

1816

History; Church History; 1816-2004

North Ridge United Methodist Church

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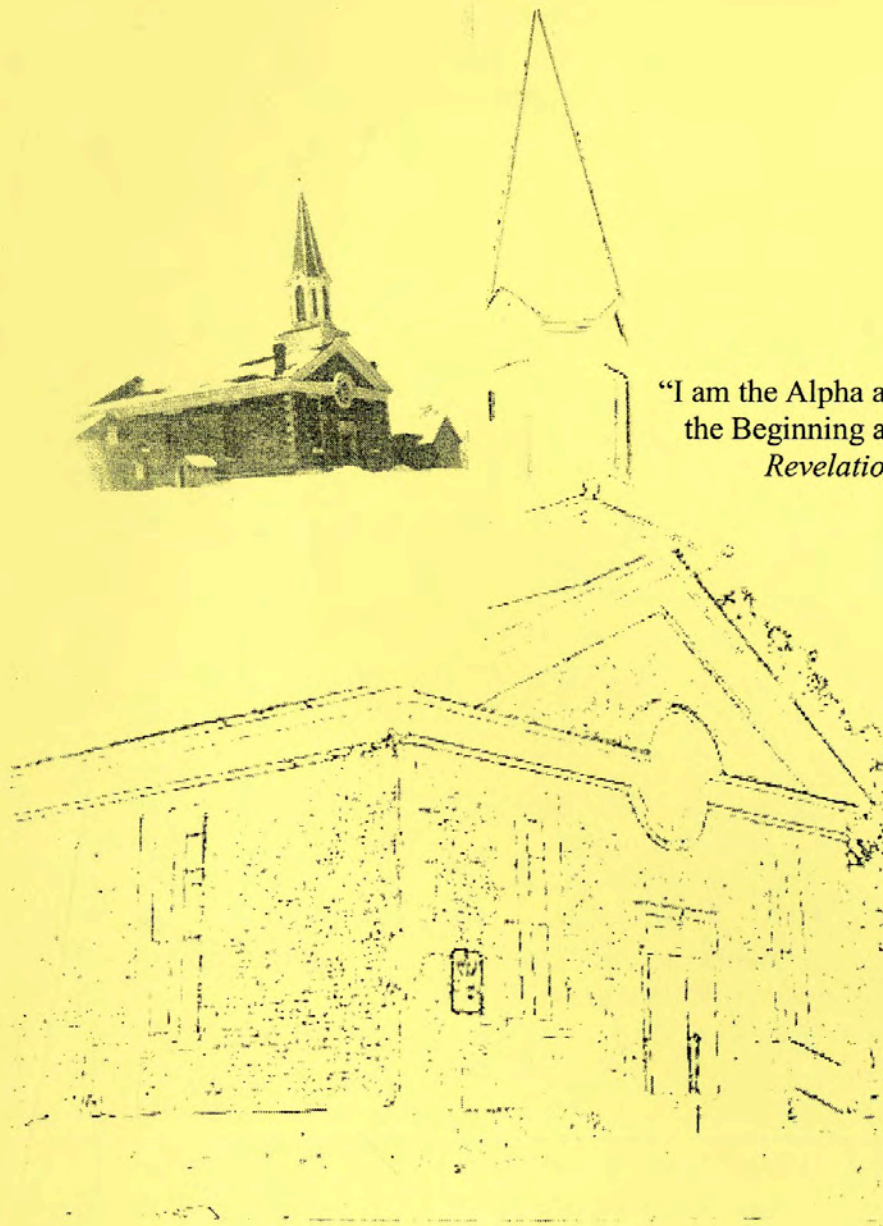
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The History of the North Ridge United Methodist Church 1816 - 2004



"I am the Alpha and the Omega,
the Beginning and the End."

Revelation 21:6



METHODISM AT NORTH RIDGE CHURCH

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Information for the Church History researched and compiled by

Dora Wakeman and Gloria Snyder

September 1998

Gloria Snyder and Diane Peck

November 2004

North Ridge United Methodist Church

Niagara Frontier District

Western New York Conference

Present Pastors – Troy & Kimberly Sellers

This Church History is dedicated in Memory of Dora H. Wakeman
(October 02, 1903 to July 19, 2003)

A NOTE OF INTRODUCTION

In any successful journey there are two essential items a traveler must know: the point of origin and the destination. The same is true of a journey of Christian faith. Of course we know that "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." (Genesis 1:1, NIV). Likewise, we know our end is the death of our human, earthly bodies and God's gift of a resurrection body as promised to all who follow Jesus. But along that journey, there are starting and ending points for local congregations of Christian believers. Contained within the pages of this "history" is the journey of two such congregations: the East Wilson Methodist Church and the North Ridge Methodist. These two congregations have become one in what is today the North Ridge United Methodist Church.

The information for this "history" has been compiled over many years through the dedicated work of many individuals. With each new publication, the "history" has been edited and re-edited. I hope that in these pages, you can connect with the spiritual journey of the people who made up this church in ages past. They are for us, a cloud of witnesses, testifying to the love of Christ in this world. It is also my hope that in some way, knowing the tradition of the "Living Cobblestone Church," will help you in your own journey toward becoming just like Jesus.

This publication is made in dedication to Dora Wakeman, a foundation cornerstone of this church throughout the 20th century. Dora committed her life to Christ in service at North Ridge. Her love of God has impacted the faith journeys of many people both within this congregation and within the congregations of other churches. May the effort put into this "history" do justice to her memory.

Your Fellow Christian Traveler,

Pastor Troy A. Sellers
November 21, 2004

1816 - THE INTRODUCTION OF METHODISM TO NORTH RIDGE

The first to introduce Methodism to North Ridge was Miss Olive, daughter of Aaron and Rachel Beach, formerly of Wales. She was born in Whiting, Vermont, and May 17, 1788. The Beach family moved to Scottsville New York in 1791, but due to Indian hostilities returned to Vermont. In 1811 they moved to Cambria, NY, but during the War of 1812 they were once again driven back to Vermont. Returning to Cambria in 1815 where they spent the remainder of their lives.

The following information was obtained from a letter written by Olive Beach to her sister, Mrs. Phoebe Luce, dated October 13, 1817:

"We arrived here in 1815; for a year, I never had an opportunity of conversing with any person except our mother, who professed to be a follower of Christ. The people were totally destitute of and wholly averse to everything of a religious nature. My last and only resort was prayer. And blessed be God, what-ever may be our trials, we can go to him in prayer."

"One day one of my neighbors informed me that there was a local preacher by the name of Ash living within ten miles of our home if I went in a direct course through the woods; but about twenty-five miles around the road. I remembered to have heard that there was a blind footpath that led to within a short distance of a garrison, where the Indians, during the French and Indian Wars, conducted their prisoners through the woods. I determined to find, and if possible, follow the path and on the morning of April 27, 1816, I entered the woods assured that the spirit of God would guide me through safely. I found the path, which I followed for a short distance, but on crossing a swamp, I lost sight of it and could find it no more."

"Giving myself up for lost, but giving myself up to the Lord, I traversed the wilds with no visible guide and where perhaps no white man had ever trod before; but I felt no fear of wild beasts, for I was sure my Preserver was near, and between two and three o'clock in the afternoon I heard sounds that seemed to proceed from a farm house, the first I had heard since entering the woods and I soon found Brother Ash's improvement lying on the bank of Lake Ontario. You can imagine my feelings. I spent the night with him and his family and in the morning entered the wood after having obtained leave of Brother Ash to give out an appointment for preaching at my father's house at a stated time. He continued to preach once every two weeks until a Mr. Shepherdson was sent by the Genesee Conference to form a circuit in this place."

The circuit referred to was Lewiston Circuit, which included Dickersonville, East Wilson and part of Ontario, Canada. Later it was divided into East Cambria and West Youngstown. Mr. Shepherdson held services at the home of Lavina Beach on the South Ridge. This house was moved to North Ridge, remodeled and is now occupied by the Urtel family.

Olive Beach lived to be 88 years old and is buried in the North Ridge Cemetery, about fifty feet back of the brick church. The large round front window in the North Ridge Cobblestone Church was given as a memorial to Olive Beach. One Sunday morning when our church recognized descendants and memories of Olive Beach, a pilgrimage was made to her grave where parishioners placed a basket of flowers on her

grave and the Rev. Franklin Blanchard offered a prayer of thanksgiving for her life and her services.

Christian services were held in several different locations in the North Ridge area. There was a little log schoolhouse nearly across from where the North Ridge Methodist Church currently stands. Sabbath School was held in this schoolhouse. At the church's 50th Anniversary celebration, a Mrs. Coe told of a little frame schoolhouse across from North Ridge Church where she first went to Sunday school in 1837. This building was later replaced by a brick schoolhouse built in 1871. Preaching services and singing schools were also held in an old store run by Calvin Wilson. An apothecary shop run by a young doctor, Dr. Raymond, was located in another part of the store. The necessity of a meeting place to worship led to the building of the North Ridge Church in 1848.

PART I

1848 - 1966: THE BUILDING OF THE CHURCH AND EARLY HISTORY

Reuben Wilson and his wife gave the plot of ground where the North Ridge Church stands, with a provision that it be completed in 18 months. Although the building was not completed until 1848, services were held here in 1847. The Rev. Elijah Wood preached the first sermon in this church before the seats were installed. The Rev. Wood delivered his sermon while standing on a pile of lumber. The North Ridge Church began as a community church, any Christian denomination was welcome to hold services here.

The church building is of historical significance because of its unique cobblestone construction. This construction technique used to build cobblestone buildings in this area was practiced by Irish immigrants who originally helped in the construction of the Erie Canal. Cobblestone construction is now all but a lost art. The stones in the front of the church are rounded and regular. These are wave washed stones from the beach of Lake Ontario.

Located on the west side of the church were the sheds, where people kept their horses and carriages during services. One report indicates the Smith shed was turned over to Asa Robinson, the Cook shed to Wall Coulter, and the Allen shed to Will Coulter providing they repair the sheds and put their names on them. In 1899 the decision was made to sell some of the sheds and buy a strip of land 20 feet wide from the rear of the sheds to the road. This land was purchased from Mr. Townsend.

In 1869 new seats were installed in the church. The following resolution is found in the minutes of the Board of Trustees in 1869: "We the pew owners of the North Ridge Methodist Church surrender our claim on the pews to the trustees of said church for the purpose of renting the same." In 1878 a resolution was moved and carried to rent seats in the church to help pay the pastor and current expenses. In 1881 another resolution was moved and carried that the pews be free. Due to a treasury balance of four cents in 1882, it was decided once more in 1883 to rent the pews. If two families wanted the same pew it was rented to the highest bidder. All pews were free after the singing of the second song. I know of several families including my own who would pay very little rent for pews, as the second song would be sung when they arrived.

In 1880 a new organ was purchased for \$168.00 and the old one was turned in for \$38.00. In 1892 the hall was built. This is now a Sunday School room, a meeting place for organizations (the Red Room), and an office for our minister. A kitchen containing only a wood burning stove occupied the area where the office and one Sunday School room are now located. The rest of the hall was the dining room heated by a potbellied stove that stood near our new office.

In 1902 a notice was served on the trustees of our Church and the teacher of School No. 9, located adjacent to the church. The notice stated, the children were not to climb the steeple of this church nor climb on the hall and sheds nor throw stones at the windows. When this school was closed due to centralization, the church bought the building and land. The school building was sold to Carmen Zipp and was moved to become the home of Kenneth Moss. The land addition provided ample ground for parking.

