiful Medina brownstone rectory completing it at a cost of \$12,000.00. Meanwhile the Sisters of St Joseph carried on the parochial school in the antiquated old building built in 1832 which was somewhat enlarged and blessed by the Bishop before classes began that fall. In 1910 Father O'Brien installed the magnificent oak pulpit in the Church. He also had the old stone church torn down and the site cleared.

The Catholic population of Medina continued to increase rapidly, although by this period most of the newcomers were of Polish and Italian descent rather than Irish, and St. Mary's Parish continued to



grow in membership. During his six year pastorate, Father O'Brien baptized 409 infants, performed 204 marriages and 230 children received the Sacrament of Confirmation. The Rev. Daniel Molloy, <sup>his</sup> sincerity and kindness were remembered for many years after he had left the Parish served as assistant during most of that period. In 1912 Rev. O'Brien was made rector of St. Bridget's in Buffalo.

The Rev. Thomas F. Gleason was appointed as shepherd of the Medina Medina flock and during his fourteen years of leadership, St Mary's Accomplished a great deal for the glory of God and the good of the parish. Most of the cost of building the church and rectory had been paid but Father Gleason first turned his attention to completing the payment of the debt. He then installed a fine new organ at a cost of \$5,000.00 and new Stations of the Cross for \$200.00. In 1916 he had a magnificent Carrara marble altar installed at a somewhat greater cost.

Early in 1915, Father Gleason, inspired by the great work being carried by the Mount Carmel Guild of Buffalo under the direction of the Rev. Thomas J. Walsh, D. D. and realizing the need for such a society in Medina decided to try to interest the women of St. Mary's in forming a Guild. Dr. Walsh and several members of the Buffalo Guild came to Medina to attend the meeting called by Father Gleason. After the purpose and work of such a guild was explained by Dr. Walsh and the Medina ladies had met the enthusiastic members of the Buffalo society, 98 members were enrolled in St. Mary's Mount Carmel Guild and divided into six sections or fields of service. The Catechetical Section devoted itself to the teaching of religion to parish children and in missions in Hulberton, Fancher, Lyndonville and Brockville. The Sewing and Relief Sections provided an almost unbelievable amount of garments, food and other necessities for many years particularly during the depression years. The Fellowship Committee visited the sick, arranged for Masses for the deceased, Called on new families and solicited new members. There was a place also for those who for any reason could not carry on the more active work and they gave money for expenses, and for various parish projects. Mount Carmel Guild carried on a great work for more than thirty years but after the government took over welfare work the need for the guild was not so great and it went out of existence in Medina some years ago.

St. Mary's Cemetery was one of the many concerns of Father Gleason and he not only saw to it that it was put into the best possible condition, but looking to the future he arranged for its perpetual care. At the close of World War I, many members of the parish had Liberty Bonds. He asked that they be given for this purpose and in this way he acquired a fund of nearly \$10,000.00 to which bequests have been added from time to time, provides for the care of the cemetery. He also purchased land adjoining on the north in 1921 at a cost of \$1,500.00 to provide space for the future.

About 15 Catholic families lived in Lyndonville, some of whom came to Mass at St. Mary's. In 1917, thinking of those who did not come to Medina, Father Gleason established a mission and built a small church there which was dedicated by Bishop Dougherty in 1917. He and his successors at St. Mary's served the people there until 1962 when because of <sup>the</sup> growing number of families there it was established as a parish with their own pastor.

For ten years while he was busy with other tasks which claimed his attention, Father Gleason's concern for the parochial school had been



growing and in 1922 he started construction of a modern school building. A small fund had been set aside for this project some years earlier and at this time amounted to nearly \$40,000.00. This fine large building was completed in 1926 and at the same time a central heating plant to supply heat for all of the buildings was constructed, both at an expense of \$111,600.00. During that period also the convent was moved, renovated and a part of the old school added on to it, and property just south of St. Mary's purchased. After the completion of the new school building there was available for the first time an auditorium where entertainments could be given. The Sisters thereafter trained the pupils to present some fine operettas and cantatas.

In addition to the many improvements to the property of St. Mary's Parish and the work at Lyndonville, Father Gleason and his assistants had carried on all of the usual services and ministered to the many members of the parish, baptized 738, performed 217 marriages and prepared 494 children for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Then on November 26, 1926, without any time to relax after his many accomplishments and without previous notice, Rev. Gleason, to the great regret of the people of St. Mary's, was asked to assume the pastorate of Sacred Heart Church, Niagara Falls, whose pastor, Rev. Roche had just died. Assistant Pastor, Rev. Leo F. Reddy administered the parish until a new pastor was appointed about six weeks later.

The Rev. James A. Hogan was appointed to St. Mary's Church on January 15, 1927. He found there a parish in excellent spiritual and financial condition, a large loyal congregation and unusually fine buildings for all parish programs. There was a debt of \$76,000.00 on the new brick school and to the reduction of that debt, Father Hogan gave his first attention.

Application was made to the State Board of Regents for a charter to teach first year high subjects. This was granted and the school began in the fall of 1927 with that added year of study. The next year the charter for second year high school teaching at St. Mary's was granted and it was thought that soon their children could receive their entire high school work there. However, during that year it was decided high school courses required more space and it would not be possible to extend studies farther without a new building program, which in view of the present large building debt, would not be wise. A few years later the Board of Regents stopped granting charter beyond first year high or ninth grade, to any parochial grade school so, St. Mary's has since given instruction to nine grades.

Plans were made in the spring of 1939 to erect a Grotto of the Virgin Mary on the school grounds. The congregation gave generously for the construction of the Grotto and Mrs. Elizabeth Bommersheim gave the lovely Carrara marble statue which was sculptured especially for St. Mary's in Italy. The "Shrine of Our Lady of Grace" was completed and dedicated that fall and the statue Blessed on December 8.

