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Revised 9/12/98
Narrow.

METHODISM AT
NORTH RIDGE CHURCH

1816 - Introduction
Part I

1848-1966 Building and Early History
Part II

1966-1998 Continued History
Part III

Condensed History of
the East Wilson Church

Dora C. Wakeman Historian

North Ridge United Methodist Church
Batavia District
Western New York Conference
Present Pastor - Judith E. Cole

HOW METHODISM WAS INTRODUCED 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, May 17, 1788. She, with her family, moved to Scottsvill, NY in 1791, but because of Indian wars they were driven back to Vermont. In 1811 they came to Cambria, NY, but during the War of 1812 they were again driven from their home. They returned to Vermont, and in 1815 they again came to Cambria where they spent the remainder of their lives.

From a letter written by Olive Beach to her sister, Mrs. Phoebe Luce, dated October 13, 1817, we gather the following information:

"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, whatever 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 foot path 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."

This was the Lewiston Circuit which included Dickersonville, East Wilson and part of Ontario, Canada. It was later 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. She is buried in the North Ridge Cemetery, about 50 feet back of the brick church. The large round front window in the North Ridge Cobblestone Church was given as a memorial to her. One Sunday morning when our church recognized descendants and memories of Olive Beach, we made a pilgrimage to her grave where we placed a basket of flowers and Rev Franklin Blanchard offered a prayer of thanksgiving for her life and her services.

There was a little log schoolhouse nearly across from where the North Ridge Methodist Church now stands. Sabbath School was held in the schoolhouse. At the 50th Anniversary, a Mrs. Coe told of a little frame schoolhouse across from this church where she first went to Sunday School in 1837 and later this was replaced by a brick schoolhouse built in 1871. Preaching services and singing schools were also held in an old store run by Calvin Wilson. In another part of the store was an apothecary shop which a young doctor, Dr Raymond, operated.

The necessity of a meeting place to worship led to the building of the North Ridge Church in 1848.

THE BUILDING OF THE CHURCH

1848

Part I

The plot of ground where the North Ridge Church stands was given by Reuben Wilson and his wife with a provision that it be completed in 18 months. It was not completed until 1848, but services were held here in 1847. The first sermon preached in this church was by Rev Elijah Wood who stood on a pile of lumber before the seats were

installed. This was a community church and any denomination could hold services here.

The church building is of historical significance because of the laying of the cobblestones. This is now a lost art. Many of the cobblestone buildings in this area were built by the Irish immigrants who had previously helped dig the Erie Canal. The stones in the front of the church are rounded and regular. These are wave washed stones from the beach of Lake Ontario.

On the west side of the church were the sheds, where people kept their horses and carriages during services. In one report I found where 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 them and put their names on them. In 1899 it was decided 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 was purchased from Mr Townsend.

In 1869 new seats were installed in the church. In the minutes of the Board of Trustees in 1869 I found this resolution: "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 it was moved and carried to rent seats in the church to pay the pastor and current expense. In 1881 it was moved that the pews be free. In 1882 there was a balance of 4 cents in the treasury. In 1883 it was decided to rent the pews again. 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 and an office for our minister. Where the office and one Sunday School room now is, was once a kitchen, using only a wood burning stove. The rest of the hall was the dining room heated by a potbellied stove that stood near our new office.

When the kitchen was moved down stairs, a stage was built in its place and James Bell of Pekin painted the scenery. It was here that we held many plays for several years. Jennie Coulter directed the plays and the gray heads in our Church now were the actors and actresses. We

earned enough to paint the outside of the church and pay the minister his back pay That amounted to \$1,000.00, which in the early thirties was quite a sum. Some years later our teenagers played "Little Women" directed by Dora Wakeman. They made enough to go to Silver Lake. After some years the stage was torn down and our Sunday School room and office took its place.

Before the hall was carpeted in 1963, the floor was painted for shuffleboard. The Ladies Aid held their meetings there. We all had little ones so a rug was hauled down from the stage by the committee, placed in the center of the floor, where our little ones played, and we held our meeting, which was often interrupted to settle one of their squabbles.