In 1906, acetylene was installed in the church vestibule but oil lamps were still used in the church and kitchen. In 1907 a furnace was installed in the church. In 1913 the Alpha Class lowered the choir platform to the level of the pulpit. Several things happened in 1915. The steeple was struck by lightning. Each trustee was to furnish a cord of wood and deliver the same to the church. A bee was held to tear down the sheds that ran north and south. The ladies voted to pay 14 cents for their suppers and to pay \$100.00 toward a new carpet.

The green carpet on the floor was a Pullman car carpet sewn together in Buffalo. Cyrus Beach brought it from Lockport in a sleigh drawn by a little bay team. Fifteen men were waiting to lay the carpet because the following day was the Centennial Celebration. Among the men waiting was Alonzo Swick. In dedicating the carpet on March 22, 1916, Rev. Bass said, "A lot of people have slept on this Pullman carpet before it was brought to this church and I expect a few will sleep on it here".

When the kitchen was moved down stairs, a stage was built in its place. James Bell of Pekin painted the scenery and Jennie Coulter directed the plays. Enough money was earned to paint the outside of the church and pay the minister his back pay. That amounted to \$1,000.00, which, in the nineteen thirties, was quite a sum. Some years later our teenagers performed "Little Women" directed by Dora Wakeman. They earned enough money to go to Silver Lake. After some years the stage was torn down and a Sunday school room and office took its place.

MEMORIAL WINDOWS

In January 1919 Rev. Bartlet examined the windows in the church and found them in bad condition. He suggested that the ladies think this over and decide if they could donate one new window if others would donate the rest. It was moved and carried to do so, (Minutes - Women's Assn. 1919).

The following windows were donated:

Olive Beach - Round front window in upper front of church.

Rev. Staples - Minister, 1886-1889.

Sarah Staples - Rev. Staples' wife.

Almira Beach - Cyrus Beach Jr.'s parents.

Cyrus Beach

Helen Lafler - (Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Burt Lafler, died of pneumonia, 18 months)

Ray Martin - lived where William Truesdell once lived at 4240 North Ridge Road

Mrs. Sarah J. Culver - lived where George Schendel once lived

Marcus and Melinda Miles - (Grandparents of Bernice Weber)

A. W. Swick & Avis - (Grandparents of Huey and Evelyn Lafler)

Jesse Beach & Mary Beach- North Ridge (Parents of Benjamin Beach, E. Cambria-Wilson Rd.)

Women's Society (Association)

Alpha Class - Sunday school class taught by Lucia Petty

Here the age old saying certainly applies: "Behind every successful man stands a devoted woman." The Ladies Aid were always willing to give in support of the church whether it was to help pay the preacher's salary or to fix a roof. They raised the money in many ways from teas and ice cream socials, to the present bazaars, rummage sales and dinners. Of course they changed their name many times:

1864 - Social Aid Society - President, Mrs. M. S. Hurd

1882 - Ladies Aid Society of M. E. Church President, Fannie Coe (dues 10 cents)

1916 - Women's Association, President, Mrs. Burt Lafler

1941 - Women's Society of Christian Service, President, Laura Freatman

1972 - United Methodist Women, President, Adelia Hendricks

The minutes of the Ladies Aid Society of April 15, 1881 began like this: "And on the fifteenth day of the 4th month that honorable body termed the 'Ladies Society' met at the home of Mrs. Peterson. And now it chanced that the roads were exceedingly fine and the night a very beautiful one, with moonlight and starlight enhancing its loveliness and rendering its charm wholly irresistible, therefore it was not at all surprising, in view of the social, literary, musical and appetizing treats also in store, that the number in attendance was much greater than usual." Currently the secretary begins the minutes "After a very delicious supper, the meeting was called to order by the president." The minutes of the Ladies Society are an invaluable tool in providing an historical account of church events.

Through the years there have been many auxiliary organizations, among them the W.C.T.U. (Women's Christian Temperance Union), L.T.L. (Loyal Temperance Union), Epworth League that became the Methodist Youth Fellowship, a Men's Club (interdenominational) and a Community Club.

In 1940 Ethel Phipps suggested the idea of a Home Coming. At this time all who had been members of the North Ridge Church were invited to spend an afternoon or evening with fellow members at the church. A special invitation was extended to all Golden Wedding couples who had a connection with the church. When first organized, a dinner was served but because of the popularity of the occasion only ice cream and cake

is served to the large assemblage of friends, relatives and members. Mr. White was minister when this tradition was initiated.

There was quite a bit of controversy selecting a sight for a parsonage. One person was to contact Calvin Wilson concerning the purchase of a lot directly east of the church. Mr. Barnes offered to donate a site, later rescinding his offer, and a lot was bought from Harvey Pearce for \$92.00. The parsonage plus the lot cost \$1,000.00 in 1851. In 1966 this house was sold and the Milford Luff house located directly across the street was purchased.

1944 Paneled the walls of the church and lowered the ceiling.

1949 Bought the school house and land adjoining the church.

1951 Bought the organ for \$2,500.00 paid through subscriptions.

1963 Carpeted the hall.

1966 Purchased the Milford Luff house.

1966 Acquired through a gift from Arnold Drewes, the ravine behind the church.

For many years the Cambria Charge consisted of two churches, North Ridge and Dickersonville. The pastor resided in the parsonage at North Ridge on the north side of the North Ridge Road. In 1941 North Ridge left Dickersonville and joined charges with Warren's Corners, using their parsonage for the minister's residence.

In 1964 the East Wilson Church closed and its membership was transferred to North Ridge Church. Many of them remain permanent members of North Ridge Church. The larger of the two lecterns in North Ridge Church was brought from the church in East Wilson.

The church in East Wilson could not be sold for another church so it is now an antique shop. It was formerly a Wakeman estate. The deed read: "The Now Owners" at the time of the gift were the Wakeman's. At the time of the sale, it was Dana Smith Schultz, so both parties signed off giving property to North Ridge United Methodist Church.

In 1966 we became an independent charge. M. Franklin Blanchard, our new minister for that year, was the first minister in the newly acquired parsonage.

Through the years each generation has had new ideas for the improvement and growth of our church. From Olive Beach, who introduced Methodism to North Ridge to the Circuit Riders; to the joint parishes, to the independent charge which we have today; willing workers have accomplished their ambitions through the help of God and through the legacies left by those who loved their church and had worked and prayed for its prosperity.

The North Ridge United Methodist Church is a combination of

Old years and new years

All blended into one;

The best of what there was to be,

and we hope the best of what there

is to come.

The following memorials have been donated to the North Ridge Methodist Church:

Brass candelabras - In memory of Jennie Taylor
Baptismal Fount - In memory of Wilbert (Duke) Doebler and Milford Luff
Altar Cloths - In memory of Burt Lafler
Flower Bowl - In memory of Burt Lafler
Lighted Picture of Christ - In memory of Willis and Ella Coulter
Cross & Candlesticks - In memory of Emma Lafler
Silver Tea Service - In memory of Wilbert (Duke) Doebler
Chimes - In memory of Helen Coulter Bewley
Collection Plates - Community Club
Piano - Alonzo and Florence Webster Swick
Sunday School Maps - Ruth Robinson
Altar Bible - Gordon and Doris Freatman and Harold Freatman
Christian Flag - Ellsworth and Mina Schulze Bigalow
American Flag - The Laflers
Portrait of Christ - Charles Dray (Artist) William and Lillian Truesdell
The Head of Christ was given by the M.Y.F. as a tribute to Lillian Truesdell in recognition of her outstanding work with the Methodist Youth Fellowship.

PART II

1966 – 1998: CONTINUED HISTORY

GENERAL CHURCH HISTORY

1966

The year 1966 was a memorable year as the North Ridge United Methodist Church celebrated its 150 years of "Methodism at North Ridge" with the Rev. Franklin Blanchard acting as its pastor. As part of the celebration, those persons named on the memorial window in the church, were honored, (one each Sunday) for four consecutive Sundays. On the fourth Sunday, a short service was held at the graveside of Olive Beach, in the North Ridge Cemetery. It was Olive who brought Methodism to the North Ridge area. Although this dedication service was planned for the first Sunday in December, it was postponed until January of the next year.



1967:

On January 8, 1967, with Mr. and Mrs. Huey Lafler serving as host and hostess, the dedication service commemorating Methodism on the ridge got under way. Nearly 150 current and former members of the North Ridge Methodist Church joined with friends to celebrate 150 years of Methodist service to the North Ridge Community. The Reverend Franklin Blanchard, Pastor, opened the program with a prayer asking God's blessing, "as we wander through pages of our past." Lay Leader Robert Hunt introduced the speakers. The service proceeded as follows:

The Rev. Robert Root, Superintendent of the Batavia District, dedicated the following memorial gifts:

1. Electronic chimes - memory of Helen Coulter Bewley.
2. Communion Set - memorial book- memory of Cindy Freatman.
3. Tea Service - memory of Wilbert Doebler.

Mrs. Wirt Wakeman took the congregation on a "Journey Through Yesterday" in her history of the first 100 years of the church 1816-1916. The Rev. James Wilson pastor of North Ridge 1922-1926; Rev. Louis Teague 1941-1945; Rev. Harold Blish 1954-1959; Rev. William E. Cooper 1959-1962; and Rev. Philip Schaal 1962-1966 all spoke about the years of their pastorate at the North Ridge Methodist Church. Mrs. Wakeman resumed her history with "Additions and Corrections" to the minutes, a story of the years from 1916-1966. Rev. W. Ralph Ward, Bishop of the Syracuse Area of the Methodist Church remarked that the attentive attendance showed real devotion and interest. "If you don't have a sense of the past there is no hope for the future." Robert Moss sang "Bless this House" accompanied by Debbie Schultz at the organ. The lectern used in this service was the one given by the East Wilson Church when it closed and united with the North Ridge Methodist Church. Rev. James Wilson, former pastor, offered the benediction. A reception was held in the church parlors after this service, (Information from Lockport Union Sun & Journal 1966).

After the busy year of 1966 preparing for the 150 year dedication, it was time to tend to "matters at hand." It was recommended that the roof on the church and hall be shingled. The trustees accepted a bid given by Robert's Roofing for \$1,125.00 to conduct the work. Neil Robinson reported the financial receipts from the sale of the old parsonage. Closing fees were \$471.05 leaving a balance of \$5,041.41.

Since the Methodist Episcopal Church had merged with the Evangelical United Brethren (E.U.B.) the church's name could no longer be "North Ridge Methodist Church" On October 1, 1968, the name was changed, at an Official Board meeting, to "North Ridge United Methodist Church".

1969

The major order of business for 1969 was the purchase of new hymnals. It was recommended by Annette Schultz that our church newspaper, "The Cobblestone", carry a notice that anyone who was interested could order a hymnal for their home or donate one to the church as a memorial to a loved one. The envelope for "church givers" was changed from three sections: benevolence, building fund, and general, to one section

only. Through the years, according to the needs of the church, it changed from one to three and back again.

1970-1971

In 1970, a suggestion was made that the membership roll be examined to determine what could be done regarding members not supporting the church. There were 54 delinquent pledges.



