

The Spotlight is on . . . Our Churches!



Northville, New York

The Northville Church started out as "The Holiness Mission" around 1906 or 1907. A group led by Henry Early saw the need for a holiness church due to the spiritual decline they found in the church they were attending. A building was built on Main Street in the little village of Northville. Bro. Early was their first pastor.

After about four years, Bro. Early felt the time was right to call an "outside" preacher. Rev. A. E. Blann from Maryland was called and arrived in Northville in October 1910. He remained as pastor of the Mission for 33 years. Rev. Blann was well respected. It was noted he not only preached salvation, but was often seen in work clothes, helping area farmers with haying, planting, etc. He also worked with others in the community even if they did not attend the Mission at that time. In 1943 Rev. Blann left Northville, since he had been elected as Superintendent of the New York district of the Pilgrim Holiness Church.

Upon his departure, a well-known evangelist and singer who made his home in Northville was asked to become the pastor. Rev. Alvin Young served the church for the next 13 years. Due to the death of his wife and being in declining health, he resigned as pastor.

Rev. Nicholas Fair of Michigan accepted the pastorate of the church. Up to this time the Holiness Mission had been an independent church. While Rev. Fair was pastor, plans were made to affiliate with the Pilgrim Holiness Church. This was done in 1957 at a special service with the District Superintendent Rev. O. L. Fay presiding.

Rev. Paul Pierpoint succeeded Rev. Fair in 1959. Rev. Pierpoint suggested many improvements to the church and parsonage, which was located over the church. Many special memorial services and revivals were experienced during this time. While pastoring at Northville, sadness entered the parsonage in the death of their little daughter Esther Jane. She was laid to rest in the Northville Cemetery, awaiting the resurrection.

In 1963 the church members voted to remain with the New York Pilgrims, instead of going with the General Church. In the summer of 1964 Rev. Pierpoint resigned.

God was with the Northville people and sent Rev. Milton Pierpoint to lead in a difficult time. Even with physical diffi-



culty he traveled from Binghamton to Northville many times to lead the flock. On one of the trips home he encountered a serious accident on icy roads. God graciously restored him, but Rev. Pierpoint felt it necessary to resign at the end of the Conference year.

The church's next pastor was Rev. Edward Lecates, a young man from Delaware. He and his family moved to Northville in July of 1965. Church attendance increased as Bro. and Sr. Lecates called through the area. Rev. Lecates also under-

took a radio broadcast called "Glorious Freedom" from a Johnstown radio station. Also under his leadership, the Northville Christian Academy was founded with Rev. Lecates as principal. In March of 1981, after being pastor for 16 years, he resigned effective June 30.

The church's next pastor was Larry Bittinger who arrived with his wife and their five children in September of 1981. Rev. Bittinger also became principal of the Academy.

Over the years many repairs had been made to the church and parsonage. However, extensive repairs to the aging property were now needed. In February of 1988, a membership meeting voted upon the board's recommendation to sell the present property and build a church and parsonage elsewhere. A new location was sought at this time. In April, Rev. Bittinger felt led to leave the Northville Church to take another pastorate. Because of the sale of the church property the Academy was closed.

A cleared lot was located on the Mountain Road (now County Highway 123), and was purchased by the church with the monies received from the sale of the former church. Gerald Ginter drew up the plans for the new church. His brother Charlie designed windows for the church, featuring a cross with shafts of light pointing to it, and above were praying hands and the Star of David on alternating windows. The front windows featured a Pilgrim ship. Since the church had no pastor at this time, the pulpit was filled by members of the church as well as preachers from the Conference. Meetings were held in rented rooms in Northville.

Our next pastor was Rev. Richard Purchase from West Virginia, who arrived with his wife and son in December 1989. Arrangements were made with the purchaser of the former church that they could move into the parsonage

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at the Northville Church for a short time, then an apartment in Northville was rented for their housing.

On April 15, 1990, a ground-breaking service was held with our Conference President and many others attending.

In June of 1990 a new three-bedroom modular home was placed on the property and an attached garage was added.



In 1994 the church

purchased additional property next to the church which made the property line straight.

It is interesting to note that the top of the altar from the former church was made into a cross to be placed behind the pulpit of the new church. The new church was dedicated on Mother's Day 1991. Conference President, Rev. Andrew J. Whitney, was the main speaker, with former pastors also present.

Rev. Purchase resigned in June of 1997 to take another church in Indiana. Rev. Steve West was called as pastor in July 1997. He and his wife and boy moved into the parsonage. Rev. West made improvements to the garage and parsonage. He was well-accepted in the community. Rev. West left in June of 2002.

Rev. Brad Dendler was called as the next pastor, and he came in July of 2002. Over the years of his pastorate many



improvements have been made to the property. A large new lighted sign has been placed in front of the church with the times of meetings as well as messages that are changed weekly to be read by pass-

ing motorists. A 13-passenger van has been purchased to pick up Sunday School children as well as for other church and Sunday School activities.

Under the leadership of the Dendlers, Sunday School attendance has increased significantly. Also, the church has installed central air for the first floor including rest rooms, nursery, pastor's study, and sanctuary. We trust the Dendlers will remain with us for many more years as God is blessing their ministry.

It is our desire to glorify God by rescuing souls, seeing believers entirely sanctified, and building up saints in this most holy faith. We trust that the light of old time, sweet, radical holiness will shine forth in Northville and the surrounding area, penetrating the darkness until Jesus comes.

Evangelists' Slate

Pilgrim Holiness Church of New York, Inc.

Rev. B. B. Bidwell

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Rev. Rowan Fay

8988 SE Pine Cone Lane, Hobe Sound, FL 33455-4444
(772) 545-0915 or (772) 263-0936; rhfay@juno.com

Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey McCallus

Singers — weekend and driving distance meetings only
14823 State Highway 37, Massena, NY 13662
(315) 764-9048; rachjeff@juno.com

Rev. B. J. Ward

222 Butler Lane, Mill Hall, PA 17751
(570) 726-6638

Rev. and Mrs. John Whitaker

Evangelist and Singers
925 Broadway, Hanover, PA 17331
(717) 637-6827; whitscorner@juno.com

Other Churches

Evangelists and Singers listed upon proper recommendation

Paul and Robyn Clemens

1836 Josephine Street, Cincinnati, OH 45219-3016

Rev. Robert England

30205 Carey Road, Salem, OH 44460

Rev. Dale Hallaway

44625 Cloverdale Road, Centerville, PA 16404-9715
(814) 827-3222

Rev. Paul Hosier

R. R. 2, Box 73, McClure, PA 17841

Rev. and Mrs. Allen Hunt

4234 State Route 73S, Hillsboro, OH 45133
(513) 393-9936

Rev. Paul L. Kaufman

5722 Butler Grange Road, Salem, OH 44460
(330) 222-2452

Donald and Valerie Quales

Song Evangelists
2224 Woodsdale Road, Salem, OH 44460
(330) 337-9932 (Home) or (330) 337-6403 (Work)

Rev. and Mrs. Wallace Thornton

Evangelist and Singers with travel trailer
128 Grundy Road, Somerset, KY 42501-4901
(606) 271-2250 or (606) 219-5261

Rev. and Mrs. William Tillis

Box 189, Penns Creek, PA 17862
(570) 837-5859

Rev. and Mrs. F. Wagner

129 Faith Avenue, DeFuniak Springs, FL 32433
(850) 834-3290