

1959

FROM
LITTLE FLOCK
TO
GREAT PARISH

A HISTORY
OF
ST. LUKE'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

JAMESTOWN, NEW YORK

TO A FAITHFUL PARISHIONER

ST. LUKE'S PARISH IS DEEPLY INDEBTED TO MRS. EVERARD P. MILLER FOR THE MANY HOURS OF CAREFUL RESEARCH AND PAINSTAKING EFFORT SHE HAS GIVEN TO THE PREPARATION OF THIS HISTORY. THROUGHOUT SHE HAS MADE EVERY EFFORT TO GIVE AN IMPARTIAL AND SCRUPULOUSLY HONEST INTERPRETATION OF EVENTS FROM THE AVAILABLE RECORDS AND HER PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE.

"LUCY", AS SHE IS KNOWN TO HER MANY CLOSE FRIENDS, HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF ST. LUKE'S SINCE 1885. FROM 1910 TO 1943 SHE WAS A MISSIONARY TEACHER, SERVING ON THE FACULTIES OF ST. HILDA'S DIOCESAN SCHOOL AND CENTRAL CHINA COLLEGE IN WUCHANG. SHE IS ONE OF OUR SENIOR PARISHIONERS WHO IS LOVED AND RESPECTED BY HER FELLOW-MEMBERS, WHO CONTRIBUTES GENEROUSLY OF HER OWN VAST STORE OF KNOWLEDGE AND DEPTH OF FAITH TO US, AND WHOSE WISE COUNSEL AND UNDERSTANDING HAVE BEEN OF IMMEASURABLE HELP TO THE WOMEN'S WORK IN THE DEANERY AND DIOCESE.

THIS HISTORY IS PUBLISHED AS A TRIBUTE TO A GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT WHO HAS DEVOTED HER LIFE TO THE CHURCH. IT IS DISTRIBUTED FOR MEMBERS WHO HAVE SHARED IN SOME PART OF IT AND FOR NEWER MEMBERS TO ACQUAINT THEM WITH A PARISH THAT GREW FROM "A LITTLE FLOCK" TO ITS PRESENT STATUS.

MRS. MILLER ACKNOWLEDGES WITH GRATEFUL THANKS THE ASSISTANCE SO GRACIOUSLY AND GLADLY GIVEN IN THIS WORK BY MRS. STEWART B. MYERS WHOSE FAMILY DID SO MUCH FOR ST. LUKE'S THROUGH THE GREATER PART OF ITS LIFE. "MAY THE GLORY OF THE LATTER YEARS OF THIS PARISH BE GREATER THAN THE GLORY OF ITS FORMER YEARS."

ST. LUKE'S DAY, 1959

IN THE BEGINNING

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR LEFT THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN THE FORMER COLONIES WEAK AND DISORGANIZED. THOUSANDS OF ITS ADHERENTS, BEING LOYALISTS, HAD FLED TO CANADA. AMONG THEM WERE MANY CLERGYMEN, UNWILLING TO BREAK THE OATH OF FEALTY THEY HAD TAKEN AT THEIR ORDINATION. OTHER THOUSANDS HAD GROWN LUKEWARM IN THEIR RELIGIOUS PRACTICES, FEARING THE STIGMA OF BEING SYMPATHETIC TOWARD ENGLAND. HOWEVER, THE BASIC REASON FOR THE WEAKNESS OF THE CHURCH WAS THE MISTAKEN POLICY OF SUCCESSIVE ARCHBISHOPS OF CANTERBURY WHO HAD REFUSED TO SEND BISHOPS TO THE AMERICAN COLONIES.

FORTUNATELY THERE WERE SOME ABLE AND DETERMINED PRIESTS WHO SET OUT TO REMEDY THE LACK OF BISHOPS. IT WASN'T EASY. INDEED, THE REV. SAMUEL SEABURY, WHO BECAME OUR FIRST BISHOP, WAS OBLIGED TO GO TO THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN SCOTLAND TO BE CONSECRATED. THREE YEARS LATER, IN 1787, A GROUP OF ENTHUSIASTIC CHURCHMEN HELPED TWO OTHER PRIESTS, THE REV. WILLIAM WHITE AND THE REV. SAMUEL PROVOOST, TO RECEIVE CONSECRATION IN THE NOW LIBERALIZED MOTHER CHURCH. MEANWHILE, SEVERAL ATTEMPTS HAD BEEN MADE TO ORGANIZE THE SCATTERED COLONIAL PARISHES INTO A NATIONAL CHURCH. LITTLE WAS ACCOMPLISHED, HOWEVER, UNTIL THE DECISIVE CONVENTION OF 1789. THIS CONVENTION, IN A SERIES OF SESSIONS EXTENDING OVER A PERIOD OF THREE MONTHS, ADOPTED A CONSTITUTION, RATIFIED A BODY OF CANONS, AND PUBLISHED AN AMERICAN BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER.

BY THAT TIME PIONEERS FROM THE ORIGINAL THIRTEEN STATES HAD BEGUN THEIR LONG WESTWARD TREK. THE FAMOUS HOLLAND LAND COMPANY BOUGHT ALL THE WESTERN SECTION OF NEW YORK AND BEGAN ENERGETICALLY TO DEVELOP IT. CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY WAS SETTLED LARGELY BY VERMONTERS AND FARMERS FROM CONNECTICUT. SINCE THESE PIONEERS FOLLOWED THE COMPARATIVELY LEVEL TRAIL ALONG THE SHORE OF LAKE ERIE, THE NORTHERN PART OF OUR COUNTY WAS SETTLED BEFORE THAT SECTION SOUTH OF THE HIGH HILLS WHICH WE SOMETIMES CALL "THE RIDGE". FREDONIA, WESTFIELD AND EVEN MAYVILLE, JUST SOUTH OF THE RIDGE, WERE ALREADY THRIVING VILLAGES BEFORE THE FIRST JAMES PRENDERGAST CHANCED UPON OUR WATER POWER WHILE SEARCHING FOR SOME HORSES WHICH HAD STRAYED.

IT IS NOT DIFFICULT TO ACCOUNT FOR THE PREDOMINANCE OF CONGREGATIONAL CHURCHES IN THE FIRST SETTLEMENTS OF

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY FOR THE EARLY SETTLERS WERE DESCENDANTS OF THE PILGRIMS. IN OUR COMMUNITY THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH WAS ORGANIZED IN 1816, ONLY SIX YEARS AFTER THE FIRST SETTLEMENT AT THE RAPIDS, AS JAMESTOWN WAS CALLED IN THE EARLY DAYS. SINCE IT WAS THE ONLY CHURCH IN THE VICINITY, ALL CHRISTIANS ATTENDED ITS SERVICES.

IN 1824, HOWEVER, A GROUP FROM THIS CHURCH MADE ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE REV. RUFUS MURRAY, RECTOR OF ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN MAYVILLE, TO HOLD A PRAYER-BOOK SERVICE IN JAMESTOWN ON ALTERNATE SUNDAYS DURING THE MONTHS WHEN NAVIGATION WAS OPEN ON LAKE CHAUTAUQUA. THESE SERVICES WERE HELD IN THE OLD PRENDERGAST ACADEMY BUILDING, WHICH HAD BEEN COMPLETED IN 1817 AND WHICH STOOD ON THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF MAIN AND FIFTH STREETS. THE GOODELL BUILDING NOW STANDS AT THIS CORNER. APPARENTLY THIS ARRANGEMENT LASTED TEN YEARS. AT ANY RATE WE KNOW THAT IN THE SPRING OF 1834 A MEETING OF INTERESTED MEN WAS CALLED BY THE SAME REV. MR. MURRAY TO ESTABLISH ST. LUKE'S CHURCH. AT THIS MEETING JAMES PRENDERGAST, THE FOUNDER OF JAMESTOWN, WAS ELECTED SENIOR WARDEN, AN OFFICE HE HELD FOR ONLY TWO YEARS BEFORE HE MOVED TO Kiantone. THOUGH A RECORD OF THIS IMPORTANT MEETING WAS FILED AT MAYVILLE, IT WAS SOMEHOW MISLAID FOR MANY YEARS AND NOT FOUND UNTIL THE EARLY 1890'S.

AT THAT TIME THE ENTIRE STATE OF NEW YORK WAS ONE DIOCESE, WITH HEADQUARTERS IN NEW YORK CITY. ST. LUKE'S VESTRY WROTE TO THE RT. REV. HENRY ONDERDONK, BISHOP OF NEW YORK, BEGGING HIM TO MAKE ST. LUKE'S A MISSION AND TO SEND THEM A MISSIONARY (A COPY OF THE LETTER IS ON FILE IN OUR ARCHIVES), BUT THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT THE BISHOP EVER REPLIED. THIS APPARENT INDIFFERENCE IS PERHAPS UNDERSTANDABLE WHEN WE CONSIDER THAT, IN TRAVEL TIME, JAMESTOWN WAS THEN FARTHER FROM NEW YORK THAN HONOLULU IS NOW.

IN SPITE OF THESE DIFFICULTIES, THE LITTLE HANDFUL OF EPISCOPALIANS CARRIED ON AS BEST THEY COULD. MOST OF THE TIME THEY WERE ABLE TO SECURE A CLERGYMAN FOR SUNDAY SERVICES--USUALLY FROM MAYVILLE, SOMETIMES FROM FREDONIA, AND ONCE FROM ELLICOTTVILLE.

WHEN THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN NEW YORK WAS FORMED IN 1836, CONDITIONS IMPROVED SOMEWHAT. THOUGH ST. LUKE'S HAD NEITHER RECTOR NOR PLACE OF WORSHIP, SUBSEQUENT DIOCESAN RECORDS SHOW THAT IT WAS RECOGNIZED AS ONE OF THE

THIRTEEN PARISHES THAT COMPRISED THE NEW DIOCESE. FROM TIME TO TIME THE DIOCESE APPOINTED PRIESTS FROM SOME OF THE NEIGHBORING PARISHES AS MISSIONARIES IN CHARGE OF ST. LUKE'S. IN 1841, IN 1843 AND AGAIN IN 1847, THE RT. REV. W. H. DELANCEY, FIRST BISHOP OF WESTERN NEW YORK, CAME TO PREACH TO THE LITTLE CONGREGATION, BUT IT WAS NOT UNTIL 1851 THAT THE FIRST CONFIRMATION SERVICE WAS HELD. ON THAT OCCASION, BISHOP DELANCEY "ADMINISTERED CONFIRMATION TO TWO PERSONS IN THE PRESBYTERIAN HOUSE OF WORSHIP."

THE FIRST RECTOR

ABOUT THIS TIME A DOUBT AROSE AS TO THE LEGALITY OF THE 1834 CHARTER OF THE PARISH, SINCE THE ORIGINAL PAPERS HAD NOT YET BEEN FOUND. FOR THIS REASON THE PARISH WAS REORGANIZED ON JUNE 26, 1853 AND THE REORGANIZATION DULY RECORDED AT MAYVILLE. IN THE SUMMER OF 1852, A YOUNG PRIEST NAMED LEVI W. NORTON, RECTOR OF THE PARISH IN WATERTOWN, NEW YORK, CAME TO VISIT HIS BROTHER, WHO HAD SETTLED IN ASHVILLE. MR. NORTON WAS INVITED TO PREACH IN JAMESTOWN, AND WHILE HE WAS HERE, HE MET DR. HENRY BARRETT, A FORMER COLLEGE FRIEND WHO WAS PRACTICING MEDICINE IN THIS AREA. MANY YEARS AFTERWARD MR. NORTON SAID THAT THE RENEWAL OF THIS FRIENDSHIP WAS THE CHIEF REASON HE ACCEPTED THE UNANIMOUS CALL OF ST. LUKE'S VESTRY TO BECOME ITS FIRST RECTOR. THIS WAS THE BEGINNING OF A HAPPY, FRUITFUL RELATIONSHIP OF SEVENTEEN YEARS.

WHEN MR. NORTON CAME TO JAMESTOWN AS ST. LUKE'S FIRST RECTOR, HE FOUND SEVEN COMMUNICANTS, ALL WOMEN, BUT AT THE NEXT DIOCESAN CONVENTION IN 1853 HE WAS ABLE TO REPORT TWELVE--STILL ALL WOMEN. ONE OF THESE WAS MRS. EUNICE MASON. SHE AND HER HUSBAND, LEVANT L. MASON, WHO WAS CONFIRMED AT THE NEXT VISITATION OF THE BISHOP, WERE ALWAYS ENTHUSIASTIC PARTICIPANTS IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PARISH. THE RECORDS SHOW THAT MRS. MASON WAS A DEVOTED TEACHER IN THE SUNDAY SCHOOL ALL HER LIFE, WHILE MR. MASON SERVED CONTINUOUSLY ON THE VESTRY, AS A VESTRYMAN AND AS A WARDEN. ON HIS DEATH HE WAS SUCCEEDED AS WARDEN BY HIS SON-IN-LAW, FREDERICK P. HALL, WHO IN TURN WAS SUCCEEDED BY HIS SON, HENRI MASON HALL. MANY OF THE DESCENDANTS OF LEVANT AND EUNICE MASON ARE NOW, MORE THAN A HUNDRED YEARS LATER, AMONG THE MOST ACTIVE AND DEVOTED MEMBERS OF THIS PARISH. FEW FAMILIES CAN POINT TO SUCH A RECORD.

HAVING GONE SO FAR AS TO CALL A RECTOR, THE LITTLE GROUP OF EPISCOPALIANS, AUGMENTED BY SOME HELPFUL FRIENDS, BEGAN TO DISCUSS WAYS AND MEANS OF SECURING A PLACE TO WORSHIP. UP TO THIS TIME THEY HAD MET IN DIFFERENT PLACES. NOW THEY RENTED THE BASEMENT OF WHAT SOME OF US REMEMBER AS THE OLD ACADEMY, WHICH FOR MANY YEARS SERVED JAMESTOWN AS A HIGH SCHOOL, AND WHICH STOOD AT THE CORNER OF FOURTH AND SPRING STREETS WHERE THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING NOW STANDS. THIS ROOMY BASEMENT WAS FITTED NEATLY AND ATTRACTIVELY WITH ALL THE THINGS NECESSARY FOR A PROPERLY CONDUCTED EPISCOPAL SERVICE, AND THERE THE CONGREGATION OF ST. LUKE'S WORSHIPPED UNTIL THEIR OWN CHURCH WAS READY FOR OCCUPANCY IN 1854. IT WAS IN THIS BASEMENT THAT A SUNDAY SCHOOL WAS STARTED WHICH HAS CONTINUED WITHOUT A BREAK, THOUGH WITH MANY UPS AND DOWNS, UNTIL THE PRESENT DAY WHEN IT HAS ADVANCED SO FAR THAT IT USES ITS OWN CAREFULLY PREPARED CURRICULUM.

