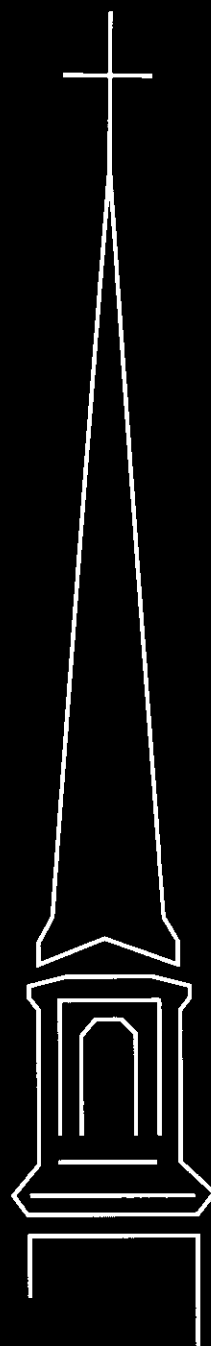


Western New York District
THE WESLEYAN CHURCH
150 Years



Firm Foundations

Fresh Frontiers

Forward

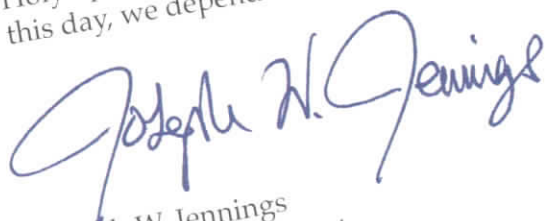
*"These nations are stronger than we are. How can we drive them out?"
But do not be afraid of them; remember well what the LORD your God
did . . ." Deut. 7:17-18*

Thanks to Robin George and his team for putting together this book. The Bible calls us to remember what God has done and this book will certainly help us to do that. The milestone of 150 years is an excellent opportunity to celebrate what God has done, to assess what God has given us to work with, and to anticipate with great faith what He has next for the Wesleyan Church in Western New York. The past few decades have seen seasons of dynamic growth. During a time when Buffalo and the surrounding counties have diminished in population, the Wesleyan Church has been the only Christian denomination to see an increase. In particular, we celebrate the tremendous growth in the ministries of Eastern Hills Wesleyan Church and The Wesleyan Church of Hamburg. These churches have emerged to be among the largest churches in Western New York. While the work of these churches is easily apparent, God has also been working through the faithful obedience of His people in numerous small towns from Appleton to Wellsville.

As we appraise the district in 2011, we have 31 congregations, ranging in size from 20 to 2,000. Our two newest churches include an urban congregation on the west side of Buffalo and a young congregation preparing to build in the growing suburb of Lancaster. We have become much more multi-ethnic. We have taken in a Native-American congregation, started an African-American church, and have a Chinese congregation within the Eastern Hills church. We are blessed to have Houghton College within our district - one of the finest Christian colleges in the country. We have a great team of dedicated pastors who are committed to building Christ's Kingdom.

While we have experienced growth in some of our churches, there is a prevalent sense that we are not doing all we need to be doing. We are called to be salt and light. Western New York still has many areas draped in darkness. The church has the only answer - Jesus. The Wesleyan Church has a powerful and needed message of God's forgiving and sanctifying work. May the Lord give us boldness and power to proclaim Jesus effectively to a culture that is searching for what only Jesus can provide.

As we put together this book, I am just beginning to serve as superintendent. It is an exciting time for me and for the district as we anticipate what God has in store for us. It is my fervent prayer that the church will experience a renewing power through the work of the Holy Spirit. In past generations, this has been called revival. Whatever it will be called in this day, we depend on God to enable us to be the church He is calling us to be!



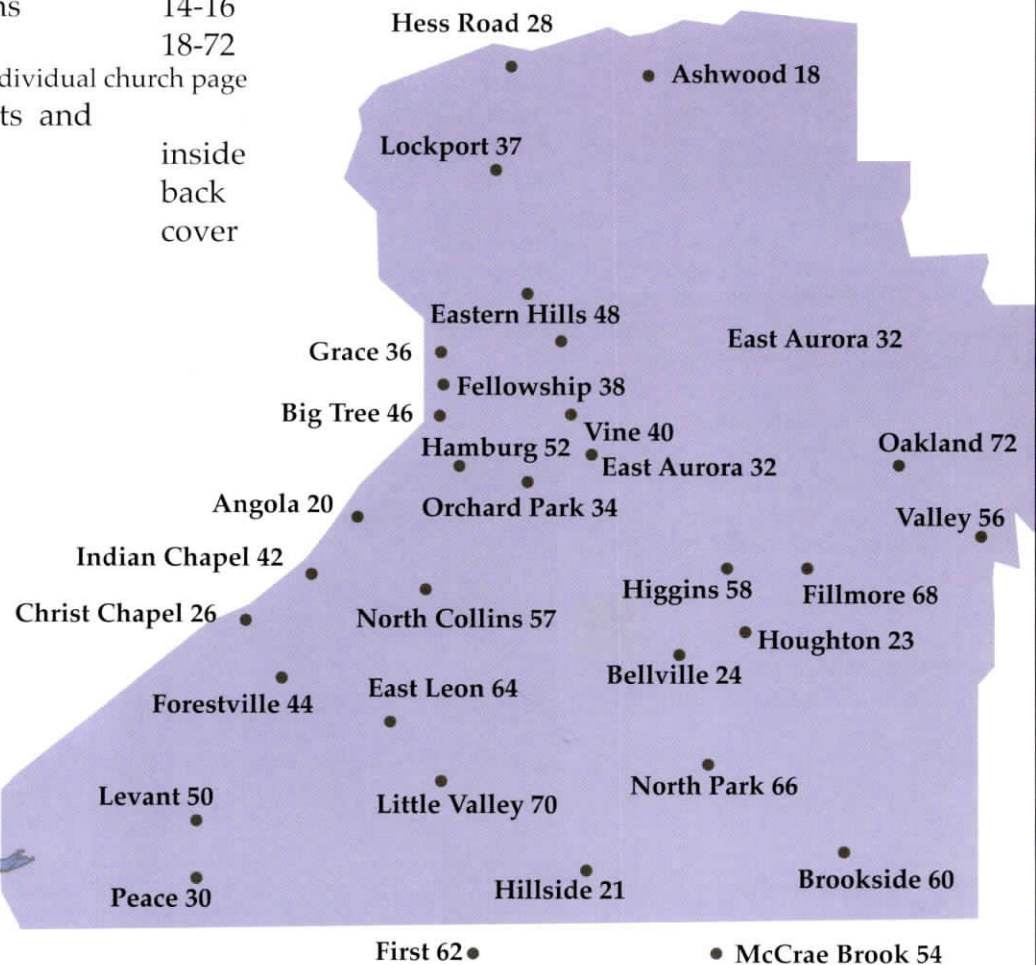
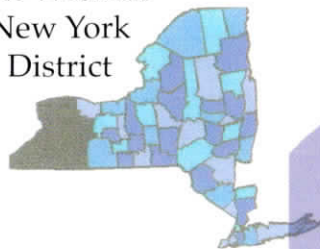
Joseph W. Jennings
District Superintendent



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The Western
New York
District



Lockport Conference Presidents 1861 - 1960

John Johnston	1861-1863	V.H. Sibley	1898-1889
Samuel Salsbury	1863-1866, 1868-1870	C.H. Dow	1899-1910
D.B. Douglas	1866-1868, 1870-1875	C.W. Smith	1910-1913
E. Jones	1875-1878	Charles Sicard	1913-1917, 1920-1921
H.T. Besse	1878-1882	John R. Babcock	1917-1920
G.W. Sibley	1882-1884, 1895-1898	Wallace W. Rolf	1921-1924
F.M. Mosher	1884-1898	James A. Bain	1924-1931
B.S. Laughlin	1887-1891	Arthur J. Taylor	1931-1939
R.F. Dutcher	1891-1893	Edward E. Elliott	1951-1960
S. Bedford	1893-1895		

Western NY District Superintendents 1960 - 2011



DANIEL A. HEINZ—was a native of Cape Breton Island, Canada, but grew up in Buffalo. He pastored four district congregations across 14 years before becoming conference president in 1960 on the eve of the centennial. A Houghton College alumnus, Dr. Heinz (Hon. D.D. Houghton College in 1975), concurrently served as a Houghton College trustee, for 11 years as chair. Enthusiasm for church extension marked Heinz's service. Such congregations as Hamburg, West Seneca, Angola and Eastern Hills formed during his record 28 years as D.S. Dr. Heinz retired to Clinton, NC, where he died in 1996.

G. VAUGHN DRUMMONDS—a graduate of Owasso Academy and College, came from his native Michigan to lead the Western New York District in 1988. He was a veteran of 21 years in Wesleyan pastorates, four years as Assistant General Secretary of Evangelism for the denomination, and nine years as East Michigan District. DS. His 12 years here were marked by numerical expansion in the churches, (three congregations above 1,000), and growing financial and organizational stability. He instigated zone meetings for pastors and wives and restructured the camp meeting program. Mrs. Drummonds organized district-wide women's retreats which drew some 400 women. Drummonds also served as secretary to the Houghton College Board of Trustees for 12 years. The district parsonage was moved to Eden,

NY, nearer to population centers. Drummonds pastored briefly following retirement, and the Drummondses now divide their time between Florida and Michigan.



NEIL A. KOPPEN—earned his bachelor degrees from Bartlesville Wesleyan and Mankato State in Oklahoma. He served associate and senior pastorates in the Iowa/Minnesota District and was assistant DS there, before accepting the Western New York post in 2000. Hallmarks of his tenure were unconditional love and leadership in troubled times for many of the churches, and building up the churches. He served on the boards of Houghton Academy and Houghton College, was board secretary at the college for four years. Currently he is senior pastor at Fellowship Wesleyan Church in West Seneca.

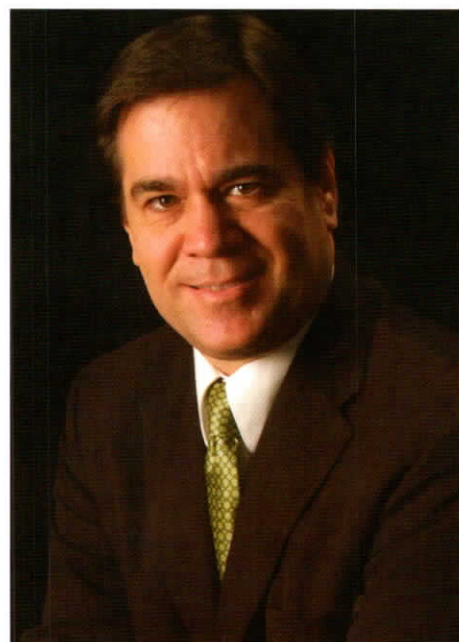


JOSEPH W. JENNINGS—was elected Western New York District Superintendent in 2010. Originally from South Carolina, Jennings grew up in an academic family. He received his advanced education at Houghton College, and Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, and was ordained in the Penn-Jersey District of the Wesleyan Church in 1990. Dr. Jennings is married to the former Maribeth Danner. The couple has three children, Jesse, Hannah (both collegians) and Ben, at home.

For 18 years before accepting this post Dr. Jennings was senior pastor of Christ Wesleyan Church, a growing congregation in Winston-Salem, NC. Additional experience includes being assistant pastor in Bethlehem,

PA, serving as district secretary, on the DBA, and the ministerial development board. He was a Leadership Development Journey mentor, and district camp meeting treasurer. He and his wife began a Ministry Couples' Retreat and he led an area revival planning team. He also teaches online courses in Bible, Preaching and Pastoral Ministry as adjunct faculty at Indiana Wesleyan University.

Dr. Jennings expresses particular passion for equipping and building up the church. He sees components of this as encouraging, counseling and inspiring pastors, fostering individual growth and skill development. For pastors and people alike he seeks to promote hunger for revival.



The District Board of Administration 2011



Left to right: Rev. Dr. Christopher Baldwin, Rev. Dr. Wesley Oden, Rev. Robin George, Mrs. Cathy Kelley, Rev. Dr. Paul Shea, Mrs. Nadine Houghton (District Treasurer), Rev. Todd Glendenning (Assistant District Superintendent), Rev. Patricia Ellis, Mrs. Becci Wood, Mr. Mike Dwyer, Dr. Ralph Kerr, Dr. Thomas Putnam, Rev. Dr. Joseph Jennings (District Superintendent), Rev. Paul Markell (Assistant District Superintendent Emeritus).

PATTERNS OF COMMITMENT



John Wesley

Origins

"Where did I come from?" It's a question most of us have asked or been asked. Origins of various kinds interest us because knowing the answers help us orient ourselves in and to our world and in relationship to God. "For in Him we live and move and have our being," says Acts 17:28. On the occasion of the sesquicentennial for the Western New York District of the Wesleyan Church, how the denomination, this district, and your particular church began, struggled and/or excelled may offer important guidance to our present and future as worshipers and our on-going place in fulfilling Christ's "Go ye into all the world..... making disciples" commission.

"...when we first began"

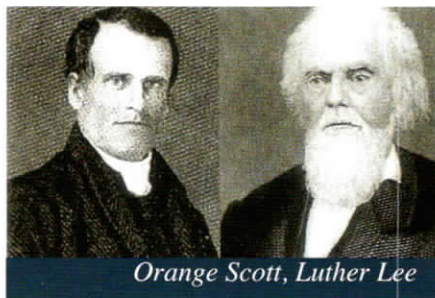
Our denominational origins may be traced back to the movement begun in England by John Wesley (1703-1791), more than a century before the beginnings of the Wesleyan Church or the

Western New York District. Methodism's founder led the evangelical revival within the Church of England, in which he remained a member throughout his life. Although he considered his 1735-1738 missionary trip to Georgia to evangelize Indians a professional and personal failure, Wesley's association with Moravian fellow missionaries led to his Aldersgate regeneration later in 1738.

Between 1739 and 1744 Wesley organized the societies which became the Methodist Episcopal Church. He traveled some 250,000 miles by horseback throughout England preaching and encouraging church members—some 35,000 at his death. "Few people have been as saturated with scripture [as were] the Wesleys, and it flowed naturally from them—not only in sermon and song—but in the natural phrasing of their daily speeches and letters," says Wesley scholar Dr. John Tyson. An important factor in the spread of Methodism was Wesley's example of financial commitment to gospel work. He gave away ever-larger portions of his very substantial income as a matter of principle, and he left a negligible estate.

To the new world

The movement John and his hymn-writing brother, Charles, began in



Orange Scott, Luther Lee

England crossed the Atlantic as a missionary effort in 1766, becoming the Methodist Episcopal Church by 1784. As the church grew into the southern states it lost its anti-slavery bent. Its Episcopal governance, which was part of Wesley's Anglican background, proved hostile to internal attempts at reform.

Consequently, in February 1843 a Wesleyan Anti-Slavery Convention was held in the Methodist Church of Andover, Massachusetts to discuss principles, pass resolutions and prepare for a rally in the Spring. "All, both ministers and laymen, who are in favor of the ultimate formation of a Wesleyan Methodist Church, free from episcopacy and slavery, are invited to attend, as spectators will not be excluded," read the meeting announcement. On 31 of 1843 a convention was held in Utica, NY, to form the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

Driven by principle

Attending were representatives of congregations in Michigan which had already left the M.E. Church over abolition. Orange Scott presided at the birth of the new "connection," but declined to be its president. After the first General Conference was held in Cleveland, Ohio in 1844, that task fell to Luther Lee. The new connection began with six conferences, several of which went beyond the state lines their names implied: New England, Champlain, New York, Allegheny, Miami (Ohio), and Michigan.

As the churches of western New York grew, it became desirable to divide the Rochester Conference. The General Conference of 1860 granted necessary permission and in April of 1861 the conference voted to divide its territory,

that portion west of Rochester to become the Lockport Conference—10th oldest in the denomination and one of the smallest geographically. The Rev. John Johnston was elected its president and the new conference staged its first annual meeting on April 16, 1862, at Belmont, NY. Official records of that session listed the constituent churches as “Ransomville, Olcott and Hess Road, Chestnut Ridge and Royalton, Eagle Harbor and Yates, Jamestown, Forestville, East Ashford, Belmont, Alleghany, Eagle and Centerville, Fillmore, Granger, Lyndon, Cuba, Napoli, Ellicottville, [and] Birdsville.”

While the Civil War and Reconstruction occupied the nation’s attention, the Wesleyan Methodist Church was on the move, 15,000 strong by 1866. Tithing became a major emphasis in 1875, Willard Houghton launched Houghton Seminary in 1883 and in 1889 the first missionary was sent to Africa. Houghton graduate, Mary Lane, became the first missionary sent from this conference/district in 1903.

During that year Jennie Ayers pastored at Houghton and successfully



The conference/district campground as it appeared in 1907.

sponsored the idea of a denominational missions society to the General Conference. In 1915 Lockport Conference helped to host the first of five General Conferences to be held at Houghton. In 1931 another General Conference elected LaVay Fancher of this district as the first national Wesleyan Youth president. At the 1947 General Conference Wesleyans became a denomination, dropping the designation, “connection.” A year later our own

conference presidency was designated as a fulltime job.

The Lockport Conference elected the Rev. Everett E. Elliott conference president in 1951. According to *Our Heritage*, the centennial commemorative booklet, pioneer church work received fresh impetus under his leadership and an unprecedented building boom began. When fire destroyed the Wesleyan headquarters in Syracuse in

Those Radical Wesleyans

Widely considered a “conservative” body today, the early Wesleyans enjoyed such appellations as “radical,” “liberal,” and “progressive.” Two examples: When the fledgling women’s movement could find no other hall for its first meeting at Seneca Falls, NY, in 1848, the Wesleyan Chapel there offered its platform and auditorium to Elizabeth Cady Stanton and other speakers. One third of those who signed the declaration of women’s rights which emerged from that meeting were Seneca Falls Wesleyans. Today, remains of that chapel are incorporated into the Women’s Rights National Historical Park in Seneca Falls (see photo).

Allowing women’s rights advocates to use the Wesleyan Chapel for their meeting was not an isolated event. Church leaders supported women’s right to vote in Kansas. Apparently their motivation was equally that women were perceived to vote for such reform issues as temperance, as it was belief in equality before the law. Still, in 1852 Luther Lee preached the ordination service for Antoinette Brown, believed to be the first woman ordained in America. For many years Wesleyan women spearheaded the denomination’s overseas mission efforts.

When Congress adopted the Fugitive Slave Law in 1850, requiring residents of northern states to help southerners recover escaped slaves, many Wesleyans defied the law and vowed to violate it. Laura Smith Haviland, a Quaker who worked with the Wesleyans, became a famous agent of the underground railroad.



Through the middle of the 20th century women were frequently pastors of Wesleyan Churches, but it was not until 2008 that a woman was elected a general superintendent of the denomination.



Camp attendees socialize outside the Tabernacle.



Committee members for the district centennial in 1961 were Rev. Heinz, artist Aileen Ortlip Shea, Dr. Bessie Fancher, and the Rev. Mary Bennett. Across the page are pictured attendees at the district's centennial annual meeting.

1956, the headquarters move to Indiana began. In 1959 the General Conference, again meeting in this district, recognized denominational growth by electing four general superintendents, rather than having a single president.

