

Our Heritage

Thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord they God led thee.

Deut.8: 2

Our Origins

The history of our church begins with our Mother Church, the First Baptist Church of Oswego. Only thirty-two years after the British had withdrawn from Fort Ontario and the first settlers had arrived, on March 13, 1828, eleven members organized the First Baptist Church. These members were: Amos G. Currey, Elijah S. Stockwell, William Burt, Mrs. William Burt, Walter Read, Mrs. William L. Beebe, George Cyrenius, Mrs. George Cyrenius, Samuel B. Morrow, and Miss Lydia Morrow.

“Meetings of the newly organized Mother Church were held in the local schoolhouse and it was here on the 17th day of June, 1828, that the formal organization of the society was perfected by the election of the Board of Trustees.”

Near the close of the year of 1828, the place of worship was transferred to the courthouse in East Oswego. In May of 1831, the president of the Village Board was authorized to execute a lease to the Trustees of the First Baptist Church for the term of ninety-nine years, for the west half of block 102, the public square in East Oswego, as a site for a house of worship.

The church immediately commenced building their house of worship. This house was located on the southwest corner of the block fronting the square. It was 44 feet by 60 feet and built of wood. The frame was erected and enclosed during the season of 1831. Early in the following summer, the house was completed and dedicated. The entire cost was something just over \$5,000.

In 1853, the West Baptist Church was organized which drew a considerable number of members away from the Mother Church.

Our Early Years

The West Baptist Church was born on May 3, 1853.

Forty-eight adventurous souls left the First Baptist Church on the east side of the city of Oswego and organized the West Baptist Church. All had been dismissed for this purpose by the parent church. Two things, doubtless, led to the formation of this church, one, residence on this side of the river on the part of those who constituted its charter members. The other, the conviction that the city was large enough to sustain, and that there was work enough for two Baptist churches.

On August 30, 1853, the West Baptist Church was formally recognized by a Council of Delegates from the churches of East Oswego, Southwest Oswego, Hannibal, South Hannibal,

Sterling, Fulton, Central Square, Palermo and Pulaski; and it became a member of the Oswego County Baptist Association.

The first record of the Church in the Minutes of the Association was in August 1853, and reads as follows:

They have just commenced their career as a Church, and desire the prayers of the brethren that they may be a spiritual people and that their example may be in favor of primitive Christianity.

They are favored with the services of Rev. I. Butterfield, formerly of the First Baptist Church of Oswego. They hold their meetings for the present, in the Supreme Court Room but have engaged a very commodious hall which they expect soon to occupy.

David Harmon, E. H. Mack and Sobieski Burt became the first deacons. Denison Allen was the first clerk, and Thomas Kingsford was the first treasurer. The Rev. Isaac Butterfield's salary was \$700 and a chorister, Ira Lewis, was secured for \$100.

Church services were held in the Supreme Court room of old City Hall on Water Street, but then were moved to Doolittle Hall, afterwards refitted and known as the Academy of Music. On October 7, 1854, Thomas Kingsford was authorized to purchase Franklin Hall for the sum of \$4,000. This building, known as the Tabernacle, was bought from Gerrit Smith¹ and was the home of the church until the new building was erected in 1866.

Covenant meetings were held every month where candidates were presented for membership upon telling of their Christian experiences or presenting letters from other churches. Letters of dismissals were also given at these meetings. It was at these meetings that members were called before the meeting for various misdemeanors, such as not attending church regularly, non-support of family, drunkenness, among others.

Baptisms were held as many times a year as there were people eligible. "There is no record of where baptisms took place, but hearsay has it that they were conducted either in the river or the lake as the following record suggests:

January 7, 1855 - Today although it was raining freely, we assembled at the water's edge and witnessed the baptism....

May 1, 1855 – At the water today, but three candidates were baptized. The weather was pleasant and the number of persons present quite large."

In 1860, both Baptist churches must have had difficulty with finances as a joint committee from both churches was appointed to look into the matter of again combining. However, their recommendation was voted down and a subscription paper circulated to obtain funds, which amounted to \$911.50.

¹ philanthropist

The Pastors

It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.

Ephesians 4: 11-12

Many pastors have faithfully served West Baptist Church during the past 150 years. We are indebted to the pastors for the spiritual guidance they provided the members and friends of our church community.

Rev. Isaac Butterfield was the first Pastor in 1853 and one of its charter members. He was a man of unusual pulpit ability, and great influence in the community. He served the Church for two years and three months from the date of its organization, during which time the membership grew from 48 to 111. Rev. Butterfield resigned in 1855 to go to Michigan. Dr. Butterfield was recalled as Pastor in 1869, and served until failing health in 1875 compelled his retirement. Under his labors, 199 were added to the church whose membership had now grown to 334.

Rev. S. W. Titus became the pastor in October 1855, at a salary of \$700 and the expense of moving. He served the church wisely and well for one and one half years until May 1857, during which time the membership increased from 111 to 130.

Rev. A. G. Bowles served the church for one year, 1857-1858. Referring to a time of great growth in membership the church records reported the following: "Unspeakable severe was the ordeal through which the church during this brief year had to pass. The tide of excitement overflowed all the embankments, and although many of a valuable piece of timber was found and has since been used in the upbuilding of the church, much driftwood, alas was also found on the beach when the tide had receded. Over 100 were added to the church during the winter, 82 by baptism. The second characteristic of this ordeal was a sad reaction which took place touching the integrity of the pastor. The pastor resigned his office and left the church with a name mentioned with much less respect than when he came. This, indeed, was a season of deep affliction, the streams of which the church at this time drank, may rightly be termed, March, for they were very bitter."

Rev. E. W. Bliss was the pastor from April 1858 to April 1861 serving the church with great acceptance and marked ability. During Rev. Bliss's pastorate the insidious enemy Spiritualism spread over the country and many of the members were "drawn away by its false teachings."

The church was without a regular pastor for a year and a half but maintained its services regularly being led for a time by Rev. M. A. Forey of the First Church who preached here once each Sabbath. Later a student from Rochester, Mr. F. L. Chapell supplied the pulpit with great acceptance. During the years from 1858 until 1861, the membership of the church increased to 220.

Rev. H. M. Richardson became our next Pastor in October 1862. A graduate of the Rochester Seminary in 1851 he was also an author. He served the church with marked ability and pleasing address until failing health had compelled him to give up work with the church in 1864.

In the interval before another pastor was called in the Fall of 1864, Rev. M. B. Comfort of Rochester University and Seminary filled the pulpit until April 1866.

Rev. David C. Hughes became the pastor of the church in May 1866. It was during his pastorate the church entered a new era of prosperity and usefulness. Dr. Hughes labored here for three years during which time 106 were added to the church. It was during Rev. Hughes pastorate that the present church building was completed and a Home Missionary Society was organized. Dr. Hughes' son was a scholar in the Sunday School, and his rise to the position of Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court had shed certain glamour over our church history Dr. Hughes served until 1869.

Rev. Charles H. Watson was engaged in 1875 to supply our pulpit for six months, after Dr. Butterfield's retirement. He was a graduate of Hamilton, and at the end of that period, in February 1876, he was called to the pastorate and was ordained one month later. He served the church with great acceptance until July 1881, during which time the church celebrated its 25th anniversary in May 1878.

Rev. Monson A. Wilcox of Burlington, Vermont, became the next pastor in November 1881. A deep but quiet spiritual revival was felt during his pastorate, and seed was sown for future harvesting under later leadership. The pastorate of Dr. Wilcox marked a radical change in all of our church activities. The Sabbath School hitherto a separate organization was transferred to the church, and its contributions were devoted to benevolent purposes. Thirteen new and efficient committees were organized, chief among them being the Advisory Committee to confer with and assist the pastor in the discharge of his duties. The Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor was organized during Dr. Wilcox's pastorate with a membership of 50, which increased yearly. The membership, now grown to 300, was brought into active and official cooperation and service. Dr. Wilcox left in July 1887 followed by the love and affection of the entire membership. He resigned to accept the presidency of Kalamazoo College, Michigan.