In 1902 a notice was served on the trustees of our Church and the teacher of School No. 9, which adjoined the church, that 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 because of centralization, we bought the building and land. We sold the building to Carmen Zipp and it was moved to become the home of Kenneth Moss. The land addition gave us ample parking ground.

In 1906, acetylene was installed in the church vestibule but the old 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. Ladies voted to pay 14 cents for their suppers. Ladies voted to pay \$100.00 toward a new a carpet.

The green carpet on the floor was a Pullman Car carpet sewed 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 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"

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 this. (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 now lives.
- 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. Cam. Wi. Rd.)
- Women's Society (Association)
- Alpha Class - Sunday School class taught by Lucia Petty

As I read the records of this church the old saying came to my mind, "Behind every successful man stands a devoted women." Well, here were the women of the church. Always the Ladies Aid gave this for the support of the church or that toward the preacher's salary or something 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

No matter what they called themselves, the support was still there.

The minutes of the Ladies Aid Society of April 15, 1881 began like this: "And on the fifteenth 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."

I called our own secretary and she begins her minutes "After a very delicious supper, the meeting was called to order by the president." I think we are very fortunate to have the minutes of meetings that were held so long ago in the 1800's. They will grow more valuable as time goes on.

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 which became the Methodist Youth Fellowship, a Men's Club (interdenominational) and a Community Club.

In 1940 an idea of a Home Coming was suggested by Ethel Phipps. 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 any 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 was initiated.

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

1944 We paneled the walls of the church and lowered the ceiling.

1949 We bought the school house and land adjoining the church.

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

1963 We carpeted the hall.

1966 We purchased the Milford Luff house.

1966 We 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 we 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 remained permanent members of our 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 legacies left by those who loved their church and had worked and prayed for its prosperity.

Our 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.

Memorials 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 Continued History

In 1966, the North Ridge United Methodist Church celebrated
it's 150 years of "Methodism at North Ridge" with the Rev Franklin
Blanchard acting as it's pastor

As part of the celebration, those persons named on the memorial
window in the church, were honored, (one each Sunday) for four
successive Sundays.

On the fourth Sunday,
a short service was held at the
graveside of Olive Beach, in
the North Ridge Cemetery
It was she who brought
Methodism to the North
Ridge area.

A dedication service was planned to be held the first Sunday in
December but was postponed until January 8, 1967 with Mr & Mrs.
Huey Lafler as host and hostess. Nearly 150 present and former
members of the North Ridge Methodist Church joined with their 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.

Several memorial gifts were dedicated by the Rev Robert Root,
Superintendent of the Batavia District. These included 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 1922-1925; Rev
Louis Teague 1941-1944; Rev Harold Blish 1954-1958; Rev William E.
Cooper 1956-1962; 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 one given by the East Wilson Church when it closed and united with the North Ridge Methodist Church.

The benediction was offered by Rev James Wilson, former pastor.

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 our 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. Accepted and bid given to Robert's Roofing for \$1,125.00.

Neil Robinson reported having received money from the sale of the old parsonage. Closing fees were \$471.05 leaving a balance of \$5,041.41

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

In 1969 new hymnals were purchased. It was recommended by Annette Schultz that our church newspaper, "The Cobblestone", carry a notice that anyone may order a hymnal for their home or donate one to the church as a memorial to a loved one.

In 1969 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 changes from one to three and back again.

In 1970 it was suggested that our membership roll be examined to determine what could be done about 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.

The N.R.U.M.C. acquired its organist, Donald Schultz, 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 from Marine Midland Bank requiring a balance of Methodist Youth Fellowship (M.Y.F.) funds 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 C.D.'s.

Some of the cobblestones on the church needed grouting. This was done in 1973 by Willard Roberts of the Lower Mt. Road in Cambria. In 1998, the stonework on the East side was repaired by Ed Hastings. The stones were removed, the wall straightened and the stones replaced.