THE INCREASE OF THE "PRESBYTERIAN" PENNY

WHILE THE CHURCH BUILDING PROJECT WAS STILL UNDER DISCUSSION, A GROUP OF INTERESTED MEN WAS GATHERED ONE DAY AT THE CORNER OF MAIN AND THIRD STREETS--THEN AS NOW THE HEART OF JAMESTOWN. THE REV. HENRY BLINN, PASTOR OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, CAME ALONG AND ASKED JOYFULLY, "BOYS, WHAT MISCHIEF ARE YOU UP TO NOW?" DR. GILBERT HAZELTINE, POINTING UP MAIN STREET TO FOURTH, REPLIED, "DO YOU SEE THE OLD FLETCHER PLACE UP THERE? WE ARE GOING TO BUY THAT AND BUILD A CHURCH THAT WILL KNOCK THE SPOTS OFF YOUR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH." "GOOD FOR YOU", RETORTED MR. BLINN. "PERMIT ME TO GIVE YOU THIS AS THE FIRST DONATION TOWARD THE CHURCH." AT THE SAME TIME HE HANDED DR. HAZELTINE A BIG COPPER CENT. AT THAT MOMENT ONE OF THE GROUP SWORE THAT WITHIN TWO YEARS THAT COPPER CENT WOULD BE DEPOSITED IN THE CORNERSTONE OF AN EPISCOPAL CHURCH. THAT EVENING THE CENT WAS DISPLAYED AT A GATHERING OF MEN, THE STORY TOLD, AND THE SEVEN MEN PRESENT SUBSCRIBED FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS EACH TOWARD THE NEW CHURCH. THE NEXT DAY THE AMOUNT WAS NEARLY DOUBLED.

WHEN ST. LUKE'S CORNERSTONE WAS LAID, THIS COIN WAS AMONG THE MEMENTOES PLACED IN IT AND SAFELY LOCKED IN A STRONG LEADEN BOX. WHEN THE FIRST CHURCH BURNED A FEW YEARS LATER, THIS BOX, STILL INTACT, WAS PLACED IN THE CORNERSTONE OF THE SECOND CHURCH. THE CORNERSTONE OF

THE PRESENT EDIFICE IS IN THE EASTERN WALL OF THE CHURCH HALFWAY UP THE ALLEY. WHEN IT WAS LAID, THE LEAD BOX WAS OPENED, REPAIRED, AND PLACED IN IT, STILL CONTAINING THE HISTORIC COPPER PENNY. THE ORIGINAL REFERENCES TO IT AS "OLD" WERE NOT TRUE AT THE TIME SINCE IT WAS COINED IN 1850, BUT THERE ARE PRE-REVOLUTIONARY COINS IN THE BOX.

THE VESTRY PAID WILLIAM H. TEW TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR THE LOT ON THE CORNER OF MAIN AND FOURTH STREETS WHERE ST. LUKE'S NOW STANDS. NO ONE REMEMBERS THAT IT WAS EVER ANYTHING BUT THE POSSESSION OF ST. LUKE'S, BUT IT WAS ONCE THE LOCATION OF OUR FIRST NEWSPAPER OFFICE AND PRESS, A NEWSPAPER THAT LIKE ST. LUKE'S STAYED ALIVE AND STILL SERVES THE COMMUNITY. OF COURSE I REFER TO THE VENERABLE "JOURNAL". THERE IS A TABLET ON THE WEST WALL OF THE CHURCH COMMEMORATING THE BEGINNING OF JOURNALISM HERE. I AM PROUD TO REMEMBER THAT MY GRANDFATHER, HENRY BAKER, ONCE OWNED THIS LOT, HAVING BOUGHT IT FROM THE HOLLAND LAND COMPANY.

SOME RECORDS SAY THAT ALL BUILDINGS ON THE PROPERTY PURCHASED FROM MR. TEW WERE TORN DOWN, WHILE OTHERS IMPLY THAT ONE WAS USED TEMPORARILY AS A RECTORY. I COULDN'T FIND WHEN THE RECTORY WAS BUILT. IT JUST SUDDENLY APPEARS IN THE VESTRY MINUTES AS NEEDING EXTENSIVE REPAIRS. LATER THE VESTRY AUTHORIZED DEMOLITION OF THE WOODSHED. THERE'S A PICTURE OF THE REPAIRED RECTORY SHOWING A CROSS ON ITS ROOF BEAM, THOUGH NO CROSS SURMOUNTS THE CHURCH BESIDE IT.

OUR FIRST BUILDING

WITH COMMENDABLE ENTERPRISE THE VESTRY SOUGHT THE BEST CHURCH ARCHITECT THEN AVAILABLE, RICHARD UPJOHN, WHO HAD COME TO NEW YORK FROM ENGLAND TO BRING AMERICA A GOTHIC REVIVAL. IN THOSE DAYS IT REALLY MEANT SOMETHING TO BE ABLE TO SAY, "WE HAVE AN UPJOHN CHURCH." MR. UPJOHN'S DESIGN WAS ACCEPTED, BUT THE VESTRY VOTED TO KEEP HIS FEE A SECRET. ONE WONDERS WHY.

IN 1853 A COMMITTEE WAS APPOINTED AT A VESTRY MEETING "TO DRAFT A MEMORIAL" TO OLD TRINITY, NEW YORK, ASKING FOR FINANCIAL AID IN BUILDING ST. LUKE'S. THE TRINITY RECORDS SHOW THAT IN 1854 THEY REFUSED THE ASSISTANCE ASKED BY ST. LUKE'S BUT THAT IN 1855 THEY REFERRED A

SECOND REQUEST TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE. THE FOLLOWING MONTH THE STANDING COMMITTEE VOTED TO LEND ST. LUKE'S ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS WHICH WAS TO BE REPAID WHEN THE CHURCH WAS COMPLETED.

THE CORNERSTONE OF THIS FIRST ST. LUKE'S WAS LAID ON SEPTEMBER 27, 1854. AFTER MORNING PRAYER IN THE OLD ACADEMY, THE CONGREGATION WENT IN PROCESSION ALONG FOURTH STREET TO THE CORNER WHICH HAS EVER SINCE BEEN A SACRED SPOT TO ALL ST. LUKE'S PEOPLE.

THE CHURCH, BUILT AT A COST OF \$6,500, WAS APPROXIMATELY NINETY FEET LONG BY THIRTY-FIVE FEET WIDE, WITH A TOWER AND SPIRE RISING ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY FEET. IT SEATED THREE HUNDRED AND FORTY PEOPLE. ONE CANNOT BUT ADMIRE THE FAITH AND COURAGE OF THE PARISH WHICH, WITH A COMMUNICANT LIST OF TWELVE, HAD PLANNED FOR A CHURCH TO ACCOMMODATE THREE HUNDRED AND FORTY MEMBERS. SINCE THIS CHURCH WAS CONSECRATED ON MAY 6, 1856, WE CAN ASSUME THAT THE LOAN FROM TRINITY HAD BEEN REPAID.

THE OLD RECORDS OF ST. LUKE'S NOW AVAILABLE LEAVE MUCH OF INTEREST UNREVEALED. ONE WONDERS WHETHER SECRECY WAS THE DELIBERATE POLICY OF THE VESTRY. THERE IS NO MENTION OF THE SALARY OFFERED THE REV. LEVI NORTON WHEN HE CAME IN 1853, BUT IN THE MINUTES OF APRIL 1854, WE READ, "ON MOTION, MR. BUTCHER'S SUBSCRIPTION FOR MR. NORTON'S SERVICES WAS OMITTED FROM THE MINUTES." THIS WAS THE SAME MEETING WHICH DECIDED TO KEEP SECRET THE AMOUNT OF MR. UPJOHN'S FEE FOR THE PLANS OF THE CHURCH.

MR. NORTON FREQUENTLY RECEIVED FLATTERING CALLS FROM PROSPEROUS, WELL-ESTABLISHED PARISHES. THOUGH HE CONSIDERED SOME OF THESE SERIOUSLY, HE ALWAYS CAME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT HIS DUTY LAY WITH STRUGGLING ST. LUKE'S. THE MINUTES OF THE VESTRY TELL US THAT HE HESITATED SOME TIME BEFORE REFUSING A TEMPTING OFFER FROM THE CHURCH OF THE ATONEMENT, CHICAGO, IN 1858. WHEN HE ANNOUNCED HIS DECISION TO REMAIN IN JAMESTOWN, THE VESTRY WAS SO GRATEFUL THAT THEY VOTED TO INCREASE HIS COMPENSATION TO ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS. HIS PROSPERITY WAS OF SHORT DURATION FOR IN JULY 1861 HIS SALARY WAS REDUCED TO SEVEN HUNDRED DOLLARS. A COMMITTEE WAS APPOINTED TO TELL THE RECTOR WHY THE REDUCTION WAS NECESSARY, BUT NO EXPLANATION IS AVAILABLE TO US.

IN THE SAME MONTH MR. NORTON NOTIFIED THE VESTRY THAT HE HAD ACCEPTED AN URGENT CALL TO THE CHAPLAINCY OF THE

72ND REGIMENT OF NEW YORK VOLUNTEERS, A REGIMENT RECRUITED FROM THE COUNTIES OF WESTERN NEW YORK. THERE WERE SEVERAL COMPANIES FROM CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY, COMPANY B BEING MADE UP ENTIRELY OF JAMESTOWN BOYS. THE VESTRY GRANTED MR. NORTON A LEAVE OF ABSENCE "WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT HIS SALARY WOULD STOP DURING HIS ABSENCE."

APPARENTLY BOTH THE RECTOR AND THE VESTRY WERE SO CARRIED AWAY BY THE EXCITED PATRIOTISM OF 1861 THAT THEY MADE NO ARRANGEMENT TO KEEP ST. LUKE'S FUNCTIONING AS A PARISH. IN FEBRUARY 1862 THE VESTRY SENT MR. NORTON A LONG LETTER DEPLORING THE FACT THAT THE CHURCH WAS CLOSED AND ASKING HIS INTENTIONS. HE REPLIED PROMPTLY THAT HE HAD NEVER INTENDED TO STAY WITH THE ARMY MORE THAN A FEW MONTHS AND THAT IF A SUPPLY COULD NOT BE FOUND, HE WOULD RETURN TO JAMESTOWN AT ONCE. A YOUNG DEACON HELPED OUT TEMPORARILY BUT WE KNOW THAT THE RECTOR WAS IN RESIDENCE THE FALL OF THAT SAME YEAR.

FIRE AND REBUILDING

ON THE SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS 1862, SHORTLY AFTER EVENSONG, THE BEAUTIFUL GOTHIC CHURCH BURNED TO THE GROUND. THE FIRE WAS CAUSED BY A DEFECTIVE FLUE, AND THE FLAMES COULD NOT BE BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL BECAUSE AT THAT TIME JAMESTOWN DID NOT HAVE A VILLAGE WATER SYSTEM. UNDAUNTED, THE VESTRY SECURED A ROOM IN THE HALL BLOCK ON THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF MAIN AND THIRD, THEN JAMESTOWN'S NEWEST AND FINEST BUSINESS BLOCK. HERE ON THE FOLLOWING THURSDAY, ST. LUKE'S CELEBRATED CHRISTMAS, AND HERE THEY CONTINUED TO WORSHIP UNTIL THE SECOND CHURCH WAS READY FOR OCCUPANCY.

THE PARISH PROMPTLY STARTED THE NEW CHURCH, USING THE RECONSTRUCTED FOUNDATION AND THE ARCHITECTURAL PLANS OF THE PREVIOUS ONE. THE CORNERSTONE WAS LAID ON JUNE 10, 1863, ONLY SIX MONTHS AFTER THE FIRE. IN SPITE OF THE LIBERAL OFFERINGS OF THE PARISHIONERS AND OF THEIR MANY FRIENDS, MONEY TO COMPLETE THE BUILDING WAS STILL URGENTLY NEEDED. AGAIN THE VESTRY APPLIED TO TRINITY FOR AID. THIS REQUEST WAS RATHER EMPHATICALLY REFUSED AS WAS ANOTHER ONE MADE TWO MONTHS LATER. LATER TRINITY DID ADVANCE ST. LUKE'S ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS ON A MORTGAGE BASIS. WE CAN ASSUME THAT THIS MORTGAGE WAS NOT ACTUALLY ON THE CHURCH BUILDING, FOR WE HAVE IT ON THE AUTHORITY OF MR. NORTON HIMSELF THAT THE CHURCH, FREE

FROM DEBT, WAS CONSECRATED BY BISHOP COXE ON MAY 20, 1865. THE FACT REMAINS THAT TRINITY WAS NEVER REPAID. IN 1889 TRINITY WROTE TO OUR VESTRY OFFERING TO RENEW THE MORTGAGE AND TO RELEASE ST. LUKE'S FROM PAYMENT OF THE ACCRUED INTEREST. IN 1910 TRINITY WROTE AGAIN, THIS TIME TO CANCEL THE MORTGAGE.

WHEN THE NEW CHURCH WAS COMPLETED, THERE WAS EVIDENTLY NEED OF A PAID CARETAKER, FOR ABOUT THIS TIME WE FIND THE FIRST REFERENCE TO A SEXTON. HIS SALARY WAS ORIGINALLY FIXED AT FIFTY DOLLARS A YEAR, LATER INCREASED TO SEVENTY-FIVE DOLLARS WITH A SUIT OF CLOTHES GIVEN HIM AT CHRISTMAS AND AT LEAST TEN DOLLARS ADDED AT EASTER FOR EXTRA WORK DURING LENT. ABOUT THE SAME TIME WE FIND QUAINLY WORDED REFERENCE TO A VACATION FOR THE RECTOR. IT WAS MOVED "THAT MR. NORTON BE ALLOWED A RECESS FROM HIS LABORS FOR A FEW WEEKS." AT THAT TIME AN ANNUAL VACATION WAS NOT A REGULAR PART OF A RECTOR'S ARRANGEMENT WITH THE VESTRY.

