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First Presbyterian Church, Neenah, Wisconsin, 1848-1998; 150 years of mission and ministry. 1999

Neenah, Wisconsin: First Presbyterian Church, 1999

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The Records

of
The First Presbyterian Church of Winnebago Rapids
{ Commencing December 15th 1848 }

First Presbyterian Church

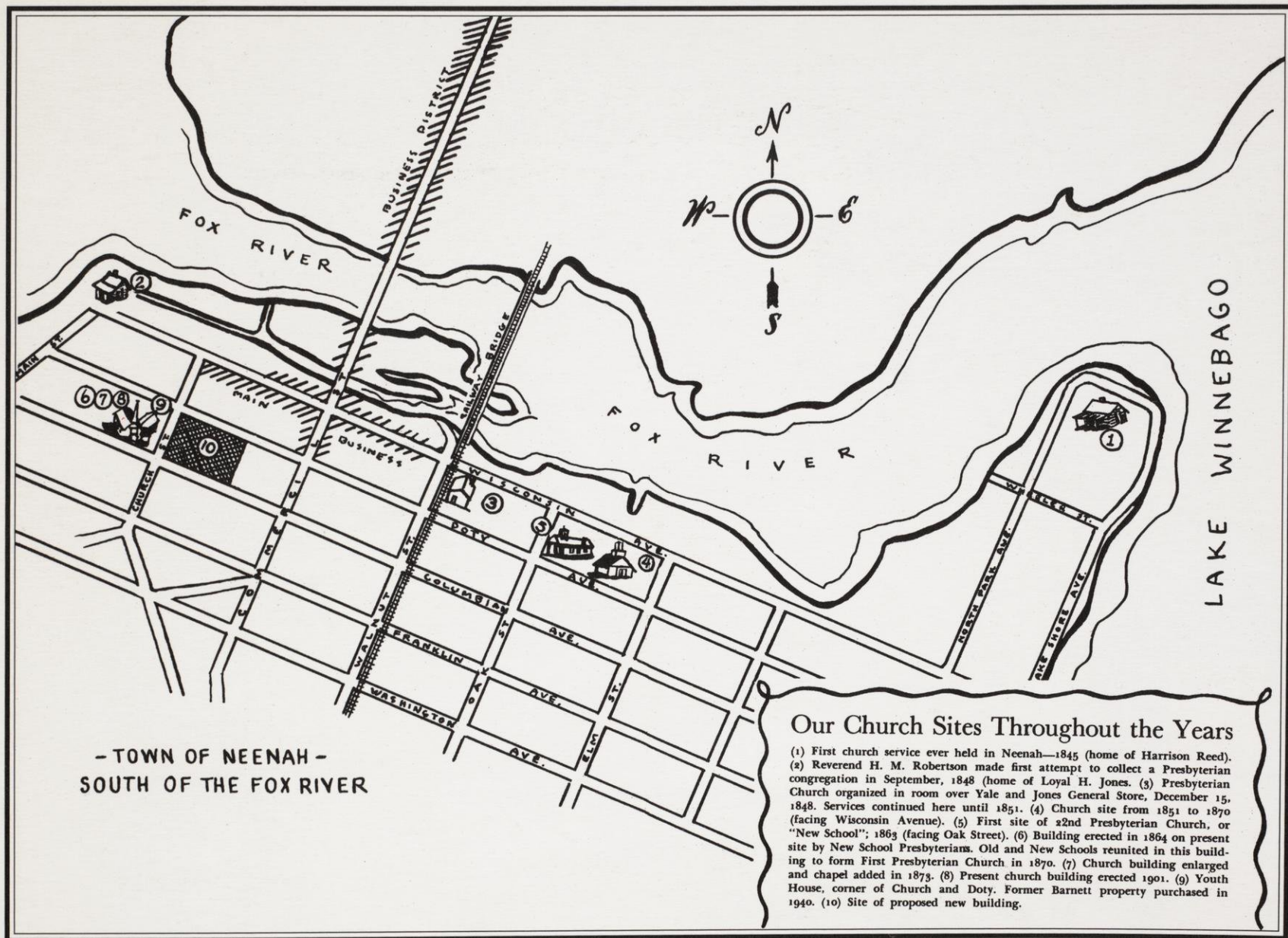
Neenah, Wisconsin

1848-1998

15 Years of Mission & Ministry



NEENAH PUBLIC LIBRARY



Map prepared for The Centennial Story, published in 1948 in honor of the church's centennial celebration. Today, First Presbyterian Church is located at site number 10, designated as the "site of the proposed new building." The congregation moved to the present building in 1954; the old building (on site #8) was demolished. That property is still owned by the church and is leased to the City of Neenah for a parking lot. The railroad tracks, which ran parallel to Walnut St. and crossed the Fox River, were removed in 1996.

First Presbyterian Church

Neenah, Wisconsin

1848-1998



150 Years of Mission & Ministry



Book design and layout, and photo editor:

Merry Mason Whipple

Copy editor:

Merry Mason Whipple

Photography, and copying and reprinting old photos:

Monny Hjerstedt

Dedication:

Katie Greenwald

Proofreaders:

Marigen Carpenter, Judy Catlin, Katie Greenwald, Joan Henderson,
Richard Henderson, Bud Hjerstedt, Sally Hjerstedt, Sue Lenz,
Margaret Lorenz, Martha Moore, Richard Moore, Susan Morrisey,
Mary Millar, Onie Onken, Deanna Swanson, Sue Wood

In addition:

Many people have made suggestions, supplied photographs, sorted
material, verified facts, identified people and events in photos, and
provided additional information.

We have made every effort to identify accurately the people and the events
portrayed in the photographs and articles in this book. However, it is
almost inevitable that there are some errors and omissions. Please accept
our apologies and help us by submitting the correct information to
the office of First Presbyterian Church, Neenah, Wisconsin. Ed.

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First Edition

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Dedication

*To the pioneers who, with God's help, started us on the path,
and to the seekers who followed them.
Our 150 years of memories bind us together.*





*P*ersistent throughout the Bible is the summons to God's people to remember. "Remember where you came from... Remember what God has done." As we celebrate our sesquicentennial at First Presbyterian, it is well for us to remember our heritage as Presbyterians in Neenah.

In the pages of this book, our memories will be kindled as we look into the past and become familiar again, or even for the first time, with where we have been and who we are. While some of our reminiscing may be nostalgic, there is also great power in connecting with our history. For the past truly is prologue to the future. We know more about where we are going when we understand where we have been.

Because the church is not so much a building, but a people, most important in our consideration are those who have gone before us. Their witness to Christ in years past empowers us for our present and future witness as their successors. Our charge, then, is well caught in these words of Scripture from the Letter to the Hebrews (12:1-2):

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God."

Richard J. Moore, Senior Pastor



Our Beginnings....

Preliminary Statement

The settlement of the village of Winnebago Rapids was commenced in the year 1847. The first village lots were sold in August 1847. — During the Fall of 1847 & summer of 1848 a number of Presbyterian families moved in & some efforts were made to procure the stated preaching of the word and the ordinances of religion according to the faith & order of the Presbyterian Church —

In August 1848 the village was visited by the Rev. H. M. Robertson a Missionary of the Presbyterian Board of Domestic Missions — when the first attempts were made to collect a Presbyterian Congregation

In the month of Sept. Mr. Robertson began to preach steadily on the sabbath at the house of Loyal H. Jones. The congregations at first were small but increased gradually in size until the house became inconveniently crowded. In November the meetings were removed to the McCoy school-house which also became crowded. — A large Room was now fitted up over the store of Jones & Yale capable of seating between two and three hundred persons to which the congregation removed in December

Application having been made to the Presbytery of Wisconsin to organize a church here Rev. Thomas Frasier & Rev. Elias S. Peck having been appointed a committee for that purpose. visited the place on the 14th of December 1848 in compliance with their appointments as the following records will show

The first pages of the 1848 minute book record the founding of what would eventually be called First Presbyterian Church in Neenah, Wisconsin. The community was then known as Winnebago Rapids.

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Sesquicentennial logo designed
by Stuart McCutcheon.



Organization of the Church

Winnebago Rapids Dec. 15, 1948

The undersigned a committee of the Presbytery of Wisconsin acting in the name & by the authority of said Presbytery having been requested to organize a church at Winnebago Rapids Wisconsin

Fully believing that God in his Providence had opened the way for such an organization & having examined the credentials of the applicants & being satisfied as to their Christian Character piety & soundness in the faith & having received from them their assents to & acknowledgments of the confession of faith & Form of Government of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, did proceed on the 15th day of December 1848 to constitute the following persons a Church of Jesus Christ to be called the First Presbyterian Church of Winnebago Rapids & to be in connection & under the care of the Presbytery of Wisconsin

The names of the members are Rev. Milton Huxly, Osial Wilcox, Loyal H. Jones & Mrs. Matilda Jones, Mr. Asa Jones & Mrs. Rhoda W. Jones, Mr. Robert Owen & Mrs. Mary Owen, Mr. R. M. Davis, Mr. Perrine Yale, Mrs. Sarah Yale, Miss Clarrissa B. Yale, Mrs. Emeline Danforth, Mrs. Mary Ann Scott, Mrs. Lemisa J. Robertson, Mrs. Elizabeth Ann Weed, Miss Emily Gorman.

The church having been organised proceeded to make choice of its officers. When Mr. Milton Huxly & Loyal H. Jones were duly elected Ruling Elders & Mr. Osial Wilcox a Deacon on the day following (the 16th day of December) after sermon and in the presence of the Congregation Mr. Jones & Mr. Wilcox were set apart by prayer according to the order of the gospels to the respective offices to which they had been chosen. And Mr. Huxly being already an ordained Minister in the Church of Christ was installed as an Elder in this Church.

Signed
Thomas Frasier
Elias S. Peck
Ministers of the Presbytery
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Signed { Thomas Frasier }
Elias S. Peck
Ministers of the Presbytery of
Wisconsin



Pastors Serving the Presbyterian Church in Neenah

First Presbyterian Church

1848-1853:

The Reverend H. M. Robertson

1854-1861:

The Reverend H. H. Rosseel

First Presbyterian Church "Old School"

1861-1864:

The Reverend H. B. Thayer

1864-1867:

The Reverend A. A. Dinsmore

1867-1869:

The Reverend J. C. Kelly

First Presbyterian Church, 1851-1870

Second Presbyterian Church "New School"

1865-1869:

The Reverend J. H. Walker

Second Presbyterian Church, 1864-1870

Second Presbyterian Church "New School"

1860-1861:

The Reverend J. Evarts Pond

1862-1863:

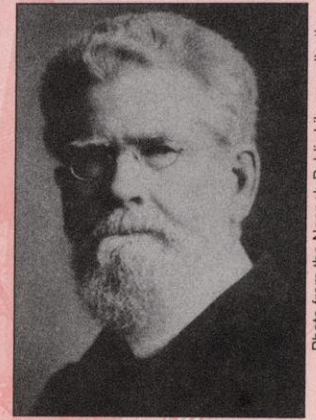
The Reverend H. G. McArthur

1863-1864:

The Reverend James Bassett

Second Presbyterian Church, 1860-1864

First Presbyterian Church



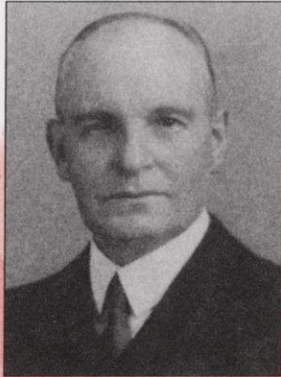
1870-1903:

The Rev. John E. Chapin, D.D.

First Presbyterian Church, 1870-1900
(After consolidation of old and
new school churches in 1870)



1903-1916:
The Rev. J. Logan
Marquis, D.D.



1916-1932:
The Rev. Daniel C.
Johnes, D.D.



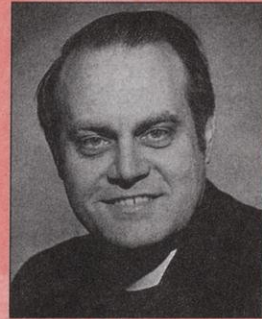
1932-1944:
The Rev. Walter R.
Courtenay, D.D.



1944-1947:
The Rev. George T. Peters



1947-1976: Senior Pastor
The Rev. John E.
Bouquet, D.D.



1976-1979: Stated Supply
The Rev. Max E. Deal



1977-1986: Senior Pastor
The Rev. Herbert A.
Miller, D.D.



1956-1958:
Associate Pastor
The Rev. Robert Ranck



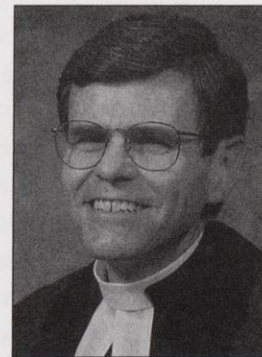
1958-1962:
Associate Pastor
The Rev. James A. Aikin



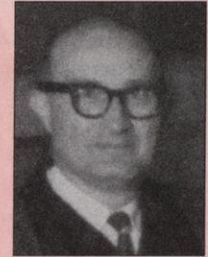
1969-1975: Associate Pastor
The Rev. Ross Hayward Gooch



1987-1988: Interim Pastor
The Rev. V. Pat Butler, D.D.
(no photo available)



1989-present: Senior Pastor
The Rev. Richard J. Moore



1962-1965: Associate Pastor
The Rev. William E. Chapman
(no photo available)



1964-1968: Associate Pastor
The Rev. Donald R. Gibson



1998-present:
Associate Pastor
The Rev. Paul Huxtable



1990-1996: Associate Pastor
The Rev. Lisa A. Miller

1980-1983: Associate Pastor
The Rev. H. Lansing Vincent, III

*First Presbyterian Church,
1954 - present*



My First Sabbath in Neenah

(Written by Mrs. Mary A. K. Hamilton for a church anniversary.)

On a peaceful Sabbath morning in the month of June, 1848, a row boat shoved from the shore, near the drooping swaying branches of the Council Tree. It contained the family of the proprietor of the Winnebago Rapids, Mr. Jones and two young girls, lately arrived guests.

The day was filled with the charm of early summer, made musical by bird songs and fragrant with budding leaf and flower. The boat floated down the swift current on the river, skirting the banks overhung with the luxuriant growth of wild vines, festooning bush and tree. Landing and crossing the log corduroy road, they came to a large wooden building painted white, standing on a slight elevation, at the southeast corner of Wisconsin Avenue and Walnut Street.

The lower story was occupied by two stores, between which a broad stairway led to an upper room, where were gathered for worship those seeking in this far-away West to renew sundered ties and vows. This room extended over the rear part of the stores beneath. The floor, woodwork, benches, pulpit and choir rail were of unpainted pine; the walls of rough brown plaster. The windows, open to let in fresh air and sunshine were held in place by nails.

Outside, the prospect was not more inviting. The ground, lately cleared of forest trees, was bristling with stumps, while a little farther

south-east, among flags [wild iris], reeds and rushes, the hoarse croak of the festive frog proclaimed a swampy swale.

The pulpit, at the east end, was occupied by Rev. H. M. Robertson, a man young in years and experience, as this was his first charge. His father, being a minister, he had inherited perhaps a fondness for Calvinistic doctrines, which he often gave to his hearers in strong doses, relished as truth, so long as he withheld technical terms. He sugar-coated the doctrinal pill, which perhaps this mixture of people needed to keep them in the straight and narrow way, after having left behind the restraints of their early life and homes.

At the opposite end of the room was an elevation of two steps, where the musical members of the community, young and some not quite so young, with Elder Lindsley as chorister, rendered in an energetic if not artistic manner the songs of Zion.

Between these two extremes, the benches were more or less filled with men, women and children. The day being warm, some of the men had left their coats at home, appearing in shirt sleeves, while their wives in all the glory of white sun-bonnets well-mated these sturdy sons of toil. One noticeable peculiarity was the absence of any aged or infirm. The strength of robust manhood

was here, waiting, under Hope's alluring banner, the fulfillment of the sanguine dreams of youth. Each profession and various calling found a representative in the audience here gathered for worship.

Occasionally the sharp crack of a sportsman's gun in the woods nearby suggested another way of spending the Sabbath.

This was our first introduction to the First Presbyterian Church of Neenah. A few weeks after, we attended the Congregational Church held in a little log school house, near the city park, corner of Columbian Avenue and Elm Street. Rev. O. P. Clinton, in the prime of years and usefulness, here dispensed the Word, while Deacon Mitchell led the singing. This Sabbath a man came in, leading two little girls and the seats being occupied, he seated them on the top of the stove. One could not help wondering how soon they would be done enough to turn. Through these two church organizations was the spiritual food meted out to the dwellers in this rural village.

The ladies of the Presbyterian Church, although the 'weaker vessels,' anxious to help in every good work, formed a sewing Society meeting to sew in the afternoons. They made flour bags, blue hickory shirts (a fine blue stripe), white shirts, aprons, needle books, and knit woolen



Wisconsin Avenue in 1856.

The Yale and Jones general store, where the Presbyterian congregation met until a church was constructed in 1851, was in downtown Neenah.

socks. As the method of living was plain, there was little call for anything merely ornamental. The life each day of the year was earnest work.

These ladies staid [sic.] to tea and in the evening, their husbands and the young men came in for part of the social fun. Gradually the young people would drift into the kitchen, where they would play various games with forfeits redeemed by penalties. Nobody feared the osculatory germ in those days. But should any perchance to indulge in a social dance, the next prayer meeting was made dolefully blue by long faces, deep sighs, and groans of the Elder brethren, who offered sharp admonitions as to the danger of such worldly amusements, closing with the quotation from Paul, "If meat make my brother to offend,

I will eat no more meat while the world stand." This often caused more wrath than penitence in these youthful members, leading to anything but a desire to emulate their would-be-sainted censors.

So the months passed into years until the Presbyterian Church succeeded in gaining as a church home the building afterwards occupied by the Methodists, since torn down.

While Mr. Roseel was Pastor in 1860, dissatisfaction arose among them and after an ineffectual attempt to change the Old into a New School Presbyterian, twenty-four went out from it and uniting with the Congregationalists, formed a New School Presbyterian Church. Then these two churches struggled on; they both were weak,

their ministers on meager salaries, partly paid by their respective boards. Can you imagine the amount of pious(?) zeal displayed in their haste to make the first call upon any newcomers to worship with US in OUR church. A pitiable plight! Esau estranged from Jacob.

Then the dark clouds of war shrouded the land and our nation went down in a baptism of blood to arise forever free from the curse of slavery. One of the main causes of separation having been removed, the Old and New School churches re-united in 1869.

Then in Neenah, Esau and Jacob met in fraternal embrace.

(This delightful recollection was included with "A Story of Pioneer Days," which was "told by Mrs. Mary Aurelia Kimberly Hamilton on a summer morning by the Pacific Sea, and written by her daughter, Mary Emma Hamilton, 1913." The entire document is in the First Presbyterian Church archives.)



The Old Council Tree

The Old Council Tree was a “giant elm” near today’s Kimberly Point Park.

“We have it from Mr. [O. P.] Clinton that Gov. Doty often said that the tree was a general rendezvous and treaty ground for the tribes and bands of Indians up and down the [Fox] river. . .”*

The first Protestant services in Winnebago Rapids, which later became Neenah, were held in 1845 at the Harrison Reed residence located near the Council Tree. That first congregation included some who, a short time later, would help form the Presbyterian Church.

In August, 1848, the Rev. H. M. Robertson gathered a few Presbyterian families together and began conducting regular services at the home of Loyal H. Jones on West Wisconsin Ave. near where the Bergstrom Paper Mill (now a division of P. H. Glatfelter Co.) stands. Later that year, the congregation began meeting in a large room over the general store owned and operated by Mr. Jones and his partner, Perrine Yale. It was here that the First Presbyterian Church of Winnebago Rapids was formally organized on December 15, 1848 with 17 members.

Loyal Jones and Mr. Clinton had become acquainted before Mr. Clinton visited the region. Mr. Jones requested that Mr. Clinton “. . .note any favorable opportunities for investing in new lands, and informed him that, should he find any good location, with water-power and other requisites for building up a town, he should like to know it. . .”*



Harrison Reed's Homestead

1800: U.S. Federal offices moved from Philadelphia to Washington, D.C.; Thomas Jefferson is elected president.

1809: Abraham Lincoln is born.

1816: Federal government builds Fort Howard at what later becomes Green Bay and Fort Crawford at what later becomes Prairie du Chien.

1818-1836: Wisconsin is part of Territory of Michigan.

1823: Beethoven finishes *Missa Solemnis*, Op. 123.
Monroe Doctrine is adopted; closes continent to colonization by European countries.
Mexico becomes republic.

1828: Andrew Jackson is elected president, defeats John Quincy Adams.

1836: Davy Crockett is killed in battle at Alamo.
American painter Winslow Homer is born.
Wisconsin is granted separate territorial status.

1845: First religious services take place in Winnebago Rapids (Neenah) at homestead of Harrison Reed located near Old Council Tree. “An itinerant minister of the ever-alert Methodist church”* preaches.

1846: The Rev. O. P. Clinton, representing the Congregational

*History of Neenah by G. A. Cunningham, originally published in 1878 and reprinted in 1948 and 1997 by the Neenah Historical Society.



Home Missionary Society, conducts second Protestant service in Winnebago Rapids.

1847: Winnebago Rapids becomes village.

First schoolhouse in Neenah is built near public square, now Green Park.

Lawrence University is established in Appleton.

1848: Wisconsin joins Union as 30th state.

Three months after attaining statehood, state establishes University of Wisconsin on land granted by federal government .

First Presbyterian Church of Winnebago Rapids is formed by Presbytery of Wisconsin.

The Rev. H. M. Robertson serves as first pastor.

Winnebago Rapids consists of a saw mill, a grist mill, and a few settlers' cabins.

Communist Manifesto issued by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels.

Gold discovered in California; gold rush begins.

1849: Pail Factory is founded. Later becomes Menasha Wooden Ware, then Menasha Corporation.

1850: John R. and Harvey L. Kimberly build Neenah Mills, a flour mill.

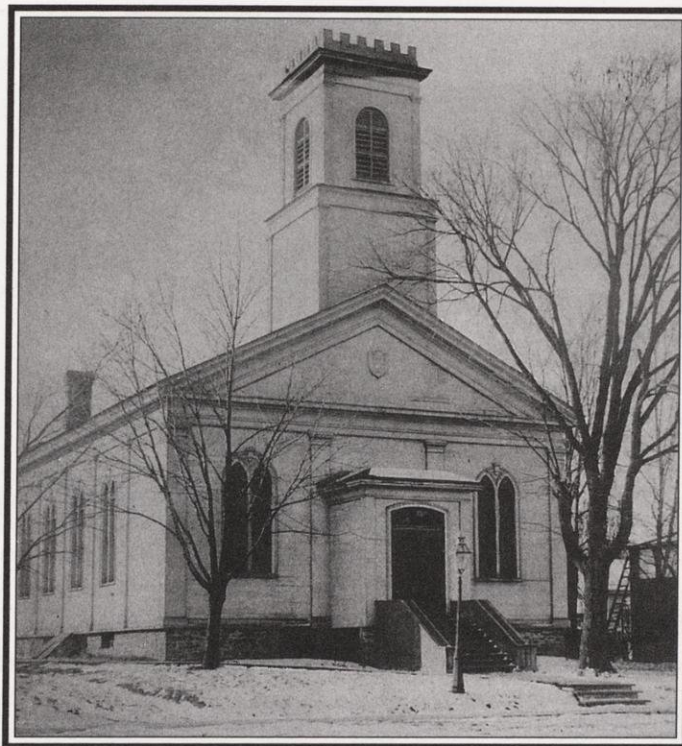
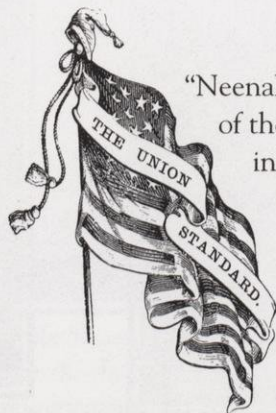


Photo from the Neenah Public Library collection.

First Presbyterian Church, 1851-1870. This first church building was located on East Wisconsin Avenue, near the center of the three hundred block on the south side of the street. The Rev. H. M. Robertson served the church until the end of 1853.



“Neenah has a noble record in the annals of the rebellion, three companies of infantry going from this place, besides many volunteers in other branches of the service, such as cavalry, artillery and the navy.”

G. A. Cunningham, *History of Neenah*



Photo from the Neenah Public Library collection.

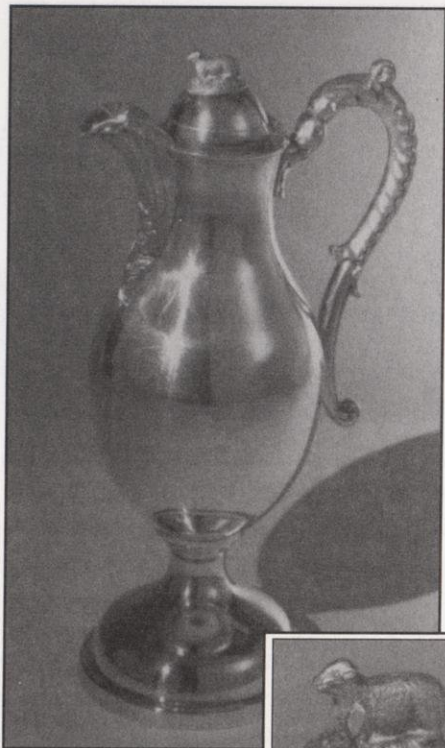
Second Presbyterian Church, 1860-1864. The “New School” church was located on Doty Avenue, its back yard almost touching the back yard of the “Old School” First Presbyterian Church on Wisconsin Avenue.

In 1837, the Presbyterians in the Eastern states split over the doctrine of predestination, which stated that only the “elect” would enter the Kingdom of Heaven. The “New School” Presbyterians, on the other hand, believed “whoever will, may come.”

The controversy came to a head in Neenah in 1860, when 24 members of First Presbyterian were granted letters of dismissal to unite with the Congregational Church. The Congregationalists and the dismissed Presbyterians formed Second Presbyterian Church in order to follow the more liberal “New School” of thought.

The Reverend J. E. Pond, who had been serving the Congregational Church, agreed to become the pastor and served Second Presbyterian for about a year.

The two churches were reunited in 1870.



The communion pitcher was given to the church in 1861 in memory of Aurelia Aldrich, wife of John R. Kimberly. Below, the Rev. Richard Moore pours from the pitcher as he prepares to lead the congregation in celebrating the Lord's Supper.

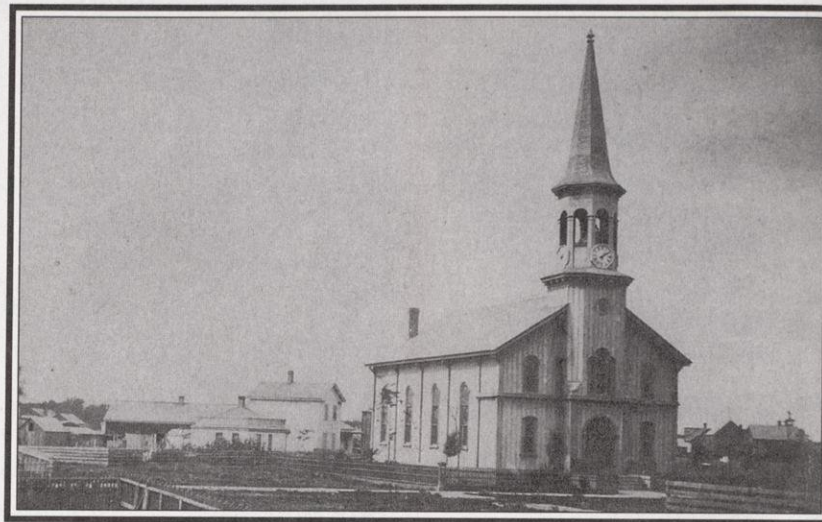


First Presbyterian Church, 1870-1900
(originally Second Presbyterian Church).

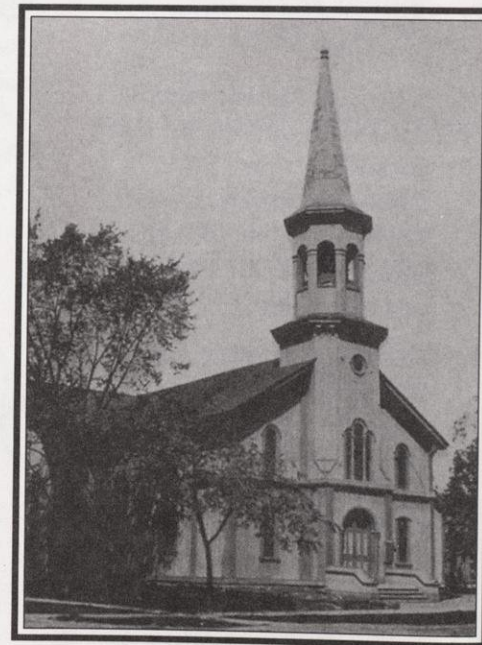
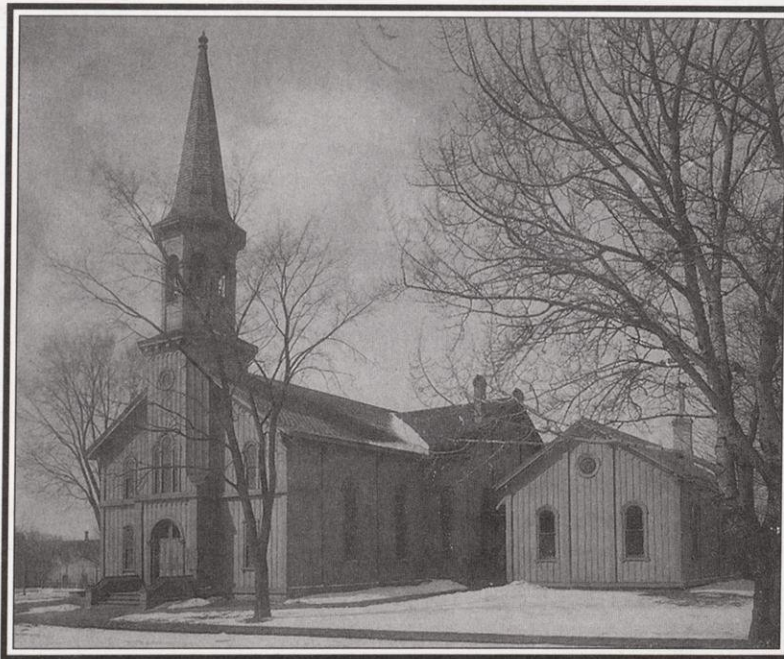
Built in 1864 at a cost of \$5,000, the Second Presbyterian Church building served the reunited congregation until 1900. Located where the church parking lot is now, the building was torn down after the "new" building was constructed in 1901.

Membership in the Old School (First Presbyterian) church declined, dropping to 75 at the time of the merger in 1870. The New School church membership was 175, bringing the total membership of the newly-constituted First Presbyterian Church to 250.

The building was enlarged in 1871. It was cut in half, the rear moved back, wings and a chapel added, and new siding applied. Thanks to generous donations by a "few liberal members," the remodeled building was free of debt at its dedication service.



Second Presbyterian Church, 1864-1870 (above and below right). The photo above may have been taken shortly after the church was built. Originally, the building had a clock right below the openings in the bell tower; it was probably visible from four directions. The clock had been removed by the time the photo below right was taken.





1851: **Presbyterian congregation erects first church building.**

Nathaniel Hawthorn writes *The House of the Seven Gables*.

Isaac Singer develops sewing machine.

New York Times begins publication.

1852: **Church women organize Sunday School; church Elder, W. L. Lindsley serves as superintendent for about five years.**

E. Smith, H. Sherry, H. Wheeler build Winnebago Flouring Mills. In 1857, John Proctor purchases half interest.

1853: Village of Menasha is incorporated.

1854: **The Rev. J. H. Rosseel is called and serves First Presbyterian Church until 1861.**

Republican Party forms on March 20 in Ripon, Wisconsin.

1856: Village of Neenah is chartered; charter creating Winnebago Rapids had been found to be invalid.

First U. S. kindergarten starts in Watertown, Wisconsin.

1857: **John Proctor becomes Sunday School superintendent.**

1858: **United Presbyterian Church in North America is formed.**

1860: **Old School/New School split occurs in Neenah. Second**

“Old School” and “New School” Presbyterians Get Together Again

On December 28, 1869, the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church (Old School) appointed a committee of seven to meet with a similar committee from Second Presbyterian Church (New School) to discuss uniting the two churches. Representing First Presbyterian were Session members J. W. Whitenack, David Blakely, J. A. Kimberly, and Robert Shiells, and three church members, N. DeMerritt, William T. Merriman, and John Fullerton. Representing Second Presbyterian Church were Session members William N. Moore, J. C. Enos, Samuel Mitchell, and Thomas Cook, as well as church members John Proctor, Dr. S. Galentine, and J. L. Clement.

On January 1, 1870, “after prayer and consultation [the two churches] appointed a subcommittee, consisting of



John Proctor was the Sunday School superintendent for 20 years during the 1870s and 1880s. He is reported to have carried his Greek testament to church and translated from Greek into English as the lessons were read. Mr. Proctor was a partner in the firm of Smith & Proctor which operated Winnebago Mills, a flour mill.