For a number of years congregation and pastor had realized that the interior of their beautiful church, erected in 1904 should be redecorated but because of the expense and the difficulty of finding qualified persons to carry out the task it had not been done. Early in 1941 it was decided that it must be done and a number of really good artists were invited to present sketches and specifications. After careful consideration the Chevalier Ilario Panzironi of New York was asked to carry out his plans. When the work was completed, the whole interior



and especially the sanctuary, was so beautiful that everyone was well pleased.

Plans were being made to celebrate the centennial of Catholicism in Medina and as part of the plans the parishioners were asked to bring gifts of gold to be melted down for the purpose of making a Centennial Chalice of solid gold. The request for gold watches, rings, watch chains, brooches and other articles of gold had been made the year before and nearly every member had contributed some precious piece of jewelry. The beautiful gold Centennial Chalice thus had special meaning for all.

Also in connection with the celebration in 1940, Rev. Hogan wrote an excellent history of St. Mary's Parish and of previous missionary work in Medina beginning with the first Mass celebrated for the few Catholic families there in 1832. The book is beautifully illustrated and includes many interesting details. A new official Seal was devised in commemoration and is pictured and explained in the book as follows: "On the left we have the image of the Blessed Virgin as Our Lady of Grace-- symbolic of our own particular Church; in the upper right quarter are the Crossed Keys-- to typify the See of St Peter, the Universal Church; in the lower right ... the Fleur-de-lis, surrounded by apple and peach blossoms-- Fleur-de-Lis ... symbol of the French royal family of Orleans, after which our county was named, and the blossoms. symbol of the Village of Medina. The whole is surrounded by the inscription: 'St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church Society of Medina, N. Y.'--A.D. 1832".

Everything was in readiness for Centennial Week, September 29 - October 6, 1940, which began with General Communion for Parish and continued through the week with various events in which the school children and Sisters, all organizations of the Church and entire parish participated under the direction of the pastor, Rev. Hogan and assistant, Rev. L. V. Loughnane. The week closed with Pontifical High Mass celebrated on Sunday October 6, by Bishop John A. Duffy, D. D. with many visiting Priests and other Church dignitaries assisting as Deacons and Priests at 11 A. M. and Solemn Vespers and Benediction at 7:30 P. M. celebrated by the pastor Rev. Hogan assisted by Rev. Felix McCabe and Rev. Denis Donovan serving as Deacon and Subdeacon.

The Centennial was the high point of Father Hogan's pastorate and only four years later he died at the post. When he came to St. Mary's he found a parish in thriving condition with unusually fine buildings all comparatively new. During the seventeen years he served St. Mary's Rev. Hogan so administered material affairs that the large debt resulting from building the modern school, was greatly reduced, all property kept in good condition, also many were added to the membership and his spiritual guidance was an uplifting influence in every aspect of the Church program and among the members of the parish.

The Rev. Henry B. Shaw, long time friend of Father Hogan, was transferred promptly by the Bishop from his Parish in Warsaw, N. Y. to St. Mary's and the work of the Church was carried on about as usual. Father Shaw concentrated on the complete liquidation of the debt which had been a major concern of Father Hogan and after a few years this was accomplished to the relief of pastor and people. For the first time in many years St. Mary's was free from debt and the need to raise a great sum of money for any major building project. Father Shaw continued his spiritual leadership of the parish for several more years, until early in 1954 when the Bishop terminated his ten year pastorate by appointing him



to a Church in Buffalo. For several months in 1954 the Rev. David Cahill administered St. Mary's Parish including the ministry at Lyndonville which was still under the care of pastors and assistants of St. Mary's.

Monsignor James T. Sullivan was appointed to the pastorate of St. Mary's Church by Bishop Burke in the fall of 1954. The parish was in a flourishing condition, free from debt, property well cared for and membership still increasing. Conditions were changing, the government had taken over welfare and during recent years some of the societies organized earlier to do charity work had gone out of existence. Monsignor Sullivan was a devoted pastor and things went smoothly for more than a decade. During the latter years of the 1960s Father Sullivan began to feel that the beautiful church must not be allowed to deteriorate in any way and that the interior should again be redecorated. He was beginning to inquire about people capable of doing such work. At that time his health began to fail and also at this time he received word that a debt of Buffalo Diocese was being passed on to the various parishes and the amount assessed to St. Mary's was very large. St. Mary's is a large parish and the duties of pastor and assistant were heavy even without special projects. This unexpected debt was a great worry to Monsignor Sullivan and in 1968 he became ill and spent some time in Sacred Heart Nursing Home near Clarence which is operated by the Brethren of Mercy. He was there when the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination to the Priesthood occurred on December 1, 1968. Some of his parishioners from St. Mary's went to the Nursing Home and had a small reception there for him in honor of the anniversary. He was deeply touched by their kindness.

As soon as Monsignor Sullivan was able to return to the parish he had the redecoration of church arranged for and the work begun. The pastor was most ably assisted by Father Lawrence Nicastro, who carried the full load whenever the Monsignor was ill or absent from the parish for any reason. Monsignor James T. Sullivan became ill again before the work on the church was completed and died on June 28, 1969, ending a pastorate of nearly fifteen years.

Rev. Lawrence Nicastro had served St. Mary's as assistant priest for 8 years and because of the pastor's poor health had assumed a larger share of parish duties than most assistants do. He very capably administered the parish during the remainder of 1969, completed the redecoration of the church, including new carpeting, and attended to the usual church services and activities.

Bishop McNulty appointed the Rev. Bernard Sexton as Pastor of St. Mary's beginning January 1, 1970, and Father Nicastro continued as assistant through September 1971. Rev. Ray Niezgoda was appointed as assistant Priest in late October, of that year.

Many young people of St. Mary's entered full time Religious work, those whose names we could find are the priests: Rev. James McNalley, Rev. Jeremiah McGrath, Rev. James Hennelly, C. M. Rev. Michael J. Pyne, Rev. David J. Ryan, Rev. Edward Morgan, Rev. John W. Peel, Rev. James E. Ferger, Rev. Patrick Kelly, Rev. Joseph A. Kennedy, James Power, Francis Kowacy.