Rev. E. H. Lovett came as the next pastor to the church on October 1, 1887. His salary was \$2,000 and payment of freight on his goods from Long Island City. Rev. Lovett, assisted by Rev. John T. Divine, gathered into membership the largest number of members received at one time in the history of the church. Rev. Lovett moved to Kansas in 1891 where he continued his earnest and spiritual ministry. He left the church larger, more united, and harmonious than at any time in its history. Following his departure, the church depended upon supplies for five months.

Rev. Lewis Halsey of Trumansburg, New York became pastor in 1891. Dr. Halsey organized the Boys Brigade for the training in tactics and in church attendance and activities. Many of those boys went into business and professional life and have become leaders in their chosen vocations. A note in the minutes says, "the Word is preached in striking simplicity and in the power and demonstration of the Holy Spirit". A Junior Christian Endeavor Society was also

formed during his pastorate. Dr. Halsey resigned in 1896 and moved to Arizona for the health of himself and family.

Rev. George F. Love became pastor in June 1897, a graduate of Rochester Theological Seminary. This was his first pastorate, and he was ordained here. Rev. Love was a young man of pleasing address, a fine preacher, and a very social gentleman. His sermons were marked by force, fearlessness and an intolerance of evil, in whatever form. His crusade against evil in the city made him some enemies, but strengthened the church to resist the encroachments of wrongdoing. In 1899, Pastor Love having been granted a leave of absence, sailed with other tourists for the Holy Land and while there was suddenly stricken with a dread disease and died in that far off land. His death was a sad blow to the church. An impressive memorial service was held to honor him.

Dr. C. S. Savage succeeded Rev. Love and served eighteen years from 1899 to February 1918, the longest pastorate this church has had. His strong and forceful preaching made him not only an ideal leader but also a widely recognized force for good in all civic and social activities. He resigned to take the Field Secretaryship of the Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board.

Rev. M. H. Winchester accepted the call to become the next pastor in September 1918. He had endeared himself to all with a winning personality and a self-sacrificing devotion to the church, which prospered under his leadership and is united and active in all Christian service. Rev. Winchester served the church nearly 17 years. He was greatly beloved by his church people and was regarded by the citizens of Oswego as a man of the very highest type.

Rev. Elbert E. Gates, Jr. became the pastor on July 5, 1935. He proved himself to be a great organizer and leader particularly among the young people. Mr. Gates was a very earnest and conscientious worker among us and he won the confidence and esteem of our entire membership. During his pastorate 104 members were received into the church and he instituted the "Keystone Society" and the "Vesper Club" both organizations were held on Sunday evenings. Mr. Gates closed his pastoral work with us on September 30, 1942 to accept the position of Associate Secretary of the Rhode Island Baptist Convention. On October 6, 1962 Rev. Gates returned to Oswego, while in this country on leave from Hong Kong, where he was in charge of the work for the refugees by the Church World Service. He spoke at the morning and evening services. The congregation, including many friends from the community, were invited for refreshments and renewing of memories with Rev. and Mrs. Gates.

During the time when the church was without a pastor Dr. E. B. Russell of Syracuse, a man of unusual pulpit ability, very frequently supplied our pulpit.

Rev. A. Sidney Lowrie became pastor in March 1943. During the ten years that Rev. Lowrie had served our church 184 members were received into membership. Mr. Lowrie's preaching was strong and forceful. And he was particularly interested in the church school and young peoples' societies. Rev. and Mrs. Lowrie gave freely of their time to the different civic organization of Oswego. Rev. Lowrie resigned on August 31, 1954. Rev. Lowrie served as a supply pastor until our next pastor was appointed.

Rev. Artemas P. Goodwin came to Oswego from Ediston Street Baptist Church, Buffalo. He preached his first sermon on November 21, 1954. Among his interests during his pastorate were religious counseling at SUNY Oswego, chaplain duties at Oswego Hospital, Ladies Home, and the Oswego County Jail. A surprise service was given to Rev. Goodwin on Sunday, February 18, 1962 during the morning worship service to honor the 35th Anniversary of his Ordination. Just before the sermon, Mr. Kenneth Kelly asked permission to make an announcement. He said that Dr. Herbert VanSchaack would deliver the sermon, "What's a Minister?" After the sermon, Dr. C. Fred Peckham, Sr. presented Mr. Goodwin with a large collection of cards, letters and telegrams. Mr. William Todd presented a gift to Rev. Goodwin after which the congregation was invited to the church parlors for refreshments. Rev. Goodwin resigned effective October 31, 1965. A resolution expressing the appreciation of the members for the dedication, devotion, and untiring effort in the work and progress of the church was presented to Rev. and Mrs. Goodwin at a farewell reception held on October 31.

Rev. David Higgs, a graduate of Colgate Rochester Theological Seminary, was installed on January 9, 1966. Rev. Higgs represented our congregation as follows: Christian Social Concerns Chairman and Ecumenical Relations Chairman of the City Council of Churches; as Moderator of the Oswego County Baptist Association and a member of the executive committee of the Department of World Mission Support. He urged the ministers of the Oswego City Council of Churches to reinstate the weekday religious education program at the high school level. Rev. Higgs resigned effective May 1, 1970. A farewell dinner was held for Rev. Higgs and his family on April 17.

During Rev. Higg's pastorate **Rev. Joseph Johnson**, a graduate from Colgate Rochester Divinity School, was hired as an Associate Pastor to assist with the many duties of the church family. Rev. Johnson began his ministry on September 3, 1968. Rev. Johnson married during his pastorate and resigned on November 19, 1969 to become pastor of the Fleming Federated Church in Fleming, New York.

Supply pastors filled the pulpit during May – September 1970 while the Search Committee presented a candidate to the church.

Rev. James Ramey began his pastorate on September 29, 1970. An installation service was held on October 18. Rev. Ramey received his degree from Crozer Theological Seminary in Chester, Pennsylvania. During his pastorate Rev. Ramey served as Chaplain of "Troop D" of the NYS Police Benevolent Association, served as treasurer of the NYS Baptist Ministers Council, Oswego Middle School Citizens Advisory Committee, Iroquois Association Nominating Committee, and the State Minister's Planning Committee. Rev. Ramey resigned effective August 31, 1975 to accept a call to the pulpit of the First Baptist Church in Auburn. A farewell reception for Rev. and Mrs. Ramey and family was held on August 24.

Rev. Robert McGrath preached his first sermon on July 18, 1976 and was officially installed as the pastor on September 12. Rev. McGrath graduated from the Philadelphia College of Bible and the Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary. A comment from a member when asked about Rev. McGrath was "When listening to his sermons, I felt he was talking just to me.... he made such a difference in my life." In July 1979, the church was saddened by the resignation of Pastor

McGrath. A farewell reception was held on August 26, to extend wishes and prayers for Pastor McGrath and his family for a new ministry in Philadelphia.

Until another pastor was appointed, Rev. Fred Besso preached in September and beginning in October, Rev. Donald O'Polka from Clay, NY took an active part in our church life and served until a new full-time pastor was appointed.

Rev. Michael Ballard began his ministry on June 15, 1980. He was ordained in our church on October 19, 1980 a graduate of the University of Michigan with a master's degree in Theater and Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary. The church benefited from his theatrical background, musical talent and his visions for social change. He directed the Music, Art and Drama Camp at Camp Vick; ministered at the Ladies Home, the Extended Care Unit of Oswego Hospital, the County Jail, the Intervarsity Christian Fellowship at SUNY Oswego; and served on the Advisory Board of the Salvation Army. Rev. Ballard resigned effective July 20, 1983 to accept a position as Protestant Campus Minister in United Campus Ministries at Mansfield State College, Pennsylvania. We were saddened when Rev. Ballard announced his resignation, but at the same time happy to know he was going to work that he knew the Lord was calling him to do. A farewell fellowship supper was held on July 6.