In 1971, Donald Schultz, who came to North Ridge United Methodist Church from East Wilson church, became our organist to be paid \$10.00 each Sunday. A check was received in 1971 for \$2,374.17 for the sale of the East Wilson Church. It was deposited in the Building Fund. Not only was North Ridge United Methodist Church richer for the money from the sale of the East Wilson Church, but richer by far for the talents of the members who transferred their membership to N.R.U.M.C. Along with Don Schultz as organist, the N.R.U.M.C. was blessed to receive a choir director, Annette Schultz, members of the choir, Sunday School teachers and Richard Schultz, who tapes each Sunday's sermons on his camcorder to be sent to shut-ins. In regard to the moneys received from the sale, Dist. Supt. Rev. Shipman suggested a "trust clause" be put on the deeds of the church property.

A letter was received from Marine Midland Bank requiring the balance of the Methodist Youth Fellowship (M.Y.F.) funds to be withdrawn. It had been in the bank for years when the M.Y. F. disbanded. The money was drawn and deposited in the Building Fund. Other banks were checked for money deposited by any other disbanded organizations. Neil Robinson suggested some of our funds be invested in bonds or certificates of deposits.

It was determined that some of the cobblestones on the church needed grouting. Willard Roberts of the Lower Mt. Road in Cambria performed this service in 1973.

Don Schultz was paid \$10.00 per month for printing bulletins and our newsletter, the "Cobblestone". This newsletter is sent to all members of the church with information of the needs and progress of the church as well as the well-being of its members.

1973

The Rev. Crites explained some questions coming up at the Annual Conference in June; one was to admit women to be ordained.

1975

A bequest of \$1,000.00 was received from Dagmar Daniels.

Ken Moss suggested a necessary renovation of the sanctuary. The ceiling and walls were to be painted and lay new carpet and floor & remodel the kitchen. Unanimous vote for restoration plans:

Ken McArthur and Roger Brawn to do labor, limit \$7,500.00.

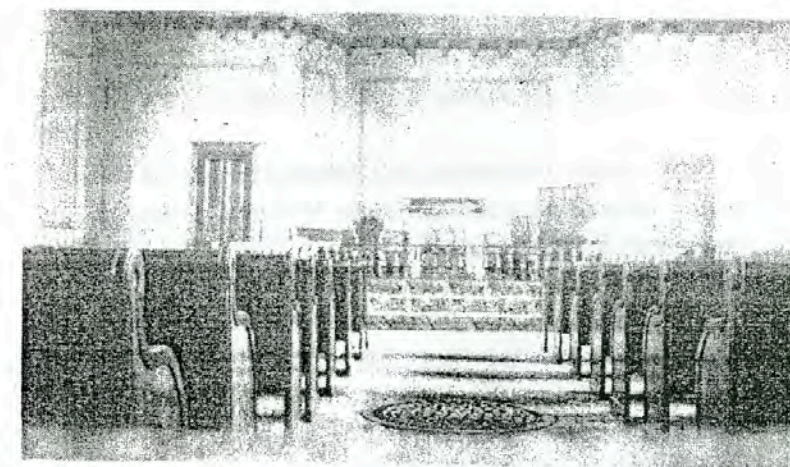
UMW (United Methodist Women) to help decide colors of paint and

recover pew cushions.

It was reported that the steeple leaked. It seemed a simple task to repair it but it was not. Several contractors were interviewed and at last in 1976 a contract was given to M.H. White who started it but decided not to carry on with the work. If we accept the physical fact that the steeple of a church is closer to Heaven than any other part of the church and if needs repairing, for "Heaven's Sake" we must repair it and that was done at a cost \$3,100.00. It is now weather tight all around, newly shingled and painted and should require no more service for at least 20 years, thanks to Roberts Roofing who completed the task. May 3, 1976.

Norman Luff appraised the old organ that was used by the North Ridge Methodist Church prior to 1880, at a value \$35.00 It was sold to Roger Sherman. Many years later he called a member of the church saying he had refurbished it and, it being of historic value, was a collector's item and was quite valuable. He would give the church a chance to buy it back. The church was not interested in his offer.

1976



The following improvements were made to the church sanctuary:

Covered Sanctuary floor with plywood

Installed new rug on Sanctuary floor

Painted walls and ceiling and trim in Sanctuary

Refinished Altar Rail and Pews

Installed new covers on Pew cushions

Replaced composition door with reinforced glass between balcony and Sanctuary

Installed new railing at foot of choir loft

Covered walls of balcony with paneling

Painted ceiling and trim in balcony

Installed section of "old rug" on balcony floor wall to wall

A dedication service was held celebrating the refurbishing of the Sanctuary.

The history of the church was reviewed by Dora Wakeman.

Remarks on renovation - Don Peck

Remarks by Pres. of Trustees - Ken Moss

Music by Lincoln Memorial choir

Rev. Wm. Horner introduced Bishop Joseph H. Yeakel who gave the message of the day. Ralph E. Smith, our Lay Leader gave the following prayer:

"Our Heavenly Father, we are gathered here in this holy place to bear witness to our faith and to dedicate a symbol of that faith, our renewed church building to Thy everlasting glory. Grant us, O Lord, to be ever mindful of this power of faith. As your servant, Olive Beach, had faith that this congregation should grow and that a church should and would be built more than 100 years ago, we of this present age had faith that this sanctuary could be rejuvenated and rededicated."

"Bless those this afternoon that had this faith and put the faith to work in constructing this holy building. Bless the departed souls who with stone and mortar, fallen tree, hammer and nail, fashioned this church building as a testament to their faith. And bless those who sustained that faith through the decades by serving as ministers to this church or as devoted members of the North Ridge United Methodist Church. And especially bless those who will carry the tenet of faith into the second century of this congregation's existence. Be with them and guide them so they may continue to have that same faith that came together on this place 160 years ago."

A social hour and refreshments were enjoyed in the Fellowship Room following the service.

Beth Truesdell Smith delivered and described the Wooden Cross, which hangs above the altar in the church as a memorial to William Truesdell, her father, who was a great leader in the church for many years.

1978

Chester Robinson reported that there had been four estimates for siding the parsonage. It was given to Lockport Newfane Roofing Co. for \$6,512.00. This included siding, eaves, aluminum storm windows downstairs, closing back door off bathroom upstairs, and slanting the roof, which extends from this door, as the flat roof causes leakage. An outside light was installed on the parsonage. The Pastor's salary for 1978 was \$5,500.00 and the travel allowance was \$950.00

1979

The church school teachers sent a letter of request to the Administrative Board and Board of Trustees asking if there was a possibility of improving the church school facilities either by renovation or addition to the present facilities. They remarked how fortunate we were that our church school was growing and they did not want to lose the impetus gained. At the same time, with so many people "eating out", the church dinners were becoming very popular and our dining area and kitchen were inadequate. Arnold Drewes had given the church a ravine back of our church, which joined the church property and extended to the Scott property (residence west of the church). Some of this ravine had been filled in by Robert Schuman who had access to fill which the state wanted drawn away from ditches they had enlarged. This extended our parking lot, gave us a little picnic area and now, no excavation would be needed for the addition to our building.

Building plans were discussed at great length:

Cost of build - \$50,000.00

Conference loan - \$10,000.00

Plan - 32' x 40' wood frame addition with a full ground floor attached to the south (rear) of the fellowship hall.

Upper floor - 6 classrooms

Lower floor - dining area 32' x 40'

Improve kitchen

Lawrence Moss - consultant of building plans

Kenneth McArthur - contractor

Available assets discussed.

Questionnaire sent to members through newsletter "Cobblestone Carrier" asking for:

Pledges - Promissory notes \$500.00 or more

Received to date 5/1/80 -- \$40,025.00.

1980

On May 5, 1980 a ground breaking ceremony was held for the new addition to the church.

1981

In accordance with the Book of Discipline, it was discussed and decided that a woman should be nominated to the Board of Trustees. Two new members were added, Anges Lester and Verna Gurski.

The Trustees decided "Any funds given to the church and not designated for a specific purpose shall be deposited in the "Trustees' Fund" and used as the trustees see fit for betterment of the church and its property." Money designated for "Building Fund" shall be accounted for separately.

In March a residential sign was erected on the parsonage lawn.

It was suggested that during communion service, communion stewards or representatives from the congregation assist the minister.

A substantial gift of money (\$1,500.00) was given to the North Ridge United Methodist Church by Esther Carrigan Myers of Wilson as a memorial to her mother, Elsie Carrigan, also of Wilson. It was later used to carpet the new Sunday school rooms.

It was moved and carried that memorials given to the church without specific designation, after a 60 day time period, be used as trustees thought were needed. This was later changed and memorials were kept in a Memorial Fund.

1982

New fans for the Sanctuary were donated by Chester McArthur and Agnes Drewes in memory of their mother, Edith McArthur.

Gloria Snyder presented the communion chalice in memory of her husband, Harold Snyder and pew Bibles in memory of her father, Edward Schuman.

Memorials were accepted for Frank and Manice Rogers consisting of an Eternal Light, large print hymnals, altar floodlights and paraments.

1983

The new Sunday school and fellowship hall addition was completed. On May 15, 1983, a special day of dedication was held at the church. Rev. William Horner, who served as pastor from 1973-1982, spoke at the morning worship service. Batavia District Superintendent, John Brewster, dedicated the recently completed church and addition, housing five classrooms, a new dining room and an enlarged remodeled kitchen. The classrooms were dedicated in honor of Ethel Phipps, William Truesdell, Ruth Robinson, Mina Bigalow, Myra Wakeman, Rena Israel and Lucille Schurr in recognition of their accomplishments in the church school program. The dining hall was dedicated in honor of Rev. Horner, Pastor Emeritus of Lincoln Memorial UMC of Buffalo, who played a large part in the building project. Pastor Burton Smith and Co-Chairpersons Jean Smith, wife of the pastor and Donald Schultz, coordinated the events.

Special thanks go to the dedication and building committees for their energy, prayers and vision to see this project completed.

1984

The front steps were repaired in the following manner:

Platform approximately same size

Steps full length

8' wide walk with handrail down center of walk

This work was done in memory of Karl Wright.

An outdoor lighted sign of colonial design was purchased in memory of Lynn Freatman, son of Anabell and (Robert - deceased). The name of the church, the pastor, and the sermon can be displayed in large letters each week.

1985

The District Superintendent commented that NRUMC had one of the largest active Sunday Schools in the district. Much credit is due the teachers who make Sunday school a happy occasion and also teach the children many lessons of Bible history and Bible stories.

Sunday School teachers and years of teaching as of 5/12/98 include:

Rena Israel 42 years

Diane Peck 28 years

Sue Schultz 24 years

Ruth Ann Buzzard 18 years

Carole Doebler 13 years

Walter Holmes 8 years

Sue Holmes 8 years

Sue Rademacher 3 years

Becky Jowdy Team teacher with Sue Schultz

Phyllis Jeffery Team teacher with Sue Schultz

Martha Smith Team teacher with Sue Schultz
Ella Lester 1 year Family Life - Church School Coordinator

A proposal was made and accepted for the replacing of the oil furnaces with 3 gas furnaces to heat the church, basement and fellowship room.

A request came from the Wilson Ministerial Committee requesting a Food and Clothing Shelter be established, 6 churches are to be involved, to be called the "Caring Christian Community Center (C.C.C.C.)" It will be run by the lay people of the churches involved. Canned and dry food and paper products will be gathered from each church once a month and dispensed to the needy from the Exley Methodist Church of Wilson. The church requested a quarterly report. North Ridge U.M.C. has participated in this venture for 13 years.

Don Peck reported that the Trustees had four major projects to offer for outside bids with ten other projects to be offered to the congregation. They will be posted on the bulletin board in the rear of the Sanctuary.