J. L. Clement and Robert Shiells, to draw up articles of union between the two churches.”

At separate congregational meetings held later that month, the two congregations each voted unanimously to merge. The Articles of Agreement dealt with the disposition of church property, financial obligations of the two congregations, election of elders and deacons, officers of the church societies, and collections. One of the articles stated that “In order that both congregations may have an opportunity of renting pews, as soon as a day can be fixed for that purpose, it is recommended that the congregation now worshiping in the Second church, shall vacate the pews they now hold.”

The new church would be called First Presbyterian Church of Neenah and the congregations would come together and worship in what was then the Second Presbyterian Church building.



Probably taken after the 1871 remodeling, this photo shows the front of the church which served first as Second Presbyterian Church and then, following reunification, as First Presbyterian Church.

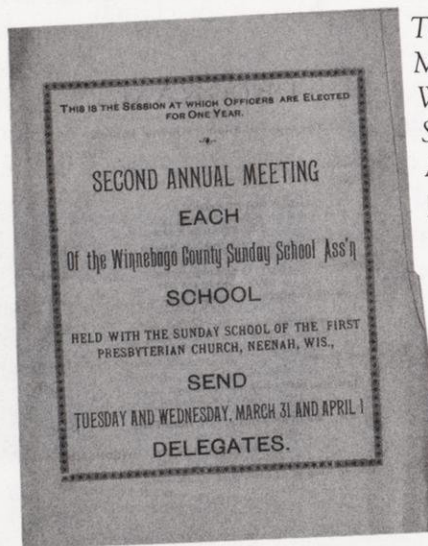
(Information taken from History of Neenah by G. A. Cunningham.)



N. S. PRESBYTERIAN SABBATH SCHOOL.		
NEENAH, 1864.		To be Committed.
No.	Date.	Subject.
1	Jan. 3	A Savior Forsook.
2	" 10	The Herald of Christ.
3	" 17	The Temptation of Christ.
4	" 24	The Humble Petitioner.
5	" 31	True Worship.
6	Feb. 7	The First Festival.
7	" 14	The Herald of Life.
8	" 21	The Trial of Peter's Faith.
9	" 28	The Efficacy of Prayer.
10	March 6	God's Care for the Poor.
11	" 13	Filial Affection.
12	" 20	Sacredness of an Oath.
13	" 27	The Good Samaritan.
14	April 3	Lame Man at the Pool of Bethesda.
15	" 10	The Good Shepherd.
16	" 17	The Great Prayer Meeting.
17	" 24	The Lie of Ananias.
18	May 1	The First Martyr.
19	" 8	The Conversion of Saul.
20	" 15	A Sinner's Bath to be Hathewed.
21	" 22	The Sabbath and Thirtieth Denounced.
22	" 29	Swearing and Their Results.
23	June 5	Drunkenness and its Words.
24	" 12	David's last Words.
25	" 19	Anger Forbidden.
26	" 26	Judgment of Job.
27	July 3	The Decision of the Question.
28	" 10	The Storm at Sea.
29	" 17	The Rainbow.
30	" 24	Disrespect to venerable persons Punish'd.
31	" 31	God Loveth a Cheerful Giver.
32	Aug 7	The Christian's Armor.
33	" 14	The Boat of all Evil.
34	" 21	The Unpardonable Sin.
35	" 28	The Forgiveness of Injuries.
36	Sept. 4	Obedience to Civil Rulers.
37	" 11	Illnesses Reproved.
38	" 18	The Star of Bethlehem.
39	" 25	God's Providence.
40	Oct. 2	The Watchers.
41	" 9	The Star of Ingratitude.
42	" 16	The Sin of Unbelief.
43	" 23	The Sin of Hypocrisy.
44	" 30	The Sin of Merit.
45	Nov. 6	The Benard Serpent.
46	" 13	Meas at the Waters of Meribah.
47	" 20	Evil Companions.
48	" 27	Blasphemy Punish'd.
49	Dec. 4	The New Birth.
50	" 11	Christ and the Christian Inseparable.
51	" 18	The Lord's Prayer.
52	" 25	The End of Time.
		Isa. 7:10-16
		John 1:19-24
		Matt. 4:1-11
		Mark 7:24-30
		John 4:20-25
		" 2:1-12
		" 6:47-59
		Matt. 14:24-31
		1 Kings 18:32-40
		2 Kings 4:1-7
		Ruth 1:14-18
		Josh. 9:16-21
		Luke 10:30-37
		John 5:2-9
		" 10:11-17
		Acts 2:1-4
		" 3:1-5
		" 7:54-60
		" 9:1-6
		Luke 22:54-62
		Isa. 38:13-14
		Zach. 3:1-4
		Prov. 23:29-32
		2 Sam. 23:1-7
		Prov. 23:28-34
		Josh. 24:14-18
		Acts 27:14-29
		Gen. 9:12-17
		12 Kings 2:23-25
		2 Cor. 9:6-10
		Eph. 6:13-17
		1 Tim. 6:6-10
		Matt. 12:31-32
		" 18:22-25
		Rom. 24:1-7
		Prov. 24:30-34
		Matt. 23:1-10
		Luke 12:22-28
		Matt. 25:1-13
		John 13:21-35
		Num. 11:18-29
		Heb. 3:12-19
		Matt. 23:23-33
		Num. 21:4-9
		" 20:7-11
		Prov. 1:10-17
		Lev. 24:10-16
		John 3:1-7
		Rom. 8:35-39
		Matt. 6:9-13
		2 Peter 3:10-14

Memorizing Bible verses was an important part of Sunday School in the 1800s. This schedule shows which verses were to be committed to memory each week from January through December, 1804.

The Second Annual Meeting of the Winnebago County Sunday School Association was probably held some time in the mid to late 1800s. On the back is the note that "Neenah people will gladly entertain all who attend the meeting. Bring Bibles and Gospel Hymns Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4."



In 1870, the newly reunited First Presbyterian Church called the Rev. John Chapin to be its pastor. He held the post for 33 years.

His tenure was a remarkable one. In addition to helping heal the rift caused by the Old School/New School split, he established a Women's Missionary Society in the church, and, in 1871, organized a Young Peoples' Meeting "for prayer, praise, and study of the Scriptures." The Society later became a Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor and served the youth of the church for many years.

Mr. Chapin was instrumental in soliciting and delivering funds and other aid to the people of the Peshtigo region after the disastrous fire of 1871. According to present member and local historian Nate Wauda, Mr. Chapin encouraged 83 families who had lost everything in the fire to move to Neenah. He then found jobs for the men at the Bergstrom and Kimberly & Clark paper mills and most, if not all, of those families joined the Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Chapin also led the effort to remodel and enlarge the 1870 building and, when the congregation continued to grow, he spearheaded the project which led to the construction of a new building in 1901.

When Mr. Chapin announced his pending resignation during a worship service in 1903, the audience was stunned; many had never known another pastor. Mr. Chapin was named "pastor emeritus" for the remaining eight years of his life.



The Rev. John E. Chapin, D.D.

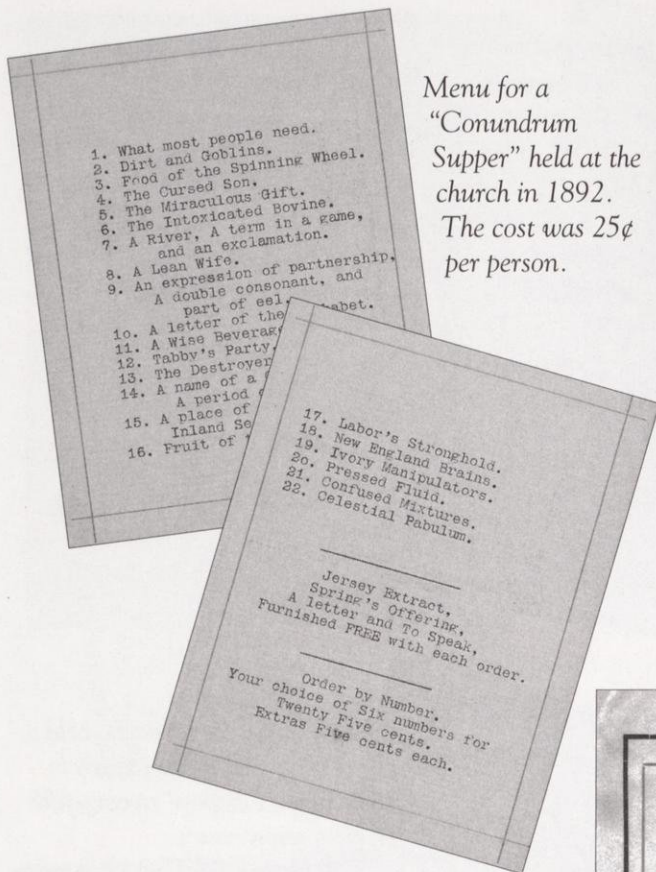
Presbyterian Church (New School) forms and calls the Rev. J. Evarts Pond as pastor. Presbyterian church splits, forming two branches: Presbyterian Church in the U.S. (southern branch) and Presbyterian Church in the USA (northern branch). Abraham Lincoln is elected 16th President of United States and South Carolina secedes from Union. German composer Gustav Mahler is born.

1861: The Rev. H. B. Thayer begins three years as pastor to First Presbyterian Church. Kansas becomes state. On April 12, Confederates capture Fort Sumter in Charleston, South Carolina, harbor and Civil War begins. Acheaeopteryx, skeleton showing link between reptiles and birds, is discovered in Germany.

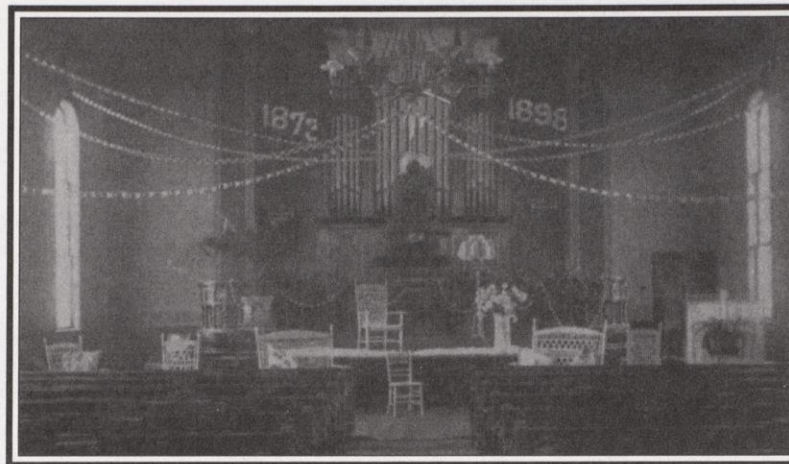
1862: The Rev. H. G. McArthur comes to Second Presbyterian Church. On Sept. 22, Pres. Lincoln issues Emancipation Proclamation, freeing all slaves as of Jan. 1, 1863.

American author Henry David Thoreau dies.

1863: The Rev. James Bassett is called by Second Presbyterian Church (his salary was \$600); John

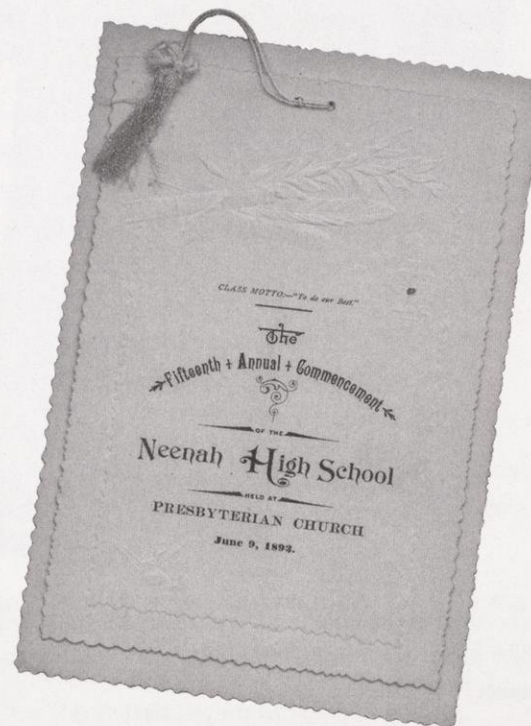
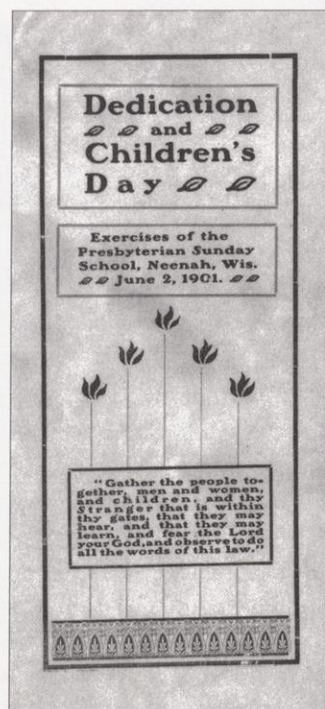


Menu for a
"Conundrum
Supper" held at the
church in 1892.
The cost was 25¢
per person.



When the church celebrated its Fiftieth Anniversary in 1898, children created paper chains to festoon the nave. Apparently some of the adults felt that such decorations were not appropriate. However, the controversy was resolved and the chains were hung.

Cover of the program for "Dedication and Children's Day" exercises on June 2, 1901. The program included songs performed by the young ladies choir; a recitation of "The Babies; God bless them," by three primary scholars; baptism of children; a solo, "Little Blossom," sung by Lily Eisenach; a recitation of "The Bird's Message" by Kate Averill; a recitation and song, "Jesus Loves Me," by Nellie Morehouse; a short sermon on the topic of "Giving," by Ralph Fenton; graduating exercises for two classes; an address by the pastor [Dr. Chapin]; hymns; and a collection for Sunday School mission work.



to Second Presbyterian Church, 18
serves until 1869.

Lewis Carroll (C. L. Dodgson) writes *Alice in Wonderland*. Neenah Paper Mill built. This was Neenah's first paper mill and it was purchased by Kimberly, Clark & Co. in 1874.

1867: The Rev. J. C. Kelly is called to First Presbyterian. Mr. Kelly works hard to bring about reunification of Old School and New School churches, a feat finally accomplished at end of his tenure in Neenah.

U.S. purchases Alaska for \$7,200,000 from Russia. Mark Twain publishes "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County." Johann Strauss II composes "Blue Danube" waltz.

1869: Wisconsin man, Christopher Latham Sholes, perfects first typewriter; sells invention to the E. Remington Company.

1870: The Rev. John E. Chapin, D.D. is called to lead the now-reunited Presbyterians as pastor of First Presbyterian Church; serves for 33 years, until 1903. J. A. Kimberly becomes Sunday School superintendent for the "United School." Presbyterian churches are established in Oshkosh and Appleton.



1871: On Oct. 8, fire destroys Peshtigo, Wisconsin. At least 1,200 people perish in blaze which sweeps across 2,400 square miles of land in Wisconsin and Michigan. On the same day, the great Chicago fire rages in that city.

Women's Missionary Society established; Mrs. Chapin is first president.

Oshkosh Normal School (teacher training school, now UW-Oshkosh) opens.

1872: Kimberly, Clark & Co. formed. Badger Globe Mill completed; begins operating in October. Company owners: J. A. Kimberly, C. B. Clark, H. Babcock, and F. C. Shattuck, all members of First Presbyterian Church.

1873: Neenah is incorporated as city. **Chapel is added to First Presbyterian Church.**

1874: Erich Wiess (later known as Harry Houdini) is born in Appleton. Menasha is incorporated as city. Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children is founded in New York.

John Proctor is named Sunday School superintendent for second time.

Neenah Nodaway Yacht Club is formed.

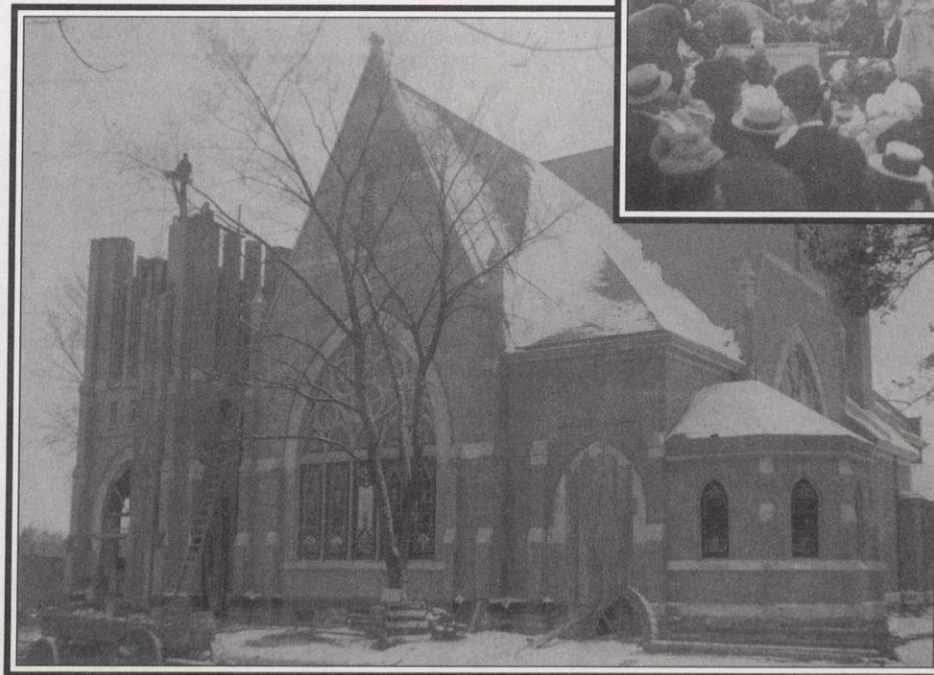
Time line continued on p. 19.

At about the time that First Presbyterian was celebrating its Fiftieth Anniversary, plans were being made for a new building to replace the old church with a facility that would better serve a growing congregation. The old building was demolished, the chapel sold and moved away, and a new building was constructed on the same site.

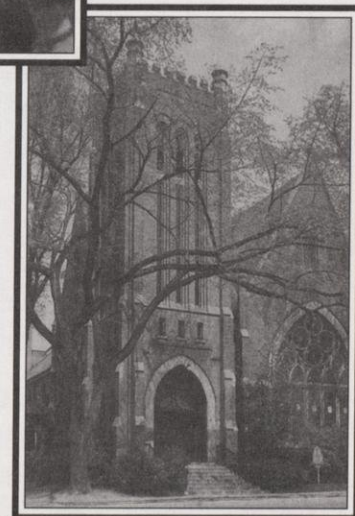
From April, 1900 until the new church was dedicated in June, 1901, the congregation met at the Neenah City Hall. The new building cost approximately \$30,000 and served the congregation until the present building was constructed in the 1950s.

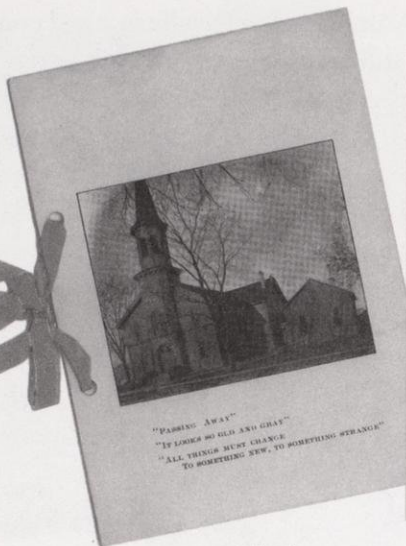
“This foundation stone is laid, not only in hope, but in full trust and confidence that God will continue to bless and acknowledge His work here, which has grown and prospered for upwards of half a century. That He will fulfill to the generations yet to come, all His promises as regards the spread of knowledge of His glorious gospel. That, as in the past, the wilderness and the solitary place have been made glad, the desert has rejoiced and blossomed as the rose, so in the years to come they shall blossom abundantly and rejoice even with joy and singing. May the edifice which is to arise on this spot be a type of that enduring temple, the foundations of which were laid by the wise master builder, and whose builder and maker is God. If any one shall ask, in the language of Job, who laid the corner stone thereof? May the answer be, it was built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone.”

(Closing paragraph of remarks made by Robert Shiells, Session Clerk, on August 5, 1900 when the cornerstone was laid.)



First Presbyterian Church, 1901 through 1953: laying the cornerstone (inset), under construction (lower left), several years later (below).





MENU	
Who was the first poultry-cook spoken of in the Bible? Paul—when he went to kill a pig. (Phillips)	
Escalloped Oysters	
Creamed Chicken	
Mashed Potato	
Buttered Rolls	
Jelly	Pickles
Candied Orange	
Ice Cream	
Cake	
Coffee	

TOASTS.	
"To thankful mirth be this white hour assigned, And sweet discourse the banquet of the mind"	
DR. J. R. BARNETT, Sr., Toastmaster.	
Instrumental Solo . Mrs. Hawks	
Our Old Church in '52 . . . Mrs. Hamilton	
Our Old Church in '69 . . . Mrs. Fenton	
Song: "I Cannot Sing the Old Songs" Mrs. Oborn	
Our New Church Mr. W. M. Gilbert	
Recitation . Mrs. Reek	
Song: "It Is Not Always May" Mrs. Oborn	
Chang and Progress Dr. Chapin	

The last congregational dinner at the old church.

JUNE 2, 1901

DEDICATE NEW CHURCH TO-DAY

Neenah Presbyterians to Put \$35,000 Structure Into Service at Once.

WOMEN RAISED FUNDS

Ladies' Society Gave Concerts and Secured Pledges Required Before the Work Began.



New Presbyterian Church at Neenah, Wis.

house of worship will be formally dedicated. Not alone does the Presbyterian society rejoice in the erection of the new edifice, but the feeling is universal in this city which has been beautified by the handsome structure. The building as it stands to-day, fully equipped in every detail, is the result of woman's will and determination, as it was through the efforts of the Ladies' society of the Presbyterian church that its erection was made possible, and the where-

The Milwaukee Sentinel included an article about the new building.

Even before the new church was dedicated, a special organ concert was presented in the building. Ticket prices were \$1.00 for reserved seats in the main auditorium and 50¢ and 25¢ for unreserved seats in the lecture room. The article assures those buying the less expensive tickets that they "will be able to see the singer and hear as well as in any part of the house." Proceeds from the concert were used to "help liquidate the debt on the organ."

GRAND ORGAN CONCERT

—AT THE—
First Presbyterian Church,
NEENAH
Friday Evening, May 31
AT 8 O'CLOCK.

ARTISTS.
MR. HARRISON M. WILD, organist of Grace Episcopal church, Chicago, also conductor of the Apollo and Mendelssohn clubs of that city.
MR. CHARLES W. CLARK, of Chicago, the most popular baritone in the west and one of the most prominent singers of this country. Mr. Clark is an artist of the highest standing, whose services are sought by such organizations as the Oratorio Society of Boston, Theodore Thomas orchestra, etc.

Accompanists, ALEXANDRE M. ZENIER and CLARENCE E. SHEPARD, Appleton, pianists of great ability, who need no introduction to this public.

The committee in charge has spared no expense in presenting to the citizens of this community, as a fitting opening of the handsome new church edifice, a concert of the highest order.

RESERVED SEATS—Main auditorium, \$1.00 each; Lecture room (seats not reserved) 50 and 25 cents each.

Reserved seat chart and tickets on sale at M. E. Barrett & Co.'s beginning Monday, May 27. 29-1

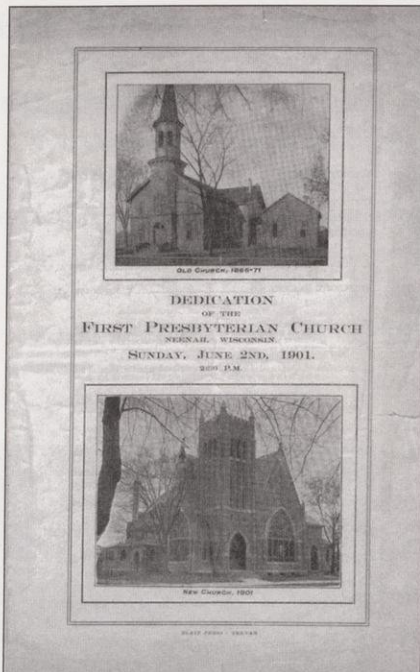
Concert Notice.

For the benefit of many who have not visited the new Church the Concert Committee desires to say that the seats in the Lecture room at 50 cents are as desirable as any in the main Auditorium and preferable to some. Those occupying the 25 cent seats will be able to see the singer and hear as well as in any part of the house. The distance from the platform to the farthest side of the lecture room is exactly the same as the farthest point in the main Auditorium. It has been the object of the Committee to place a fine concert within the reach of every one and at the same time realize as much as possible to help liquidate the debt on the organ. 9-1

—The ladies of the Presbyterian church will give a supper at the new church on June 11.

The Boys' Brigade was organized by the Rev. J. E. Chapin, pastor of First Presbyterian Church in early 1900, to give boys "a place where they could meet with their friends and where they could have military drill." In 1901, S. F. Shattuck, a recent graduate of Yale University and member of First Presbyterian, took over the leadership for a period of time. It was S. F. Shattuck, who, after a trip to England with his wife in 1909, encouraged the organization to become more like the British Boys' Brigade. In this photo, Mr. Chapin is at the far left of the first row and young S. F. Shattuck is the second from the right in the same row.





PROGRAMME

VOLUNTARY—

CHORUS—“ Zion awake from thy sadness ” Costa

INVOCATION—The people joining in the Lord’s Prayer.
Rev. P. S. Calvin, of the Baptist Church.

CHORUS—“ God hath appointed a day ” Cowan

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 132
Led by the Rev. A. E. Leonard,
of the Congregational Church, Menasha.

Minister—“ Lord remember David how the sworn unto the Lord, and vowed unto the mighty God of Jacob; surely I will not come into the tabernacle of my house, nor go up into my bed; I will not give sleep to mine eyes, or slumber to mine eyelids, until I find out a place for the Lord, a habitation for the mighty God of Jacob.

Congregation—Lo, we heard of it at Ephraim; we found it in the fields of the wood, we will go into his tabernacles; we will worship at his foot-stool.

Minister—Arise, O Lord, into thy rest; thou, and the ark of thy strength.

Congregation—Let thy priests be clothed with righteousness; and let thy saints shout for joy.

Minister—For the Lord has chosen Zion; he hath desired it for his habitation.

Congregation—This is my rest forever; here will I dwell; for I have desired it.

Minister—I will abundantly bless her provision; I will satisfy her poor with bread.

Congregation—I will also clothe her priests with salvation, and her saints shout aloud for joy.

CHORUS—“ The heavens are telling ” Haydn

READING OF SCRIPTURES—
Rev. J. D. Cole, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Neenah.

PRAYER—
Rev. L. C. Smith, Synodical Missionary.

HYMN NO. 35—
“ Arise O King of Grace! arise,
And enter to Thy rest,
Let Thy Church exult with longing eyes,
Thou to be evangel and bliss.
Enter with all thy glorious train,
Thy saints and Thy word,
All that bear rule and the crown of life,
Could no such grace afford.
Here mighty God! accept our vows;
Here let Thy praise be spread;
Bless the generations of Thy house,
And fill Thy poor with bread.
Here let the Son of David reign,
Let God’s Anointed sit;
Justice and truth his crown maintain,
With love and power divine.

COLLECTION.

SERMON—
Rev. Samuel N. Wilson, D. D., Wausau, Wis.

CHORUS—“ All men, all things sing to the Lord ” Mendelssohn

Report of Chairman of Building Committee, Mr. F. C. Shattuck.
Letters from former Pastors—Robt. Shiells, Clerk of the Session.

Transfer of Keys from Building Committee—
Chairman of Building Committee: I hereby transfer to you as Representative of the Board of Trustees, the keys of this new completed building.
Trustees’ Response: We accept these keys as the legally constituted custodians of this building.

DEDICATION—

Pastor and People—His foundation is in the holy mountains. The Lord loveth the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob. Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God. I will make mention of Rahab and Babylon to them that know me; behold Philistia, and Tyre, and Ethiopia: this man was born there. And of Zion, it shall be said, This and that man was born in her; and the highest Himself shall establish her. The Lord shall count, when he writeth up the people, that this man was born there. As well the singers as the players on instruments shall be there: all my springs are in thee.—Ps. 87.

Pastor—And the children of Israel, the priests and the Levites and the rest of the children of the captivity kept the dedication of the house of God with joy. Est. 6: 16.

People—This stone which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God’s house. Gen. 28: 22.

Pastor—What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 1 Cor. 6: 19.

People—For ye are bought with a price. Therefore glorify God in your bodies and spirits which are God’s. 1 Cor. 6: 20.

Pastor—Ye are God’s husbandry; ye are God’s building. 1 Cor. 3: 9.

People—Let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us; and establish thou the work of our hands; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it. Ps. 90: 17.

Pastor—God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him. Ps. 86: 7.

People—Receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear; for our God is a consuming fire. Heb. 12: 1.

People—Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves, together as the manner of some is. Heb. 10: 25.

Pastor—I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. Rom. 12: 1.

All—Now unto the King, eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

DEDICATORY PRAYER—
Rev. John McCoy, of Appleton, Wis.

Gaskins

HYMN
Composed by Judge Gaskins, a distinguished jurist of Terre Haute, Indiana, for a Dedication Service.

To them our home and hearts are given,
Arise and enter glorious King,
To them our home and hearts are given,
United let them speak Thy praise.

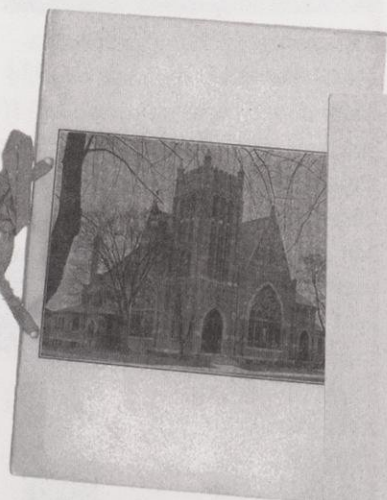
With light of life, O Saviour come,
Thine own bright glory shine our home,
For if Thy presence dwell not here,
All will be cold, and dead, and drear.

Here let our spirits join to praise
The King of glory—the rock of prayer;
Thy servants here with soul and penitence
Substance to the Saviour’s name.

With joy we give Thee of thine own
Make every heart a living stone—
Come, in King of glory come in,
And make our home and hearts Thy home.

BENEDICTION—
Rev. Jacob Scheller, of the Evangelical Church, Neenah.

The dedication of the new building was held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, June 2, 1901, with clergy from several area Protestant churches participating in the worship service. F. C. Shattuck was the chairman of the Building Committee, and Robert Shiells was Clerk of the Session.



Celebrating the move to the new building.

TOASTS

“Give no more to every guest
Than he is able to digest
Give him always of the prime
And but little at a time.”

MR. WM. GILBERT, Toastmaster.

“Many things impossible to thought
Have been by sweet to full perfection brought.”

“Our New Church” . . . **Mr. Schuster**

“How to Fill our New Church.”
Inst. 31: 12-14
Mr. L. C. Smith

“Dull is sweet music. I have heard soft airs,
But scarce our senses and eardrums raise.”

Solo Mrs. L. C. Oborn

“Bodily as church, ’twas such a busy life;
But sterner was his family and wife.”

“The Men of our Church,
where are they?” . . . **Mrs. Reek**

“Every man has at times in his mind, the ideal of what
he should be, but he has not.”

“The Joy of Realization.” **Dr. Chapin**

“Music to the close
As the last taste of sweets,
Is sweetest last.”

Solo Mr. LeTourneau

MENU

Cheerful looks, make every dish a feast
And his that crowns a welcome

Sweet Bread Patties
Saratoga Chips
Bread and Butter Sandwiches
Pickles
Salted Peanuts Fruit Salad

Ice Cream
Cake
Coffee

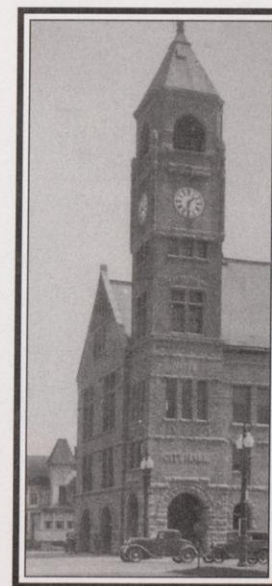


Photo from the Neenah Public Library collection.

While the church building was under construction (from about April, 1900, through June, 1901) the congregation met at Neenah’s City Hall on the corner of Commercial St. and Doty Ave. The clock tower is all that remains of the building which was torn down in the 1970s. (1930s photo)



Neenah



Times.

Best Advertising Medium in the Lower Fox River Valley

Established---Weekly Times in 1863.

VOL. 37. NO. 5,933.

NEENAH AND MENASHA, WIS., MONDAY EVENING, JUNE 3, 1901.

4 O'

FIFTY YEARS
OF
Presbyterianism
IN NEENAH.
New Church Building.—Historical Data, Etc.

The Times to-day gives much of its space to a succinct history of Presbyterianism in Neenah, the project for and building of the new church, and other items connected therewith. The editor considered it due to a society which has built one of the finest church edifices in Wisconsin, a pride to Neenah and to every citizen of whatever denomination. For much of the building data given, we are indebted to Mr. F. C. Shattuck, who both in his official and private capacity has given much of his time and attention to the work, from the

tated. M. Rosset's labors here closed in 1801, and he was followed by Rev. H. B. Thayer. He was succeeded by Rev. A. A. Dinmore. Then, in 1802, Rev. H. G. McArthur was installed pastor. In 1803 Rev. James Bassett was called here at a salary of \$600. In 1805 Rev. J. H. Walker became pastor of the church. In 1809 Rev. J. C. Kelly was pastor of the old church.