The last 50 years

In 1960, on the eve of its centennial, the Lockport Conference gained a new president in the Rev. Daniel A. Heinz, a veteran of 14 years in the conference's pastorates. Before the decade ended the Wesleyan Methodists effected two mergers—with the Reform Baptist Alliance in Atlantic Canada and Maine in 1966, with the Pilgrim Holiness Church in 1968. That second merger effectively doubled the denomination's size, changed its name, and brought some new terminology. Lockport Conference became the Western New York District, the conference president, a District Superintendent.

Rev. Heinz led the district for 28 years, for 11 years of that time also serving as chairman of the Houghton College board of trustees. A half dozen church plantings occurred during his tenure. Several of these have grown into strong congregations, more than offsetting the several churches lost to district re-alignments and changing demographics. Several of the young men ordained at the centennial annual

Larry Olson – Builder, Involved Layman

Larry Olson, perhaps the most influential laymen in the district during the past 50 years graduated from Houghton College in 1945. As he built the Olson Construction Company, he and his college sweetheart wife, Audrey (Crowell), lived in South Dayton and attended the Forrestville Church. In the early '60s Olson was among the founders of the One Percent Club (a group of men who promised one percent of income above tithe for church extension), and was named the first district layman of the year. Between the late '50s and his retirement in 1980 Olson built at least seven new churches or their ancillary structures in the district. During those years he was also contractor for nearly 200 churches beyond the district, plus Christian camp facilities and numerous commercial buildings.



In April 1965, following a tornado which destroyed the denominational headquarters (then in Marion, IN), Olson contracted for its reconstruction. He was also contractor for several major buildings at his alma mater, two structures at Houghton Academy and what is now Absolute Care Nursing Home in Houghton. He was a Gideon, a perennial member of district and denominational boards, a frequent delegate to district and denominational conferences. Olson also held posts in several para-church organizations. An increased district-wide interest in short-term missions projects may be traced to his own experiences in Haiti. In later years Olson and his wife, Audrey (Crowell)—both deceased since 2006 and 2005, respectively—lived in Brooksville, FL.



conference continued service in the district for their entire careers spanning three generations.

In 1968 a district camp dining hall was built, followed a year later by the erection of a district parsonage, both in Houghton. Still, attitudes in the pew were changing. Relatively few were interested in occupying cramped camp cottages or non-air conditioned frame dormitories, or the old tabernacle with its distinctive roof beam supports and combination of wooden benches and old theater seats. By the late 1970s district leaders had deeded the campground area to Houghton College for its continuing expansion. In return, the district would receive free perpetual use of the more comfortable, versatile, all weather college facilities for district functions ranging from annual conference to summer Bible camp. Where camp cottages once stood the college's Nielsen Physical Education Center arose. The dining hall was moved to become phase one of today's Stevens Visual Arts Center.

With continued growth of urban churches and arrival of a new District Superintendent, Vaughn Drummonds, the district parsonage was sold, the DS's place of residence moved to Eden, NY, closer to the main centers of church growth. The burgeoning Internet age hastened the death of the district periodical, *The Itinerator*, as much of the information it carried became available online. The Internet also simplified and speeded communications among pastors.

Such were the physical changes of the past 50 years. Perhaps more significant

have been changes in the people who comprise the district's churches. Such change reflects evolving American culture, and our evolving understanding-reinterpretation of what being a Christian means in the 21st century. Today's believers appear little inclined toward institutional or denominational loyalty for its own sake, more pragmatically concerned with having

real and perceived needs met within the fellowships they populate. More representative of the larger culture, than those of an earlier day these people often come with little or no Christian background, but frequently with the cultural and social baggage of 21st century American society. In response, particularly in our urban churches, specialized ministries have



Above: the camp dining hall and a district parsonage, both constructed late in the decade following the centennial.

Hey, Energizer Bunny, Move Over for Paul Markell

*Seven Decades of District Service
and Still Going Strong*

Olean native and preacher's kid with a ministry career reaching back 11 years before the district's centennial, Paul Markell continues dynamic and winsome at 80. As early as 1914, his father, the Rev. Francis Markell was pastoring the first of his five postings within the former Lockport Conference. Converted at the age of 8, Paul Markell says the congregations for his first sermons consisted of rows of peanuts and walnuts, plus the occasional cashew or filbert, all but assuring that in his calling he would be undaunted by occasional parishoner eccentricity or passivity.



In 1945 Markell entered Houghton College where he took the ministerial course, met, courted and married his late wife and career-long helpmeet, Ruth Wilde. As a student he pastored a congregation near West Valley. Beginning in 1950 the Markells accepted the then new Ellicott charge, now known as Orchard Park. During his 46-year tenure the congregation grew from 49 to 411. For 31 of those years Markell also served as assistant district superintendent, and in 2011 he's still listed as "honorary assistant DS." He's also served as Houghton College Alumni association president, was Claude Ries Pastor of the Year in 1976, and was named a Distinguished Alumnus in 1987. Paul claims to have retired in 1996, but enthusiasm continues to propel him—as a valued counselor, member of the sesquicentennial celebration committee, and part-time Bible Institute teacher.

evolved to address a range of issues from divorce to substance abuse. One long-time district elder also observed: "Today we're serving a more affluent, more educated segment of the population."

Occupy till I come

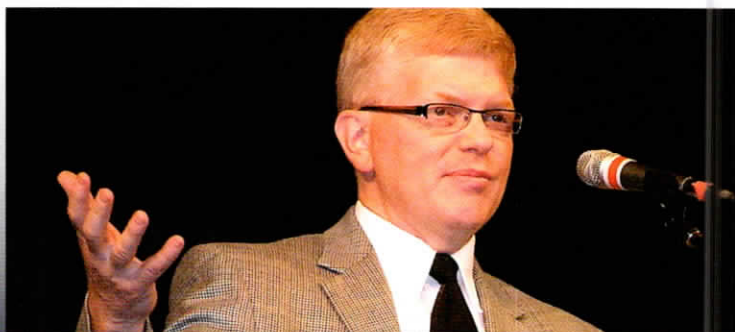
Christ's command to his followers was a call to be faithful, to recognize and seize opportunity, to be about the Father's business of mediating His healing to a broken, hurting world. A comparison of basic statistics between the district's centennial year and today hints that this branch of the church takes its mandate seriously.

Morning worship attendance district-wide in 1960 averaged some 3,000 weekly. In 2011 it reached 8,000. Giving in 1960 was less than \$1 million. In 2011 it neared \$15 million. Church membership in 1960 stood at 2,039. Today it has reached 3,070. Physical facility evaluation now stands at \$73 million, 46 times the 1960 figure.

As the Western New York District approached its 150th year, the 2010 annual conference elected Dr. Jennings as the new district superintendent, Shawn M. Dewey was ordained, and Rev. Steven Strand articulated the district's anniversary plan to initiate a long-term supportive relationship with the denomination's churches in post-earthquake Haiti. Truly the sesquicentennial reveals firm foundations. Just as surely, God continues to offer fresh frontiers to claim for Him in the time before Christ's return.



Highlights of the 2010 district annual meeting included election and installation of the Rev. Dr. Jennings, greetings from the Sierra Leone Church general superintendent, ordination of the Rev. Shawn M. Dewey and an appreciation reception for outgoing DS, Neil Koppen.



"Go and make disciples of all nations..."

Since the 20th century began missions has been a constant and expanding thrust of the Wesleyan Church, often with significant leadership rising from within the Western New York District. Since the district's centennial, mission activities have evolved beyond the basic sending of career missionaries to include such specialized agencies as Wesleyan Medical Fellowship and World Hope, plus hundreds of short termers.



Mary Lane & George Clarke

The first missionary sent from this area was the 1892 valedictorian of Houghton Seminary—and then Latin teacher—Mary Lane. She went to Sierra Leone in 1901, having learned of the developing mission work there from George Clarke who had been studying at Houghton while on furlough. In Africa she married George and soon began her first Bible translation work. Her Limba language dictionary was published by the British government.

She also helped Rev. Clarke develop and lead what is now WKFM, continuing after his death until 1947. Since its founding WKFM has fostered the missions interest of children and, from their gifts of pennies, raised \$5-10 million for mission purposes.

At the age of 75 Mrs. Clarke resumed translation work in Sierra Leone, further refining her work by taking additional Greek courses at Houghton when she was 80. The college presented her with an honorary degree in 1951. She lived, beloved by associates on two continents until her death at 97. Dozens of district men and women have since followed her example.

Increasingly significant in internalizing Christ's Great Commission has been the rise of non-professional short-term mission-

aries. Such efforts have involved hundreds of the district's church adults and youth, who serve both within the United States and abroad. Following are snapshot examples of the range of current efforts, together with listings of individuals and ministries supported by district churches in so-called traditional mission endeavors (note the colored boxes).

WNY District Supported Missionaries

Global Partners & World Hope International

Yane Anthony, Indonesia
Lowell & Robin Adams, Haiti
Dave & Brenda Babcock, Europe
Bob & Brenda Bagley, Africa Area Director
Ken & Marilyn Blake, Germany
Matthew & Crystal Blake, Europe
Josh & Becca Bowlin, Papua New Guinea
Hrvoje & Jill Budimir, Croatia
Melissa Bunnell, Central Asia
Brian & Cara Burke, Russia
Romy & Linda Caringal, Asia Area Director
Fred and Carol Cromer, Africa
Melissa Doyon – World Hope Volunteer
Daniel & Martha Duda, Native Ministries, Irving, NY
Bill & Daphne Foster, Habitat for Missionaries
Tim & Tiffany Gallant, Cambodia
Stephenie Garey, New Zealand
Chris & Melissa George, Australia
Melissa Gilbert, Nune People
Carl & Maya Gilles, Haiti
Lauren Gross, Zambia
BJ & Michelle Haas, Karis People
Mike & Cindy Helvie, Zambia
Tom & Lydia Hines, Ecuador
Dennis & Gwen Jackson, Europe Area Director
Dan & Joan Jones, Zambia
Morris Liana, Burma
Jessica Lord, New Zealand
Joel & Kerri Lord, Czech Republic
Jerry & Jody Manwaring, Africa
Bethany Morse, Sierra Leone
Keith & Patty Norris, World Hope, US
Nicky Peña, Mexico
Jim & Karen Pickett - Mozambique
Cedric & Sharlini Rodrigo, Sri Lanka
Nicole Schara, Albania
Steve & Rebecca Scott, Nune People
Chris & Tiffany Sumpter, Mongolia
Cory & Kris Thede, Haiti
Doug & Jean Trennepohl, Bosnia
Alan & Aimee Williams, Czech Republic
James & Alicia Winn, Turkic/ Arabic Muslim Area Director



Wesleyan Medical Fellowship was the dream of World Missions Secretary Dr. Frank R. Birch in 1945, but it took 21 years and more for his dream to become reality.

Among the many activities WMF sponsors via dues and gifts are such projects as financial assistance to the denomination's overseas hospitals and clinics. It funds care for indigent patients, helps locate and enable short-term medical personnel, supports training of indigenous medical personnel, assists in the recruitment of medical students in this country for future missions service, assists with funding of continuing medical education.

WMF's formative session took place in Houghton in 1966 with dentist Dr. John Nystrom named first president. The 1972 General Conference made WMF an

auxiliary organization. Since 1980, two men of this district have served as General Directors of WMF and its 400+ plus medical professionals, many of them non Wesleyan. Dr. Gustave Prinsell—1989 district layman of the year—served until 1996. Dr. Storer Emmett has directed thereafter to the present. Both men have been missionary physicians, and both have been ably abetted by their wives in editing a quarterly newsletter.



Drs. Storer Emmett & Gustave Prinsell

Other International Mission Endeavors

District Churches Support

ABWE-Jim & Lori Spoto, Italy
Africa Inland Missions
Reid & Sandy Arensen
Ed & Debbie Rothfus
AIS Jon & Ruth Ortlip
Child Evangelism Fellowship- The Rogs,
Gambia, Africa
EMI Engineering Ministries International,
Gary McPhee
Ends of the Earth, Carl Medearis
EQUIP-Million Leader Mandate
FLO-Hudson & Lucy Hess, Haiti
Gospel for Asia/India, Pastor Vijayakumar
Bakkappa
HCJB Dave & Rosemarie Manney
Paul & Erica Simone
Haiti Medical/Dental Team
Houghton College Athletic Outreach
Hubli City Church - India
India Gospel League - Bible School Students
tuition
Mission Exchange- Steve & Sherry Moore
Mission to the UN-Gary & Elaine Allen
Mission to Unreached People-Tim & Aruna
Swauger, India
New Tribes-Jacob & Beth Devine, Papua,

New Guinea
OMF - Tim & Jenny Kangas, Cambodia
OMS International
Esther Cann, Indonesia
John & Tricia Fraser, Hungary
Bruce & Donna Hess
Bill & Joyce Oden
Operation Equip India
Operation Mobilization, Grant Porter
Perm Mission Network - Russia
Pioneers-Mike & Elizabeth Jochum
Rift Valley Academy in Kenya, Ed & Debbie
Rothfus
SCORE Int., Dan Uttley
SEND, Sonia Ashe
SIM: Ogedi Ominyinma, Nigeria
Anthony & Nancy Petrillo, Transforma-
tional Education Network
Alan & Cheri Shea, Liberia
Jon & Pat Shea
Jim & Karen Szymanski
Trans World Radio, USA -Jim & Roberta Hill
We Proclaim Him Ministries-Dan & Shelby
Hill - France
World Relief-Congo, Rwanda
Wycliffe Bible Translators:
Jose Archibald-Ethiopia
Rod & Ellen Casali, B. C.
John & Sylvia Christensen, Indonesia
Steve & Margie Doty, Thailand
Greg & Deb Davis, Tech support
Dan & Sarah Eberle, ASL
Ray Gordon, Computer lexicon
John & Carolyn Miller, Thailand, Southeast

Asia Directors
Ron & Gail Trail, Pakistan
Joel & Barb Trudell, Africa
Roger & Karen VanOtterloo, Kenya/DRC
Outreach Ministries Supported
Allegany Hope
Basileia, Gompahs
Buffalo Christian Center
Buffalo City Mission
Buffalo Westside Ministries
Camp Hickory Hill, Varysburg, NY
Campus Crusade
New York City
Student Venture
Christian Service Brigade
Compass Care Pregnancy Services
Cornerstone Manor Safe House
Crisis Pregnancy Center, Rochester, NY
Eastside Y, Jamestown, NY
Eden / North Collins Food Pantry
Faith-Based Initiative of Chautauqua County
Fillmore Youth Center
Freedom4All2Day
Gil's Hills Ministries, Wellsville
Grace Community Church, Buffalo, Cap &
Barbara Farrow
Habitat for Humanity
Helping Hands, Jamestown, NY
Hephzibah Children's Home, Macon, GA
Hope Refugee Services
Houghton College Global Christian Fellow-
ship short-term missions
Houghton College STEP
Impact

InterFACE
International Students, Buffalo, NY
Phyllis Lawicki, Int'l. Students (ISI)
Don and Ruth Manta (ISI)
InterVarsity Fellowship
Buffalo State College
Jamestown Community College
SUNY, Fredonia
Jail Ministry
Jericho Road Ministries
Local Meals on Wheels
Ministry to the Homeless
Neighbor to Neighbor, Forestville, NY
On the Job Ministries, Westside of Buffalo
Peace of the City, Westside of Buffalo
Pioneer Clubs
Rochester Youth Association
Royal Family Kids' Camp
Saving Grace Ministries
SIM Work with Buffalo Refugees, Kathleen
Johnson
SonRays Ministries
So. Tier Youth for Christ, Wellsville, NY
Tri-County Crisis Pregnancy Center ,
Gowanda, NY
The About Group, Native Ministries,
Bruce BonFluer
Union Gospel Mission, Jamestown
United Christian Advocacy Network,
Jamestown
Urban Christian Ministries
Wesleyan Native Ministries
Wellspring Ministries
Youth for Christ



Houghton President Mullen meets Sierra Leone President Earnest Bai Koroma. Right: College delegation's interaction with village groups is leading to multiple initiatives.

Passion of the Pioneers Flowers Anew with 21st Century Sierra Leone Initiatives

For decades 10 tombstones in an overgrown graveyard in Kunsho, Sierra Leone, mutely testified of the first Wesleyan missionaries' commitment in that country. Several of those pioneers were from Western New York and were Houghton alumni. More than a century later growing work in that west African nation vindicates their sacrifice. Kamakwie Hospital recently celebrated 50 years of service.

A collaboration utilizing the expertise of Houghton College educators and students, World Hope International, business man Jon Prinsell, and the Sierra Leone government is launching an Economic Opportunity Zone that will employ 100, and raise the income of 1,000 farmers using local renewable resources while boosting exports.

In addition to the development work, the national Wesleyan Church enjoys enhanced post-civil war visibility, in part because individuals with roots in the mission's earlier efforts hold national leadership positions, including the president. Further, Kunsho graveyard has been refurbished, a fitting memorial to those who served and as a reminder that unwavering Kingdom commitment produces long-term results.



Karl Eastlack

World Hope

From modest beginnings at its 1996 founding by (now) Wesleyan General Superintendent JoAnne Lyon, to today's burgeoning NGO operating eight initiatives in 22 countries, World Hope International seeks to "empower the poorest of the poor . . . to become change agents in their communities."

Since 2009 Karl Eastlack—22-year pastor of Eastern Hills Wesleyan Church—has led World Hope's ministries which include: Anti-trafficking, Education, HIV / AIDS, support for widows and orphans and care for the sick, coordinating volunteer efforts via Hope Corps, developing U.S. sponsorships for children through Hope for Children, Microfinance and Rural Development.

Short Termers – Personalizing the Great Commission

During 2009-2010 some 210 clergy and parishioners of the district gained short-term mission experience. Some project examples from across the past 50 years include:

setting up a printing press in Liberia, church, school and hospital construction in Sierra Leone and Haiti, working with children in post-quake Haiti, participating in medical clinics, building at Hephzibah Children's Home in Georgia and Brainerd Indian School in South Dakota, teaching stints in Australia, Honduras and Russia, church or community assistance within the district.

While some argue that the overhead costs of such efforts are disproportionate to their impact, the impact upon participant lives—whether through broadened knowledge and perspectives, re-ordered priorities, personalization of Great Commission mandates, influence upon others, or modified career plans, is not quantifiable.





Remains of a church and school



Rebuilding in Haiti

In the wake of the January 2010 massive earthquake in Haiti the District Conference determined to sponsor a sesquicentennial-year missions project in Haiti—a pair of short term building trips and financial support for projects there. (To date, more than \$20K has been raised). Through the spring of 2011 a team was assembled and, leading up to their June 17 departure date, met periodically for orientation with team leader Jon Cole, youth pastor at the Houghton Church and a veteran of several short mission trips.

The team will perform whatever services help the situation in Haiti the most, but anticipate that their primary function will be to rebuild a church building, and perhaps help finish construction of others begun by earlier teams from other districts. A similar second team and trip are planned for September of this year, a third in 2012.

Below: THE TEAM Front row from left: Steve Peck, Cathy Kelley, Carrienne Kirkland, John Caddell, Jeff Szymanski. (After this picture was taken, John Caddell withdrew from the trip for medical reasons, and Tyler Mastin, Bryan's son, not pictured, took his place). Back row from left: David Cledgett, Bryan Mastin, Jon Cole, Don Haingray, Orchard Park Pastor Todd Glendenning, Jason Diehl and David Ortlip.