IN A SENSE THE MINISTRY OF MR. NORTON CAME TO A CLIMAX WITH HIS SERVICE AS A CHAPLAIN. BRIEF AS HIS TIME IN THE ARMY WAS, HE WON THE ENDURING RESPECT AND DEVOTION OF ALL THOSE YOUNG SOLDIERS UNDER HIS PASTORAL CARE. ON HIS RETURN TO JAMESTOWN, MR. NORTON CONTINUED TO SERVE ST. LUKE'S AS RECTOR FOR EIGHT DIFFICULT YEARS. DURING MOST OF THAT PERIOD AFTER THE WAR, THE PARISH WAS HARD PRESSED FOR MONEY TO PAY THE CURRENT EXPENSES. ONCE THE VESTRY VOTED TO DISPENSE WITH THE CHOIR "ON ACCOUNT OF THE FEEBLE CONDITION OF THE TREASURY." THE PARISH WAS CONSTANTLY IN DEBT TO THE RECTOR. ON ONE OCCASION IN 1869, MR. NORTON WAS REQUESTED TO PRESENT A DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THE AMOUNT DUE HIM FROM 1863 ON. AT THE VESTRY MEETING OF MARCH 1870, THE QUESTION OF BACK PAY FOR MR. NORTON WAS CONSIDERED AT LENGTH, AND IT WAS RESOLVED THAT THE SUM OF THIRTEEN HUNDRED DOLLARS BE ALLOWED FOR ALL ARREARS TO EASTER 1869, THE AMOUNT TO BE SECURED BY SUBSCRIPTIONS. WHETHER THE SUBSCRIPTIONS WERE PAID OR EVEN PLEDGED WE DO NOT KNOW.

AT THE JUNE MEETING 1870, MR. NORTON PRESENTED HIS RESIGNATION WHICH WAS REGRETFULLY ACCEPTED. THE LETTERS EXCHANGED BETWEEN RECTOR AND VESTRY AT THAT TIME GIVE EVIDENCE OF THE DEEP AND LASTING AFFECTION WHICH THE ASSOCIATION HAD DEVELOPED. MR. NORTON'S SUBSEQUENT PARISHES WERE IN NEW JERSEY, BUT WHEN HE RETIRED, HE RETURNED TO JAMESTOWN TO LIVE. NO DOUBT MANY OF ST. LUKE'S MEMBERS STILL REMEMBER HIS DAUGHTER, MRS. LUCY

NORTON SHANKLAND, WHO AT HER DEATH LEFT A TRUST FUND OF TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS TO THE PARISH.

SHORT TENURE RECTORS

THE FIVE YEARS FOLLOWING MR. NORTON'S RESIGNATION FORM A CURIOUS PERIOD IN ST. LUKE'S HISTORY. THE TWO RECTORS IN THAT BRIEF TIME MADE LITTLE IMPRESSION ON THE PARISH BECAUSE OF THE SHORT DURATION OF THEIR MINISTRIES.

IN SEPTEMBER 1870 AND AGAIN IN OCTOBER, THE VESTRY MET TO CONSIDER A SUCCESSOR TO MR. NORTON. AT THE LATTER MEETING, WITH NO RECORDED REASON, MORE THAN HALF THE VESTRY RESIGNED. NO OTHER MEETING WAS HELD UNTIL THE FOLLOWING APRIL WHEN A NEW VESTRY WAS ELECTED, INCLUDING MOST OF THE MEN WHO HAD RESIGNED THE PRECEDING OCTOBER. THIS NEW GROUP RATIFIED THE ACTION OF THE FORMER VESTRY WHICH HAD EXTENDED A CALL TO THE REV. JAMES A. ROBINSON TO BECOME RECTOR OF THIS PARISH. MR. ROBINSON ACCEPTED THE CALL SO PROMPTLY THAT HE WAS HERE TO PRESIDE AT THE NEXT MEETING. IT WAS IN THE FIRST SUMMER OF MR. ROBINSON'S INCUMBENCY THAT THE BARN AND THE LOT EAST OF THE ALLEY WERE SOLD IN ORDER TO BUY A BELL FOR THE CHURCH TOWER.

NO MENTION IS MADE OF THE ORIGINAL SALARY PAID TO MR. ROBINSON, BUT AT THE BEGINNING OF HIS SECOND YEAR, HIS COMPENSATION WAS SET AT EIGHT HUNDRED DOLLARS AND "THE RENT FROM THE RECTORY". A COMMITTEE WAS APPOINTED TO SETTLE THE AMOUNT TO BE PAID BY THE TENANT, C. E. WEEKS, THE GRANDFATHER OF STANLEY WEEKS. THOUGH THIS IS THE FIRST OFFICIAL RECORD OF THE PECULIAR PRACTICE OF RENTING THE RECTORY, IT HAD BEEN THE CUSTOM FOR SOME TIME TO USE THE WELL-LOCATED RECTORY AS A MEANS OF REVENUE WHILE THE RECTOR AND HIS FAMILY WERE HOUSED IN A LESS DESIRABLE PART OF THE TOWN. A LETTER ONCE WRITTEN TO MR. NORTON BY A RELATIVE EXPRESSED FEAR FOR THE SAFETY OF HIS FAMILY SINCE THEY WERE LIVING SO FAR OUT OF TOWN. AT THAT TIME THE NORTONS WERE OCCUPYING THE HOUSE THAT STILL STANDS ON THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF FIFTH AND LIBERTY STREETS.

UP TO 1874, AS FAR AS AVAILABLE RECORDS GO, ONE MIGHT THINK THAT ST. LUKE'S HAD NO WOMEN MEMBERS. AT THIS TIME A SOCIAL COMMITTEE APPEARS, WITH THE VERY DEVOTED AND BELOVED MRS. JOHN GRANT AS ITS CHAIRMAN. (MRS. GRANT, MRS. LEVANT MASON AND MRS. JACKSON WEEKS AT THIS

TIME WERE KNOWN AS "FAITH, HOPE AND CHARITY" BECAUSE THEY WERE ALWAYS SEEN TOGETHER WORKING FOR THE PARISH.) TRUE TO THE CUSTOM OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES AT THAT TIME, THE VESTRY TOOK NOTICE OF THESE WOMEN ONLY WHEN THE CHURCH NEEDED MONEY. "RESOLVED THAT MRS. GRANT, TREASURER OF THE SOCIAL FUND, BE REQUESTED TO PAY THE REV. JAMES A. ROBINSON WHAT MONEY IS NOW IN HER HANDS TOWARD HIS SALARY FOR 1873."

AT THE NOVEMBER VESTRY MEETING IN 1874, MR. ROBINSON OFFERED HIS RESIGNATION TO TAKE EFFECT DECEMBER 1. AFTER SOME CONSIDERATION, THE VESTRY PASSED THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION: "WE ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OFFERED BY MR. ROBINSON TO TAKE EFFECT DECEMBER 1, AFTER WHICH WE PLEDGE HIM FULL USE OF THE RECTORY AS LONG AS HE MAY REMAIN, ALSO THE COLLECTIONS OF ALL SERVICES HELD BY HIM DURING HIS STAY."

THE FOLLOWING MARCH 1875, A FINANCIAL ADJUSTMENT WAS MADE WITH MR. ROBINSON ACCORDING TO WHICH THE VESTRY PROMISED TO PAY HIM AN AGREED, BUT UNRECORDED, SUM BEFORE THE COMING EASTER. AT THE FIRST MEETING AFTER EASTER, HOWEVER, MR. ROBINSON ASKED TO BE REINSTATED AS RECTOR. ALTHOUGH THIS REQUEST WAS REFUSED, THE PREVIOUS FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS ABOUT COLLECTIONS AT SERVICES AND USE OF THE RECTORY PREVAILED UNTIL A NEW RECTOR WAS CALLED.

ABOUT A MONTH LATER, THE VESTRY EXTENDED A CALL TO THE REV. WILLIAM H. MORRISON TO BECOME ST. LUKE'S RECTOR AT A SALARY OF TWELVE HUNDRED DOLLARS AND THE RENT FROM THE RECTORY. MR. MORRISON CAME BEFORE JULY 1875, AND WE FIND NO FURTHER REFERENCE TO MR. ROBINSON. BEFORE THE FOLLOWING EASTER, MARCH 1876, MR. MORRISON HAD TENDERED HIS RESIGNATION WHICH WAS NOT ACCEPTED. THE FOLLOWING MONTH HE RESIGNED AGAIN AND AGAIN THE RESIGNATION WAS NOT ACCEPTED. MR. MORRISON WAS A PERSISTENT MAN. AT ANOTHER MEETING IN THE SAME MONTH, HE OFFERED TO RELINQUISH HIS SALARY FROM MAY 1 AND TO ACCEPT A FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENT COMPARABLE TO THAT OF HIS PREDECESSOR WITH THE STIPULATION THAT HIS RESIGNATION BE ACCEPTED WHEN HE OFFERED IT AGAIN. IN JUNE OF THE SAME YEAR THERE IS A PUZZLING ENTRY RELATING TO MR. MORRISON IN THE MINUTES OF THE VESTRY. IT WAS RESOLVED THAT A COMMITTEE BE APPOINTED TO WAIT UPON THE LADIES OF THE PARISH, ASKING THEM TO SOLICIT FUNDS TO PURCHASE THE PARISH SCHOOL BUILDING FROM MR. MORRISON. STRANGELY THIS IS THE ONLY MENTION IN THE ARCHIVES OF SUCH A

BUILDING. IN AUGUST 1876 MR. MORRISON SUCCEEDED IN RESIGNING. HE HAD BEEN HERE LESS THAN EIGHTEEN MONTHS, THE SHORTEST RECTORSHIP IN THE HISTORY OF THE PARISH.

FINANCIAL PROBLEMS

EVER SINCE THE BUILDING OF THE FIRST CHURCH, THE PARISH HAD BEEN HARASSED BY LACK OF MONEY. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CUSTOM OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY, THE REVENUE FOR MEETING CURRENT EXPENSES CAME CHIEFLY FROM RENTING THE PEWS. THOUGH THE TOTAL INCOME FROM THE PEW RENTS THEORETICALLY EQUALLED THE ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES, THE RECORDS SHOW THAT THE VESTRY HAD GREAT DIFFICULTY IN COLLECTING THE RENTS. FROM TIME TO TIME WHEN THE TREASURY BECAME DANGEROUSLY DEPLETED, A GROUP OF BUSY MEN WOULD BE APPOINTED TO CALL ON THE DELINQUENTS AND RAISE WHAT MONEY THEY COULD, BUT HAD GREAT DIFFICULTY IN COLLECTING RENTS LONG OVERDUE BECAUSE PEOPLE WERE NOT PRONE TO PAY FOR SOMETHING THEY HAD ALREADY USED. THE VESTRY FREQUENTLY RAISED THE RENTAL FEE BUT WITHOUT ANY NOTICEABLE INCREASE IN REVENUE. ONCE, IN A BURST OF INDIGNATION, THE VESTRY VOTED NOT TO RENT A PEW TO ANY PERSON WHO WAS IN ARREARS. OBVIOUSLY THIS METHOD NEITHER INCREASED THE INCOME NOR IMPROVED THE ATTENDANCE.

AT THE CLOSE OF MR. MORRISON'S RECTORSHIP, THE PARISH WAS IN SUCH URGENT NEED OF MONEY THAT THE VESTRY SPONSORED AN EXCURSION TO NIAGARA FALLS IN THE LATE SUMMER OF 1876. THOUGH THE VENTURE NETTED \$132, THE AMOUNT WAS NEGLIGIBLE COMPARED TO WHAT WAS NEEDED. AT THIS JUNCTURE THE VESTRY SOUGHT THE HELP OF THE BELOVED CHAPLAIN NORTON. THEY MADE AN EARNEST EFFORT TO INDUCE HIM TO RETURN TO ST. LUKE'S AS RECTOR BUT HE WAS UNABLE TO DO SO BECAUSE OF OTHER COMMITMENTS.

IN FEBRUARY 1877 A UNANIMOUS CALL WAS EXTENDED TO THE REV. E. SPRUILLE BURFORD OF NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA. HE ACCEPTED THIS CALL AND BY THE FOLLOWING MAY WE FIND HIM IN RESIDENCE HERE, OUR VESTRY HAVING VOTED TO PAY HIS TRAVEL EXPENSES. IN DOCUMENTS OTHER THAN THE VESTRY RECORDS, I READ THAT HE BROUGHT NEW LIFE TO ST. LUKE'S.

WITHIN A MONTH OF MR. BURFORD'S ARRIVAL, THE WOMEN OF THE PARISH HAD ORGANIZED THE BISHOP DELANCEY GUILD FOR THE EXPRESS PURPOSE OF GIVING AID AND SUPPORT TO THE

RECTOR. IN THE FALL OF THAT SAME YEAR, A SECOND ORGANIZATION WAS FORMED WITH THE SAME PURPOSE. THIS CONSISTED OF THE YOUNGER WOMEN OF THE PARISH. THESE TWO GROUPS WERE SOON CALLED UPON FOR THE HELP THEY INTENDED TO GIVE. THE OLD RECTORY WAS REPAINTED, ENLARGED BY THE ADDITION OF A "NEW GOTHIC FACE", AND THEN MORTGAGED TO MRS. BURFORD FOR TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS. THE TWO GUILDS PAID MOST OF THIS MORTGAGE AND ALL OF THE INTEREST. IN ADDITION, ST. LUKE'S GUILD GAVE THE VESTRY A RECEIPTED BILL OF \$82.36 FOR REPAIRS ON THE FURNACE.

THE NEEDS OF A LARGE AND GROWING FAMILY COMPELLED MR. BURFORD TO SEEK A MORE PROSPEROUS PARISH THAN ST. LUKE'S. IN NOVEMBER 1880, HE RECEIVED A CALL FROM A PARISH IN GRAND RAPIDS. IN ACCEPTING HIS RESIGNATION, THE VESTRY EXPRESSED GENUINE AFFECTION FOR HIM AND SORROW FOR HIS GOING. INDEED, THEY MADE A DETERMINED BUT UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORT TO INDUCE HIM TO REMAIN. WHEN CONVINCED THAT HE WOULD NOT CHANGE HIS MIND, THE VESTRY HASTENED TO CALL THE REV. THEODORE M. BISHOP OF LEROY, NEW YORK.