The conference committee upon a basis of

traveling Methodist preacher at the residence of Harrison Reed on the Point. This was in 1845.

The congregation numbered seven white people and a few Indians. Shortly after two of the seven whites died, a loss in one day of two-sevenths of Neenah's entire population.

On Feb. 9, 1847, the first church organization was made. It was Congregational in polity with the late Rev. O. P. Clinton at the head. At that time this was known as Whinnago Rapids, since changed to Neenah, the Indian for "water". In August, 1848, Rev. H. M. Robertson came here, collected the Presbyterians together and held services at the residence of Loyal H. Jones.

On Dec. 15, 1848, the first Presbyterian church of Whinnago Rapids was organized. Of the original members, the Times believes not one is alive to-day to witness the dedication of one of the finest church edifices in the west, the outcome of their anti-religious zeal and efforts.

In 1864 a fine church edifice was built, the one lately removed to give way for the recent imposing structure, and later the united congregations used the new building. Rev. J. H. Walker was pastor of the N. S. church when the union was effected in early January, but he resigned and Rev. J. E. Chapin succeeded him, preaching his first sermon here Jan. 9, 1869, and was called permanently and installed as pastor on May 10, 1870, thirty-one years ago.

Last Social in Old Building.

The last church social held in the old church building was on the evening of March 30, 1900, upon which occasion Dr. J. R. Barrett acted as toastmaster. Miss Hamilton read a paper on early church history. Mrs. Fenton related personal experiences of early church days. J. C. Kerwin

used floor leading to the auditorium. This room is sixty feet and has a seating capacity of about 200. It has a slanting floor with a pitch of about three feet from rear to pulpit. To the east of the auditorium is a lecture room 50x50 feet. This is closed from the main room by fan folding doors. At the east end of the room are a number of stall apartments for Sunday school classes. These also open to each other with fan folding doors. Two large galleries are placed above either side of the room. To the north of the lecture room is the juvenile Sunday school room. This is 28x30 feet and is separated from the main Sunday school room by two sets of double doors with space between. In the west side of the building is the baptis-

tor, a large

Glass—H. M. Looker & Co., Chicago.

Heating—Street & Baumgarten, Neenah. Complete throughout.

Gas—Maynard Bros., Elgin, Ill.

Wiring—Kurz & Root, Appleton.

Painting—Henry Nelson, Neenah, a master job of artistic work.

Plumbing—Ryan & Long, Appleton.

On April 7th, 1900, the contract was let to Oscar Sindahl to tear down the old building and remove the chapel to near city hall.

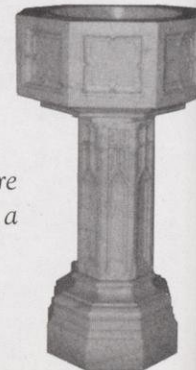
The Thompson Bros., who had the contract for the mason work, broke ground for the new building on the 29th of May, 1900. They had

ment on

According to the newspaper article, "The auditorium was lit with 24 jet chandeliers in the center of the room, besides side wall jets. However, the entire building was also wired for electricity, just in case the Society should wish to use such lights sometime."



The chancel of the new church. Major changes were made in 1934 when a new organ was installed. If you look carefully in the lower right hand corner of the photo (in front of the chancel) you can see the marble baptismal font which is still used. In the smaller photo, the Rev. Richard Moore prepares to baptize a baby during the 1990s.



I Remember When

I remember as a boy, probably sixth grade, going to the church every Thursday afternoon to pick up five to ten church bulletins for the following Sunday. Jack Renner, Bill Daniels, and Bill Thompson were some of the boys who also did this (and we're all still in the church!). We would deliver the bulletins to members of the church in our neighborhoods. It was nice to meet the families who lived near you. Maybe that gave the members a chance to read the bulletin and decide whether that was going to be a good Sunday!

Raymond Smith (1998)





1875: Neenah establishes city school system.

1877: Thomas A. Edison invents phonograph.

1882: Thomas Edison's first electric generating plant begins producing electricity on Sept. 4. On Sept. 30, world's first hydroelectric plant, on the Fox River in Appleton, begins operations; powers paper mill machinery and first electric lights in private residence (Hearthstone). In 1882, it powers country's first electric streetcar system.

Geo. A. Whiting Paper Co. is formed.

1883: **Mr. J. L. Clement becomes Sunday School superintendent.**

1884: Grover Cleveland is elected president.
Mark Twain writes *Huckleberry Finn*.

World's first "tube," or underground railroad, is built in London.

Ringling Brothers Circus presents its first performance, at Baraboo, Wisconsin and spends winters in that city.

1885: **Mr. D. W. Bergstrom accepts position as Sunday School superintendent.**

1887: Gilbert Paper Co. is formed.

Excerpts from the Rev. John E. Chapin's annual report to the congregation on February 5, 1900.

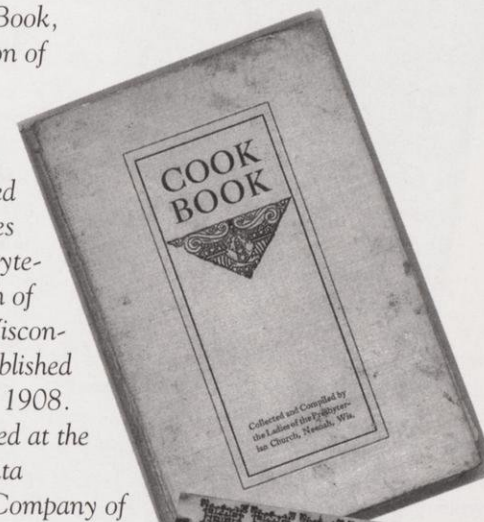
"...Our last annual meeting showed a spirit of activity in the various branches of church work that was highly encouraging. Every treasury was square and in surplus save one. The church treasury had upon it that ugly thing called an arrearage. How it is this year we shall soon see. So far as the pastor's salary is concerned it has shown no tendency at this time. Every week the treasury has brought its supply as faithfully as did the Lord's ravens to Elijah. And so we shall await a happy and animating report...."

"In additions to the church membership there has been a slight improvement over last year...."

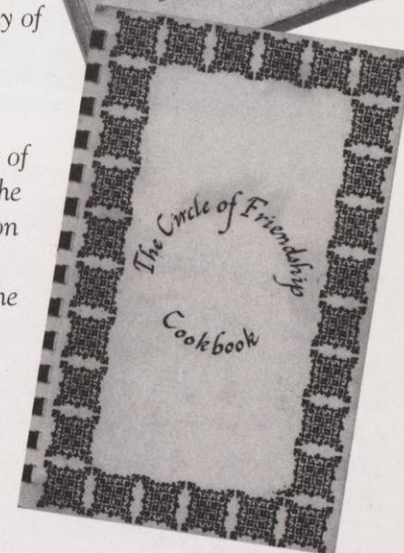
"And now we are to reflect that we hold for the last time, perhaps, an annual meeting in the old church. Upon this ground is soon to arise a new building, substantial, commodious and offering increased facilities for doing our work. The unanimity with which the work has been undertaken and the responsiveness manifested is to be noted. The total amount settled upon as necessary was promptly raised and every dollar stands pledged before a step is taken. And now the plans are being considered and settled and by spring the work is to begin. The building committee realizes that a weighty responsibility rests upon them....Especially let us pray that this new enterprise and this new building may not lead us into temptation, that it may not be a source of contention and strife or that [it] be not the fosterer of pride and vain show. Let us see to it that it be as much the home of the poor as the rich and that the pure Word of God may ever find utterance and loyalty here."

"Only as we build it to the glory of God and consecrate it to the service of Jesus Christ will it be a source of blessing to the community and to the world...."

The Cook Book, "A collection of favorite recipes contributed and compiled by the Ladies of the Presbyterian Church of Neenah, Wisconsin" was published in October, 1908. It was printed at the George Banta Publishing Company of Menasha.



Following the same tradition, the Circle of Friendship, one of the Women's Association circles, published a cookbook called "The Circle of Friendship Cookbook" in the early 1980s.





Minutes.

July 17, 1901.
 A meeting of those interested in the idea of forming a training class for the study of child nature, was held in the Primary Room of the Presbyterian Church. Eight present.
 After considerable discussion, a motion was made and carried that such a class be organized. Also, that a meeting be held in one week, for the purpose of more definite organization; and if the books are secured before that time, that a chapter or club be formed of the purpose and scope of such a class.
 The meeting then adjourned, after deciding that all meetings for the present be held in the Primary Room.
 Anna L. Proctor - Sec. Pres. Com.

From the Neenah and Menasha Daily News.

In 1901, a group of church women formed the Child Study Class, which later became The Bible and Sunday School Teachers' Union. Study topics seemed to include child development as well as teaching methods. The first officers were Miss Harriet Smith, president; Miss Anna Proctor, vice president; and Miss Olla Perry, secretary and treasurer. Miss Callie Babcock and Mrs. Louisa Elwers were appointed to act as the program committee.

SATURDAY, FEB 4 1911

OBITUARY

The Rev. John E. Chapin, D. D. passed peacefully from this earth at 5:20 o'clock this morning. For some months past, Dr. Chapin had been confined to his bed, though he suffered no pain and had been able to see visitors daily. Yesterday he seemed as well as usual throughout the day, but after supper, complained of nausea and pain in his head. Almost immediately he elapsed into unconsciousness from cerebral pressure and died some hours later.

John Edwards Chapin was born in Maysville, Mason county, Kentucky, December 3, 1829. At the age of three years, he was brought to Indiana by his parents, and grew to manhood on a farm at Putnamville, near Greencastle. It was there when a youth of seventeen that he united with the Presbyterian church un-

1892: University of Wisconsin becomes first state university provide extension courses.

1898: First Presbyterian celebrates 50th Anniversary. Mr. J. F. Conant serves as Sunday School superintendent for four months; Mr. D. W. Bergstrom replaces Mr. Conant and serves until 1913.

U.S. declares war on Spain over Cuba; after signing Treaty of Paris, U.S. pays Spain \$20 million and receives Cuba, Puerto Rico, Guam, and Philippines.

1900: May — groundbreaking ceremonies for new church building.

Boys' Brigade (became Boys' and Girls' Brigade in 1979) founded.

Cake Walk becomes popular.

Local highlights of the decade:

Women's Tuesday Club is established; City begins using water mains to deliver water to residents; C. B. Clark, church member and local industrialist, is first Neenah resident elected to state legislature.

1901: Congregation dedicates new building.

Pres. William McKinley is assassinated; Theodore Roosevelt becomes president.

I Remember When

It must have been in the early 1980s, when former pastor John Bouquet and his wife Margaret were still coming back to visit friends. This particular Sunday John was the guest preacher. He was deep into his sermon when out of the rafters came a bat. Well, this caused some panic among those assembled because the bat flew low over the congregation several times....even took a turn at buzzing John.

While the rest of us ducked by instinct, John looked up, never missing a beat, and said, "some things never change" and continued on with his sermon to its conclusion.

We talked about the implications of the "act of God" for a long time!
 Jack Speech (1998)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Dear Friend:
 Neenah, Wisconsin, January 26, 1909

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Neenah, will be held on Friday evening, February nineteenth, at 7:30 o'clock, in the lecture room of the church. Reports of the year's work are to be read, and one Trustee is to be elected for the term of three years.

The roll of the church will NOT be called this year, but an accurate record will be made of individual attendance of the members at the Annual Meeting. If unable to be present, please send written notification to the Pastor, either by mail or by the hand of some friend, so that it may be received by that evening, and recorded as an evidence of interest on the part of those who cannot attend in person.

Members who are out of the city, whether permanently or temporarily, are requested to send an early response to the Pastor, (a verse of scripture will answer,) that may be read at a special Prayer Meeting Service to be held on Thursday evening, February eighteenth.

Let us "forsake not the assembling of ourselves together" at this important meeting of our church.

That the Lord may grant you great spiritual blessings this year, is the earnest prayer of

Your Pastor,

J. L. MARQUIS.

415 South Commercial Street.



February 29.

THE EXAMINER

249

A Model Sunday School

BY PRESIDENT WILBUR O. CARRIER, CARROLL COLLEGE

For many years it has been the privilege of the writer to observe the plans and workings of a Sunday school in the First Presbyterian Church of Neenah, Wisconsin, of which Rev. John Logan Marquis is the pastor. I do not mean that the Sunday school is perfect, but it is certainly a model and is one of the best organized, most faithfully conducted and efficient schools that I have ever known, and this is the result of years of development of consecrated lives and thoughtful attention. The school has been under the superintendency of Mr. D. W. Bergstrom for many years, and he conducts it on the same splendid business principles with which he does his own large business enterprise. He is one of Neenah's foremost business men and is devoted to the interests of young people and gives time and thought in his own home to the study of the Word of God and to the methods of Sunday school work. To quote his own words given in an excellent paper before the Wisconsin State Sunday School Association, he says: "The Sunday school of today is a big business and we should realize if we would have it succeed we must give the same zeal and the like fidelity to it that is bestowed upon the commercial enterprise." Mr. Bergstrom is supported in his efforts by a goodly number of most excellent and intelligent people who manifest a like zeal and devotion to the work as himself. Among those is Mr. Frank Shattuck,



D. W. Bergstrom

a progressive business man and a graduate of Yale, and is now president of the Wisconsin State Sunday School Association.

In the first place the church building is a model for Sunday school purposes, being so constructed that six departments can meet simultaneously in different rooms and each with a separate outside door. These rooms are so constructed that they may be thrown open for union service, and yet with double sliding doors so that the singing in one department does not interfere with the other. There are five departments that meet regularly every Sunday at the same time, namely: the senior, intermediate, junior, primary and beginners. The total enrollment of these departments is nearly six hundred. Each department is presided over by a separate superintendent, who has entire oversight of the department by the approval of the Superintendents' Council.

There is also a home department and a cradle roll, each one of which is faithfully looked after by a superintendent. One of the adult Bible classes in the senior department is conducted as a teachers' training class, and there is also another teachers' training class which meets during the week, and these classes are the special charge of a young lady thoroughly trained for this work and a graduate of Moody Bible Institute. A teachers' meeting is held for three quarters of an hour following the mid-week prayer meeting, at

which time the superintendent of the school directs the study of the lesson. The whole school is under the management of the superintendent and his council, which is composed of the superintendent, secretary and treasurer of the Sunday school, together with the heads of the departments and the pastor of the church. This council holds a monthly meeting.

The whole spirit of the school is to keep constantly in mind the great purpose and mission of the Sunday school, as is stated by the International Secretary, Mr. Marion Lawrance.

First: A thorough study of God's Word.

Second: The Salvation of Souls.

Third: Training its members for active Christian Service.

Fourth: The world-wide view of God's Kingdom.

In all the departments of the school the Bible is made the text book, and much attention is given to the teachers' thorough preparation for instruction, and the school is well supplied with Bibles and maps in each department and [an] abundance of song books.

A definite aim is to lead the scholars into a Christian life and to engage in some definite form of Christian service. Much attention is also given to the study of foreign missions, and monthly offerings are taken for this cause.

Much is made of three services a year that has to do with Christmas, Children's Day and Rally Day, at which time all the school is brought together in a common service. On Rally Day a regular diploma of graduation is given to those who have completed the work of the grade and who pass into the advanced department.

Perhaps few schools have all the material advantages and so many competent and intelli-



S. Frank Shattuck

gent leaders, and certainly none have a more consecrated force of workers. Great effort is made on the part of the church and under the leadership of Mr. Frank Shattuck to hold the boys as they grow into young manhood in the church through the means of a splendid Boys' Brigade, that has done most efficient work now for eleven years, and the Sunday school is also made the training place for the children for church membership and a larger Christian service.

Reprinted here is an article which was published in The Examiner in about 1915. The publication was apparently sent to church leaders throughout the country. This was one of two articles about the Sunday School program which appeared at about the same time. Photos from the second article are on the following page.



Vol. 8. NOVEMBER, 1915. No. 11.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL EXECUTIVE

PUBLISHED IN THE INTEREST OF THE GREATER SUNDAY SCHOOL

First M. E. Church, Washington, D.C. (See article, page 4-5.)

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DAVID C. COOK PUBLISHING COMPANY
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A teacher training class.

The Executive, a monthly magazine for Sunday School teachers, published an article similar to the one on the previous page. This article, however, included several photographs of the Neenah Sunday School classes. Because they are almost the only photographic record we have showing church activities during this period (1900-1920), they are included here.



The beginner's class.



The intermediate class.



The primary class.

- 1902: U.S. gains control over Panama Canal.
- 1903: Dr. Chapin retires; the Rev. J. Logan Marquis, D.D. is called; serves until 1916.
Beatrix Potter writes "Peter Rabbit" and other children's stories.
Orville and Wilbur Wright fly first self-propelled airplane.
Henry Ford founds Ford Motor Company.
- 1905: Albert Einstein formulates Special Theory of Relativity.
First neon signs appear.
- 1907: Mother's Day is first celebrated in Philadelphia.
- 1908: L. H. Baekeland invents Bakelite, the product that introduced plastic to the world; commercial production begins in 1909.
- 1909: Robert Perry, U.S. explorer, reaches North Pole.
Automobile speedometer is invented in Beloit, Wisconsin.
- 1910: National Association for Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is founded.
Father's Day is first celebrated in Spokane, Washington.



In 1915, the entire Sunday School, along with at least some of the teachers, posed on the front steps of the church. D. W. Bergstrom, who served as the Sunday School superintendent for 28 years, can be seen to the left of the door. Everyone in the photo looks very solemn — no smiles. This is probably because it was difficult to hold a smile for as long as it took to take a photo in those days.



First Presbyterian Church of Neenah Wisconsin

Daniel Cothi Jones, D.D., Pastor

Residence 218 Church Street, Pastor's Home 392
Missionary Representatives Res. and Mrs. J. H. Springs Sons
Grand Karva



Corner of Church Street and Columbia Avenue
Church Floor 64

"Let us come before His presence with..."

Church Directory

THE SESSION

Daniel C. Jones, D.D., Moderator; Frederick G. Taylor, Clerk; Eldrick W. Bergstrom, Walter W. Osborn, David D. Young, John N. Bergstrom, Oscar J. Lindsey, George G. Jones, S. Frank Shattuck, Edward A. Severson.

DEACONS

John T. Harness, Oliver C. Lashar, David E. Price, Henry P. Jackson, George A. Handler, Daniel K. Brown, Myron A. Dunn, August Japs, Eli Defnet.

TRUSTEES

Harley C. Hilton, William H. Krueger, Nela G. Willmarson, William M. Gilbert, Henry K. Babcock, Harry M. Brown, Henry M. Sheerin, Frederick W. Abendschein, Frank W. Kellogg.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

General Superintendent, Dr. F. G. Taylor; General Secretary and Treasurer, D. Waldemar Bergstrom; Intermediate Superintendent, S. F. Shattuck; Junior Superintendent, W. W. Osborn; Primary Superintendent, Miss Anna Proctor; Beginners' Superintendent, Mrs. John Le Tournoux; Cradle Roll Superintendent, Mrs. Addie Kayas; Home Department Superintendent, Oscar J. Lindsey.

MEN'S BROTHERHOOD

President, Eli Defnet; Vice-president, Myron Dunn; Secretary, E. A. Severson; Treasurer, John O. Roberts.

WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN AND MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION

President, Mrs. M. H. Ott; Vice-presidents, Mrs. Fred Elwera, Mrs. Robert Jamison; Secretary, Miss Mary Jones; Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer, Miss Jennie Cooke; Secretary of Literature, Mrs. H. P. Brandow.

WESTMINSTER GUILD

President, Miss Laura Van de Loo; Vice-president, Mrs. D. K. Brown; Secretary, Miss Lola Lashar; Treasurer, Miss Mary Jamison.

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR SOCIETY

President, Gwilym Owen; Vice-president, Mabel Hirsthner; Secretary, Margaret F. Hilton; Treasurer, Gordon Pope; Corresponding Secretary, Margorie Kellogg.

WIMODAUSS SOCIETY

Executive Committee, Mrs. Robert Jamison, Mrs. E. C. Aylward, Mrs. A. H. Wisbeck; Secretary, Miss Mary M. Baird; Treasurer, Mrs. O. A. Myhre.

MUSIC

Music Committee, S. Frank Shattuck, Mrs. Clara M. Shattuck, Miss Jennie Cooke, Miss Minnie Gittins, Mrs. F. G. Taylor, Miss Emma Proffier; Organists, Miss Beatie Harness, Mrs. George E. Sande; Director of Music, Herman H. Powers.

CHURCH TREASURER

Harry M. Brown Office, 104 N. Commercial St.

TREASURER OF BENEVOLENCES

Eli Defnet Office E. F. U. Building, 116 S. Commercial St.

CHURCH CUSTODIAN

David D. Young 116 W. N. Water St.



The center portion of a panoramic photo of a special event — perhaps a Rally Day — in the late 1920s. Children of all ages were included; in the complete photo a boy on one end was holding an American flag, while a boy on the other end of the group was holding a church flag.

The front cover and a page from a Sunday morning order of worship in 1918. The 10:30 a.m. service was followed by Sunday School for "all grades and ages" at noon. The evening service started at 7:30 p.m.



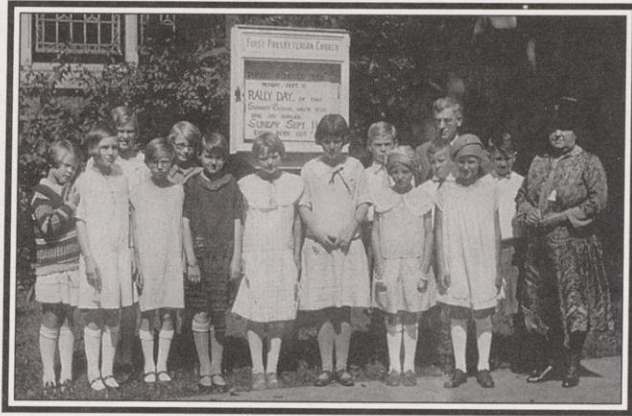
1911: Wisconsin becomes first state to: establish a workmen's compensation law; enact a state income tax; and support vocational, technical, and adult education.

Local highlights of the decade: Theda Clark Hospital is built; Visiting Nurses Association is founded; Emergency Society is founded; Neenah's J. A. Kimberly High School opens; City receives Carnegie grant to build Neenah Public Library.

1910: Ole Evinrude (Milwaukee) designs first commercially successful gasoline outboard engine for boats.

1912: U.S. adds two new states: Arizona and New Mexico. S. S. Titanic sinks on maiden voyage; 1,513 people drown. Woodrow Wilson is elected president. War breaks out in Balkans. 16th amendment passes; U.S. establishes Federal Income Tax.

1914: Archduke Francis Ferdinand, heir to Austrian throne, is assassinated along with his wife in Sarajevo, igniting First World War. Wisconsin becomes first state to establish statewide building code for public buildings and places of employment.



The Junior Department gathered outside the church in 1927. The sign board is announcing that the Neenah Public Schools will start on Sept. 12 and that Rally Day of the Sunday School will be held one day earlier, on Sept. 11. "Every Body Out!"

A note from the 1918 Sunday School records: "No sessions of the school held Oct. 13, 20, 27, Nov. 3, on account of influenza epidemic."

I Remember When

In the early 1920s, Dr. Jones wanted to give the young mothers a chance to study the Bible. [For those] with small children it was hard to find baby sitters. So he organized a group of mothers to come with children. They met in the Ladies Parlor. The doors to the meeting room were open. Thus, Dr. Jones could conduct a study group of mothers while they watched (in other words baby sat) their children who organized themselves and played by themselves in the large meeting room. While the mothers had a study group, they watched the children play. All went well.

This organization was called "The Mothers' Circle."
 Florence Sorensen (1998)

REPORT OF SESSION

Resident Members, May, 1921	575
Received into membership on profession	5
Received into membership by letter	13
Transferred from Non-Resident Roll	12
	608
Dismissed by letter	12
Deaths	6
Transferred to Non-Resident Roll	21
Dropped	3
	42
Resident Members, July, 1922	566
Non-Resident Members, May, 1921	204
Transferred from Resident Roll	21
	225
Dismissed by letter	9
Deaths	3
Transferred to Resident Roll	12
	24
Non-Resident Members, July, 1922	201

SUMMARY OF REPORTS

1920-21		RECEIPTS		1921-22	
Balance	Deficit			Balance	Deficit
\$1,291.60		Church Treasury	\$16,184.86	\$2,251.14	
127.51		Deacons' Fund	182.36	68.69	
64.49		Sunday School Regular	1,397.63	48.78	
117.64		S. S. and Church Special	1,645.41		
52.51		Women's Missionary Soc.	182.39	70.53	
185.88		Westminster Guild	319.89	125.49	
143.84		Brigade Old Boys Ass'n	140.50	38	
		Boys' Brigade	277.86	254.58	
		Gymnasium Ass'n	218.30	136.84	
				\$20,969.20	\$2,955.63
\$1,983.47				1,983.47	
				22,952.67	2,955.63
				\$19,997.04	

**CONTRIBUTIONS OF CHURCH AND SUN
 OUTSIDE OF REGULAR OFFER**

Easter (Theda Clark Hospital)	
China Famine	
	(2)

TRUST FUNDS

Endowment in Bonds	
Lester Wheeler Legacy Bonds	\$10,000.00
Mrs. De Merritt Legacy Bonds	100.00
Miss Olmstead Legacy Bonds	500.00
Mrs. Hiram Smith Legacy Bond S. S.	100.00
S. A. Cook Legacy Bonds, Women's Society	1,000.00
Piano Fund in Bank	500.00
	128.70
	\$13,328.70

SUMMARY OF REPORTS

Disbursements

Church Expense	1921-22	
Sunday School Expense	\$ 8,930.81	
Women's Society Expense	584.95	
Westminster Guild Expense	128.35	
Brigade Old Boys Expense	90.91	
Boys' Brigade Expense	140.12	
Gymnasium Expense	709.16	
	225.30	\$10,809.60
General Assembly Tax		
Home Missions		
Foreign Missions	\$ 2,562.15	81.30
Board of Sunday School Work	2,172.13	
Ministerial Relief	169.17	
Freedmen	27.59	
Education	167.20	
Carroll College	66.86	
Temperance	95.81	
Church Erection	21.60	
Evangelism	120.15	
Relief and Sustentation	23.36	
Men's Work	97.93	
American Bible Society	17.81	
Lord's Day Alliance	12.81	
New Era Expense	8.31	
Deacons' Fund	71.67	\$ 5,659.55
Winnebago County Sunday School Association	\$ 161.18	
Christmas Gifts and Box for Poor	40.00	
Memorial Building at Madison	100.00	
Pastor's Automobile	700.00	
Certificate of Deposit for Automobile	700.00	
Bond Investment	100.00	
Theda Clark Hospital	500.00	
China Famine	1,111.14	
	534.27	\$ 3,446.59
		\$19,997.04

CHURCH TREASURY

Receipts

Balance	1921-22	
Envelope Collections	161.18	
Loose Collections	\$14,751.03	\$ 1,291.60
Interest on Bonds	422.58	
Rental of Chairs	504.75	
Gift From S. A. Cook	6.50	
	500.00	\$16,184.86
		\$17,476.46

(3)

From the 1922 annual report.



Prohibition Threatened Session Takes Action

If the friends of prohibition let themselves be lulled into the belief that the fight is won, we are going to have the job to do over again.

The liquor interests are working twenty-four hours a day to draw the teeth from the Volstead Act and the eighteenth amendment.

We must continue our support of the Anti-Saloon League, one of the most watchful and aggressive organizations in modern political life. If the enemy could strangle the Anti-Saloon League their game would be easy.

Last week there came to Dr. Jones from the League an important message and we are sure the session reflected the sentiment of the congregation in the following letter, copy of which went at once to Senators Lenroot and La Follette:
First Presbyterian Church
Neenah, Wis.

Oct. 31, 1921.
Senator Irvine L. Lenroot,
Senate Offices,
Washington, D. C.

Prohibition article from the November 4, 1921, issue.

A newsletter, the *Church Bell*, was published for the first time in the early 1920s.

Originally "Issued every once in a while" and printed at a local print shop, the Bell included information about church happenings, details about changes in the building, and information about church members. The Bell is now a weekly newsletter printed in the church office.

The Church Bell

Issued every once in a while by the New Era Committee of the
First Presbyterian Church, Neenah, Wisconsin

PLANS FOR KITCHEN

A few months ago a movement for remodeling the kitchen in this church was started by the Havilah Babcock class, Mrs. Helen K. Stuart, leader. Money was raised by that class to the amount of \$371.26 at a food sale and Easter Bazaar. \$55.00 was netted by Westminster Guild at a tea and turned over to the fund which now totals \$426.26. Individuals in the church have expressed their desire to add to the fund, so that it will soon be adequate. Plans for the work are nearly completed and will soon be ready to present to the trustees for approval. Besides enlargement of the kitchen, and possibly the dining room, new stoves, tables and other equipment are to be provided. It is a splendid enterprise and any help will be gladly received by the class.

July 22, 1922, issue (above).

Miss Della Raddatz is convalescing favorably at the Theda Clark hospital after undergoing a serious operation.

Miss Stella M. Longhurst, 251 3rd street is at home again after being at the Theda Clark hospital with a severe attack of bronchial-pneumonia.

Somebody wanted to know who were the expiring officers of the church at this year's annual meeting.
—Rush for the pulmotor! !

Several members of our church attended the annual meeting of the Woman's Presbytery Society at Oshkosh. Mrs. G. Williamson and Miss Minnie Gittins were delegates from the Woman's Society and Mrs. F. E. Flwers was on the program to lead devotionals.

April 21, 1923, issue.

THE SPIRIT OF CO-OPERATION

A fine spirit of co-operation was manifested when the Havilah Babcock Women's Bible Class gave up the dining room of the church to the new Young People's department.

For a long time the women of this class have enjoyed the dining room as their class room and we know they surrendered it at a sacrifice; but they did it in a spirit of service and we feel that the young folks who profit by this sacrifice will prove that the women have not sacrificed in vain.

Two items from the September 29, 1923, issue

THE IDEAL SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER

The young people who have been meeting frequently the past month to work out the constitution and by-laws of the Young People's Department have put down on paper their conception of an "Ideal Sunday School Teacher."

This ideal has been made a part of their constitution and by-laws.

It's a high ideal, but who would lower it?

The Ideal Sunday School Teacher

The task of a Sunday school teacher is to inspire his class with enthusiasm and love for Christ, so as to live a daily Christ life.

1. A teacher must possess tact, enthusiasm, friendliness, and a knowledge of the Bible and Sunday school lessons.

2. A teacher must create a desire in the class to express individual ideas and opinions and to participate in lesson discussions. So far as possible, the lesson should be made applicable to daily life.

3. A teacher must be neat and attractive in appearance with self-control and readiness to help at any and all times.

4. A teacher must be regular and punctual in attendance.

5. A teacher must not neglect the social side of the class to bind the members outside of the Sunday school hour.



Nation's oldest radio station starts broadcasting as University of Wisconsin-Madison's experimental station 9XM (now WHA, Wisconsin Public Radio).

1915: Havilah Babcock Bible Class organizes. Originally a Sunday morning Bible study, it later became a Thursday afternoon sewing group. Class members established a bed fund at Theda Clark Hospital to help those who could not afford health care, pledge assistance to the Near East Relief in Persia, sewed quilts for the needy, and, one year, filled 400 candy boxes for the Church's Christmas tree. During World War II, the class sponsored a "Bundles for Britain" project so outstanding that the King of England decorated two members of the class for their work for "the cause of freedom." Jazz becomes popular.

1916: The Rev. Daniel C. Jones, D.D. is called to replace Dr. Marquis; serves until 1932. "Summertime," or daylight savings time, is first introduced in Great Britain. 24 states vote to prohibit the sale of alcoholic beverages. First Rose Bowl game is played.

On May 12, 1925 the Boys Brigade celebrated its 25th anniversary with a banquet at First Presbyterian Church. The celebration was held "under joint auspices" of the Presbyterian Club of the Presbyterian Church, the Fraternity Club of the Methodist Church and the Brigade Old Boys Association. Speakers included C. B. Clark, president of the Presbyterian Club, and N. E. Brokaw, president of the Fraternity Club. The benediction was given by the Rev. D. C. Jones.

Church interior after 1934. The main room was called the auditorium and the Sunday School rooms were behind the large doors which opened on to the auditorium.