Additional bathroom facilities

Replacing windows and siding on west side of Red Room

Paneling and insulating study - this was done by Weipert Const.

In June, Donald Schultz, as a member of Future Ministry Committee, brought a recommendation seeking full time ministry for the North Ridge United Methodist Church. After many meetings with the Bishop, PPR Committee, Finance Committee and Congregation, the idea came to a vote by secret ballot. 57 votes cast 48 yes, 9 no. The North Ridge United Methodist Church went on record July 1, 1986 as having full time ministry.

The pastor's office is officially located in the church building and locked. Separate telephone lines for house and office were installed and placed on "Calls Waiting System".

1986-1988

One of the goals for the church in '85-'86 was to upgrade the rest room facilities. The Board of Trustees spent two years discussing this, looking at different locations in the church building, meeting with an architect and meeting with the conference building and grounds committee. Ken Moss presented a plan in April 1986, and again in December 1986. An affirmative vote of 72-11 at our church conference on Jan 11, 1987 gave the trustees permission to finalize this plan and seek financial support from the church family.

The Plan:

Old entry and rest rooms removed.

New entry, rest rooms on both basement, and main floors.

An elevator shaft to be included.

The cost of plan amounted to \$50,000.00, with some of the work being done by able members of the congregation. Lawrence Moss served as architect and the Jeffrey Construction completed the work. The funds for the cost of the project are to be raised through gifts, promissory notes and money making projects. On February 14, 1988, a

special service was held for the dedication of the new entrance and rest rooms. The District Superintendent, Reverend Rebecca Dolch was the speaker. After the service, a reception and fellowship hour were enjoyed with light refreshments. Reverend Burton Smith was the pastor. He left North Ridge June 1988. He was succeeded by Reverend Heather Allport-Cohoon who stayed until June 1989.

1989-1991

Reverend Olaf Danielson was interim pastor for the summer months of 1989, devoting 20-25 hours per week plus Sunday worship and visitations as needed. The Pastor-Parish Relations committee met with Reverend Ronald Sellers who was leaving the Emmanuel Church of Lockport, NY. Pastor Sellers was appointed as interim pastor until June 30, 1990 and resided at the North Ridge parsonage. He was appointed as full time pastor July 1, 1990.

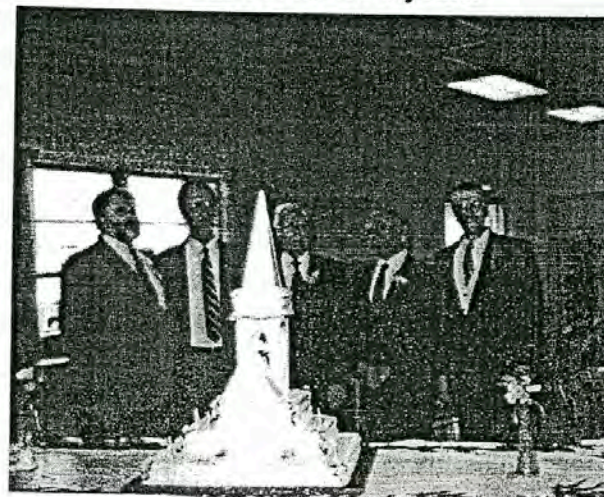
From September 1989-February 1990, Donald Peck, a representative of the Board of Trustees, proposed and drew up plans for expanding the kitchen floor space. Since the church was in the process of repairing the floor from spring water damage, the insurance settlement would be used. Money from the trustees fund was available and with help and talent from the congregation, no additional finances were needed. The plan was accepted and in February of 1990, the south wall was removed. Hammers flew; plasterboard was put up, and electric outlets were added. A new counter was installed on the west side for roasters and coffee urns. Two serving windows were built in the south end. Painting and carpeting on the floor of the small dining were finished and the much-needed working space for preparing public dinners was in order.

In 1989, the Western New York Annual Conference suggested members of the choir and anyone else interested in new hymnals attend a workshop in Hamburg, N.Y. The choir was impressed with the addition of new songs and the new patterns of worship and rituals contained in the new hymnals. The congregation was willing to help pay for these new hymnals through memorials or through personal purchase and dedication. Many of the old books were given to Rev. Burton Smith who had been moved from our church to the Southern tier of W.N.Y.

In 1990, the parsonage was repapered and the trim was re-stained. In 1991 a new roof was put on the sanctuary, at a cost of \$12,095.00.

The men had their first chicken chowder sale, along with a flea or attic sale. The Chiavetta's caterers gave their first chicken-Bar-B-Q dinner in July at North Ridge. These two projects proved to be profitable and have been carried on for 8 years.

The year 1991 was the 175th anniversary of "Methodism at North Ridge". Bishop Forrest Stith honored the congregation giving the 10:15 a.m. message. Bishop Stith and Rev. Ronald Sellers administered Communion sacraments. Guest pianist was Debbie Clark and the anthem was sung under the direction of Annette Schultz. Following the worship service, a roast beef dinner



was served at the South Wilson Fire Hall. Guests present at the service were Rev. Olaf and Mrs. Danielson, Rev. Harold Blish, Rev. William Cooper, Rev. Lee and Mrs. Bowman and Rev. Burton and Mrs. Smith.

The golden wedding couples were introduced and congratulated.

1993 - 1998

In April of 1993, the Wurlitzer organ that graced the sanctuary of the North Ridge United Methodist Church was replaced. It was in need of repairs and some parts were not available. It was purchased in 1951 for \$2,500.00. The committee comprised of Donald Schultz, Annette Schultz, Gloria Snyder and Rev. Ronald Sellers were fortunate to purchase a six year old Allen electronic digital, computerized organ for \$7,195.00. This included two speakers. To finance this purchase, \$4,800.00 was used from the memorial fund and \$2,395.00 was loaned from the trustees. On Palm Sunday, April 4, 1993 with Don Schultz at the console, loud Hosannas were sung to the accompaniment of the new organ. (Cobblestone Carrier) A dedication service for the new organ was held on May 23, 1993. The old organ was given to an Ethnic Ministry Black Church in Niagara Falls.

Members of North Ridge U.M. Church had always wanted their church to be accessible to all who desired to come to worship and to learn about Jesus Christ. One concern was the stairs, which must be used to reach the Sanctuary, Sunday school rooms, and Fellowship Hall. When planning the new entry in 1987, members wisely included space for a Lift-A-Vator. At the urging of the W.N.Y. Annual Conference of 1996, the Administrative Board and church Trustees resolved to proceed with the installation of the long awaited Lift-A-Vator. These church leaders were blessed by the general support and encouragement of church members. Plans were made and the Lift-A-Vator was ordered, the cost being \$22,530.00. Construction was by R.D. Jeffery & son. The Lift-A-Vator was installed and first used on Sunday, May 2, 1997. A loan was arranged with the Western New York Conference. Repayment of the 10-year loan would be made with donations from grateful members and interest from the bequest of Neil Robinson. Miriam Robinson, widow of Neil, supported this plan. The Lift-A-Vator was dedicated on April 27, 1997. Rev. Calvin Babcock was the pastor. Rev. Sheila Swanger, Batavia District Superintendent, gave words of congratulation.



Words of Presentation--Miriam Robinson
Words of Acceptance--Donald Peck
Words of Consecration & Prayer
A reception followed in the Fellowship Room.
Miriam was the first to use the Lift-A-Vator.
(Program 4/27/97)

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

It has been sometime since the sound of music has been heard coming from the steeple of the North Ridge United Methodist Church. In the 1950's, chimes were given in memory of Helen Coulter Bewley who lived at North Ridge during her childhood. They served their purpose for many years, bringing enjoyment to the whole neighborhood. The change in temperature in the balcony of the church, which housed the player and records, the extreme heat in the summer and the frigid in the winter, warped the records and destroyed the mechanism of the player. In 1997, another memorial of chimes was given; a gift from, and a memorial to Gordon Freatman and his wife, Doris Bowerman Freatman. This money was willed to the church at the time of both donors death. Gordon was the son of Floyd and Laura Freatman and spent his childhood at North Ridge. Another memorial toward the chimes was given by Shirley Coulter, wife of Roger Coulter and Mr. and Mrs. James Coulter in memory of Roger Coulter who also spent his childhood at North Ridge.

In 1988 & 1992, the North Ridge United Methodist Church received two bequests of substantial amounts to be used as endowment funds, invested as the trustees thought safe and profitable with only the interest used for at least ten years. If an emergency arose, there was a planned procedure to be used as to the disposition of the funds.

When Dick (Calvin) and Susan Schultz learned that General Motors would pay an adoption fee, they gave the money they had saved for this purpose, to the N.R.U.M.C. to be set up as a fund to buy a camcorder, VCR and a TV. These were purchased in 1987. The main use of these is to tape the service each Sunday and make it available to the shut-ins of our church. Dick Schultz has made himself responsible for this project, which had been very successful and appreciated.

In 1997 the office of the North Ridge United Methodist Church was been up-dated with a new desk, four new chairs, a copy machine, a computer, and printer and for the first time, a part time secretary, Susan Rademacher.

The North Ridge United Methodist Church issues a newsletter "Cobblestone Carrier". This project was started in 1965 by the young people of the church. When they could no longer continue, Florence Lafler served as editor. It is still being printed once a month and sent to all members of the church. It contains church activities, deaths, births, and a message from the pastor. Today's editor in 1998 is Karen Freatman Randall.

COMMUNITY CLUB

The community club was formed as a fellowship organization in 1940. The first speaker was L. Ernest Tarr (Principal of Wilson Central School). The Rev. William Horner of Buffalo was also a speaker for the group. He later became pastor of North Ridge United Methodist Church 1973-1982. This group has many activities for the good of the church and vicinity. It was instrumental in securing the traffic light at Drewes Corners (intersection of route 425 & 93). This group has also assisted in many church projects. The present officers for 1997-98 are Donald Peck, President; Anabell Freatman, Vice President; Sue Holmes, Secretary and Chester Robinson, Treasurer.

On January 2, 1941, there were 33 names on the charter member roll of the Women's Society of Christian Service. Rev. Frank White installed the officers. Of those 33 members, five are still living, Dora Wakeman, Historian, Gertrude Luff, Agnes Lester, Miriam Robinson and Marie Luff. The officers were as follows: President, Laura Freatman; Vice President, Ruth Robinson; 2nd Vice President, Mabel Schulze; Secretary, Dora Wakeman; Corresponding Secretary, Mary Luff and Treasurer Florence Lafler. The meetings at that time were held in the homes of the members the first being at Sadie Robinson's. Since then, the society has continued to support missions and the church.

1941-51: Dime card parties and bazaars with fish ponds, food, fun and fancy sales were a few of the projects used for fund raisers. It was noted that Florence Lafler received 1 coupon for 1 pound of sugar to be used as needed for the WSCS. Suppers were held at the monthly meetings. The price was raised from 35 cents to 50 cents. A velvet wall hanging was bought for the church in 1943. In 1951, the kitchen was remodeled at a cost of \$328.00 November 11, 1950 the first cookbook was published under the direction of Donna Robinson and Betty Oldenberg. Mary Alice Kleinhans (Donna's sister) helped with the printing.

1952-62: The pew cushions were covered and a lace table-cloth was purchased. In 1956, the 15th anniversary of the WSCS was celebrated. The slogan was "Looking Backward--Thinking Forward". Some of the ways the WSCS earned their money in this decade was by holding a smorgasbord, white elephant sale, a spring luncheon, a roast beef supper, selling knives and selling baked goods at the monthly meetings. In 1957, we had a "fried chicken" supper. After the first table had eaten, the chicken was all gone, and we had to go out on the "highways and byways" for chicken and other meat. We made \$207.00 anyway.