Rev. Kenneth Roadarmel preached from July 17 until September 4, 1983. On September 11 Rev. David Crosby agreed to serve as our Interim Pastor and did so until December 1984.

Rev. Norman Bardsley began his pastoral duties on January 6, 1985. An installation service was held on April 14. Rev. Bardsley initiated a fundraiser to restore the stained glass windows and other areas of the West Baptist Church building. He called it "Making West Baptist Church Beautiful Again." Rev. Bardsley, his English accent and his unique sense of humor, endeared him to the congregation. Rev. Bardsley retired on October 31, 1989. The Bardsley's were honored at a farewell reception on October 29 and a plaque expressing appreciation for their dedication was presented to them.

Pastor James Bruinsma began his ministry on October 14, 1990 as an interim pastor. Pastor Bruinsma was ordained at Hope Alliance Church, New Hartford on September 10 and served as our pastor from December 8, 1991 until February 1996. During his pastorate Pastor Bruinsma initiated an 8 a.m. morning worship service during the summer months, made many home visits to shut-ins, members and friends. He used his many carpenter talents to help those in need and on our building and parsonage.

Rev. Rosemary Peters has the distinction of being appointed our first woman pastor. Rev. Peters preferred preaching from a podium on the floor rather than from the pulpit. She liked being closer to the congregation. She assumed roles of women in the Bible and in costume acted out those roles. She was a Field Minister for the Iroquois Association of the American Baptist Churches of New York State and devoted part-time to ministering to some churches within the Association. Rev. Peters served the church from March 1996 until July 1997.

Serving as interim pastors were Richard Fox and William King of Grace Elim Church whose church was sharing our building at the time.

Pastor Shirley Myers began her present pastorate duties on May 31, 1998. She received her license to preach after completing the Lay Ministers Study program. She will pursue her ordination at West Baptist and present her ordination paper in the near future. Members of the church appreciate Pastor Myers' organizational skills, enthusiasm, and tireless energy.

Our Building

Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them.

Exodus 25: 8

The first mention of our present church building was on May 26, 1862 when a committee consisting of Thomas Kingsford, Thomson Kingsford, John J. Mack, Sobieski Burt, Charles Middlebrook, Thomas G. Thompson, was appointed to solicit subscriptions for and superintend the erection of a new house of worship. Thomas Kingsford was chosen treasurer. According to church records "Its erection, however, was postponed for over these years on account of the feverish state of finance, and the unknown and foreboding possibilities that threaten all, occasioned by the fearful South rebellion, which during this period, was at the height of its fury." The following year on July 31, 1863, O. M. Bond was added to the committee. When the building was enclosed in 1866 services were held in the chapel until the main audience¹ room was completed in 1867.

The church was dedicated on Thursday, April 18, 1867. Rev. Thomas Armitage of New York City preached the Dedicatory Sermon in the morning at eleven o'clock from the first three verses of the 80th Psalm. The installation sermon was preached in the evening by Rev. V. R. Hotchkiss of Buffalo, his text being: I Tim. Chap. 3 Verse 1. Rev. Hotchkiss delivered the charge of the church. Rev. D. C. Patton of Utica gave the charge to the Pastor.

Immediately after the Dedicatory Sermon in the morning, the report of the Building Committee, showing the church entirely out of debt, was read and adopted and a collection was taken toward building a fence around the church premises. The amount realized was about \$400. Pew Number 3 was set aside for the use of the Pastor's family. The Committee on Pews was given power to give sittings to those too poor to pay for same. In January 1869 "the purchase of a lot and stables on West 4th St., between Utica and Mohawk for \$2,000 was reported to the church by the trustees, \$300 per year to be paid until all is paid and the church not be held liable."

Over the years several improvements were made to the building. A few items of interest are:

Our church bell served as the city's fire bell for many years.

1876 A motion in the Trustees Report was approved stating "while our pastor is on vacation our house of worship be closed during a part of August and the house be cleaned and repaired and the baptistry rebuilt to be made watertight and enlarged. The Committee received

¹ sanctuary

estimates from brick masons to construct a baptistry costing \$185-200, which would require the stone foundation to be re-laid and enlarged at a cost of \$150. The committee decided to replace the baptistry with an iron tank made of boiler iron ¼” thick costing \$285. A partition or screen of panel work was also approved to be built across the platform of pulpit.”

1879 Thomson Kingsford gifted the church with a strip of land fronting on Fourth Street North and adjoining the church lot, 13 ft x 100 ft.

1882 The church edifice was renovated and improvements made at an expense of \$5,000. The floor of the audience room was raised on the east side at the entrance so that pews in rear of room overlook those in front and among other repairs the walls and ceiling were cleaned and frescoed.

The Lecture² Room was cleaned, the walls frescoed, sides wainscoted, windows repaired, a new window put in north side of room, all woodwork and seats varnished, carpet put down and the vestibule and rooms put in good order. Thomson Kingsford purchased the bricks and stones that were removed from wall to install the new window, together with the marble and fastenings which have been on hand since the construction of the present baptistry for \$50. Plans were approved for enclosing the entrance door of Lecture room with a vestibule or storm-house at an estimated cost of \$150.

1889 Swinging doors made by W. D. Gardner were added to the vestibule entrance into the audience room.

A trap door was cut in the floor of the main room of the Chapel for the purpose of passing seats into the basement.

1891 The floor of the choir loft was raised in August to give better effect to the singing.

1894 Two tank water closets were put in each dressing room in the basement of the church and sinks and proper water connections made. Interior of closets in the yard north of church building were oil painted and whitewashed and put in first class order.

1897 The church building began conversion to electricity.

A New Chapel Foundation Breaking of the Ground Service was held on Monday, June 28 at 7 a.m. Rev. George F. Love, Jr., the Building Committee and Deacons Thomson Kingsford and Warren D. Gardner participated in the ceremony. Four of the school children carried the spade that was used to turn over the sod. Rev. Love marked the ground in the northwest corner and Thomson Kingsford turned over the sod. The Chapel was enlarged, renovated and completed in 1898 at a cost of \$18,076.

² Fellowship Hall

1926 A building committee, consisting of the trustees and five ladies were appointed to carry out the project of replacing the heating plant (estimated cost of \$4,900) and alterations to the basement and the re-leading of the windows. At that time there were plans to have the kitchen and dining area again in the basement. However, it was decided to enlarge the then small kitchen, located near the stairs leading from the present kitchen to the basement.

1948-1953 The church sanctuary was re-decorated in preparation of the 100th anniversary and improvements to the building were made. A new stove was installed in the kitchen as a gift from the Ann Judson Circle. The church boiler was converted to burn oil instead of coal in 1949. The church and parish house roofs were shingled. At a supper for the purpose of raising money for these projects 33 pledges came from those present amounting to \$4,923. It was reported later that there were more pledges bringing the amount to \$8,261 covering a five-year period, and a pledge from the King's Daughters of \$500.

1952 The organ was rebuilt at a cost of \$11,950 and included a three manual, electric action organ with 51 stops, 1,700 hundred pipes, all modern improvements and Maas cathedral chimes. The chimes are a memorial to the soldiers of our church who gave their lives in World Wars I and II and the Korean War: Neil Wheeler, Richard W. Desens Jr., Charles R. Bareham, Walter Craley, David C. Johnson and Richard Thompson.

1956 The amplifying system was installed in the sanctuary in memory of Mrs. Blanche Hawkins.

1959 Roof trusses repaired, pointing up of the brickwork and masonry done, rest rooms and vestibules painted, and the gutters of the church roof repaired in this year.

1963 A ventilating hood installed in kitchen a gift from Mr. Rudolph Gradziola.

1976 The Sanctuary, pulpit and vestibule were repainted and lighting replaced. The organ pipes were also repainted. The total cost was approximately \$5,838.