CHURCH HONORS OLDER MEMBERS
Members of Congregation for Half a Century or More Feted by Presbyterians
One of the most delightful events in the history of the First Presbyterian church in this city was the reception given Monday afternoon by the Session of the church for those who had been members for 50 years or more. Twelve of the sixteen resident members who have enjoyed more than 50 years of church fellowship were able to be present and a large number of the church and congregation gathered to do them honor. The reception was happily informal and was a significant event both to the honored guests and to the whole church. Following the reception there was a brief program of fine old hymns, prayer, remarks by the pastor, Rev. D. C. Jones, D. D. and greetings from

50 years. Then dainty refreshments were served. The church was beautifully decorated with garden flowers in profusion. Mrs. Mary P. Marsh who has the longest record of church membership, 68 years, also celebrated her ninety-second birthday anniversary yesterday. The following are those in the city who were invited to be guests of the Session:
Mrs. Mary P. Marsh, Mrs. Mary Gleason, Mrs. Isa Le Toureux, Mrs. Sophia Klinke, Mrs. Mary H. Syme, Mrs. Eliza Thompson, Miss Mary Jones, Miss Harriet Holbrook, Mrs., Paulina Summerton, Mrs. Mary Strange, Miss Caroline Wheeler, Mrs. G. O. Bergstrom, D. W. Bergstrom, Mrs. Emma Barnett, Mrs. P. J. Ladd and Myron A. Dunn. Non-resident members are: Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Kimberly, Redlands, Calif.; Miss Jennie S. Cooke, De Pere; Mrs. Hattie Scott, Orlando, Fla.; Miss Mary Scott, Stanley and John W. McLeod, Denver, Colo. Besides are two who are now in the ministry, brothers, Rev. Elliott W. Brown, D. D., and Rev. Arthur J. Brown, D. D. both of New York City, from whom greetings were received, as well as from Miss Cooke and Miss Scott.

This article appeared in the local paper, date unknown but probably during the mid- to late-1920s.

I Remember When
My best friend, Eunice Niles Sheleski, and I attended Washington Elementary School and in second grade, I started going to Sunday School with her and have been here ever since, which makes 68 years. I had many Sunday School teachers through the years, but I especially remember the "Angels" who taught me — Miss Beals, Mrs. Baenke, and Mrs. Pickard. I was truly blessed.
Gladys "Babe" Harding (1988)



Some time during the 1930s,
a photograph of the church was
made into a postcard.



February 17, 1934

To the Session and Trustees
of the first Presbyterian Church,
Neenah, Wisconsin

I herewith present to the First Presbyterian Church of Neenah, Wisconsin, the organ and screen in memory of Henry Kimberly Babcock, who was an active member of this church, being always interested in its welfare, and eager to participate in any plan that would insure its progressive development.

To this end he gave personal attention to the work of the church, and served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees for several years.

In presenting this organ and screen, I am fulfilling not only my own desire, but completing a plan in which Mr. Babcock was intensely interested and it is my earnest wish that in the years ahead the organ will serve as an inspiration in the worship of this church and give much enjoyment to the members and congregation.

Fanny L. Babcock

Mrs. Fannie L. Babcock,
Neenah, Wisconsin

My dear Mrs. Babcock,

As acting chairman of the Board of Trustees of the First Presbyterian Church I hereby accept with deep gratitude your gift of the Henry Kimberly Babcock Memorial Organ.

It would be impossible to express the constant accumulation of gratitude and appreciation that will surround the use of this instrument by the congregation. It is not only a fitting and beautiful memorial but we sincerely trust it will be an investment on your part that will pay continued dividends in our continuous gratitude.

Yours very truly,
A. C. Gilbert

Feb. 17, 1934

- 1918: World War I ends. 921: V
Leonard Bernstein, American 1921: V
composer and conductor, is 1922: E
born. P
Regular airmail service is 1923: B
established between New York P
City and Washington, D. C. v
Influenza epidemic sweeps s
globe, killing nearly 22 millio d
people by 1920. 1
Wisconsin becomes first state
to establish numbering system
for highways – odd numbers
north-south highways and e
numbers for state highways
running east-west.
- 1919: 18th amendment is ratified; 1923:
prohibition becomes law.
- 1920: League of Nations forms; 1925:
U.S. Senate votes against
country joining. reach Congress.
19th amendment is ratified and
women win right to vote. Warren G. Harding is elected
president. president.
- Church has 591 members and
operating budget of \$13,016.**
- Local highlights of the decade: The
Clark Nursing School is
established; Young Women's
Christian Association (YWCA)
forms in Neenah; original Valk
Inn is built; Neenah chapter of
Red Cross is established.



1921: Wisconsin becomes first state to pass law eliminating all legal discrimination against women.

1922: Benito Mussolini establishes Fascist government in Italy. Poet T. S. Eliot writes "The Waste Land."

Songwriter Irving Berlin composes "April Showers." Emily Post writes her book, "Etiquette."

Insulin first administered to diabetics.

Ghandi sentenced to six years in jail for civil disobedience.

1923: George Gershwin writes "Rhapsody in Blue."

Pres. Warren G. Harding dies; Vice-President Calvin Coolidge becomes president.

First birth control clinic opens in New York.

Time magazine is founded.

1923: Hitler publishes *Mein Kampf*; reorganizes Nazi party.

Appleton native Edna Ferber writes *So Big*, a novel that wins Pulitzer Prize.

School teacher John Scopes is tried for violating Tennessee law prohibiting teaching of evolution. He is defended by Clarence Darrow. After being convicted, Scopes is then acquitted on a technicality.

The Charleston becomes popular.

**ANNOUNCE GIFT
OF NEW ORGAN**

The new organ and screen which are being installed in the First Presbyterian church here are the gift of Mrs. H. K. Babcock as a memorial to her husband, Henry Kimberly Babcock, according to announcement in the church calendar which went out today to members of the church and congregation.

Mr. Babcock was a member of the Presbyterian church all his active life, and was for many years chairman of the board of trustees.

The pulpit and chair section at the front of the auditorium has been changed to make a fitting setting for the beautiful instrument which is of the latest design.

Dedication services will be held the latter part of the month.

The news about the church's new organ and its dedication was covered in the local newspapers. According to one newspaper article, the organ cost \$25,000. Shortly after the dedication service on Sunday, February 18, 1934, a fire broke out and threatened the new organ (as well as the church building itself). Fortunately, the fire was spotted soon after it started and was put out quickly and "the organ was not damaged excepting perhaps by water."

Feb. 15, 1934

**DEDICATION OF
NEW ORGAN TO
BE HELD SUNDAY**

Dedication of the beautiful new pipe organ, the gift to the First Presbyterian church of Mrs. H. K. Babcock, in memory of her husband Henry Kimberly Babcock, will take place Sunday, February 18, at the morning service at 10:45 o'clock. Clarence Shepard, of Ossinkosh, noted organist, will play at that service, and Dr. Silas Evans, president of Ripon College will preach the dedicatory sermon.

In the afternoon at four o'clock Mr. Shepard will give an organ recital and the church quartette, Miss Gertrude Farrell, soprano; Miss Helen Mueller, contralto; George Nixon, tenor, and Carl McKee, baritone, will sing.

The new organ was made by the Aeolian-Skinner Organ company of Boston, and is among the finest in the country. It has three manuals or keyboards, and pedal. There are about 30 sets of pipes which make a total of over 2,000 pipes. The beautiful solo stops for which the Skinner organists famed are in this instrument, the flutes including a Gedecht, a triangular flute, a concert flute, and a flute celeste. The reeds include an Oboe, a clarinet, a French horn and a vox humana. There are also two percussions, harp and chimes.

But the Skinner is preeminent not only for its exquisitely voiced solo stops but also for its well balanced ensemble. Two mixtures and two chorus reeds lend brilliance and clarity to the full organ tone. The combination action greatly assists the performer by making it possible to set up any desired combination of tones on any one or all of the manuals and have it instantly available at the touch of a piston.

The organ is installed in two chambers which surround the chancel, and is completely concealed from view by a beautiful organ screen of exquisitely carved dark oak, in Gothic style.

The entire choir and pulpit section at the front of the church auditorium has been altered to make a fitting setting for the organ. Reredos, chancel, lectern and pulpit are in Gothic design in beautifully carved dark oak. Steps lead from the front of the church to the chancel. The arch above the chancel has been strengthened, and praying angels form the supporting columns. The ceiling design, by Rindskoph of Chicago, represents the symbols of the four evangelists. The effect of the whole is beautiful beyond description.

From a letter written by Dr. Courtenay to Mrs. Babcock, thanking her —

Your gift was generous and therefore worthy of deep gratitude. Your gift was, and is, beautiful, fitting, and practical and fully expresses the fineness of your heart and mind. My personal gratitude is deep and beyond mere words, but higher than my appreciation of your gift is my appreciation of you yourself.

....When the organ sounds the deep music of the soul it means more than that to me. I lose myself in its beauty because of the giver and the spirit of her gift....



The chancel was remodeled when the Henry Kimberly Babcock Memorial Organ was installed. Mrs. Babcock's gift included the wooden screen, behind which the organ pipes were located. The newspaper article about the dedication (see previous page) also includes a description of the new chancel. Apparently, in the original chancel, the choir faced the congregation and the organ console was right under the pipes; the organist played with his back to the congregation.

After the remodeling, the choir was divided into two sections which sat facing each other behind the pulpit and lectern. The organ console was on the left, behind the minister's pew. The Communion table and the curtains which hung above it are now in the chapel. The dossal curtains were given to the church by Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Gilbert. The ministers' pews, one behind the lectern and one behind the pulpit, are in the nave, and are still used by the ministers and others leading in worship. This undated photo may have been taken before a wedding. Note the kneeler in place in front of the Communion table.

1926: Book of the Month Club founded.
Author A. A. Milne writes *Winnie the Pooh*.
Kodak produces first 16-mm movie film (black and white). Church

1927: Charles A. Lindbergh becomes first to fly nonstop from New York to Paris in his plane, "Spirit of St. Louis."
New York Yankee player Babe Ruth hits 60 home runs in one year.

1928: Herbert Hoover is elected President. Local
Chiang Kai-shek is elected president of China.
First Mickey Mouse films released.
First scheduled television broadcasts shown in Schenectady, New York.
Amelia Earhart becomes first woman to fly across Atlantic Ocean.
Penicillin is discovered by Alexander Fleming.

1929: **Presbyterian churches in Scotland unite to form Church of Scotland.** 19
Black Friday, Oct. 28, U.S. stock market crashes, setting off worldwide depression.
16-mm color movie film is introduced by Kodak.

1930: Congress establishes Veterans Administration.

General Assembly votes to ordain women as elders.

Artist Grant Wood paints "American Gothic."

Church highlights of the decade: First issue of "Church Bell" is mailed; a Mother's Circle, Social Union of Young Married People, and the Friends Class is formed; manse on northeast corner of Church and Columbian Streets is purchased for use by senior pastor and family.

Local highlights of the decade: Shattuck High School (now Shattuck Middle School) is built; Neenah Rotary Club is formed.

1931: Pearl S. Buck writes *The Good Earth*.

Jehovah's Witnesses is established.

Arkansas voters elect first woman (Hattie Caraway, a Democrat) to U.S. Senate. "Star Spangled Banner" is designated as national anthem.

1932: The Rev. Walter Courtenay, D.D. is called; serves as pastor until 1944.

Franklin D. Roosevelt is elected President; first uses phrase "New Deal" in speech accepting nomination as Democratic candidate.

Wisconsin adopts country's first unemployment compensation insurance law.

Monday, February 19, 1934

DEDICATION OF CHURCH ORGAN IS IMPRESSIVE

Dedication of the Henry Kimberly Babcock Memorial organ at the Presbyterian church Sunday morning was marked by dignity and simplicity. The services were impressive and full of the joy and thanksgiving the gift has brought to the members of the church and congregation.

Following the brief dedication service by Rev. Courtenay and the congregation, the beautiful tones of the organ were heard for the first time in the worship of the church. Clarence E. Shepard of Oshkosh played the Prelude to Act II and the Pastorale Mystique from *Le Jongleur de Notre Dame*, by Massenet. This selection gave opportunity for display of the versatility of solo and ensemble combinations for which the Skinner organ is famed.

Dedication of the new Hymnals which were in use Sunday morning for the first time followed. Other organ numbers at the morning service were "March of the Holy Grail," from *Parsifal* by Wagner; "The Choral Tree," by Niemann, and "Finale," from the Second Symphony by Widor.

The quartet, Miss Gertrude Farrell, Miss Helen Mueller, George Nixon and Carl S. McKee, sang "Festival Te Deum," by Dudley Buck, and "He Watching Over Israel" from *Elijah* by Mendelssohn.

The dedication address was given by Dr. Silas Evans, president of Ripon college, who spoke of the event as being a distinguished example of personalized service, both on the part of the donor, and of the man in whose memory the organ was presented. He spoke of the part music plays in religion and worship, adding warmth and color, by means of its quality of arousing the deepest emotions, to the faith

of the individual who worships.

Recital In Afternoon

In the afternoon at four o'clock Clarence E. Shepard gave an organ recital for the dedication of the organ. The program he played was exceptionally adapted to show the great range of tone and combinations of the organ. Mr. Shepard is a master musician and his work Sunday was a delight to those who heard him. He was assisted by the church quartet whose music added greatly to the beauty of the recital. Following is the program:

Quartet

III

Saint Francis' Sermon to the Birds—Liszt-Saint-Saens
Danza Espagnola—Larregla
The Hour of Dusk—Niemann
Fountain in the Sunlight—Goodwin

Clarence E. Shepard

IV

Soft Floating on the Evening Air—Frederick W. Root
Soft and Tenderly—Thompson
Now the Day is Over—S. Barling-Gould

Quartet

V

Magic Fire Music—Wagner-Lemare
Toccata (Fifth Symphony)—Widor

Clarence E. Shepard, Mrs. Annette Sindahl Matheson, church organist, was at the organ for the quartet numbers at both services.

Large audiences, overflowing into the connecting rooms on each side of the auditorium, attended both services. The beauty of the organ and screen and the alterations which make a fitting setting for it

I Remember When

It was Christmas Eve, 1931, and the annual children's program was about to begin in the overflowing Sanctuary. I was late and had to stand in back with the ushers. I stood next to a most attractive young man who introduced himself and stayed beside me all evening. After the program, he walked me to my car and asked if he could call me. We were both attending Lawrence College, and we dated quite often until I transferred to Duke. In 1936 we really fell in love and became engaged at Christmas time. We were married in May of 1937 and [in 1998] we celebrated our 61st anniversary. We have been blessed with a very special daughter and son and their spouses, five wonderful grandchildren, and three beautiful great-grandchildren. "Someone" must have been watching over us that Christmas Eve so long ago.

Dorothy Brown Severson (1998)



FLAMES MENACE CHURCH ORGAN

The newly dedicated organ of the First Presbyterian church and the church building was threatened by fire at noon today.

Only the presence of Francis Proctor, who was playing the organ, prevented a serious conflagration. He summoned the fire department immediately upon detecting a blaze within a partition adjacent to the organ chamber.

At first it was believed that defective wiring was responsible but investigation revealed that there was some other cause. Sparks from a furnace stack may have been responsible.

The blaze, which had gained little headway was confined to the partition and the organ was not damaged excepting perhaps by water.

Firemen, seeking to get at the seat of the fire, chopped open two rear doors. They extinguished the blaze with water.

The odor of smoke, detected a minute before Mr. Proctor was to depart, resulted in his discovery of the blaze.

Feb. 19, 1934

I Remember When

- As a boy in the early 1930s playing in the old dark church basement with its dirt floors and arched brick joist supports.
- John Bergstrom taught the mens' Sunday School class. At that time Elizabeth Babcock, Wilbur Sparks, and Miss Proctor taught the other departments. My father sang church solos and sang in the choir for 50 years. My mother headed a church circle and made sure our church missionaries, the Chattersons, had clothing sent to them in the right sizes and quantities.
- The old altar and tapestry that now reside in the chapel were in the old church. These are truly beautiful ties from the past to the present for old and new members.

William A. Daniel (1998)



Fifty-year members in 1935.

Front row (l-r):

Miss Mary E. Larson, Miss Caroline E. Wheeler, Miss Mary E. Jones, Mrs. Mary Gleason, Mrs. Jeannette Gould Jamison, Mrs Louise Elwers, Miss Margaret B. Christi.
Back row: Mr. Myron A. Dunn, Miss Jean Fraser, Miss Helen D. Wheeler, Miss Jennie S. Harris, Miss Damie Wheeler, Miss Anna L. Proctor, Miss Mary E. Gittins, Mr. August C. Sorley.

Construction starts on Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco; many hatch covers are made; Neenah Foundry.
 Famine in U.S.S.R.; widespread reports of starvation.

1933: Philippines is granted independence by U.S.

First U.S. aircraft carrier is launched.

Nazis build first concentration camp.

Japan pulls out of League of Nations.

First all-star baseball game is played.

U.S. government establishes Public Works Administration (PWA).

States ratify 21st Amendment; repeal prohibition.

UW-Fox Valley opens in Menasha; originally part of UW-Extension System.

1934: **Fanny Babcock donates pipe organ and screen in memory of her husband, Henry Kimberly Babcock.**

1935: George Gershwin's opera *Porgy and Bess* opens in New York City.

Congress establishes Social Security Act.

Radar equipment able to detect aircraft is first built.

John L. Lewis organizes Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO).



Persia changes name to Iran.
Germany forms Luftwaffe.
German chemist discovers first sulfa drug.

First automatic clothes dryer developed by Hamilton Manufacturing Company of Two Rivers, Wisconsin.

1936: Civil war breaks out in Spain.
Franklin D. Roosevelt is reelected President.

England's King Edward VIII abdicates and his brother becomes King George VI.
Dale Carnegie writes *How to Win Friends and Influence People*.

Margaret Mitchell writes *Gone With the Wind*.

Boulder (Hoover) Dam is finished; the resulting Lake Mead becomes largest reservoir in world.

Jesse Owens, black American athlete, wins four Olympic gold medals at Berlin games; Hitler had proclaimed these games to be "showcase for Aryan supremacy."

Life Magazine is first published.

1937: Movie *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* is released.

Composer George Gershwin dies.

Carl Orff composes *Carmina Burana*.

John Steinbeck writes *Of Mice and Men*.

VI. The Budget—1938-1939

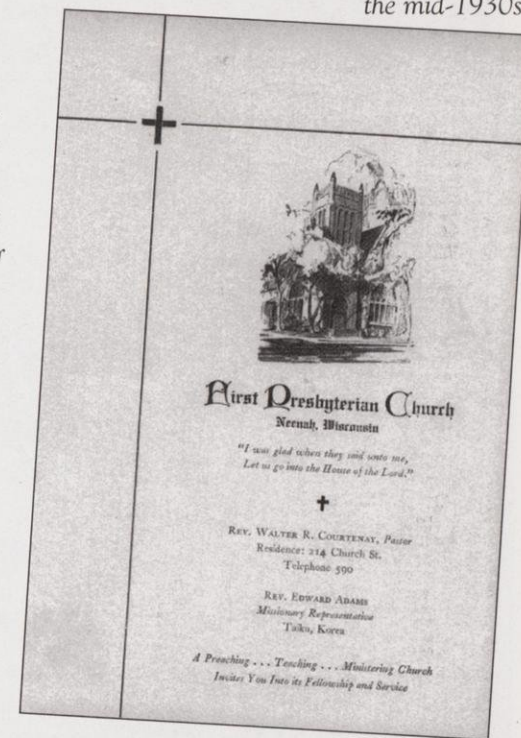
A budget is not an expensive account. Rather it is a blueprint by which we build our work. Yet, we are not to think of it as a mere materialistic item, for after all it is the visible expression of spiritual vitality. As we present this budget we would have you think of the good that is being accomplished, of the lives and homes strengthened, of the message of Christ as it comes to us and goes on around the world, of the keeping alive of those principals and paths that make for true Christianity and democracy. In the light of these things the budget becomes a significant document.

THE OPERATING BUDGET	
The Church Staff	\$ 5,900.00
This item covers the salary of the pastor, the custodian, pulpit supply and the cost of secretarial work during the year.	
Music	\$ 2,300.00
The mentioned sum covers the salaries of Mr. Marshall Hulbert, Mr. David Schaub, Mrs. Annette Matheson, Miss Farrell, Miss Mueller, two singers from Lawrence College, new music and the care of the organ.	
Young People's Work	\$ 250.00
This helps the various clubs carry on their programs and helps young people attend the church camps during the summer months.	
Presbytery Assessment	\$ 240.00
This amount is the tax placed on us for the running expenses of Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly.	
Office Expense and Printing	\$ 1,500.00
This covers printing, e.g. weekly calendars and promotional materials, stamps, supplies, telephone and telegraph.	
Church and Manse Upkeep and Repairs	\$ 2,000.00
This amount will take care of the necessary rewiring of the church, and other essential repairs.	
Operation of Buildings	\$ 1,700.00
This item covers insurance, cost of heating, lighting and incidentals.	
Pension	\$ 300.00
This is our share in the pension plan.	
Retirement of Church Indebtedness	\$ 1,500.00
As a result of last year's repairs and expansions our debt stands at about \$4,200.00. We were able to remove this in three years. This includes the balance of the cost of the church.	

Interest on Church Debt	\$ 200.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 700.00
This item covers the unexpected expenses that arise and are not chargeable to any other portion of the budget.	
Total	\$ 1,600.00
(For Benevolence purposes Presbytery assesses as the following total budget)	
THE BENEVOLENCE BUDGET	
The Board of Foreign Missions	\$ 1,000.00
This money is our contribution toward the salary of the Reverend Edward Adams in Korea.	
The Board of National Missions	\$ 1,000.00
This money is used largely within the State of Wisconsin to help defray the expenses of the workers in the outlying district. It also assists the Church in the rural and mountain areas of America.	
The Board of Christian Education	\$ 450.00
This money is used by the Board in paying the costs of preparing the Sunday School materials and doing other like work in the building for the teaching and healing touch of the Church.	
The Board of Pensions	\$ 150.00
This is an extra contribution to help the Board of Pensions carry on its fine work.	
The American Bible Society	\$ 12.00
This is an "aid" to this most vital Society.	
The Federal Council of Churches	\$ 3.00
A little help toward this organization that is working for Church Union.	
The Women's Society	\$ 1,000.00
This is the Church's contribution to The Women's Society to be used by the Presbytery for its most worthy purposes.	
Total Benevolence Budget	\$ 4,215.00
Total Operating and Benevolence Budgets	\$20,005.00
SAMUEL N. PICKARD, Chairman Finance Committee.	

Two pages from the 1937-38 annual report. The Sunday School enrollment was 475, with an average attendance of 365. According to the report prepared by Charles Abel, Sunday School superintendent, plans for the future included having the children attend a special worship service on Sunday mornings from 9:15 to 10 in place of Sunday School (junior choir to provide special music) and providing offering envelopes for every child enrolled in Sunday School. Suggested minimum weekly offerings were: Beginners, 1¢; Primary Department, 2¢; Junior Department, 5¢; Intermediate Department, 10¢; and Senior Department, 15¢. "When a boy or girl unites with the Church, he ceases to contribute to the Sunday School and gives henceforth directly to the Church in the regular adult envelopes."

Bulletin cover used in the mid-1930s.



In 1937, Church organizations included:

- ◆ The Women's Society, with a membership of 225 divided into nine Circles;
- ◆ The Kappa Beta Society, the high school youth group;
- ◆ The Christian Fellowship Club, for "young people above High School age and up to . . . ;"
- ◆ Mr. Shattuck's Class for Men, a study group for all men "whether they are members of the church or not;"
- ◆ Mrs. W. R. Courtenay's Class, a group for young women which met every Sunday morning at the Manse;
- ◆ The Mothers' Circle, a study group led by the Rev. W. R. Courtenay which met twice a week at the church. Mothers could bring their young children who played together while their mothers met for "fellowship and study;"
- ◆ The Men's Club; and
- ◆ The Ushers' Club.



CLASS SEWS FOR REFUGEES — Sewing for the refugee children of Europe are members of the Havilah Babcock Sunday school class of First Presbyterian church at the home of Mrs. W. Z. Stuart, 406 E. Wisconsin avenue, where the above picture was taken. Left to right are Mrs. A. Pagel, Miss Olla Perry, Mrs. John Harness, Mrs. Adeliade Young, Mrs. Bertha Dunn, Miss Eleanor Harness, Mrs. Eleanor Waldo, Mrs. Jessie Young. In the foreground, from left to right, are Mrs. Margret Summerton, Mrs. Anna Weickert and Mrs. Frank Kellogg. (Post-Crescent Photo)

Photo above accompanied an article printed in the June 28, 1940. issue of the Appleton Post.

Church To Pay Tribute To 50-Year Members

July 24-1940

A reception for members who have been in the church 50 years or more will be given by the Session of the First Presbyterian church at 3 o'clock Wednesday afternoon at the church.

Dr. Silas Evans, president of Ripon college, will deliver a message and special music will be furnished

by Mrs. Gilbert Bayley, Mrs. Earl Graverson, Mrs. Harold Kriekard and Mrs. James Fritzen.

Friends and relatives have been invited to stop at the church between 3 and 5 o'clock to join with the Session in observing the occasion. Refreshments will be served between 4 and 5 o'clock.

Following are those who have been members for 50 years or more: Mrs. John Strange, Miss Caroline Wheeler, Mrs. Alice Bergstrom, Miss M. E. Gittins, Miss Anna L. Proctor, Mrs. John C. Young, Sr., Mrs. Helen Y. Clark, Mrs. Anna O. Jape, Miss Mary E. Larson, Miss Helen Wheeler, August Sorley, Miss Jennie Harris, Mrs. D. W. Bergstrom, Sr., Mrs. Janette Jamison.

Miss Helen Babcock, Mrs. Addie Keyes, Mrs. F. A. Leavens, Miss Olla Perry, Mrs. Andrew Frederickson, Mrs. F. E. Ballister, W. C. Wing, Mrs. L. J. Pinkerton, Mrs.

H. K. Stuart, Miss Ella Law, O. J. Lindsey, Mrs. Frank Kellogg, J. N. Bergstrom and Mrs. H. W. Hinterthuer.

Newspaper article, possibly from the Daily News-Times, on July 24, 1940.

Insulin is now used to control diabetes.

Nylon is patented by du Pont Company.

First jet engine is built.

One-half million Americans take part in sit-down strikes between Sept., 1936 and March, 1937.

American pilot Amelia Earhart lost during flight over Pacific Ocean and presumed dead. Golden Gate Bridge opens.

1938: U.S. establishes 40-hour work week.

Women's Society donates piano now in Fellowship Hall

1939: World War II begins as Germany invades Poland in September; France and Great Britain declare war on Germany while U.S. remains neutral.

John Steinbeck writes *Grapes of Wrath*.

American composer Aaron Copland writes ballet, *Billy the Kid*.

Polyethylene is invented.

First helicopter is built by Russian-American Igor Sikorski. Pan-American Airlines starts regular commercial flights between Europe and U.S.

Baseball games are first televised.

Nylon stockings are first sold. Possibility of splitting atom is first demonstrated.

Johnson Wax Company in Racine, Wisconsin, builds new company headquarters designed by Frank Lloyd Wright.

1940: Penicillin comes into use as antibiotic.

Franklin D. Roosevelt is elected President for third term.

Duke Ellington becomes well-known as composer and jazz pianist.

Church highlights of the decade:

Worship services are broadcast over local radio station; Women's Society forms and has 12 active circles; congregation supports three missionary couples: Chattersons, Adams, and Bryants

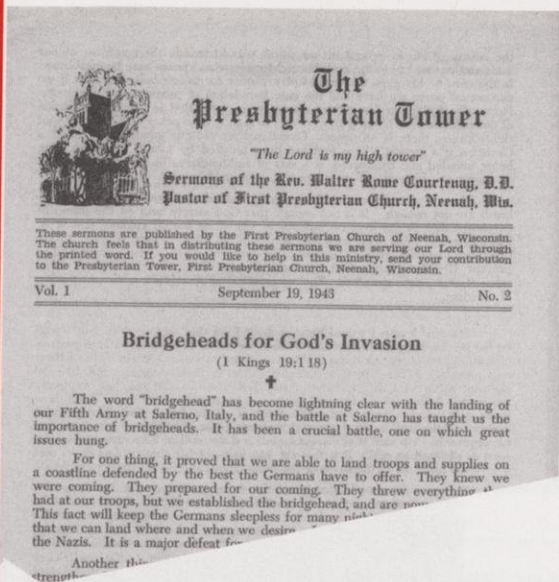
Local highlights of the decade:

Neenah's water treatment plant and Neenah-Menasha sewerage treatment plant are built; City of Neenah hires first assessor; city school district hires dental hygienist; City of Neenah is designated as wealthiest town for its size in the country.

1941: U.S. Savings Bonds and Stamps are first sold.

Dacron is invented.

Prospectus for new church building are presented to congregation; plans are put on hold after country declares war on Japan and Germany.



For at least a short period of time, sermons preached by Dr. Courtenay were printed by the church and made available to those who wished to have copies.

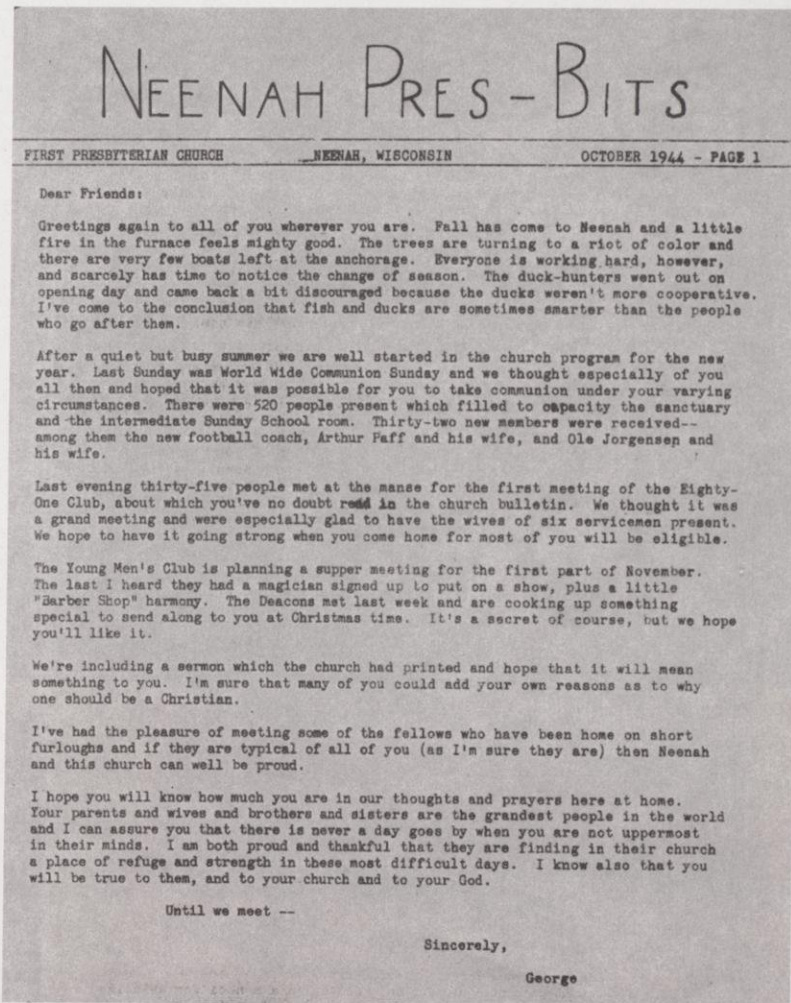
I Remember When

Thanks to many, some of my childhood memories have resurfaced and now I remember:
Delivering church bulletins to Presbyterians in the 300 blocks of Wisconsin and Doty Avenues.
Dropping birthday pennies into the square glass bank.

Watching wide-eyed as Mrs. Kimberly Stuart parked her shiny black electric car next to the side entrance of the church.

The first performance of the junior choir on Christmas Eve, 1934. Wearing our new purple choir robes and singing "Angels From the Realms of Glory," we marched into the sanctuary which was filled with smiling faces.

Eunice Sheleski (1998)



Dear Friends:

Greetings again to all of you wherever you are. Fall has come to Neenah and a little fire in the furnace feels mighty good. The trees are turning to a riot of color and there are very few boats left at the anchorage. Everyone is working hard, however, and scarcely has time to notice the change of season. The duck-hunters went out on opening day and came back a bit discouraged because the ducks weren't more cooperative. I've come to the conclusion that fish and ducks are sometimes smarter than the people who go after them.

After a quiet but busy summer we are well started in the church program for the new year. Last Sunday was World Wide Communion Sunday and we thought especially of you all then and hoped that it was possible for you to take communion under your varying circumstances. There were 520 people present which filled to capacity the sanctuary and the intermediate Sunday School room. Thirty-two new members were received-- among them the new football coach, Arthur Faff and his wife, and Ole Jorgensen and his wife.

Last evening thirty-five people met at the manse for the first meeting of the Eighty-One Club, about which you've no doubt read in the church bulletin. We thought it was a grand meeting and were especially glad to have the wives of six servicemen present. We hope to have it going strong when you come home for most of you will be eligible.

The Young Men's Club is planning a supper meeting for the first part of November. The last I heard they had a magician signed up to put on a show, plus a little "Barber Shop" harmony. The Deacons met last week and are cooking up something special to send along to you at Christmas time. It's a secret of course, but we hope you'll like it.

We're including a sermon which the church had printed and hope that it will mean something to you. I'm sure that many of you could add your own reasons as to why one should be a Christian.

I've had the pleasure of meeting some of the fellows who have been home on short furloughs and if they are typical of all of you (as I'm sure they are) then Neenah and this church can well be proud.

I hope you will know how much you are in our thoughts and prayers here at home. Your parents and wives and brothers and sisters are the grandest people in the world and I can assure you that there is never a day goes by when you are not uppermost in their minds. I am both proud and thankful that they are finding in their church a place of refuge and strength in these most difficult days. I know also that you will be true to them, and to your church and to your God.