Fun was the name of the game at some of our meetings. A fashionable model in the person of Lillian Truesdell attended wearing high button shoes, which she borrowed from Lafler's store and a hat made of flowers someone left at the church. We also brought sealed boxes of clothes: a dress, hat and purse and auctioned them off. The clothes were worn to the next meeting and we had some "well-dressed" ladies. We enjoyed a showing of nylons purchased at Lafler's store for 79 cents a pair. Again Lillian was an excellent model. We sent \$5.00 to Myra Wakeman, a missionary at Pittman Center, for Christmas. In a thank-you note she stated she bought a dress with the money. In order to bring new hairdos to the girls at Williamsville Home, we donated \$25.00. We also planted a Sycamore tree at the Home.

1965: During this year, an anniversary was held, the 25th birthday of an organization, The Women's Society of Christian Service. What is the real measure of time? What is the significance of twenty-five years of Life? A corporate life of twenty-five years such as that of the W.S.C.S. is young enough to be eager about the future and old enough to be wistful about the past. The women in the church have been part of two decades of a series of events. These have been times to cause people to seek religion and Americans have poured into churches and synagogues in unprecedented numbers; a result of wars and violence. During these last 2 years, Methodist women have given more than

\$195 million dollars to mission through the Womens division and more through the churches general program.

1966: Thanksgiving dinner was served to 430 by the Women. Our profit for the dinner was \$460.00 and \$217.00 from the bazaar. Another fundraiser was a fish supper; the charge was \$1.00. Profit was \$67.51.

1968: On October 3, 1968, the regular meeting was held in the form of a re-organization meeting after the merger of the Methodist and the E.U.B. Churches. Leetah Brown delivered an impressive charter program. It officially made us the "Women's Society of the U.M.C." All present and active members were declared charter members.

1973: Like all other units this year, we became reorganized in March as United Methodist Women. That same year, we voted to attend the Summit Mall Sale for the first time. We cleared \$360.00.

1974: We received \$191.00 from the Alley Dusters Bowling project that was started by Blanche Wilson and Ruth Luff. This project netted the society a goodly amount over the years.

1976: A special note was entered in the minutes to the effect that Goodwill Industries was originally organized by and was the brainchild of the Methodist Church. It is separate now, but still reports to the Methodist Church. Once again, the seat cushions were covered. Diane Peck reported the cost to be \$438.48. The women will do the work. The UMW will help the church in this project.

1977: A committee was appointed for funeral luncheons.

1983: In January 1983, we held a primary meeting of the cookbook committee. The group, headed by Beth Smith, included Diane Peck, June Schuman and Gloria Snyder with illustrations by Connie Moore. We had a great response and sold 600 copies. Blanche Wilson gave us a bit of history on a quilt that was made prior to 1983 and donated to the East Wilson Church by a Mrs. Mary Miles who lived on Coomer Road. Several years later, Agnes Drewes laundered it, Iva Hochadel had a backing put on it and Betty Stimson of Wilson did the quilting. It sold for \$200.00 at the Summit Mall Sale.

1984: In April of 1984, a sacrificial meal was held as part of the regular meeting. This meal represents the sacrifice we as Christians are to make, as we take up our cross to follow Jesus daily. The unoccupied chair at the head of the table symbolized the living spirit of Christ ever present with those who take the bread and cup in memory of him. Foods included unleavened bread, bitter herbs, lamb, parsley, nuts and apples, hard-boiled eggs, raisins, grapes, dates, olives and figs and grape juice. Planning this meal was Jeanne Smith, Carole Doebler and Lucille Schurr.

1985-1997: In recent years, the UMW had been instrumental in purchasing many items that the trustees have not picked up on. They include the following:

A New stove for the kitchen @ \$479.25

\$1,500.00 given to the church building committee

\$2,000.00 given toward the rugs for the parsonage

Contributed \$2,000.00 in a lump sum toward the new addition

Purchased a stainless steel hood for the stove @ \$55.00

Purchased a round table @ \$4.00 and 3 Sunday School tables at \$75.00 each

Purchased a memorial book and stand

Purchased a gas stove from Murphys @ \$400.00

Bought a coffee maker @ \$368.00

Bought a stainless steel table @ \$362.00

Bought 2 refrigerators @ \$1,710.00 and \$600.00

Bought a microwave

Bought a steam table and pans @ \$990.00 and \$206.30 respectively

Gave \$3,000.00 to the church toward apportionment's

Gave \$1,500.00 to the church toward a computer

Bought 6 tables for the dining room @ \$505.00

And many other items too numerous to mention.

1998: Once again we will be publishing a new cookbook with Anabell Freatman, past-president, leading the group. Assisting will be Diane Peck, Nancy Jacobs, Carole Doebler, Gloria Snyder, June Schuman and Audrey Peck. We will celebrate the 25th Anniversary of officially being United Methodist Women. This year, we will honor Agnes Lester on UMW Sunday. In years past we have also honored Blanch Wilson, Dora Wakeman and Miriam Robinson.

In summary, we are an organized unit of the United Methodist Women who shall be a community of women whose PURPOSE is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church. We here at North Ridge have participated in designated programs of Call to Prayer and Self Denial, Pledge to Missions and Thank Offering. We have entertained other churches at a guest night with a variety of speakers. We contribute to the church budget, have attended Women's Communion Breakfasts in Batavia and Cambria, celebrated Women's day in church, participated in Church Women United Programs and helped at migrant clinics. We have donated to many missionary projects and also supported the church youth, donating for registration fees.

We supply the Upper Room magazines in the large print and cassettes to senior members and shut-ins, have made tray favors for nursing homes and special dinners. We save Campbell soup labels, which are donated to Gateway, collect Tops, Jubilee and Quality tapes and save canceled postage stamps as part of our fundraisers. We have sold dishcloths, napkins and scented candles, held Easter Candy sales and participated in the Summit Mall Do-gooders Bazaar, and received moneys from a Monday morning bowling group.

We have given to the City Mission, Ronald McDonald house, Gateway, Niagara Falls City Mission, House of God Church, Niagara Hospice, gifts to the Christian Caring Center, Salvation Army, Service Center, Angle Tree project, U.M.C.O.R., School of Mission and have made Migrant Kits. We have held Bible Studies, make bibs and booties for the V.A. Hospital and published and sold cookbooks.

We feel the need for new and younger member and just recently have been blessed by several young women joining our organization.

The present officers for 1997 - 1998 are Judith Zauner, President; Diane Peck, Vice President; Agnes Drewes, Secretary and Karen Randall, Treasurer.

MUSIC

Prior to purchasing the Wurlitzer organ, Myra Wakeman had been pianist at North Ridge for 27 years starting in 1918. Her only recompense was the satisfaction that she was using the talent that God had given her. Myra was a piano teacher, going from house to house teaching. Among her pupils was Gloria Schuman Snyder who began taking lessons at the age of 6 years. When Myra left North Ridge in 1945 to become a missionary at Pittman Center, Tennessee, Gloria, her pupil, became the pianist from 1945-1951.

In 1951, the new organ was purchased. Gloria was married that year; the position of organist was passed on to Gretchen Wright Zeh, daughter of Karl and Gwen Wright. There were several organists for the following few years, many from the North Ridge Church including Beth Truesdell Smith, 1957-61. Lawrence Moss, 1965-66; Debbie Schultz Clark, 1966-70. In 1971, Don Schultz took over the position and is the present organist. Don Schultz's talent on the piano and organ is very much appreciated, as is his fine singing voice.

The choir, under the leadership of Annette Schultz does an outstanding job of providing special music for the church service and combining with other church choirs for special occasions such as Christmas, Easter, etc. The choir's role in the church service is very important. During the church year they are instrumental in many phases of the service in preparing the congregation for worship through their introit, in leading the hymns, in presenting the anthem each week and in closing the service with their choral benediction, (Cobblestone).

YOUTH GROUP

The North Ridge United Methodist Church has been very fortunate to have had dedicated leaders for their youth group, many of them having children of their own in the group and making it a family group. The leaders have taken the group to Youth Camps, to different churches and synagogues to see how others worship, to the theater, to the city where they stayed in nice hotels and learned how to conduct themselves plus participating in many activities of worship in their own church.

It has been a rewarding experience for the leaders as most of our youth have made our church proud of them both scholastically and morally. The leaders have been Gwen Wright, Lillian Truesdell, Ruth Luff, Agnes Doebler Drewes, Beth and Buzz Smith, Diane Peck, Debbie Mosher, Karen Freatman Randall, Mark Randall and Becky Jowdy.

The Present president of the group for 1997-98 is Charles Jowdy.

NORTH RIDGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FRIENDSHIP SPREAD

This spread was made as a fund raising project in 1898, each block has ten names at 10 cents a name. Mrs. Avis Swick bought it at auction for 20 dollars and gave it to her niece Avis Edwards. While teaching school in Portland Oregon, Miss Edwards married Louis Colborn whom she had met in Buffalo years before. They returned to Buffalo then moved to Clovis New Mexico. About 1965, the Methodist minister in Clovis contacted

Rev. Phillip Schaal, North Ridge Methodist minister, asking if there was any person at North Ridge who remembered this spread. Mrs. Sadie Averell Robinson whose name is on the spread, remembered it, and the spread was sent to her and is now the property of the North Ridge United Methodist Church. This spread must have been a precious link with her church and place of birth. It seems a miracle that after all these years it should have been returned to its place of origin.

FINALE

In 1998, the cobblestone edifice that houses the sanctuary is 150 years old.

Since 1848, generations have preserved, added to and improved the whole church.

The hall, Sunday School rooms, new rest rooms, enlarged dining area, new kitchen, Lift-A-Vator and chimes have all added to the North Ridge Cobblestone Church one of the historical landmarks in the Town of Cambria.

"The congregation has been blessed by a rich heritage of dedication and commitment to embodying God's mission in the community. As the 21st century approaches, the North Ridge United Methodist Church looks forward to providing ministry and service that will meet the needs of people who seek to live a life in Jesus Christ."

Reverend Judith E. Cole



PART III

1998-2004: THE HISTORY ON NORTH RIDGE UMC CONTINUED

GENERAL CHURCH HISTORY

1998

Many improvements were completed by the trustees in 1998. The parsonage in particular was in need of repairs. A new sump pump was installed and holes in the foundation cemented. Some wiggly friends had invaded the basement and an exterminator was called to extricate these snakes. Repairs to the roof vents and shingles were completed and new exterior lights were installed. Old insulation in the attic was removed and will be replaced at a later date.

In 1998, as in 1997, an anonymous donor presented a check with the following stipulation. \$500.00 would be a gift to the church if individuals would find persons in need. The \$2,000.00 was to be used to see that children and adults in our area were selected to be recipients of gifts to make for a happy holiday season.

In January of 1998, payment was made for repairs to the Cobblestone wall of the church. Stones and mortar had become loose and needed to be redone. This is becoming a lost art and we were fortunate to have Mr. Doug Hastings do the needed repairs at a cost of \$3,800.00.