MR. BISHOP CAME TO ST. LUKE'S EARLY IN 1881. HE WAS THE FIRST OF OUR RECTORS TO BE ACTIVE IN DIOCESAN AFFAIRS, SERVING AS SECRETARY OF THE DIOCESE FOR SEVERAL YEARS. DURING HIS RECTORSHIP THE PAROCHIAL ACTIVITIES WERE LARGELY ROUTINE. WHEN DR. BISHOP CAME TO ST. LUKE'S, HE WAS FAR FROM WELL; INCREASINGLY POOR HEALTH CAUSED HIM TO RESIGN IN MARCH 1885. IN A HISTORICAL SERMON PREACHED BY MR. NORTON A FEW YEARS LATER, HE IS REFERRED TO AS "A GOOD MAN FULL OF FAITH AND OF THE HOLY GHOST".

THE REV. A. SIDNEY DEALEY

DR. BISHOP'S RESIGNATION TOOK EFFECT APRIL 1, 1885. ON APRIL 10TH, THE VESTRY EXTENDED A UNANIMOUS CALL TO THE REV. A. SIDNEY DEALEY WHO WAS THEN RECTOR OF ONE OF THE BUFFALO PARISHES. WHEN HE CAME TO JAMESTOWN, HE HAD BEEN A WIDOWER FOR SOME TIME, BUT BEFORE MANY YEARS HE MARRIED A FORMER PARISHIONER FROM BUFFALO. SHE IDENTIFIED HERSELF WITH ST. LUKE'S AT ONCE, GIVING QUIET HELP IN MANY WAYS.

NOW I CAN WRITE OF ST. LUKE'S FROM MY OWN MEMORY FOR I BECAME A MEMBER OF THIS PARISH JUST A FEW MONTHS BEFORE MR. DEALEY'S ARRIVAL IN MAY 1885. THE HENRY BAKERS,

LIKE MANY OF JAMESTOWN'S EARLIEST FAMILIES, WERE PRESBYTERIANS. INDEED, MY GRANDFATHER GAVE THE PRESBYTERIANS THE GROUND WHERE THEIR FIRST TWO CHURCHES STOOD ON THE CORNER OF THIRD AND CHERRY STREETS. I HAD FAITHFULLY ATTENDED THE PRESBYTERIAN SUNDAY SCHOOL UNTIL, ON PROMOTION FROM THE PRIMARY DEPARTMENT, I WAS SEPARATED FROM MY CLASSMATES. I WAS SO DISAPPOINTED THAT I WAS EAGER TO FOLLOW THE SUGGESTION OF AN AUNT THAT I TRY ST. LUKE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL. MY PARENTS AGREED AND MY WHOLE LIFE WAS ALTERED. I SUPPOSE ONE MIGHT SAY THAT I "GOT RELIGION". AT ANY RATE I FELL IN LOVE WITH THE CHURCH AND I HAVE NEVER FALLEN OUT. MY SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER GAVE ME A BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER, SAYING THAT MY FIRST DUTY WAS TO LEARN THE CATECHISM. SUCH WAS MY ZEAL THAT I LEARNED ALL OF IT BEFORE THE NEXT SUNDAY.

MR. DEALEY WAS A SCHOLAR, A THOROUGHLY TRAINED CHURCHMAN, AND A GIFTED TEACHER. I REMEMBER WITH GRATITUDE THE INCOMPARABLE INSTRUCTION I RECEIVED IN HIS BIBLE CLASS AND IN THE CONFIRMATION CLASS WHICH MET IN INTIMATE FASHION IN THE RECTORY EVENINGS.

THE NEW RECTOR WAS AN ABLE AND ENERGETIC ADMINISTRATOR. IN MAY 1885 THIS OPTIMISTIC ENTRY APPEARS IN THE MINUTES OF THE VESTRY: "ALL PEWS RENTED EXCEPTING FOURTEEN AND THEY UNDOUBTEDLY WILL BE SOON RENTED." A MONTH OR TWO LATER, FOR THE FIRST TIME ON RECORD, THE TREASURER REPORTED A BALANCE ON HAND. WITHIN A FEW YEARS THE RENTING OF PEWS HAD BEEN ABANDONED AND A SYSTEM OF VOLUNTARY PLEDGING INTRODUCED.

THE CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS SHOWED UNWONTED VITALITY. WORK WITH YOUNG PEOPLE WAS BEGUN. THE TWO GUILDS FOR WOMEN WHICH HAD EXISTED SINCE 1877 NOW UNITED TO FORM ONE STRONG GROUP UNDER THE NAME OF ST. LUKE'S GUILD. ALL THE PARISH ACTIVITIES OF THE WOMEN WERE UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THIS GUILD, THE ACTUAL WORK BEING DONE BY COMMITTEES CALLED CHAPTERS. ONE OF THE CHAPTERS CAME INTO BEING AS THE RESULT OF A SPECIAL NEED. IN THE 1880'S THE TEXTILE MILLS IN JAMESTOWN MADE GOODS THAT WERE IN NATION-WIDE DEMAND. THESE MILLS BROUGHT TO JAMESTOWN A LARGE NUMBER OF EXPERT SPINNERS AND WEAVERS FROM ENGLAND, MANY OF WHOM WERE ANGLICANS. TO MAKE THESE ENGLISH WOMEN FEEL AT HOME, THE GUILD STARTED AN EVENING CHAPTER CALLED THE MOTHERS' MEETING. FOR A LONG TIME THIS WAS A FLOURISHING ORGANIZATION. IT MET ONCE A WEEK WITH A VARIETY OF PROGRAMS WHICH WERE OF HELP

AND INTEREST TO THE MEMBERS. THEY IN TURN MADE A VERY REAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE GUILD, FOR WHENEVER THE VARIOUS CHAPTERS UNITED TO HOLD A BAZAAR, THERE WAS EAGER DEMAND FOR THE ENGLISH MUFFINS, THE PORK PIES, THE BATH BUNS AND ALL THE OTHER DELICIOUS THINGS MADE FROM THE ENGLISH RECIPES OF THESE WOMEN. WHEN THE TEXTILE MILLS BEGAN TO DECLINE, MANY OF THE ENGLISH FAMILIES MOVED AWAY. THE MOTHERS' MEETING DWINDLED AND DISAPPEARED.

LIKE THE MOTHERS' MEETING, THE SUNDAY SCHOOL PICNIC FLOURISHED, DECLINED AND DISAPPEARED. DURING MR. DEALLEY'S RECTORSHIP, IT WAS ONE OF THE OUTSTANDING EVENTS OF THE YEAR, AND IN FACT WAS A GATHERING OF THE ENTIRE PARISH AT ONE OF THE SPACIOUS PICNIC GROVES THAT FRONTED THE LAKE. LONG POINT WAS A FAVORITE SPOT, AND THE LONG RIDE TO AND FROM THE PICNIC GROUNDS ON A BIG STEAMBOAT ADDED GREATLY TO THE JOY OF THE PICNICS.

IN 1887 A VESTED CHOIR OF MEN AND BOYS WAS ORGANIZED BY J. W. BUTTERFIELD, WHO SERVED FOR A TIME AS ORGANIST AS WELL AS CHOIRMASTER. LATER THERE WERE OTHER ORGANISTS. I RECALL THAT ONE OF THEM HAD THE DELIGHTFULLY DICKENSIAN NAME OF K. OTTO STOPS. THOUGH VESTED CHOIRS WERE BECOMING POPULAR THROUGHOUT THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH, THE INNOVATION MET WITH OPPOSITION IN SOME PARISHES BUT NOT IN ST. LUKE'S. ONE OF THE MOST ACTIVE GROUPS IN ST. LUKE'S GUILD WAS THE CHOIR CHAPTER, AND TO BE THE CHOIR-MOTHER WAS A PROUD DISTINCTION.

THE PRENDERGAST BEQUEST: PRESENT BUILDING

THE FIRST FIVE YEARS OF MR. DEALLEY'S MINISTRY AT ST. LUKE'S WERE YEARS OF QUIET, STEADY GROWTH, NOT IN NUMBERS ONLY BUT IN CHURCHMANSHIP AND IN READINESS TO SERVE THE CHURCH. THIS PERIOD WAS AN EXCELLENT PREPARATION FOR THE EXTENDED WORK THAT WAS MADE POSSIBLE WHEN THE PARISH WAS THE RECIPIENT OF A LARGE BEQUEST. MRS. MARY PRENDERGAST WAS THE WIDOW OF ALEXANDER, LAST OF THE DIRECT DESCENDANTS OF THE FOUNDER OF JAMESTOWN. UNDER THE TERMS OF HER WILL, PROBATED IN JANUARY, 1890, ST. LUKE'S RECEIVED \$125,000 TO BUILD A FIRE-PROOF, STONE CHURCH IN MEMORY OF HER DAUGHTER, CATHERINE. SHE ALSO LEFT A BEQUEST TO ESTABLISH THE JAMES PRENDERGAST FREE LIBRARY. THE WILL STIPULATED THAT THE NEW CHURCH WAS TO BE BUILT ON THE SITE OF THE OLD ONE, AND THAT THE LEGACY, A VERY LARGE FORTUNE IN THOSE DAYS, WAS TO

BE USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE CHURCH BUILDING. THE EXECUTORS OF THE WILL MADE THE BEQUEST AVAILABLE TO THE PARISH PROMPTLY. THE MONEY WAS INVESTED AT ONCE, AND BY THE TIME THE PRINCIPAL WAS NEEDED, SUFFICIENT INTEREST HAD ACCRUED SO THAT A SUITABLE RECTORY COULD BE BUILT BESIDE THE CHURCH.

THE FIRST RESPONSIBILITY OF THE VESTRY WAS TO PROVIDE A PLACE WHERE THE CONGREGATION COULD WORSHIP WHILE THE NEW CHURCH WAS BEING BUILT. FOR THIS PURPOSE THEY OBTAINED THE USE OF A FLOOR OF THE GIFFORD BUILDING IN BROOKLYN SQUARE, THEN THE MOST MODERN AS WELL AS THE MOST ELEGANT BUILDING IN THE CITY. IT WAS SURPRISINGLY ADEQUATE FOR OUR PURPOSES. THERE WAS A LARGE ASSEMBLY HALL WITH A SLIGHTLY RAISED PLATFORM AT ONE END WHICH SERVED AS OUR NAVE AND SANCTUARY. CONNECTED WITH THE LARGE ROOM WAS A SUITE OF SMALL ROOMS AND A WELL-EQUIPPED KITCHEN. THE FORMER WAS USED BY THE SUNDAY SCHOOL AND THE LATTER BY THE GUILD AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS.

EVEN AFTER THE NEEDS OF THE CONGREGATION HAD BEEN PROVIDED FOR, THE PLOT OF GROUND HAD TO BE CLEARED OF BUILDINGS BEFORE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW CHURCH COULD BE BEGUN. THE 1860 CHURCH, AFTER BEING DECONSECRATED, WAS GIVEN TO O. F. PRICE, FIRST MAYOR OF JAMESTOWN, WHO MOVED IT TO THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF FOURTH AND CHERRY STREETS WHERE IT SERVED FOR SEVERAL YEARS AS A LIVERY STABLE. THE RECTORY WAS SOLD TO J. W. BUTTERFIELD, THE CHOIRMASTER. THE OLD RESIDENCE HAS GONE THROUGH MANY HANDS BUT IT STILL STANDS AT THE CORNER OF SIXTH AND FAIRMOUNT.

THE CORNERSTONE OF THE NEW CHURCH WAS LAID NOVEMBER 29, 1892. BY THIS TIME THE REV. MR. NORTON HAD RETIRED AND WAS LIVING IN JAMESTOWN. WITH CHARACTERISTIC COURTESY, MR. DEALLEY GAVE HIM THE HONOR OF LAYING THIS CORNERSTONE AS HE HAD THAT OF THE FIRST ST. LUKE'S. BY AN ODD COINCIDENCE, THE PAPERS RELATING TO THE INCORPORATION OF THE PARISH IN 1834 WERE FOUND IN MAYVILLE IN THE EARLY 1890'S. IN DECEMBER 1892, A CERTIFIED COPY OF THE ORIGINAL CHARTER WAS GIVEN TO MR. NORTON. IT CAME TOO LATE TO BE PLACED IN THE CORNERSTONE, BUT IT IS NOW AMONG THE ARCHIVES OF THE PARISH.

THE FIRST SERVICE IN THE NEW CHURCH WAS HELD ON THANKSGIVING DAY, 1894. ON ENTERING THE BUILDING, ONE WAS STRUCK BY THE LIGHT COLORING OF EVERYTHING, FOR IT WAS

IN SHARP CONTRAST TO THE SOMBER EFFECT OF THE OLD FAMILIAR CHURCH. THE WALLS WERE HEAVENLY BLUE WITH A WIDE DADO OF ALTERNATING GOLD AND SILVER MADONNA LILIES. THE GOLDEN OAK PEWS WERE NEW AND CLEAN. THE ALTAR, RECENTLY IMPORTED FROM ITALY, WAS THEN PURE WHITE. AT THE SIDE IN THE BAPTISTRY WAS THE WHITE STONE MEMORIAL FONT. IN THE SANCTUARY AND CHANCEL WERE OTHER MEMORIALS: THE ALTAR CROSS, THE LECTERN AND THE PROCESSIONAL CROSS, ALL OF HIGHLY POLISHED BRASS.

THE ORGAN IN THE NEW CHURCH WAS THE BEST IN TOWN. WHEN THE FAMOUS FRENCH ORGANIST, GUILMANT, WAS TOURING THE STATES, OUR ORGAN WAS CHOSEN AS THE ONLY ONE GOOD ENOUGH FOR HIS SINGLE RECITAL IN THIS AREA. IT WAS THE THIRD PIPE ORGAN BELONGING TO THE PARISH. THE FIRST ONE WAS INSTALLED IN 1867. THAT ONE LASTED TWENTY-ONE YEARS, BEING REPLACED IN 1888 ABOUT THE TIME WHEN THE VESTED CHOIR WAS INTRODUCED.