Until we meet --

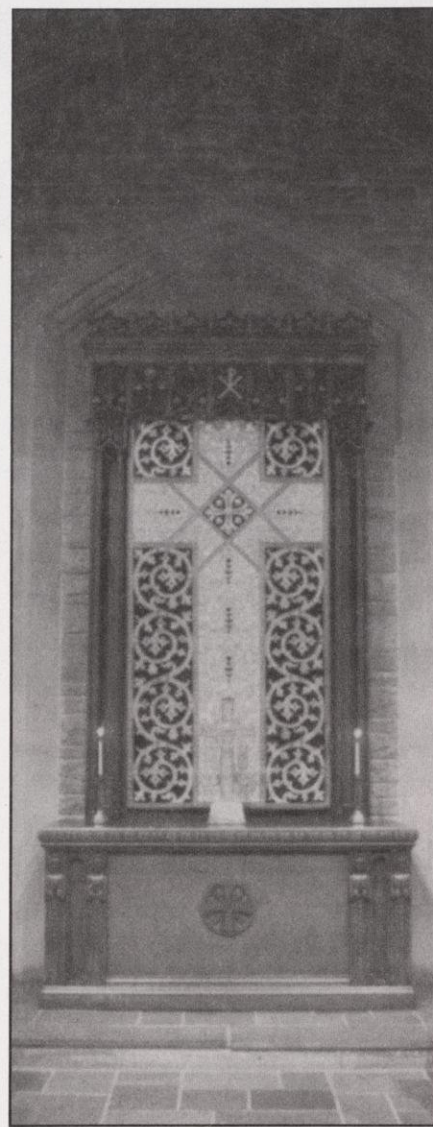
Sincerely,

George

During at least part of World War II, "Neenah Pres-Bits" was mailed to church members serving in the armed forces. The letter on page one of this issue was written by the Rev. George Peters, pastor from 1944 to 1947.



Typical Christmas decorations included a decorated tree on both sides of the front of the church. Note the Communion table which was moved to the chapel in the present building (below). Details on the figures and on the carving above the Communion table are highlighted with gold.



I Remember When

We had the big Christmas trees in the old church. As a child I was always very excited to see them.
All the Sunday School children got a pound box of chocolates for Christmas. I think some kids only came at Christmas just to get the candy!
My youth group had a Palm Sunday service at the Rec Park.

My youth group cleaned and painted a room in the basement of the old church.
Summer daily vacation Bible School was held right after the regular school term ended. It was a special time for me.
In those days, that was vacation.

Jeanette Westfahl (1998)

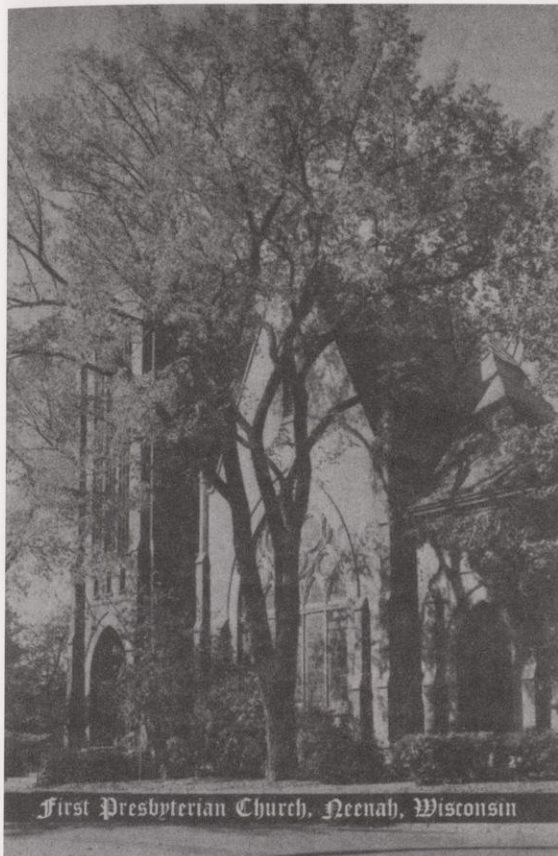
U.S. Supreme Court upholds legality of minimum wage for employees of businesses engaged in interstate commerce as well as work restrictions for 16- and 18-year-olds.
Japan bombs Pearl Harbor; U.S. enters World War II.

200 men and women from First Presbyterian will serve in country's armed forces.

1942: Enrico Fermi splits the atom in his U.S. laboratory.
Magnetic recording tape is invented.
Sugar rationing begins in U.S.
British author C. S. Lewis writes *Screw Tape Letters*.
Lloyd C. Douglas writes *The Robe*.

1943: Dwight D. Eisenhower assumes command of Allied forces in North Africa.
Musical *Oklahoma!* by Rodgers and Hammerstein opens in New York City.
Polio epidemic strikes, killing almost 1,200 in U.S. and crippling thousands more.
"Withholding" as a way to collect federal income taxes starts.

1944: June 6 — D-day; Allied forces land at Normandy, France.
Franklin D. Roosevelt elected to serve fourth term as President.



First Presbyterian Church, Neenah, Wisconsin

Bulletin cover from the late 1940s.



Lydia Curtin bids farewell to the Rev. and Mrs. George Peters at a reception held at the church in May, 1947.



About Our Minister-Elect and His Family

John and Margaret Bouquet were both born in Kansas City, Missouri, and both spent the happy and carefree childhood years in that city unknown to each other until their college days at Park College, a Presbyterian school in Parkville, Missouri. Theirs was a college romance. He was graduated in 1931; she received her degree in 1932.

After graduation from Park College, Mr. Bouquet gained Margaret's consent to marriage and then went off on a three-month jaunt to Europe with his college roommate, and returned to this country and entered Princeton Seminary for three years of seminary training. During these years he served as summer pastor at Punta Gorda, Florida, and East Hampton, Long Island.

Meantime, Mrs. Bouquet worked with the Y.W.C.A. of Kansas City in the Girl Reserve program, then went to Biblical Seminary in New York City for training in the field of Religious Education. They were married at Park College in 1934, just two weeks after John's graduation from the Princeton Seminary.

The first home of the Bouquets was in Mansfield, Pennsylvania, a college town where Mr. Bouquet ministered to three churches, gaining a wide variety of experience in working with college students and professors and with business men, miners and farmers.

From the Sunday, November 2, 1947, bulletin.

The Proposed Budget for 1947-1948

The following budget for expenditures is recommended by the Board of Trustees for adoption by the Congregation for the year commencing October 1, 1947:

THE CHURCH STAFF	\$11,275.00
<small>This includes the salary of the Pastor, the Pension Fund, salaries of the Church Secretary and the Custodian, fees for pulpit supply and certain clerical work.</small>	
MUSIC	3,280.00
<small>This covers the salaries of the Choir Director, Organist, and certain members of the choir, plus the cost of sheet music and proper care of the organ.</small>	
OPERATION OF BUILDINGS	2,920.00
<small>Such expenses as heating, electricity, gas, water, telephone, and various building supplies are included in this item.</small>	
REPAIR OF BUILDINGS	1,020.00
<small>This item is necessary to keep the church and manse in reasonably good repair until more adequate facilities are provided for our entire church program.</small>	
OFFICE EXPENSE, PRINTING AND POSTAGE	1,610.00
<small>This includes the cost of printing the weekly calendar, promotional materials, postage, and office equipment and supplies.</small>	
YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORK	300.00
<small>This includes part of their conference expenses, movies, and certain other items above and beyond the treasury of this group.</small>	
CHRISTMAS EXPENSE	255.00
GENERAL ASSEMBLY TAX	350.00
<small>This is a tax paid to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of the U. S. A. for each member of our roll.</small>	
INSURANCE	515.00
<small>This amount was set up after an analysis of our present policies on fire and tornado insurance on all buildings.</small>	
MISCELLANEOUS	700.00
<small>This includes various minor expenses which cannot be conveniently classified.</small>	
BENEVOLENCES apportioned as follows:	9,175.00
<small>Wisconsin Home Missions Board of National Missions Board of Foreign Missions Board of Christian Education Board of Pensions American Bible Society Federal Council of Churches Presbyterian Student Center, Madison Carroll College, Waukesha College of Christian Education, Chicago Wisconsin Council of Churches</small>	
TOTAL	\$31,400.00



A Sunday School class, around 1947, taught by Mary Tipler, longtime Sunday School teacher.

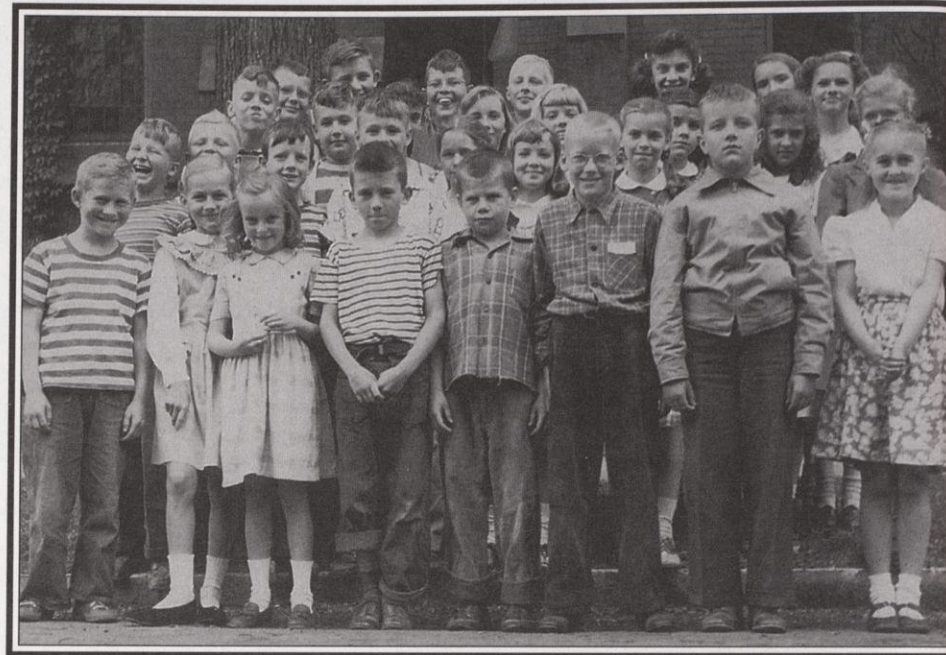
I Remember When

When we moved to Neenah over 40 years ago, we visited several churches, searching for our future church home. After visiting First Presbyterian, our children (ages 2, 6, and 9) said "we want to go here." We followed! What a great choice — we have been so happy ever since. What a choice! Who says children aren't intelligent far beyond their years?

Laura Jane & Harley Loker (1998)



Peggy Pray, the Church's first Director of Christian Education, was welcomed at a reception. Shown in the photo taken in September, 1948, are (left to right) S. F. Shattuck, Peggy Pray, Margaret Bouquet, and the Rev. John Bouquet. The woman with her back to the photo is unidentified. Mrs. Leonard Chatterson, who, along with her husband, was a missionary to Cameroun, West Africa, was also honored at the reception.



Vacation Bible School, summer 1948, outside of the old building. The junior department is pictured in the top photo and the primary department below.

THE OFFICIAL BOARDS AND WOMEN'S SOCIETY
of the

First Presbyterian Church of Neenah

Cordially invite you and your family and
friends to attend an informal Reception,

Honoring

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Chatterson, our missionaries in East Africa
and

Miss Peggy Pray, Our new Director of Christian Education

In the Church Parlors, Sunday evening, September 12
from 7:30 till 9:00 P. M.

To Honor Chattersons At Reception Sunday

A reception will be held from 7:30 to 9 o'clock Sunday night at the First Presbyterian church in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Chatterson and Miss Peggy Pray. The Chattersons are on furlough from the Presbyterian mission in French Cameroun, West Africa, and are to return there in April. Miss Pray is director of Christian Education at the First Presbyterian church and was installed at services last Sunday.

Refreshments will be served, and Mrs. William A. Daniel, Mrs. Emory Rickard, Mrs. Richard Roudebush, and Mrs. Nathan Wauda will pour. All members of the congregation are invited to attend the reception.





I Remember When

Often times when I sit down to relax I clear my mind of all worldly problems, close my eyes, and think back to my life past. I can recall events of my childhood and growing up years. I remember my first job, our marriage, our childrens' early years and all the happy times we were blessed with.

I can recall my Sunday School years when Miss Anna Proctor was my teacher and she lived just two doors west of the old church. Our Pastor was an old Scotsman by the name of Rev D.C. Jones.

I remember the folding doors on each side of the Sanctuary. The doors closed off Sunday School rooms on the other side and at times like Easter and Christmas the doors would be folded back and chairs set up to accommodate the overflow congregation; back in those years, I believe we had better than one thousand members. At Christmas there were two huge Christmas trees one on each side of the Chancel all decked out and aglow. The Sunday School put on pageants and at the end all the Sunday School kids each were presented with a box of BURTS CANDY. Oh, those chocolates and sugar candies!

I recall one of the Sunday school teachers, a Mr. Lindsey, who always sat in the pew to the left in the Sanctuary and this one Sunday, as per usual, he drifted off during Rev. Jones' sermon. Well, at the end of the sermon, Rev. Jones announced that the next hymn would be on page such and such that it was "STAND UP for Jesus all you soldiers of the cross." He put the emphasis on "STAND UP" and Mr. Lindsey bounced to his feet while the congregation was looking up the page.

Then there was the Sunday in the early Forties when Rev. Courtenay in a prayer asked for God to send down the dove of peace and a sparrow swooped down in front of him from the skylight above him. He didn't miss a beat. His next words were, "How do you like that. I ask for the dove of peace and what do I get but a sparrow."

I was an usher in the old church in the forties and we had to make fire inspections during the services. My memories of the old basement were the wooden side walks under the building and the musty odor.

Then of course there was the time when I passed a collection plate into the row where there were two or three very young children sitting in the middle, trying to be helpful but they dropped the plate. In those days there was more change being deposited in the plates and sound of the coins clinking and rolling down the floor sounded like jingle bells.

John W. Christofferson (1998)

Friday, October 8, 1948 Appleton Post-Crescent 12

Presbyterian Church Plans For Centennial Observance

Neenah — Neenah's First Presbyterian church, which will observe the hundredth year of organization Dec. 15, is planning a series of centennial observances, John Tolversen, chairman of the centennial committee, reported today.

An organ recital in form of a vesper service is being arranged for 4:30 the afternoon of Oct. 17. Mrs. Clyde Duncan, organist, assisted by a guest artist, will present a program of sacred and classical music.

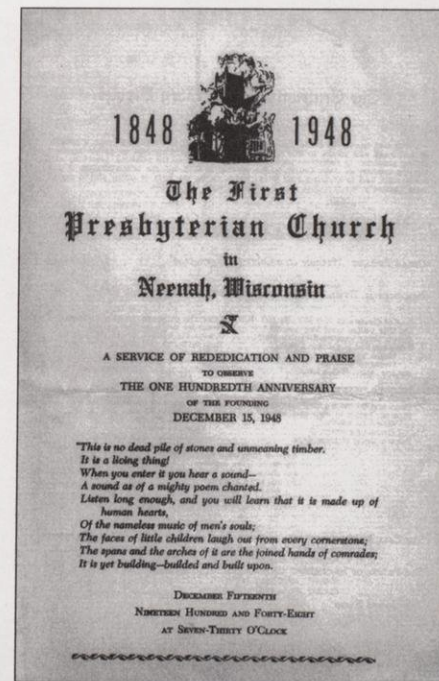
The church, which began recognition of its centennial year with the world-wide observance of communion and a reception of new members Sunday, will have a centennial banquet Oct. 28 under the sponsorship of the Women's society. By pageantry and pantomime that evening, a portrayal of events within that century of church life, will be presented under the direction of Mrs. R. E. Sanders. James H. Shattuck is now directing compilation of a 64-page historical booklet which is to be distributed to members at the banquet. By text and pictures, the activities of the church even before organization will be presented in the booklet.

Special recognition of members

who have held membership in the church for 50 years will be featured Nov. 7.

Marshall Hulbert will direct a concert by the church choir during Sunday evening vespers Nov. 21.

A rededication service will climax the centennial observance Dec. 15. Dr. Jesse H. Baird, moderator of the general assembly of the Presbyterian church will preside at that service which is set for Dec. 15 because the church was formally organized on that day in 1848, according to records which the church found in its archives in the form of the original minute book.





Appleton Post, October 27, 1948.

Presbyterians Will Present Church History in Pageant

Neenah — A banquet under the general chairmanship of Mrs. John Jern, a pageant depicting church history, and the distribution of the centennial booklets are on the agenda for members of the First Presbyterian church Thursday evening.

Beginning at 6:30 in the Neenah Brigade building, the banquet will be open to all in the congregation who have made reservations. Mrs. Thomas Catlin is in charge of table decorations; Mrs. Kenneth Mace and Mrs. Dean Anderson, arranging for the Brigade building; Mrs. Harold Gray and the Men's club, transportation of equipment; Mrs. Howard Palmer, food preparation and arrangements at the church, and volunteers from the Women's Circles will serve with members of the men's groups assisting in serving and cleanup.

Episodes depicting the first Protestant religious service in Neenah, organization of the Presbyterian church in 1848, the inauguration of the Boys' Brigade in 1900, and the Women's Christian societies, are on the docket for the pageant which begins at 7:45 at the church. The event will be open to the public.

The Rev. John Bouquet is narrator and Mrs. William Berger will be the reader. Church members will take part in each episode.

James Shattuck was general chairman of the booklet committee.

The 100th anniversary celebrations included a pageant, "A Century of Service and Worship," written by Alic Sanders to tell the Church's history. The segment pictured here portrayed the organization of the Women's Society and the missionary work it started. The Rev. John Bouquet, standing in the background, was one of the narrators. (Mrs. Sanders was director of Christian education for many years.)

A reporter from the *Neenah News Times* pronounced the pageant as having been "outstanding."



Several new members joined the Church on "Centennial Sunday," December 15, 1948.

I Remember When

Way back when, the parents used to have parties for the graduation classes — and every year we had a different theme. When our daughter Theanne graduated the title was "What Your Future Will Be." We knew that one of the boys hoped to become a doctor, so, of course, we had a scene taking place in surgery. Dr. George Hildebrand even loaned us the green gowns from Theda Clark. When the blood (catsup) ran out of the patient, our eight-year-old son who was in the play, had to be taken home as he became ill; the scene was so realistic. It was meant to be funny.

Also, we used to put on our huge fairs and many people from other churches looked forward to them. So many of us worked many hours to get the Fellowship Hall ready with all kinds of booths. One year we made \$10,000 which we gave to different missions. The fellowship was wonderful! All-in-all my memories of our church have been great!

Dal Rausch (1998)

The following Centennial Class of New Members was received into the fellowship of the First Presbyterian Church of Neenah, Wisconsin, at our worship service last Sunday.

BY PROFESSION OF FAITH

Mrs. Lynn F. Cooper	114 Center St., Neenah
Mr. Lynn F. Cooper	114 Center St., Neenah
David Cooper	114 Center St., Neenah
Mrs. Margaret R. Lobb	124 E. N. Water St., Neenah
Mr. Arthur Ritger	309 Clark St., Neenah
Miss Mable Williams	500 Church St., Neenah
Mrs. Bettie Handler Albrecht	730 Higgins St., Neenah

BY REAFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Mr. Joseph Braun	709 Congress St., Neenah
Mrs. Joseph Braun	709 Congress St., Neenah
Mr. Leon Brur	401 Fifth St., Neenah
Mr. George Dwelle	10-B Elm St., Neenah
Mrs. George Dwelle	10-B Elm St., Neenah
Miss Margaret E. Fisher	353½ Third St., Menasha
Mr. William E. Hug	112 E. Columbian St., Neenah
Mrs. Herman Koepsel	112 E. Columbian St., Neenah
Mr. Herman Koepsel	638 Cecil St., Neenah
Mr. Lawrence A. Shipman	638 Cecil St., Neenah
Mrs. Lawrence A. Shipman	569 Tayco St., Menasha
Mrs. Raymond A. Smith	569 Tayco St., Menasha
	239½ E. Doty, Neenah

BY CERTIFICATE FROM OTHER CHURCHES

Mr. Joseph Normoyle	410 Green St., Neenah
Mrs. Joseph Normoyle	410 Green St., Neenah
Mrs. R. Gordon Pope	400 Caroline St., Neenah
Mr. Roy Babcock, Jr.	335 Ninth St., Neenah
Mrs. Roy Babcock, Jr.	335 Ninth St., Neenah
Mr. Roy C. Dowling	Rt. 3, Neenah
Mrs. Roy C. Dowling	Rt. 3, Neenah
Miss Peggy Pray	Rt. 3, Neenah
Mrs. Clara Palstrom	209 Church St., Neenah
Mr. George F. Buboltz	316 Clark St., Neenah
Mrs. George F. Buboltz	917 Higgins St., Neenah
Betty Ann Buboltz	917 Higgins St., Neenah
Thomas C. Buboltz	917 Higgins St., Neenah
	917 Higgins St., Neenah

Vote to Start Construction Of New Church in the Spring

Recommendation that work be started on construction of the new Presbyterian church in the spring and that the educational wing of the edifice receive first consideration, was unanimously voted by members of the church at the annual meeting Thursday evening.

The decision was reached following a series of recommendations presented to the congregation by S. N. Pickard on behalf of the joint boards of the church. Final approval and adoption of plans of architects, Magney, Tusler and Setter, was made and the congregation voted to raise \$50,000 in addition to pledges already made to the building fund in order to meet the challenge of conditional gifts offered by several members of the church.

Construction of the educational wing, including the fellowship hall, kitchen and heating plant, will receive priority, with sanctuary and chapel set aside for future action. Named to the construction committee were Thad Epps and S. F. Shattuck, co-chairmen. John H. Wilterding, Robert Eiss, L. C. Stip and A. C. Gilbert. The annual meeting was one of the best attended in several years, church officials announced. John H. Wilterding was elected to preside at the meeting. Elected to the session for the coming year were Donald Severson, F. F. Martin, Arvo Vaurio and Richard Roudebush; to the board of deacons, Francis Landig, Jack Renner and George Sherman and to the board of trustees, S. N. Pickard, A. P. Remley and R. M. Eiss.

The meeting was opened by the clerk, Emery Rickard, following a prayer and devotions in charge of Rev. John E. Bouquet. Reports were made by various members of the church, including a new youth budget. Youth activities were described by Curt Borgen and Nancy Neller, and received enthusiastic approval of the members.

A. C. Gilbert, chairman of the board of trustees, submitted the church budget for the ensuing year, and E. A. Severson, treasurer, gave the financial report of church operation for the year which ended on Sept. 30. Others who made reports were Mrs. Ambrose Owens, women's society; Nathan Wauda, Sunday school department; Paul Bowman, board of deacons; H. C. Hilton, chairman of the auditing committee and Clarence Elmgren, chairman of the nominating committee.

Presbyterians Lead as Church Dart Season Opens

Neenah—The Neenah Church Dartball league season opened Tuesday night at the recreation building with First Presbyterian jumping into the lead. The team won three games from Whiting Memorial Baptist on a forfeit.

The league has eight teams this year, an increase of two over last year. All other games were split two-one. Trinity Lutheran took two from First Methodist on 4-3 and 6-3 scores while Methodist copped the middle game 9-0. Herb Handrich had seven hits in 13 times at bat for Trinity with R. A. Plucker rapping eight hits in 17 trips for Methodist.



Above, four boys in a Sunday School class in the late 1940s. At right, children in the 1949 third grade Vacation Bible School class taught by Mrs. Sanders, Mrs. Anderson, and Mrs. Bouquet. Below, most of the six-year-old Vacation Bible School class taught by Mrs. Cogger in 1949. The 15-minute opening Bible School worship service was broadcast on radio station WNAM.



Neenah News-Times, October 15, 1948 (above).
Appleton Post, November 11, 1948.



Work is Started on New Neenah Church

It was an historic moment this morning when the first spadeful of earth was turned over as the first physical beginning of construction of a new Presbyterian church. Actually, the church proper will not be started for some years, but the units which are to be erected now are an integral part of any of today's Christian churches.

The site for the new church includes the land bounded in part by Doty and Columbian avenue on the north and south and by Church on the west. The east boundary extends to the line marking the Methodist church property and the Boys Brigade property.

The first spadeful of earth was turned by S. F. Shattuck, who has been an elder for many years and has long been a prominent leader in the church. The Rev. John E. Bouquet, pastor conducted a brief service of consecration.

The moment is historic, not only for Presbyterians but for all Neenah, because it will doubtless be re-created in 2049 when the centennial of the "new" church will be celebrated by the grown-up grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren of the present members.

The first unit to be erected is known as the educational wing and will be built on the southeast corner of the site. Constructed of native Wisconsin stone, it will house the Sunday school rooms, ladies parlor, church offices, heating plant, kitchen facilities, and fellowship hall. The hall will seat 600 and will also provide dining facilities for 400. The wing's main entrance will be on Church street and there will be another entrance, leading directly into fellowship hall, on Doty avenue. The hall will face Doty

avenue and extend back along the east boundary.

The wing will cost an estimated \$300,000 not counting the heating, plumbing and electrical installations for which contracts have not yet been awarded. The A. B. Ganther company of Oshkosh which submitted the lowest bid, has the building contract. Magney, Tusler, Tusler and Setter of Minneapolis were the architects. It is expected that the wing will be ready for use in the fall of 1950.

Plans for a new church had been discussed as far back as 1939, when the Rev. Walter E. Courtenay was pastor. At first it was thought that the present church could be enlarged and remodeled but estimates presented by competent architects and builders revealed that the cost would be too great in proportion to the worth of the "patched up" building.

War Delayed Project

Then came the war, and the plan for a new structure lay dormant until about 1946, when a successful building fund campaign was conducted. The finance committee was composed of S. N. Pickard, chairman; John S. Tolversen, C. B. Clark, R. F. Lotz, George E. Elwers, Leo O. Schubart, Reginald Sanders, Don Severson, and Miss Theo McCallum. The Rev. George T. Peters was pastor at that time.

However, building costs zoomed, and the finance, building and planning committees, saw their estimates zooming right along. Eventually, it was decided because of expanded costs to build in units. As a first step most of the houses on the site of the new church property were sold and moved off the premises. The manse, on the corner of Columbian and Church street, will remain and will be in use until such time as construction of the new church is begun.

Disposition of the present church building has not been de-

ecided upon, but it, of course, will be needed as a place of worship until the new church shall be built, sometime in the future.

The original planning committee, organized about 1944, included S. F. Shattuck, Fred Bentzen, John Wilterding, Earl Williams, Mrs. Albrecht Gross, Mrs. F. F. Martin, Thad Epps, A. C. Gilbert, and Ambrose Owen. The present building committee is composed of Thad Epps and S. F. Shattuck, co-chairmen; R. M. Eiss, A. C. Gilbert, Fred Gorgensen, L. C. Stilp, and J. H. Wilterding.

The groundbreaking ceremony took place at 11:30 a.m. on June 2, 1949, and was reported in detail in that day's edition of the Neenah-Menasha News-Times. Classes continued to meet in the church building across Doty Ave. until the education wing was dedicated two years later.

The Rev. George T. Peters is called as pastor; serves until 1947.

- 1945: Pres. Roosevelt dies; Vice President Harry S. Truman becomes President.
May 8 — V-E day; war ends in Europe.
George Orwell writes *Animal Farm*.
U.S. drops atomic bombs on Hiroshima (Aug. 6) and Nagasaki (Aug. 9); Japan surrenders (Aug. 14); World War II ends.
- 1946: United Nations General Assembly holds first meeting in London.
Irving Berlin's musical comedy *Annie Get Your Gun* opens.
Xerography process is invented; first step towards today's photocopy machines.
- 1947: United Nations votes to partition Palestine.
The Rev. John E. Bouquet, D.D., is called; serves until 1976.
Transistor is invented at Bell Laboratories.
First U.S. airplane flies at supersonic speeds.
Over one million U.S. veterans head off to college under G. I. Bill of Rights.
U.S. initiates European Recovery Program (Marshall Plan).

Time line continued on p. 44.



Taking part in the education wing groundbreaking ceremony was four-year-old Lynn Graebner, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Graebner. Her picture appeared in the paper, accompanying the article on the facing page. According to the caption, "many of the people who attended the ceremony, shown in the background, helped break ground after the initial shovelful of dirt was taken up."



Construction of the education wing and chapel. The photo at the left was taken on September 1, 1949, by Jack Casper. The photo below is dated January 10, 1950. The clock tower from Neenah's City Hall is visible in both. The clock tower is all that remains of the City Hall which was torn down in the early 1970s.

I Remember When

I remember when the First Presbyterian Church was across the street from our present church, where there is now a parking lot. It was built in 1900; the seats were arranged in a pie shape, more in the back row. The rows tapered to short rows in the front. The exposed organ pipes and pulpit were in the front. It was always decorated beautifully at Christmas time. Bill and I often sat in the back row. C. B. Clark sat next to us. He often fell asleep during the sermon.

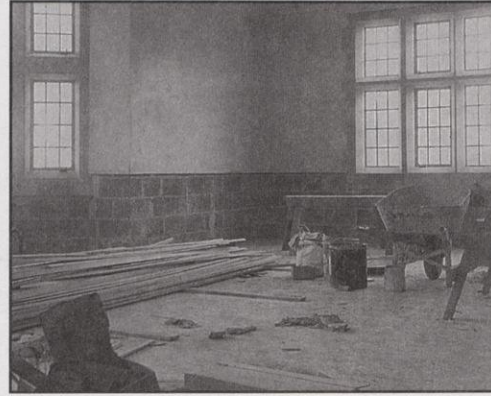
I helped Donna Peterson with the three- and four-year-old Sunday School class. Often small bits of plaster would fall on our table or the floor. Some children wondered if the ceiling would fall down. We reassured them that it wouldn't.

The women of our church should appreciate the beautiful and efficient kitchen we have now. You would if you had worked in the kitchen at the old church! There was a metal spiral staircase that went from the kitchen to a large room above where tables were set for dinners. We had a dumb waiter that carried some of the dishes and food, but the workers carried much of it up the winding stairway. We were young and our balance was good, so we managed.

We joined in 1947 when Rev. Peters was there. What an orator! I could listen to him all day.

Helen Cogger (1998)





The church parlor on March 27, 1951 (above) and on May 13, 1951 (below).



I Remember When

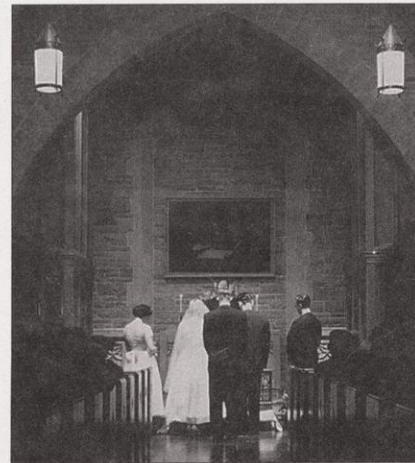
During the 1950s, we, the four daughters of Howie and Stevie Angermeyer, would annually attend the mother-daughter banquets, and every year win the prize for the family with the most daughters. Held in the Fellowship Hall, these events were potlucks with the fathers serving their wives and daughters.

In 1954, dinner was over and we were watching the program from the balcony as the big moment arrived for the Mother-with-the-Most-Daughters Award. No one else could top four! In her exuberance to receive the coveted award (candy bars), the eldest daughter climbed over the back of a folding chair. Mother and the four little girls disappeared into the ladies room to regroup, dress the wounds, and soothe the tears.

As a big black and blue shiner started appearing around Peggy's eye, she turned to the youngest and said, "Nancy, it's all your fault. If you hadn't been borned, none of this would have happened."

Peggy Angermeyer Mangen and Kathy Angermeyer Greenfield (1998)

One of the first weddings in the new chapel was that of Emil (Bud) Hjersted and Sara (Sally) Carpenter in 1952.



- 1948: Ghandi is assassinated.
Harry S. Truman is elected President.
Soviet Union blocks all rail and road traffic between Berlin and West Germany; U.S.-led airlift begins.
Church celebrates 100th anniversary. Special events are held throughout the year and book *A Century of Service and Worship* is published.
Long-playing record is invented.
Jewish State of Israel created.
Council of Chistian Education is organized; Peggy Pray, first professional director of Christian Education, is hired.
569 baptisms are recorded between 1948 and 1958.

- 1949: Berlin airlift ends.
June 2 - Ground is broken for education wing; sanctuary is built in 1953.
Drive to raise \$50,000 to build new church gets underway; total pledged within three weeks.
Song "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer" becomes popular.

- 1950: Church trustees vote to begin construction of chapel.
Joseph McCarthy, one of Wisconsin's U.S. Senators and an Appleton resident, warns Pres. Truman about "Communists" in State Department.
Congress passes McCarran Act
Time line continued on p. 46.



The New Church Bell

The First Presbyterian Church - Neenah, Wis.



VOLUME II

MAY 1951

NUMBER 10

FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

As we come to the dedication of our magnificent new church school building, let us give thanks. To some, this is just a building, erected under difficulties and costing a lot of money. But to others it is a triumphant expression of the will of God, in which we have been privileged to have a part. His is the honor. His is the purpose. He alone has made all things possible. It is God who hath put this vision into the hearts of devoted servants through the many years. It is His will working in us that has moved us to sacrifice, that our vision might become a reality.