That same year, a plaque was purchased with monies from the memorial fund to honor those persons who had gone the "Extra Mile." The "Extra Miler" program was initiated as a Batavia District laity recognition program to celebrate the extra efforts of the



people of the district. Rena Israel was the first selected in 1994. Following her were Gloria Snyder, 1995; Leonard Hochadel, 1996; Donna Creighton; 1997 Thomas (Frank) Rodgers, 1998; Anabell Freatman, 1999; Dora Wakeman and Agnes Dreweš, 2000; Allan & Annette Schultz, 2001; Donald & Diane Peck, 2002; Chester & Donna Robinson and C Richard (Dick) & Susan Schultz, 2003; and Ruth Weaver, 2004. All recipients of this award have given many extra hours to the work of the church. We look forward to having more names added to this list.

In November 1998, Donna Logan was hired as secretary.

The following month (December), Arnold "Chuck" Drewes donated property at the rear of the church, resulting in the straightening of the property line. We are grateful to "Chuck" and also to Chester Robinson who donated dirt that was placed around the basement wall for the purpose of having water drain away.

It was reported in the December 1998 issue of the "Cobblestone Carrier" that a marker had been placed in front of the North Ridge United Methodist Church, the oldest standing church in the town of Cambria, being built in 1848. This marker, given by the Cambria Historical Society and the town, is in commemoration of the 190th anniversary of the formation of Cambria, the 1st town in Niagara County. It states the following: "North Ridge United Methodist Church, built in 1848. Founded by Olive Beach in 1816. Built on land donated by Reuben Wilson, made of cobblestones smoothed by the waters of Lake Ontario." The pastor Rev. Judith Cole, stated the congregation has been blessed by a rich heritage of dedication and commitment to embodying God's mission in the community.

In 1998, Allan Schultz completely assembled a new amplifier system for the benefit of the choir and congregation and two years later two speakers were purchased with memorial money and mounted on the walls.

1999

In May of 1999, a special presentation was made by Walter Holmes, Chairman of the Administrative Board, to Mrs. Dora Wakeman, our former historian. It expressed the everlasting thanks for all the hours she spent to bring the church history up to date. Her untiring work and wonderful expressions shall be with us for years to come.

In the fall of 1999, new landscaping around the church was completed by David Erway at a cost of \$1,050.00. This was done as a living memorial to Arnold "Chuck" Drewes. Old evergreens were removed and new bushes planted, thus reminding us of the joy "Chuck" had always brought to North Ridge.

Following the resignation of Donna Logan in July of 1999, Barbara Poole was hired as secretary.

That same year, we were blessed with the gift of two artificial Christmas trees given by Jim Morgan in memory of his wife, Joan. They now grace the sanctuary and the red room at holiday time.

2000

In 2000, once again the trustees were busy. New carpet was installed in the small dining room plus the entry and the stairs. Painting of this area was completed by Don Peck and Bob Dinse. New carpeting was installed in the parsonage and many other maintenance items were completed. Because the present pastor, Rev. Harold Thomas, decided to live in his own home in Niagara Falls, the parsonage was rented to newlyweds, Brian and Kate Peck. New gutters were installed and siding on the east side of the parsonage was repaired. New electronic doorbells were also put in place.

2001

Ella Lester expressed a desire for the small organ in the red room in January 2001. She had the trustees O.K. and will make a donation.

In March of 2001, a committee consisting of Annette Schultz, Lawrence Moss, Julie Thomas and Donald Schultz decided the church was in need of a new piano. A Wurlitzer Baby Grand was purchased from Rogers Company in Buffalo, NY. This will be paid for by donations. At a cost of \$8270.00, the piano was debt free July 1, 2001.

That same year, a Canon-Image runner copying machine was leased for the duplicating needs of the church.

2002

In January of 2002, the trustees decided the green antiqued piano was no longer of use to the church. A donation was offered and the piano is now in the home of Raymond (Butch) and Ruth Ann (Scott) Bradley. Ray (Butch) Bradley is the son of Harvey Bradley, whose mother Theda Lafler (Frank Bradley) was a sister to Bernice Weber, a former member. So that big green piano is (more or less) staying within the church family. This piano had originally been donated by Floyd and Laura Freatman, first being moved to the home of the Late Robert and Anabell Freatman. The young Freatman girls, Roberta and Dawn, both took lessons. When they were no longer interested, the piano was moved to the church. After some years, a group headed by Lillian Truesdell decided to add a coat of antique paint. This process brought said piano back to life and it was used for many years by the choir at their Wednesday night practice.



In March of 2002, the trustees of the North Ridge United Methodist Church apply for a listing of the church building on the State and National Historic Register.

On October 5, 2002, a celebration was held in the church dining room honoring our former historian, Dora Wakeman, the occasion, her 99th birthday. Her wit, her charm and grace are a joy to behold and she has a memory that never ends. After bringing the church history up to date in 1998, she gave up the position of historian. We at North Ridge salute Dora. She has always given to the world the best she has and we pray the best has come back to her and will continue to do so. That same month (October), four members of North Ridge took on the tremendous project of scraping and painting the wood trim around five vertical stained glass windows on the east and north sides of the church. Plexiglas storm panels were removed, wood frames scraped, primed and painted and new Plexiglas was installed. Work on the west side will be completed next year.

In November of 2002, Mrs. Bernetha Mellick of 3926 Lockport-Olcott Road, Wrights Corners, donated a hand painted picture of the church. Mrs. Mellick saw the photo of the North Ridge Church in the Emmanuel Methodist Church calendar. She and her friend, Julia Beamer, came to North Ridge and Mrs. Mellick used acrylic paint for the scene that was done in 1983. It was a gift and Walter Homes, Ad Board Chairman, presented it to the church. It now graces the wall of the sanctuary.

2003

In February of 2003, the church set up a charitable fund in the name of Marion Johnson. At that time \$2,500.00 was presented as a gift to the church, \$500.00 of which went to the memorial fund. New green paraments were purchased by the memorial committee and were given in honor of Lois Ward on January 18, 2004. Lois was a dear friend of Mrs. Johnson.

In March of 2003 Susan Rademacher returned as the secretary to the pastor. At that time a new Dell Dimension 4550 computer with an Intelmover program and a Lexmark E320 Monochrome Laser Printer was purchased to replace the old computer. The generous contributors to this project included Lois Ward, Peter Rademacher and C. Richard Schultz.

Through the untiring efforts of Lawrence Moss, a trustee, the North Ridge United Methodist Church has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places on Jan. 16, 2003. On June 18, 2003 a historic marker was installed with the following wording inscribed.

NORTH RIDGE
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
BUILT 1846-1848
A GOOD EXAMPLE OF GREEK REVIVAL
ARCHITECTURE
and COBBLESTONE MASONRY CONSTRUCTION

FIRST CHURCH BUILDING in NORTH RIDGE
LISTED ON STATE and NATIONAL HISTORIC
REGISTERS: 2002

SIGN DONATED IN MEMORY OF SUZANNE SCHULZ

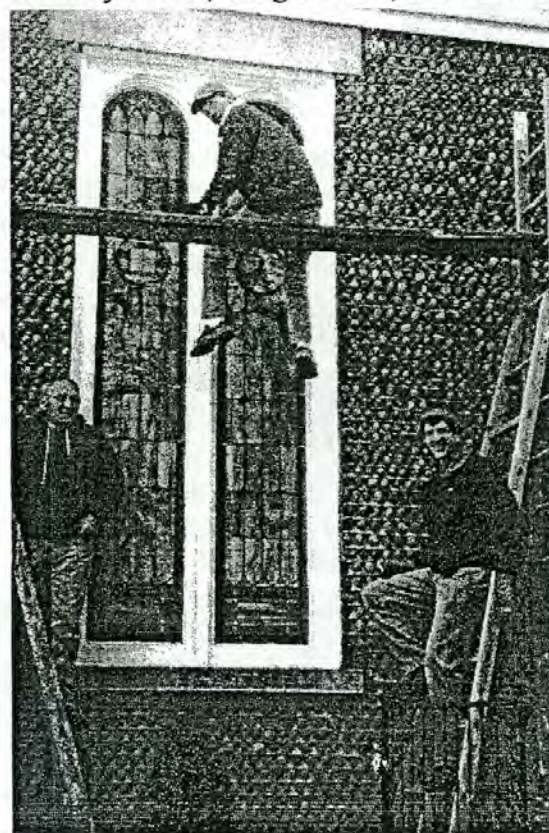
A celebration of State and National Historic Status was held at the church on June 21, 2003 at which time the historic marker that had been donated by Allan and Annette Schultz, parents of Suzanne Schulz, was unveiled. Walter Holmes was Master of Ceremonies for the event. In attendance were Rev. Dr. D. Gregory VanDussen, Batavia District



Superintendent, Senator George Maziarz, Wright Ellis, Town of Cambria Supervisor and Mr. Bill Lattin, Director of the Cobblestone Society Museum. Lawrence Moss, Chairman of the event presented a certificate of Historic Status. Those serving with Mr. Moss were Mrs. Rena Israel and Mr. and Mrs. Donald Peck. The ringing of the church bell followed.

Several Memorial gifts were received as part of our Historic Celebration. The church bell was repaired by Allen Schultz and remounted for the celebration. This bell came from the Old Lake Road School House, Porter District #10 which was owned by Lawrence Lederhouse. It was purchased and given to the church by Jesse and Ruth Ann Buzzard in 1986 in honor of Pat and Agnes (Suzi) Lester. The bell was put in the tower by Don Peck and Jesse Buzzard, but had broken in later years necessitating the repairs made for the historical celebration. New pew cushions were given in memory of Chester and Charlotte McArthur. These pew cushions donated by the family of the McArthur's were also in place for the historic celebration. The new cushions match the design of the choir chairs and blend well with the carpeting in the sanctuary. Those attending church each Sunday are grateful for this comfortable donation. The old cushions were given to the Canadice United Methodist Church, which is situated east of Rochester at 5949 Hill Road, Springwater, N.Y. 14560.

On July 19, 2003 North Ridge was saddened by the death of our former historian, Mrs. Dora Wakeman, at the age of 99. Pastors Troy and Kim Sellers and the Reverend Timothy Sweet, her grandson, officiated at the service, which was held from the church.



be used by the church in honor of Lois Ward and in memory of Dora Wakeman. Plans are underway to replace the bulletin board in the Sunday school hallway in memory of Dora.

“When someone you love becomes a memory,
the memory becomes a treasure.”

Once again on August 9, 2003, we were saddened by the loss of our Chairman of the trustees, Allan Schultz. He had recently completed the placing of light on the steeple for night illumination. This loving task was done in memory of his daughter, Suzanne Schulz. Donald Peck completed the ground lighting. This portion of the project was completed later in the year.

In October of 2003, the wood trim around the windows on the west side of the church were scraped and painted, as were the two double doors. Donald and Darrin Peck, Lawrence Moss and David Ferguson completed the entire project. We at North Ridge are grateful to these men and say “A job well done.” Also in October of 2003, another gift of \$2,000.00 was given by Marion Johnson’s charitable fund. It was to

Toward the end of the year, many projects were brought up to date. The parsonage was re-rented, the gutter work was finished on the sanctuary and in January of 2004, the parsonage attic was insulated. Mark Randall made and donated 5 foot stools, one for each bathroom and 1 for the water fountain so that the little folks could reach the sinks. With monies from the memorial fund, Mark made a clock with a separate plaque in memory of Allan Schultz. This was presented to Annette Schultz at the worship service and will be placed in the music room in Allan’s memory.

2004

In January of 2004 a large screen television was presented to the church, a gift from Lois Ward. A DVD player to accompany the TV was purchased with monies from the memorial fund. The following month, a cart was presented to the church by the Women’s Society to be used for moving the TV from room to room.