THE VESTRY VOTED TO USE THE FURNISHINGS OF THE OLD CHURCH IN THE CHAPEL OF THE NEW ONE. THIS WAS NOT SO MUCH A MEASURE OF ECONOMY AS IT WAS THE EXPRESSION OF A DESIRE TO RETAIN SOMETHING OF THE PAST. MANY OF THOSE FURNISHINGS ARE STILL IN USE: THE STRAIGHT-BACKED PEWS, THE ALTAR RAIL, THE STONE FONT, THE CRUDELY-BUILT LECTERN. THE ALTAR ITSELF WAS DEDICATED BY MR. BURFORD IN THE 1870'S, THOUGH THE REREDOS BELONGS TO A MUCH LATER PERIOD. THE IRON FLEUR-DE-LIS SURMOUNTING THE COVER OF THE FONT IS A RELIC OF THE FIRST CHURCH, PICKED UP BY MR. NORTON OUT OF THE ASHES AFTER THE FIRE.

WITH A NEW CHURCH AND THE COMING OF A NEW CENTURY, A NUMBER OF ST. LUKE'S PARISHIONERS BEGAN TO AGITATE FOR A NEW RECTOR. SOME OF THEM WANTED MORE ELOQUENT SERMONS; SOME OF THEM CHAFED AT MR. DEALEY'S STRICT ENFORCEMENT OF THE RULES REGARDING THE OBSERVANCE OF ADVENT AND LENT; SOME MERELY DESIRED A CHANGE. MOST OF THE CONGREGATION, APPRECIATIVE OF MR. DEALEY'S STERLING QUALITIES AND WISE LEADERSHIP, WANTED HIM TO STAY WITH US. UNWILLING TO BE THE CAUSE OF DISSENSION IN THE PARISH, HE SUBMITTED HIS RESIGNATION IN 1901. AFTER MUCH DISCUSSION IT WAS ACCEPTED. FOLLOWING A BRIEF RECTORSHIP IN CANASERAGA, NEW YORK, MR. DEALEY RETIRED AND RETURNED TO JAMESTOWN TO SPEND HIS LAST DAYS AMONG HIS MANY DEVOTED FRIENDS.

THE REV. JOHN T. KERRIN

IN SEPTEMBER 1901 THE REV. JOHN T. KERRIN BECAME THE RECTOR OF ST. LUKE'S. IT IS DIFFICULT TO GIVE AN ACCOUNT OF HIS RECTORSHIP BECAUSE THERE ARE NO ADEQUATE RECORDS. WHILE PREPARING THIS HISTORY OF THE PARISH, I HAVE USED THE MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETINGS AS A PRIME SOURCE OF INFORMATION, BUT FROM 1901 TO 1951 THESE MINUTES ARE LACKING. THE FOLLOWING DATA ON MR. KERRIN COMES FROM PARISHIONERS, NEWSPAPERS, PARISH BULLETINS AND SCRAPBOOKS.

MR. KERRIN WAS BORN IN ENGLAND. HE WAS ORDAINED AND MARRIED THERE BUT MOVED TO SOUTH AMERICA WHILE STILL A YOUNG MAN. SUBSEQUENTLY HE WENT TO CANADA WHERE HE SERVED THE CHURCH AS A MISSIONARY. WHILE THE VESTRY OF ST. LUKE'S WAS LOOKING FOR A PRIEST TO REPLACE MR. DEALEY, SOME VESTRYMAN HEARD ABOUT MR. KERRIN WHOSE PARISHIONERS HAD JUST BUILT A NEW CHURCH UNDER HIS LEADERSHIP. A CONFERENCE WAS HELD WITH HIM AND A CONTRACT SIGNED, STIPULATING THE TERMS UNDER WHICH HE WAS TO BECOME THE RECTOR OF ST. LUKE'S. THIS OCCURRED SOON AFTER THE PASSAGE OF THE FAMOUS CONTRACT LABOR LAW, WHICH FORBODE ANY AMERICAN ORGANIZATION TO CONTRACT FOR ALIEN LABORERS AND TO BRING THEM INTO THE UNITED STATES UNDER THAT CONTRACT. THOUGH MR. KERRIN WAS A BRITISH SUBJECT, THE VESTRY WAS WITHIN ITS LEGAL RIGHTS SINCE THE LAW DID NOT APPLY TO PROFESSIONAL MEN. THERE WAS A STRONG FEELING IN AMERICA AT THIS TIME AGAINST REPLACING AN AMERICAN WITH A FOREIGNER, AND WHEN BISHOP WALKER HEARD WHAT THE VESTRY HAD DONE, HE DEMANDED THAT THE CONTRACT BE BROKEN. WHEN THE VESTRY IGNORED THE DIRECTIVE OF THE BISHOP, HE SHOWED HIS DISPLEASURE BY REFUSING TO COME TO ST. LUKE'S. THIS STRAINED RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BISHOP WALKER AND THE PARISH PREVAILED FOR SEVERAL YEARS. THE BREAK WITH THE BISHOP, ALONG WITH SOME RESENTMENT AGAINST THE VESTRY FOR HAVING ACCEPTED MR. DEALEY'S RESIGNATION, CREATED A DIFFICULT SITUATION FOR MR. KERRIN.

IN ONE RESPECT THE NEW RECTOR WAS VERY DIFFERENT FROM THE FORMER ONE. MR. DEALEY'S EMPHASIS HAD BEEN ON THE SACRAMENTS; MR. KERRIN'S WAS ON PREACHING. HIS SPECIAL INTEREST WAS IN EXEGESIS OF THE BIBLE. NOT ONLY IN HIS PARISH BUT THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY HE WAS WELL KNOWN AS AN INTERPRETER OF THE BIBLE. FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS HE GAVE BIBLE READING AT THE YWCA. THESE CLASSES WERE HIGHLY REGARDED BY THE EVER INCREASING NUMBER OF WOMEN

OF ALL FAITHS WHO ATTENDED THEM. MR. KERRIN'S INTEREST IN THE SOCIAL SERVICE OF THE COMMUNITY WAS EXPRESSED THROUGH THE VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION, AND HE WAS A MEMBER OF ITS FIRST BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

TWO PARISH ORGANIZATIONS WHICH ARE STILL FLOURISHING WERE ESTABLISHED WHILE MR. KERRIN WAS RECTOR HERE. ONE OF THEM WAS THE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY, NOW KNOWN AS THE GENERAL DIVISION OF WOMEN'S WORK. PRIOR TO THIS TIME THE ONLY WORK DONE BY THE WOMEN FOR ANY CAUSE OUTSIDE OF CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY WAS SEWING FOR MISSIONS AT A WEEKLY MEETING. EVEN THIS THEY DID INDEPENDENTLY, REFUSING TO ACCEPT AN ASSIGNMENT EITHER FROM THE DIOCESE OR FROM THE NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS OF THE CHURCH. IN THE EARLY 1900'S A BRANCH OF THE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY WAS ORGANIZED HERE UNDER THE PRESIDENCY OF CORA SHELDON TEW. ONE LENT A MISSION STUDY CLASS WAS FORMED WITHIN THIS BRANCH FOR A GROUP OF WOMEN WHO HAD EXPRESSED A DESIRE FOR FURTHER LENTEN DISCIPLINE. MRS. TEW INVITED EIGHT OR TEN WOMEN TO JOIN WITH HER IN SOME SYSTEMATIC STUDY OF MISSIONS. SHE ASKED ME TO BE THE TEACHER. (SINCE HALF OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CLASS WERE NAMED LUCY, WE CALLED IT THE LUCY CLUB). THE FIRST YEAR WE STUDIED CHRISTIAN WORK IN INDONESIA. WE GAINED SO MUCH INFORMATION AND VISION THAT WE DECIDED TO OPEN THE CLASS TO OTHERS THE FOLLOWING LENT AND REGULARLY HAD AN ATTENDANCE OF TWENTY-FIVE OR THIRTY.

THE SECOND ORGANIZATION FORMED DURING MR. KERRIN'S RECTORSHIP WAS ONE FOR WHICH I WAS RESPONSIBLE. IT WAS A LENTEN SEWING GROUP FOR HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS, CALLED ST. FAITH'S, BECAUSE THE GIRLS WERE MAKING LAYETTES FOR ST. FAITH'S HOME. THE ORGANIZATION I STARTED HAS GONE THROUGH MANY PHASES AND HAS FUNCTIONED UNDER MANY NAMES, BUT IT HAS REMAINED ALIVE AND HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN SOME PART OF THE CHURCH'S WORK. TODAY IT IS THE BISHOP OVERS GUILD TO WHICH I STILL BELONG. THIS GUILD MAINTAINS A SCHOLARSHIP IN ONE OF THE LIBERIAN SCHOOLS IN MEMORY OF WALTER H. OVERS, BISHOP OF LIBERIA, 1919-1925. FOR A PART OF HIS LIFE BISHOP OVERS WAS A RESIDENT OF JAMESTOWN, AND IN THE WINTER OF 1929 WHEN WE HAD NO RECTOR, HE WAS TEMPORARILY IN CHARGE OF OUR PARISH.

IN 1909 MR. KERRIN RESIGNED. HE HAD ACCEPTED AN OFFER FROM THE ART METAL CONSTRUCTION COMPANY TO ESTABLISH A BRANCH OF THAT FIRM IN SOUTH AMERICA. HIS ONLY DAUGHTER, ADA, MARRIED C. FRED MYERS, MEMBER OF A WELL-KNOWN FREWSBURG FAMILY. WHEN MR. KERRIN'S HEALTH FAILED, HE

CAME TO FREWSBURG TO LIVE WITH ADA AND HER FAMILY. LIKE MR. NORTON'S DAUGHTER, ADA WAS A FAITHFUL MEMBER OF ST. LUKE'S AS LONG AS SHE LIVED, AND WHEN SHE DIED, SHE LEFT A LEGACY TO ST. LUKE'S GUILD.

MISSIONARY EMPHASIS

IN THE FALL OF 1909 THE REV. LAIRD WINGATE SNELL BECAME THE RECTOR OF ST. LUKE'S. WHEN HE CAME TO JAMESTOWN, HE DID NOT SEEM A STRANGER FOR HE WAS RELATED TO E. SNELL HALL, A WELL-KNOWN CIVIC LEADER IN THIS COMMUNITY. MR. SNELL BELONGED TO AN OLD NEW ENGLAND FAMILY, BUT HE HAD GROWN UP IN MINNESOTA WHERE HIS FATHER WAS A MISSIONARY OF THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH. WHEN HE HAD COMPLETED HIS EDUCATION IN THE EAST, MR. SNELL BECAME A CONGREGATIONAL MINISTER, BUT HE SOON REALIZED THAT HIS SPIRITUAL HOME WAS IN THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION. AS SOON AS HE HAD PREPARED FOR AND RECEIVED EPISCOPAL ORDINATION, HE CAME TO ST. LUKE'S WITH ALL THE ZEAL AND ENTHUSIASM OF A RECENT CONVERT. IT WAS HIS FIRST ANGLICAN PARISH.

THE EXTANT RECORDS ARE SO SCANTY THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO GIVE A FULL ACCOUNT OF MR. SNELL'S RECTORSHIP, BUT WE DO KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT THE SPECIAL GROUPS THAT FLOURISHED UNDER HIS LEADERSHIP. ONE OF HIS PRIMARY CONCERNS WAS THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OF THE CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF THE PARISH. HE REORGANIZED THE SUNDAY SCHOOL AND INTRODUCED THE EXCELLENT CHRISTIAN NURTURE SERIES OF LESSONS. HE HAD EACH CLASS CHOOSE A PATRON SAINT SO THAT THE CHILDREN MIGHT LEARN SOMETHING ABOUT THE GREAT HEROES OF THE FAITH. TO INSURE FURTHER CHURCH TRAINING AFTER CONFIRMATION, HE ORGANIZED AN ALTAR GUILD COMPOSED LARGELY OF HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS UNDER ADULT SUPERVISION. LATER WITH A SIMILAR PURPOSE, HE STARTED AN ACOLYTES' GUILD FOR THE BOYS. WHEN MR. SNELL ACCEPTED THE OFFER OF JAMES L. WEEKS TO EQUIP THE ACOLYTES WITH RED CASSOCKS, THE CRY, "GOING TO ROME", RESOUNDED LONG AND LOUD. IT TOOK SOME TIME FOR THE FUROR TO SUBSIDE, BUT ULTIMATELY THE OBJECTORS LEARNED TO TOLERATE AND THEN TO LIKE THE ADDED COLOR IN THE SANCTUARY.

AN ORGANIZATION FOR MEN WHICH FLOURISHED DURING MR. SNELL'S MINISTRY HERE WAS A BRANCH OF THE BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW. IT HAS AN EXCELLENT RECORD ADEQUATELY

PRESERVED IN THEIR SECRETARY'S BOOK. THIS ACCOUNT REVEALS A DEEPENING AND ENRICHMENT OF THE SPIRITUAL LIVES OF THE MEMBERS AS WELL AS A VERY CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF SERVICE PERFORMED BY THE BROTHERHOOD FOR THE PARISH. AT THE END OF SEVEN YEARS, THE RECORD STOPS SUDDENLY WITHOUT A WORD OF EXPLANATION. MANY OF THEIR WEEKLY MEETINGS HAD BEEN HELD IN AN OLD CHAPEL WHICH BELONGED TO THE WCA HOSPITAL AND WHICH STOOD ON THE HOSPITAL GROUNDS FACING ALLEN STREET. THE RELATION BETWEEN ST. LUKE'S AND THIS HOSPITAL WAS CLOSE AND CORDIAL. THE LATTER GAVE US THE USE OF THEIR CHAPEL NOT ONLY FOR THE MEETINGS OF THE BROTHERHOOD BUT ALSO FOR SOME OF OUR LENTEN SERVICES. ST. LUKE'S GUILD, IN TURN, EQUIPPED A ROOM IN THE ORIGINAL BUILDING OF THE HOSPITAL AND MAINTAINED IT FOR MANY YEARS.