WNY District Church Supported Mission Projects

Projects

- Global Partners Campus Representatives
- Haiti National Ministry Shares
- Indonesian Church Planting Pastors
- Jesus Film Partnership
- LaGonave Hospital
- Myanmar Wesleyan Church
- National Church Shares
- Nationals' Training Fund
- Ukraine- Fontanka Church Plant
- Ukraine National Church Shares
- World Hope Canada
- World Hope First Steps
- World Hope Gap Children
- World Hope International, Zambia

District Projects

- Haiti Rebuilding - \$20,000 given for construction by a WNY District team June 2011
- Honduras Wesleyan Church- Carlos & Linda Medina
- Support since 2008 for theological education, evangelism and church planting

Like Pulling Teeth in Haiti


For 35 years Houghton dentist, Dr. John D. Nystrom has self-financed annual 15-day trips to Haiti to provide dental care for many hundreds of persons who, because of cost and/or distance from national providers would otherwise never see a dentist.



What's the evidence for the latter claim? Dr. Nystrom says less than 10 percent of his Haiti work has been restorative, hence more than 32,000 extractions!

Some years Dr. Nystrom has made two such trips, usually as part of a team that may include a physician, a nurse, and a translator-assistant.




*"that they
may be
trees of
righteousness"*
Isaiah 61:3



Robust music and art programs, AP classes



Oldest educational institution of the Wesleyan Church, Houghton Academy proudly adheres to its founding principals: modeling vibrant Christian faith, offering superior college preparatory education at low cost, producing graduates with global vision, ministering cross-culturally in many professions.

Over the past 50 years Houghton Academy has doubled in size, gained Middle States and Association of Christian Schools International accreditation. Today's academy education is invigoratingly international (70 students from nine countries), serves boarding students from six states, and 59 day students drawn from the Western New York District, 18 of them from Wesleyan churches.

Seasoned leadership: 38 dedicated, qualified faculty and staff



Winning athletics



Philip G. Stockin: 40 years of service, 28 as headmaster



Need-based scholarships

18 83 HOUGHTON COLLEGE



800.777.2556
www.houghton.edu

Houghton College is a liberal arts institution that challenges students to academic excellence – in the context of a relevant Christian community – and empowers them to enrich the world.

Academic Excellence

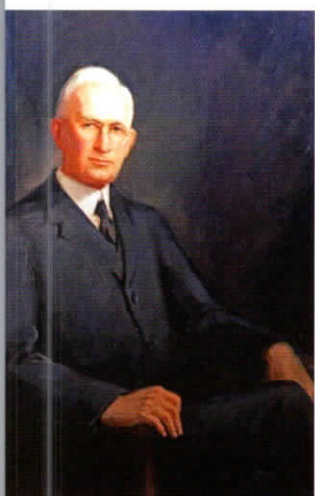
- We continue our more than 125-year tradition of academic excellence and pre-professional training.
- More than 70 areas of study to choose from, including a master's program in music.
- Nearly half of the student body study off campus during their college career in 30 countries, including Australia, the Balkans, London and Tanzania.
- Experiential learning occurs through internships and on campus in our equestrian center, science labs, art studios, music labs and recital hall, multimedia learning commons, and business investment center.

Relevant Christian Community

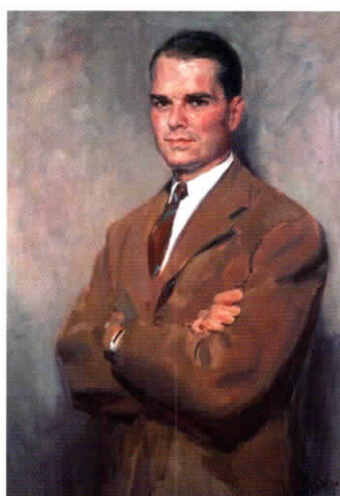
- We prepare graduates for service in God's Kingdom, including more than 4,600 alumni in Western New York.
- Chapel services held three times a week bring the community together for a time of corporate worship.
- Student clubs and organizations – such as Allegany County Outreach, Global Christian Fellowship, Gospel Choir, Habitat for Humanity, Helping Houghton Seniors, Young Life and Youth for Christ – give students opportunities to serve the local community.
- Sports ministry opportunities have taken our athletes around the world, including Australia, Czech Republic, Ethiopia, Honduras, Nicaragua, Peru, and Russia.

Empowered to Enrich the World

- We ask students and graduates to share with and in the world. It's part of the Wesleyan tradition on which the college was founded.
- More than 21,000 alumni live and serve in 64 countries around the world.



James S. Luckey



Stephen W. Paine



Wilber T. Dayton



Daniel R. Chamberlain

- In the past decade, approximately 200 students from Houghton have worked in conjunction with Western New York AmeriCorps. This year, Wesley ServiceCorps, a newly formed partnership between Houghton College and Western New York AmeriCorps, has seen 14 Houghton graduates participate in a year of service at various organizations on the west side of Buffalo and in Allegany County.
- Houghton College has provided the Equipping for Ministry program for the past 25 years. This program reaches non traditional students in the Western New York region and provides them with the opportunity to complete requirements for licensing and ordination in the Wesleyan Church.

Positioned for Tomorrow

Shirley A. Mullen, now in her second term as the college's fifth president, articulates enduring goals and principles for the years ahead:

- Intensifying our missional task of transforming students to be effective agents for God's redemptive purposes throughout the world.
- Preparing graduates in the professions who are capable of functioning with competence, creativity, and moral and spiritual courage.
- Clarifying the college's role as a prime resource for spiritual, cultural and intellectual enrichment for the church.
- Framing the Christian liberal arts tradition to the culture while shaping the conversation within higher education.
- Building the financial base to undergird those endeavors.



Shirley A. Mullen

“We believe that Houghton’s historic mission is more relevant than ever: preparing graduates who have the competence to make distinguished contributions in any arena of our society, the conviction of their moral and spiritual commitments, and the compassion of their Heavenly Father for the needs of this broken and needy world.”

—Shirley A. Mullen, President



ASHWOOD

Lyndonville, New York

Franklin Pierce was President, Geronimo still roamed the plains, slavery was common and the Civil War had yet to begin when the church was launched.

In 1854 a district school was erected on a half acre of land at the junction of Platten and Townline Roads where Ashwood Wesleyan now stands. A small group associated with the Eagle Harbor Wesleyan Methodist Church, held worship services in the school.

After that building burned in 1855 the group appointed seven trustees who secured a Certificate of Incorporation under the name of "The Wesleyan Methodist Church in Yates." The trustees purchased the former school-house site for \$100.00, and in 1855-1865 a church was erected. The lumber came from woodlands of Abel Plummer and Parker Sargent, two of the original trustees. The trustees received the property deed in November 21, 1856.

The two churches were then members of the Rochester Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection. Because that conference's size made interaction difficult, they withdrew in 1861 to form the Lockport Conference. The Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Society was formed in July 19, 1907, with 10 charter and four honorary members. In 1917 Eagle Harbor Church burned and was not rebuilt, so a new parsonage became necessary. It was completed on March 3, 1920, free from debt and at a cost of \$2,798.53. It was then that the Yates Church became Ashwood Wesleyan Methodist Church. A new church building was constructed in 1922 to provide needed Sunday School rooms and fellowship area. In 1956 the church celebrated its centennial. The original building, a landmark for over 130 years was razed in 1987.

In 1965 the leadership of Gordon Baker, Milford Dunn, Robert Nice, Vernon Krisher, and Walter Eckler became concerned about the

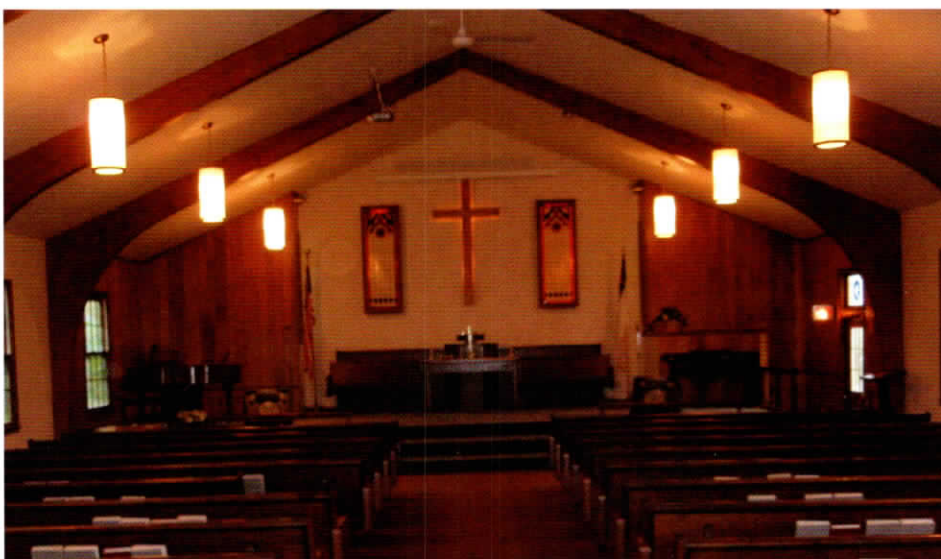
need of additional space for the growing congregation. Plans to build an addition to the existing building were set aside when the trustees proposed a new structure. With unanimous approval, land adjacent and west of the existing church property was purchased and construction began in 1967. The cost to contractor was \$62,000 with an additional \$15,000 spent for support facilities. Thanks in part to the devotion of volunteers and the many furnishings donated, the new church building had its first service on October 20, 1968. At the merger of the Pilgrim Holiness and Wesleyan Methodist Churches we became the Ashwood Wesleyan Church of Lyndonville. The church celebrated a 75th anniversary for continual service to missions in July of 1982. An addition to the parsonage was dedicated in June 1994.

In April of 2009, the church underwent a painful church split. Much of the congregation followed the former pastor to a new location.

The remaining congregation is set on continuing the legacy that the church represents to this community since the time of horse and buggy; God using us to minister the gospel in new ways to the needs of our people, community, and our world.

PASTORS

S. Salisbury	1862-1865
C.W. Swift	1865-1870
J. Sibley	1870-1871
D.E. Baker	1871-1872
S.W. Krahll	1872-1875
No Record	1875-1880
H.T. Besse	1881-1882
T.B. Fleming	1882-1884
D.F. Dutcher	1884-1888
O. White	1888-1890
F.S. Lee	1890-1891
H. McDowell	1891-1895
E. H. Post	1895-1896
G.F. Porter	1896-1897
E. Ellett	1897-1898
C.H. Dow	1898-1900
C. Sicard	1900-1903
T.R. Jeffrey	1903-1904
R.F. Dutcher	1904-1905
T.D. Russell	1905-1906
In District's hands	1906-1907
H.R. LaVere	1907-1912
In District's hands	1912-1913
Walter Readett	1913-1918
F.C. Adams	1918 - 1920
Noah/Mae K. Shaffer	1920-1924
Fred Collins	1924-1925
Clarence Dudley	1925-1927
G.E. Bathurst	1927-1931
Walter Readett	1931-1936
O.G./Dianna Wyman	1936-1940
A. Gordon Wolfe	1940-1942
In District's hands	1942-1943
Frank Taylor	1943-1948
Beverly Barnett	1948-1950
Adrian R. Everts	1950-1956
Eldyn B. Simons	1956-1958
Otis McDonald	1958-1960
Hudson Hess	1960-1962
Ralph Speas	1962-1969
Donald Buck	1969-1973
Emerson Twining	1973-1982
Roy Humphreys	1982-1987
Richard Heitzenrater	1987-1992
Stephen Kilpatrick	1992-1997
Roy Harriger	1997-2009
Shawn M. Dewey	2009-2011
Karen Tucker	2011-



Pastor Karen Tucker



ANGOLA

Angola, New York

The first meeting of the Angola Wesleyan Methodist Church was a Bible Study held in the home of Mr. & Mrs. Francis Shields on November 29, 1962. Seven individuals were present including Rev. & Mrs. Richard G. Kaylor. Four months later the first Sunday school class and morning worship service were held in the Lake Erie Beach Fire Hall with 59 present in Sunday school and 67 attending Morning Worship.

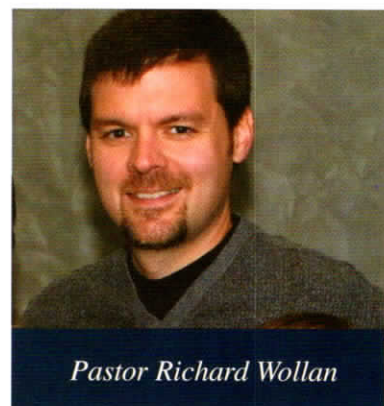
In June of 1963, the church received a gift of a three-acre plot of land on Herr Road from the Evans Land Corporation. The site was dedicated in September, at which time Executive Secretary of the Department of Church Extension and Evangelism for the Wesleyan Methodist Church Wesley Lovin announced that the church would receive the Women's Missionary Society's Self-Denial Offering the next spring, a first for the district. That offering totaled

\$12,279.00, and ground was broken for the new building on September 27, 1964. At a cost of \$29,896 the building was completed in time for Easter Sunday in 1965. Fifty people attended the Sunrise service and breakfast.

Subsequent highlights of the church history include: construction of a parsonage, and a succession of projects ranging from new windows, pews and sanctuary carpet, to new siding, roof, parking lot and handicapped access. Community outreaches include food and clothing pantries, and an evangelical radio broadcast. Morning worship attendance through late 2010 averaged 40. There are 26 covenant members.

PASTORS

Richard Kaylor	1965-1985
Bernard Roof	1985-1995
Roger Thompson	1995-2003
Michael Poore	2003-2011
Richard C. Wollan	2011-



Pastor Richard Wollan



HILLSIDE

Olean, New York

Hillside Wesleyan Church was launched in 1959 with sanctuary and parsonage completed by 1961. In the process of dealing with leadership problems, the congregation shrank dramatically. This was followed by years of struggle, healing and restoration. Nevertheless, support of missionary couples has consistently characterized the church since the mid-1960s.

The church mortgage was paid off and burned in 1978. Major renovations were made to the physical plant in 2008, including a second story added behind the sanctuary. Today average attendance stands at 80 with a membership of 94.

PASTORS

Robert B. Lewis	1959-1963
Gordon Strong (<i>interim</i>)	1963
Harvey N. Robinson	1963-1968
Fred J. Moore	1968-1973
H. John Blann	1973-1979
Roy Henry Devries	1979-1980
David K. Ross	1980-1983
Paul Lawrence (<i>interim</i>)	1983
Steven Gerig	1984-1993
Gary Beers	1993-1999
David Vos	2000-2004
Richard Long	2004-



Pastor Richard Long



HOUGHTON

Houghton, New York



Clockwise from top left: Youth Pastor John Cole, Assistant Pastor Todd Leach, Senior Pastor Wes Oden, Discipleship Pastor Cindy Oden, Volunteer Pastor for Outreach Laurie Smalley, Music and Worship Director Amanda Cox

Willard J. Houghton was 26 when he was "reclaimed" in a school house revival meeting. The next year, 1852, he and a handful of charter members became the nucleus for a new Wesleyan congregation in Houghton. Initially it appears they met with the Fillmore congregation before moving into the District Six schoolhouse, but they remained part of a circuit until 1876. Whether or not the three individuals listed adjacent were the sole pastors during that period is unknown.

In 1876 Mr. Houghton and three others purchased the site of the first church and a 30x38 foot building was erected for \$2,000, Houghton being the largest subscriber and the man who suggested the heavenward pointing hand which topped the steeple. With some enlargement in 1908, that structure served until 1934 when the present brick building was built, to accommodate the growing college Mr. Houghton had founded in 1883, and the concomitant increasing vision as to the church mission and potential. The building was completed for less than \$30,000 at the depths of the depression.

Many of the early pastors also taught at the college which may account for their relatively brief tenures. Others went on to leadership positions in the conference/district, or denomination. The relationship between college and church has been steady and revival services held have influenced and renewed both. Notable among these were the ministry of Free Methodist Bishop Charles Fairbairn in 1926, that of the Rev. B.N. Miner in 1942. Best known may be the revival of 1951 which reached beyond campus into the northeastern states. Again in 1958, God used denominational editor Dr. Oliver G. Wilson to kindle, rekindle and deepen spiritual commitments. Times of renewal and advance continue in the new millennium, the forms they take changed over time.

In the mid 1950s Martin Cox initiated a second morning worship service as college growth continued.

PASTORS

John Watson	
L.W. Khral	1852-1876
Mr. Pepper	
George W. Cooper	1876-1880
D.W. Ball	1880-1884
J.E. Tiffany	1884-1887
Benjamin S. Laughlin	1887-1891
George Sibley	1891-1892
Edwin W. Bruce	1892-1895
J. Robert Jeffrey	1895-1897
Sylvester Bedford	1897-1903
Howard W. McDowell	1903
Jennie Ayers	1903-1904
J. Hughes	1904-1905
C.H. Dow	1905-1909
William Clow	1909-1910
Dean S. Bedford	1910-1912
William Frazier	1912
Charles B. Whitaker	1912-1917
Charles Sicard	1917-1921
Joseph R. Pitt	1921-1937
Earnest W. Black	1937-1942
Chauncey Armstrong	1942-1951
Edward D. Angell	1951-1956
Martin W. Cox	1956-1961
Edward D. Angell	1961-1968
Karl K. Wilson	1968-1969
Oliver Dongell	1969-1970
Melvin Shoemaker	1970-1973
Morton Dorsey	1973-1976
Ralph Young (Interim)	1976-1977
H. Mark Abbott	1977-1982
J. Michael Walters	1982-1995
Paul Shea (Interim)	1995-1996
Wesley D. Oden	1996-

From the mid 1960s until 1984 a single morning worship was conducted in Wesley Chapel. J. Michael Walters then returned to the two-service format, the earlier service in so-called "contemporary" style. Wesley Oden initiated a second contemporary service and returned all three morning services to the church—students and many townsfolk appreciating a more intimate and purpose-dedicated worship space.

As the church ministry has grown, so have the facilities. Severe overcrowding led to construction of a 23,000-square-foot Christian Education facility in 1968, completed for an amazing \$300,000. Soon thereaf-

ter the church granted space to the Valley Preschool, eventually taking charge of that ministry in 2000. Remodeling of the sanctuary occurred shortly before the church building turned 50 in 1982. Then, in 1991, a new enclosed front was added with an enlarged foyer and full handicapped access in the sanctuary and, soon after, in the CE building. Church parsonages were also sold during this time.

In 2007 the sanctuary was again updated and a new mechanical action pipe organ replaced an instrument which was old when it was installed in 1935. The new organ was jointly funded by church and college, strengthening the college's offerings for church musicians and providing an instrument neither church nor college could have afforded alone. The \$505,000 project brought together a diverse congregation; music students and many townsfolk cooperating in aspects of the organ's construction, installation and finishing.



Hand which topped the original steeple, new organ enhances church and college ministries, "Ebenezer" reminder of the 2009-2010 prayer vigils.

Houghton has been a missions minded church since the dawn of the 20th century. Today's congregation contributes to the support of 36 missionaries, to various short term mission efforts, plus more than two-dozen other area outreaches, including a food pantry. Collegians provide augmented staffing for Christian Education ministries. Pastor Wesley Oden is currently poised to become the longest serving pastor in the history of the church.