The Trustees continue to update the church. After obtaining a grant of \$1,000.00 through the sacred site fund and a \$2,500.00 grant from the state parks and recreation committee with the help of George Maziarz’s office, a new roof was completed in 3 days starting July 1, 2004. This covers the red room and the Sunday school rooms, the work being done by the Mullen Roofing and siding Company of Lockport.

The church was notified in June that the church along with St. Peter’s Lutheran Church and the Cambria Fire Hall were named as executors and recipients of the Weber estate. With this sizable financial bequest, the Administrative Board, set plans in motion to create a much-needed committee to institute a policy concerning monies or property given to the church.

At the meeting of the Western New York Annual Conference in June, a motion was passed reducing the number of districts from five to four. North Ridge UMC along with the other churches of the western portion of the Batavia District merged with the churches of the Buffalo District. The new district, of which North Ridge is a member, has been renamed the Niagara Frontier District.

A memorial prayer garden was planted during the vacation Bible School session held on July 12, 13 and 14 of 2004 under the direction of Sue Schultz and Vicki Jancef. The vision for the prayer garden came from the children of Sue Schultz’ Sunday school class: Molly Peck, Madison Jacobs, Brianna Schultz and Andrew Sellers. Included are two benches given in memory of Miriam Robinson. The statue of Jesus was purchased with money given in memory of Allan Schultz and his daughter Suzanne Schulz, and watches over the garden. This offering has made for an extremely pleasant place to visit and to pray for God’s guidance and peace.

In October of 2004, trustees approved the painting of the large dining room along with the installation of a chair rail. This task was accomplished by Donald Peck and Robert Dinse, two of our loyal volunteers who once again stepped up and helped us.

We give thanks for all members who continue to work for the good of the church.

Recent memorials received by the North Ridge Church:

- Hawthorn Tree in memory of Wirt Wakeman
- Standing pocket file in memory of Ellen June Wilson
- 2 tube candles and refills
- Banner stand

Hamilton Roaster in memory of Doris and Gordon Freatman
 Advent Tube candles in memory of Ray Roeser
 High Chair in memory of Roy Miller
 TV/VCR stand in memory of Ray Roeser
 Camcorder
 Acolyte Robes
 Outdoor advertising sign
 Utility trailer and letters for bulletin board
 3 youth high chairs
 Brass Bible stand in memory of Val Roeser
 4 standing fans
 Contributed money toward computer
 Potato masher

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN 1998-2004

The United Methodist Women continue to support the church, district and local missions.

In 1998, we decided to stop participating in the Summit Mall Sale and showed our handiwork at the Apple Festival held at the Farm and Home Center. We continue to be a 5-star unit and have taken on many projects making items for nursing homes and doing various other service projects. We were pleased to have Doris Macbeth demonstrate the art of making puppets for the youngsters who are patients at Inter Community Memorial Hospital in Newfane. Our white gift has gone to help with expenses of that project. Doris has been making puppets for 14 years and has donated over 1200 of them. Other programs included a talk on the Pan-Am Exhibition given by Melissa Brown and another given by Eileen Hertel of the Niagara County Sheriffs department on youth and drugs.



In 2001, we decided to hold our own fall bazaar at the church with vendors participating. As a result we have been able to support the Crisis Pregnancy Center, putting together 4 baskets of new baby items. We gave traveling money to one of our youth, Robert Reed, for a trip to Australia. We also supported Beechwood Nursing Home, the 9/11 fund and youngsters attending church camp. Other projects include making cookie plates for our elderly and shut-ins, entertained other churches at guest night and held a prayer project for our youth. We are supporting the church with a "pennies from heaven" project. All monies collected go to the church budget.

In 2002, our women's Sunday in church had a special message. It was written by Suzanne Schulz, a terminally ill young woman, and presented by her good friend, Laurie Pusateri. The title, "My Faith's Journey." It touched everyone and made our day very important.

Since publishing the last history, we have honored the following as women of the year. Agnes Drewes and Iva Hochadel in 1999, Donna Robinson in 2000, Anabell Freatman in 2001, Lucille Schurr in 2002. That same year, we also honored a youth member, Joseph Heist. In 2003, Gloria Snyder and youth member Robert Reed and in 2004, Norma Clark and youth member, Maren Schultz.



Dating back to 1998, the U.M.W. purchased the following articles to improve the church kitchen and dining room:

1998—High Chairs for the dining room	\$ 75.00
1999—Kitchen stools and coffee pots	75.00
2000—Industrial can opener	
Coffee cups and 12 dozen stainless	
Silverware	286.00
Electric knife	93.00
2000—Gravy pitchers	130.00
2001—Potato peeler	100.00
(This item cost \$200.00 and Len Hochadel insisted on paying part of this)	
2001—Beverage coolers	41.00
2002—Awning canopy (Bought to be used to cover chowder kettles in inclement weather)	130.00
2003—4 CD players for the Sunday school (Bought in Suzanne Schulz name)	81.00
2003—New curtains for the Red Room	225.00
2003—Step Stool and misc. supplies	46.00
2003—New refrigerator/freezer	572.00
2004—Cart to hold new TV	274.00

We recently had several new members join our organization. The present officers for 2004 are:

Anabell Freatman	President
Nancy Jacobs,	Vice President
Debbi Colaizzi	Secretary
Karen Randall	Treasurer

MUSIC 1998-2004



On March 7, 2000 it was reported at the Administrative Board Meeting that 16 new dura-back chairs had been received for the choir and will replace the worn-out ones that had been used for many years. The cost of \$1,292.82 was paid for with monies from the memorial fund. The blue chairs matched the color of the choir robes that had been given by Juliet Wilson

in 1991 in memory of her sister, Agnes Wilson. The two blues coordinated with the newly painted lower walls in the sanctuary. Special music has been bought with monies from the memorial fund of Suzanne Schulz. We are pleased that several new members have joined the choir and they continue to favor us with their pleasing voices.

Over the past few years, North Ridge had joined with the Exley Wilson choir for cantatas. Other churches we have combined with are St. Bridgets Catholic Church, St. Peters Lutheran and the Wilson Baptist Church. At Easter 2004, the choir joined with the Warrens Corners group for special music on Good Friday. Annette Schultz continues to direct the choir and Don Schultz remain as organist.

Contemporary Worship filled our church on Easter morning, 2004, with a band consisting of Matt Schultz (drums), son of Don Schultz, Kathie Rademacher (voice and piano), Erin Rademacher (piano), Kyle Peck (guitar), Lori Oakes (guitar) and Pastor Troy Sellers. This group along with help from Don Schultz (piano) periodically leads the congregation in contemporary worship services.

BREAKFAST CLUB

The idea was conceived at a "Brain Storming" session of the church body. Walter Holmes agreed to run the club, which originated in 1996. Walter is head chef and Jim Morgan is assistant cook. The Breakfast Club welcomes anyone who would like to

attend. They meet 50 Mondays throughout the year at 8:30 am. They have people attend from the campground and other churches. It is a happy time of fellowship and outreach for the church community, averaging 18 to 20 people each time they meet.

COMMUNITY CLUB 1998-2004

The community club continues to meet the 3rd Saturday of each month except for June, July, August and September. Several recent projects the club has supported are the Lockport Soup Kitchen. Monies have been presented to Robert Roser after the devastating fire of his home and sponsoring the Sam Glenn group, which held a seminar in 2004 at the Wilson Central High School. This group is open to all members of the church and community. The current officers for 2004 are:

Donald Peck	President
Anabell Freatman	Vice President
Diane Peck	Secretary
Chester Robinson	Treasurer.

YOUTH GROUP 1998-2004

Since 1998, the youth group under the leadership of Brian and Kate Peck and Brett Doeblor has continued to sponsor the Easter Breakfast and the Christmas Brunch. They also sponsor the Sub Sale on Super Bowl Sunday. Brett Doeblor and Diane Peck continued on as leaders and were joined by Pastor Troy and Pastor Kim Sellers in 2003. The group recently decided to support a child for one year through the Christian Children's Fund. To raise money for this project, the youth contacted members to help rake their fall leaves. Donations were accepted and enough money was raised to sponsor a young boy, named Jai, from India. Two members, Katie Rademacher and Nathan Sellers recently returned from youth leadership training. The entire group attended the Living Nativity at Grace Bible Church and also the Easter Passion play. More activities are planned for the coming year. In November the youth groups of Warrens Corners UMC and the North Ridge UMC merged in an attempt to increase effectiveness and impact on the youth of the two churches.

MISSIONS

With Sue Holmes at the "helm". North Ridge has supported many different missions projects. In the past and present, we have given to the general needs specified by the conference. Added to these are the following: Care Net Pregnancy Center, Camping Scholarships, Wilson Food Pantry, Asbury Shalom, Cradle Beach Camp, Equi-Star for Children, the Cameron Werth Fund "Barney's Buddies/ Relay for Life", plus money for children's gifts and toys and the Christian Caring Center. Two families of 8 were "adopted" and the 16 people received at least 2 gifts each and also groceries for 1-2

weeks. They also received a birthday gift during the year. This was in 2001. In 2002, we supported the Methodist Conference Camp and again adopted families to support during the year. Every year, we have given to the Christian Caring Center which is housed at the Wilson Exley Church. In 2003, we collected and had cleaned, through the generosity of Capitol Cleaners of Niagara Falls, 100 coats of various sizes, colors and weights, which were donated to the Wilson Caring Center. These coats were distributed to needy persons along with 80 filled gift bags for youngsters which were made by the Sunday School. Each year, Sue's husband, Walter Holmes with the help of Jim Morgan, sort pop cans that have been collected and turned in for cash. This money is used to buy gifts for the needy at the Caring Center.

Our thanks go to Sue for heading the mission project.

PRAYER CHAIN

When Pastor Judy Cole joined us in 1997, a prayer chain was formed. Three groups consisting of 22 persons were put in place. When a request comes to the Pastor, the chains are activated and have become well known by people in the church and around the community. Member of other churches have become aware of this endeavor and have asked for assistance. We pray God has touched many lives and will continue to do so through the unending prayers of this group.

IN YEARS GONE BY:

FELLOWSHIP CLUB

While researching information for the history of the church, several printed programs of the Men's Fellowship Club of North Ridge New York were discovered. This club originated March 5, 1934. The object was to create a spirit of co-operation among the men of the community and the churches and to promote the religious, social and business interests of the club and to maintain a high standard of American citizenship. Upon further investigation into this organization the following information was received from Jerry Lafler, Chet Robinson and Jim Coulter. The meetings were held in the community hall of the North Ridge Methodist Church the second Tuesday of each month. The enrollment was open not only to the men of North Ridge but also to men from the surrounding churches and men from the area. There was an enrollment of 100 with a waiting list. They started out by the committee serving a dinner. One night Alfred Knack insisted on having pork hocks and sauerkraut and that's what they had. Jerry added that oysters were served once a year (October). My father (Edward Schuman) had told me they made the coffee in a copper plated wash boiler, this was confirmed by Jim Coulter.

When the enrollment became so large, the group had to cut back on dinners and served mainly sandwiches etc. Because there was no TV at that time, the entertainment consisted of playing shuffleboard (the markings are still on the floor under the rug in the red room). They had a bowling team. They entertained the women once a year and also had a picnic. Chet told about a magician and hypnotist who worked at the Niagara Falls

Post Office and was the entertainment at women's night. He was able to hypnotize Wilbert "Duke" Doeblar and had him perform an Elvis Presley routine. Duke had all the "moves". Donna Robinson was Hali Loki (from the Arthur Godfrey program) and did a great Hawaiian hula and Don Lafler went through the crowd selling newspapers. Sounds like a fun time. Chet also related they had a number of speakers, one being William Earl, the District Attorney from Lockport.