Sisters: The first from Medina, Bridget McGurn entered the Order of Mercy, Buffalo in 1864 taking the name, Sister Mary St. Agnes, Elizabeth Flanigan, Marietta White, Marien Dibley and Delia Fox became Sisters of St. Joseph, Mary O'Brien became a Grey Nun, Anna Peel, a



Dominican Sister; Sarah A. Walsh, Sister of Mercy in Rochester; Eva Epanavice, Third Order of St. Francis; Mary Ryan, Sister of Charity; Marie Zuczuski, Sister of St. Mary of Namur; Agnes McLaughlin entered the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis and served in China for some years Dorothy Byrnes, Sister of Charity, Albany; Barbara Bogden, Sister of the Divine Word.

When the Parochial School closed in 1969 the Sisters of St. Joseph left Medina and the convent has been empty. The school building is used for a few parish activities, including religious instruction classes. An electronic organ was installed in the church in 1970. Since the earliest days of the church there have been many fine voices among the members and St. Mary's Choir has added much to the worship of God regularly and on special occasions such as the Centennial programs, by their excellent religious music. The Choir has been led by many talented organists and choir directors.

In January 1972 there are 778 families in St. Mary's Parish of Medina, under the pastoral care of the Rev. Bernard D. Sexton assisted by Rev. Ray Niezgoda. Lay Trustees are George Callaghan and C. Ronald Slack. Present Parish Societies are the Holy Name Society for men founded in Medina in 1908; Court Santa Maria no. 295 of the National Catholic Daughters of America, was instituted in Medina on January 21 1917. At St. Mary's this Society includes among its duties the work of the Altar Society which is active in many parishes but not needed here. St. Mary's Boy Scout Troop No. 29 is not only sponsored by the parish but is under the care of men of the Church. A fine Drum and Bugle Corps was a part of the Boy Scout program for many years.

Charter No. 651 was granted in March 1902 to the Medina Council of Knights of Columbus, which is affiliated with the parish but not under parish jurisdiction. The K.of C. contributes to some parish projects and to Village projects such as hospital construction.

St. Mary's R. C. Church is a member of the Medina Area Association of Churches.

Saturday Masses- 5:15 and 7:30 p. m.

Confessions 15 minutes earlier.

Sunday Masses- 9:00 and 11:00 a. m.



TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
1212 West Avenue  
Medina, New York

Most Churches have interesting beginnings. The factors which initiate the desire of groups to organize as Churches are varied. Some times that initial push comes from the consecration and some small act of one person. A study of the few facts available regarding the organization of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Medina suggests such a reason for the founding of this Church.

German people were not among the earliest settlers in the village of Medina but about 1880 some German families of Lutheran faith came to the area. Among them was a John Kams who had evidently lived in Buffalo before moving to Medina. He was a devout man who wished to worship God in a Lutheran Church as he had in the past. He had talked with the Rev. John Sieck of St. Andrew's Ev. Lutheran Church of Buffalo and elicited from him a promise to help establish such a Church in Medina. In keeping with that promise, Rev. Sieck asked the Rev. A. T. Hanser, Lutheran Missionary in Lockport, to visit the village and investigate the possibility of forming a Church. On February 14, 1885 Rev. Hanser made the trip and found that there were indeed a number of families interested in having a Lutheran Church in Medina. After making necessary arrangements he came back on May 10 and conducted the first Lutheran worship service in the village in Loke's hall on Main St.

Encouraged by an attendance of 40 at that service, Rev. Hanser continued to come to Medina to lead the people in worship and on May 2, 1886 organized a Lutheran Church with the following members: John Kams Frederick Boots Sr., C. F. Lindke Sr., William Lindke Sr., William Ewald, W. Rahn, Carl Koch, K. Greier, W. Pronath, William Fieritz John Strebe and August Ewald. Only men were listed as members but it is impossible to believe that no women were in the congregation. The next year, the Rev. George Bartling became pastor and on October 31, 1888 the members voted to incorporate as "The Evangelical Lutheran Trinity Congregation, U. A. C., at Medina, Orleans County, New York". The incorporation was recorded in the county clerk's office a week later, on November 7. At this time plans were being made to build a church and an acre of land on the west side of West Ave. in the southern part of the village, was purchased for \$300.

Under the leadership of Pastor Bartling construction was begun in spring of 1889, the cornerstone being laid on April 29. Work proceeded rapidly and the congregation was able to move from the rented third floor meeting hall on Main St. to the new church in late July. It had been built at a cost of \$2700 including the steeple and Altar niche. Dedication services were held on July 28, 1889. At that time, only a little over three years after it was organized, membership was reported as 160 baptized members, including infants, 96 communicant members, of whom 26 were voting members. Noting the small number of voting members, investigation revealed that women were not allowed to vote in Church meetings until a new Church constitution was adopted in 1968. Also only those male members who signed the constitution were allowed to vote. For various reasons some members in good standing in the Church do not sign the constitution, an act which makes them legally responsible for the programs and financial support of the Church. In 1889 36 such members were listed as contributing members.

The Church continued to grow in membership and to increase their



programs of worship, Bible study and religious instruction during the passing years. By the mid 1940s the original building had become too small and plans for providing more space had to be considered. Designs for remodeling the old church and building additions were adopted. The work was completed in 1951 under the direction of the pastor, Rev. R. E. Malte. The steeple was removed, a vestibule with attractive entrance was added to the front, the auditorium enlarged to accommodate the increased congregations, and an addition at the rear provided a pastor's study and rooms for Sunday School classes and other Church activities. The entire building was faced with buff brick. The attractive rebuilt edifice, valued at more than \$100,000 was dedicated to the Glory of God in October, 1951. A parsonage was built soon after the original church was erected. It stands on the same lot, just south of the church and has been kept in repair and improved from time to time.