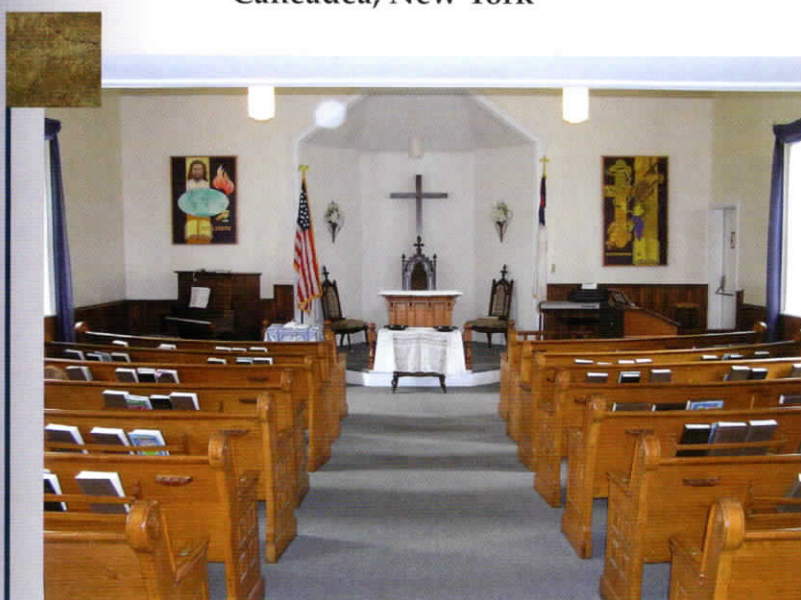
In 2009 and again in 2010 the church sponsored round-the-clock prayer vigils—three-week-long events during which some 500 congregants—residents, collegians and high schoolers—signed up for one-hour commitments to pray in specially outfitted, dedicated rooms at the church. Participant experiences continue to deepen and broaden their lives and strengthen the church overall.





BELLVILLE

Caneadea, New York



According to the Wesleyan Methodist Church book, from Allegany Co., Lockport Conference. State of NY, commencing with the conference year 1868 (Second Book), six groups comprised the Allegany Circuit: East Rushford, Higginsville, Maple Grove, Houghton Creek, South Hill, and East Hill with L.W. Krahl, pastor. At the second quarterly conference, convened at Maple Grove, September 5, 1868, East Hill was added to the circuit. Worship services were conducted in various school houses with the parsonage at East Rushford.

On November 19, 1871, the Rush Creek Class was organized by C.H. Harris. In March of 1872, the fourth quarterly meeting, held at Maple Grove, voted to consider Rush Creek Class as part of the Allegany Circuit. On June 28, 1885, the Bellville class was organized by W.A. Stanfield with eight charter members. On July 11, 1885, the first quarterly conference, held at Higgins, voted to accept the Bellville class. Two years later, June 12, 1887, Mr. and Mrs. George Washbon, parents of Mrs. Eva Dietrich, Mrs. Dora Sicard and Mrs. Achsah Willett united with the group. Mr. Elbert Baker was the first class leader and Jerry Cooper the first steward.

By 1894 the Rush Creek and Bellville groups constituted the "Allegany Charge" as it was then listed in the conference minutes. Each group worshipped in its local schoolhouse with the parsonage at East Rushford, the pastor serving the two appointments. On April 29, 1896, a meeting was called at the home of G. A. Washbon for the erection of a new church at Bellville. It was built in 1901.

In 1903 the Rush Creek church was erected. Twenty-five years later the Rochester Gas and Electric Power Company purchased land to construct Caneadea Dam. Rushford Lake now covers the area where the church and parsonage were located. The Rush Creek group transferred to the Bellville class, and a public building in Bellville

was purchased and converted into the present parsonage.

The *Our Heritage* supplement book, 1960-1970, states that "the church building adequately houses the congregation and the Sunday School. For the latter, additional space was provided late in the preceding decade. Since 1968 the parsonage has been remodeled and enlarged. Two rooms have been added, an oil furnace installed, and the building redecorated. A garage is now under construction."

Many changes were made to the church building in the early 1980s. An addition was built onto the front of the church providing for a side entrance, a vestibule with two bathrooms, additional Sunday School space in the balcony, and a basement fellowship room with small kitchen. A furnace, new carpet and light fixtures were installed and an outdoor cross was affixed on the front of the building, plus a sign. A dedication service was held at the church on July 12, 1981.

Since then, the church has built a pavilion, providing for summer fellowship activities, made an addition to the parsonage garage, and most recently installed a church entrance ramp.

Although the church is small and in a unique country setting, it has supported several missionaries, assisted with the creation of the Rushford Youth Center and Rushford Area Ministerium, contributed to the Rushford Area Food Pantry, served college students and ministerial students, and impacted the people in the surrounding area.

PASTORS

L.W. Krah	1868 -1869	Harry H. Bullock	1916-1917
W. Pepper	1869-1871	A.D. Fero	1917-1918
C.H. Harris	1871-1873	L.C. Mattoon	1918-1919
G.W. Cooper	1873-1877	A.C. Dow	1919-1921
N.E. Heald	1877	E.H. Johnson	1921-1926
Sillas Brundage	1877	David Rees	1926-1927
Z.T. Petty	1877-1878	M.D. Warburton	1927-1930
D.W. Ball	1878-1882	Adrian R. Everts	1931-1938
E.J. Pope	1882-1884	A. Gordon Wolfe	1938-1940
LeRoy Strong	1884-1885	Zelia & E. H. Johnson	1940-1942
W.A. Stanfield	1885-1888	Zelia Johnson	1942-1943
W.H. Scribner	1888-1890	Theodore R. Pagett	1943-1948
N.F. Robb	1890-1893	Frank C. Taylor	1948-1956
Leroy Strong	1893-1895	A.J. Taylor	1957-1968
G.W. Sibley	1895-1899	Robert Wolcott	1968-1974
G.O. Bruce	1899-1903	Floyd Merriam	1974-1979
C.W. Smith	1903-1907	Robert F. Miller	1979-1983
E.W. Bruce	1907-1909	Michael Messick	1983-1993
J.F. Wright	1909-1913	Michael Mann	1993-1995
D.S. Bedford	1913-1914	Leonard Luchette	1995-1997
E.H. Johnson	1914-1916	Allan Bennett	1997-2005
		Roy H. DeVries	2005



Pastor Roy DeVries



CHRIST CHAPEL

Silver Creek, New York



With several home prayer groups in 1949, Silver Creek Wesleyan Methodist Church was off to a near 20-year sprint. The growing group purchased property, constructed a basement meeting room/parsonage, and occupied it by Christmas the following year. Twenty-one charter members organized the church in 1952 and immediately began construction of an upstairs sanctuary. Though it would not be completed and dedicated until June 1957, worship upstairs began in the late winter of 1953. A new parsonage allowed founding pastor, Burnett Thompson and family to move out of the basement in early 1957.

Barely two years passed before increasing attendance demanded more worship and Sunday school space and a new addition was built. Three years of hard work produced classrooms, offices, restrooms, and a fellowship hall. During the following three years

additional property, a small house, and a second parsonage completed the campus as it stands today, with the exception of a gym with 14 additional classrooms in a half basement added in 1967.

Worship and Sunday School attendance climaxed above 170 in 1970. During the following decade the church would stabilize at approximately 145 in worship. A vibrant bus ministry led to renewed growth between 1978 and 1984, after which the attendance leveled off at around 100.

The congregation added visual arts and praise and worship music to worship as the new millennium approached. It also began addressing significant maintenance issues that continue. In 2002 the church went through a refocusing period. During this time the church sought to impact a changing community through

various ministries and enjoyed some degree of effectiveness.

For the past several years about 80 people have gathered for worship as the church continues to look for ways to serve an increasingly unchurched and economically struggling village.

PASTORS

Burnett Thomspson,	1949-1957
Oliver Dongell,	1957-1969
David Shannon	1969-1976
Will Beers	1976-1984
Evans Mitchell	1984-1988
Roger Farney	1988-2008
Michael Leamon	2008-



*Pastor Michael
Leamon*





HESS ROAD

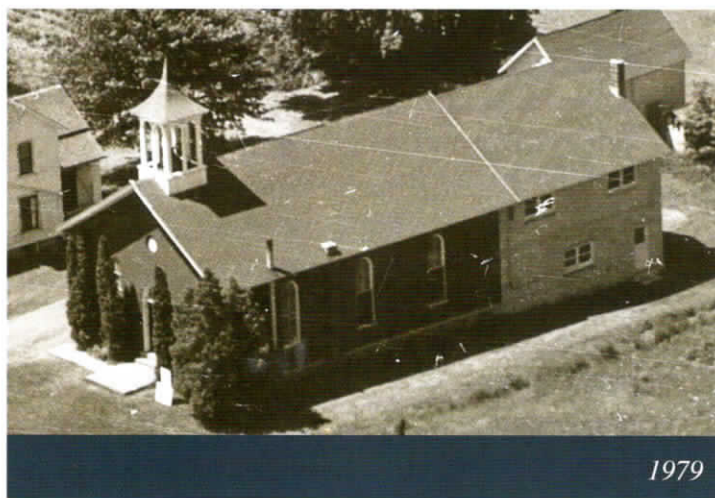
Appleton, New York

On May 12, 1884 the Wesleyan Methodist Church of Hess Road was organized with seven members in Olcott, NY. At the time members of the Baptist, Methodist Episcopal, and Wesleyan Methodist Churches all worshipped in the Old Olcott school-house. Several of the other fellowships soon built their own churches, but work on the brick Wesleyan Methodist church began and the church was incorporated in 1886.

The parsonage was built in 1901 during the pastorate of John Willet, later connectional agent for the denominational publishing house in Syracuse. In 1956 an eight-room Sunday School rear annex was added followed in 1966 by addition of a foyer, nursery and office. A fellowship hall and classrooms were built in 1973.

Across the years the church has produced a number of missionaries and ministers.

In 1993 a new sanctuary was completed with a dedication ceremony February 7th. During the early 2000s, new sound and projection systems were installed, the sanctuary platform was enlarged,



1979

PASTORS

Henry Norton	1863-1866
Pulpit Supplied	1866-1867
Jonathan Sibley	1867-1868
Pulpit Supplied	1868-1869
C.F. Hawley	1869-1872
D.B. Dunlap	1872-1873
William Pepper	1873-1875
L.W. Krahle	1875-1877
G.W. Sibley	1877-1880
J.L. Benton	1880-1883
LeRoy W. Strong	1883-1884
Otis White	1884-1887
Ransom E. Harwood	1887-1888
George W. Cooper	1888-1892
Harry Kelley	1892-1893
S.W. Jennings	1893-1895
Wesley F. French	1895-1897
Without a Pastor	1897-1898
Harry W. Espey	1898-1901
John S. Willett	1901-1904
C.P. Sage	1904-1905
J.R. Jeffery	1905-1906
Charles MacClinchy	1906-1909
Clarence W. Smith	1909-1914

Dean S. Bedford	1914-1919
Harry Bullock	1919-1920
John Wilcox (student)	1920
Amos Sharpe	1920-1921
Charles Sicard	1921-1923
Noah & Mae Shaffer	1923-1924
Arthur Northrup Sr.	1924-1930
Francis Markell	1930-1933
Charles Sicard	1933-1944
Everett E. Elliott	1944-1949
Daniel A. Heinz	1949-1952
Milton Putnam	1952-1956
Nelson Crowell	1956-1958
Donald K. Stanton	1958-1964
Fred J. Moore	1964-1968
Bernard Roof	1968-1971
George A. Jones	1971-1976
Morton W. Dorsey	1976-1980
Joe Liddick	1980-1983
Milton Putnam	1984-1985
Robert King	1985-1999
In hands of the DBA	1999-2000
Ronald Logan	2000-2001
Joe Payne	2001-
Associate:	
Matthew A. Rose	



Pastor Joe Payne

and a new parsonage was constructed nearby. In 2008 the entire original building was refurbished, and connections were built between the structures along with completion of a new commercial kitchen, a sanctuary storage facility and new parking space.





PEACE

Falconer, New York

Peace Wesleyan Church had its beginnings in 1903. The growth of industry had brought newcomers to find homes in the prosperous village of Falconer, near Jamestown, NY. Mr. and Mrs. William Pressley Phillips came from a quiet county seat in Western Pennsylvania. They chose a home on a picturesque lot called Lynndon Park. Each Sunday they walked three miles to Levant or traveled 10 miles to Ashville by trolley. Mrs. Phillips began praying for a church closer to home.

Sometime later, the Rev. Mrs. Sarah E. Schultz and her family moved to Falconer. The godly influence of this devoted woman drew a number of inquiring souls. Sister Phillips recognized this as an answer to her prayers and opened her home for regular meetings. The Lynndon Park Wesleyan

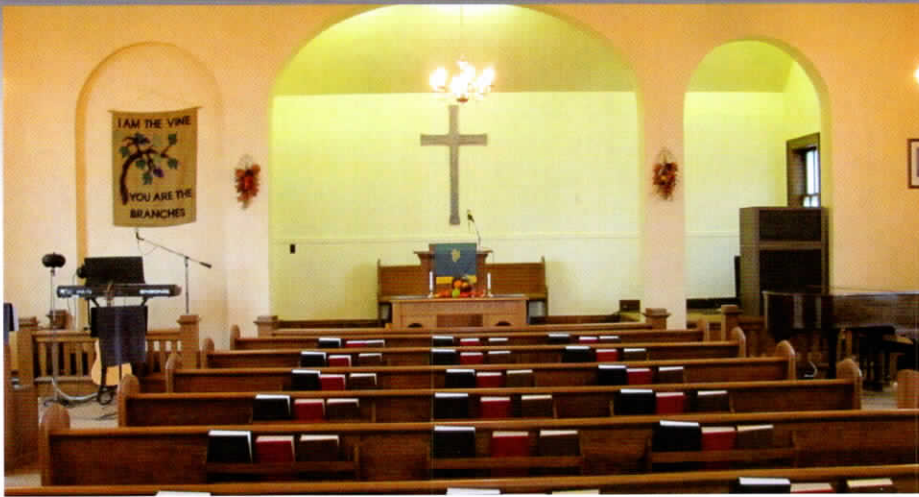
Methodist Church was organized on September 30, 1903 with seven members and Rev. Schultz as the pastor. God blessed this ministry, and on Sunday, May 21, 1905, people gathered to dedicate the Lynndon Park Wesleyan Methodist Church.

Pastor Sarah Schultz and Sister Phillips (in whose home the first house meetings were held) may never have dreamed that a small group would grow to be an enduring congregation. After spending a year at the church under the guidance of Rev. Schultz, Miss Oneida McMillan began as pastor in 1911 and continued until 1925. So for its first 22 years, two women gifted in pastoral leadership served the congregation.

In 1922 a foundation was laid for a new building more cen-



Pastors Steve & Ruth Strand



trally located. In September 1923 the congregation voted that the new church be incorporated as Lynndon Park Wesleyan Methodist Church of Falconer. On February 3, 1924, the present brick building located at 126 W. James Street was dedicated. Already the church had invested significantly in mission work. Grace and Stella Wood served as missionaries in India. Ten ministers and five ministers' wives were called from the congregation. Hazel Jones was preparing to serve in India, Sigrid Stein in Africa and Dr. Sim I. McMillen in Sierra Leone, West Africa.

Among the many children reached via the Sunday School was Bert Hall, who as a young man in 1938 was granted an exhorter's license, and in 1939 a local preacher's license. Eventually he would study and become a professor of philosophy at Houghton College and later, at Azusa Pacific.

In 1950 the church name was changed to The Falconer Wesleyan Methodist Church. In 1968 the congregation voted unanimously to transfer the Falconer Church from the Alleghany Conference to the Lockport Conference. On April 21, 1971 the church name was changed to Falconer Wesleyan Church. Informally it came to be called Fal-

coner First Wesleyan Church. During the tenure of Pastor David and Marian Shannon, 1976-1985, attendance at the church gradually grew until there were not enough Sunday School rooms, not enough chairs, and never enough parking. Strong leadership by lay persons has sustained the ministry of the congregation.

Since 2003, the congregation's centennial year, Pastors Steve and Ruth Strand, former missionaries to Central America, have served the congregation and in the community. With a growing desire to minister in Jamestown and beyond, the congregation voted to approve a new church name, officially changed in November 2010 to Peace Wesleyan Church.

PASTORS

Sarah E. Schultz	1903-1911
Oneida J. McMillan	1911-1925
George Clay	1925-1927
John Smeltzer	1928-1931
James A. Bain	1931-1934
W. H. Armstrong	1934-1947
Willard G. Steele	1947-1954
Claude Eshelman	1954-1959
Harold R. Waite	1959-1969
Philip Birchall	1969-1973
Harold R. Waite	1973-1976
David Shannon	1976-1985
David Lindesmith	1985-1991
Frances Stolte	1992
Kevin T. Lowery	1993-1994
William Nace	1994-1997
Jason A. Leininger	1997-2000
LeRoy Bannister	2001-2003
Stephen & Ruth Strand	2003-



EAST AURORA

East Aurora, New York



The East Aurora Wesleyan Church began as an outreach endeavor of the Ellicott Church, now Wesleyan Church of Orchard Park. A prayer meeting was started in 1917 in the home of George Newbury. Later, tent meetings were followed by a revival in a local schoolhouse. On August 13, 1920, a group was organized in the home of Dela Place.

Four years later a tabernacle was built on N. Willow Street and dedicated under the leadership of Rev. George Bathhurst. The church continued to be an outstation of the Ellicott Church until 1933, when Rev. George Osgood was called as the first full-time pastor.

The congregation rented the abandoned Universalist Church on Main Street in 1935. The tabernacle was sold in 1951 and the Main Street church and parsonage were bought for \$18,000. An additional building



Lockport Conference Session at East Aurora, April 12 - 16, 1939

from the Episcopal Church across the street was also annexed.

Under the ministry of Gary Beers the outreach endeavor, Church in the Park was established in nearby Hamlin Park. This ministry continues each Sunday in August, to date. Another outreach program, initiated by Pastor Rich includes Movies in the Park, animated films for families, every Friday night at dusk in Hamlin Park, through July and August.

During the past 20 years the church has been known in the community for these outreach efforts, as well as its musical productions, youth and children's ministries, including Toytown Preschool, which has had a strong impact on the children of the community spanning the last two decades.



Pastor Richard W. Nightingale

PASTORS

(from 1933)

George N. Osgood	1933-1935
Gilbert Baker	1935-1937
Joseph Pitt	1937-1935
Harlan Hill	1945-1946
Charles Foster	1946-1949
George F. Kilpatrick	1949-1954
Robert Knowlton	1954-1956
Mr. & Mrs. Price Stark	1956-1959
Reggie Baker	1959-1963
Michael Schell	1963-1980
John Reukauf	1980-1982
Gary Beers	1982-1991
Richard W. Nightingale	1991-



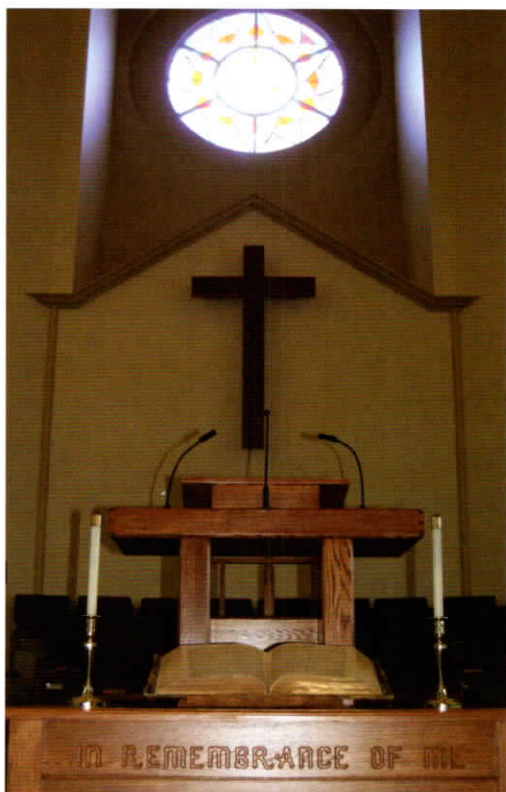
ORCHARD PARK

Orchard Park, New York

Work at what was originally known as the Ellicott church began in a Sunday School promoted by Mr. Hunt, an ardent Sunday school worker from Hamburg. Participants met in the former Methodist Episcopal Church.