Edward Schuman, a mason by trade and a member of North Ridge affixed a nameplate in cement to the wall stating the time the organization began. It has since been covered by wallboard when the new dining room was added and is on the west wall at the south end of the kitchen where the microwave has been placed. Some of the names on the enrollment were Willard Jacobs, Chester Robinson, Howard Streeter, Leo Weber, Harry, Hart and Edward Lester, Fred Trippensee, Whitney and Fred Barnum, Walter, Harold and Carl Ganshaw, Alvin and Jim Coulter Robert, Bill and Floyd Freatman, B.N. Lafler, Don, Jerry and Alan Lafler, William Truesdell, Walter Luff, Norman Luff, Donald Luff, Milford Luff, Lloyd Schurr and Wright Eillis.

EPWORTH LEAGUE OF M. E. CHURCH & ALSO THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF NORTH RIDGE

On October 21, 1932, an Epworth League was started in the M. E. Church at North Ridge. The minister, Rev. Ralph White, was in charge of the organization. The officers that year were as follows:

President: Arnold Draves
1st V. P.: Gordon Freatman
2nd V.P.: Agnes McArthur
3rd V.P.: Adelia Taylor
4th V.P.: Ida Mae Patterson
Secretary: Charles F. Buchner
Treasurer: Stanley Patterson

Other names listed in the organization were Mabel G. Gotts, Lucille E. Howe, Sarah Schulze, Delores B. Doeblar, Ernest Fogg, Charles Hickman, Frances Upton, Wilbert Doeblar, Clifford O. Averill, Van C. Miles, Willard Jacobs, Ronald Upton, Carl Ganshaw and Kenneth Fogg.

The story tells of a group who went to Silver Lake for a week. Some of the persons providing transportation were Chester McArthur, Myra Wakeman and Rev. Haugh. Myra and Rev. Haugh stayed for the week to "Keep tabs on the group". Included were classes at Epworth Hall for one half of the day. Also devotions were held at night. There was time for swimming, hiking, fun times at Epworth Hall, visiting other cottages and enjoying popcorn, ice cream etc. Teams took turns doing the housework of the day. Myra kept a close eye on all those present. A super time was had by all.

The above information comes from a diary kept by Mabel G. Gotts and loaned to me by Agnes Drewes. It had been given to Agnes by Clifford Demmin, Mabel's husband.

PART IV

CONDENSED HISTORY OF THE EAST WILSON CHURCH

In the early 1870's, Deacon Bates was a leader of influence among the Methodists who worshipped at Chestnut Street Schoolhouse in East Wilson and, in a real sense, a pioneer of the society. On March 6, 1871, a meeting was held at the home of Stephen Wakeman to organize the Methodist Society and Rev. H.R. Smith presided. A motion was adopted to name the society the Chestnut Street Methodist-Episcopal Society of the Town of Wilson and it was further moved that Stephen Wakeman, Benjamin Hull, and Warren Wetmore be appointed trustees. Incorporation papers were filed March 13, 1871, and recorded in the Niagara County Clerk's Office on March 16.

In following month, April 1871, a deed was drawn up between the trustees and the Wakemans who conveyed part of lot No. 56 to the Methodist-Episcopal Society. The trustees then headed up by a building committee to which the following members were added: Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Bull, V.M. Snyder, and George Hallifax. Contracts for the masonry work were let out to the Farleys and the trustees furnished stone for the foundation. The inside walls of the church were plastered - the beautiful wood ornamentation came later. A cornerstone-laying ceremony was held June 21, 1871, and in it were placed a Bible, county newspaper, "shin plaster," and a picture of Deacon Bates. The "shin plaster" was a type of currency used during the Civil War and later recalled. The picture of Deacon Bates was placed in the cornerstone as a token of esteem and grateful recognition for his years of service.

For several years, the Methodist Society was associated with North Ridge and Dickersonville and the earliest record of a pastoral change was in 1879 when Rev. Woodruff Post was appointed pastor of the Warrens Corners and East Wilson churches.

Much of the community's activity centered around the church for many years and monthly luncheon meetings were held by the Ladies Aid at which youngsters from the Chestnut Street schoolhouse often attended for a hot meal.

During prohibition years, the W.C.T.U. had a important roll in the community and today the organization's colorful banner is an acquisition of the Wilson Museum - a donation from the late Mabel Wilson.

On the 50th anniversary commemoration service in 1922, Pastor William Dunstan remarked:

"We are confidently expecting the day when it will again become necessary to elect an usher to seat the crowds and that he will have so much to do he will need an assistant."

He then commented about a wedding that had been performed at the church the first year it was built. When the ceremony ended, the smiling groom paid the minister and his ecstatic wife rushed up and gave him \$10 toward the church debt. Pastor Dunston concluded, "We trust it was worth it."

In the late 1930's, sewing bees were held at the church to make shirts and shorts for shipment overseas.

The Youth Fellowship also met each week and occasionally enjoyed outing at the Olcott Roller Rink.

The East Wilson Boy Scout troop met there regularly in the 40's and 50's and the first organizational meetings of the South Wilson Fire Co. was also held there.

Church attendance fell off noticeably in the early 1960's and on April 5, 1964, a motion was approved by church officials to have the small congregation join with the North Ridge Methodist Church. One month later, on May 20, 1964, the East Wilson congregation was accepted by North Ridge and the last service at the East Wilson Church was held May 31, 1964.

The former church building is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Cerrone who have made few changes in the outward appearance of the structure, but have tastefully remodeled the interior without disturbing the beautiful ornamental paneling.

The "CONDENSED HISTORY OF EAST WILSON CHURCH" was taken from an article written by Donald W. Croop in the Wilson Historical Society Newsletter.

Appendix A

PASTOR AND DATES OF SERVICE AT NORTH RIDGE

Rev. William Colley	Jan. 1847-48
Rev. W. C. Kendall	Jan. 1849-50
Rev. S. H. Baker	Jan 1851-52
Rev. F. W. Conable	Jan 1853
Rev. William Bartlet	Jan 1854
Rev. James McClelland	Jan. 1855-56
Rev. D. F. Parsons	Jan. 1857-59
Rev. William Scism	Jan 1860-61
Rev. E. S. Furman	Jan. 1862-63
Rev. M. Y. S. Hurd	Jan 1864
Rev. G. W. Kittenger	Jan 1865-66
Rev. Terry	Jan. 1867-68
Rev. Fletcher Sutherland	Jan 1869-71
Rev. H. R. Smith	Oct. 1872-73
Rev. S. S. Ballou	Oct. 1873-75
Rev. H. S. Newton	Oct. 1876-77
Rev. William McGavern	Oct. 1878
Rev. C. G. Curtis	Oct. 1879
Rev. W. H. Cartney	Oct. 1880-82
Rev. A. H. Marryoyy	Oct. 1882-84
Rev. Daniel Clark	Oct. 1884-86
Rev. A. Staples	Oct. 1886-89
Rev. G. S. Robinson	Oct. 1889-92
Rev. H. R. Williamson	Oct. 1892-94
Rev. L. J. Muchmore	Oct. 1894-95

Rev. L. L. Rogers	Oct. 1895-97
Rev. J. B. Dare	Oct. 1897-98
Rev. J. F. Lefler	Oct. 1898-1902
Rev. C. W. Schanbacher	Oct. 1902-04
Rev. G. W. Gobson	Oct. 1904-05
Rev. John Wooton	Oct. 1905-07
Rev. W. C. Kingsbury	Nov. 1907-09
Rev. W. E. Wells	Nov. 1909-10
Rev. Edward Hargrave	Oct. 1910-12
Rev. Sydney Bass	Oct. 1912-17
Rev. James E. Bartlet	Oct. 1917-20
Rev. A. W. Birk	Oct. 1920-22
Rev. J. W. Wilson	Oct. 1922-26
Rev. F. W. Asquith	Oct. 1926-29
Rev. F. D. Raymond	Oct. 1929-31
Rev. R. T. White	Oct. 1932-33
Rev. James Haugh	Oct. 1933-39
Rev. Eldridge Douglas	Oct. 1939-40
Rev. Frank White	Oct. 1940-41
Rev. L. C. Teague	Oct. 1941-45
Rev. Charles Taylor	Oct. 1945-46
Rev. Carl W. Hayes	Oct. 1946-50
Rev. A. E. Mathews	Oct. 1950-54
Rev. Harold Blish	Oct. 1954-59
Rev. William Cooper	June 1959-62
Rev. Phillip Schaal	June 1962-66
Rev. Franklin Blanchard	June 1966-69
Rev. Mason Crites	June 1969-73
Rev. William Horner	June 1973-82
Rev. Burton L. Smith	June 1982-88
Rev. Heather Allport-Cohoon	July 1988-89
Rev. Olav "Dan" Danielson	June 1989-Nov 89
Rev. Ronald H. Sellers	Dec. 1989-July 1994
Rev. Harold Babb	July-Aug 1994
Rev. Jack Richardson	Aug. 1994-June 1996
Rev. Calvin Babcock	July 1996-June 1997
Rev. Judith E. Cole	July 1997-June 2000
Rev. Harold (Rusty) Thomas	July 2000-June 2003
Rev.'s Troy and Kim Sellers	July 2003-present

Appendix B

Pianist

Myra Wakeman	1918-1945
Gloria Schuman	1945-1951

Organist

Gloria Schuman Snyder	Spring 1951-Aug 1951
Gretchen Wright Zeh	Aug 1951-1954
Mary Blish	Nov. 1954-Sept. 1956
Bruce Lederhouse	1956-1957
Beth T. Smith	1957-1961
Tom Andrix	Oct. 1961-July 1962
Diane Gifford Gately	Oct. 1962-May 1964
Lawrence Moss	1964-1966
Debbie Schultz Clark	Sept. 1966-Aug. 1970
Arlene Bohnstadt Seefeldt	1970
Donald Schultz	1971-Present

Substitute Organists:

Dorothy Parker
Charlotte Himmelbach
Rosemary Ellis
Marcia Wakeman Sweet
Beverly Luff Mileham
Douglas Robinson
Alice Robinson Leigh
Gloria Snyder
Lawrence Moss

Choir Directors

Myra Wakeman
Florence lafler
Marion Freer
Franklin Oldenbyrg
Robert Moss
Roberta Taylor
Debbie Schultz
Annette Schultz

Custodians

Willard Jacobs	1943
Florence Heidenfeldt	Nov. 1943-Feb. 1945
Jerry Lafler	1947-1951
Kenneth Lafler	1952
Milton Freer	Nov. 1952-March 1953
Clara Pless	April 1953
Jerry Lafler	Jan. 1954-Jan. 1957
Edward Drewes	Feb. 1957-Sept. 1957
Ann Kraatz	Nov. 1957-July 1958
Charles W. Cronic, Jr.	Oct. 1958-July 1959
N.R.M.Y.F.	Dec. 1960
Richard Brown	Feb. 1961-May 1965
Robert Schuman	June 1965-1967
Jerry Lafler	Jan. 1968-present

THANK YOU TO:

Susan Rademacher - typing
Don Peck and Mark Eaton- pictures
Darrin Peck for helping with the original history

And the
History Committee
of the
North Ridge United Methodist Church

Gloria Snyder
Diane Peck