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 it's members.

June 1973, Rev Crites explained some questions coming up at the conference; one was to admit women to be ordained.

1975 - a bequest of \$1,000.00 was received from Dagmar Daniels.

In 1975, Ken Moss suggested renovation of the sanctuary; paint the walls and ceiling 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 cushion covers.

1976 Improvements to 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

In 1976 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 this 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 who 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.

In 1975 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 - The old organ which was used by the North Ridge Methodist Church prior to 1880 was appraised by Norman Luff, value \$35.00 It was moved to be sold. It was bought by 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 - 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.

In 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.

It might be interesting to know the Pastor's salary for 1978 was \$5,500.00 and 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 next to 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 enlarged our parking lot, gave us a little picnic area and now, no excavation would be needed for extension of 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 our 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.

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

1981 - It was discussed and decided to have a woman on the Board of Trustees. The two new members were Anges Lester and Verna Gurski. This decision being from the Book of Discipline.

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 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, the minister be assisted by communion stewards or representatives from the congregation.

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, purchased 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 flood lights and Paraments.

1983 - The new 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 Dist. Supt. John Brewster dedicated the recently completed church and addition housing five classrooms, a new dining room and an enlarged and 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.

The events were coordinated by Pastor Burton Smith and Co-Chairpersons Jean Smith, wife of the pastor and Donald Schultz.

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

In 1985 Dist. Supt. 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 lesson of Bible history and Bible stories.

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

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

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 - Proposed -- Replacing oil furnaces with 3 gas furnaces to heat the church, basement and fellowship room. Proposal accepted.

Request from Wilson Ministerial Committee mentioning 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 Group had met and have 4 major projects to offer for bids and 10 other projects will 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.

Full time ministry

In June 1985 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.

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"

1985-1988 - 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.

A plan was presented by Ken Moss in April 1986, again in December 1986. An affirmative vote of 72-11 at our church conference on Jan 11, 1987 gave the trustees permission to finalize the plans 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.

Cost of plan \$50,000.00 with some work being done by able members of congregation.

Architect - Lawrence Moss.

Construction Co. - Jeffery Construction.

Cost 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 was 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.

Reverend Olaf Danielson was interim pastor for the summer months of 1989, devoting 20-25 hours per week plus Sunday worship and visitations where needed.

The Pastor-Parish Relations committee met with Reverend Ronald Sellers who was leaving the Emmanuel Church of Lockport, NY. He promised to come December 1st until July 1st as interim pastor, residing in the North Ridge parsonage. He returned June 1990 as full time pastor.

September 1989-February, 1990 Donald Peck, a representative of the Board Of Trustees, proposed and drew up plans for expanding the kitchen floor space.

As long as the church was in the process of repairing the floor from spring water damage, the insurance would be used. Money from the trustees fund was available and with the help and talent from the congregation, no additional finance would be needed.

The plan was accepted and in February of 1990, the south wall was removed. Hammers flew; plaster board was put up, electric outlets were added. A new counter was installed on the west side for roasters and coffee urns. Two serving windows were in place. 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 Methodist Conference suggested members of the choir and anyone interested in new hymnals attend a workshop in Hamburg, N.Y. The choir found the new hymnals more impressive, had more new songs, new forms of worship and rituals.

The congregation was willing to help pay for new ones through memorials or for themselves.

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 restained. In 1991 a new roof was put on the sanctuary, costing \$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 at North Ridge. These two projects proved to be profitable and have been carried on for 8 years.

1991 was the 175th anniversary of "Methodism at North Ridge". The congregation was honored by Bishop Forrest Stith giving the 10:15 a.m. message. Communion sacraments were administered by Bishop Stith and Rev. Ronald Sellers. 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.

In April of 1993, the Wurlitzer organ that has graced the sanctuary of the North Ridge United Methodist Church has been 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. \$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 new console, loud Hosannas were sung to the accompaniment of the new organ. (Cobblestone Carrier)

There was a dedication service for the new organ 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 has been 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. This plan was supported by Miriam Robinson, widow of Neil.