Rev. A. D. Fero, then serving the Wesleyan work in Hamburg, learned of the Sunday school and visited in 1892, offering to speak to the class on a Sunday. He received a hearty response. Beginning September 14 of 1892, revival meetings were held for approximately three months with some 120 people seeking God. The first class was organized October 31, 1892.

The first church building was erected in 1894 on property donated by Frank Griffin. Logs were donated by Ed Benning. The building was dedicated as the Wesleyan Methodist Church of Ellicott, NY, on January 14, 1894. A



house on the property west of the church was purchased and converted into a parsonage in 1906. After World War II the community grew, and, by 1948 more Sunday school space was needed.

The original church was remodeled and a Sunday school wing was added. Attendance at the school rose from 49 to 200. Church membership tripled and annual receipts quadrupled. In 1958 the Sunday school won the conference award for outstanding Sunday school of the year.

The basement for a new church building was completed in 1952, serving as a place for the growing Sunday school. In August of 1958 the superstructure was started above the basement. Dedicated in June of 1960, the new church was a testament to God's faithfulness and the cooperation of the congregation and their longest serving pastor, the Rev. Paul Markell. In the 1960s a second parsonage was built to make room for a growing pastoral staff. Then

in 1967 a Christian Education Building was completed which included a gymnasium. Across the years this building has served church purpose well, reaching out and serving families and children. In the 1970s the Hillcrest Fire Hall, located directly across the street from the sanctuary, was purchased to serve as an office building. In the late 1970s 40 acres of land and a third parsonage were purchased for future ministries.

Following an extended time of refocusing in 2002, the church affirmed its purpose as "Making Disciples of Jesus Christ." To this end the congregation believed God to be calling them to "Increase Our Light." One response to this insight was the building of a new sanctuary and gathering area. This new sanctuary was completed and the church held its first service there in December of 2005. Today the congregation continues to make disciples of Jesus Christ as its members worship, connect, serve, and share.



PASTORS

1892-1959

A. D. Fero
Miss Sarah Wilcox
Miss Gertrude Preston
A. J. Bullock
Frank Adams
Mr. Dandelson
Mr. Davidson
John Mann
George Bathurst
Mr. Bateman
George Clement
A. A. Hickok
Mark Russell
Adrian R. Everts

1950-1996

Paul Markell
Richard Kaylor
Larry Wilson
Todd Glendenning

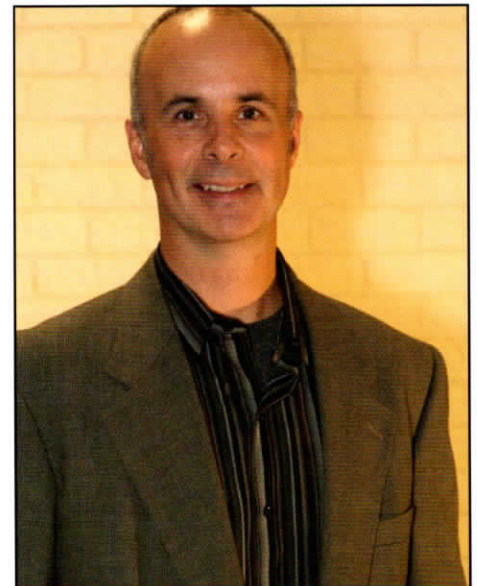
1996-1997

1997-1999

1999-

Associates:

Jeffrey P. O'Vell
Ray E. Selder



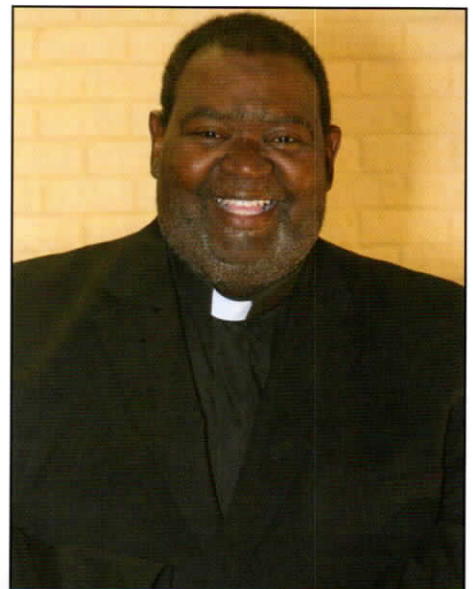
Pastor Todd Glendenning

GRACE COMMUNITY

Buffalo, New York

Grace Community Church, a Wesleyan congregation, began in August 2005. The leadership team was Pastor Casper Farrow, lead pastor; Pastor Art Lazewski and Pastor Terri Lazewski were associate pastors along with Minister Michael Dwyer Jr.

The church met in a home on Lafayette St. in Buffalo, NY. Shortly after opening the doors, Grace Community was invited to worship with Bethlehem Presbyterian Congregation. The two pastors preached as a team and the congregation worshipped together. Grace Community Church purchased a building on the Westside of Buffalo (175 Potomac Ave) and held its first service there July 2008.



Pastor Caspar Farrow

Associate:
Daryll S. Lockie

LOCKPORT

Lockport, New York

Lockport Wesleyan Church was originally the First Methodist Church of Chestnut Ridge, organized as a Wesleyan Methodist Church in 1882. Early records are sketchy to nil.

The community and church experienced a significant revival in 1887. A parsonage constructed that year was destroyed by fire in 1938, but was rebuilt. In November of 1957 the first unit of an educational building was dedicated, and a two-manual organ with chimes was presented to the church in memory of Henry R. Barnett.

The late '50s saw significant growth and in 1958 the Sunday school won the district's achievement plaque. The church supported missions projects in India and Korea, and member Betsy Glazier was a missionary in the Philippines. By 1961 the church was free of debt.

A new parsonage was built in 1963. The congregation experienced transforming revival in 1966. In addition to deepened spiritual commitment came vision and money for church renovation in 1968. Growth continued into the 1970s.

Today the church struggles to find its role in the body of Christ. Supply pastor Matthew Rose observes: "Though small in number, the congregation seeks to make a big impact through faithfulness to the Gospel."

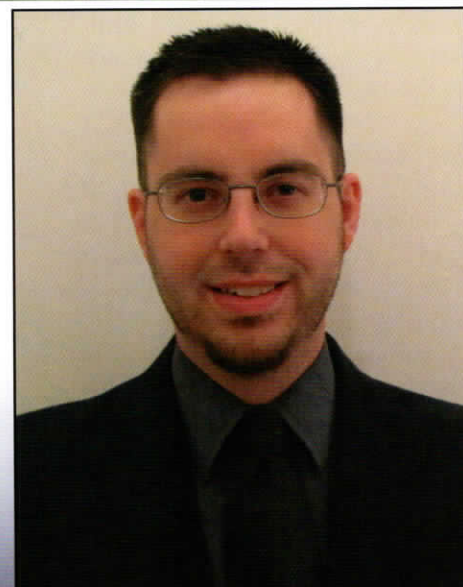


1958



PASTORS

Michael Schell	1957-1961
John Colley	1961-1971
Richard Lofgrin	1971-1972
Richard Wolf	1972-1977
Milton Putnam	1977-1983
David L. Hill	1983-1995
Mark Huntsinger	1995-2001
Tom Bender	2001-2007
Richard Heitzenrater	
(supply)	2007-2008
Matthew Rose	
(supply)	2008-



Pastor Matthew Rose



FELLOWSHIP

West Seneca, New York

In August of 1967 Rev. Atwood Cool was selected to plant a church in West Seneca. Contractor Larry Olson paid his salary for the first year. The following year six adults held the first meeting in Billy and Esther Stiven's home. Then, on March 10, 1968, the first public Sunday worship service was held in the Reserve Fire Hall.

On March 29, 1970 (Easter Sunday), the first service was held in the newly built church at 22 Hazel Ct., West Seneca, and the first members were taken in. Eleven months later the West Seneca Wesleyan Church was formally organized with 22 full members, 14 associate members, and six junior members. The original mortgage was retired in 1981.

Ground breaking for a new addition to the church occurred in 1986 with a first worship service in the renovated church held on Easter Sunday 1987.

In 1990 the first church parsonage was purchased. That fall began a mid-week children's program and a reorganized youth program. Celebration services on Sunday evening, and discipleship ministries began. The first Missions Conference was held. This was the beginning of a continuing, missions emphasis.

Negotiations to purchase land for expansion adjacent to the church building began in 1991. The next year a youth pastor was hired and

an 8:30 a.m. Sunday worship service was added. A year later a 9:15 a.m. contemporary worship service with a 10:45 traditional service with simultaneous Sunday School programs were added. In the fall of 1993 West Seneca Wesleyan Pre-school opened (Staff: Nancy Rizzo and Gayle Liggett). Many current church families are a direct result of this ministry. Mid-week Christian Service Brigade and Pioneer Girls programs also began.

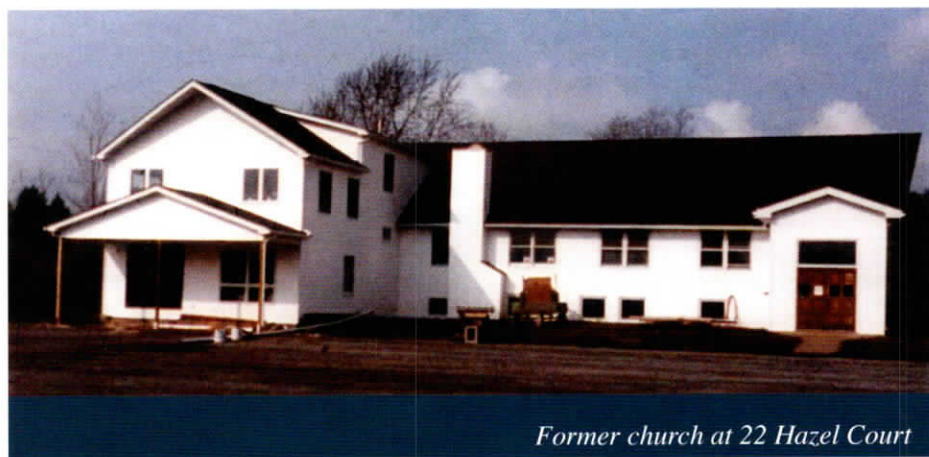
During 1994 the church raised \$30,000 for property in one month and 17 men attended a Promise Keepers convention in Washington, DC. Thus the church began a major emphasis on men's ministry. In October of 1995 businessman Carl Lambein donated 17.85 acres



of land to the church, not adjacent to the existing property, but on Southwestern Blvd., a much more visible site! This freed the money raised to become "seed money" for the new building.

In 1997 the church celebrated its 30th anniversary and the following June the congregation approved a name change to Fellowship Wesleyan Church. The next

fall ground breaking occurred on the new property and the old property was sold. Cornerstone laying ceremonies on the new location took place in October 2000 with first services in the new facility held on July 8 2001. The following September District Superintendent Neil Koppen dedicated the new building. Eight years later he became the senior pastor.



Former church at 22 Hazel Court

PASTORS

Atwood Cool	1967-1973
Duane Kofahl (part time)	1973 - 1975
William Stott (Interim)	1975
Joseph Mutton	1975 - 1990
Daniel Wilson	1990 - 2005
Stephen Elliott	2005 - 2007
Matthew White	2007 - 2010
Neil Koppen	2010 -
Associate: Richard G. Kaylor	



Pastor Neil Koppen



THE VINE

Lancaster, New York

The Vine started in Lancaster, NY, on March 20, 2005, a strategic church plant of Eastern Hills Wesleyan Church and the WNY District. After several years of praying and planning, Pastors Christopher and Tammy Baldwin were selected to lead this new church.

In the summer of 2004 a core group began meeting to discern the Lord's will for this new congregation. The call was to launch a new church where the people were real, the atmosphere was relaxed and the ministry was relevant. As more people became involved, retreats were held in the winter of 2004. The Lancaster School District granted permission to meet in one of its buildings for Sunday services.

Signs announced the coming of the church and on March 20, 2005 over 350

attended the first service with many people accepting Jesus.

Over the next five years the Vine grew to impact many lives. Ministries created included children, youth and college programs, small groups and worship arts. We continue to branch out and grow deep through such community outreach projects as an Independence Day Inter-Faith Service, participating in the Independence Day parade, handing out cider and donuts during the Village of Lancaster tree lighting and, more recently, presenting the church's free Fall Festival which last year drew more than 750.

Mission trips have included the Dominican Republic and Mozambique, Africa. We supported relief work after Hurricane Katrina, in Myanmar

after the Tsunami and in Haiti after the 2010 earthquake. In Lancaster we have reached out to such entities as Jericho Road Ministries, Urban Christian ministries, Hope Refugee Services and West Side Ministries. The latter seeks to rehabilitate and rebuild homes on Buffalo's West side.

The church also helps fund church-wide events such as Vacation Bible Experience, an annual Valentine's couples dinner, a Good Friday program for children, Celebration of Faith Services, Seder Dinner, Volunteer Appreciation Banquets, and New Year's Dinner.

The Vine is a place where many people feel welcome and comfortable. The Sunday morning service is designed to uplift and rejuvenate with times of worship, prayer and anointing messages and time of Holy Communion. We seek to have a service where we open up with God in deep and meaningful ways. Being a portable church since day one has certainly posed a few hurdles. Volunteers log about 250 hours per year to make Sunday service happen. Current Sunday morning attendance is 150 with membership of 61.

On June 19, 2011, the congregation moved into its first permanent building, at 425 Penora St, in Depew, anticipating touching many lives, benefiting the community.



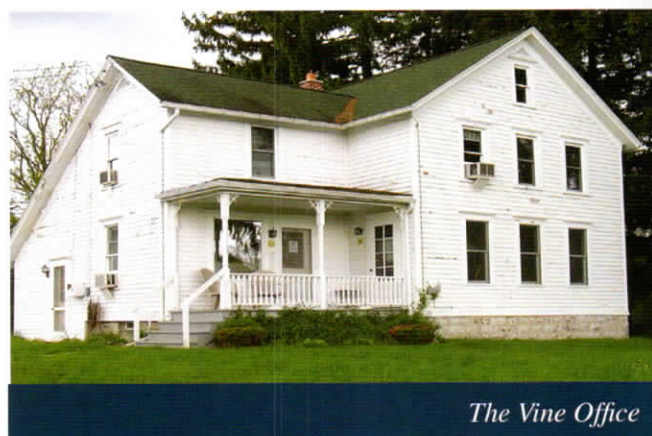
Lancaster school district building



Church owned land for possible future construction




*Pastors Christopher
& Tammy Baldwin*



The Vine Office

CATTARAUGUS INDIAN CHAPEL

Irving, New York



(The bulk of this history was drawn from the program handout at the chapel's dedication on April 27, 1975, which consisted of excerpts from the diary of Bessie Gilmore, the sole recorded history of the chapel other than periodic reports filed with the district superintendent.)

Alex and Mary Williams and Miranda Williams desired to share with their people the One who had transformed their own lives. They began to share their vision of a holiness congregation with the Antones and Gilmores. In the fall of 1967 they held special services in the dining hall at the New York State Indian Holiness Association campground on the Cattaraugus Indian Reservation with the Rev. Robertson as evangelist. As a result of these services souls were saved. The Williamses became the pastor and secretary / treasurer respectively. Sunday school, church, and prayer meetings were established.

In January, 1968 Alex Williams bought the property from the Betsy Jo Logan estate and leased eight acres to Wesleyan Indian Missions. A 10 x 50-foot trailer was purchased and placed on the mission property where services could be held. On March 12, 1968 the first service was held—on Rev. Williams' birthday. On April 29, 1968 he went to be with the Lord.

Danny Williams helped carry on the services until the Gilmores moved their 8 x 36-foot trailer to the reservation, and with the permission of

the Seneca Council, started work on the chapel basement and helped with the services. They lived on the reservation from August, 1968 until May, 1971. The Antones helped as co-workers with the building and services. Frank Pierce helped as his health permitted. In 1969 the side to the Gilmore trailer was brought from Houghton, NY, placed on the mission grounds, and three rooms were added. The Gilmores gave this structure to the Wesleyan Indian Missions to be used as a parsonage. First services were held on April 4, 1970 in the chapel basement. Lyman Pierce brought the message, which was recorded on tape.

Rev. Wallace Henderson came to minister in March, 1970, living in the trailer that had been used for services. He returned to Maine in 1971. The Rev. Owen Smith family from Oklahoma accepted a call in June and continued the work for a year. From Lower Brule, SD, the Rev. Herbert Taylor family arrived July 20, 1972. The Gilmores, Meseraulls, and Glenn Walker arrived in 1974, and with the help of many others, enclosed the chapel by October 31. Brother Walker returned later to help finish the inside of the chapel and add three rooms onto the parsonage.

Administration of the chapel, including payment of the pastor's salary and benefits) was originally assigned to Wesleyan Indian Missions, now called Wesleyan Native Ministries.



In the summer of 2002 the chapel's administration was transferred to the Western New York District. The pastor is considered a missionary and must raise prayer and financial support just as Global Partners missionaries do. Also that year Pastor and Mrs. Duda's daughter, Johanna, earned her Girl Scouts Gold Award by transforming a storage room in the chapel basement into a kitchen installing plumbing, electrical, floor tiles, stove, sink and refrigerator.

In 2010 the chapel hosted the annual convention of Wesleyan Women. This year the Western New York District Wesleyan Women took on the chapel's needs as their district project.

PASTORS

Alex Williams	1968
Paul Gilmore	1968-1970
Albert Antone	1970
Wallace Henderson	1970-71
Owen Smith	1971-72
Herbert Taylor	1972
Fred Streed	
Interim	
Steve Ashcroft	1976-1987
Henry Ortlip	1987
Daniel Duda	1987-



Pastor Daniel Duda



FORESTVILLE



Church, 1912

Forestville, New York

God used itinerant preacher G.W. Sibley in the summer of 1837 to begin a kingdom work that has spanned generations. Through Sibley's preaching at a tent meeting on what would become known as "Ball Hill," the family of Daniel S. Ball established an enduring faith in Christ. They organized the Ball Hill Wesleyan Methodist Church in 1858 with Rev. Sibley as the first pastor.

For the next 23 years the church met for worship in the Ball Hill schoolhouse. In 1881 Linus Ball, Daniel's son, donated property and his brothers, James and George, constructed the church building where worship continues today.

In 1954 a basement under the church was added for the growing needs of the congregation. In 1957 the one-room schoolhouse where the congregation had first met was donated, creating space for student ministries and church gatherings. In 2001 an addition to the original schoolhouse provided a facility for growing ministry.