In 1968 an interesting Church directory was published which contains a brief history of the Church, the names and addresses of all members and pictures of most of the family groups. At that time Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church in Medina had a baptized membership of 405 which included 283 communicants. To quote the booklet, these members "carry forward the Savior's Work throughout the year in worship services, Sunday Bible Study, vacation Bible school, Weekday School of Religion, released-time religious education classes, and in such organizations as Trinity Service Guild, Youth and Chapel Choirs, First Friday Club, and Walther League, as well as through circuit, district and synodical endeavors, in cooperation with the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod, of which Trinity is a member."

In 1972 Trinity Church is a member of Medina Area Association of Churches. The pastor is the Rev. Wilbur P. Lottes who has served since 1958. Organist is Mr. Ralph Schnackel, Choir Director - Charles Meier, Sunday School Supt. Mr. J. Reinbolt.

#### The Usual Schedule of services

Sunday 9:15 a. m. Bible Study for all.  
10:30 a. m. Divine Worship

Also many special Sunday evening services during Lent and other special seasons and many district Lutheran services. The bulletin in the Medina J-R each week of Trinity Lutheran Church lists the time and station of the many Lutheran Sunday programs on Radio.

Former Pastors: A. T. Hanser 1885-1887, George Bartling 1887-1892, P. Graupner 1892-1895, Claus Pape 1896-1902, Henry Burmester 1903-1908, Conrad Poeckler 1909-1936, Reinhardt E. Malte 1936-1957, Wilbur P. Lottes 1958-



ST. PETER'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
1357 West Avenue  
Medina, N. Y.

St. Peter's Church was organized on December 10, 1897, under the direction of the Rev. John Kneubel, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church of Wolcottville who then also served as pastor of the new Church for several years. Services were conducted for a while in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Boots on Maple Ridge Road. The first officers elected were: Elders Gottfried Pogel, Carl Lindke, and Carl Munzel, Deacons: Gottfried Huebner, Frederick Boots and Julius Strebe.

The members were anxious to have a regular meeting place for services so arranged to purchase a lot on the east side of West Avenue near Maple Ridge Road. In order to legally hold property, the Church incorporated on October 18, 1898 and the elected officers were, by virtue of their offices, declared trustees for the purpose of incorporation and their signatures are on the records in the County Clerk's office. They incorporated as "St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church according to the teachings set forth in Luther's Smaller Catechism and Augsburg Confession, and under the jurisdiction of the Evangelical Lutheran Buffalo Synod." An abandoned school house on Oak Orchard Street was moved to their new lot and the congregation refitted it as a suitable house of worship. In 1908 the Church built a parsonage on a lot next north of the house of worship.

St. Peter's congregation continued to worship in the remodeled school house for nearly fifty years until the increasing membership made it necessary to provide more space. The committee appointed to take charge of the building project was: August Muchow, Chairman, Adolph Hellwig, LeVern Schultz, Martin Krebs Sr., Arthur Schilling, Ernest Munzel, Edward Weber, Edwin Krebs, Harold Willett, Herman Munzel, Ernest Weber and the Rev. Paul Nemeschy, Adviser. A much larger attractive, red brick edifice was erected in 1948. An interesting feature of this building is that the well constructed old school house was split in two and incorporated into the new church. The basement of the new edifice provided space for Sunday School classes and kitchen and dining room for fellowship suppers and other meetings. A few years ago a member donated two lots on Maple Street for much needed parking space. The most recent improvement to the building was made during the winter of 1969-70 when carpeting and acoustic wall paneling were installed in the basement to reduce noise. Study added to parsonage, 196

This Church carries on a regular schedule of Sunday services and other meetings throughout the year and holds a number of extra services to observe special seasons in the Church calendar. One of the most significant and meaningful of these, according to some members, is the Tenebrae service on Good Friday evening. The pastor gives a brief sermon or meditation on each of the seven sayings of Jesus on the cross of Calvary. The church is lighted only by seven candles and one larger candle representing Jesus Christ. One of the candles is extinguished after each meditation and finally the larger one and the people leave the dark church quietly with no spoken word.

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Medina is a member of Western New York Conference of the Eastern Division of the Lutheran Church of America and supports the World Wide Mission of the L. C. A. In 1972 the active membership is 250. The present pastor is the Rev. Ronald A. Haefer, Pastor Emeritus Rev. P. H. Nemeschy. The Church is



a member of and supports the projects of the Medina Area Association of Churches. Present organizations are: A. L. C. Women and the Luther League for young people.

Officers are: Paul Krebs President of the Official Board, Carol Pittard Sec., Dorothy Durham Treas., and other members of the Board - Ronald Webber, Homer Bergeman, David Bourkhart, Pierson Root, Harvey O. Miller, Alice Mallabar, Francis Hellert Jr., Colin Trow. Sunday School Supt. - Mrs. Helen Bergeman, Organist - Barbara Goodnick, Choir Director - Mrs. Pierson Root.

Pastors who have served the Church: Rev. John Knuebel, Rev. Otto Bruss, Rev. Carl Hoessel, Rev. Herman Guse, Rev. Max. Rueckwald, Rev. Carl Musall, Rev. John Stender, Rev. Theodore Kuehner, Rev. Paul H. Nemeschy, Rev. Carl Scheidt, Rev. Paul H. Nemeschy Interim Pastor June 1968-June 1969., Rev. Ronald A. Haefer July 1969 -

Regular Sunday Program: 9:00 a. m. Sunday School and Adult Class  
10:00 a. m. Worship Service

In 1972 pastor and members are planning the 75th anniversary celebration of the founding of St. Peters Church. The week end of September 17 is to be the focal point of the celebration.



SACRED HEART CHURCH  
208 Ann St. Medina, N. Y.

A few Polish families are said to have settled in Medina in 1883 and a few others on farms in that area at about the same time. Quite a number of Polish men came to Albion at that time to work in the stone quarries bringing their families. At the beginning of the present century many of their sons were looking for work and as there were more manufacturing plants in Medina than in Albion, many of them established homes there.