MR. SNELL WAS DEEPLY CONCERNED WITH THE MISSIONARY WORK OF THE WHOLE CHURCH. FROM THE BEGINNING OF HIS RECTORSHIP, HE HAD DONE A GREAT DEAL TO STIMULATE INTEREST IN THE LENTEN MISSION STUDY CLASS. SINCE I WAS THE LEADER OF THIS CLASS AS WELL AS SUPERINTENDENT OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL, I SOON BECAME WELL ACQUAINTED WITH THE RECTOR. I ALSO HAD PLEASANT SOCIAL RELATIONS WITH BOTH MR. AND MRS. SNELL. I NEVER DREAMED THAT THE RECTOR HAD ANY ULTERIOR PURPOSE IN ASKING ME TO DINE AS A SOLITARY GUEST AT THE RECTORY ON EASTER TUESDAY IN 1910. I WAS COMPLETELY SPEECHLESS WHEN, AS WE WERE EATING DESSERT, HE SAID QUITE MATTER-OF-FACTLY, "I'VE DECIDED YOU OUGHT TO OFFER YOURSELF TO THE BOARD OF MISSIONS AS A MISSIONARY." I GASPED BUT FINALLY MANAGED TO ARTICULATE, "I COULDN'T POSSIBLY." MR. SNELL SPENT THE EVENING POINTING OUT TO ME ALL THE REASONS HE HAD FOR URGING ME TO THINK THE MATTER OVER CAREFULLY AND PRAYERFULLY. IT WAS THE YEAR OF THE HALEY COMET, AND AS I LEFT THE RECTORY, ITS SERENE RADIANCE CALMED MY EXCITED NERVES. AS I THOUGHT OVER THE RECTOR'S ARGUMENTS, I CAME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT GOD WAS INDEED CALLING ME TO OFFER MYSELF AND THAT I SHOULD ALLOW THE BOARD OF MISSIONS TO DECIDE. IF YOU FEEL THAT THE LORD IS CALLING YOU, OF COURSE YOU CAN'T REFUSE. THE BOARD OF MISSIONS DID ACCEPT ME, BUT IT WAS SIX MONTHS BEFORE ALL THE ARRANGEMENTS WERE COMPLETED, AND I STARTED RELUCTANTLY ON MY LONG JOURNEY TO WUCHANG, CHINA TO TEACH IN ST. HILDA'S DIOCESAN BOARDING SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.

PART OF MR. SNELL'S PLAN WAS THAT I SHOULD BE ST. LUKE'S OWN MISSIONARY WITH THE PARISH PAYING THE AMOUNT OF MY SALARY INTO THE TREASURY OF THE BOARD OF MISSIONS.

AFTER SOME CAMPAIGNING, PLANNED AND LED BY MR. SNELL, ST. LUKE'S ENTHUSIASTICALLY GUARANTEED MY SALARY. LATER THE ENTHUSIASM EVAPORATED, AND WHEN MY SECOND YEAR IN CHINA CAME AROUND, I WAS NO LONGER SUPPORTED BY ST. LUKE'S. I NEVER KNEW EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED, BUT THIS LOSS OF SUPPORT WAS A GREAT TRIAL TO ME, ESPECIALLY SINCE I WAS NOT YET ADJUSTED TO THE DIFFICULTIES OF LIFE IN CHINA.

EVERARD MILLER WAS ON THE FACULTY OF BOONE SCHOOL. HE HAD BEEN IN CHINA TWO YEARS AND HAD ACQUIRED A READY USE OF COLLOQUIAL CHINESE. THE DAY THAT I ARRIVED HE HAD PROMPTLY CALLED "TO SEE WHAT ST. HILDA'S HAD DRAWN", AND THEN PROCEEDED TO HELP ME SETTLE. JUST BEFORE HE SAILED TO AMERICA TO GET HIS MASTER'S DEGREE, WE BECAME ENGAGED. A YEAR LATER I WENT HOME. EVERARD MILLER MET ME IN JAMESTOWN WHERE ST. LUKE'S GAVE US A BEAUTIFUL WEDDING. AT THE END OF OUR FURLOUGH, THE BOARD OF MISSIONS SENT US TO WUCHANG TO TEACH IN BOONE SCHOOL. HOWEVER, MOST OF MY SUBSEQUENT TEACHING WAS IN CENTRAL CHINA COLLEGE, A UNION CHRISTIAN COLLEGE WHICH WAS USING THE BOONE COLLEGE BUILDINGS AND IN WHICH WE EPISCOPALIANS HAD A MAJOR SHARE.

AT THE END OF MR. SNELL'S RECTORSHIP, THE PARISH WAS IN EXCELLENT CONDITION BOTH PHYSICALLY AND SPIRITUALLY. HE DID NOT WANT TO LEAVE US, AND WE DID NOT WANT HIM TO GO, BUT A COMPARATIVELY TRIFLING DIFFERENCE OF OPINION BETWEEN RECTOR AND VESTRY CAUSED THE SEVERANCE OF THE STRONG TIES BETWEEN PRIEST AND PARISHIONERS. MR. SNELL FILLED SEVERAL OTHER PASTORATES SUCCESSFULLY UNTIL HIS RETIREMENT SEVERAL YEARS AGO. SINCE THAT TIME HE HAS LIVED WITH HIS SON IN A WASHINGTON SUBURB. HE COMES TO CHAUTAUQUA ALMOST EVERY SUMMER, MAKING SIDE TRIPS TO JAMESTOWN TO GREET OLD FRIENDS.

THE REV. REGINALD NORTON WILLCOX: OXFORD MOVEMENT

IN THE FALL OF 1917 THE REV. REGINALD NORTON WILLCOX CAME FROM A PARISH IN NORTH CAROLINA TO BECOME THE RECTOR OF ST. LUKE'S. IN ORDER TO APPRAISE HIS RECTORSHIP FAIRLY, IT IS NECESSARY TO RECALL BRIEFLY AN EPISODE IN ANGLICAN CHURCH HISTORY.

IN 1833 A NOTABLE GROUP OF OXFORD THEOLOGIANs BEGAN A VIGOROUS CAMPAIGN TO RESTORE TO THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND THE TEACHINGS OF THE PRIMITIVE CHURCH AS INTERPRETED BY

THE EARLY CHURCH FATHERS AND AS REVEALED BY THE PRACTICE OF THE UNDIVIDED CHURCH DURING THE FIRST FEW CHRISTIAN CENTURIES. THIS GROUP EMPHASIZED THE SACRAMENTAL HERITAGE OF THE CHURCH AND REVIVED MANY OF THE ANCIENT CEREMONIES. THIS CRUSADE, KNOWN AS THE OXFORD MOVEMENT, SPREAD TO THE CHURCH IN AMERICA VERY SLOWLY. WHEN FATHER WILLCOX CAME TO ST. LUKE'S, IT WAS PRACTICALLY UNKNOWN IN THIS PARISH.

FATHER WILLCOX WAS A STRONG ADHERENT OF THE OXFORD MOVEMENT AND ALMOST IMMEDIATELY AFTER HIS ARRIVAL HERE HE MADE SOME CHANGES IN KEEPING WITH ITS TEACHINGS AND CUSTOMS. THE MOST IMPORTANT OF THESE WAS THE SUBSTITUTION OF THE EUCHARIST FOR MORNING PRAYER AS THE CHIEF SERVICE OF EVERY SUNDAY. HE WORE A CHASUBLE INSTEAD OF A SURPLICE; HE REVERENCED THE ALTAR; HE MADE THE SIGN OF THE CROSS AT THE ABSOLUTION AND THE BLESSING. THESE CHANGES IN SERVICES, VESTMENTS AND CEREMONIAL CAUSED CONSTERNATION IN A PARISH WHICH ONLY A FEW YEARS BEFORE HAD BEEN TORN ASUNDER BY THE INTRODUCTION OF RED CAS-SOCKS. EVEN ALTAR CANDLES WERE COMPARATIVELY NEW TO THIS PARISH IN 1917. FATHER WILLCOX HAS BEEN CRITICIZED FOR FAILURE TO EXPLAIN THE CHANGES THAT HE MADE. THAT CRITICISM IS UNJUST FOR EARLY IN HIS MINISTRY HERE HE DID ORGANIZE A CLASS FOR THAT PURPOSE, BUT SO FEW ATTENDED THAT HE ABANDONED THE FUTILE EFFORT.

THE NEW RECTOR SOON DIRECTED HIS ENERGY TO THE TEACHING OF THE CHILDREN. HE HAD AS A FOUNDATION FOR HIS WORK THE EXCELLENT SUNDAY SCHOOL ESTABLISHED BY HIS PREDECESSOR. FATHER WILLCOX MADE ONE IMPORTANT CHANGE. INSTEAD OF HAVING THE "OPENING EXERCISES" OF THE SCHOOL IN THE UNDERCROFT, HE BROUGHT THE CHILDREN INTO THE CHURCH FOR MORNING PRAYER OR A CHILDREN'S EUCHARIST BEFORE THE TEACHING SESSION. HE WAS A GIFTED TEACHER, AND NOWHERE WAS HIS ABILITY MORE APPARENT THAN IN THE CLASSES WHICH HE PRESENTED FOR CONFIRMATION. HE WAS A STRICT DISCIPLINARIAN TOO. FRANCESCA GOODELL RAPPOLE TELLS THAT BECAUSE SHE MISSED A SINGLE SESSION OF INSTRUCTION, HER CONFIRMATION WAS DEFERRED UNTIL THE FOLLOWING YEAR. THE GIRLS IN FATHER WILLCOX'S CLASSES WERE THE FIRST TO WEAR THE NOW FAMILIAR CONFIRMATION VEILS.

UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF MRS. WILLCOX THE ALTAR GUILD BECAME A VIGOROUS AND EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATION. YOUNG GIRLS CONTINUED TO BE THE ACTIVE MEMBERS BUT THERE WAS A GROUP OF WOMEN AS ASSOCIATES. ONE OF THE PROJECTS OF

THE GUILD WAS THE SALE OF CHURCH CALENDARS, A PROJECT SUGGESTED BY FATHER WILLCOX IN ORDER THAT MEMBERS MIGHT LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CHURCH SEASONS AND HOLY DAYS. BY SOLICITING SMALL GIFTS FROM MANY PARISHIONERS, THE ALTAR GUILD OBTAINED ENOUGH MONEY TO ERECT A REREDOS FOR THE CHAPEL ALTAR. THIS CONTAINED SPACE FOR A TABERNACLE WHICH WAS SOON GIVEN AS A MEMORIAL. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE LONG HISTORY OF THE PARISH, THE SACRAMENT WAS REVERENTLY RESERVED SO THAT THE HOLY COMMUNION COULD BE TAKEN PROMPTLY TO THE SICK AND DYING.

AMPLE PROVISION WAS MADE FOR THE CHURCH ACTIVITIES OF THE BOYS. A BOY SCOUT TROOP WAS ORGANIZED AND THE WORK OF THE ACOLYTES' GUILD CONTINUED. FATHER WILLCOX NOT ONLY TAUGHT THE BOYS TO PERFORM THEIR DUTIES CONSCIENTIOUSLY, BUT BY HIS ASSOCIATION WITH THEM WON THEIR ADMIRATION, FRIENDSHIP AND LOYALTY. THE RECTORY WAS A SECOND HOME FOR ALL THE ACOLYTES. FOR A SHORT TIME THE RECTOR WAS ASSISTED BY THE FIRST CURATE WHO EVER SERVED THIS PARISH, THE REV. BENJAMIN STEWART BERT.

DURING FATHER WILLCOX'S INCUMBENCY ST. LUKE'S ENTERAINED THE DIOCESAN CONVENTION FOR THE FIRST TIME. BISHOP BRENT HAD LONG BEEN INTERESTED IN THE ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT, AND IT WAS WITH HIS HEARTY APPROVAL THAT FATHER WILLCOX ESTABLISHED FRATERNAL RELATIONS WITH THE GREEK ORTHODOX PARISH IN JAMESTOWN. AT THAT TIME THEY HAD NO CHURCH BUILDING HERE, AND ON AT LEAST ONE OCCASION FATHER WILLCOX GAVE THEM THE USE OF ST. LUKE'S FOR AN ORTHODOX SERVICE.

FOR MOST OF ITS LIFE ST. LUKE'S HAD BEEN PLAGUED BY FINANCIAL PROBLEMS. THESE BECAME ACUTE IN FATHER WILLCOX'S TIME BECAUSE THERE WERE MEMBERS WHO DID NOT WANT TO SUPPORT THE EMPHASES FATHER WILLCOX ESPOUSED. IN ORDER TO ELIMINATE THE FINANCIAL PROBLEMS AND TO PUT THE PARISH ON A SOUND BASIS, FATHER WILLCOX STRONGLY URGED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ENDOWMENT FUND. UNFORTUNATELY, ALL THE MONEY THAT COULD BE RAISED IN THE PARISH HAD TO BE USED TO MEET PRESSING CURRENT EXPENSES, AND THIS COMMENDABLE PROGRAM OF THE RECTOR COULD NOT BE CARRIED OUT.

AS THE YEARS WENT ON THE DIVERGENCE BETWEEN WHAT THE RECTOR BELIEVED TO BE IMPORTANT AND WHAT THE PEOPLE WANTED WIDENED. THIS RESULTED IN A DIMINISHING ATTENDANCE AT SERVICES AND MOUNTING DEBTS. EVENTUALLY THE SITUATION BECAME INTOLERABLE, AND IN ORDER TO RESOLVE

IT FATHER WILLCOX RESIGNED IN JANUARY 1929 TO BECOME THE RECTOR OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH IN GOWANDA. THOUGH FATHER WILLCOX DID NOT HAVE THE SUPPORT OF A MAJORITY OF THE PARISH, HE WAS AN EXCELLENT TEACHER AND GAVE MUCH TO THOSE WHO ACCEPTED HIM. HIS IMMEDIATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS WERE SMALL, BUT THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT ST. LUKE'S BENEFITED BY HIS MINISTRY BECAUSE MANY THINGS WHICH HE INAUGURATED AGAINST STRONG AND, AT TIMES, BITTER OPPOSITION HAVE BECOME THE ACCEPTED PRACTICES OF THE PARISH. HE BORE WITNESS TO THE FULLNESS OF THE ANGLICAN FAITH AND PRACTICE AT A TIME WHEN IT WAS DIFFICULT TO DO SO.