Pastors Bruce and Patricia Ellis

PASTORS

G. W. Sibley	1858-1859
No record	1859-1863
E. Jones	1863-1865
Pulpit supply	1865-1867
E. Jones	1867-1869
D. B. Douglas	1869-1871
D. W. Ball	1871-1875
No record	1875-1881
N. E. Heald	1890-1891
G. W. Cooper	1887-1888
Pulpit supply	1888-1889
N. E. Heald	1890-1891
J. Adams	1891-1892
H. Hazlett	1892-1894
E. T. Pope	1894-1896
R. McConnell	1896-1900
H. Hazlett	1900-1901
Conference President	1901-1903
G. O. Bruce	1903-1905
N. E. Heald	1905-1909
A. J. Taylor	1909-1911
H. J. Bullock	1911-1915
Conference President	1915-1916
Noah and Mae Shaffer	1916-1920
Pulpit supply	1920-1921
H. H. Schoonover	1921-1926
J. H. Woodhouse	1927-1929
A. A. Hickok	1928-1930
C. L. Horton	1930-1932
Conference President	1932-1933
O. G. and Dianna Wyman	1933-1936
Maurice Gibbs	1936-1945
Mary Bennett	1945-1952
Roy Gibbs	1952-1957
Richard Webber	1957-1960
Robert Shannon	1969-1970
Milton Putnam	1970-1977
Gerald Echard	1977-1980
Roy DeVries	1980-1984
Steve Kooistra	1984-1986
William Thurston	1986-1991
Bruce and Patricia Ellis	1991-
Associate:	
Karen M. Cleveland	



Fellowship hall



Parsonage, 1900



Parsonage, 2011



The first church building, 1938

BIG TREE

Blasdell, New York

Miss Marietta Fancher opened a Sunday School in the Big Tree public school basement on June 11, 1932, faithfully visiting homes and holding prayer meetings with those with a heart to reach Big Tree with the Gospel.

With a building lot on Fairview Parkway given by Mrs. Caldwell and donated labor and materials, a one-room chapel was erected in 1938 as a non-denominational church named the Big Tree Bible School. After Miss Fancher's death, students and teachers from Houghton College led the work.

In May of 1946 the members voted to give the work to the Lockport Conference, renaming it the Wesleyan Methodist Mission of Big Tree. The resolution requested a minister and regular church services.

In 1949, congregants decided to add a basement. When high winds toppled the building into the newly dug basement, Pastor Hartway called it a blessing in disguise because insurance money enabled builders to replace everything, in addition to pouring basement floors.

On November 21, 1953, the church was organized as a Wesleyan Methodist Church with nine full members. In 1956 a seven-room house was finished.

In the late '60s, everyone pitched in to help in special programs and contests and the church grew and called Pastor Tom Black who offered his dream for Big Tree in his first sermon, "Without Vision the People Perish."

As the church grew, additional space was needed, so the tower was torn down and the old sanctuary was extended and remodeled. Volunteers did the work and \$4000 was raised by people picking worms and selling them to member, Jack Strawbrich of Weekley's Wholesale Bait.

The church bought properties along Fairview to accommodate the growing congregation and a new sanctuary was built and dedicated in October 1976. Harold Blew served the growing children's ministry from 1976-83 and in 1984 a two-story education wing was dedicated.

Tim Studaker served as Youth Minister from 1989 until 1997. The Deaf ministry began in 1992 under Roger Crassi's leadership and was turned over to Hoyt Pruitt in 2003.

To increase the church's giving to missions, Pastor Surbrook introduced Faith Promise Giving in 2002 with \$7,000 given. In the following years giving has increased until over \$17,000 was given in 2010. The upstairs classrooms were remodeled and the sanctuary, fellowship hall, foyer and nursery were redecorated.

Current Pastor Doug Ingersoll and wife, Kathy, are focusing on uniting and strengthening the core of the church, renewing spiritual and relational vitality and making impact upon the community for Christ.



Pastor Douglas Ingersoll

Directed by
Marietta Fancher 1932-43

PASTORS

Supply from Houghton 1943-1946	
Adrian R. Everts	1946-1947
Charles Foster	1947-1948
Warren Hartway	1948-1950
Edgar Lewellen	1951-1952
Clair Day	1952-1956
Theodore Pagett	1959-66
Gene DeGraff	1966-68
(supply)	
Thomas B. Black	1968-1997
Mark J. Surbrook	1997-2007
Douglas F. Ingersoll	2007-
Associate:	
Robert M. Eugler	



EASTERN HILLS

Williamsville, New York

Rev Harold and June Burdick began Eastern Hills Wesleyan Church in 1979, meeting first in homes and in local schools. The congregation's original church building was built by the Dutch Reformed Church in 1964 at 8180 Greiner Rd., Williamsville. In 1980 EHWC purchased that property. When Rev Burdick retired from EHWC, Rev. Karl Eastlack succeeded him. At that time average attendance was 19. Pastor Karl initiated the radio program "An Encouraging Word" on WDCX FM in April 1989. By the Spring of 1991 the new sanctuary was completed and average attendance was 250. By the fall of 1993 average attendance had grown to 560 and a new 800-seat sanctuary was completed.

As attendance continued to grow church members approved a resolution to relocate. After some initial setbacks the congregation purchased

27 acres at Harris Hill and Greiner Roads. In October 2000 ground breaking occurred at the new location with the new church opening a year later. On November 18, 2001, 2,040 attended the dedication ceremonies. During the ensuing years the church operated two campuses (one at 8180 Greiner Rd., "the Burdick Campus" and the new facility at 8445 Greiner Rd., "the Main Campus"). In November 2004 Good Neighbors Health Center was opened as a ministry of Eastern Hills in downtown Buffalo, and the following March EHWC initiated its first church plant called "The Vine" located in Lancaster.

In November 2007 a new 37,500 square foot addition was occupied including an expanded children's wing, multipurpose room, commercial kitchen, second atrium, meeting rooms and a 24 hour prayer chapel. In May 2008 Good Neighbors be-



Pastor Patrick B. Jones

came an independent agency and control was transferred to Harvest House Ministries. In August of 2008 relocation of ministries from the Burdick Campus to the Main Campus was begun and by December that relocation was completed. At that time the Burdick Campus was sold.

Pastor Eastlack announced his resignation and acceptance of a position as CEO with World Hope International. His final weekend service was held on July 12 2009.

On August 30, the Rev. Patrick Jones candidated at EHWC and on September 1 received an overwhelming call. The sale of the

Burdick campus was completed in November.

During the past two years a memorial prayer service and two funerals conducted at the church have drawn wide attention with thousands in attendance—the prayer memorial service for those killed on Flight 3407 in February of 2009, for state trooper Jill Mat-tice on January 26, 2010, and for state trooper Kevin Dobson, in April of 2011.

PASTORS

Harold Burdick 1979-87
 Karl Eastlack 1987-2009
 Patrick B. Jones 2009-
 Associates:
 Richard A. Bennett
 Andrew T. Broad
 Justin R. Jones

LEVANT

Falconer, New York

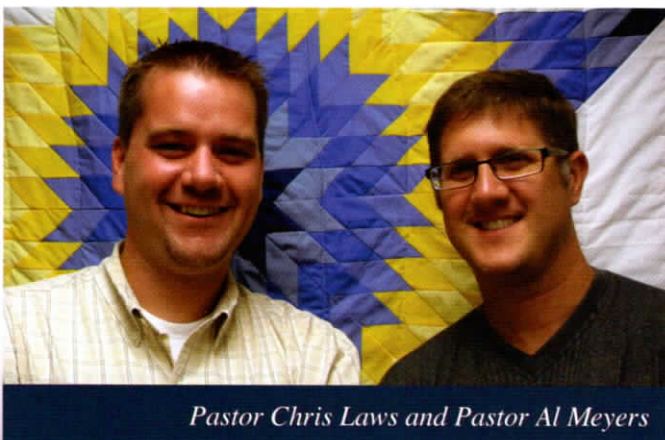
Beginnings of the Levant church may be traced to revival meetings held in a Levant schoolhouse by Emory Jones in 1866. Soon four women covenanted for church membership. During revival services the following year the school house burned. Thereafter services were held in the E.H. Glover home. By 1870 the membership had increased to 27. While money was scarce and challenges were great, the Wesleyan Methodist Church of Levant was dedicated debt-free in 1871. With little modification that structure served for much of the next century.

In 1962, additional land was purchased with intent to expand. In 1967 last services were held in the old church. The new church sanctuary, designed to seat 300 with a full basement, was dedicated Sunday April 30, 1967. Ten years later a new educational wing and fellowship hall and was dedicated—13 new Sunday school classrooms in the basement. Dedication day climaxed approximately two years of planning and working with total costs for the building and furnishings, \$96,500.

Levant Christian School was begun in 1979 under the leadership of Pastor Fred Moore and Dr. Larry



Rev. Howard Garver



Pastor Chris Laws and Pastor Al Meyers



J. Moore. The school began as Pre-Kindergarten through third grade and added one grade every year anticipating the first graduating class in 1989. In the early years classes were held in the church basement and at the Northside school building. Ground breaking ceremonies for a new facility were held and in 1987 the Levant Christian School and Family Life Center was dedicated with 600 in attendance. The new facility includes 18 classrooms on three floors, a full size gymnasium with staging, bleachers, locker rooms, an office area and teacher's lounge. The school operated until 2004 when it closed.

During the 1990s both the church sanctuary and gymnasium were used for Sunday morning services. In 1998 Pastor Ed Lindsey headed a project to upgrade the church sanctuary with upholstered chairs,

a large platform and modern technology and services were once again held in the church sanctuary. The education wing of the building underwent some remodeling in 2006 and 2007 to adapt it to better suit ministries of the church. The first floor became KidVenture, where children's ministry now takes place. This move freed up space for youth ministry to move into the main building. Echo Base Youth Ministries now operates in a modern facility which the youth helped to design.

Even with faithful giving, there remained significant indebtedness which affected the ministry of the church. Over the last 14 years the congregation sacrificed to pay off that debt — at a rate of \$100k per year. Additionally, the congregation gave for the remodeling and for global missions! When the church celebrated clearing the

mortgage in 2009, someone said, "Only God could do this during perhaps the worst financial crisis of our lifetime!"

The church opens its doors to the community, welcoming a Child Care Center, plus thousands of guests who participate in such programs as community basketball and volleyball leagues, home-school group classes, 4-H meetings, and NYS Regents testing.

PASTORS

Emory Jones	1866-1874
D. B. Douglas	1870-1871
Daniel W. Ball	1871-1876
E. J. Carroll	1876-1878
Emory Jones	1878-1880
G. W. Cooper	1880-1884
Mr. Pope	1884-1885
Daniel W. Ball	1885-1886
F. M. Mosher	1886-1887
Mr. Waldo	1887-1888
R. F. Dutcher	1888-1895
Albert D. Fero	1895-1898
Robert Jeffrey	1899-1903
Charles G. Waggoner	1903-1905
Albert D. Fero	1905-1909
Charles Sicard	1909-1917
H. R. LaVere	1917-1921
Arthur J. Taylor	1921-1926
Edward E. Elliott	1926-1940
George N. Osgood	1940-1948
Roy M. Gibbs	1948-1952
Daniel A. Heinz	1952-1960
Rev. Willard G. Steele	1960-1973
Rev. Fred J. Moore	1973-1994
Dr. Edward E. Lindsey	1994-2001
Christopher M. Baldwin	2001-2003
Rev. Howard Garver	2003-





HAMBURG

Hamburg, New York

"Yes, Hamburg would be a good place to start a church." So concluded a study group from Orchard Park Wesleyan, in 1957, about the budding village of Hamburg. Building a combination church and parsonage, services began in 1957.

The turning point for the church came in 1966 when some 30 families believed that God wanted them to have a real "church" with a sanctuary. These committed to a \$120,000 mortgage and began construction. Under the leadership of Rev. H. Mark Abbott, the church continued to grow and expanded its educational space in 1972.

During the late 1980s the church began to grow substantially. Project GROW God's Riches for Our World, an expansion,

costing over one million dollars, was approved. A building committee had met, reflected, studied, projected, and this was the result. Only one little problem. One woman had stood and said that she could see us building another building on another site with the kind of money we were about to spend.

This led to a conversation with Hamburg Assembly of God about the possibility of them purchasing our building in exchange for the property they

owned at McKinley and Bayview. After much prayer, they agreed to sell the parcel of land where The Wesleyan Church of Hamburg now stands.

Through construction setbacks, frustrations and difficulties, the conviction that "God is at work here" sustained us. During the congregation's last year in the old building, worship attendance increased significantly, confirming our conviction that "God is at work here."



On Father's Day, 1991, we moved into the new facility. Soon after we moved into the new building, we added an additional parking lot since the 11:00 service was bringing parking close to capacity. God brought a record number of people to worship, over 2,000 on Christmas Eve 1999.

To provide more effectively for those He was bringing, a contemporary service was added in the fall of 1992. After the overwhelming success of this service, another contemporary service was added on Saturday nights, and still another in the gym at 11:11 on Sunday mornings.

Our educational space became filled beyond capacity on both Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. A new building committee, charged with the construction of a larger educational unit, began working. Construction was completed in fall of 1995. In the fall of 2002, we opened a new Worship Center and Fellowship Mall. This building seats 1,500 and provides quality space for interaction after services and during the week.

Spring of 2005 began yet another chapter. God gave us an expanded vision for what He wants to accomplish here in the Southtowns, in the church at Buffalo, and around the globe. John Wood and the student ministry team were given the opportunity to impact hundreds and hundreds of youth as the The Hub opened its doors in March of 2005.

Ministries occurring in the church today include:

- A Student Ministry staff impacting hundreds of youth.
- Connection, Groups and Spiritual Formation ministries, providing growth and connection opportunities allowing people to experience the true life of the Body.
- Children's Ministry guides our team of hundreds of children's ministry partners into greater effectiveness as they introduce Jesus Christ to our children.
- The Worship Ministry brings order to our three contemporary and one traditional services and helps us keep our worship celebrative and engaging for both long time believers and the seekers God brings here.

- Outreach Ministry expanded as God called us to a greater identification with His love and greater identification of ourselves in His

work, locally and globally.

As a church, we have been excited to be a part of God's expanded vision for us, eager to see what He wants to accomplish through us.

PASTORS

Bernette Thomson

Roy Gibbs

Duane Janssen

Mark Abbott

Greg McClain has led the Hamburg congregation for 34 years, the longest tenure at one charge by a currently serving WNY District pastor.



HAMBURG STAFF

Front row from left: Greg Niver, Facility Manager; Laura Rauch, Executive Ministry Assistant, Steve Johnson, High School Pastor; Ken Taylor, Adult Discipleship; Kevin Beers, Student Ministry Pastor; Chris Campbell, DOO. Second Row: Chris Claassen, Children's Pastor; Mary Hardegen, Early Childhood Director; Gale Cirocco, Pastor of Congregational Care and Prayer; Grace Neary, Elementary Director; Tom Neary, Middle School Pastor; Trevor Kaufman, Student Worship Director; Top row: Darren Wieder, Assistant Worship Director; Jim Clements, Executive Pastor; Bill Nykyforchyn, Pastor of Spiritual Formation; Greg McClain, Senior Pastor; Paul Gartley, Outreach Pastor; Becci Wood, Connections Pastor; John Wood, Family Pastor; John VanZwieten, Groups Pastor



McCRAE BROOK

Eldred, Pennsylvania

In 1938 Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Grantier of Eldred, PA, with the assistance of Mrs. Hazel Soules, started a Sunday school in a home. After much prayer, Mr. Grantier and several others built the first mission chapel in McCrae Brook Valley on the old Grantier farm. Somewhat later the Rev. and Mrs. G.I. Norman, pastors of the Olean church, held evangelistic meetings in the area. Mrs. Norman continued to oversee the work until 1942 when the family moved out of the area.

After Mr. Grantier decided to attend Bible School he deeded the chapel to

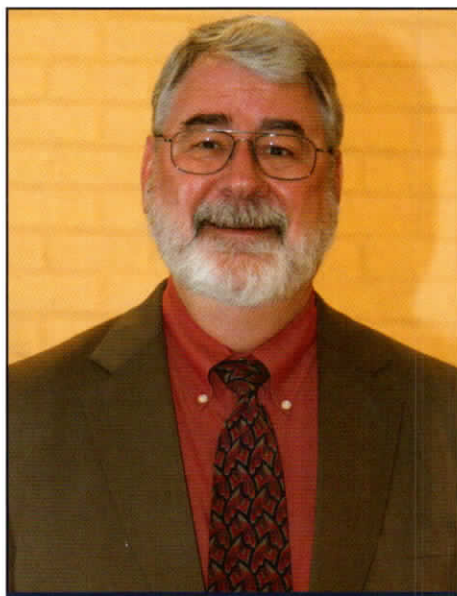
the congregation. In 1942 building enlargement began. Several district figures and G. I. Norman participated. That June the church was organized with 13 charter members. The congregation bought the Grantier home as a parsonage for \$1,200.

With growth came need for a larger building. The old chapel was sold for \$1,500 and a new 24 by 36 foot cement block building was constructed. Dedication was held Palm Sunday 1955 with Dr. Oliver G. Wilson, editor of *The Wesleyan Methodist* as speaker.

Through the 1960s the congregation

grew, the church outreach grew, particularly its DVBS ministry. Sunday School rooms were finished and many other facility improvements were completed, including parsonage remodeling. Much of this work was performed by supply pastor Robert Miller.

A new parsonage was built in 1974 during the pastorate of Rev. Ray Reed. There was significant growth during the four years before he died in 1978. Four years later the church had a mortgage burning for the parsonage. Subsequently further improvements have been completed. In 2009 Larry Miller donated land behind the church property for future projects.



Pastor Bill Nace

PASTORS

Kenneth Grantier	1938
Mrs. G.I. Norman	1942
Lloyd Binkley	1942-1944
Mark Larson	1944-1946
Roy Gibbs	1946-1948
Theodore Pagett	1948-1950
Harold Burchel	1950-1954
Ray Strauser	1954-1957
Howard McKenzie	1957-1958
Paul West	1959-1961
Arthur Fish	1961-1962
Bob Stone	1962-1968
Jini Moore	1968-1972
Larry Lutz	1961-1964
Arthur Fish	1964-65
Robert Stone	1965-66
Robert Miller (supply)	1966-1967
James Moore	1968-1974
Ray Reed	1974-1978
Clint Pearsall	1978-1981
Robin George	1981-1982
Bruce Allen	1982-1988
Roy Devries	1994-2005
Jim Bretzinger	2005-2006
Bill Nace	2007-





VALLEY

Canaseraga, New York



Pastor Jason Shambach

Valley Wesleyan Church was launched as a church plant by Rev. Eldyn Simons. Initially meeting in an established church in the area, members began to erect a church building in 1981, where the body still gathers for worship. Much of the labor and materials were supplied by church folk. Under Rev. Simons, the church body gained a critical mass in order to sustain its ministry. In 1996, a parsonage was added and paid for within two years.

Small additions and upkeep of the church building have occurred over time, from a road sign to a foyer addition to new lighting. Services have also been added to nourish the souls of congregants in Bible Study and reach out to the community through Kids' Club and Youth Group. Many of these improvements were administered during the tenure of Rev. Herb Shaffer.

Valley Wesleyan, for a number of years, competed up to the national level in the Wesleyan Bible Bowl due in large part to the dedication

of faithful members committed to the discipleship of its youth.