Most of the first Polish people in Medina attended St. Mary's Church. But in June 1909, the Rev. Stanislaus Bubacz, pastor of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Albion, aware of the many young adults from his parish then living in Medina, organized a Mission there. Father Bubacz carried on the work of the mission for some months.

When Bishop Charles Colton of Buffalo R. C. Diocese was informed of the number of Polish families in Medina and vicinity, he appointed the Rev. Thomas Geoozdz as the first resident pastor on February 2, 1910, with authority to organize the parish and build a church. Fifty families were members of the Mission. They were named the "Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish". Construction was started in August and the church completed and dedicated in September 1910.. Monsignor Nelson Baker officiated at the dedication ceremonies. The rectory was built during the same year. With the completion of the church edifice more families transferred from St. Mary's to Sacred Heart Parish where the Priest was Polish and their own beloved language was used in parts of the mass and in the singing of hymns.

The Rev. Adalbert Cichy, who succeeded Father Geoozdz in early 1912 felt that the need at that time was to raise the spiritual and moral standards of his parishioners. For this purpose he planned a two-week Mission over the Christmas and New Year period. The spiritual revival which resulted was evident immediately and a continuing influence on the Church. Many more families were brought into the parish also.

Another forward step was taken in September 1925 when the Rev. Mioduszewski made plans for a parochial school and petitioned the Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph to organize the Sacred Heart School and carry on the teaching program. He had a home for the Sisters and the school building constructed on Parish property that fall. The Sisters arrived in the latter part of December and the school opened on January 2, 1926 with 62 pupils in six grades taught by two Sisters.

With the Parish well organized and the building program completed, Sacred Heart Church continued during the next forty years to carry on their program of religious devotion and instruction and the upkeep of property without any great change. A Sunday School was formed and the Holy Name Society for men and the Sacred Heart Rosary Society for women were organized. At some point when most of the membership spoke English, the use of the Polish language was dropped except on a few Festival Days and in the singing of some old hymns.

When the Millennium of Christianity 966 - 1966, in Poland was cel-



celebrated, Polish congregations in the U. S. A. joined in the commemoration. The Millennium Committee of the Diocese of Buffalo published an Anniversary Book featuring all of the Polish Parishes in the Diocese. In that 1966 book, Sacred Heart Parish was reported as including 300 families and 90 pupils in the parochial school.

During recent years Sacred Heart School like most other R. C. parochial schools, has been faced with increasing financial difficulty. In June 1969 the Parish closed their school at the same time that St. Mary's Parish closed theirs. Children are given religious instruction on Sundays.

Organizations are Sacred Heart Rosary Society for women with Mrs. Cecilia White President in 1972, Holy Name Society for men, Anthony Bielak, President. A Parish Boy Scout Troop is sponsored. Parish Trustees are George W. Waszak and Edward A. Johnson

The usual week schedule in 1972 is: Sunday Masses - 8:00 a. m., 10:30 a.m., Weekday Masses - 8 a.m. daily, Saturday - Confessions - 3:30 & 6:30 p. m. Mass - 7:00 p. m.

Pastors who have served Sacred Heart Parish - The Rev. Stanislaus Bubacz of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary Parish, Albion established a Mission in 1909 and served as pastor until Feb. 2, 1910 when the first resident pastor was appointed, Thomas Geozdz, Adalbert Cichy 1912-'13, Michael Helminiak 1913, '14, Adalbert Cichy 1914, '15, Francis Wasik 1915 - '17, Stanislaus Krocze 1917 - '25, Charles Mioduszewski 1925 - 1929, Ladislaus Dykal 1929 - '38, Maximilian Bogacki, 1938-'45, Anthony Ciechanski 1945-'55, Joseph Rydz 1955 - '61, Edwin Fagowski 1961 - '66, Francis Lubabacz 1966 -'68, Joseph J. Rydz 1968 -





CHRISTIAN SCIENCE SOCIETY  
Medina, New York

The Christian Science movement was started in private homes. The Christian Science Society of Medina was organized April 9, 1918, and became affiliated with The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Mass. in October, 1919. At this time Wednesday Evening Meetings and the Christian Science Reading Room were instituted.

The construction of the Building was started in the spring of 1922. I. J. Beach, of Medina, was the architect and builder. The opening services were held on April 1, 1923. The church edifice was dedicated Sunday, July 31, 1927.

**CHRISTIAN SCIENCE SOCIETY**

West Center Street  
Medina, New York

Services at Christian Science Society, 229 W. Center St., begin at 11:00 a.m. All are welcome.

May 7 — 1971

The Lesson - Sermon entitled "Adam and Fallen Man" will be heard Sunday at Christian Science Services. Public welcome.

The newly elected Readers are: First Reader: Mr. Percy A. Hill; Second Reader: Mrs. Sabra Sullivan.

*In recent years Services  
held only from mid April  
to mid November.*



GLAD TIDINGS BAPTIST CHURCH  
West Oak Orchard Street  
Medina, N. Y.

Several families of colored people settled in Medina during the latter decades of the nineteenth century. They were religious people and wished to have a Church of their own. Beginning about 1890, they made several attempts to organize and erect a meeting house over a period of nearly forty years. But the group was small and their attempts never succeeded.

In 1925, a Mary Johnson, member of a Baptist Church in Rochester, felt called to pray for the colored people of this area. The Lord answered her prayer by moving her to act. In the latter part of the year, she with the help of Elder Caldwell and the Rev. Henry Young of East Rochester began holding services in the home of Mrs. Mary Johnson at 811 Genesee St. in Medina and at a few other homes on Sundays. Later regular Wednesday evening prayer meetings were held. In the winter of 1926 the use of a small 12'x 18' building at 404 West Oak Orchard St. was offered them. They purchased it for twenty dollars and a Mission was established there, on December 15, 1926. The nine original members of the Mission were: Mary Johnson, Pauline Morris, Thomas and Martha Chambers, John Royal, Author and Lydia Johnson, Grace Schuyler and Alice Jones.