And now, if we serve Him in the future, as He hath been served in the past by this congregation, even greater visions will become realities. Great will be the blessing upon the work which we have built in His name. Now we will build, not with wood and stone, but with the living stones of human hearts. Boys and girls, yea men and women yet unknown, will learn of Him and of His will. They will fellowship together in brotherly love and peace, and life will be richer, fuller, sweeter because we have built for Him.

It has been good to do this work. Good for us and good for our children. We re-

DEDICATION OF THE CHURCH SCHOOL BUILDING TO BE HELD MAY 20, 1951

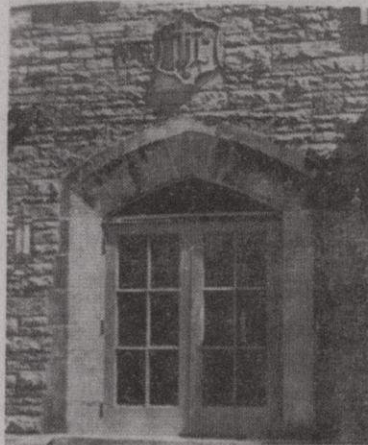
PROGRAM FOR DEDICATION WEEK

Sunday, May 13 — Sunday School ceremony at 9:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Sunday, May 13 — Open House for the congregation at 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 16 — Open House for the community at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 20 — Formal Dedication Service at 3:00 p.m.



Entrance to New Chapel

The Church School staff is planning a program for the children of the Sunday School for the first event of the dedication services. The program will be held on May 13 during the regular Sunday School hour in Fellowship Hall. Parents are cordially urged to attend. After the Sunday School dedication services the children will go to their new classrooms where they will hold their own services. Dismissal time will be at 10:25.

The open house scheduled for 3:00 p.m. on May 13 is intended to give every church family an opportunity to get acquainted with their new building. Guide service will be provided by several men from the church under the direction of the Dedication Committee of which Gilbert Bayley is chairman.

A WORD FROM THE BUILDING COMMITTEE

We approach the dedication date of the church, the minutes of the meeting reflect a medley of homesickness, neglected, would mar the chance, who is responsible for

Hall, its arrangement, as for



Fellowship hall, the education wing, and the chapel were dedicated on Sunday morning, May 13, 1951.

WE DEDICATE

To the glory of God

And to the service of our fellowmen

THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

A building completely furnished with the facilities to promote Christian friendship and recreation throughout our church and community. The modern kitchen, small dining room, stage and movie projection equipment will all contribute to programs and activities which will bring us closer together.

THE CHURCH SCHOOL BUILDING

This structure contains the departmental rooms, class rooms, offices, conference rooms, library, kitchen and church parlor. It is equipped for the most modern types of teaching. A sound system has been provided for the relay of music and programs from various rooms. The building has been planned with a most versatile arrangement of rooms designed for multiple use.

THE CHAPEL

This beautiful and modern interpretation of a gothic chapel has been created as a place for prayer and meditation and quiet worship. To this peaceful place may come one or two or more than a hundred to be near to God, and to think His thoughts. The stained glass windows express better than words the purposes for which this chapel has been built. In order that any and all may come as the Spirit may move them, it is planned that this chapel be kept open as much as possible.

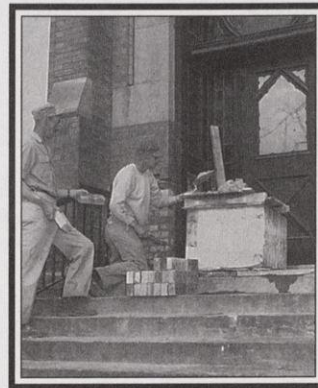


Sunday School in the new church school building.

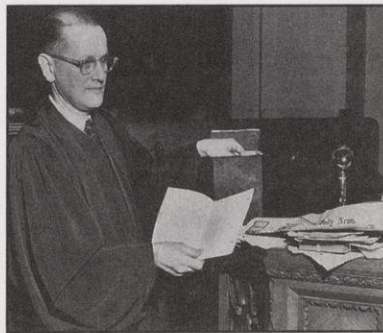




The building committee gathered for a newspaper photo after the education building was dedicated. From the left, Samuel Pickard, Lyall Stilp, Robert (Thad) Epps, John Bouquet, S. F. Shattuck, Fredric Gorgenson, Robert Eiss, A. C. Gilbert, and Richard Nelson. John Bouquet was the pastor; S. F. Shattuck and Thad Epps were the committee co-chairmen; and Fredric Gorgenson was the inspecting engineer. (1951 photo)



The cornerstone from the old church was removed (above), opened during a worship service (left), and installed with the new cornerstone on May, 1953 (below).



Starting to excavate for the new sanctuary.



I Remember When

I was in high school in the late 1940s and the church sent me to Camp Minnewanka for two years. It was a marvelous experience to meet other girls from across the country and be exposed to so many exciting ideas presented by interesting instructors.

Carol Sorensen Day (1998)



(over presidential veto) which places severe restrictions on Communists.

After initial suggestion is made by Women's Association, memorial fund is established.

Alice Sanders hired as part-time Director of Christian Education.

North Korean forces invade South Korea; U.S. forces land in South Korea.

National Council of Churches forms in U.S. and includes 25 Protestant denominations (including Presbyterians) and four Eastern Orthodox groups. United Nations building in New York City is completed.

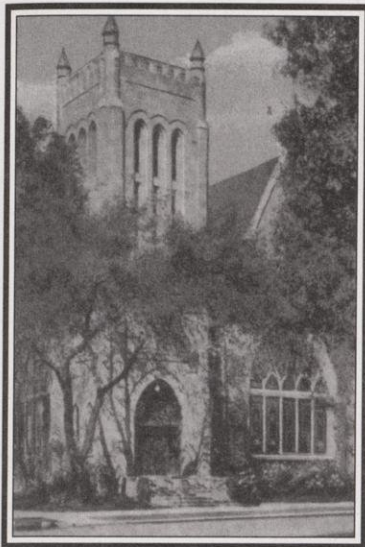
Church membership reaches 1,304.

Church welcomes three families of displaced persons (D. P.s), also referred to as "delayed pilgrims." Five more are scheduled to arrive later.

Other Church highlights of the decade: joint services held with Methodists (summer, 1942); 81 Club forms (couples' club – combined ages of each couple totaled 81 or less).

Local highlights of the decade: Oak St. bridge is completed (prior to this, Commercial St. bridge provides only direct access to Doty Island); Neenah's first swimming pool is constructed at Rec. Park; dial telephones

Time line continued on p. 48.



Construction underway. . .



From a 1954
Church Bell.

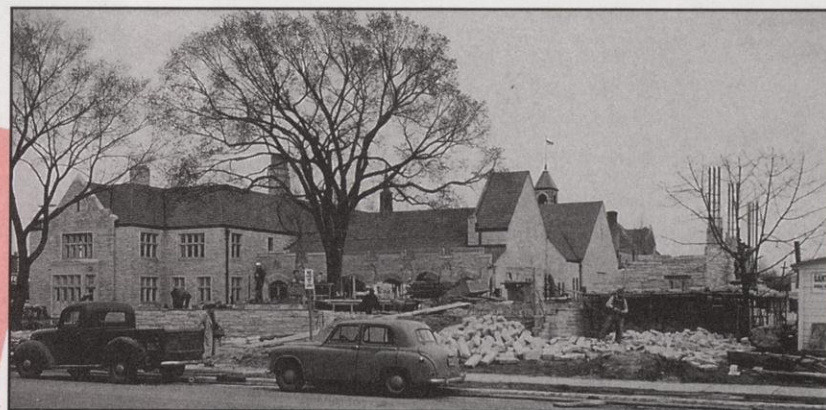
Church member Bud Hjerstedt documented the construction of the present building. He took the aerial shots from the bell tower of the old church (above), right across the street in what is now a parking lot. If you look carefully at the construction photos, you can see the Neenah water tower and the old City Hall building. The church was built before the Boys' and Girls' Brigade building now on the southwest corner of the block. When the church was built, a gas station occupied that corner.

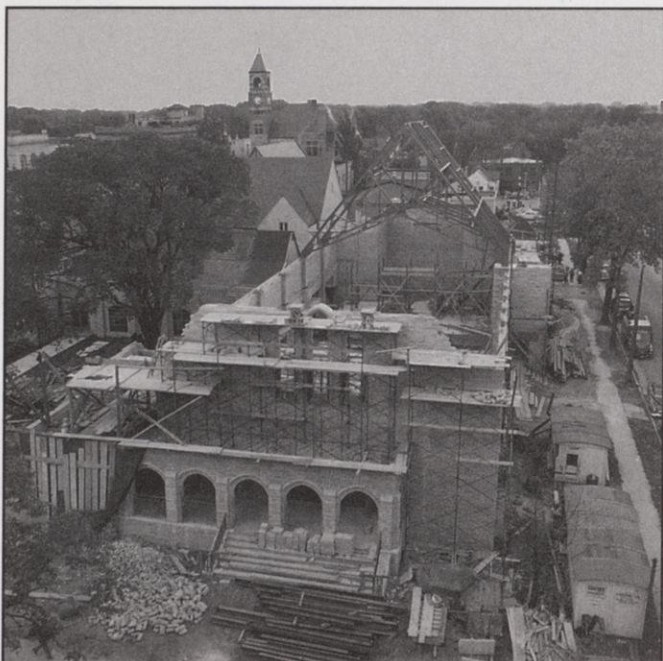
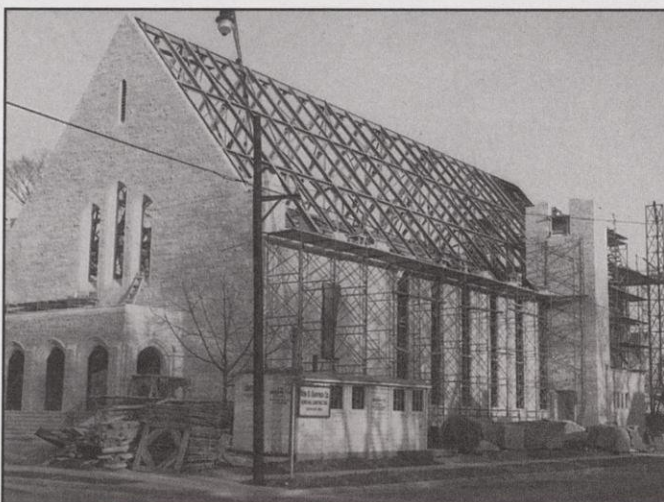
The photo of the old church bell tower is taken from a 1919 postcard.

I Remember When

10th grade (probably?) girls dressed as angels lit all the candles prior to the Christmas Vespers Service. It was such a special event to be part of that I can picture it today, 37 years later.

Barb Remaeker (1998)





I Remember When

Back in the 1950s, I believe, Ralph J. Mitchell (Mitch's father), did handy-work around the church. He would check the furnace and did some electrical work. One day after a bad thunderstorm, the electricity went out in the church. He was asked to check on it. Somehow, wires were crossed and he was blown out of the tunnel! Fortunately, no severe injuries were sustained.

Jane Mitchell (1998)

replace operator-assisted service.

1951: May 20 – new education wing is dedicated. Sunday School rooms now in use; mother-daughter banquet is first event held in Fellowship Hall.

Atomic energy is first used to produce electricity at Arcon, Idaho.

Color television first introduced in U.S.

Peggy Pray resigns; Alice Sanders is named full-time Director of Christian Education. Number of Elders is increased from 12 to 15; Deacons from 9 to 12.

John N. Bergstrom dies; leaves large bequest which becomes the John N. Bergstrom Endowment Fund.

1952: Dwight D. Eisenhower is elected president; resigns as Supreme Commander in Europe.

Double session of Sunday School is implemented.

Congregation elects women to Session for first time. Three are named, one for each class: Dorothea (Mrs. S. N.) Pickard; Mabel (Mrs. A. C.) Gilbert; and Miss Sadie Tipler.

After 15 years of work by 32 scholars, Revised Standard Version of the Bible is published.

King George VI of England dies; Elizabeth II becomes queen. First contraceptive pill is produced.

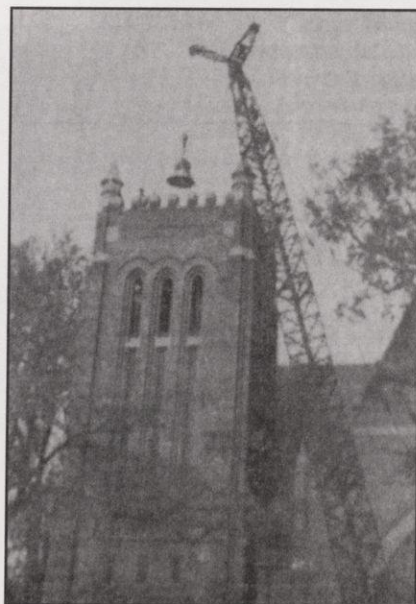
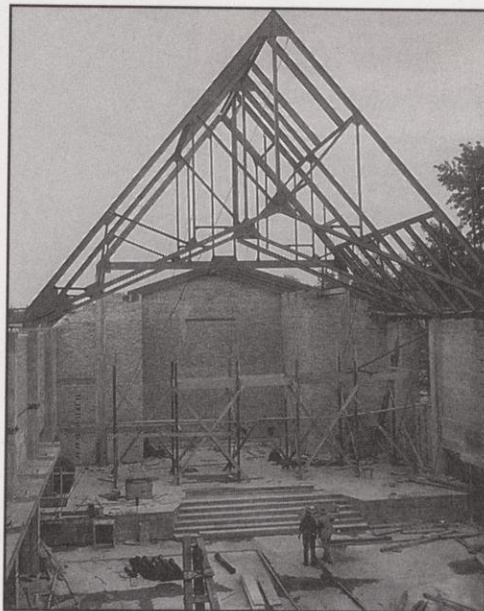
1953: Cornerstone is laid for present sanctuary; construction proceeds.

1954: First service is held in new church on Oct. 3, World Wide Communion Sunday. Dedication service is held on Oct. 10; rebuilt organ is dedicated on Oct. 23.

U.S. Senator Joseph McCarthy of Appleton continues hearings to prove Communist infiltration into Army. After televised hearings, U.S. Senate passes resolution to censure and condemn Sen. McCarthy. School children in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania receive first anti-polio inoculation.

1955: New Senior High department room set up in basement room below kitchen at cost of \$3,500.

Session votes to allow women elders to serve communion for the first time — in the balcony and to the choir only. It had become too difficult to find enough men elders to serve. The Rev. J. Robert Ranck is called as first associate pastor; serves until 1958. Albert Einstein dies.



The bell was moved from the tower of the old church to the new church. According to an article in February, 1954, issue of *The New Church Bell*, the church's regular newsletter, where this photo appeared. . .

"The old church bell will continue to ring in our new church tower. It will ring for the same ideals for which it rang in the old church. There is little difference whether our church is of brick or stone or timber — it is still our church. All the precious memories we have of our church as we remember the past will merge with our thoughts in the present and future and our church will be as one in our minds."





The congregation worshipping in the old church, probably summer, 1948. The photo was featured on the inside back covers of the centennial booklet.

1956: Oral polio vaccine is developed. Dwight D. Eisenhower is reelected president with Richard M. Nixon as vice-president.

Sixty boys and girls are in the A to Z communicants class — starting with Margaret Angermeyer and ending with Victoria Zick.

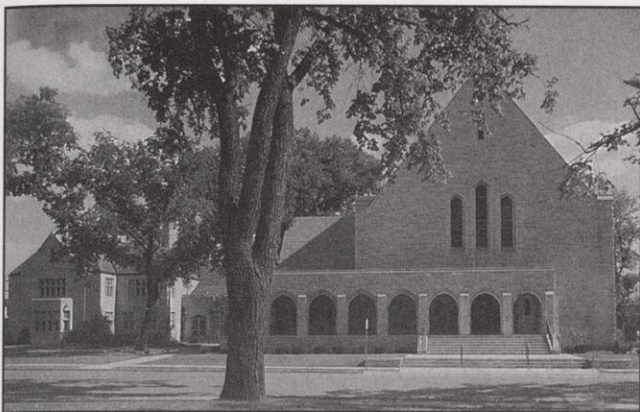
Faith & Fellowship Adult Club forms for “graduates” of 81 Club.

Session votes to include women on the Board of Deacons starting in 1957. General Assembly approves ordination of women for the Ministry of the Word and Sacrament. Margaret Towner becomes the first woman ordained in the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.

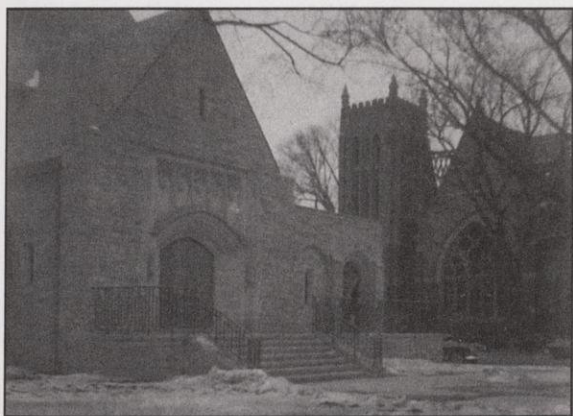
The Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. becomes leader of desegregation campaign.

1957: Session votes to start holding two services every Sunday. Ninety Sunday School teachers volunteer to work under direction of Mary Baker, new Director of Christian Education. Dr. Seuss writes *The Cat in the Hat*.

U.S.S.R. launches first satellites, Sputnik I and Sputnik II. Mackinac Straits Bridge, world's



The building was dedicated on October 10, 1954. The service began at the old church and the congregation, following the choir and the ministers, processed across the street to complete the dedication of the new building.



This photo was taken during the early phase of the old building's demolition. The timbers which supported the roof are visible and the windows on the front of the old building have been removed.

Excerpts from “Usher’s Guide”

(1956-58; John Bouquet was the senior pastor and Robert Ranck was the associate.)

The Usher, as a host, represents the hospitality of our Church, so Smile — Be Friendly — Be Courteous — Be Helpful.

Dark suit is preferable, but not necessary.

Boutonnieres are worn in left lapel as a badge of office.

If [seating] preference is not stated, seat in accordance with best interest of congregation. Fill forward seats first, saving rear seats for late-comers. If service is small, do not crowd.

The Offering

Ushers gather in Narthex prior to Offertory and take places assigned by Captain.

At the signal from the Captain, the Ushers will start forward with their left foot and proceed to their stations.

[To bring the offering forward] The eight Ushers will step off with their left foot and proceed to their position at the front steps as indicated in Figure C, all facing to front and avoiding unnecessary side to side shuffling.

General

Ushers should remain alert for any fainting, illness, or other emergency, or any outside noise.

If anyone faints or is ill, the first aid room is in the basement by the choir room.

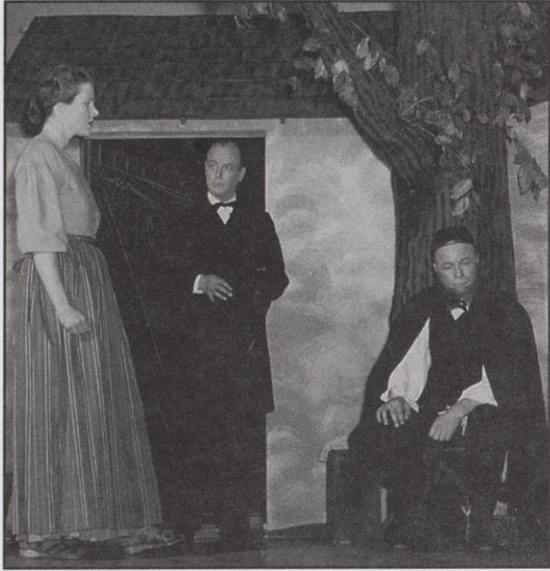


Perhaps an Easter Sunday morning in the mid 1950s. Note the snow on the steps.

I Remember When

I was 8 years old and I attended a mother-daughter banquet in Fellowship Hall. There were little contests, such as which child had the longest hair, who had the most missing baby teeth, who was the tallest, etc. I remember being disappointed that I didn't win, but also feeling very happy that I was there with my mom.

Anne Coons (1998)



Above, Nancy Gilbert, Dean Martin, and Arvo Vaurio were among the actors to star in the first production of *Family Portrait*.



Over the years, Presbyterians have taken to the stage, presenting several plays, including *Family Portrait* in 1952 (left) and again in 1978, and *The Robe* in the late 1950s (below left). Presbyterian players have also performed *A Christmas Carol* and *The Christmas Star*.



Above, Dave Wollangk, Dick Henderson, Joyce Wessel, Warren Griffith, and Gretchen Oakely, members of the cast of *Family Portrait* (1978). (Helen Burger has her back to the camera.) The cast included a live — but obviously reluctant goat (left).



I Remember When

We gave two powerful “big” play productions. *The Robe*. I think in the late 50s. *Family Portrait* was given twice, before and after *The Robe*. It was based on Mark 6:4, “A prophet is not without honor but in his own country and among his own kin and in his own house.” I was in the first production and acted as producer the second time when John Hefti directed.

Bill Hug designed the set the first time, and because we couldn’t screw any scenery into the stage’s hardwood floor, he cleverly produced a three-sided unit which was the outside of Jesus’ house on the one side and when it was turned around, became the inside of an inn.

Later we gave Martin, *The Cobbler* one Christmas time.

Marti Long-Herren (1998)

longest suspension bridge, opens.
Pres. Eisenhower sends U.S. troops to Little Rock, Arkansas to enforce desegregation of Little Rock High School.
Milwaukee Braves win World Series, defeating New York Yankees.

Huge class of 62 new members joins church.

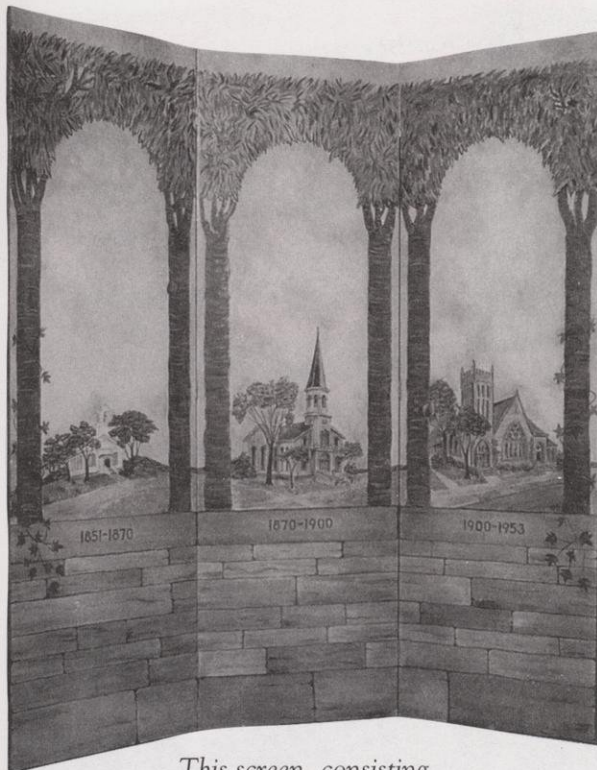
Marshall Hulbert is honored for 20 years service as organist/choir director.

1958: Leon Uris writes *Exodus*.
U.S. nuclear submarine cruises under North Pole ice cap.
The Rev. James Akin called as associate pastor; serves until 1962.
Church membership reaches 1,606; 924 (including teachers) enrolled in Sunday School.
Milwaukee Braves lose World Series to New York Yankees.
Church starts a kindergarten class for four-year-olds four days a week.

Two members of the congregation become candidates for the ministry: John Millar, son of Mary and J. B. Millar, and Arvo Vaurio, a member of Session.

1959: Fidel Castro takes over as Premier of Cuba.
Hawaii becomes 50th state.

Time line continued on p. 55.



This screen, consisting of three panels, depicts three of the buildings which have housed the congregation of First Presbyterian Church. The gift of Mrs. H. K. Babcock, it was painted by William Hug in 1953.

According to the Church Bell, "These handsome roving waiters, along with a romantic singing troubadour in the person of Ned Rightor, provided gaiety and amusement at the 81 Club Italian spaghetti dinner on February 3, 1954."

In front (l-r) Gene Jessup and Don Buchta and in back, Dick Stanley, Bill Millard, and Don Mitchell.



Senior high school Sunday School class, mid-1950s.



Members of the Havilah Babcock Class in December, 1955. Seated (l-r): Miss Jean D. Cruickshank, Mrs. Carrie S. Neff, Mrs. Margaret Pope, Mrs. Adelaide Young. Standing (l-r): Mrs. Grace Tolwersen, Miss Lena Miller, Mrs. Susan Dankers, Mrs. Elinor Waldo, Mrs. Zelda Locke, Mrs. Bertha Dunn.

I Remember When

I was in high school in the late '30s and a girl friend, who was Presbyterian, asked me to go to a youth meeting with her. Of course, I went, but it was unusual for a Catholic to go to a non-Catholic church; not only unusual, but forbidden! Many years later, my neighbor, Helen Braun, invited me to attend a meeting of Circle 3 at that same church. What a warm welcome I received! The ladies welcomed me with open arms and I decided to come back again — and again. It is now almost 25 years since I became a member of Circle 3 — years getting to know and love some of the nicest women anyone could hope to meet. What a lot I missed in those years between high school and the early '70s when a Presbyterian friend embraced the ecumenical spirit and invited me to a Circle 3 meeting.

I am truly blessed.

Dolly Kohfeldt (1998)
(Member of St. Margaret Mary Roman Catholic Church)



I Remember When

I was usually given a Sunday School class where there was at least one of my children present. There were often 20 in the two/three-year-old class. We had songs, stories, picture drawing. There was a little boy who loved to ram the children with the big truck. Never a dull moment!

About every other year, I "graduated" to the next level. Jan Yakes was head for the four/five-year-olds. They were a great bunch. We met in the present library. One year, I took summer school where there were about 30 children. (I have felt for school teachers ever since!) There were maybe 8 to 10 (mostly boys) as we progressed.

There were 12 "I don't care" kids in junior high. Up to that point, I had one of my own in the class. I really appreciate how hard it is often to be the teacher. But what a blessing. And how nice it is to remember Anna Proctor and Mrs. Sparks. Miss Ilsing, my teachers.

Kate Brehm (1989)



Early 1950s.



A group of Senior High Westminster Fellowship boys and girls with their advisors and associate pastor Robert Ranck returning to the church after a trip to the Lac du Flambeau Indian Reservation. Spring, 1956.



Fran Zuemer (calling chairman), and Jane Banks and Fran Graebner, co-chairmen of the Garden Committee, working in the courtyard in the spring of 1959.



Mike MacGregor, Karen Boehm, Linda Benoit, and Bob Lang present the One Great Hour of Sharing offering in 1956. The Rev. Robert Ranck served as associate pastor from January, 1956 through February, 1958.

I Remember When

The junior department of the church school numbered 1,000 (one thousand). We met in Fellowship Hall and each teacher was responsible for 10 students. We had a pianist and a song leader come in each week.

There was pressure to have a second service at 11 a.m., which we did.

The church school is now organized completely differently and the members are more active.

Laura Jane Loker (1998)

Local highlights of the decade:

Kimberly double house on East Wisconsin Ave. is given to Neenah-Menasha Visiting Nurses Association and serves as VNA headquarters until mid-1990s.

Twin City Boating Club (power boats) and Neenah Optimist Club form.

Bergstrom Mahler Art Center opens.

1960: U.S. Air Force pilot Francis Gary Powers is shot down over U.S.S.R. and confesses to spying.

John F. Kennedy and Richard M. Nixon participate in first televised debate between presidential candidates. Kennedy later wins election. American Heart Association reports link between cigarette smoking and higher death rate for middle-aged men who smoke.

U.S. launches first weather satellite.

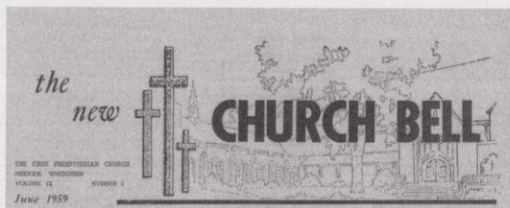
Wisconsin Badgers lose Rose Bowl 44-8 to Washington. Oral contraceptives become available for women.

1961: U.S. equips and trains Cuban exiles who try to invade Cuba in what becomes known as Bay of Pigs fiasco.

East German government constructs Berlin Wall.



Junior choir, 1950s.



The church newsletter received a new masthead in the mid-1950s. The (almost) monthly newsletter was printed on glossy paper (9 inches by 12 inches), included several photographs, and was four to eight pages long. For many years, it was sent to a local printer for typesetting and printing.



The youth budget committee recording the Sunday offering in 1955, a weekly task for this group. From left to right are Joel Garlock, Carol Gorgenson, Larry Bouquet, and Peggy Howe.



Members of Circle 1 met on May 12, 1955 in the home of one of the members. From the left are Mrs. R. A. Vanderwalker, Gladys Mace, Dorothea Pickard (who was leading the study), Helen Braun (circle leader), and Thelma Jones. All 12 circles were studying the Book of Hebrews.



Chancel choir rehearsing on a Sunday morning. Probably early 1970s.



Junior choir rehearsal in 1955.

I Remember When

When Jack and I first moved to Neenah in 1944, we joined the Presbyterian Church. We tried to come every Sunday, but little ones soon limited that, at least for me. One service I really tried to attend was the Communion service on Holy Thursday. It wasn't always easy to find a baby sitter as all the other churches had services that night also.

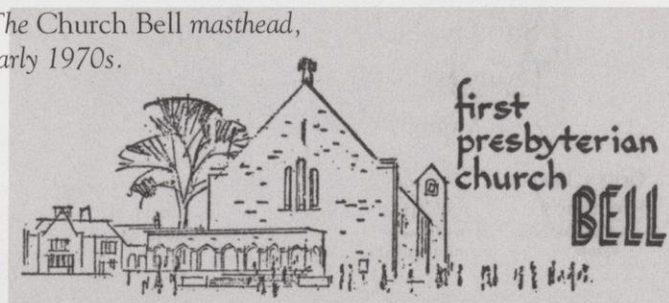
I truly appreciated the service, but there was an added element for the ladies. We all wore hats at that time and this was the coming out party for spring hats. Some wore our best from last year, others were brand new (maybe from Olene's, the shop next to the old Valley Inn). But I had a special source. One of my mother's hobbies at that time was making hats. She even sewed the strips of braid together to create a true original. It may seem a bit sacrilegious, but it was important to the ladies. Snug little hats, some boxy with brims, a place for ribbons, and of course, flowers. We do not wear hats anymore. Often Helen Hildebrand and I are the only ones in church with hats on. But this is all part of our church history.

Andrea Bletzinger (1998)



Getting ready for a play, probably the early 1960s.

The Church Bell masthead, early 1970s.



James Baldwin writes *Nobody Knows My Name*.

Alan Shepard becomes first U.S. citizen to fly in space; U.S.S.R. astronaut Yuri Gagarin becomes first person to orbit the earth in a satellite.

1962: **The Rev. William E. Chapman is called as associate pastor; serves until 1965.**

Northwestern Depot in Neenah closes; end of passenger rail travel between Neenah and Milwaukee.

Black student James Meredith is denied admission to University of Mississippi; U.S. marshals and 3,000 soldiers are called out to keep peace and suppress riots when Meredith tries to attend classes.

Eleanor Roosevelt, wife of former president Franklin Delano Roosevelt and human rights activist, dies.

1963: U.S. and U.S.S.R. establish "hot line" between White House and Kremlin.

Morris West writes *The Shoes of the Fisherman*.

Pres. John F. Kennedy is assassinated by Lee Harvey Oswald in Dallas Texas on Nov. 22. Vice-President Lyndon Johnson becomes President.

Members of Women's Society (11 circles) hold fair to raise \$800 to send to refugees in Hong Kong.

First artificial heart is used to circulate a patient's blood during surgery. American physician Michael De Bakey is the surgeon.

1964: Lyndon B. Johnson is elected president.

War in Vietnam escalates. The Beatles release movie, *A Hard Day's Night*. Other popular movies: *Goldfinger*, *Mary Poppins*, *My Fair Lady*.

The Rev. Donald R. Gibson called as associate pastor; serves until 1968.

Race riots in Harlem, New York and other U.S. cities. Race riots in Watts neighborhood of Los Angeles leave 35 dead and result in 4,000 arrests and \$40 million in property damage.

Church begins nursery and kindergarten for church families; operates for three years.

Church membership peaks at 1,927.

1965: War in Vietnam continues to escalate; students demonstrate against war in Washington, DC.

The Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., leads 4,000 people in civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, to protest civil rights violence in Selma.

Time line continued on p. 59.



Senior high fellowship group, 1962.



Confirmation class, 1968. Ministers: John Bouquet, senior pastor (far right) and Donald Gibson, associate pastor (far left)

Elder Lorren Schroeder (seated) is signing baptism certificates for Mark David Schubart, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Schubart, and Betsy Jeanne Lambert, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Lambert in 1956.

Part of an article which appeared in the October, 1970, issue of the Twin City News-Record, published daily as part of the Post Crescent.

Mrs. Schroeder Leads Bell Choir

BY ELAINE HARTFIEL
News-Record Staff Writer

NEENAH — "The clappers seem to go before a concert!" commented Mrs. Lorren Schroeder, director of the First Presbyterian church bell choir.

The choir will present its first concert of the season at the Thanksgiving Day services.