Attendance has declined in the past few years, but the church continues to pray for revival in its local mission field of Canaseraga. Challenges exist, but the Holy Spirit has continued to bless the body's ministry as we remain faithful with what we have been given.

PASTORS

Eldyn Simons	1981-1989
Herbert Shaffer	1989-2010
Jason Shambach	2010-

NORTH COLLINS

North Collins, New York

In 1961, this congregation was founded as "Christian Fellowship Church," an independent congregation. Pastor Anthony Gould was the church's first pastor, and the church building was built soon after. The church had seven pastors between 1961 and 1997, and had generally been a small congregation.

In 1998, the church was down to a dozen or so people, and they prayed about whether or not they should simply close the church. Instead, they met with leaders from the WNY District of The Wesleyan Church, and "North Collins Wesleyan Church" was born. With the help of several Wesleyan churches from around WNY who provided financial assistance and manpower to help "restart" the church, the church began a remarkable turnaround.

In 1998-99 our average worship

attendance was 31 people, in 2004-05 our average attendance was 75 people, but in 2009-10 we had grown to a new record for worship attendance with 163 people, or growth of 425% over 11 years. We have seen an increase in Sunday worship attendance every year since 2004.

North Collins Wesleyan is now the fastest-growing church in the Western New York District, and among the fastest-growing Wesleyan churches in North America. As a way of expressing our thanks to the Lord and to those churches who helped us in our time of need, we have supported church planting and church restarting efforts in WNY for the last several years.

The church received Excellence in Ministry awards in 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010.

PASTORS

Christian Fellowship Church

Anthony Gould	1962-1966
Paul Gingrich	1967-1971
Harry Tripp	1972-1979
Tom Mather	1979-1980:
Richard Vieldhouse	1981-1988
John Rosol	1989-1993
Michael Plog	1994-1997

North Collins Wesleyan Church

Paul Markell	1998-2004
Stan Kent	2003-2004
Steve & Tammy Dunmire	2005-



Pastors Steve & Tammy Dunmire





HIGGINS

Freedom, New York

No early written records exist concerning the Higgins church, but it is known that services were conducted there by Willard J. Houghton. The first business meeting was held in the new school house in 1846. Resolution 10 of that meeting reads: "To have meetings held in the new school house when not wanted for school purposes." Excerpts from a diary kept by one George Means are illuminating. April 14, 1878: Commenced Sunday School in the school house;" May 12, 1878: About 60 there;" June 1 1878: "Mr. Ball preached."

The church was organized in 1882, declared a church by conference president F.M. Mosher in 1885. In 1887 the church was incorporated as The Wesleyan Methodist Church of Higgins.

The Rev. Milton Putnam family was serving at Higgins when the district celebrated its centennial in 1961. The parsonage at that time was a brick



Pastor Bruce Smith

PASTORS

E.A. Sisson	1895-1896	William Osgood	1931-1933
In hands of president	1896-1897	Edward Rupert	1933-1936
G.W. Cooper	1897-1902	Noah and Mae Shaffer	1936-1939
J. Dean Brown	1902-1903	Everett E. Elliott	1939-1944
G.W. Cooper	1903-1909	Herman Smith	1944-1948
F. H. Wright	1909-1913	Howard Parks	1948-1951
Clarence White	1913-1916	Nelson D. Crowell	1951-1956
A.J. Taylor	1916-1921	Milton P. Putnam	1956-1967
J.A. Mann	1921-1922	Richard Reed	1967-1971
Mrs. Mina Mann	1922-1923	Bernard Roof	1971-1977
W.T. Roth	1923-1925	Gary L. Hicks	1977-1982
Pulpit supplied	1925-1926	Richard L. Engert	1982-1993
C.E. Horton	1926-1930	Larry C. Baney	1993-1998
In hands of president	1930-1931	J. Michael Walters	1998-2002
		Wesley Wittcop	2004-2004
		Bruce J. Smith	2004-

home that was acquired by the church in 1957. In April of 1966, the home was destroyed by fire. Within four months, a new ranch-style home, our present parsonage, was completed. The Putnams lived in all three of our parsonages at Higgins.

In 1968, our official name became Higgins Wesleyan Church following the merger of the Wesleyan Methodist and the Pilgrim Holiness churches.

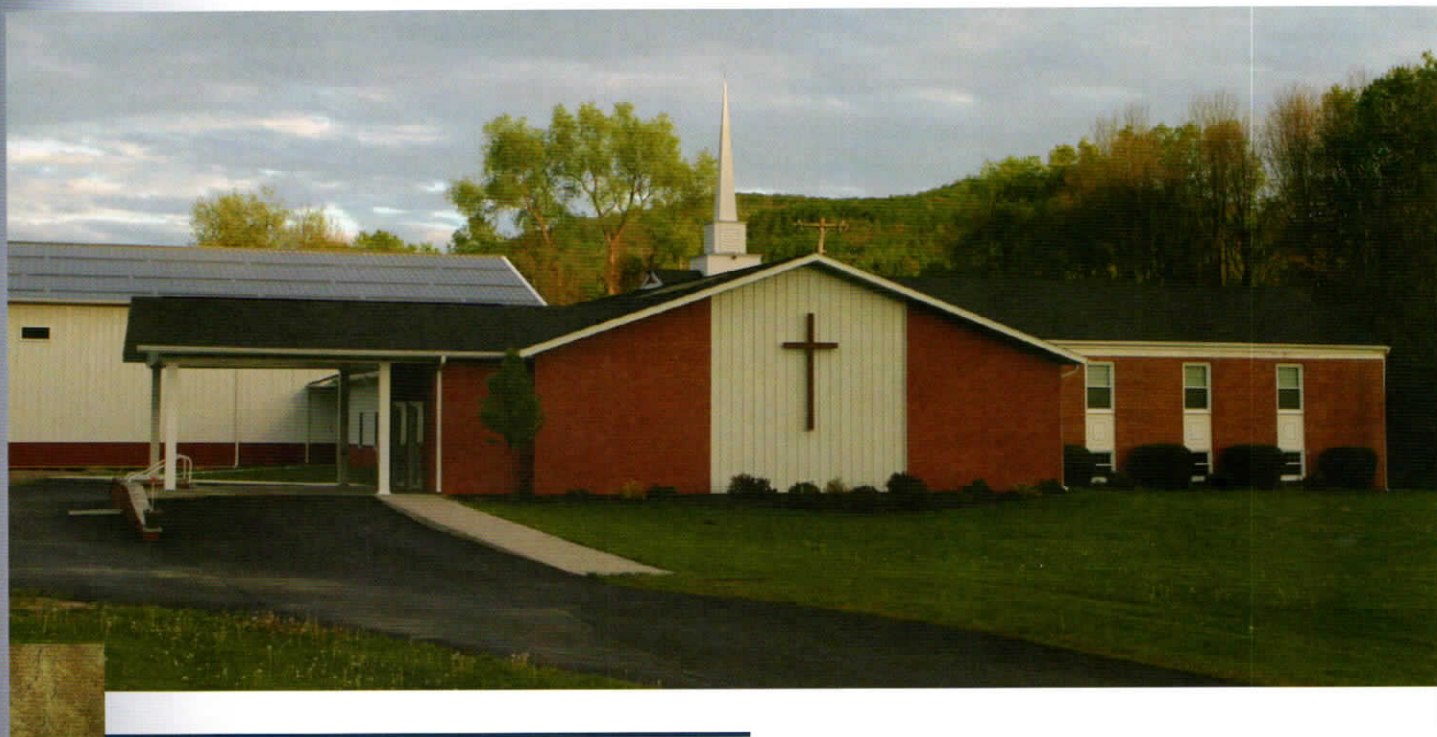
To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the church incorporation, a heritage weekend was held on July 11-12, 1987. Events included an old-fashioned Sunday school picnic, softball game, historic slide show, and a celebration service. Parsonage families and congregation members from earlier years returned to join our festivities.

In 1999, the church purchased the 16.5-acre farm surrounding the church property. The debt on this land was retired in one year. A picnic pavilion with a kitchen and restrooms was added to the new property in 2002. This facility was completed in 2007.



In June 2010, the congregation broke ground for a new church building. The new sanctuary will also serve as fellowship space, and will have a kitchen, nursery, rest rooms, and two Sunday school rooms on ground level. The present church building will continue in service for education space. The new sanctuary is anticipated to be ready for use in the summer of 2011.





Pastor Robin George

BROOKSIDE

Wellsville, New York

In the year 1936 a group of not more than 10 desired a Wesleyan Methodist Church in Wellsville. For a time they met in their homes. Then the Rev. and Mrs. George Norman, pastors of the Olean Wesleyan Methodist Church, assisted them. On March 30, 1938, the group was officially organized as a Wesleyan Methodist Church by the Rev. A. J. Taylor, president of the then known Lockport Conference.

The first public meeting place was on Witter Avenue. Three pastors served the group there. During this time the regular membership had increased to 21 with five associates. However, several moved away until only five of the original group remained. In April, 1941, when the Rev. and Mrs. Erwin Enty came to pastor the work there were two places of worship: Witter Avenue and a tent at Procter Terrace.

In 1949, the property and building at 211 West State Street were purchased from the Potter Candy Company. This building was

built in 1916 by Mr. E. D. Standards of 188 South Main Street and was later sold to the Potter Company. On August 13, 1949 the building was dedicated as The Wesleyan Methodist Church of Wellsville.

The work at Wellsville had been of slow growth. A marked increase in interest and influence had been noted since the radio ministry was started in 1957 by the Rev. Alton J. Shea. During the three years of the radio ministry many letters of appreciation were received telling of the spiritual blessings to those who had heard the Gospel over the air. In the Spring of 1957 the pastor began a ministry to an early Sunday morning group in Alfred. After a time, the work there was taken under the direction of several evangelical ministers.

Outgrowing their location on West State Street, a building program was initiated and on December 14, 1969 the congregation moved into their new building located on Route 417, East of Wellsville. Dedicated in January 1970, it housed a sanctuary seating 150 and provided room for approximately the same in the Sunday School. Evangelism had been a keynote of the Wellsville work. This ministry has aided in the building of Christian character and additions to the church membership roll.

Under the ministry of Rev. Edward Bean the church gained a clear sense of scholarly Bible teaching and preaching. Following these productive years of ministry, Rev. Arthur Yeager would later help to build strong family connections and a significant outreach to the youth. A number of teens from that period in the church's growth have since answered the call to ministry. Rev. Gordon Chapman tended the church through a strong personal calling ministry and an

active bus ministry that served then as a catalyst for times of unprecedented numerical growth, particularly in the Sunday School.

Rev. Robin George was called as the church's pastor in 1984 and used of God to bring to the church a fresh sense of renewed hope and vision. In 1988 the church celebrated its 50th Anniversary with a monthly special emphasis throughout the year and held a "Church Celebration" on Sunday, June 5, 1988, with Pastor George, and former pastors Alton Shea, Edward Bean, Arthur Yeager, and Gordon Chapman each in attendance. Rev. Alton Shea presented the morning message.

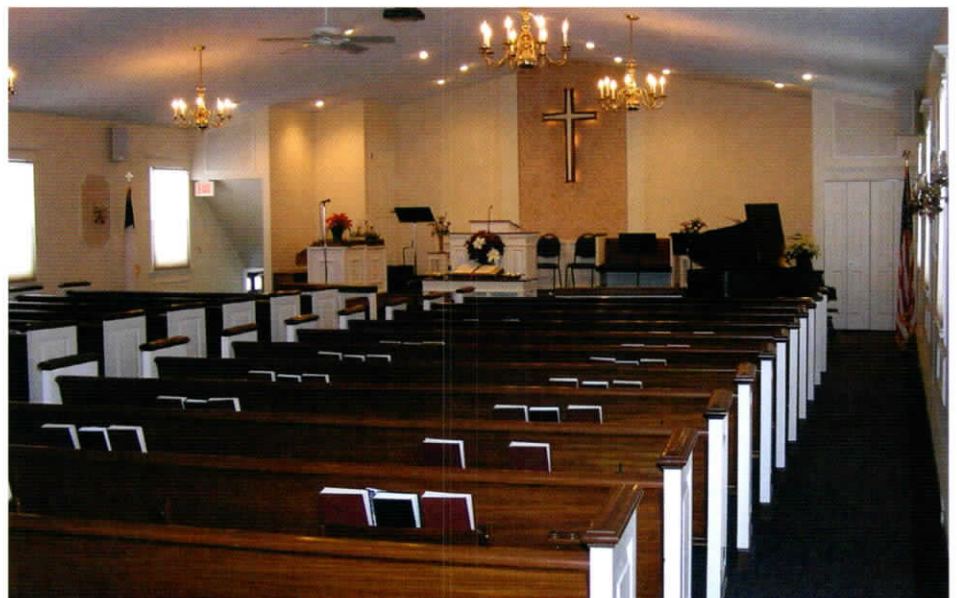
A key period of shaping was followed by the church transitioning to a new place for advancing God's Kingdom. Refocusing was implemented in the Fall of 2005 with the church's mission being clearly defined, along with verifying foundational values, mission focus, ministry values, and the development of a renewed vision of "Widening the Circles of Christ's Love."

Groundbreaking for a new addition took place on Sunday, October 8, 2006 and the project was later

PASTORS

Eugene Rieber	
George Visingard	1937-39
Arthur Osgood	1939-41
Erwin Enty	1941-46
Mark Larson	1946-48
Harry Girts	1948-50
Howard McKenzie	1950-53
Robert Klatt	1953-56
Alton Shea	1956-70
Malcolm Ellis	1970-71
Edward Bean	1971-76
Arthur Yeager	1976-80
Gordon Chapman	1980-84
Robin George	1984-
Assistant:	
Carol Schweigart	

completed and then dedicated on Sunday, April 27, 2008 with District Superintendent, Rev. Neil A. Koppen, participating at the milestone event. Later on, yet another multi-purpose addition was constructed beginning in April of 2010, which soon will serve as the church's new activities/fellowship center.



FIRST

Bradford, Pennsylvania

Since its beginning the church has had a colorful history, meeting in seven locations, had 22 pastors—during one 10-month period in 2004-2005, there were three different pastors with services held in two different buildings.

In August 1907 a tent meeting was held on the ball grounds on West Washington Street by Gertrude Preston, Belle Willihan, Earl Cookson and Arnold Hendricks. Thereafter services were held intermittently in a structure at the corner of Pearl and W. Washington, sometimes with Houghton Seminary students ministering. For a time no services were held. In October of 1908 Rev. Levi Fenton became the first full time pastor with weekly services held in the Flatiron Building on Barbour Street. In 1910 a Sunday School was first established with a first offering of 64 cents.

The church was officially incorporated as Bradford Wesleyan Methodist Mission in 1911. Each member was asked to pay \$1 a year toward janitor services. The board ap-

proved purchase of a "one burner gasoline lamp on standards" to be used for street meetings. The next year Bethesda Home for Girls on Boylston Street was purchased for use as a church building. Again the church site was moved, this time to a Universalist Church. It was later then sold to a Jewish congregation with services held temporarily in a Pearl Street hall.

Sale of the parsonage proceeds were used to buy a lot at the corner of Bishop & Boylston Streets. The congregation worshipped in the WCTU hall during church construction. On October 14, 1923, the church was dedicated, its name officially designated as First Wesleyan Methodist Church of Bradford.

During 1924 revival services with evangelist WW McCord 30 KKK members in full uniform entered the church and offered the evangelist a monetary gift toward his ministry. Rev. McCord told them that because the Wesleyan Church stood against secret societies, he couldn't accept any gift



until the men showed their faces. The Klansmen lifted their hoods so that only the evangelist and pastor could see their faces. The evangelist then accepted the money. Upon leaving, the Klansmen were attacked by people on the street and a near riot ensued. When he departed Bradford, Rev. McCord had a police escort due to threats made against him for accepting a gift from the Klan.

For a month in 1932 children under 18 were banned from Sunday school and all public places because of a polio epidemic. Having already added a parsonage and a balcony, the congregation raised the church so a basement could be added under it, providing classroom space. Two decades later a two-story annex added classrooms, fellowship hall, kitchen and offices, at a cost of \$14,000.

In 1958 with Sunday School attendance running in excess of 100, a lot was purchased for what was advertised as the future home of the First Wesleyan Methodist Church. Instead, the money was used for building improvements and new Sunday School equipment. In June of 1963 the mortgage on the annex was retired. During the late 1960s and early '70s decline in the oil business caused many to move away and church attendance dropped severely. Still, a new parsonage was purchased to replace the old one. During the mid 70's church member Anne Bates became the first female recipient of the district's Lay Person of the Year Award. In July of 1986 the pastor suggested that the board schedule a church retreat "to see where we are as a church and set goals as to where do we go from here." New ministries arising out of that assessment included Harvest Festival as an alternative to trick or treating, Church in the Meadow as forerunner of Church in the Park, which was held for several years in Callahan Park every August. For a

decade the church operated Father's Face Ministries to families who had suffered miscarriage or loss of a child.

Over the past 15 years the church built a ramp to make the building handicapped accessible, held its 75th anniversary at the Boylston Street location, and inaugurated a week of prayer to begin each new year. A clothing giveaway was begun in a room in the church, spread to the fellowship hall, then got its own building and was named Matthew 25:36 Shoppe. The church and pastor lead the fight against a proposed strip club on Main Street.

In 2002 the Sunday School received an award for having more people saved in one year than any other in the district. For two years the church sponsored Jubilation Fest during August – a day-long celebration downtown with various Christian performers and speakers, food, children's activities, prayer for anyone who needed it, Bible and tract distribution. Hundreds attended and heard the Gospel.

Again needing more space, the church bought the former Sawyer United Methodist Church at 692 S. Kendall Ave. and after redecorating and renovations, began services there August 8 of 2004. During the former building's demolition a gas leak was discovered which, had it ignited during a service, could have killed or injured many.

October 3-5, 2008: The church held a centennial weekend celebration. Additionally, Women's Ministry, which had been dormant for several years, was re-launched. Last fall following ReFocusing efforts, Pastor Kevin and the LBA presented a new church logo and vision statement. And this year the church launched Connecting Groups which 80 percent of adults attend.

PASTORS

Levi E. Fenton	1908-1912
C. Leslie Smith	1912-1914
Maurice A Gibbs	1914-1916
William Donaldson	1916-1918
David Green	1918-1919
David Scott	1919-1920
George Bathurst	1920-1921
I. A. Griesse	1921-1922
C. I. Armstrong	1922-1933
David Anderson	1933-1950
Price Stark	1950-1956
Lloyd Mack	1956-1958
Carl Schultz	1958-1965
David Buck	1965-1972
William Thurston	1972-1986
George Eberly	1986-1987
Paul Lawrence	1987-1988
Daniel Heinz	1988-1993
David Souder	1993-2004
Daniel Downer	2004-2005
Aaron Moore	2005-2007
Kevin Murrell	2007-

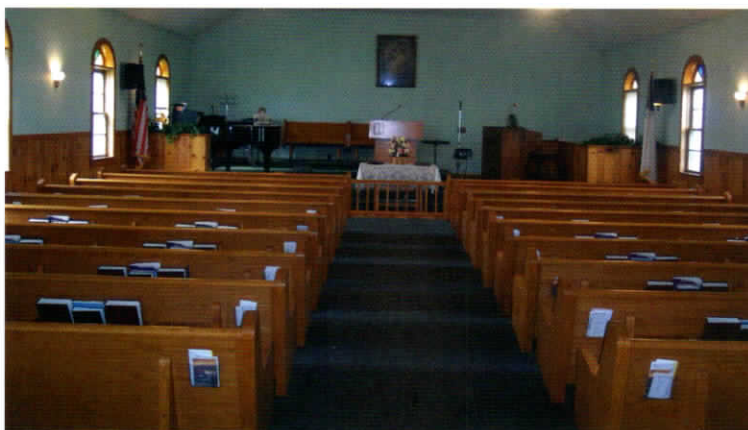


Pastor Kevin Murrell



EAST LEON

Cattaraugus, New York



In 1878 the Rev. F.M. Mosher began holding meetings in private homes in Cattaraugus. As interest increased congregants rented space in a wagon shop, calling it The Tabernacle. The church was formed with seven charter members and incorporated. In October of 1880 the trustees purchased property for \$310, and later erected a church building.

