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**Hyde Park
United Presbyterian Church
Niagara Falls, New York**

**1983 DIRECTORY OF
HYDE PARK UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
2820 MICHIGAN AVENUE
NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK 14302
PASTOR: DOUGLAS RUNYAN
PHONE: (716) 297-7181**

50 YEARS

The Hyde Park United Presbyterian Church began in the late 1920's when the Stamford Ontario United Presbyterian Church requested Miss Mildred Keimel to conduct a preliminary survey in Niagara Falls, NY to determine the best site for founding a new Sunday School.

The Hyde Park area was determined to have a suitable location and Miss Ida Lewis was appointed by the Stamford Church Session as Bible School missionary in May 1929. The mission was begun in a home at 2818 Michigan Ave. (now the manse). In Dec. of 1930 the work of the church was transferred to the care of the United Presbyterian Church Session of Buffalo, NY.

Mr. Walter Bickerton was appointed Sunday School Missionary and served two years beginning in Jan. 1931. Mr. Bickerton's able leadership led to an efficiently organized Sunday School and 20 members being received by the Riverside Church Session into the membership of this newly formed body.

In Jan. 1933 the Caledonia Presbytery appointed the Rev. George B. Hassey as stated supply and on March 29, 1933 the Hyde Park Congregation was constituted and organized by a duly appointed commission from Caledonia Presbytery, and the first elders, trustees and congregational officers elected.

On Nov. 2, 1933 a meeting was held for the purpose of incorporating the church under the name "Hyde Park United Presbyterian Church of Niagara Falls, New York. The incorporation proceeding culminated in Jan. 1934.

Early in Aug. 1934 the building committee awarded a contract to Mr. Hugh McConnell for the building of a new church building to house the ever-growing congregation. Ground was broken on Sunday Aug. 12 and the cornerstone laid on Oct. 7, 1934. The building costing \$7,400.00 was dedicated on Dec. 2nd of that year.

The Rev. A. Vance Meanor came to Hyde Park Church as its pastor on Oct. 23, 1938. During the three years Rev. Meanor was pastor, significant growth occurred in the ministry to youth, religious education classes for public school students and a mid-week Lenten series with guest speakers was organized.

Rev. Thomas Lamont began his pastorate in Jan. 1942 and Hyde Park Church became a self-supporting congregation. Until this time all or part of the salary of the pastors had been paid by the Board of American Missions. The First Church organ was purchased and dedicated on Dec. 5, 1942 and the church mortgage was liquidated after a successful campaign with a mortgage burning service on March 19, 1944.

On June 14, 1948 Rev. Charles Pryor was installed as pastor by the Caledonia Presbytery. The church continued to grow and the need for larger facilities became more evident.

For almost all of 1952 the Church was served by Rev. Walter T. Newman as interim pastor after Rev. Pryor resigned.

In January of 1953 Rev. G. Loren Jones was installed as pastor. At a congregational meeting in Nov. 1955 approval was given for the building committee to secure the services of an architect to draw up plans to expand the building. The plans were approved and ground was broken for the new building in Oct. 1956. Almost one year later Oct. 1957 the new church was completed and the congregation entered for the service of dedication.

The Rev. Robert E. Backstrom was installed as pastor on Dec. 9, 1959 and served until May, 1964.

The spirit of re-building continued throughout Mr. Backstrom's time at Hyde Park Church. Many additions were made possible through the establishment of the Living Memorial Fund.

In 1962 a Board of Deacons was organized and a Couples Club formed and a church library established -the church continued to grow.

The Rev. Jesse M. Howat was installed as pastor on Nov. 1, 1964. Through his many contributions to our Memorial Fund many worthwhile items were made possible for use in our church, including the present electric mimeograph machine. He conducted a weekday Church School and took part in a vigorous Vacation Bible School.

Following Rev. Howat's departure in Aug. 1969 the church was served by two competent interim pastors. Rev. Alexander Mills and Rev. Robert Armstrong.

The Rev. Howard B. Haines was installed on March of 1971. Under his guidance activity increased. A special relationship developed with Pierce Avenue United Presbyterian Church including summer services and combined musical events.

In July 1976 Rev. Howard B. Haines retired from the full time ministry and for the next few years Hyde Park Church was served by Rev. Wallace Easter and by Rev. David Lewis.

Due to declining membership and a more critical financial situation our next Pastor was part time. Rev. Donald French began his ministry with us in 1980 as a part time stated supply - 20 hrs. per week. He would also be employed at an outside job in sales. During his time with us he actively visited with the shut-ins and made many important hospital calls. In December of 1981 Rev. French left the active ministry to take on a full time job in sales that would require him to travel a great deal.

In January 1982 the church welcomed its present minister the Rev. Douglas C. Runyan. Rev. Runyan is also a part time stated supply, his other vocation being a vital ministry to youth on high school campuses with Young Life.

We have continued under Rev. Runyan with the adult Bible study group on Sunday Mornings, Vacation Bible School, Sunday School and a special Family Night Advent Study. A continued relationship with the shut-ins has been maintained and communion is being taken to those who are unable to get to services. An attempt to visit every member of the congregation is being done in order to find out the needs of the congregation.