THE REV. LEWIS E. WARD: CENTENNIAL

IN FEBRUARY 1929, JUST A MONTH AFTER FATHER WILLCOX HAD RESIGNED, THE REV. LEWIS E. WARD BECAME THE RECTOR OF ST. LUKE'S. HE CAME FROM ST. THOMAS' PARISH IN BATH, NEW YORK, FULLY AWARE OF THE SITUATION AT ST. LUKE'S. HE KNEW THAT THE PARISH WAS NOT UNITED, THAT THE CHURCH BUILDING WAS IN NEED OF REPAIRS AND THAT THE DEBT WAS A LARGE ONE. AS HE HAS OFTEN SAID IN LATER YEARS, HE WAS YOUNG AND READY TO ACCEPT SUCH CONDITIONS AS A CHALLENGE.

A VIGOROUS CAMPAIGN FOR MONEY TO REDUCE THE DEBT AND TO START THE REPAIRS WAS UNDERTAKEN AT ONCE. FORTUNATELY THE MARKET COLLAPSE WHICH STARTED THE GREAT DEPRESSION WAS STILL SEVEN MONTHS AWAY. THE CAMPAIGN WAS A GREAT SUCCESS. THE PARISHIONERS RALLIED TO THE SUPPORT OF THE NEW RECTOR, AND, FOR THE MOMENT AT LEAST, MONEY WAS PLENTIFUL. EVEN AFTER THE DEPRESSION BEGAN, THE PEOPLE WHO WERE ABLE TO DO SO CONTINUED TO GIVE GENEROUSLY WITH THE RESULT THAT THERE WERE THREE LOVELY MEMORIAL WINDOWS IN THE SANCTUARY IN 1934.

THE EXISTING ORGANIZATIONS OF ST. LUKE'S WERE CONTINUED AND SOME NEW ONES ADDED. MRS. MADELYN FILBRICK DEVOTED A GREAT DEAL OF TIME AND THOUGHT TO THE TRAINING OF THE GIRLS IN THE ALTAR GUILD, THOUGH SHE AND HER ASSISTANT, MRS. WILLIAM OSBERG, DID MUCH OF THE ACTUAL WORK THEMSELVES. IN AN EFFORT TO STIMULATE INTEREST IN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION, MRS. WARD MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR SEVERAL LARGE CHURCH SCHOOL RALLIES WHICH WERE HELD IN THE CHAUTAUQUA DEANERY. THE RECTOR STARTED THE FIRST MARRIED COUPLES GUILD IN THE EARLY PART OF THE DEPRESSION

TO GIVE THE PARISHIONERS SOME GOOD BUT INEXPENSIVE SOCIAL LIFE. HE ORGANIZED A MEN'S CLUB WHICH FLOURISHED FOR A TIME. THOUGH NO WRITTEN RECORDS OF THIS GROUP ARE AVAILABLE, ONE STILL HEARS ABOUT THE EXCELLENT PLAYS WHICH THEY PRODUCED. A LITTLE LATER SARITA WEEKS DIRECTED SOME MEMORABLE MEDIEVAL PAGEANTS IN WHICH MEMBERS OF THE PARISH PLAYED THE PARTS.

MR. WARD MADE AN IMPORTANT CHANGE IN THE CONDUCT OF THE LENTEN NOON-DAY SERVICES. UNDER THE PREVIOUS INCUMBENT THE RECTOR HAD GIVEN THE MEDITATION, BUT MR. WARD INTRODUCED THE CUSTOM OF HAVING OUT-OF-TOWN PREACHERS GIVE THE ADDRESSES. THIS WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY AN ARRANGEMENT WITH OTHER PARISHES IN THE VICINITY. EACH HAD THE LENTEN SERVICE ON A DIFFERENT DAY OR AT A DIFFERENT HOUR SO THAT OUTSTANDING SPEAKERS FROM OTHER DIOCESES COULD CONVENIENTLY MAKE THE ROUNDS. THESE NOON-DAY MEETINGS WERE FOLLOWED BY LUNCHEON SERVED BY THE LOCAL BRANCH OF THE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY.

ONE OF THE INTERESTING EVENTS THAT TOOK PLACE DURING MR. WARD'S RECTORSHIP WAS THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE FOUNDING OF THE PARISH. THIS BEGAN ON THE EVENING OF MAY 5, 1934. THE PARISHIONERS GATHERED IN THE UNDERCROFT TO HEAR A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP DAVIS AND ADDRESSES GIVEN BY MR. GEORGE T. BALLACHY AND BY BISHOP OVERS. THIS PART OF THE PROGRAM WAS FOLLOWED BY FIVE TABLEAUX, DEPICTING EVENTS IN THE EARLY DAYS OF THE PARISH. THE CHARACTERS WERE TAKEN BY DESCENDANTS OF THE LEADING CHURCHMEN OF THE TIME. ON THE FOLLOWING MORNING, SUNDAY, MAY 6TH, THE HOLY COMMUNION WAS CELEBRATED AT EIGHT O'CLOCK WITH SPECIAL THANKSGIVING AND PRAYERS FOR THE LIFE AND WORK OF THE PARISH. THE ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE WAS A FESTAL EUCHARIST DURING WHICH THE RECTOR PREACHED THE ANNIVERSARY SERMON.

IN 1935 THE RECTOR'S ALMA MATER, HOBART COLLEGE, AWARDED HIM THE HONORARY DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF DIVINITY. HIS CITATION READ, "HE IS A LEADER OF ALL GOOD WORKS IN HIS COMMUNITY AND IN WESTERN NEW YORK."

AFTER THE ATTACK AT PEARL HARBOR, THE ACTIVITIES AT ST. LUKE'S WERE SOMEWHAT CURTAILED. MANY OF THE YOUNG MEN WERE CALLED INTO THE ARMED FORCES. THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE PARISH DEVOTED MUCH OF THEIR TIME AND ENERGY TO THE SUPPORT OF THE WAR EFFORT. THE RECTOR WAS THE DIRECTOR OF THE LOCAL RED CROSS. BY THIS TIME THE CHURCH BUILDING WAS FIFTY YEARS OLD AND IN CONSTANT NEED OF REPAIR.

ALTHOUGH IT WAS DIFFICULT DURING THE WAR YEARS TO GET COMPETENT WORKMEN AND SUITABLE BUILDING MATERIALS, ESSENTIAL REPAIRS WERE MADE ON THE CHURCH, DAMAGING LEAKS STOPPED AND THE HEATING SYSTEM IMPROVED.

THE VARIOUS RECTORS OF ST. LUKE'S HAVE EXCELLED IN DIFFERENT WAYS. DR. WARD'S SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION WAS HIS ABILITY TO REACH PEOPLE IN HIS FREQUENT PARISH CALLS. THESE FRIENDLY CALLS ARE STILL SPOKEN OF AFFECTIONATELY BY MEMBERS OF THE PARISH AND OF THE COMMUNITY.

TOWARD THE END OF THE DECADE, DR. WARD'S HEALTH BEGAN TO FAIL. ON JANUARY 1, 1951, AT THE CLOSE OF THE HOLY COMMUNION CELEBRATED IN HONOR OF OUR LORD'S CIRCUMCISION, HE SUFFERED A SEVERE HEART ATTACK. AFTER BEING HOSPITALIZED FOR MANY WEEKS, HE HAD A LONG CONVALESCENCE AT THE RECTORY. ON SUNDAY, APRIL 20TH, AT THE TIME OF BISHOP SCAIFE'S VISITATION, DR. WARD'S MOVING LETTER OF RESIGNATION WAS READ TO THE LARGE CONGREGATION. AFTER TWENTY-TWO YEARS, THE LONGEST RECTORSHIP IN THE HISTORY OF ST. LUKE'S, HIS ACTIVE MINISTRY CAME TO AN END. BY ACTION OF THE VESTRY, HE IS NOW RECTOR EMERITUS OF THE PARISH.

PRESENT RECTOR: STRONG, UNIFIED PARISH

DURING THE GREATER PART OF 1951 ST. LUKE'S WAS WITHOUT A RECTOR. BISHOP SCAIFE KEPT US SUPPLIED WITH PRIESTS TO CONDUCT THE WEEKLY SERVICES, WHILE THE WARDENS, JAMES GILES AND HENRI HALL, WERE TIRELESS IN THEIR EFFORTS TO KEEP THE PARISH FUNCTIONING. IN NOVEMBER THE REV. GEORGE FRANCIS O'PRAY CAME FROM ST. CLEMENT'S CHURCH IN BUFFALO TO BECOME OUR RECTOR.

AS HAD BEEN THE CASE TWENTY YEARS BEFORE WHEN DR. WARD CAME, MANY THINGS NEEDED IMMEDIATE ATTENTION. FORTUNATELY FOR US FATHER GEORGE EXCELS AS AN ORGANIZER, AND WITHIN A VERY SHORT TIME WE WERE ENGAGED IN A WELL-ORGANIZED LOYALTY SUNDAY CAMPAIGN WHICH QUICKLY RAISED SOMEWHAT MORE THAN THE BUDGET. NOW CAME ANOTHER SURPRISE. THOUGH ST. LUKE'S IS ALMOST A CENTURY AND A QUARTER OLD, THERE HAD NEVER BEEN AN ANNUAL MEETING TO INFORM THE MEMBERS ABOUT THE STATE OF THE PARISH, NOR A TRULY DEMOCRATIC ELECTION OF WARDENS AND VESTRYMEN. IN 1951 FOR THE FIRST TIME MEMBERS OF THE PARISH WERE INVITED TO SEND IN NOMINATIONS FOR THOSE OFFICES. THE ELECTION WAS HELD AT THE CLOSE OF THE PARISH MEETING IN

DECEMBER, AND ALL MALE MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO VOTE. TWO YEARS LATER THE VOTE WAS EXTENDED TO QUALIFIED WOMEN. AT THIS FIRST PARISH MEETING, REPORTS WERE GIVEN ON ALL PHASES OF THE PARISH AND EVERYONE HAD A CHANCE TO ENTER THE DISCUSSIONS.

PLANS WERE SOON MADE TO REDECORATE THE CHURCH AND TO BEGIN EXTENSIVE REPAIRS AND ALTERATIONS IN THE UNDERCROFT. WHILE THIS WORK WAS BEING DONE, OTHER IMPROVEMENTS OF VARIOUS KINDS WERE MADE. ONE SUNDAY WE FOUND IN THE PEW RACKS AN AMPLE SUPPLY OF NEW PRAYER BOOKS AND HYMNALS. AT THE RECTOR'S SUGGESTION, WE JOINED THE GROWING NUMBER OF PARISHES THAT HAVE A COFFEE HOUR AFTER THE ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE ON SUNDAY. THIS HAS PROVED POPULAR AND VALUABLE UNDER THE MANAGEMENT OF ST. LUKE'S GUILD. THE BISHOP OVERS GUILD FURNISHES MILK AND COOKIES TO THE ELEVEN O'CLOCK SESSION OF THE CHURCH SCHOOL.

'HELPFUL BEQUEST EXTENDS WORK

KATE VANDERBURGH ASHWELL WAS A DEVOTED AND ACTIVE MEMBER OF ST. LUKE'S PARISH. CIRCUMSTANCES HAD MADE HER A VERY WEALTHY WOMAN DURING HER LAST YEARS, AND NO ONE WAS SURPRISED WHEN SHE LEFT THE BULK OF HER FORTUNE TO BE DIVIDED BETWEEN THE WCA HOSPITAL AND ST. LUKE'S CHURCH. WHEN OUR PRESENT EDIFICE WAS CONSECRATED, OUR ORGAN WAS THE BEST IN THIS AREA, BUT WATER FROM A LEAK IN THE ROOF HAD DAMAGED IT SO BADLY THAT IT WAS NOW ALMOST UNUSABLE. THE VESTRY DECIDED TO USE OUR FIRST INCOME FROM THE ASHWELL TRUST FUND TO BUY A FINE NEW AEOLIAN-SKINNER ORGAN AND TO DEDICATE IT AS A MEMORIAL TO MRS. ASHWELL. WE WERE HAPPY TO SECURE AN ORGANIST WORTHY OF THE NEW INSTRUMENT, DEAN REDICK, WHO IS ALSO AN EXPERIENCED AND ABLE CHOIR DIRECTOR. SOON AFTER THE ORGAN WAS STARTED, DR. ADELAIDE WESTON MADE POSSIBLE THE ELECTRIFICATION OF THE CHIMES IN THE TOWER. THESE CAN BE PLAYED EITHER FROM THE ORGAN KEYBOARD OR FROM THE CONSOLE IN THE TOWER ROOM. DR. WESTON ALSO SET UP FUNDS TO GIVE COMPENSATION TO YOUNG PEOPLE FOR PLAYING THE CHIMES DAILY.

ACCORDING TO MRS. ASHWELL'S WISHES, THE INCOME FROM THE ASHWELL TRUST FUND IS TO BE USED FOR ADVANCE WORK IN THE CHURCH AND NOT FOR CURRENT EXPENSES. PROJECTS WORTHY OF THIS TRUST WERE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED BY THE VESTRY. AFTER THE MEMORIAL ORGAN HAD BEEN PAID FOR, A

PART OF THE INCOME WAS USED FOR THE ALTERATION OF THE UNDERCROFT WHICH HAS MADE POSSIBLE THE ENLARGEMENT OF THE CHURCH SCHOOL. ANOTHER PORTION IS SET ASIDE EACH YEAR TO ACCUMULATE UNTIL SUCH TIME AS WE MAY NEED ADDITIONAL CHURCH PROPERTY OR A LARGER STAFF. SOME OF THE INCOME IS USED FOR CHURCH-RELATED CAUSES OUTSIDE OF OUR OWN PARISH. A SCHOLARSHIP FUND HAS BEEN SET UP TO HELP IN THE EDUCATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE OF ST. LUKE'S WHO INTEND TO ENTER THE MINISTRY OR TO MAKE A VOCATION OF CHURCH WORK IN OTHER FIELDS. A SMALL PART OF THE INCOME IS USED TO HELP WITH THE EXPENSES OF PARISHIONERS WHO ATTEND CHURCH CONFERENCES AND CAMPS. MAJOR REPAIRS OR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PROPERTY OF THE CHURCH WILL ALSO BE A CHARGE AGAINST THE INCOME FROM THIS TRUST FUND.