The first bell choir consisting of 12 members was formed in September, 1960. Mrs. James A. Akin, the wife of the assistant pastor, directed the choir and arranged the music.

Mrs. Schroeder has directed the bell choir for approximately eight years. She studied elementary music at

bells cost approximately \$700, and are still being used. They were purchased from Petit & Fritzen Co., Holland. Ned Rightor, a member of the congregation, repairs the clappers when they break.

Handbell ringing was introduced in Europe about 1700 and in the United States in 1847 by P. T. Barnum who brought the Lancashire Bell Ringers from England.

Handbells were rarely heard outside of Boston until about 1940 when their use in a few churches led to a rapid growth of interest in bell choirs.

Until recently, most of the arrangements used by the choir were done by Mrs. Schroeder.





Front and back cover of the order of worship used during the early 1960s. This one dates from February, 1961. The service was broadcast over radio station WNAM.

THE MINISTRY	
Rev. John E. Bouquet, D. D.	Pastor
Rev. James A. Ables	Assistant Pastor
Mrs. Mary Baker	Director of Christian Education
Rev. and Mrs. Edward Adams	Social Worker
Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Chatterton	On Parloph
THE CHURCH STAFF	
Mrs. H. H. King, Secretary	Mr. David J. Jovan, Treasurer
Mr. Dan Smith, Organist & Director	Mr. Gilbert Fisher, Cantor
THE SESSION	
1961	1962
Frank Davis	Mrs. Lyle Argabrite
George Dewitt	Leonard Claxton
Mrs. Kenneth Mace	Dr. George Hildebrand
J. Burton Miller	Alvin Lang, Clerk
Edward Righolice, Jr.	Robert Ogg
James Roberts	Ralph Swoboda
THE BOARD OF DEACONS	
Mr. John Ritzinger	Allen Gamble
Roy Dewling	Nyle Amick
Bernie Pickard, Chm.	James Binks
Dr. Donald Ryan	Mrs. Herbert Claxton
Robert Sparks	Karl Oberbach
	Melvin Rausch
THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES	
Howard Amersmeyer	Palmer McConnell
James Buchanan	Arthur Redman
Ralph Hickey, Chm.	Carl Ostler
	Robert Kay
	G. Andrew Pectain
	S. H. Pickard
THE COUNCIL OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	
Mrs. Sharon Charlton	George Ballard
Herbert Claxton	Miss Jane Henselman
James Roberts	Mrs. Lyle Landrum
Mrs. Robert Ogg, Chm.	Mrs. George Hildebrand
	Dr. Donald Ryan
THE SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL	
Superintendent, Mrs. Gile Oels	Secretary, Mr. Wheeler Dunn
Treasurer, Mr. John Hilton	Youth Dept. Advisor, Mr. Paul Gross
Youth Budget Director, Betty Johnson	
DEPARTMENT SUPERINTENDENTS	
Junior Nursery	Mrs. George Cowling
Senior Nursery	Mrs. George Fisher
Kindergarten	Mrs. Charles Kemp
Primary	Mrs. Robert Goodman
Babysand	Mrs. Henry Bakonhoff
	Mrs. Robert Yakes
	Mrs. Donald Scott
	Mrs. Eugene Jessup
	Mr. & Mrs. H. L. Potts
ORGANIZATIONS	
Men's Club, Mr. Robert Orr	L.A.F. Club, Mr. & Mrs. Edward M. Hunt
Women's Society, Mrs. R. D. Martin	Faith & Fellowship, Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Long
Tobacco Club, Mr. Oliver McIntyre	Jr.-Hi Y. F. Dan Hartzell
H. Club, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Dorewell	Senior Hi I. Nancy Seaman
Prayer's Club, Miss Lorraine Demehant	Senior Hi II, John Soveran
Mothers' Circle, Mrs. Albert Crossler	Junior Choir, Mr. William Book
	St. Choir, Mr. Edward Righter, Jr.



I Remember when

We broadcast the 11 a.m. Sunday church service . . . LIVE! As an outreach of this church, we had a telephone hook-up to WNAM and members who could not get to the service for one reason or another could listen on the radio. As times and priorities changed, we abandoned the live broadcast. We tried for a while to provide a tape with the sermon and one or two hymns, which would be broadcast at a different time, but that never really worked out very well. The demise of the broadcasts was primarily because of the cost and because the radio station wanted the time for more lucrative pursuits. . . and the broadcast had a limited audience. It was a good idea while it lasted (several years).

The church would usually turn on the equipment (kept in the basement under the sanctuary) before the broadcast and the telephone company would "throw a shoe" to make the connection. It was not at all unusual to have no signal just minutes before the broadcast. Then WNAM would call the church or the phone company to remind them to make the connection.

Jack Speech (1998)



Billie Ogg, Helen Dedmon, and Mary Keller preparing items, perhaps for a Women's Association sale. (1971)



John and Margaret Bouquet celebrate Dr. Bouquet's 25 years as the church's senior pastor in 1972.



Mary Garlock and Onie Onken, Director of Christian Education.



Gladys Mace pours for Walter (Bro) Miller at the reception for the Bouquets.



In 1973, Finley (Fin) Martin crafted the lovely black walnut kneeler as a memorial to his wife, Marion and it has been used ever since for weddings. Sally Lenz and Tom Tolly were married in 1982; the Rev. Lanny Vincent performed the ceremony.

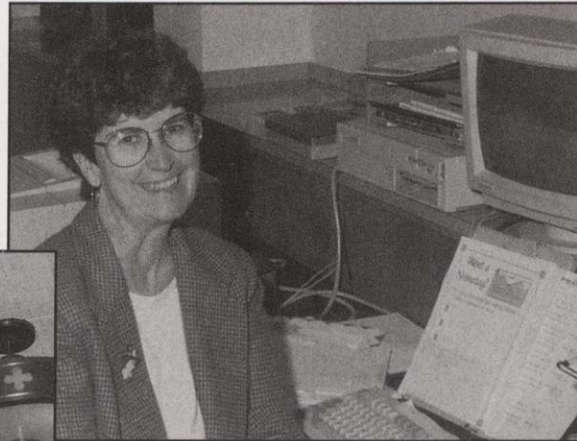
1966: U.S. and Soviet spacecraft make soft landings on moon. Old YWCA on corner of Commercial and N. Water St. is torn down; a new Neenah-Menasha YWCA is built, complete with Neenah's first indoor swimming pool. Miniskirts become fashionable. Color television becomes popular. Walt Disney dies.

1967: First human heart is transplanted. Green Bay Packers, coached by Vince Lombardi, win Super Bowl. Martin Luther King, Jr., leads march to protest war in Vietnam. Race riots take place in Cleveland, Ohio, Newark, New Jersey, and Detroit, Michigan.

1968: The Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., civil rights leader and winner of 1964 Nobel Peace Prize, is assassinated by James Earl Ray in Memphis, Tennessee. Pres. Lyndon Johnson announces he will not seek reelection. U.S. Senator Robert Kennedy, brother of former president John F. Kennedy, announces his intention to run for President and is assassinated after winning California primary election.



Custodian Chuck Rodgers (right) and housekeepers Ellie Lasfalk and Shirley Rogers, 1998.



Carol Krueger (left) church secretary, and Laurie Mathes (below), financial secretary, 1998.



In 1952, the staff included Eloise King (standing), church secretary; Gilbert Fisher, custodian; and Alice Sanders, director of Christian education.

Roxanna Harper, church secretary, 1989-1994.



1970 (l-r): Dolores Stellar, church secretary; Evelyn Koepsel, Christian Education secretary; Harry Bork, custodian; Helen Braun, secretary. Evelyn and Helen are church members.

Office practices and procedures have changed over the years.



Sue Lenz (above), church secretary from 1976-1987. Sue is a member of the church.



I Remember When

Warren and I belonged to a club in our church called the "81 Club" — an organization for couples whose combined ages were less than 81! The purposes of this group were social, as well as service. As a service for the entire church in the late 1960s, 81 Club began the Old World Christmas Dinner, which was celebrated in Fellowship hall each December for several years. It was a sellout each year! Each couple was responsible for one part of the menu with food items changing each year except for the roast pig. Two pigs were baked at Gene's Bake Shop [on the corner of W. Wisconsin and Church Streets], brought over to the church, decorated with an apple and cranberry necklace, and majestically carried on a board by four men to a round of applause.

As I reflect on those years, I recall the time and fun we had as we spent weeks prior to the event planning, cooking, coordinating, and most of all, the fellowship with one another the day before and the day of the dinner. Men and women spent all day in the kitchen and dining room getting everything cooked and set up. I haven't forgotten the one day early in December, 1968 when Liz Landig and I, each with a toddler, spent one entire day at her house making kolaches — she knew how to make them! I have never tasted any that I liked better, nor have I made any since!

Debbie Griffith (1998)



Betsy Jensen and Joan and Dick Henderson at the 81 Club Christmas dinner in 1973. Below, 81 Club members square dancing. Peg and Jim Dickson are behind John and Margaret Bouquet.



Mary Millar and Laura Jane Loker.



Women's Association Fair, late 1960s or early 1970s.



U.S. spacecraft Apollo 8 carries three astronauts around moon and splashes down in Pacific Ocean.

Richard M. Nixon is elected President.

Stanley Kubrick produces film, 2001: A Space Odyssey.

1969: **The Rev. Ross H. Gooch is called as associate pastor; serves until 1975.**

Apollo 11 carries three astronauts to moon; on July 20, Neil Armstrong becomes first person to walk on moon. Apollo 12 is launched; astronauts Charles Conrad and Alan Bean land on moon and bring back samples of lunar soil.

Trouser outfits are accepted for everyday wear by women.

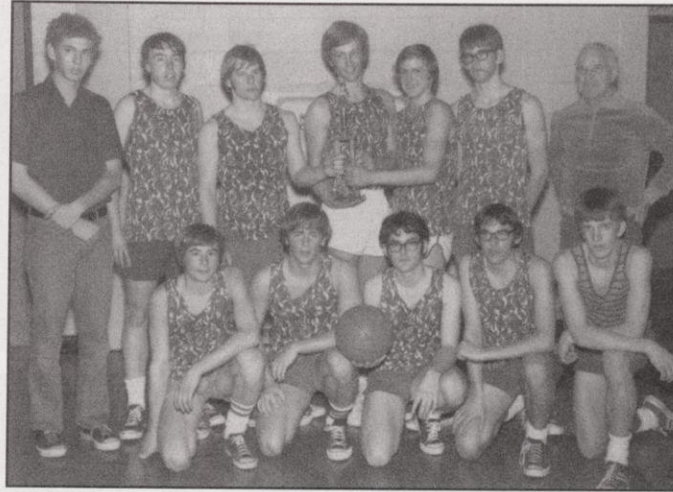
U.S. government starts to ban DDT, a common and widely-used insecticide found to be toxic to fish, mammals, and birds.

During the 1960s: **Women's Association begins holding fall fair; Senior Presbyterian Youth initiate summer work trips; Sunday School goes from two sessions to one; church attendance declines; Session purchases a home on Congress St. to be used as manse for senior pastor and family.**

Time line continued on p. 62.



During the late 1970s and the 1980s, the church served as a collection point for members who wished to recycle paper. On the ground are Ray Smith, John Eckstein, and Paul Gross. In the truck are two church members and Len Brezina.



On the 1974 championship basketball team were: standing (l-r), Dick Owens, Dave McMillan, Dave Eccles, Jeff Hesson, Tom Finch, Bob Menning, and coach Harley Loker; kneeling, Tom McCutcheon, Doug Bennett, Terry Lancaster, Kevin Dickson, and Mark Weber.

Part of a January 22, 1974, newspaper article.

Presbyterian deals O-S 1st league defeat

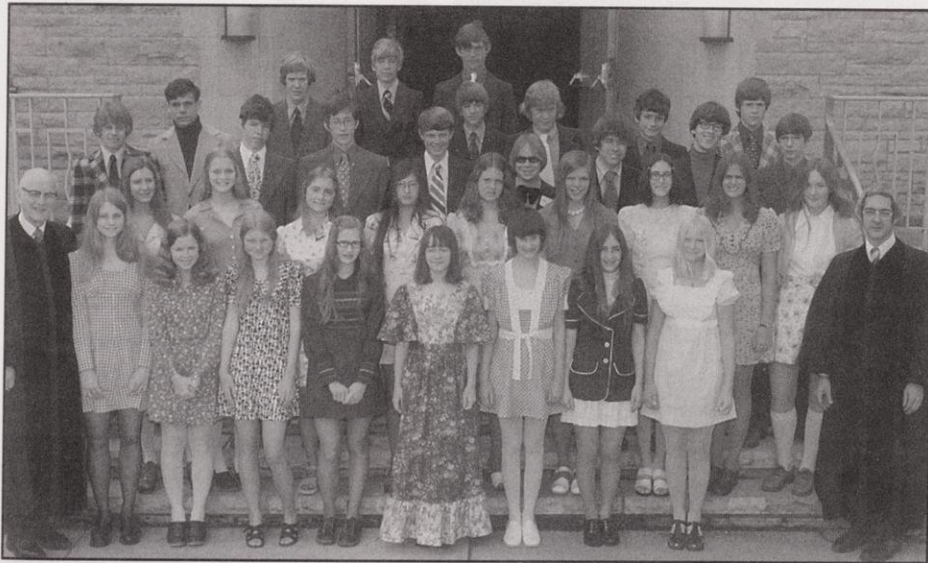
NEENAH CHURCH LEAGUE

	W	L
First Presbyterian	5	0
Our Savior's	4	1
Trinity	3	1
St. Margaret Mary	3	2
First Methodist	2	3
Congregational	2	3
St. Paul	2	3
St. Gabriel	0	4
Gloria Dei-Peace	0	4

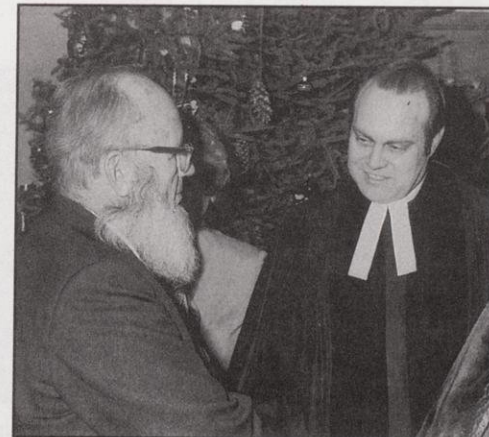
NEENAH — First Presbyterian annexed undisputed first place in the Neenah Junior Church Basketball League by upending Our Savior's, 62-60, Tuesday night.

St. Paul turned back St. Gabriel, 61-45, and St. Margaret Mary halted Peace-Gloria Dei, 53-44, in other games.

Our Savior's loss was its first of the season. In addition to winning four league games, it also swept through the holiday tournament.



Confirmation class, 1974. John Bouquet, senior pastor (left), and Ross Gooch, associate pastor (right).



J. B. Millar greets the Rev. Max Deal at the reception held to welcome the Deal family in early January, 1975. After John Bouquet retired in July, 1976, Max served as stated supply, acting as senior pastor until a new senior pastor (the Rev. Herb Miller) was called in August, 1977. Max continued to assist at First Presbyterian through mid-March, 1979.



Confirmation class, 1977. The Rev. Max Deal led the class.



During the summer and early fall of 1980, Herb Miller exchanged pulpits with the Rev. David McCloud (above) from Scotland.



Debbie Griffith leads a group in the chapel during Vacation Bible School in 1980.



Senior Pastor Herb Miller (top) presents the children's sermon in the 1980s; Director of Christian Education Onie Onken (middle) in 1992; and Michael Spezio (bottom) in 1996. Michael served as program assistant from mid-1996 through mid-1997 while the church was without an associate pastor.

Other local highlights of the decade: Fox Valley Water Quality Planning Agency comes into being; Menasha Redevelopment Authority is established; Dutch Elm disease is discovered in area; old Valley Inn is razed and Sam Pickard builds a Ramada Inn on the site.

1970: Wisconsin becomes first state to ban DDT.

Student protests against Vietnam war escalate; four students at Kent State University in Ohio are killed by National Guard during demonstrations.

1971: Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts opens in Washington, DC.

U.S. government bans cigarette advertising on television. Milwaukee Bucks win National Basketball Association championship.

"Jesus Movement" becomes popular.

Amtrak starts operating passenger train service in U.S.

1972: Richard M. Nixon is reelected president in near-record landslide victory.

Five men arrested inside Democratic National Headquarters in the Watergate complex. Republicans deny involvement. "Watergate affair" eventually



leads to Pres. Nixon's resignation. Peace talks are underway to end war in Vietnam; by end of year, fewer than 24,000 U.S. troops remain in Vietnam. Military draft ends; U.S. armed forces rely on volunteer enlistments. Pres. Nixon becomes the first president to visit mainland China since Communist takeover and also visits Soviet Union.

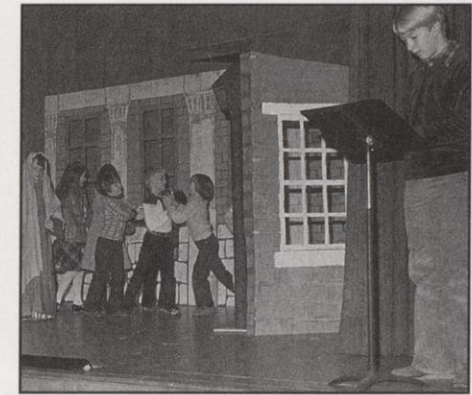
1973: U.S. Senate holds special Watergate hearings to investigate matters arising from earlier Watergate break-in. Vietnam war ends; cease-fire agreement is signed on Jan. 23. Arab oil embargo results in shortages of gasoline and heating oil in U.S., western Europe, and Japan.

1974: Last class of seniors graduates from Shattuck High School. Shattuck becomes a junior high school (now middle school for grades 6 - 8). Armstrong building on Neenah High School campus opens; Pickard auditorium is dedicated. According to a Gallup Poll, 40% of U.S. adults attend church services weekly. Baseball star Henry Aaron breaks Babe Ruth's record of 714 career home runs. Little League organization lets girls play on its teams.

Preschoolers performing in the mid to late 1970s.



The chancel choir under the direction of Don Vorpahl in the early 1980s.



Jeremy Coyle narrates a play presented by primary grade Sunday School students in the mid 1970s.



The baptismal font in the chapel was a gift from Don Brehm in 1979.



Education has always been an important component of the church program. Mary Marcus teaches a Sunday School class in the mid to late 1980s.

In the late 1980s, the church opened its doors to adults who wished to learn English. A corps of dedicated volunteers, led by Laura Jane Loker, began teaching English as a Second language



to Hmong refugees. Today, in addition to Vietnamese students, the classes include many Hispanic adults as well. Here, Joe Braun works with a student.



In 1979, SPY members spent a week serving as counselors at Camp Happy Sands, a day camp for inner city kids near Pensacola, Florida. Standing (l-r) are a camp employee, Herb Miller (senior pastor), Lisa Lorenz, Jeff Buchta (adult volunteer), unidentified, Margi Case, unidentified, unidentified woman, Andrea Miller, Sue Bigler, John Sensenbrenner, Cindy Buchta (adult volunteer), Natalie Miller, Steve Owens, Pam Prosser, Peter Keller, and Dan Clark. Kneeling are John Koskinen, Elva Miller (adult volunteer), Jane Grigsby, Amy Miller, Amy Onken, Wendy Brezina, Jennifer Davis, Susan Grigsby, and Rocky Daehler.



In 1994, the SPY kids and their advisors boarded the church bus and headed for Hull, Missouri to help repair the ravages of severe flooding along the Mississippi River. Above (l-r): Lisa Miller, associate pastor and trip bus driver, Seth Swanson, Anna Arlart, David Moore, Lisa Marcus, and Jenny LeRoy. In the smaller photo, Lisa works with Kevin Willis.



A car wash in the church parking lot raised funds for the 1980 work trip. Here, Steve Owens is cleaning the window. Recently, the sale between services of freshly-baked rolls has proved to be a popular (and delicious) way to raise money for the annual trips.

SPY work trips: A First Presbyterian Tradition



In 1997, SPY members worked on a Habitat for Humanity project in Fort Worth, Texas. Raising the frame are (l-r) Melissa Gehrke, Sarah Oftedahl, Michael Spezio (program assistant), Chris Loth, Bjorn Christiansen, and Adam Reppert. Adult volunteer Jim Lenx has his back to the camera.

Pres. Nixon resigns after House Judiciary Committee votes to send articles of impeachment to full House of Representatives. Vice President Gerald R. Ford becomes president and nominates Nelson Rockefeller to be vice president.

1975: Neenah City Hall, built in 1888, is razed; clock tower preserved. Church opens its doors to Head Start, the federally-funded pre-school program.

1976: The Rev. Max E. Deal is assigned to church as stated supply; serves until 1979. U.S. and U.S.S.R. sign nuclear test ban treaty. U.S.A. celebrates bicentennial. Viking I and II spacecraft land on Mars and transmit photos to earth. Jimmy Carter is elected president.

1977: The Rev. Herbert A Miller, D.D., is called as senior pastor; serves until 1986. U.S. launches Voyager I and II – unmanned spacecraft designed to explore outer solar system. George Lucas' film *Star Wars* is released. Trans-Alaska oil pipeline begins carrying crude oil. U.S. establishes Department of Energy.



1978: U.S. and People's Republic of China establish full diplomatic relations.
 First human baby is conceived outside the mother's body ("test-tube baby") is born in England.
 Women's rights movement continues; Congress extends date for ratification of Equal Rights Amendment from 1979 to 1982.
 U.S. Apollo spacecraft links with U.S.S.R. Soyuz 140 miles above earth.

1979: Shah of Iran is forced into exile; Islamic fundamentalist Ayatollah Khomeini assumes power; almost 100 U.S. Embassy staff and Marines are taken hostage.

During the 1970s: Board of Trustees is eliminated and Session assumes responsibility for preparing church budget; Outreach Committee is formed; Sunday morning adult education classes are offered; manse is sold, funds to be used for housing loan for minister(s). Other local highlights: Fox Valley Technical Institute (now Fox Valley Technical College) opens; major strike takes place at Banta Corporation and other labor disputes arise in area; Little Lake Butte des Morts bridge opens.



Confirmation class, 1982. Back row (l-r): Lanny Vincent (associate pastor), Carolyn Grigsby (confirmation teacher), David Sickels, Glenn Smith, Tony Griffith, Christopher Kundert, and Mitchell Hammond. Front row: Clair Geall, Kelly Henderson, Ann Kidd, Denise Repenn, Katherine Walsh, Sarah Ingmand, and Herb Miller (senior pastor).

I Remember When

My fondest memory of "First Pres" is contemporary. It has always been my wish to be able to contribute something with lasting and intrinsic value. The opportunity presented itself as I was admiring a picture of Dürer's famous sculpture of the "Praying Hands." I had to attempt a wood carving of this classic piece.
 The enthusiastic acceptance of my work from our pastor, the Session, and so many in our congregation was one of the most rewarding experiences I can remember. Thank you all!

Stuart McCutcheon (1998)



Front and back covers, Order of Worship, 1985.



THE CHURCH STAFF

Herbert A. Miller
 Paul D. Alcorn
 Onie Onken
 Donald L. Vorpahl
 Sue Lenz
 Nancy Benson
 Harold Annen
 Lorraine Dobberpuhl
 Eleanor Lasfalk

Senior Minister
 Assistant Ministers
 *Children's Ministries
 *Organist-Choirmaster
 Administrative Secretary
 *Financial Secretary
 Custodian
 *Housekeeper
 *Housekeeper

* Indicates Part Time

Robert E. Dedmond
 David J. Jones
 John E. Bouquet
 Richard & Evelyn Bryant

Associate Organist
 Church Treasurer
 Pastor Emeritus
 Missionaries to Thailand

THE SESSION

Class of 1986
 Donaldka Brown
 John Champaigne
 David Coons
 Steven Cutshall
 Barbara Earle
 Joan Henderson
 David Keller
 Ginny Miller

Class of 1987
 Andrea Bletzinger
 Lee Brezina
 Edward Hill
 Larry Lewis
 Margaret Lorenz
 Pamela Roemer
 Myron Stanke
 Donald Weber

Clerk of Session: Margaret Lorenz

Class of 1988
 Betty Ariart
 Randall Connour
 Sue Kesaau
 Warren Kraft
 Betsy Leopold
 Timothy Lubsen
 Terry Tessier
 JoEllen Wollangk

THE BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 1986
 James Beer
 David Christopherson
 Thomas Payne
 Judith Schultz
 Pat Weber

Class of 1987
 Marilyn Guyton
 Beverly Leonard
 Steven Lock
 Mary Marcus
 Mildred Stein

Class of 1988
 Rose Ann Blair
 Jeffrey Coddington
 Frank Haskett
 Kenneth Peterson
 Cynthia Repern

THE CHRISTIAN YEAR

ADVENT: the season of preparation for the coming of Christ into the world. The liturgical color is purple, symbolic of royalty, referring to the King of Kings of royal Davidic descent, and the Ruler of many hearts.
 CHRISTMAS AND EPIPHANY: The nativity of Jesus, the visit of the Magi, and the baptism of Jesus. The color is white denoting joy and purity.
 LENT: the season of forty days preceding Easter. It is a time of penitence. By using these days for deepening the devotional life the faithful Christian is better prepared to enter into the sufferings of Christ which are particularly recalled during Holy Week, and also into the joyous triumph of Easter. The color is purple, symbolic of humility, suffering and penitence.
 EASTER: it declares the triumph of life over death in the resurrected Christ who brings newness of life. The color is white, which is also used at the celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion.
 PENTECOST: the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the church; represented by red which denotes blood and fire, honoring the Holy Spirit and martyrs. Red is also used on Thanksgiving and Reformation Sundays.
 TRINITY: the season of Christian growth and renewal. The color is green depicting growth, hope, and immortality.



Sooner or later, every member is offered the opportunity to serve on one of the many committees which do the work of the church. Below, a planning committee meets during the early 1990s: Sally Hjerstedt, Richard Moore (standing), Jeff Buchta, Ruth Tessier, Jack Speech (standing), and Warren Griffith.



Confirmation class, 1986. Front row (l-r): Roseann Blair (confirmation teacher), Elizabeth Hooper, Kristin Case, Margie Daehler, Kathryn Lewis, Deborah Bletzinger, Patricia Shutt, Herb Miller (senior pastor). Second row: Paul Alcorn (associate pastor), Dan Kearny, Mike Tesmer, Lester Zehner, Ronald Lutz, Shawn Keisau, and Alex Wollangk.



Dick Sheleski, Richard Moore (new senior pastor), Eunice Sheleski, and Martha Moore.



Guenter Petermann, Paul Alcorn (associate pastor), David Coyle, and Shodie Alcorn.

In the spring of 1989, we welcomed Richard and Martha Moore (left) and said "good bye" to Paul and Shodie Alcorn (above).

1980: The Rev. H. Lansing Vincent, III is called as associate pastor; serves until April, 1983.

U.S. breaks off diplomatic relations with Iran; effort to rescue hostages fails.

Zimbabwe (formerly Rhodesia) becomes independent.

Oscar Romero, Archbishop of San Salvador in El Salvador, is assassinated.

World Health Organization announces smallpox is eradicated.

Mount St. Helens volcano in Washington State erupts.

Workers strike at Lenin Shipyard in Gdansk Poland; strike spreads; Lech Walesa becomes chairman of Solidarity, an independent trade union which demands freedom of speech, release of political prisoners, and new labor laws.

Iran-Iraq war begins; lasts for 10 years.

Ronald Reagan is elected president.

U.S. suspends aid to El Salvador after three American nuns and a lay preacher are killed.

Church recognizes need for year-round child care and is instrumental in opening Rainbow Child Care Center in space under sanctuary. The center is now located in Human Services Building on Doty Island.



1981: Iran releases all remaining hostages.
 First U.S. space shuttle "Columbia" completes maiden journey.
 AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) is identified.
 Voyager II flies past Saturn and sends back information about planet's rings and moons.
 First personal or home computers (PCs) are sold by I.B.M.
 Great Britain's Prince Charles and Lady Dianna Spencer are married.
 First woman (Sandra Day O'Conner) is appointed to U.S. Supreme Court.

1982: City of Neenah voters elect first woman mayor, Marigen Braun Carpenter, who is also a church member.
 National newspaper, *USA Today*, begins publication.
United Presbyterian Church and Presbyterian Church, U.S. merge to form Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. The two branches split during Civil War. Members of First Presbyterian, Neenah support the move.
 Vietnam Veteran's War Memorial in Washington, DC is dedicated.
 Seven-year antitrust suit ends telephone monopoly, forcing American Telephone and Telegraph (AT&T, also known



Richard Moore greets Erma Peters and Dorothy Boehm after the 10 a.m. worship service.



Confirmation class, 1990. Richard Moore (senior pastor), Sarah Moore, Karen Kearny, Ben Payne, Dan Daehler, and Michal McKenzie. Michal served as program assistant from 1988-1990, during a period when the church was searching for an associate pastor.



The Sunday morning coffee times between services and following the second service give people a chance to welcome new members and talk with old friends. Becky and Ed Hill and Bill Burger chat with Paul Alcorn (associate pastor) in the mid 1980s.

I Remember When

Before we moved across Church Street into the current building, there was a small entry hall to the church so if the weather was threatening, the BIG weddings would put up awnings to protect the wedding party and the guests. We knew it was a BIG wedding when those canopies went up and some of us would be sure to walk past when the wedding party was due in or out of the church.

At Christmas time the Women's Association gave a special tea and program in that old church. One very snowy Christmas, Gwen Schroeder and I were to make a duet of "Silent Night." In order to have a practice, I brought two of my children to her house BY SLED. And I guess we used sleds to get to church that night also. The room was kinda barny, but the warmth of the evening and the fellowship kept us snug and happy.

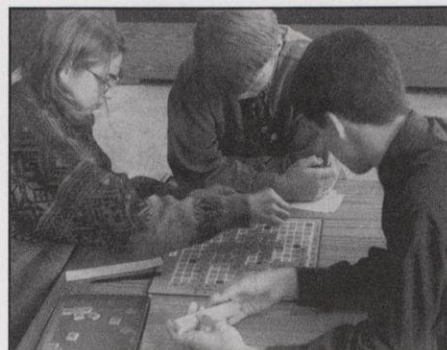
Andrea Bletzinger (1998)



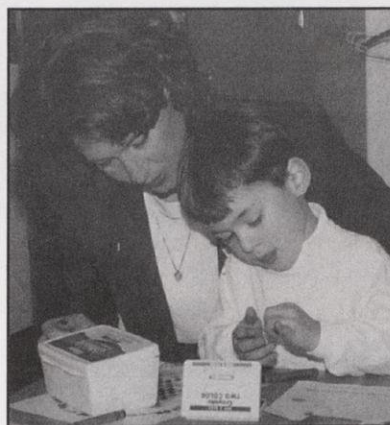
Raising Our Children in the Church



Senior high Sunday School includes fellowship as well as study. Megan Beatty, Tom Beatty, and Matt Loth play Scrabble in 1997.



In 1996, under the direction of Onie Onken, the church established a computer lab and adopted a Sunday School curriculum designed to take advantage of current technology. The kids loved it! Above, Terry Carroll watches as John Buchta solves a problem. (Inset) Molly Hjerstedt and Mikayla Meyer focus on the task at hand. During the week, computer and Internet classes were offered to adult members of the congregation.



Sunday School teacher Amy Foster helps pre-schooler Christopher Barry (early 1990s).

Three and four year-olds in Sunday School, 1993.



Onie Onken, Director of Christian Education since 1975, retired in October, 1999.



The nursery is bursting with babies (mid 1990s).

as "Ma Bell") to sell 66% of its assets ("Baby Bells").

Federal court in Little Rock, Arkansas, rules teaching of creationism with theory of evolution to be unconstitutional.

Soviet spaceship lands on Venus, sends color pictures to earth, confirms surface temperature is 870°.

Milwaukee Brewers lose World Series to St. Louis Cardinals.

1983: Members of World Council of Churches reach new consensus about Christian faith and worship; hold historical interdenominational Communion service.

Millions suffer famine due to two-year drought in Ethiopia. First musical compact disc published.

1984: Ronald Regan is elected to second term as president. Apple Macintosh computer is introduced.

The Rev. Paul Alcorn is called as associate pastor; serves until 1989.

1986: U.S. space shuttle "Challenger" explodes during takeoff; all seven crew members die. Nuclear reactor blows up at Chernobyl Power Station in U.S.S.R. World's worst nuclear disaster sends clouds of fallout over Europe.

Pilots Dick Rutan and Jeanna Yeager make first nonstop flight around world without refueling; trip takes nine days.

1987: **The Rev. V. Pat Butler, D.D.,** serves as interim senior pastor through October, 1988. S. A. Cook Armory, built in 1906 at corner of Nicolet Blvd. and Commercial St. in Neenah, is razed and replaced by a warehouse.

1988: George Herbert Walker Bush is elected president. Stephen Hawking writes *A Brief History of Time*. U.S. airlines ban smoking on all flights lasting two hours or less

1989: **The Rev. Richard J. Moore** is called as senior pastor; is serving at present time. Voyager II reaches Neptune. Time Inc. purchases Warner Communications. Gen. Colin Powell becomes first black Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff. Space probe "Galileo" is launched and heads for Jupiter.