The Mission was dedicated by the Rev. Henry Young on January 30, 1927 and named Glad Tidings Mission in remembrance of a Pentacostal mission in New York City. Mrs. Mary Johnson was made a deaconess and put in charge of the work by Rev. Young. The first officers elected were: President - Mary Johnson, Secretary - Alcie Potter, Treasurer - Robert Johnson, Trustees - Mary Johnson and Author Johnson. The first financial arrangements were for a ten cent per person offering on Wednesday nights for fuel and larger free will offerings at Sunday services. During the first years the building was once nearly destroyed by fire and at another time was surrounded by water so the members of the Mission felt that they had been tried both by fire and water.

Feeling the need for a larger building, the members, in late 1927, decided to start a building fund. This was gradually increased by solicitation, special offerings at Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas services and by money raising events such as ice cream socials and lectures. As a result they were able on August 7, 1929 to purchase from Charles Gilbert for \$500.00 cash, the good sized building lot on which their small meeting house stood. Elder Caldwell of East Rochester, who had helped to establish the Mission, came to Medina on Oct. 12, 1930 to dedicate the ground for the building of a House of God. Soon afterward the foundation for the new meeting house was constructed. The following spring the erection of the new mission was begun by R. S. Johnson and Mary Johnson and carried on with the help of other members, all freely donating their labor. At that period attendance at the twice a week services in the old building ranged from 5 to 27.

It had been hoped to be able to complete the building during 1931 but it was December 11, 1932 when Deaconess Mary Johnson could conduct the first service there. After all her prayers and hard work, how she must have rejoiced to lead the congregation in praise to God in their new house of worship that day! In April of that year, the Rev. W. L. Evans of Louisville Ky. came to Medina and donated his services in helping to build and preaching to the congregation on Sundays. He returned home in November.



Rev. W. L. Evans returned to Medina on August 12, 1933 to serve as the first resident pastor of Glad Tidings Mission and was joined by his wife, Pearl, a week later. Rev. Evans served the congregation as a consecrated pastor until his death on September 30, 1954. In May, 1937, the Mission was legally reorganized as the Glad Tidings Missionary Baptist Church.

Under the pastoral care of Rev. and Mrs. Evans, attendance at services had increased to an average of about fifty by 1952. Feeling the need for a larger church Rev. Evans began to make plans and set up a building fund in the spring of 1952. At the time of his death ~~two~~ and a half years later the fund amounted to \$300.05. When the pastor's health began to fail, the Rev. Johnny Johnson had been appointed as assistant pastor and took over as pastor after the death of Rev. Evans. Rev. Johnson was ordained at Glad Tidings Church on November 3, 1954, by the Rev. C. Craven and other Church officials of Buffalo, N. Y. The basement of the addition to the church was constructed under the leadership of Rev. Johnson. He resigned as pastor in May 1956.

Deacon Nathaniel was then in charge of the Church until July 22. The following day the Rev. J. S. Scott was elected pastor by the congregation and served them for ten years. During part of that time he had the help of assistants, Rev. James Perkins for a while and later Rev. Robert Clark of Lockport. The addition to the church, planned for by Rev. Evans, the basement of which was constructed under the direction of Rev. Johnson in 1955, was completed under the leadership of Pastor Scott and was ready for use in September 1957. The congregation continued to increase during his ministry and in January 1966 was reported to average about 110. Officers at that date were: Chairman of Deacons Nathaniel Knight, Chm. Trustees- Lewis Walker, Finac. Secy.- Erma Ford, Clerk- Bessie M. Brady.

The Rev. Oscar C. Amos accepted a call to Glad Tidings Baptist Church and began his pastorate April 29, 1967. The Church purchased a parsonage on Starr St. in 1968 and is now planning to erect a new church edifice. The Church is a member of Medina Area Association of Churches.

1972 Officers: Church Clerk - Mrs. Queen McElwain, Treas. - Lewis Walker, Secy.- Isabelle Cortez, Trustees- Charles King Chm., Rosalie Hudson, George Voss, James Polite; Deacons -George Brady Chm., Charles King, Nathaniel Knight, Lewis Walker; Pres. Women's Miss. Society- Mrs. Jewell Shine, Pres. Mother's Board- Mrs. Gladys Brady, Pastor's Aid- Mrs. Mattie Jackson, Chm. Sr. Ushers- George Voss, Chm. Jr. Ushers- Mr. O. C. Amos, S. S. Supt.- Loretta Voss, Pres. Sr. Class -Mrs. Mattie King, Supervisor Jr. Class - Mrs. Lucile Brady, Nurses Guild - Rosalie Hudson.

Pastors: Mission organized by Rev. Henry Young and Elder Caldwell, work carried on by Deaconess Mary Johnson, first resident pastor- Rev. W. L. Evans 1933-1954, Rev. John Johnson 1954-May 1956, Deacon Nathaniel Knight in charge from May - July 22, 1956, Rev. J. S. Scott 1956-1966, Rev. Roosevelt Tidwell, Aug. 1966 - Jan. 1967, Rev. Oscar C. Amos April 1967 -

Services: Sundays 9:30 a. m. Sunday School  
                  11:15 a. m. Morning Worship

Wed.       7:00 p. m. Prayer Meeting



GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH  
MEDINA, NEW YORK

Grace Baptist Church traces her inception to Thanksgiving evening, 1931, when forty-one members, including the pastor, withdrew from Shelby Baptist Church. These members had for some time become increasingly disturbed because they felt that their Church and the Northern Baptist Convention of which it was a member, were departing from the **True Faith and belief** in the Inspiration of the Scriptures. The following Sunday the group met for worship in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Irving Austin.

A place to meet for regular worship and prayer services was needed and a building in the Town of Shelby, known as Fletcher Chapel, was not in use at the time. Permission to use the Chapel was obtained from former members of the Methodist Episcopal Society which had owned it and held services there before they disbanded some years earlier. The old building was in need of many repairs. Services were held in the dining room addition until the auditorium could be properly restored.