1978 Sanctuary roof replaced at a cost of \$13, 795.

1984 New Mohawk Street exterior entrance built.

1985 Two new boilers installed in the church at a cost of \$17,217.

1986 Mohawk Street steps to the sanctuary were rebuilt by the men of the church.

Sanctuary windows on the south side of building, foyer, tower and balcony were restored and protective covers were installed. The cost was \$24,673.34.

The attic over the sanctuary was completely insulated by the members of the church. Four hundred bags weighing between 20-25 lbs were carried to the attic.

1987 West Third Street steps to the sanctuary were rebuilt by the men of the church.

Swinging doors in the vestibule were recovered at a cost of \$600.

The bell that had not been rung for several years was inspected and determined to be safe to ring.

1988 Gas-fired boiler to heat the baptistery was installed.

A new ramp entrance was built to make the building handicapped accessible at a cost of \$6,403.54.

1989 Stained glass windows in the Chapel were restored beginning in 1987 and completed in 1989 at a cost of \$17,366.67.

1991 The gaslights in the sanctuary were cleaned, polished and converted to electricity by the men of the church. A dedication service of the lights in memory of Charles Gilbert was held in 1992.

1992 The organ was restored at a cost of \$14,200.

2001 A new church sign was installed on the corner of West Third and Mohawk Streets.

Looking ahead in 2003-04 plans are being made to make major repairs to the brickwork.

Stained Glass Windows

An important aspect of our building is its beautiful stained glass windows. A Window Committee was formed to seek donations for the replacement of the small diamond-shaped colored glass that became loose over the years. During the pastorate of Rev. Gates beginning in 1937, six of the sanctuary memorial windows were installed:

1937

“Christ in the Temple” donated by Dr. and Mrs. Raymond Comstock (Grace Beardsley) Turner

“Gethsemane” donated by Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes in memory of his father, Rev. David Charles Hughes

“Madonna and Child” donated by Mrs. Clara A. Kuhn

“I am the Good Shepherd” donated by Mr. Anson Beardsley in memory of Mrs. Emma Hall Beardsley and son, Harry

No Date Found

“I am the Door” donated by Mr. Kinsman in memory of Mrs. Agnes Kinsman and daughter,
Florence Kinsman

“Martha” donated by the King’s Daughters

1945 - 1953

1945 “The Shepherds Watch” donated by Mr. William Gilbert in memory of his wife, Mrs.
Annis Waugh Gilbert

1946 “Resurrection” donated by Mrs. George F. Love in memory of her husband, Rev. George F.
Love

1948 “Christ and Children” donated by Mr. and Mrs. William S. J. Wiles

1953 “Come Unto Me” the last window installed in memory of Charles W. Richards given by an
anonymous donor.

The windows on the south side of the sanctuary, foyer, tower and balcony were restored and protective covers were installed in 1986. The restoration cost raised by the members and friends of the church was \$24,673.34 and its benefits are still being appreciated by all who enter our sanctuary.

Church Organizations

*For we are laborers together with God.
1 Cor. 3: 9*

Throughout the life of the church various vital organizations were formed to promote Christian fellowship and to do the good works for the church. Many of these groups were founded and directed by the women of the church. A few of the organizations are mention here:

The What-So-Ever Circle of the International Order of the King’s Sons and Daughters main purpose was a “good cheer” circle. This circle was organized just five years after the order was organized in 1886. Reports of this circle consisted of visitations to shut-ins, sent cards, distributed baskets of fruit to shut-ins at Christmas, and knitted baby sweaters. Missionary projects included items sent to Indian tribes in Virginia, New York, Oklahoma and Florida. Programs with guest speakers on various topics of interest to the women were also presented at their circle meetings. A 75th Anniversary Dinner was celebrated on October 10, 1966. The What So Ever Circle together with the Overcoming Circle hosted the 38th Convention of the Northern District of the International Order of the King’s Sons and Daughters at which the What-So-Ever Circle received a 90-year certificate. The last mention of this circle in church records was 1982.

Women's Missionary Society was organized April 16, 1873 whose purpose was the Christian Education of women in foreign lands, dues were \$1 per year or 2 cents per week. Noted in the church records is the following: "But not alone has the cause of foreign missions reaped the benefits of their work. Equally important have been the results here at home. This society has adopted certain principles which underlies all successful church work – namely a general system of thorough visitations that quickens the social element of the church and cultivates a fraternal spirit, by which a family tie is made to bind together those who, before, had been but acquaintances."

Ann Judson Society. The Missionary Society joined the young women and the two societies became the Ann Judson Society in 1948. The purpose of this American Baptist Women's Society was to unite all women of our church into a fellowship that helped each to grow in personal devotion to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and in commitment to the mission of His Church; through worshipping, working and witnessing in all areas of life; in the home, the community, the nation, and the world. The women held study sessions, dinners, hat sales, bake and rummage sales and published a cookbook. The money earned was donated to current expenses of the church, special projects, and missionary projects. Early in 1969, The Ann Judson Society found it necessary to disband. In its place a Planning Committee, consisting of representatives from each of the church circles, was formed. Its purpose was to keep a united interest between the circles.

This poem was included in Idella Morley's Report of the Ann Judson Society in 1963:

"He drew a circle that shut us out –
Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout,
But LOVE and I had the wit to win –
We drew a circle that took him in."

The Ladies and Gentlemen's Benevolent Society was formed on June 20, 1853. Their records show that they undertook the purchase of a new carpet for the church. When the fund of the Society were not ample according to the June 1854 minutes of this Society: Mrs. Kingsford kindly took the burden of the carpet upon herself...giving about 100 yards of carpeting, three dozen chairs, sofa and chairs and table for the church also the puffing up of the cushions for the back." The women met in the afternoon and did sewing for the needy children of the Sabbath School and for the Orphan Asylum. The last entry in the book was on January 6, 1859.

American Baptist Women's Ministries In December 1977 the church women began to organize an American Baptist Women's group. Meetings were held monthly, alternating between afternoon and evening in order to reach more ladies. At the present time, the American Baptist Women's Ministries group continues to meet monthly for a time of fellowship and to complete White Cross and missionary or special projects.

Among other organizations to be remembered were: In-As-Much Circle, Adah Circle, Lillian Wheeler Circle, Ethel Knapp Circle, Ruth Circle and Laura Spring Circle, 3-M Club, The Men's

Club, and the Baptist Youth Fellowship. Many of today's members speak fondly of the good times of fellowship shared within these groups.

Christian Education

From the early beginnings of our church there has always been a Sunday School. The History of Oswego County – 1789-1877 provides the following information regarding the Sabbath School and Hope Chapel:

The Sabbath School was organized in 1853, with a membership of 125, the first superintendent being David Harmon. The present membership (1877) is 450; present superintendent, W. H. Kenyon. The Sunday School Library is one of the largest in the country, containing 3,627 volumes. The church owns and sustains a flourishing mission-school "Hope Chapel" on West Bridge Street³, which was organized in 1867. The Chapel was erected in 1868. The present (1877) membership of the Chapel is 200, the superintendent being Prof. C. W. Richards. The value of the chapel property is \$1,800.

Hope Chapel closed in October 1877 and the members of the Mission School invited to go to West Baptist Church and School. The bell on the building was sold to Thomson Kingsford for \$150. The building was sold to the Free Methodist Church for \$700.

In 1892 the Sunday school adopted the Harper inductive series of lessons resulting in a largely increased interest in the Bible History and led to an organized and graded school which had done much in child training in the scriptures.

Mrs. R.C. Turner played a major role in our Sunday School. The following newspaper clipping (newspaper unknown) dated January 25, 1908 tells of Mrs. Turner's teaching style:

...Mrs. R.C. Turner of the West Baptist Church gave a review, with several children, of the work done last year in the junior department. Mrs. Turner believes in concrete work, work with the children in fastening every truth in the mind with a picture or object. Maps, drawings, diagrams and objects cut from cardboard were used to illustrate and was easily seen that each object represented some truth to the children. Among other things, the children made during the year, a model of the tabernacle and each one in the class was able to put it together correctly, a feat which many grown up Bible students could not accomplish.