During the 1980s: **Church cosponsors (with St. Margaret Mary's Roman Catholic Church) a family of Vietnamese refugees.** Other local highlights include: Theda Clark Hospital becomes Theda Clark Regional Medical Center; Breezewood-Bell overpass completed; Future



A special song, complete with bug costumes, was presented during a Sunday morning worship service in December in the 1990s.



At left, Onie Onken, Director of Christian Education, helps Laura Powley get ready for a December, 1998, worship service.



Children, including Bradley Cebulski, and adults held spoons on their noses after dinner on one "Wonderful Wednesday" evening during Lent, 1995.

A musical production was presented to the congregation by Youth Alive! in early 1998. Directing was Youth Alive! music director Tina Carroll (inset, left). In front (l-r) are Shannon Raash, Brad Cebulski, Dan LeClaire, Jeff Simpson, and Peter Carroll; in back are Andy Boyd, Sarah Carpenter, Brad Simpson, and Brian Tolly. Gregory Cebulski is the soloist. Youth Alive!, a program for elementary school children, meets once a week after school and includes study, fellowship, and music. Children and teachers eat their evening meal together.



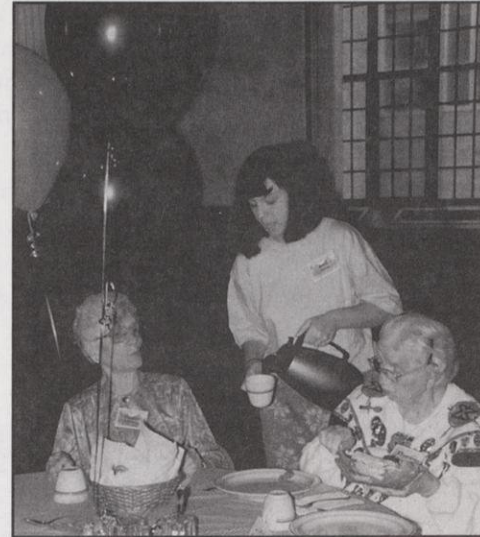
The children's choirs, under the direction of Tina Carroll, participated in the 1998 Advent vesper service.





The Friends Class has been meeting for many years. The group gathers monthly for study, fellowship, and a meal. Enjoying their dinner in the library in June, 1993 are Harriet Book, Marge Jensen, and Bernice Hamlyn.

The Annual Intergenerational Dinner gives the Senior Presbyterian Youth (SPY) a chance to get to know some of the older members. Amy Tessier pours coffee for Gladys Robertson and Florence Sorenson in 1993.



A traditional highlight of the Christmas season is the Advent brunch which fills Fellowship Hall as it did in the late 1980s (above). Preparing for the annual event always involves a lot of teamwork. The 1994 team included Bob and Susan Merriam and "Red" Watkins (top photo, left) and Brian Willis and his mom, Shirley (bottom photo).



Neenah Development Corporation organized.

1990: The Rev. Lisa A. Miller is called as associate pastor; serves until 1996.

New Revised Standard Version of Bible is published.

American composers Aaron Copland and Leonard Bernstein die.

Iraq invades Kuwait; military forces from U.S. and allies send troops to liberate Kuwait.

Berlin Wall comes down; East and West Berlin is reunited.

Lech Walesa is elected president of Poland.

Warsaw Pact is disbanded.

Mt. Pinatubo volcano in Phillipines erupts.

1993: Twin office towers are erected on E. Wisconsin Ave. in downtown Neenah.

City of Neenah builds new police station.

"Playing in the Rain" sculpture/fountain is dedicated in Neenah's Riverside Park.

Church initiates Youth Alive!, an after-school program for elementary school children. Program includes fellowship, music, and an evening meal.

1994: University of Wisconsin Badger football team wins Rose Bowl.

1996: On Oct. 6, World Communion Sunday, we join Presbyterian congregations in Iowa City, Iowa; Caracas, Venezuela; and Cape Town, South Africa — via live satellite link (without an on-air director!). Ministers and choirs at all three churches lead as we sing, pray, and celebrate the Lord's Supper together. As service ends, congregations wave greetings to each other.

1997: Rotation model church school program is instituted.

1998: First Presbyterian Church celebrates Sesquicentennial Anniversary. Celebration includes placing "Peace Pole" in courtyard; special dinner is catered in so members don't have to spend day cooking; singing of hymn written especially for occasion by John Harmon, Winneconne; time-line (with historical photos and tidbits) on bulletin board leading to Fellowship Hall; video recording of oral histories; new logo, used on church publications, stationery, and shirts.

Paul Huxtable is called as associate pastor. He is ordained and installed in October and is serving at the present time. State of Wisconsin celebrates sesquicentennial.

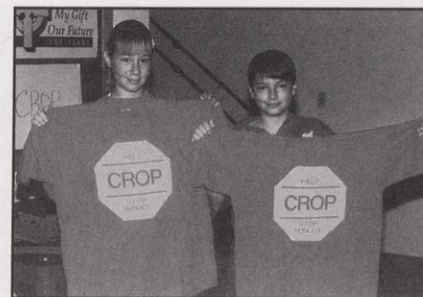
Time line continued on p. 73.



Confirmation class, 1992. Front row (l-r): Lisa Miller (associate pastor), David Moore, Katherine Syverud, Bree Weinke, Emily Vanesky, Jennifer Hjerstedt, and Richard Moore (senior pastor); middle row: Todd Tesmer and Andrea Orm; back row: Emily Shutt, Lisa Marcus, Erin Kester, and Douglas Weinke.



Richard Moore plays the piano for the Happy Friends, a group of developmentally disabled adults who meet regularly at the church. Volunteers from the church provide the programming for the group which includes people from the Neenah-Menasha community.



Each year, members from our church join other caring people in the area for the CROP walk to raise money for local food banks. Jennifer Gast and a friend show off the T-shirt that 1997 walkers wore.

I Remember When

In June of '91, the senior high work retreat traveled to Chacsinkin, Mexico. Two things stand out in my mind from that trip. While in the home of a local pastor, Señor Ek, we were served lunch that his wife had spent hours making. The first to dig into his soup was John Swanson [adult leader]. When he pulled out his spoon from the bowl, there was a huge chicken foot. The looks on those senior high's faces were priceless . . . the next sound was all of their spoons hitting the table. All of a sudden, no one was hungry. The other thing that stands out in my mind from that trip was singing. "Yo tengo un amigo que me ama" in the Miami airport. We drew lots of attention.

When I think of First Presbyterian Church, I think of every Christmas and Vesper service while I was there. No specific year stands out, just the absolute beauty of the place. I remember thinking that Richard and I had the best seats in the house. Looking out at all the people and the light of the candles was breathtaking.

Hanging in my house is a huge picture of the senior highs from at least six or seven years ago. We dragged a sofa outside and did a sofa stuff to see how many senior highs could fit on it. The picture holds many fond memories of senior high. Like the time the park ranger in the Mesa Verde campground yelled at me because "my" senior highs were herding wild deer through the rest of the campground. Those things still make me laugh.

*Lisa Miller (1998)
(Associate pastor, 1990 - 1996)*



Music is an important part of worship at First Presbyterian. Above, assistant bell director Martha Moore works with the senior high bell choir in the mid-1990s. Rehearsing before the service are: Katie Weyenberg, Jennifer Gast, Judith Moore, Melinda Wier, Chris Loth, and Renee Swanek.

Ringing bells (l-r): Sarah Moore, Susan Lightbody, Sue Coyle, and Joan Henderson. Choir, first row: Dave Wollangk and Dick Henderson (hidden); second row: Frank Shattuck and Guenter Petermann; back row: Bro Miller, Kurt Foreman, and Mike Stanke. (Late 1980s.)



The 1998 chancel choir included: (front row, l-r) Merry Whipple, Amy Boyd, Paulette Thebert Wise, Anne Coons, and Rosalie Daehler; (second row) Barb Schwartz, Hildegard Petermann, Joan Henderson, and Hazel Roberts; (third row) John Polakowski, Chuck Gifford, and Dick Henderson; (back row) Don Loth (hidden), Larry Schwartz, Guenter Petermann, and Harvey Lorenz.

Paul Huxtable was ordained and installed as associate pastor in October, 1998. Below, Paul and Cindy listen as Paul receives the charge from the Rev. Val Putman, the Huxtable's former pastor.



The sanctuary was packed on July 26, 1997 when Sarah Moore, daughter of Richard and Martha Moore, married Kirk Nokes — the entire congregation was invited.

1998 was Wisconsin's Sesquicentennial year as well as our church's. We joined forces with our neighbors to the south (the Methodists) to ring in the state's 150th birthday. At noon on May 29, bells were rung in communities around the state to mark Statehood Day.



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) enters into full communion with Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Reformed Church in America, and United Church of Christ. Local celebratory worship service is held at First Presbyterian Church, Oshkosh.

City of Neenah voters pass referendum approving new library; old building torn down; new library to open in year 2000.

Kate and Bill Brehm, 1993 "Old Tyme Sunday." Kate wore a hat in honor of the occasion.



The church program year traditionally ends on the second Sunday of June, "Old Tyme Sunday," usually with a service that includes several "good old hymns." In 1993, ushers were honored — and several men dressed as the ushers did back in the 1950s (there were no women ushers then), complete with boutonnieres and bow ties. Front row (l-r): Bill Cogger, Walter (Bro) Miller, and Paul Hanson; second row: Stan (Chick) Seversen, Al Guentzel, and Ray Smith, and Howard Angermeyer; back row — Mel Rausch and Stu McCutcheon.



Confirmation class, 1998 (Sesquicentennial year). Front row (l-r): Meghan McDonald, Kristen Buchta, Tanya Van Rooy, Jessica Root, and Richard Moore (senior pastor); back row: Twannyan Carr, John Shipman, Tom Beatty, Russell LeCompte, and Matt Loth.



Celebrating 50 years of membership in 1998 were (front row, l-r) Joe Braun, Helen Braun, Evelyn Koepsel, Dorothy Wittmann, Martha Sparks, and Helen Cogger; (back row) Marge Geisler, Betty Smith, Bill Engel, and Faye Schultz. Not pictured: Leon Brux, Nancy Gilbert, and Helen Meyer.



Presbyterian Women

by Jane Hansen

The year was 1852. The place was Neenah, Wisconsin although it was called Winnebago Rapids then. The very first Presbyterian Church had been formed just four years before. This little band of believers dreamed of building a real church. In the meantime, they had been meeting in a room over Yale and Jones general store in downtown Neenah. Now, on this cold day in January the new church, a beautiful white frame structure, was finally completed and dedicated.

But dark clouds appeared! Ugly rumors were abroad that one of the sisters in Christ was guilty of stealing — yes, stealing — a black silk dress from a member's clothesline. She maintained her innocence but suspicion was too strong. A two-day trial was held with the pastor as judge and the elders as jury. She was found guilty because she could not explain how she came to have two black silk sewing aprons which the prosecutor charged were made from the stolen dress! She eventually repented and returned to her place in the church. Thus a dark chapter closed with a happy ending.

One hundred forty-eight years have passed and no sister in Christ has been this kind of transgressor since. Quite the contrary, the First Presbyterian Church would be a very different place today without the dedication, caring, and hard work of hundreds of women.

In the 1860s, John Proctor and other men of the church had admonished the Elders to be very cautious about opening the doors of the church for any other purpose than religious worship.

However, the women saw a great need for young people to enjoy church activities as well as and apart from worship. Mr. Proctor *et al* remained adamant so Helen Cheney Kimberly held socials in her own home. The young people really enjoyed themselves—the games, the refreshments —just a nice, innocent fellowship with each other....there was no dancing!! Because, of course, dancing was considered one of the worst sins!

When Dr. J. E. Chapin was called to be pastor of the church in 1870, he had the revolutionary idea that women of the church were a resource that could be used for the good of all! He helped the women form a missionary society. For the first time, a woman attended trustee meetings to report about mission society activities and about money the missionary society had earned. This was in order to receive guidance concerning its use because, of course, everyone recognized that women had no ability in financial matters!

The kindly Dr. Chapin had so changed the present and future status of the women of the church that when, after a pastorate of 33 years, at a worship service in 1903, he announced his resignation, the congregation was stunned! Many of the members had never known another pastor. It was recorded in a journal of the time, "As wept the Ephesian elders, bidding farewell to the departing apostle, Paul, so wept the congregation at the close of the service as they gathered about the pastor to express their regrets."

In the twenties and thirties the women, by then known as the Women's Society, really got

into high gear! They held annual international sales to raise money to help pay for a hospital in Persia and to pay their pledge to the Near East Relief Fund. They made quilts for the orphans in North Carolina and the orphans in Winneconne and quilts for Theda Clark Hospital. They were always there to help people in trouble. When a family in Crivitz was burned out, the Women's Society was among the first to send them a box of quilts, underwear, towels, shoes, hats, dishes, canned goods, and a 25-pound box of prunes!

World War II changed Neenah, just as it did the rest of the country and the world. People had become more aware of their beliefs. Church programs flourished everywhere. Our church school classes were so crowded that many women began to teach for the first time. Traffic around the church was hazardous to such an extent that the police had to plan traffic flow patterns for the children's safety.

As soon as we could, our church sent missionaries overseas again to spread news of the Prince of Peace. We especially supported the Adams in Korea and the Chattersons in Africa. The women sent linens and even a washing machine to the Chattersons who hosted hundreds of visitors in the Cameroons. A headline in the Bell declared, "Ned Needs Jeep." Everyone knew Ned was Ned Adams, our missionary, and in just a few months the joint efforts of women and men collected funds for the jeep.

The Women's Society had 14 circles by this time and there were 19 Lenten study groups with

women leading them all. They sent clothes to the homeless in Europe, the urchins of Pakistan, and the Native Americans here at home. Our church sponsored eleven families of Displaced Persons and the women helped find homes — hard to do when housing was tight for everyone — and household goods and furniture for these European families who wanted to become Americans.

The women organized and cooked innumerable meals for all the groups in the church. The cooking was done in the basement kitchen of the old church — on an old stove with an oven that worked sporadically and several burners that didn't work at all. The dining room was on the main floor so dishes and food had to be carried up and down a narrow winding staircase or hauled up using the dumbwaiter located in the flower room. Of course, all the dishes were washed by hand.

In 1950 for the first time women were elected to be elders of the church! Until that time, women had not been allowed to be deacons either. Ruth Shattuck, Mabel Gilbert, Sadie Tipler, and Dorothea Pickard were the pioneers,

Then one glorious autumn morning in 1954 we began our Sunday service in the old church across the street from our present one. At a given time, everyone — women, men and children — stood up and walked across the street singing "The Church's One Foundation" to finish the service in the newly completed sanctuary.

It's been a long journey from the Ladies' Missionary Society to the Ladies' Aid Society, from the Women's Society to the Women's Association and now, finally, to the Presbyterian Women. Things have really changed....or maybe not. In lots of significant ways they have changed. Women hold important positions now.

Women are allowed to voice their opinions now and people listen. But nurturing is still their primary interest. They eagerly support causes such as youth mission trips, Vallhaven Care Center, Birthday Offering, Head Start Program, the Salvation Army, Mission Sewing for African hospitals, Thank Offering, funeral receptions,

Father Carr's Place 2 B, Fox Cities Community Clinic, and more.

The Presbyterian Women still have two important goals: to learn more about their faith through Bible study, prayer and fellowship and to improve the lot of hurting people in this ever-shrinking world.



In February, 1950, the members of the Women's Society collected 47 boxes (weighing 22 pounds each) of clothing, books, and household supplies to be sent to the Rev. and Mrs. Edward Adams, Presbyterian missionaries serving in Korea. Pictured are (left to right) Eleanor Eiss, first vice president and secretary for national and foreign missions; Dora Daniels, program chairman; Mary Millar, second vice president; Helen Burger, president; the Rev. Howard Hannaford, speaker at the event (the annual winter tea); and Mrs. Hannaford.



The Call to Mission

by Katie Greenwald

The call to “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations” was heard by two young people in the 1870s. One was a son of Elder David Blakely, who worked as a missionary in China for the American Board of Foreign Missions, and the other was a young lady named Martha Alden who prepared for foreign work at the Western Female Seminary in Ohio. But further details of their lives have been lost.



Miss Fanny Cundall, left, and Miss Jennie Wheeler.

A Women’s Christian Association was formed in 1873 and its 35 members set to work and managed, through diligent effort, to earn \$580.19. They donated \$255.55 to foreign mission work, which supported a native Bible reader in Persia at a salary of \$45 a year, and also the work of the young people’s Mission Band, which maintained a scholarship for a pupil at the mission school in Ningpo, China at the cost of \$40 a year.

Records next show that Miss Fanny Cundall, who came to Neenah as a teacher, was sent to Syria in about 1885 but was unable to stand the climate and had to give up her work. Miss Verna Phillips, another public school teacher, did missionary work in Caracas, Venezuela, where she was principal of a school. Miss Jennie Wheeler spent most of her working life as head of two mission schools in Mexico. Her 33 years of

devoted work there were recognized both by the Board of Foreign Missions of the United States and by authorities in Mexico.

Our Connection with Korea

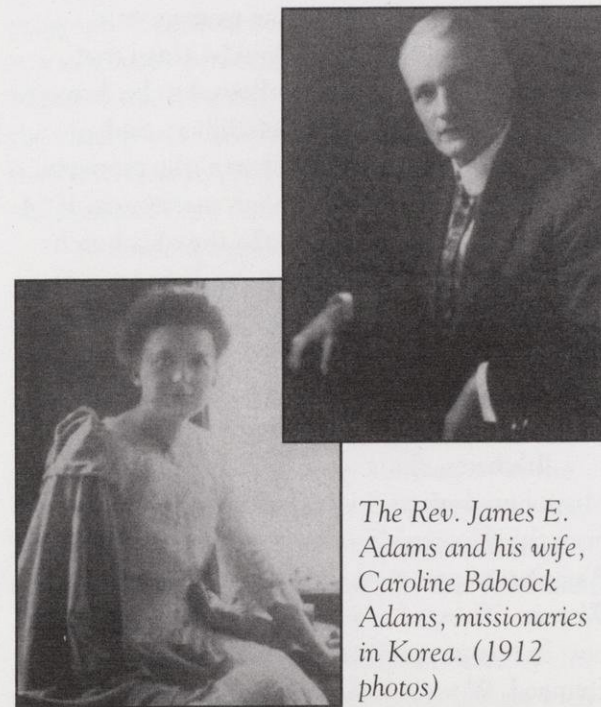
The Adams family in Korea was especially close to our hearts. A young woman from a prominent Neenah family, Caroline Babcock, daughter of the Havilah Babcocks, became interested in foreign missions and sailed across the Pacific to visit the Presbyterian mission in Taegu, Korea. She returned home several months later, but it wasn’t long before the Rev. James Adams, a widower with four children, arrived to see her in Neenah. Caroline returned to Korea with him as Mrs. Adams.

These pioneer missionaries carried on their Korean work for many years and the Rev. Adams’ son, Edward, continued in his father’s footsteps after James’ retirement. Edward was chosen in 1930 as missionary pastor of this church which contributed to his salary for many years.

Through the years, Neenah Presbyterians contributed thousands of dollars to Korean missions and sustained a continued warm involvement in all aspects of the work there. When the Adams visited Neenah on furlough in March, 1952, they found a new jeep parked on the lawn

in front of the education building, a gift from the Neenah congregation for use in Korea. The money left over from its purchase (\$205.15) was given them with explicit instructions to “divide it equally between themselves.” The Memorial Fund sent a \$2,000 check for Keimyung Christian College in 1967 and the women of the church often sent boxes their way.

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, the Rev. Edward Adams was arrested and jailed for three weeks. He was later allowed to live in his own home as a prisoner. With other missionaries from Asia, he returned to the United States on the *Gripsholm*, but was back on the job in Korea by 1946. After the war, Ned and Sue Adams directed their help to reconstruction. In eight years as field representative, Ned worked to



The Rev. James E. Adams and his wife, Caroline Babcock Adams, missionaries in Korea. (1912 photos)

rebuild Christian churches while Sue, a nurse, tackled the founding of a Crippled Children's Center in Seoul and was instrumental in establishing several orphanages.

The Rev. Adams' entire life was given to Korea both in war and peace as evangelist, educator, relief administrator, and representative of the Presbyterian Church. Korean President Syngman Rhee decorated Ned for his work with refugees during the Korean War and for his work as an educator. In 1956, Ned was cofounder and first president of Keimyung Christian College in Taegu. In 1962, President Park awarded him the Cultural Medal of the Korean republic.

The military junta in Korea tightened the screws on educational institutions, and in 1961, Rev. Adams wrote that some colleges would be closed or combined and others forced to change their curricula to fit a different national pattern. He was forced to resign as college president and, as a foreigner, had to resign from several school boards. However, he stayed in Korea for another two years and retired in 1963 after 42 years of mission work. Two years later, at age 70, he passed away in Oregon.

Our Connection to Cameroun

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Chatterson represented this church in Christian work in Cameroun. The Presbyterian Church had established its first mission in Africa in 1850, and 100 years later, it included a hospital, leper colony, an industrial and trade school, a seminary, and a normal school for training teachers. The mission also included Cameroun Christian College which was fully accredited and the only one for thousands of miles. Our fraternal worker, Leonard

Chatterson, managed the Halsey Memorial Press which published Christian literature in four languages—three African dialects and French. Neenah Presbyterians sent a generous gift towards a new building housing the printing department.

For reasons of safety, Margaret Chatterson left Africa during World War II and came to Neenah where she became our church secretary, leaving Leonard to continue his work in the field.

The Chattersons were in charge of a guest house at the mission where visitors were welcomed. Back in Africa after the war, Margaret was swamped with visitors and wrote Neenah friends that she had to house and feed 390 visitors in her first three months back in Cameroun.



The Rev. Edward (Ned) and Sue Adams with sons John and Dick.

In response, the Neenah women sprang into action, and organized a reception for the Chattersons, to which each person brought household articles for the guest house . . . sheets, towels, pans, kitchen implements, and other necessities and an enormous shipment went to the Cameroun. In addition, the practical ladies of

In 1952, the congregation presented a jeep to the Rev. Edward Adams and his wife, Sue, for their use in Korea where they were serving as missionaries. It was presented to Rev. Adams and his family when they were home on furlough. Pointing out the wording on the jeep to an unidentified pre-schooler are Sally Lyon (left) and Nancy Owen while Sue Millar, Alberta Graham, Bill Millar, and Paul Pfaff look on.





Leonard and Margaret Chatterson

Neenah collected enough money to purchase a gasoline washing machine to ease laundry chores at the mission.

The first large gift from our Memorial Fund to be sent out into the world went to Cameroun Christian College in 1958 to furnish the new chapel. This money was a twofold blessing because furniture for the chapel was made by lepers from a nearby colony. A plaque in our cloister duplicates the bronze plaque hanging in the Cameroun College Chapel.

In 1958, the college was in its second decade, providing a strong Christian influence in one of the world's trouble spots. Its graduates became leaders in both secular life and the church. In 1944 there were 40 students and one African teacher; in 1958 there were 310 students and a faculty of 15.

Leonard received the Cameroun government's highest honor, "Merite Camerounais First Class" in March, 1960 to mark his 32 years of service just before the couple left the newly-independent country. The Chattersons

were awarded a significant gift of \$2,500 from the Bergstrom Endowment Fund in recognition of their 32 years of service as fraternal workers. This tribute from our congregation honored the couple's devotion to fulfilling the great Commission of our Lord. The Women's Association remembered Margaret that year with an honorary membership *in absentia* in the Commission of Ecumenical Mission and Relations.

Neenah's Fraternal Workers

Dr. John Bouquet served briefly as a fraternal worker during a mission to the Dominican Republic in February, 1960 when the National Council of Churches sent a team of 20 ministers to evangelize in the West Indies.

As part of the group, he preached twice a day through an interpreter, counseled church officers and teachers, and was assigned to a native minister for a week in Ciudad, Trujillo. He was advised to bring a dozen sermons, together with a hearty digestive system. His preacher was Maxima Grana de Oro, an unordained man of 40 with eight children, who worked in the slums. "I walked and walked and walked," Dr. Bouquet wrote in the Bell, "for no pastor in the Dominican owns a car. I worked in the slums and amongst poverty beyond our imagination. In calling I shared friendship, sympathy, interest and sometimes food."

Services were held in the evening and in the open air in the afternoons with Gospel hymns sung with a joyful infectious rhythmic beat. "The Church of Christ in the Dominican Republic is bearing witness that will do much to shape the future of that country," Dr. Bouquet felt.

Our Connection in Japan

Operation Fraternal Worker began next in 1961 for both John and Margaret Bouquet when the Commission on Ecumenical Mission and Relation invited them to serve in Japan, where they joined a team of 21 persons (15 ministers and six wives) on an evangelism tour which lasted from June to August.

Our congregation sent them off after farewells at an Oriental family night featuring a spirited performance of a Japanese festival opera with new words by the choir. Fraternal Worker Alice MacDonald met them in Japan, and in a few days, they were at work in Ikebukuro, a section of north Tokyo. The local pastor, Ryoichi Kato, headed a congregation of 160 in a middle class section of the city.

The team evangelized in indescribable heat; traveled on the crowded transportation system of Japan; visited Japanese shrines; lectured, preached, and learned Japanese customs; and met both with Christians and "seekers." The Bouquets ate, slept, and sat at meetings on the floor.

In a summary letter home, John wrote, "Margaret and I have been blessed by the sheer privilege of being in Japan and participating in the life and evangelism of a Japanese congregation and church only 10 years old, which one day will be a great influence for good. To come to Japan was like entering the most beautiful garden. In the Christians of Japan, we have witnessed amazing faith and courage."

They next flew to Korea for related work and in Taegu, Dr. Bouquet preached at First Church, founded by Rev. James Adams. They were delighted to see the Adams again and wrote that the family "live in the midst of great



achievements while they wrestle with the problems of the present and the uncertainties of the future." Presbyterian work in Korea "has to be seen to be believed," he wrote.

From Korea, the Bouquets went on to Thailand and visited Presbyterian centers in Bangkok and Chiangmai. "Though there are only 21,000 Christians in Thailand, there is a great ministry of schools and hospitals," he wrote. Dr. Bouquet was only in Chiangmai for 50 hours, but he spoke seven times, including at a leper colony. After a short trip to the Philippines and a speech at Silliman University, the Bouquets flew back to Neenah in October.

Elsewhere Overseas

Over the years, donations to fill specific needs were often sent to other areas of the world.

The congregation sent help to Viet Nam in 1967 after a letter arrived from Don Vought, one of our church members serving in the pacification program there. He asked for children's summer clothing and paper and pencils for children in Bon Los village. In response, church women sent a package containing 46 pounds of good summer clothes, youngsters in the Sunday School delivered enough pencils to fill a six-pound box, and the Men's Club mailed 40 pounds of writing paper.

The Women's Association collected offerings every year at Christmas teas to benefit our church missionaries. For example, a collection of \$250 in 1967 was split between Althea Cherry in Korea; Mr. and Mrs. William Davies in Beirut, Lebanon; Alice MacDonald in Japan; the Rev. and Mrs. Richard Bryant in Thailand; and the Rev. and Mrs. Bernard Quick in Luxor, Egypt. The Rev. Bryant, in his thank you letter, re-

marked that their work in Thailand was an extension of the ministry of First Presbyterian Church in Neenah. "Our gift will be used in outreach to youth in isolated Nakorn Sritamarat," he wrote.

Local young people were also helped. In 1957 John Millar, son of J. B. and Mary Millar, spent the summer after graduation from the University of

Wisconsin in Hong Kong with a team of 60 college students building a tuberculosis sanitarium. Grants from the church's Proctor-Bloom Memorial Scholarship fund and the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions paid his expenses and that fall he entered San Francisco Theological Seminary in preparation for the ministry.

Rev. Henry Adams to Speak at Presbyterian Church Sunday

A centennial preacher at the First Presbyterian church Sunday will be the Rev. Henry B. Adams who is the son of James E. Adams and Caroline Babcock Adams, who were former residents of Neenah and pioneer missionaries from the Neenah church to Korea.

The Rev. Adams is one of four brothers, all of whom have entered the Presbyterian ministry. His brother, Dr. Edward Adams, is supported by the Neenah church and is executive Secretary of Presbyterian Missions in Korea. At present Rev. Henry Adams is instructor of public speaking and radio at San Francisco Theological seminary. He is producing a series of dramatic radio programs which have received nationwide notice, and is working cooperatively with the National Broadcasting company and five church denominations on a joint radio commission. He is enroute to New York to a national conference on religious programs, and over the week-end will be the guest of his aunts, Misses Helen and Elizabeth Babcock.

The title of Rev. Adam's sermon Sunday morning will be, "Christ Our Living Companion."



Rev. Henry B. Adams

Neenah News-Times,
October 30, 1948.

Pastor From Korea To be Honored by Presbyterians

Neenah — The Rev. Edward Adams, missionary from the First Presbyterian church to Korea, will be a guest of the congregation at a reception in the church parlor and lecture room at 7:30 Monday evening.

Mr. Adams is executive secretary for all Presbyterian work in Korea. He flew back to this country early in October for conferences concerning the future of Korean missions. He is flying back to the Orient next week.

Church members and friends of Mr. Adams will have an opportunity to greet him Monday evening when he will be asked to speak briefly and informally on the Far Eastern situation.

Refreshments will be served by Mrs. Harley Borgen's circle and Mrs. W. R. Werner's circle of the Women's Society of the Presbyterian church.

Appleton Post Crescent,
October 12, 1949.



First Presbyterian Church, 1998

Today's church family is descended from the 17 people who met and organized as the First Presbyterian Church of Winnebago Rapids in 1848. Like most families, as ours has grown and changed over the years, we have moved several times and adapted our ways of doing things to accommodate those changes.

But some things remain constant. Our desire to worship together and to serve God to the best of our ability is as strong today as it was 150 years ago.

In 1998, First Presbyterian Church consisted of 1,000 members and 467 families. Our 1998 operating budget was \$593,000. Approximately 200 children and young people were enrolled in Sunday School. In addition, our programs included Bible study and Sunday School for adults; Senior Presbyterian Youth (SPY) for students in grades 9 through 12; JOY for students in grades 6 through 8; a growing music program with vocal and bell choirs; adult and youth work trips; Vacation Bible School; and Presbyterian Women, with five active circles. Untold numbers of members served faithfully on the many committees which do the work of our church. Still others taught Sunday School, led Bible studies, organized retreats, and helped our pastors lead in worship. Our individual talents may vary, but as our ancestors did, we remember Paul's words to the Corinthians:

“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;
and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord;
and there are varieties of activities,
but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.”

First Corinthians 12:4-6, New Revised Standard Version

The Rev. Richard J. Moore
Senior Pastor

The Rev. Paul Huxtable
Associate Pastor

Onie Onken
Director of Christian Education

Martha Moore
Assistant Bell Director

Tina Carroll
Youth Alive Choir Director

Carol Krueger
Church Secretary

Laurie Mathes
Financial Secretary

Chuck Rodgers
Custodian

Eleanor Lasfalk
Housekeeper

Shirley Rogers
Housekeeper

Session, 1998

Richard J. Moore, Moderator
Michael Wise, Clerk
Anna Bethke
William Braun
Cindy Buchta
Gary Cebulski
Pamela DeGroot
Amy Foster
Duane Grimm
Joan Henderson
James Hillend
Susan Morrissey
John Nystrom
Sarah Oftedahl
Guenter Petermann
Donald Rice
Deanna Swanson

Harvey Lorenz, Church Treasurer

Board of Deacons, 1998

Dorothy Winkler, Moderator
Mary Boswell, Vice-Moderator
Cindy Weyenberg, Secretary
Virginia Westover, Treasurer
James Arlart
Susan Began
John Eckstein
Mary Kidd
Gail Ondresky
Sally Orm
Yoon Park
Jeffrey Schang
Kathleen Springer
Francis Watkins

Sesquicentennial Committee

Susan Morrissey, Chairperson
Stuart McCutchen

Timeline

Martha Moore, Shirley Willis, and
members of the computer class

Celebration Dinner

Shirley Willis, Martha Moore,
Jack Speech, Stuart McCutchen,
Vadah Le Compte, Joan Henderson,
and Susan Morrissey

Logo Design & Banner

Stuart McCutchen

Stationery

Merry Whipple

Shirts

Shirley Willis

Book

Merry Whipple, Katie Greenwald,
Monny Hjerstedt

Memorabilia

Helen Cogger, Martha Moore,
Susan Morrissey

Oral History Tapes

Jack Speech



First Presbyterian Church

A congregation of the
Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.

200 Church St.
Neenah, Wisconsin 54956

920 • 722-4391

E-mail: firstpresneenah@pitnet.net

Mrak Yale, Miss Lurissa D Yale Mrs Emeline Danforth Mrs
Ann Scott Mrs Semira J Roberson Mrs Elizabeth Ann Wood
Missy Goman

The church having been organized proceeded
to the choice of its officers, when Mr Milton Hurly & Loyd H. Jones
were duly elected Ruling Elders & Mr Osiab Wilcox a Deacon
a day following (the 16th day of December) after sermon & in the
presence of the congregation Mr Jones & Mr Wilcox were set apart
to their respective offices according to the order of the gospel, to the respective
places to which they had been chosen. And Mr Hurly being
already an ordained minister in the Church of Christ was
elected an elder in this church

Signed { Thomas Frasier }
Elias S Peck }

Ministers of the Presbytery of
Wisconsin