During 1883-1887 the church built a parsonage, thereafter installing water into the parsonage and adding security for the horse sheds. A petition from the New Albion Church asking for admission to the Cattaraugus charge was granted, and in 1897-1901 the Snyder Hill class requested release from the church in order to join the East Leon group.

During the pastorate of the Rev. F.S. Lewis the church experienced a revival under the leadership of evangelist



Pastor Allen Chase

George Bernard. During the 11-year ministry of James Bain, Sunday school rooms were added and parsonage improvements were made. More Sunday school rooms were added during the pastorate of Robert Lewis. A pioneer spirit inspired the congregation to an outreach into Little Valley where they were instrumental in founding a pioneer appointment.

Through the 1960s the church cooperated extensively with other churches in the area. There was some decline in attendance as older members died and younger people moved to places with better employment opportunities. Still, the congregation met all obligations, and made notable plant improvements.



PASTORS

F.M. Mosher	1878-1882
R.F. Dutcher	1882-1883
G.W. Sibley	1883-1887
Edgar Fuller	1887-1888
Sylvester Bedford	1888-1894
C.H. Dow	1894-1897
M.E. Williams	1897-1901
A.L. Schuman	1897-1901
Levi Bird	1901-1903
Charles Sicard	1903-1907
F.S. Lee	1907-1913
J.R. Babcock	1913-1918
James A. Bain	1918-1929
A. J. Taylor	1929-1939
Noah Shaffer	1939-1944
J.R. Redstone	1944-1946
D.W. Summers	1947-1950
Glenn Barnett	1950-1951
Theodore R. Pagett	1951-1954
Robert Lewis	1954-1959
David J. Buck	1959-62
Paul J. Larson	1962-64
Paul S. Lawrence	1964-67
Milton J. Putnam	1967-70
Floyd Merriam(supply)	1970-
Richard L. Engert	1995
Merton Burnham	
Richard L. Engert	
Allen S. Chase	



NORTH PARK

Cuba, New York

Mrs. Hazel Balcome, a school teacher, working with her pastor, Frank Smith of Rushford, began a Sunday school in 1933. Assisting were Houghton College students with financial help by a Houghton Church Sunday school class. Preaching services were added in 1940, and the work was moved from Moulton Chapel to rented space in the Odd Fellows Hall in Cuba. The Rev. Gordon Wolfe conducted a series of meetings and during the ministry of Jack Harris the church was organized with 10 charter members in March of 1946. The people purchased a house, dismantled, moved and rebuilt it as a parsonage. Largely through the labors of Pastor Osgood it was occupied debt-free on Thanksgiving Day, 1949.

Excavation for the church basement began in May of 1951. First services



Pastor Jonathan Ward

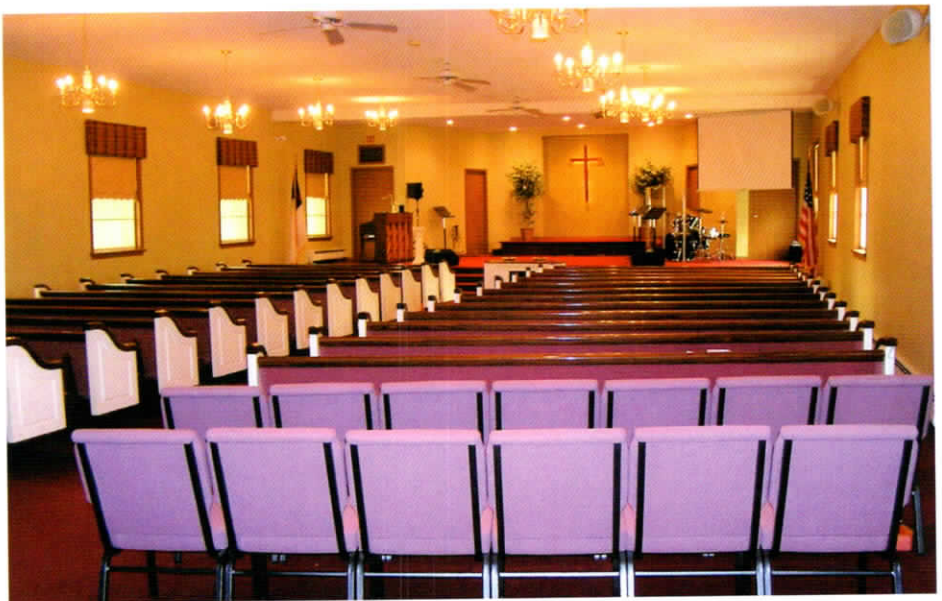
PASTORS

Hazel Balcom		George N. Osgood	1948-1957
Frank Smith	1933	Adrian R. Everts 1	1957-1959
Various Sunday School workers including Houghton College students through	1940	Mary E. Bennett	1959-1963
S.S and church	1940-1944	Harold McIntire	1963-1967
Herman Smith		George Jones	1967-1971
Helen Reynolds		Lowell Watkins	1971
Genevieve Rathbun		Evans Mitchell	1972-1978
H. Blaine West	1944-1946	Steve Steele	1978-1982
Jack Harris	1946-1947	Michael Thompson	1982-1986
A. Gordon Wolfe	1947-1948	Edward Crandall	1986-1989
		Steve Steele	1989-2002
		DeWayne (Russ) Martin	2002
		Don Nagy (assistant)	2003
		Jonathan Ward	2004

were held in November of 1952 with a formal opening Easter Sunday of 1953. Thanks to skills and significant labor donated by the congregation, the superstructure and interior were completed with first services held in June of 1955. At that time the church was renamed as North Park Wesleyan. The church was faced in brick in 1957 with final dedication held in 1959. The mortgage was paid off in 1963.

During this period a then 10-year-old Michael Poore was introduced to Christian faith via VBS. Today Michael is a pastor in the district. In the late '60s the congregation grew significantly in numbers and community outreach. Several plant enhancements occurred, including an annex which added Sunday School and youth space, plus parking. Growth continued in the '80s including record attendance in all departments, and further plant enhancements and expansion.

Over the past decade youth ministries have grown further and outreach has produced numerous



conversions and new members. In 2009 a new parsonage was completed and that November the church celebrated its golden anniversary using the theme "Looking Back in Gratitude, Looking Forward with Hope." Today the former parsonage has been designated a "mission house," used as a place of transition for traveling and short-term missionaries.



PASTORS

Among pastors between 1843 and 1884:

Luther Lee
Z.T. Petty
Mr. Pepper
John Watson
F.R. Masten
John Kitchell
E.P. Barnes
A. Bixbey
G.M. Harris
John Busch
Howard C. Harris
G.M. Hardy
D.W. Ball
John Randolph
William Willihan
Willard J. Houghton
1884-1919
George W. Cooper
A.W. Hall
A.R. Dodd
A.L. Shumann
Ralph Davy
H.W. McDowell

H.J. Bullock
Dean S. Bedford
E. W. Bruce
H.C. Bedford
E.E. Cookson
George E. Bathurst
L.C. Mattson
J.A. Bain
Royal Woodhead
Noah R. Shaffer
George E. Failing
Robert N. Lytle
Daniel Heinz
Earl Thompson
Everett E. Elliott
Dale Gainer

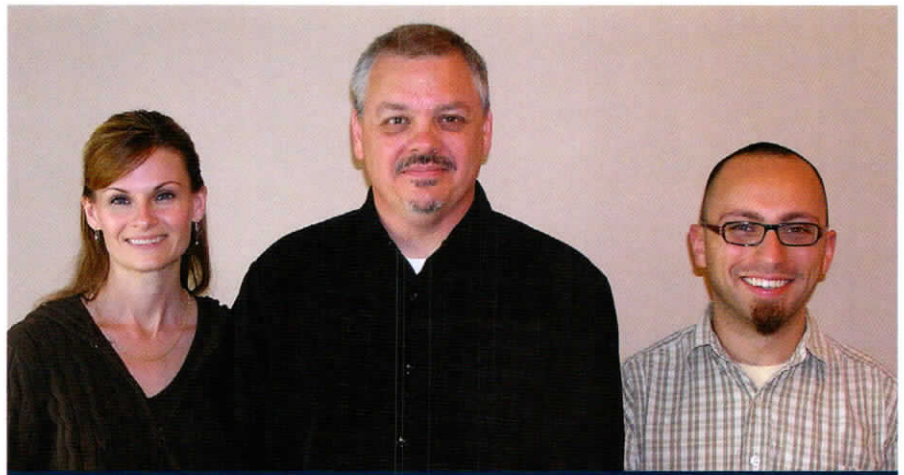
David H. Scott 1919-1955
David Shannon 1955-1969
Reginald Holton 1969-1976
Nelson Crowell 1976-1987
Charles Kent 1987-1990
Myron Simmons 1990-1992
John Hartman 1992-2006
Benjamin Last 2007-2010
William Lawson 2010-

FILLMORE

Fillmore, New York

In 1843, the year the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America was organized, the Fillmore church was organized by John Watson after some congregants seceded from the Methodist Episcopal Church of Short Tract. Meetings were held in a log school house on the east side of the Genesee River. Two years later that school house was abandoned, and the congregation worshiped in another log school house near the site of the present church.

James Wadsworth donated the lot for a simple 30 by 40-foot rectangular structure which was erected in 1850 at a cost of \$795.50 on the site of today's parsonage. Then Connectional Editor, the Rev. Luther Lee, preached the dedicatory sermon in 1851. The church was the first of its kind in the area. It had 50 members and an average Sunday school attendance of 60.



Pastors Alicia J. McGeorge, William Lawson, and Michael Wrigglesworth

The church was closed during the winter of 1880-81. Then Willard J. Houghton and D.W. Ball organized a Sunday school which met every two weeks. A year later Fillmore and Houghton united for services for a time. In 1884 the church building was moved to its present site. It was lengthened 10 feet, the interior was remodeled and a spire and vestibule were added. A parsonage was built in 1917. Leading up to the district centennial the church plant was improved and expanded to serve a growing Sunday School. Also before the district

centennial several former pastors and members went on to be missionaries.

To provide needed classroom space, in 1966 a two-story Christian Education building was built adjacent to the church for \$25,000; members of the congregation providing much of the labor. In 1980-81 the church building and the C. E. building were attached and the church sanctuary was gutted and remodeled. Included was removal of the balcony, replacement of the pews, and a reversal of the sanctu-

ary interior's direction. This work was completed by the local congregation—nearly 2,500 hours of labor.

In 1993 the congregation celebrated its 150th anniversary – a testimony to God's faithfulness! This milestone was marked by special services held on May 30th. Several former pastors of the church attended, the earliest being Dr. George Failing (1935-1941), who later had served as editor of the denominational periodical. John Hartman was senior pastor at the time of this celebration.

Further building expansion in 2002 included a new kitchen, bathrooms, expanded fellowship hall, a new garage, and first floor offices. Construction costs totaled \$100,000. The project was finished through the generous gifts of the congregation and the assistance of the Wesleyan Investment Foundation. That mortgage was paid off in 2010. As the district celebrates its sesquicentennial Fillmore's average Sunday morning attendance averages 200.





LITTLE VALLEY

Little Valley, New York



In November, 1958, a group of women met for prayer asking God's guidance concerning a Christian work in Little Valley. Those present were Elsie Gorsline, Margaret Hammond, Helen Taylor, Emily Mettler, Bernice Beaver, and Viola Chamberlain.

At this meeting they decided to rent the store at 101 Park Place and begin a full schedule of services the first Sunday in December, trusting the Lord to send the necessary finances. Rev. Robert Lewis, pastor of the Cattaraugus Wesleyan Methodist Church, accepted a temporary appointment as supply pastor.

Worship services and Sunday school classes were begun under his leadership. Initially six families attended. Records show 16 to 20 in Sunday school and morning worship service. As the group prayed, their numbers increased, and when the old church building at Ellicott was donated to them, their faith

and trust were further strengthened. Shortly thereafter, the Lockport Conference Pioneer Board granted the request that Little Valley be considered a pioneer work.

On Easter Sunday, 1959, a special offering was received toward purchase of a building lot. Two lots were available. Believing God for future expansion, the larger lot was obtained. When \$1,000 had been paid, the lot owners canceled the balance of debt, deeding the property to the church. Ground was broken and the building commenced. The plans provided for an educational facility that included a chapel on the main floor with Sunday school rooms in the basement. Space was allotted in the rear of the building for a four-room apartment.

First services were held in the chapel on September 6, 1959; and on January 17, 1960, the chapel was dedicated and average worship attendance rose from 35 to 53. However, its "pioneer" status remained and they received assistance from the district until June, 1972. Meanwhile plant improvements continued.

In 1974 the congregation burned the mortgage. Sunday morning services were broadcast for the first time over WGGO. In 1985, Rev. Milton Putnam came out of retirement to serve the church. Under his leadership, a building fund was started in order to raise the money for a parsonage. Pastor Putnam's willingness to work for very limited pay enabled the church to raise \$25,000 over his two-year stint. Then God provided the opportunity to purchase, debt-free, a spacious five bedroom house and garage belonging to the estate of Mrs. Lela Fuss, who had been a faithful member.



Pastor Buck Hall

Under Pastor Hall's ministry the first ever baptisms by emersion were done in the sanctuary, and several new paradigms for various weekly ministries were instituted. Hall has led the congregation in a capital campaign to raise funds for an addition to include a new foyer, bathrooms and sanctuary. The project began in May, 2010. Construction of the addition began on schedule the first week in May, 2010. Since then, Pastor Buck and volunteers have worked diligently on the project. When the project is completed by Fall of 2011, it will be debt-free.

Little Valley Wesleyan Church is much more than its facilities. It is a living body of believers and those who have been brought to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ on account of their efforts.

PASTORS

Robert Lewis	1958
Adrian R. Everts	1959
Charles Wheeler	1960-64
George Osgood	1964-66
Theodore Pagget	1966-68
Don Buck	1968-69
Louis Huasele	1969-72
Donald Hanins	1972-73
Philip Bornheimer	1973-74
Ervin Rhodes	1974-81
Robert McCarthy	1981-85
Milton Putnam	1985-87
Nelson Crowell	1987-92
Charles Bowers	1992-94
Todd Mitchell	1996-99
Paul Moore	1999-2007
Clyde (Buck) Hall	2007-

OAKLAND

Nunda, New York

PASTORS

Bert H. Hall	1942-43
Roy Gibbs	1943-46
Maurice Moore	1946-48
Eldyn Simons	1948-56
George Osgood	1956-64
Thomas Black	1964-68
Raymond Reed	1968-74
Phil Bornheimer	1974-75
Thomas Janowski	1975-78
William Dietsche	1978-80
Emerson Twining	1980-93
Michael Poore	1993-2001
Rev. Paul Palmer	2003-
Associate:	
Benjamin Beardsley	



In 1939 Ella Hillpot and Elisabeth Eyler of Houghton, NY, with the help of Houghton College students, started a Sunday School in a former school building. A year later that building and land were purchased for \$150. In 1946 the first parsonage was purchased.

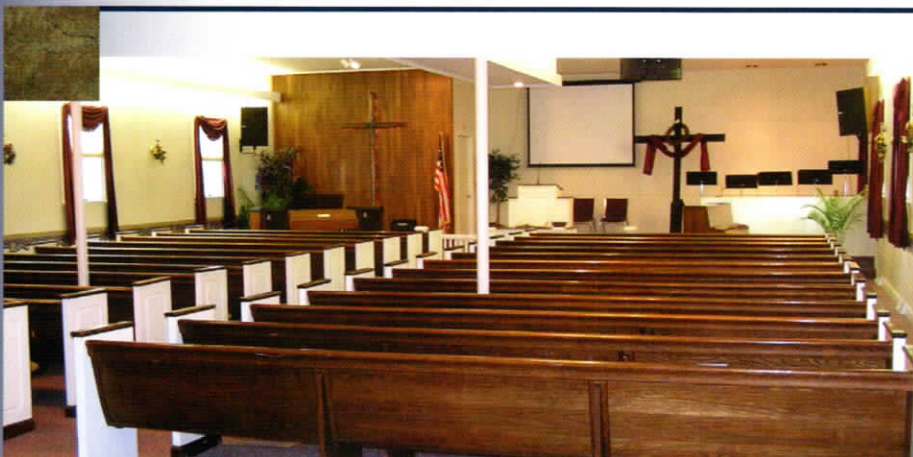
The church was organized with six charter members in 1951—Rev. and Mrs. Eldyn Simons, Melvin Hulin, Mrs. Edith Clark, Mrs. Olive Cox, and Mrs. Ethel Simpson. A class room was built on and in 1952 the parsonage sold for \$1,100 and a new parsonage was bought for \$5,000. A front addition was added in 1964, as were bathrooms and running water. In 1968 the congregation purchased property next to the church for a parking

lot and added a classroom on the west side of the building. The sanctuary and basement under it were built in 2001.

In 2001 the church sent a team to Haiti for its first short term missions trip. In 2003 the church received a new roof and remodeled second floor, and the congregation purchased a house on the east side of its property for \$30,000 and sold its former parsonage for \$25,000. The new house was turned into Lawson House for free clothing distribution. Subsequently a two-car garage was made into a youth room. Other upgrades include handicapped parking with ramp and sidewalk in front of the church and a remodeled adult classroom.



Pastor Paul Palmer



SESQUICENTENNIAL EVENTS

June 17-24, 2011
Haiti Missions Trip

July 31, 2011
Sesquicentennial Celebration, Wesley Chapel, Houghton
"Looking Back" Dr. C. L. (Bud) Bence, speaker

September 2011
Haiti Missions Trip

Fall 2011
Forty Days of United Prayer—"Looking Up"

October 21-22, 2011
"Follow" Regional Wesleyan Youth Conference
The Wesleyan Church of Hamburg

Feb. 1-10, 2012
Haiti Missions Trip

April 20, 2012
"Laughing Out," comedian Tim Hawkins
Eastern Hills Wesleyan Church



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Members of the sesquicentennial celebration committee from left: Chair—Robin George, Kevin Beers, Cathy Kelley, Steve Johnson, Joey Jennings, Dean Liddick and Paul Markell. Special thanks to Houghton College communication department professor Dave

Huth for this commemorative book's design and production; to Robert Vogan for pastoral photography, and to Register Graphics, Randolph, NY for producing this edition of 600 copies, July 2011.

Building for Eternity



Above: Original art commissioned for the 1961 centennial brochure was created by the late Aileen Ortlip Shea, Pulitzer Prize winning artist, teacher, pastor's wife, missionary, one time YMWB / WKFM director. This illustration is one among hundreds she produced for the district and denomination during an eight-decade career.