Today, we continue to offer classes for children and adults and a weekday Bible study class for adults. During the summer, the Board of Christian Education holds a Vacation Bible School for children.

³ Near Lathrop Street

Church Highlights

In putting together this history there are many more items that could be mentioned. Unfortunately space does not allow for everything and as written by J. D. Sprague, Clerk for the 25th Anniversary “that much of a church’s truest history is unwritten and must be, being recorded only on high”. It is our hope that a few of the following highlights will be of interest.

1869 Thomas Kingsford, a very influential member of the church, died on Sunday, November 27. His funeral was held in the church on December 1. “The church was completely filled. Many were compelled to go away. The inside of the church was appropriately draped in mourning. The Firemen, Common Council, Board of Supervisors, Board of Trade, and Directors of the Oswego Starch Company were present in bodies. Our pastor preached a very appropriate sermon for the occasion, and he was assisted by seven pastors of different churches of the city.” The Deacons of the Church were appointed as a committee to draw up appropriate resolutions concerning the character and services of Thomas Kingsford. These were entered in the records of February 6, 1870.

1873 We hosted the annual meeting of the American Baptist Churches. The committee along with a committee from the First Baptist Church secured “places for 350 delegates and return railroad passes for 300 delegates.”

1878 The 25th Anniversary of the Church was celebrated on May 3 with a full house, every seat crowded. Singing and reading of the scripture was followed by prayer by the former pastor, Rev. Isaac Butterfield. Pastor Watson read the history of the church, Rev. Rozier of the Lutheran Church, Rev. Smith of the Congregational Church and Rev. Markham of West Methodist Church gave interesting talks that put the audience in the best possible humor. The Pastor gave a vote of thanks to members who had assisted in canceling the late heavy debt. After the Benediction, the congregation moved to the lecture room for a social hour. (In a meeting earlier, “Brother Thomson Kingsford offered to furnish the ice cream if the ladies would furnish cakes.”)

1881 Records indicate a “Women’s Literary Circle connected with West Baptist Church approved a donation to the church.” The Board of Trustees received the money and was accounted in the records as a special fund to be known as the “Restoration and Improvement Fund”. The amount reported in the Treasurer’s Report was \$446.91.

1882 Noted in the record book is the following: “It is interesting to note the substantial collections taken for the Missionary Union, Ministerial Education, Publication Society, State Convention, Home Missions, and for a former member living in Canada, who had recently lost his property by fire. Yet, there was a church debt of \$4,431.50 of which Mr. Kingsford offered to pay \$3,000 provided the rest was raised by March 1. A committee was appointed and enough was raised to make a surplus of \$459.20.

1886 In June the churches of the city “held a course of systematic Christian visitation so that the inmates of each house shall be reached. Evening preaching services were resumed in the

“Audience Room to commence at 7:30 and to be preceded by a half-hour prayer meeting in the Lecture Room.”

1887 The Young People’s Society requested the privilege of having a social in the chapel of the church at which refreshments would be sold to help raise the \$75 they had been requested to raise for the City Missionary. They were given permission to hold a social, but not to sell tickets, food or any articles of value in connection with any sociable held in the church.

1893 The Church celebrated its 40th Anniversary. The church assembled at 2:35 p.m. Prayers was given by O.M. Bond, followed by scripture reading from Neh. 9:18 – 10:37-39. The church covenant was read by the Pastor. A pledge of loyalty was given as follows: “Looking to God for help, I pledge myself to be true to Christ and His Church.” There were two Roll Calls, first for the Constituent members at which time letters and telegrams was read from many who had moved away. The second Roll Call was for present members and 210 responded, either in person or by letter. This session closed with prayer by H.S. Jenne and Benediction by the Pastor. A supper followed in the basement from 6:00 to 7:30. The evening session began at 7:35 with an organ prelude by Miss L.R. McCully, organist. Prayer was given by Rev. W. P. Omans, Scriba. The orchestra played an Overture. The choir sang Gloria (Mozart’s 12th Mass) C.W. Duncan, leader. The program included brief addresses as follows: The Missionary Societies, Mrs. M. I. Alexander; The King’s Daughter, Mrs. J. D. Higgins; Woman’s work in the church, Mrs. Lewis Halsey. Letters were read from former pastors: I. Butterfield, S.W. Titus, E.W. Bliss, M. B. Comfort, D. C. Hughes, C. W. Watson, M. A. Wilcox and E. H. Lovett.

The State Convention of Baptist Churches was held in Oswego.

On November 29 the Advisory Committee gave public thanks to Thomson Kingsford, who “having twice within two years made special gifts of \$1,000 each to the church, thereby freeing the church from an embarrassing indebtedness and a consequent hindrance to the successful prosecution of its Christian work.”

1894 A cookbook was published by the ladies of the Home Missionary Society titled “A Friend in the House”.

1903 On Sunday, May 3, the church celebrated its 50th Anniversary. Pastor Savage gave a history of the church. At the evening service, Mr. C.W. Richards gave a brief account of the Sunday School and its work; Mr. Cogswell talked about the missionary work. Honor was paid to J.D. Sprague who was clerk for 29 years.

1906 A collection was taken in behalf of the suffering from “the recent earthquake and fire at San Francisco, California.

1919 The first deaconesses were appointed. They were Mrs. B.M. Gunston, Mrs. A.B. Cogswell, Mrs. George Medlong, Miss Virginia Glynn, Miss Fannie Brant, and Mrs. Clara Garlock.

- 1926** In November, the “Loyal Women” had a supper at which \$4,100 was pledged toward the new heating plant and releading the windows.
- 1928** The 75th Anniversary was celebrated. The Rev. Cornelius S. Savage, immediate past minister to the church, returned to take part in the service. Mr. A. J. Scriber, Mrs. Carroll R. Sanders, J. Frederick Crandall, Mrs. Riley R. Ottman, Mrs. Karl H. Bechstedt, Frank R. Metcalf, and Mrs. Henry Schultz sang solos. The celebration was held for four days ending with a supper on Wednesday evening.
- 1938** The 85th Anniversary was celebrated with 270 present at the banquet held in connection with the celebration. The cost of the dinner was ten cents for adults and five cents for children in the junior department and under.
- 1940** The State Baptist convention was held in Oswego with both Baptist Churches as hosts.
- 1942** The first Junior Deacons and Deaconess were elected.
- 1948** The 60 children from the Children’s Home were transferred to another church school (each church was to have a certain number of years of service).
- 1953** The Centennial Celebration of the founding of the church was held on April 30, May 2 and 3. This included a service on Thursday evening with the “new” organ. The High School Choruses under the direction of Mrs. Beryl Lewis Hill, solos by Mr. Hugh Williams, flute solos by Miss Dorothy Hickok, and organ selections by Miss Lois Scriber furnished the program. On Saturday evening, May 2, a Fellowship Supper was held with Mr. Richard Desens general Chairman, Dr. C. Fred Peckham, toastmaster, Rev. Elbert E. Gates, former pastor the principal speaker, his topic was, “Memoirs.” Mr. A. C. Pease followed with the “Highlights of History” and Mrs. Raymond Turner with “Do You Remember?” The pastor, Rev. A. S. Lowrie, gave the invocation and benediction. The Rev. Glenn S. Asquith presented greetings from the N.Y. State Baptist Convention, and from the First Baptist Church (the Mother Church) by Rev. Clifford Jackman. The celebration continued with the Morning Service on May 3. The Rev. Lowrie preaching the sermon “Living Dangerously”. Mrs. Ada C. Steeper, former organist and Miss Lois Scriber, current organist, played the organ. A Sunday Evening Service was held at 7:30 p.m. Former pastor Rev. Gates preached the sermon, “An Important Answer to an Important Question”. A coffee hour followed the service.
- Three 100th Anniversary Family Night suppers were held: March 10, May 19 and Sept. 15. These were very well attended. On October 24 a rededication of the sanctuary closed the 100th Celebration. Rev. Elbert E. Gates, former pastor, delivered the morning sermon. A Fellowship Hour was held at five o’clock, with a display of historical material about the church. The Ruth Circle served refreshments. The evening service was informal with a hymn sing conducted by Rev. Gates.
- 1958** The parsonage at 150 W. 6th St. was sold and the new parsonage, two houses from the church at 164 W. Third St. was purchased for \$15,000.