FINE CURATES

BY THE TIME FATHER GEORGE HAD BEEN WITH US SIX MONTHS, SO MUCH NEW WORK HAD BEEN BEGUN THAT THERE WAS OBVIOUS NEED FOR THE HELP OF A CURATE. WE HAVE BEEN FORTUNATE IN SECURING A SERIES OF CAPABLE AND DEVOTED YOUNG MEN TO SERVE IN THAT CAPACITY. THE FIRST WAS THE REV. JOHN NICHOLSON WHO LEFT US TO BECOME RECTOR OF TRINITY CHURCH IN SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA. HE WAS FOLLOWED BY THE REV. GILBERT LAIDLAW WHO BECAME VICAR OF THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY APOSTLES IN PERRY, NEW YORK. THE CURRENT CURATE IS THE REV. BERNARD CAMPBELL WHO HAS BEEN ESPECIALLY SUCCESSFUL IN BUILDING UP THE WORK AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE STARTED BY FATHER GILBERT. MR. DEALEY WAS THE FIRST RECTOR TO UNDERTAKE SUCH WORK, BUT UNTIL RECENTLY THERE WAS NO REAL ORGANIZATION LIKE THAT OF THE PRESENT YOUNG ADULTS GUILD WHICH DOES A GREAT MANY INTERESTING AND PROFITABLE THINGS UNDER FATHER BERNARD'S DIRECTION.

IN ADDITION TO THE RECTOR AND THE CURATE, THE STAFF COMPRISES FIVE MEMBERS: MRS. STANLEY A. DAVIS IS THE PARISH SECRETARY, MISS BONNY B. DEAN, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, AND MRS. MADelyn FILBRICK, DIRECTOR OF THE NURSERY SCHOOL; I HAVE ALREADY MENTIONED MR. REDICK, THE ORGANIST AND CHOIR DIRECTOR; THE REMAINING MEMBER OF THE STAFF IS THE VERSATILE AND AMIABLE KENNETH EDDY, WHO IN ADDITION TO DOING EVERYTHING ELSE, MAKES THE BEST COFFEE IN JAMESTOWN.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

WHEN MR. O'PRAY CAME TO ST. LUKE'S, THE CHURCH SCHOOL, BEING IN A MORIBUND CONDITION, CLAIMED HIS IMMEDIATE ATTENTION. WITHIN A YEAR THE SCHOOL HAD IMPROVED NOTICEABLY, BUT NONE OF THE NEW AND ALERT TEACHERS WAS SATISFIED WITH ANY AVAILABLE CURRICULUM. THE SEABURY SERIES, JUST OFF THE PRESS, WAS TRIED AND DISCARDED. THEN WITH GREAT DARING THE RECTOR, WITH THE HELP OF THE CHURCH SCHOOL FACULTY, STARTED ON THE TREMENDOUS TASK OF MAKING ST. LUKE'S OWN CURRICULUM, OFTEN WORKING ON THE PROJECT AT MEETINGS WHICH LASTED UNTIL WELL AFTER MIDNIGHT. AS A RESULT, THE CHURCH SCHOOL IS NOW FOLLOWING A MODERN COURSE DESIGNED TO MAKE FAITHFUL AND INTELLIGENT CHURCHMEN OF THE YOUNGSTERS. NOT THE LEAST OF THIS ACHIEVEMENT IS THAT IT HAS NOW BECOME POSSIBLE TO ENLIST AND TO KEEP THE NECESSARY BODY OF TEACHERS.

DEVOTED WOMEN

THE WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS OF ST. LUKE'S HAVE CONTINUED TO FUNCTION EFFECTIVELY. AS OCCASION DEMANDED, ST. LUKE'S GUILD HAS SERVED DINNERS FOR PARISH WORKERS, ENTERTAINED AT COFFEE HOURS AND RECEPTIONS, AND HAS RAISED MONEY TO SUPPLY VARIOUS PARISH NEEDS. THE BISHOP OVERS GUILD HAS CARRIED ON A PROGRAM OF RELIGIOUS, EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES. IN ADDITION TO CONTRIBUTING GENEROUSLY TO PARISH IMPROVEMENTS, THE CORA SHELDON TEW GUILD HAS PREPARED MANY A FINE MISSIONARY BOX AND HAS UNDERTAKEN SOME EDUCATIONAL AND DEVOTIONAL PROJECTS. EVER SINCE I RETURNED TO JAMESTOWN, I HAVE CONDUCTED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THIS GUILD ONE OR TWO CLASSES EACH YEAR ON MISSIONS, CHURCH HISTORY OR THE BIBLE. TWO OR THREE YEARS AGO, AT THE REQUEST OF THE DEVOTIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE OF THE DIOCESE, THE WOMEN OF ST. LUKE'S SPONSORED A THREE-DAY SCHOOL OF PRAYER FOR THE DEANERIES OF CHAUTAUQUA AND CATTARAUGUS. LARGELY BECAUSE OF FATHER O'PRAY'S HELP, THE SESSION HELD AT ST. LUKE'S WAS PRAISED BY THE DIOCESAN COMMITTEE AS THE BEST OF THAT YEAR. ALSO AT THE REQUEST OF THE DEVOTIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE, OUR RECTOR GAVE TWO INSTRUCTED CELEBRATIONS OF THE HOLY COMMUNION FOR THE WOMEN OF THE DEANERY. THERE WAS A TIME WHEN THE WOMEN OF THIS PARISH WERE INDIFFERENT TO THE UNITED THANK OFFERING, BUT OF LATE UNDER EXTREMELY CAPABLE CUSTODIANS, WE HAVE BEGUN TO REALIZE THE PRIVILEGE AND BLESSING OF USING THE LITTLE BLUE BOXES. NOW OUR UTO RANKS VERY NEAR THE TOP OF THE OFFERINGS OF THE DIOCESE.

LOYAL LAYMEN

DURING THE RECTORSHIP OF MR. O'PRAY THE ACTIVITY OF THE MEN OF THIS PARISH HAS BEEN NOTABLE. IN ADDITION TO THE ELEVEN ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE VESTRY, THERE ARE SEVERAL ASSOCIATES WHO SHARE IN THE WORK OF THAT BODY. MOST OF THIS WORK IS DONE BY COMMITTEES. THE MANY IMPROVEMENTS IN AND ABOUT THE CHURCH BUILDING GIVE EVIDENCE OF THE TIME AND EFFORT SPENT BY THE MEN OF THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE. THE WORK OF THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE, THOUGH LESS SPECTACULAR, IS NO LESS EXACTING. WITH THE RECTOR, THE MEN ON THIS COMMITTEE ARE DEEPLY INVOLVED IN EVERYTHING WHICH CONCERNS THE CHURCH SCHOOL INCLUDING THE RECRUITING OF TEACHERS. AT PRESENT MEN OF THIS PARISH ARE TEACHING ALL BOYS FROM THE FIFTH THROUGH THE NINTH GRADE. THE USHERING COMMITTEE IS AN EFFICIENT ORGANIZATION COMPOSED OF A LARGE NUMBER OF MEN OF THE PARISH WHO SERVE AT REGULARLY APPOINTED TIMES UNDER CAPABLE LEADERS. THEY TAKE THE ALTAR FLOWERS TO THE SICK AND SHUT-IN NOT ONLY ON SUNDAYS BUT ALSO AT CHRISTMAS AND EASTER.

A NUMBER OF THE MEN OF ST. LUKE'S ARE MEMBERS OF VARIOUS DIOCESAN BOARDS AND COMMITTEES. RECENTLY AN OPPORTUNITY WAS OFFERED TO MEN TO SERVE AS LAY READERS BOTH WITHIN AND BEYOND OUR PARISH LIMITS. IN RESPONSE TO THIS CALL, STANLEY DAVIS, CHARLES GOODELL, RAYMOND LEE AND ROBERT WILSON TOOK A PRESCRIBED COURSE AT THE DIOCESAN CONFERENCE CENTER. THEY RECEIVED THEIR LICENSES FROM THE BISHOP AND WERE INDUCTED INTO OFFICE BY THE RECTOR AT THE ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE ON APRIL 12, 1959. THEY HAVE ALREADY ENTERED UPON THEIR DUTIES AT THE NINE-THIRTY SERVICE ON SUNDAY.

THOUGH THE MEN'S CLUB DISBANDED, ITS PLACE, AT LEAST AS A SOCIAL ORGANIZATION, HAS BEEN TAKEN BY THE POPULAR MR. AND MRS. CLUB. THE MEN OF THE PARISH ALSO WORK WITH THE WOMEN ON THE COFFEE HOUR AND ON THE VARIOUS COMMITTEES THAT SERVE SO EFFECTIVELY ON OUR LOYALTY SUNDAY CAMPAIGN.

WOMEN FOR THE MISSION FIELD

TWO WOMEN FROM THIS PARISH HAVE BEEN MISSIONARIES IN THE FOREIGN FIELD. I WAS THE FIRST; FLORENCE KEEFE WAS THE SECOND. AFTER SHE HAD RECEIVED HER TRAINING AS A NURSE IN THE WCA HOSPITAL AND AS A MISSIONARY IN THE

PHILADELPHIA DEACONESS HOUSE, SHE WENT TO ANVIK, ALASKA IN 1924 WHERE SHE MINISTERED TO THE PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL NEEDS OF SEVERAL HUNDRED INDIANS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD. SOME YEARS LATER SHE MARRIED. NOW SHE AND HER HUSBAND HAVE RETIRED AND ARE LIVING IN LAWTON, OKLAHOMA.

MEN FOR THE MINISTRY

FIVE MEN FROM ST. LUKE'S HAVE RECEIVED HOLY ORDERS. RECORDS ON THE FIRST TWO OF THESE ARE SCANTY. IN 1897 MR. DEALEY PRESENTED G. ROBERT BRUSH, WHO WAS ORDAINED TO THE PRIESTHOOD BY BISHOP WALKER. THAT IS ALL WE KNOW ABOUT THE REV. MR. BRUSH. A FEW PEOPLE IN THIS PARISH STILL REMEMBER "WALLY" WATTS AS A YOUNGSTER BUT THE ONLY OFFICIAL RECORD THAT WE HAVE OF HIM IS FROM STOWE'S CLERICAL DICTIONARY. THIS SHOWS THAT BISHOP WALKER ORDAINED WALLACE WATTS TO THE DIACONATE IN 1902 AND TO THE PRIESTHOOD IN 1903. THE REV. MR. WATTS DIED IN ROCHESTER IN 1947.

A PERIOD OF THIRTY YEARS ELAPSED BEFORE ANOTHER MEMBER OF ST. LUKE'S WAS ADMITTED TO HOLY ORDERS. CHARLES B. PERSELL WAS ORDAINED TO THE DIACONATE IN ST. LUKE'S ON JUNE 2, 1934 BY BISHOP DAVIS AND BISHOP OVERS. HE WAS MADE A PRIEST THE FOLLOWING YEAR AT SCOTTSVILLE, NEW YORK BY BISHOP FERRIS. THE REV. MR. PERSELL IS AT PRESENT RECTOR OF ST. JOHN'S PARISH IN MASSENA, NEW YORK. IN 1955 ANOTHER LAKEWOOD RESIDENT, GEORGE WOOD, WAS ORDAINED TO THE DIACONATE BY BISHOP SCAIFE, AND TO THE PRIESTHOOD IN 1956 AT GRACE PARISH, LOCKPORT, WHERE HE WAS SERVING AS CURATE. THE REV. MR. WOOD IS NOW VICAR OF ST. PAUL'S AT ANGOLA. THE MOST RECENT MEMBER OF THIS PARISH TO RECEIVE HOLY ORDERS IS THE REV. BRUCE JACOBSON. AFTER COMPLETING HIS THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION AT SEABURY-WESTERN IN JUNE 1959, HE WAS ORDAINED DEACON BY BISHOP SCAIFE, AND IS NOW CURATE IN TRINITY PARISH, BUFFALO. THE REV. JOHN MARK KINNEY, THOUGH NOT A CANDIDATE FROM ST. LUKE'S, HAS A SLIGHT CONNECTION WITH THIS PARISH. AS A BOY, HE SPENT FOUR YEARS WITH HIS GRANDMOTHER, MRS. C. L. WHEELER, AND WHILE HE WAS HERE, HE WAS CONFIRMED AND SERVED AS AN ACOLYTE. HE HAS THE DISTINCTION OF BEING THE FIRST EPISCOPAL PRIEST TO BE ORDAINED IN THE NEW STATE OF ALASKA.

THIS ACCOUNT OF ST. LUKE'S IS WRITTEN IN 1959. FROM THE FOUNDING OF THE PARISH IN 1834 TO THE COMING OF THE FIRST RECTOR, ITS VERY EXISTENCE WAS PRECARIOUS. MR. NORTON BROUGHT NEW LIFE TO THE GROUP THAT HE SO AF-

FECTIONATELY CALLS "THE LITTLE FLOCK". SINCE THAT TIME THE PARISH HAS BEEN THROUGH TIMES OF ADVERSITY AND TIMES OF PROSPERITY, BUT THERE HAS NEVER BEEN ANY DOUBT OF ITS ABILITY TO SURVIVE. UNDER THE PRESENT RECTOR, THE PARISH IS IN A STRONG AND HEALTHY CONDITION. THE PHYSICAL PROPERTY IS IN GOOD REPAIR; WORK AMONG THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IS SOUND AND VIGOROUS; THE ATTENDANCE AT SERVICES AND THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT GIVE EVIDENCE OF THE LOYALTY AND SINCERITY OF THE PARISHIONERS; THE PARISH IS ACCEPTING THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR WORK IN THE DIOCESE AND IN THE NATIONAL CHURCH. ALL THE OUTWARD AND VISIBLE SIGNS OF WELL-BEING ARE THE REFLECTIONS OF SOMETHING INWARD AND SPIRITUAL. THERE IS WARMTH, FRIENDLINESS, UNITY---NOT THE UNITY OF REGIMENTATION BUT THE UNITY THAT SPRINGS FROM MUTUAL RESPECT AND UNDERSTANDING AMONG PEOPLE WITH A COMMON PURPOSE. FATHER O'PRAY HAS GIVEN FREELY OF HIS TALENTS AS AN ORGANIZER, AS A PREACHER, AS A COUNSELOR---BUT THE GREATEST GIFT OF ALL HAS BEEN HIS ABILITY TO MAKE ST. LUKE'S A REAL PARISH FAMILY.