On January 1, 1932 these people held a business meeting and organized as the Fundamental Gospel Tabernacle and called the Rev. James O. Smith to serve as pastor. They elected the following officers: Deacons- Earl Chubbuck and I.H. Austin, Clerk- Mrs. Earl Chubbuck, Ushers- Otis Grimes and Edward Sowl, Asst. Usher- Fred Reak, S. S. Supt.- William Oliver, Asst.- Floyd Chubbuck, S. S. Sec. & Treas.- Leora Reak.

The forty-one original members were: Rev. and Mrs. James O. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Loren Sickler, Miss Roda Sickler, Miss Edna Fraleigh, Mr. and Mrs. Otis Grimes, Mr. and Mrs. William Oliver, Mrs. George Rouch, Mrs. Arthur Johnston, Mrs. Carl Ross, Miss Marian Ross, Miss Gladys Ross, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Reak, Miss Leora Reak, Miss Lorene Reak, Mr. and Mrs. I. H. Austin, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Sowl, Mrs. Frank Chubbuck, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Chubbuck, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Chubbuck, Miss Vivian Chubbuck, Mrs. LaVerne Quintern, Mrs. Pearl Cain, Kenneth Starr, Miss Mary Starr, Miss Ada Starr, Miss Myra Adams, Miss Florence Adams, Floyd Adams, Miss Mildred Meiser, Mr. and Mrs. John Best.

The members worked through the winter to repair and redecorate the auditorium. A number of the other Churches and individuals gave the Tabernacle furniture and equipment, including a second hand furnace, to help fit the old chapel as a suitable place of worship. When the inside work was done the men of the church improved the driveway and made a good parking area with the help of a large town truck and driver loaned for a day to draw gravel, by the Highway Department. The redecorated auditorium was dedicated as the place of preaching the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ on March 13, 1932. Speakers at this service were the Revs. D. C. Herrell, L.C. Jackman, H. A. Keithley, H. G. Hamilton and Harold Strathearn.

About this time, Genesee Methodist Conference which had



received title to Fletcher Chapel when the Methodist Church there disbanded, demanded that the new Church either buy the property, support the Methodist Conference or discontinue use of the Chapel which the members had worked so hard to restore. They chose to buy and paid the Conference \$125.00 to obtain a clear title.

In early June the Interstate Evangelistic Association sent speakers to assist the Church in evangelistic services. As a result the first baptismal service was held on July 17 in a stream on the farm of Eugene Dye. The pastor baptized fourteen persons who had accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour.

The Church held their first communion service on August 7, 1932 and at that time fifteen new members, including one who came by letter, were received into membership.

On Thanksgiving evening the members celebrated their first anniversary with a fellowship supper followed by a time of Prayer and Praise to God for what had been accomplished during the year. This anniversary supper and service on Thanksgiving evening has continued as an annual event. November 16, 1933, the Church was incorporated as the "Fundamental Gospel Tabernacle".

The Rev. Smith resigned in 1939 but the Church continued to grow and carry on their gospel ministry under succeeding consecrated pastors. The need for a larger more centrally located place of worship and a parsonage began to be considered. The large substantial residence of the late Dr. Maynard on the corner of Park and West Avenues in Medina was purchased in January 1942. The building had been empty and neglected for some time so again the men of the church began the task of renovation. The north side was first put into good condition for use as the parsonage. Work then started to remodel the south wing into an auditorium. The Easter Sunday service in 1943 was held in the partially completed room. During most of that year, however, services were held in both churches to accommodate the members who lived in the Fletcher Chapel area. The chapel was sold in December and all Church services moved to Medina.

The following spring the members adopted "Storehouse Tithing" as the correct Scriptural method for the believer to give to the Lord. Under this system the Church prospered and was able to send a number of young people into Christian Service. On October 12, 1944, the members voted to change the name of the Fundamental Gospel Tabernacle to "Fundamental Independent Baptist Tabernacle". In December 1945, the Rev. Merle D. Watkins who had led the flock through many changes during the past four and a half years, resigned. He told the people that he felt the Lord had called him to become a missionary in Africa.

Better facilities were needed for the Sunday School and a year or so later, the basement which had been neglected until



this time, was cleaned and renovated for Sunday School use. A new entrance for the church was built which also served as an outside exit from the basement as required by law. Later a baptistry and choir loft were installed in the auditorium and another Sunday School room finished. All of this work was nearly completed in October 1951 when the Church entered upon a two week Evangelistic Campaign. In the midst of these services, on October 27, fire broke out which destroyed the auditorium, leaving only the north wing parsonage. The First Baptist Church invited them to hold the remainder of the campaign in their building.

During the next two years Worship Services were held in the Village Hall. When they were again able to meet in their own building, the Church sent a vote of Thanks to the Mayor and other Village Officials for their graciousness. Soon after the fire, a house at 1202 West Ave. was purchased for use as a parsonage. The former parsonage was then remodeled for Sunday School. Contractors Shugour and Bacon were hired to tear down the ruins and construct a basement suitable for services until a new auditorium could be built. The Baptist Builders Club of GARB presented a gift of \$2,000 to the Church which was a great help in this time of need.

The 25th Anniversary of the Church was observed on August 24, 25, and 26, 1956 while services were still being held in the new basement. At this time former pastors, Rev. James O. Smith and Rev. Merle Watkins, who was home on leave from Missionary work in Africa, and Rev. Walter E. Pifer who was the pastor brought inspiring messages. There was also beautiful vocal and instrumental music by members and guests which added to the joyful occasion. The Saturday service was held in connection with the annual Sunday School picnic. At this time Missionaries who had gone out from Fundamental Baptist Tabernacle spoke on their work.