1959 Dr. Herbert VanSchaack was elected as the first “permanent” Moderator under the new constitution, adopted at the annual meeting.

1960 A Testimonial Dinner was held on December 3 “to honor Mrs. Raymond C. Turner, (as noted earlier) who has been active in the life of the church for 78 years, first as a church school pupil and later as a church school leader... As a tribute to Mrs. Turner 40 copies of the Revised Standard Version of the Bible was presented in her name to the Sunday School.” At the Annual Corporate Meeting of the church, April 4, 1928 the following was recorded:

“We, as members of the West Baptist Church, wish to express our appreciation of the long and faithful years of service which Mrs. R.G. Turner has given as Superintendent of Graded Work in our Church School. Many of us who have known her from childhood have watched with deep interest her growth in the Christian life until today she stands as one of the prominent leaders in Religious Education in our State. For 25 years, Mrs. Turner has given time, strength and money to this work in our school. We know how she loved the children, the deep interest she took in their spiritual welfare, and today many of our young people can testify to the wonderful influence she had in molding their young lives.”

1961 A Debt Reduction Dinner was held on February 12 after the morning service. The plan presented was adopted, which was for people to buy shares in “The Debt Reduction Corporation of the West Baptist Church:” to be paid for the purpose of wiping out the capital indebtedness due to the purchase of the parsonage and the extensive roof repair on the sanctuary.

Our women were assisted by women from the Trinity Methodist Church and one woman from the Episcopal Church in the knitting of 90 sweaters. The sweaters were sent to Mrs. Elbert E. Gates in Hong Kong to be distributed to needy refugee babies.

The Ann Judson Society published a cookbook “The Baptist Cookbook.”

1963 On June 16, a Dedication Service was held at the morning service, dedicating the cabinet made to hold the Remembrance Book dedicated to Clarence Legg. Wilhlmus Driessen, a cabinetmaker from Holland and a 1963 graduate of SUNY Oswego, with the aid and counsel of Mr. William Todd, made the cabinet.

West Baptist Young Men’s Basketball Team won the coveted Boyd Memorial Trophy.

The Bell Choir made a tape for presentation on December 23 for WHEN-TV.

1965 Celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Laying of the Corner Stone of the present sanctuary.

1967 As recorded in the West Baptist Church's Annual Report: "A sad historical event of 1967 is that the Mother Church, The First Baptist Church, closed its doors on July 31, 1967 after 139 years....However, the arms of the off-spring the West Baptist Church, opened wide to receive those members from the Parent Church who chose to unite with this church. In a way it is though the two churches were again "one" after 114 years."

1971 The Church joined the Iroquois Baptist Association.

1973 We hosted the American Baptist Churches of New York State 166th Annual Meeting on October 7-9. The theme of the convention "The Privilege of Serving Christ". A banquet was held at SUNY Oswego on Monday evening with guest speaker Dr. Deborah Wolfe, professor of Education at Queens College. About 600 delegates attended the convention.

1977 Lois Scriber honored for serving as our church organist for 25 years on February 25.

1983 Norma Church elected first woman moderator.

1987 The church published its first Pictorial Church Directory.

The Deaconesses were approved to serve communion along with the deacons.

1988 Musical Festival of Praise, a community choir festival, was held on January 2.

Macedonian Ministry Renewal Weekend held in October.

1991 A cookbook was published "Recipes and Remembrances" in memory of Sally VanSchaack by her Sunday School class.

1999 A set of chimes was purchased to supplement the handbells by members and friends of the church. Each chime was donated in memory or honor of friends and relatives.

2000 The Church Constitution was revised and approved by church members.

2001 A Remembrance Service for the September 11 victims of the terrorists attack on NYC and Washington, DC was held during the morning worship service on September 16.

A church website was designed by Bob Stephens. The website's address is:
westbaptistchurch.com

2002 A second pictorial Church Directory was published. A clown ministry program was initiated.

2003 The Anniversary Committee published a cookbook "Sesquicentennial of West Baptist Church.

As we celebrate our 150 years of serving Christ, the following statements from past anniversary booklets seem appropriate to mention here:

From the 75th Anniversary Booklet:

In looking back over the 75 years of our church life, many memories come thronging to recall those who have labored here and left their mark upon its history. The names of Kingsford, Gardner, Mack, Gillette, Sprague, Jenne, Richards, Bond, Lathrop, Howard, Welsh, Smith, Clark, Harmon, and many others are woven into the warp of its tapestried record, and the many noble women whose names we revere, join to make up that “choir invisible, who live again in lives made brighter by their presence.” It is for us who remain to hand on the torch of faith to younger hands, with the prayer that the “Old West Church” may continue to uphold the Christian standards of its founders, and serve as a light in the community for many years to come.

And from the 100th Anniversary Booklet:

While we may regard the past 100 years of loyal service of the West Baptist Church as being a great achievement, we should not only maintain this high standard of leadership but should strive to advance along all lines of Christian Endeavor particularly in the interests of the young people of the church. To them we dedicate the hopes and aspirations of this generation believing that with Divine guidance and strong faith in the Eternal the West Baptist Church will ever stand for that for which our Creator intended, the representative of God and the body of Christ.

West Baptist, though smaller now in number, is rich in tradition and faithfulness of its members and friends. Because of a gracious God who has blessed us, may we continue to trust in Him as we move forward into the future fulfilling the plans he has made for us.

*But those who hope in the Lord
Will renew their strength
They will soar on wings like eagles;
They will run and not grow weary,
They will walk and not be faint.
Isaiah 40:31*

APPENDIX 1

The First Members of the Church May 1853

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Allen, Denison | House, Miss Lucy |
| Ames, Mrs. J.S. | Kingsford, Henry |
| Austen, Benjamin | Kingsford, Mrs. Elizabeth |
| Austen, Catharine Mrs. | Kingsford, Thomas |
| Burt, Sobieski | Kingsford, Thomson |
| Burt, Mrs. Elizabeth | Knapp, Mrs. Elizabeth |
| Butterfield, Rev. Issac | Mack, Elisha H. |
| Butterfield, Mrs. Sarah | Mack, Mrs. Emma E. |
| Clark, Selden P. | Mack, Mrs. Laura Jane |
| Clark, Mrs. Margaret | Mack, Mrs. Mary C. |
| Douglass, V.C. | Mack, Royal L. |
| Dole, Mrs. Abigail | Mack, William W. |
| Gardner, William H. | Mason, Mrs. Nancy |
| Gardner, Mrs. Martha S. | Mellen, Mrs. Electa |
| Garlick, Charles A. | Perry, Isaac |
| Garlick, Horatio | Perry, Mrs. Sally |
| Garlick, Mrs. Marcia | Pond, Daniel |
| Garlick, Miss Hannah E. | Potter, E.A. |
| Gustin, Miss Sylvia | Potter, Frank W. |
| Harmon, David Jr. | Potter, Mrs. M.A. |
| Harmon, Mrs. Emily | Rope, Mrs. Nancy |
| Harmon, Miss Ann Eliza. | Thomson, Miss Ann |
| Harmon, Miss Emily M. | Tyler, Miss Almira E. |
| Harmon, Miss Velonia H. | Vauvilliez, Mrs. Mary |

APPENDIX 2

This article appeared in, the Oswego Commerce and Advertiser and Times on Wednesday evening March 20, 1867.