The Lift-A-Vator was dedicated on April 27, 1997. Rev. Calvin Babcock was the pastor. Words of congratulation were given by Rev. Sheila Swanger, Batavia District Superintendent.

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)

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, extreme heat in the summer and 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 be given after the death of both donors. 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. & 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 and the interest only 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 shut-ins of our church. Dick Schultz has made himself responsible for this project which had been very successful and appreciated.

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

The North Ridge United Methodist Church issues a news letter "Cobblestone Carrier". This project 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

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

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 tablecloth 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 WSCS 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 A thanksgiving dinner was served to 430 by the Women. Our profit for the dinner was \$460.00 and \$217.00 from the bazaar. Another fund raiser was a fish supper; the charge was \$1.00. Profit was \$67.51

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

In 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.

In 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.

In 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.

In 1977, a committee was appointed for funeral luncheons.

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.

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 Blance 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 fund raisers. We have sold dish cloths, 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 McDonlad 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

Information for the U.M.W History researched and compiled by Gloria Snyder

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 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 Doeblner 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.

Information for the Youth History researched and compiled by Diane Peck.

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, the Sunday School rooms, the rest rooms, the enlarged dining area, the new kitchen and equipment, the Lift-a-vator and the chimes have all added to making the North Ridge Cobblestone Church one of the historical landmarks on 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

Information for the Church History researched and compiled by
Dora Wakeman and Gloria Snyder

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 who’s name in 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 it’s place of origin.

NOMINATION AND PERSONNEL
COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 1998

Administrative Council Chair	Walt Holmes
Lay Leaders	Rena Israel, Don Schultz
Youth Member	Charles Jowdy
Lay Member to Annual Conf.	Don Schultz
Recording Secretary	Anabell Freatman
United Methodist Women	Judy Zauner, Pres.
At Large--Ella Lester, Val Roeser, Dick Schultz, Diane Peck	

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES

Finance Chairperson Pete Rademacher
Ad. Council Chair, Staff Chair, Lay Leaders,
Trustee Rep, Conf. Member, Pastor, Stewardship Chmn.
Treasurer Sue Schultz
Financial Secretary Carol Grenville
Assistants Carole Doebler, Norma Clark, Karen Randall
Members Ken Moss, David Harvey

Trustees 1998	1999	2000
Don Peck	Keith Doebler	Al Schultz
Norma Clark	Marlene Dinse	Cheryl Bish
Gerald Lafler	Bill Buzzard	Dave Ferguson

Property Committee Trustee Members--Anabell Freatman,
Robert Schuman, Rena Israel, Chmn
Memorial Gifts
Members-- June Schuman, Chmn, Agnes Drewes, Mark Randall

Staff Parish Relations

1998	1999	2000
Becky Jowdy	Lori Oakes	Ella Lester
Chet Robinson	Darrin Peck	Laurie Harvey
Chris Schultz	Ernest Grenville, chmn	Lucille Schurr

Annual Conference Laymember---Pastor
Nominations and Personnel Committee Chair Rev. Cole

1998	1999	2000
Donna Robinson	Kyle Peck	Dick Schultz
Mark Randall	Jesse Buzzard	Tom Rodgers

PROGRAM COMMITTEES

Worship Chair Annette Schultz
Organist--Don Schultz Choir Director--Annette Schultz
Communion Stewards, Paraments, Candles
Gloria Snyder, June Schuman, Cheryl Bish
Altar Flowers--Lucille Schurr, Vicki Jancef, Anabell Freatman,
Shelley Buzzard
Acolytes--Diane Peck
Sunday Count--Dick Schultz
Members--Verna Gurski, Lori Oakes

Membership Secretary--Gloria Snyder
Military and College contact, birthdays and anniversaries,
Members--Karen Randall, Diane Peck, Anabell Freatman

