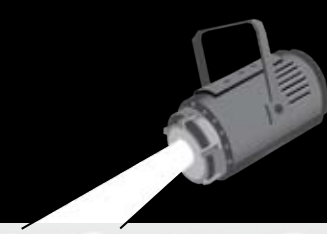


The Spotlight is on . . . our Churches!



Schenectady, New York

The roots of the Schenectady Pilgrim Holiness Church go back to 1910 when Rev. A. H. Wilson became the pastor at 67 Euclid Avenue.

We fast-forward to 1954 when Lloyd and Genevieve Stuart came from East Worcester to pastor in Schenectady. Rev. Stuart challenged the congregation to move from the old church and parsonage building to a more suitable location. A lot with a house was purchased, located at 2105 Curry Road in Rotterdam, and work began on building a new brick church, which was dedicated on October 13, 1957.

On August 17, 2007 a weekend of celebration began for the 50th anniversary of the Schenectady Pilgrim Holiness Church at its present location. Attending this celebration were five men who helped to build the sanctuary: Rev. Donald Myers, Rev. Gerald Myers, Ira Berrian, Howard Hallenbeck and James Hallenbeck. It was really four men and a boy in 1957 because Jim, at 11 years

old, along with the pastor's son, Paul, tried the patience of the builders to the point of being thrust head-first into a barrel of water by one of them!

Returning pastors giving their "Reflections from the Parsonage" on Friday night were Rev. Donald Myers, Rev. Paul Case, Sr. and Mrs. Delores Bidwell Green, speaking for the late Rev. Bobbie Bidwell and herself. (*Many apologies go to the gracious Kenneth Green, whose wife Delores was referred to as "Sr. Bidwell" more times than he cared to hear!*)

Rev. Daniel Shumway,



who resided with the Stuarts in those early years, read greetings and reflections from Mrs. Stuart. Kendall Straight spoke of the prayer life of the Hardys and the fun shared while he and Paul Richmond boarded there during their years as college students.

Jim Hallenbeck spoke of the years of Bill and Judy Saxton's ministry from 1988 to 1994. Wanda Knapp read a letter of remembrances from Rev. and Mrs. Timothy Forsee recalling memories of their association with people to whom they ministered while pastoring here.

We welcomed returning "parsonage kids" Andy Myers, Andrea Myers Gray, and David Bidwell. Also joining in the celebration were all of Glenn and Mary Lu Quintana's children, with their families, and all of Howard and Charlotte Hallenbeck's children, grands and great-grands! Rev. James Hallenbeck, Dennis, Timothy and their

families were in attendance, along with Linda Hofmann Hill and Barbara DeBell Diggins and daughter, Marleigh. Monica Whitney Kergal and her daughter Lia also returned "home" for the celebration.

Andrea Gray kept the audience in stitches with her parsonage memories. During the service "Reflections from the Pew", Donna Peak spoke of the church's part in mentoring her. Cheri and Brian Spangler, or Cheri and "Simple Simon", gave a rollicking skit of Cheri's memories. Jim Hallenbeck told of the sacrifice and dedication of the builders, the financial open-handedness and the joy of sharing in the Lord's work. David Fuller spoke about his pre-church days, referring to the appeal that the church's outreach ef-



forts created that eventually drew his family into fellowship. Joe McManaman reflected on his "growing-up" and young adult years in the Schenectady church.

Musicians returned to Schenectady for the celebration, playing instruments, singing in the choir and just adding to our wonderful time together. Donna Peak on the piano, and Kendall Straight, organist, gave us beautiful music for our congregational singing, solos and a four-hand piano number. Duets were sung by Rev. and Mrs. Daniel Shumway and Kendall and Donald Straight. Marie Spangler thrilled those present with her violin solos, and also joined our local stringed artists Joy and Faith McManaman in a beautiful number.

The Greens, Shumways, Spanglers, Andrea Gray and Donald and Kendall Straight joined in with the choir, which was directed by Wanda Knapp and accompanied by Donna Peak. The church orchestra provided music along with special numbers, demonstrating the great talent with which God has blessed us presently.

Dinner was served for 100 people on Saturday at 3:00 p.m. There was a great time of fellowship, viewing computerized presentations, bulletin boards and mounted displays of photos, articles, and other items of interest.

Joining us on Saturday was Nils Rowe, who was saved during the hippie era when Donald Hardy was pastor. Lloyd Wolkenfeld, also from that time, sent a letter and family photos. This is a reminder of what God did in the past and what He will do in the future.

The Passing of the Torch while Pastors Dickerson and Wallick sang "Your Heritage to Keep", written by Rev. Wallick, was a moving sight! Great-grandfathers Glenn Quintana, Sr. and Howard Hallenbeck carried the torch into the auditorium, passing it to grandparents Don and Valerie Hallenbeck. They in turn passed the flame to their daughter, Yvonne Ellison. Matt

and Yvonne's four-year-old son, Justin, then raised the torch to carry it forward into the next generation.

In her sermon on Sunday — "When God Placed the Future in a Basket" — Rev. Brenda Wallick challenged us to allow God to put us in His basket, just as Jochebed put Moses in God's basket so many years ago so he could be the deliverer of God's people, Israel. Some may need to return home, others need to go as God calls them, and all must accept the challenge to go with God in these last days.

Much could be said about God's faithfulness throughout these 50 years. There have been setbacks and disappointments, joys and progress in our families, our church, our nation and our world. May we accept the challenge to "hold on a little longer, walk on a little farther" until we bow in the presence of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords!

—Submitted by Sr. Marge DeBell
Photos provided by George Johnsen

YOUR HERITAGE TO KEEP Rev. Brenda Wallick, Author

When long ago we heard the gospel story sweet and clear,
The message of salvation lit our village far and near.
For Jesus came our hearts to stir and saved us from our sin;
Our hearts ignited by His light were warmed without, within.

Our parents lived a holy life, example was the key.
We saw in holiness the flame that led to victory.
In days of youth we found the Lord and walked in all His light,
We've led our children to the Lord and kept the torch lit bright.

And now I follow in these steps, for I am the grandchild.
I, too, have taken up this torch the Christian race to run.
Attentive to God's Holy Word lest from this path I'd stray,
He's ever promised me to be the Truth, the Life, the Way.

And here I am a little boy too young to understand
Why all this talk about this torch I hold within my hand.
But great-grandpa and grandpa, too, and Mommy led the way,
And some day soon I'll take this torch in hand and proudly say:

Chorus:

The torch has been passed to us our pathway now made bright,
For Jesus walks beside us to guide us in His light.
And now we pass it to our child, the flame we pray you'll keep.
Be sure the flame does not go out, your heritage to keep.