THE NEW BAPTIST CHURCH A Splendid Building

We had the pleasure yesterday of going through the new house of worship of the Baptist Society, on the West side, which is now nearly completed and ready for occupation. We found it to be one of the most complete, substantial and elegant church structures we ever entered. The building is located on the corner of West Third and Mohawk streets, with an entrance on each in front and rear and is one of the most pleasant and desirable sites in the city. It is in a comparatively retired part and could not have a better location.

The building was commenced in June 1865, and was enclosed in the succeeding fall. It consists of the main building and lecture room attached in the rear. It is of brick built after the Roman order of architecture, and is one of the most beautiful and imposing public buildings in the city. The main portion is 95 x 54 feet, with a tower 84 feet high, and the dimensions of the lecture room are 60 x 40 feet. The inside work was commenced about the 14th July, 1866, since which time from ten to fifteen men have been constantly employed on it. The lecture room was finished on the 15th day of September, and opened for use on the succeeding day, since which time it has been occupied for the public services of the Society, as well as for church meetings and Sabbath school purposes. In this part of the building is an audience room, beautifully finished and furnished, which is 41 x 36 feet inside ___ feet 6 in. high, capable of seating 250 persons. Back of the ___⁴ class room, 27 x 16 ft., capable of seating 50 persons, and directly over this is the infant class room, of the same dimensions, properly seated and capable of accommodating ___0 children. The two latter are separated from the audience room by a glass partition, which may be opened by means of pulleys attached to the sliding sash, thus throwing the rooms together. There is also on the upper floor; a library room ___ x 16 ft., containing bookcases and all the necessary conveniences. This room will be stocked with a library worth \$1,000. The frescoing of these rooms was done by Thomas Coleman, of this city, and speaks well for his workmanship. The upholstering was done by Messrs. Bickford and Gilbert in their usual style of elegance and durability. These rooms are finished in oak graining and present at once an appearance of neatness and elegance, accompanied by a substantial appearance, which makes them attractive to the mere observer as well as the devout worshipper.

From the lecture room we went to the basement, which extends under the entire building. It has a concrete floor throughout, and contains four of Boynton's hot air furnaces, of the largest size made. These were furnished by J.W. Collins & Co. Under the lecture room are two candidates' rooms, one for ladies, the other for gentlemen, to be used on baptismal occasions. These are properly warmed, each containing a stove, well lighted, and furnished with mirrors, tables, chairs, and wardrobes. Communication is had with the body of the church by means of a

⁴ newspaper print unreadable

corner stairway. But the greatest novelty of this subterranean abode is the kitchen, _____eritable kitchen, with all the conveniences appertaining to such an institution. It is furnished with a cook stove, serving tables and serving boards, to be used on festival and donation occasions. Adjoining the kitchen is a closet containing \$250 worth of dishes enough to set tables for 500 people, with tablecloths, etc., etc, stored away for use. In the body of the basement are the tables, capable of accommodating the above number of persons. The basement is well lighted with gas and makes just the place for holding festivals, etc., etc.

In the basement is also a well, supplied with a force pump to furnish water for the baptistry. There is also a sexton's room and other conveniences which our space will not allow us to mention.

From the basement we were conducted to the main portion of the church. On entering, we first found ourselves in a vestibule 60 ft. long by 8 ft wide, properly heated from one of the furnaces below, and entering into the main church by three sets of heavy double doors. We entered the body of the building and found ourselves in an audience room 48 x 75 ft. and 26 ft, high. The pews, together with all the interior work are of black walnut, oil finished which gives an appearance of solidity and unostentatious magnificence. Passing on the broad aisle, we came to the organ, which is just being put up, and of which we shall speak hereafter. On the opposite side of the audience room which is the Pastor's reception room, which is properly fitted up. After this is the pastor's study, a neat and convenient room. Between the reception room and the organ, is the rostrum 10 x 14 ft. in dimensions. Under the rostrum is the baptistry which is built of Italian marble, with steps of the same leading down into it on either side. The baptistry is 5 x 9 ft 0 in. and 4 ft. deep and is supplied with water by an ingenious arrangement of pipes connecting with the well in the basement. The arrangements for performing the baptismal service without unnecessary show and display are admirable, and could not be bettered. The pulpit is thrown back by machinery without a particle of noise. Over the vestibule is a gallery 15 x 19 ft containing eight pews also of black walnut uniformly finished like those below. This entire portion of this splendid building bears an appearance of elegance and massiveness but at the same time there is not a feature of the room which strikes the eye unpleasantly.

The frescoing which is eminently in keeping with the finish of the room was done by Thos. Behling of Buffalo, and proves him to be a master of his art. The church is lighted by two of Frink's patent reflectors, each having 32 jets, making a pleasant uniform light. The gas-fitting and plumbing is the work of Mr. John O. Geran which is a sufficient recommend for it. Mr. H. Hughes of Buffalo did the stained glass work which is of rich colors and truly elegant design. The windows are provided with ventilators at the top and bottom, and are stained alike from top to bottom of the building.

The bell which we have noticed heretofore is from the Meneely Works, Troy, weighs 3,527 lbs. And is of excellent tone, as our citizens have already learned. From the bell tower a door leads to the garret where we were able to observe a new and excellent style of ventilation, which was originated by Mr. W. D. Gardner. Along with the entire roof four apertures are left on each side of the ridge, between the rafters, each 2 1/2 in. in diameter. The foul air from below rises and passes out at one side while the pure cold air finds access at the other. This has been tested and is found to be the most perfect method of ventilation yet discovered for use in church

buildings. It secures perfect ventilation through the entire building which is a point probably never before obtained.

The plan of the church was drawn by Mr. A. J. Warner, of Rochester, and all the building has been done under the supervision of Mr. W. D. Gardner of the firm Gardner Bros. of this city. It is of brick with tucked joints and presents a fine external appearance. The foundation, above ground, is of cut stone, and the doors and windows are ornamented with the same, this part of the work having been done by James Hughes of Syracuse. The mason work was done by Smith & Co. whose reputation in that business stands unrivalled.

Of the carpentry work and finishing done by the Gardner Bros. We cannot speak too highly. It is of that neat and substantial character which cannot fail to recommend their work to whoever may examine it. The Gardner Bros. have been in the business over sixteen years, and their work in various parts of the city speak for itself. They were entrusted with the work on this building is in itself sufficient proof that they are good and reliable builders.

In closing this sketch of a splendid building, we cannot refrain from remarking that much of its present elegance and convenience is owing to the good taste, activity, and liberality of Mr. Thomson Kingsford, who has spared neither time nor money to make the edifice the splendid affair we found it to be. The Building Committee gave the charge of it, we understand, into his hands, and they cannot fail to be more than satisfied with the result of his care and labor.

This article appeared the Oswego Commerce and Advertiser and Times, March 21, 1867

OMITTED In our notice of the new Baptist Church in yesterday's paper, we unintentionally omitted to mention the painting, which was done by Messrs. Colonan & Delisle. The painting like all the work of this well-know firm, is done in the best and highest style of the art and is of a character to add to their already well-earned reputation.