Evangelism/Outreach Radio (WLVL)--Joyce Gerber
Cobblestone --Karen Randall
Publicity & Advertisement--Events Chairpersons
Sunday Fellowship Receptions--Cheryl Bish
Members--Blanche Wilson, Tom and Helen Rodgers, Judy
Zauner, Kyle Peck,
Carol Grenville, Marlene Dinse, Susan Rademacher, Anabell
Freatman

Missions Chairperson--Sue Holmes
Members - Iva Hochadel, Lucille Schurr
Records and History Committee
Members--Dora Wakeman, Gloria Snyder, Diane Peck

Stewardship Members--Audrey Peck, Roberta
Taylor, Lori Oakes

Education
Children Teachers--Rena Israel, Ella Lester, Sue Schultz, Ruth
Anne Buzzard, Carole Doebler, Susan Rademacher, Diane Peck,
Sue Holmes, Walt Holmes, Martha Smith
Music--Annette Schultz, Lori Oakes
Sunday School Secretary--Juliet Wilson

Family Life Chair Ella Lester
Nursery Attendance--Sunday Worship

CONDENSED HISTORY OF 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. were also held there.

Church attendance fell of 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

PASTOR AND DATES OF SERVICE AT NORTH RIDGE

Rev William Colley	Jan. 1847-48	Rev A. W Birk	Oct. 1920-22
Rev W C. Kendall	Jan. 1849-50	Rev J. W Wilson	Oct. 1922-26
Rev S. H. Baker	Jan 1851-52	Rev F W Asquith	Oct. 1926-29
Rev F W Conable	Jan 1853	Rev F D. Raymond	Oct. 1929-31
Rev William Bartlet	Jan 1854	Rev. R. T White	Oct. 1932-33
Rev James McClelland	Jan. 1855-56	Rev James Haugh	Oct. 1933-39
Rev D. F Parsons	Jan. 1857-59	Rev Eldridge Douglas	Oct. 1939-40
Rev William Scism	Jan 1860-61	Rev Frank White	Oct. 1940-41
Rev E. S. Furman	Jan. 1862-63	Rev L. C. Teague	Oct. 1941-45
Rev M. Y S. Hurd	Jan 1864	Rev Charles Taylor	Oct. 1945-46
Rev G. W Kittenger	Jan 1865-66	Rev Carl W Hayes	Oct. 1946-50
Rev Terry	Jan. 1867-68	Rev A. E. Mathews	Oct. 1950-54
Rev Fletcher Sutherland	Jan 1869-71	Rev Harold Blish	Oct. 1954-59
Rev H. R. Smith	Oct. 1872-73	Rev William Cooper	June 1959-62
Rev S. S. Ballou	Oct. 1873-75	Rev Phillip Schaal	June 1962-66
Rev H. S. Newton	Oct. 1876-77	Rev Franklin Blanchard	June 1966-69
Rev William McGavern	Oct. 1878	Rev Mason Crites	June 1969-73
Rev C. G. Curtis	Oct. 1879	Rev William Horner	June 1973-82
Rev W H. Cartney	Oct. 1880-82	Rev Burton L. Smith	June 1982-88
Rev A. H. Marryoyy	Oct. 1882-84	Rev Heather Allport Cohoon	July 1988-89
Rev Daniel Clark	Oct. 1884-86	Rev Olav "Dan" Danielson	June 1989-Nov 89
Rev A. Staples	Oct. 1886-89	Rev Ronald H. Sellers	Dec. 1989-July 1994
Rev G. S. Robinson	Oct. 1889-92	Rev Harold Babb	July-Aug 1994
Rev H. R. Williamson	Oct. 1892-94	Rev. Jack Richardson	Aug. 1994-June 1996
Rev L. J. Muchmore	Oct. 1894-95	Rev Calvin Babcock	July 1996-June 1997
Rev L. L. Rogers	Oct. 1895-97	Rev Judith E. Cole	July 1997-
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		

THANK YOU TO:

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