After the debt for building the basement was paid off, plans were considered for the completion of the building program. In the summer of 1958, William Hill and Rollin Dorwald, members of the Church and builders by trade, were engaged to erect a cinder block building and put on the roof. The rest of the work of completing the auditorium was done by volunteers. The pews and other furnishings were purchased or given in memory of faithful departed members. The lovely painting facing the worshipers from the east wall of the auditorium and forming a beautiful background for baptismal services from God's creation of nature, was done by a member of the Church, Miss Avis Sowl. The guest speaker at the Dedication service in 1959 was the Rev. M. L. Lowe of Bible School Park.

In 1964 the name of the Church was again legally changed and is now Grace Baptist Church, Medina, New York. In May 1965, after the debt incurred by erecting the present building had been paid, a week of special meetings were held, including a



mortgage burning ceremony.

The Constitution of Grace Baptist Church, revised January 1971, clearly defines the beliefs of the Church and the duties and responsibilities of pastor, officers and members. It is too long to include in this brief history but the Articles of Faith, adopted when the Church was organized in 1932 and unchanged since, are so pertinent to the growth, prosperity and outreach of the Church that some mention of them is made here. The members believe in the "Inspiration and Infallible Authority of the Scriptures", that the "Scriptures reveal God as Eternally existing and manifesting Himself in Three Persons-Father, Son and Holy Spirit", "in the absolute Deity of Jesus Christ", The Virgin Birth of Jesus Christ, His death for our sins, "the Resurrection of the Crucified body of our Lord...and His Ascension into Heaven". They believe that "God created man in His own image...and not by evolution", They reject "the theory of man's origin which links him in blood relation with the brute". They believe that because of man's disobedience to God he must by faith in Jesus Christ be "born again of the Holy Spirit", that "God's Word commands every believer to be baptized and that the only Scriptural method of baptism is by immersion". They believe "that prayer is the exercise of faith by which we appropriate the power of God...and is the only power that can make the Church effectual for God", that it is the solemn obligation of every believer to be a personal soul-winner and to do his utmost to carry out the Saviour's command to give the Gospel to the whole world" and that the "Church should be supported Only by voluntary and systematic giving, and that is a grace created by the Holy Spirit". They believe "that a local Church is a voluntary association of baptized believers, equal in rank and privilege, subject to the Word of Christ, and independent of any external ecclesiastical control whatsoever".

Grace Baptist Church is affiliated with the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches and American Council of Christian Churches. 1971 membership is 115, Sunday School enrollment 130. Many young people have gone out from the Church into Christian service, 11 as Missionaries, 8 as pastors and Pastor's wives.

Organizations are: Ladies' Missionary Fellowship; Word of Life Club, an affiliate of the National organization for Sr. Hl. young people, Jr. Hl. Fellowship; College Age and Couple's Fellowship, since April, 1971.

The Church helps support many Home and Foreign Mission Programs and the local ministries include regular visitation in the Medina Hospital, area Nursing Homes and Orleans County Infirmary; taking her turn with other Churches in holding Services at the Orleans Home for the aged and at the Jail in Albion; An annual Daily Vacation Bible School and for many years Released Time Religious Education Classes during the school year.

The usual weekly schedule is: Sunday- 9:45 a.m. Bible School for all ages; 11:00 a.m. Worship Services, 6:00 p.m.



W.O.L.C. and Jr. Hi. meetings, 7:00 Evening Gospel Services; Monday 6:00 a.m. Morning Prayer; Wednesday 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice, 7:30 Prayer and Bible Study Meeting.

Annual special events during the year: Easter Sunrise Service and breakfast, Mother and Daughter Banquet in May, Recognition of Mothers on Mothers' Day, Recognition of Fathers on Fathers' Day, Promotion and Rally Day, Thanksgiving Anniversary Fellowship Dinner and Praise Service, Christmas Program and New Year's Eve Service. The Church puts out a Monthly publication called "Grace Notes" to which members contribute articles.

Officers: Church Clerk-Mrs. Craig Ross, Deacons- Craig Ross, Chm., Ermil Dill, Mervin Baker, Albert Neville, Melvin R. Showers, Church Treas.-Mrs. M. R. Showers, Financial Secy.- Mrs. L. Quintern, Mission Treas.- Mrs. Albert Haner, Bldg. Fund- Ermil Dill, Head Usher- Mervin Baker, Organist- Miss Margaret Gwyn, Pianist-Mrs. L. Quintern, Youth Counselors- Mr. & Mrs. A. Winters & Mr. & Mrs. M.R. Showers, Trustees- Ermil Dill, Chm., Louis Bauer, Mervin Baker, Marvin Dunn, Armin Winters, Albert Haner, Pres. L.M. F.- Mrs. Philip Keith.

Mrs. Leon Lewis who had served for 25 years as Church Treasurer was honored at a Testimonial Dinner in February in recognition of her faithful service. Mr. Lewis is now an Honorary Trustee after serving the Church for many years in that office.

S. S. Officers: Supt.- Mr. Armin Winters, Secy.- Mrs. Albert Boyce, Treas.- Mr. Louis Bauer, Fin. Secy.- Mr. Ermil Dill, Registrar- Miss Rebecca Bauer, Supt. Home Dept.- Mrs. Albert Boyce & Mrs. LaVerne Quintern, Supt. Primary Dept.- Mrs. Carl Longwell, Supt. Cradle Roll- Mrs. Albert Neville, Pianist- Miss Debbie Strickland. Bd. of Christian Ed- Rev. Lloyd Cobb, Mr. A. Winters, Mr. Melvin R. Showers, Mr. Albert Neville, Mr. Craig Ross.

Pastors: Rev. James O. Smith Nov. 1931- Apr. 1939, Rev. E. E. Hooper Oct. 1939- Mar. 1941, Rev. Merle D. Watkins Apr. 1941- Dec. 1945, Rev. Raymond Fredericks Apr. 1946- Oct. 1954, Rev. Walter E. Pifer- Apr. 1955- Aug. 1963, Rev. Frederick W. Thomas, Apr. 1964- 1969, Rev. Lloyd W. Cobb Aug. 1970-