APPENDIX 3

Cost of the Building

1867

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| Real estate | \$5,277.46 |
| Carpentry work | 13,942.36 |
| Brick and brick masonry | 7,799.29 |
| Furniture and upholstery | 4,691.70 |
| Organ | 4,000.00 |
| Cut stone | 3,564.80 |
| Stone masonry | 3,367.14 |
| Furnaces and hardware | 2,989.23 |
| Gas fittings, fixtures, pipes | 2,747.19 |
| Lumber | 2,060.95 |
| Bell and bell rope | 1,940.99 |
| Laborers | 1,245.71 |
| Slates and slating | 1,149.04 |
| Stone from Sobieski Burt | 1,132.00 |
| Frescoing | 1,046.00 |
| Castings and blacksmithing | 1,023.52 |
| Painting | 960.51 |
| Stained glass | 903.33 |
| Excavating | 672.50 |
| Marble for Baptistry | 675.00 |
| Teaming | 587.37 |
| Plans | 550.00 |
| Hymn Books | 364.55 |
| Coal for drying building | 362.50 |
| Traveling exp. Architect, others | 250.24 |
| Insurance, 3 years | 200.00 |
| Drain tile | 266.55 |
| Laying sidewalks | 178.93 |
| Gravel | 105.00 |
| Plates and pew numbers | 109.90 |
| Sound conductor | 99.00 |
| Bibles | 50.00 |
| Lamps | 57.50 |
| Clock | 40.00 |

Freight, expressage, printing, advertising, telegraph bills, seal, and surveying brought the total costs to \$64,579.63.

The receipts to pay for this are also interesting:

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Subscriptions from church and congregation | \$48,658.43 |
| Subscriptions from citizens | 7,210.00 |
| Organ (the old organ was given to Thomason Kingsford for \$4,000 to apply on new one) | 4,000.00 |
| Proceeds of sale of old house of worship on Second St. | 2,040.00 |
| Sale of seats | 125.00 |
| Sale of house, barn, fence, etc. on lot | 748.00 |
| Proceeds of Ladies Festival | 1,322.56 |
| From Mrs. Kingsford towards carpet | 402.64 |
| Refund on overcharge of freight | 36.00 |
| Sale of brick and rubbish | 37.00 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$64,579.63 |

The largest subscriber was Thos. Kingsford and Son for \$36,548.43. O.M. Bond gave \$4,000, J.J. Mack, \$2,000, G. Thompson, \$1,000, C.S. Middlebrook, \$600, Sobieski Burt \$500. There were several for \$300, \$200 etc. The largest subscription from a non-member was for \$500, many for \$200, \$100, \$50, \$25 and \$10.

APPENDIX 4

Report of Thomson Kingsford and W. D. Gardner Chapel Building Committee July 23, 1878

| | | |
|--|----------------|-------------------|
| Harding and Barnett Contract | 15,346.00 | |
| Less work and material not furnished | <u>-468.50</u> | |
| | | \$14,877.50 |
| J.C. Harding extra work and material furnished | 594.16 | |
| John Barnett extra work and material | 181.03 | |
| Architects fees | 230.00 | |
| Removing the old closets | 48.97 | |
| Flag stones for covering and drain | 20.00 | |
| Oswego Hardware Co. Work and Materials on heating and ventilating the old school room | 134.71 | |
| M.B. Crawford Plumbing gas and water pipe and new gas and electric fixtures | 634.82 | |
| Albert E. Clark Electric Wiring of chapel | 313.60 | |
| Charles McCarthy and Co. globes for gas and electrics | 31.50 | |
| Nightwatch man care of furnaces during the erection of the chapel | 317.77 | |
| Kingsford F. and Mach. Work. beams and girders | 43.15 | |
| Oswego Starch Factory work and material | 339.40 | |
| Labor cleaning out chapel at various times during its construction | 61.90 | |
| Labor and material painting and frescoing | 207.02 | |
| Grate and tile for ladies parlor | 40.00 | |
| Books for chapel accounts | .75 | |
| | | Total \$18,076.28 |

APPENDIX 5

Annual Statement by the Church Treasurer, (showing receipts and disbursements during year closing April 30, 1885)

General or Current Expense Fund

Received

| | |
|---|----------|
| Cash on hand May 1, 1884 | \$7.76 |
| From collection of pew rents | 1,212.85 |
| From envelope plan of collections | 1,819.71 |
| Special Offering by ten church members | 190.20 |
| Usual Sunday collections | 117.65 |
| Gifts from Young Ladies Society | 22.27 |
| Gifts from Picnic Committee | 12.00 |
| Special collection to buy hymnbooks | 13.75 |
| Special collection to repay sum advanced to City Missionary in year 1883 | 38.47 |

Total \$3,434.66

Paid

| | |
|---|----------|
| The sum owing May 1, 1884 | 220.00 |
| Part of the pastor's salary | 1,934.00 |
| Part of organist salary | 137.50 |
| Part of presenter salary | 125.00 |
| Part of sexton's salary | 275.00 |
| Pulpit supply | 50.00 |
| Minutes of Association | 8.00 |
| Five loads of kindling wood | 6.00 |
| 35 tons of coal | 156.15 |
| Gas light | 175.63 |
| Water rate | 24.62 |
| 24 copies gospel hymns | 13.75 |
| Repairs and improvement to house | 84.15 |
| Insurance | 110.00 |
| Envelopes and printing | 23.65 |
| Sundries for sextons | 8.69 |
| Current expenses of Sunday School for Six months | 75.90 |
| Balance to new account | 6.62 |

Total \$3,434.66

Missionary or Benevolence Fund

Received and Paid:

| | |
|---|--------|
| For Ministerial Education at Hamilton | 132.91 |
| For Ministerial Education at Rochester | 53.22 |
| For Baptist Minister Home in NYC | 38.30 |
| For Grand Liqne Mission Canada | 63.27 |
| City Missionary Edw Lee | 66.50 |
| Italian Bible Society of NY | 30.04 |
| American Baptist Publications Society | 54.53 |
| Bible work of the publication society | 20.41 |
| Aid Baptist Church at El Paso Tex | 39.68 |
| Aid Fourth Baptist Church Syracuse | 10.00 |
| Aid Baptist Church at Carthage | 107.00 |
| Aid Baptist Pastor at Carthage | 50.00 |
| NYS Missionary Convention | 101.01 |
| American Baptist Home Mission Society | 233.96 |
| American Baptist Missionary Union for foreign missions | 296.20 |
| New building for Theo Seminary building at Hamilton | 675.00 |

Total \$1,972.03

Poor Fund

| | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Paid to Mrs. McDonald | 64.00 |
| Paid to Mrs. DeGraff | 3.90 |

Balance on hand 3.95

Total \$71.85

Sunday School Department Current Expense Fund

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| Sum on hand May1, 1884 | 174.24 |
| Receive from church fund | 75.90 |
| Special Collection for Christmas | 64.27 |

Total \$314.41

Expenses

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| Paid for lesson helps | 45.60 |
| Paid for SS papers | 74.16 |
| Paid for books and cards | 112.09 |
| Paid expenses Christmas festival | 63.04 |
| Balance on hand | 19.52 |

Total \$ 314.41

Mission Fund of the Sunday School

| | |
|---|--------|
| Received sum on hand May 1 | 21.65 |
| Collection in the month of May | 15.01 |
| Collection in the month of June | 19.49 |
| Collections in July and August | 25.35 |
| Collections Sept, Oct., Nov. | 43.96 |
| Collection Dec., Jan., Feb., March, April | 107.69 |
| Special collection for Atlanta seminary | 32.50 |

Total \$265.65

Paid

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|
| Burman Preacher Mong Sway Gyah | 30.00 |
| Ministerial Ed | 6.66 |
| American Baptist Pub Society | 19.49 |
| NYS Convention | 25.35 |
| American Baptist Home Missions | 43.96 |
| American Baptist Missionary Union | 107.69 |
| Atlanta Theological Seminary | 32.50 |

Total \$265.65

SS Relief Fund

Remains same as at last report \$5.30 on hand

SS Building Fund

Was increased by "interest" Oct 1, \$ 100.40 and now amounts to 4,116.10 with interest at 4% from Oct 1, 1884.

| | |
|----------------------------|-------|
| The church now owes pastor | 66.00 |
| E F Gardner presenter | 12.50 |
| George Gardener organist | 12.50 |
| F. Vauvilliez sexton | 25.00 |

Total \$116.00

We have claims against subscribers for \$512.88
The annual subscription list now is 3,483.80

Henry E. Gillett
Treasurer, WB Church