In January 1983 a unicameral board was formed to more effectively administer the needs of the Church. The board of Trustees and the Session were combined and now total twelve.

The Deacon Board has expanded its base of operations and now sponsors an annual Christmas Advent Family pot-luck and a Special Lenten meal consisting of the foods which Jesus would have eaten. All these things bring us closer together as a congregation and create an awareness of the importance of the occasion.

During the past few years many improvements have been made to the church. The Basement has been paneled and painted and new lights installed. The Sanctuary was recarpeted. The Fellowship room has new drapes, carpeting and furnishing. The exterior of the church has been painted.

The Hyde Park United Presbyterian Church has a history marked by all of the ups and downs involved in church growth. The Church looks forward, with the help of the Holy Spirit to continued ministry of Jesus Christ in this Community and through missions to all communities.



Dear Members and Friends of Hyde Park,

Let me quote Galatians 6:9, "Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary".

This year, 1983 we are celebrating our 50th Anniversary. For all these years this church has been serving the Lord and "doing good". We are a church rich in history. It is a history of men and women of the past and men and women of the present (many are pictured in this directory) looking to the Lord in obedience and service.

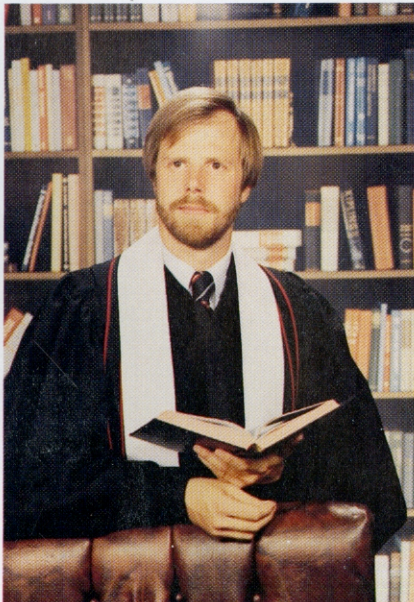
In my time at Hyde Park my great joy is the people. It is a joy for me to worship together, to fellowship together, to laugh and to cry together.

The challenge before us as we enter into our second 50 years is to discover what God is calling us as a congregation and as individuals to do as His people.

May the Lord bless you now and always.

In Christ,

Doug Runyan



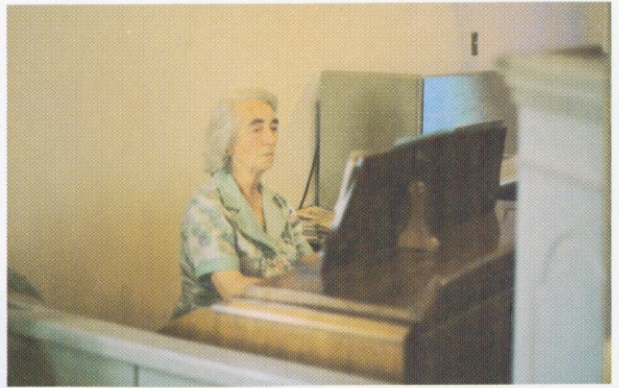


Choir

Deacons



Session





Bruce & Dorothy Andrew,
Virginia, Sue & Beth



Doris & Kenneth Andrew



Nick & Deanna Babyak
& Tim



Ivy Baker



John Barth



Leah Beck



Lena Bell



Florance Brodie



Harry & Doris Brydges
& Family



Patricia & Herbert Clark



Leonard & Isabell Clingersmith



Mary Dailly



Terry & Joan Davis,
Amanda & Jeffrey



Margaret DeCost



Mildred DeRemer



Lloyd & Myrtle Dewey



Robert & Bernice Dumbleton
& Craig



Edna Dusher



Michael & Betty Fesmire,
Eric & Brian



Jack & Jean Fitzgerald



LaVerne & June Forster



Craig & Carol Gage,
Craig, Jr. & Kelli



Wayne & Olive Gage



Phyllis Galley,
David, Eric & Denise



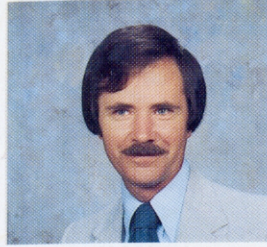
Donna & Peter Granite,
Gary, Sue & Rena



Marilyn Hill



Anne Hodgkiss



Jack Hodgkiss



Grace Innes



Elsie Jessiman



Lois Johnston
& Laurie



Richard & Joanne Juron,
Jason & Martine



Leonard & Hilda Longley



Phyllis Milne



Lucile Moxham



Cheryl Peak,
Jennifer, Amy & Robert



Rose Reece



Douglas & Kimberly Runyan
& Erin



John & Pam Scaffani



Alfred & Lee Schultz



John Shaffer



Hazel Shofstahl



Charlotte Shriner



Abigail Stevenson



William & June Thomas
Carrie & Michael Grabiec



Ruth VanHorn



Angus Watson



Chai & May Yang Xiong
& Doua



Lao Theng Xiong,
Bou La Vong, Ka Yang & Chie

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