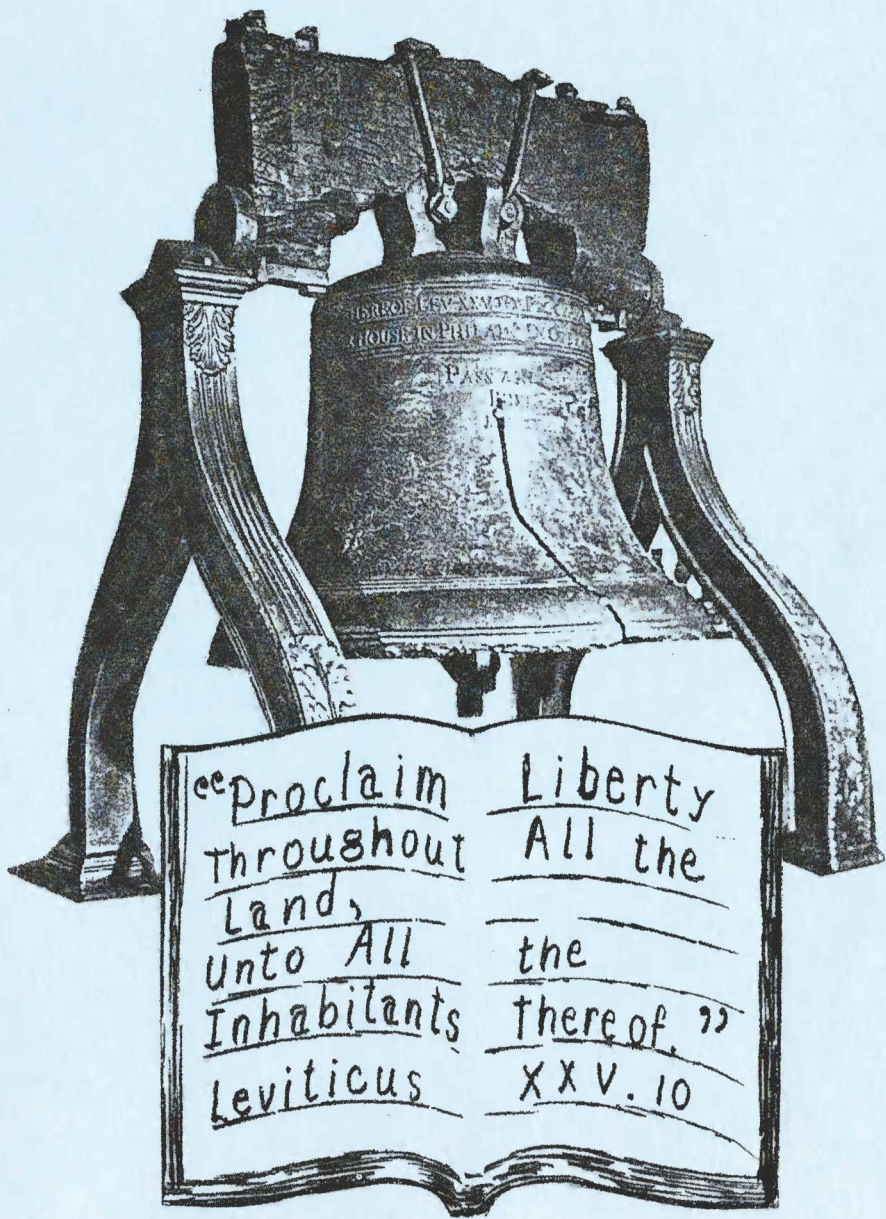


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For the past several years, a spirit of genuine ecumenicity has prevailed among many of our Southside Churches. They have worked together on a number of events, including the traditional Union Thanksgiving service, the first of its kind in the area.

A natural outgrowth of this spirit in this Bicentennial year was the unanimous support for a community-wide Ecumenical Bicentennial celebration.

A group of thirty representatives of the six churches involved, led by the Rev. Mr. C. James Jones, has been participating in a series of planning meetings since the summer of 1975.

The results of their efforts constitute the events of this noteworthy weekend.

## AFTERNOON PROGRAM

### CONKLIN AVENUE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

4 - 6 P.M.

4:00-4:30 P.M.

FILM  
"America - A Picture in  
My Mind"  
"Patriotic Music"

MUSIC  
Choral Ensemble

HISTORICAL SLIDES

TOWN MEETING

DISPLAYS

CRAFTS FOR CHILDREN

BAKING DEMONSTRATION

4:30-5:00 P.M.

FILM  
"And Take Me By the Hand"

MUSIC  
Choral Ensemble

FOLK DANCING

TOWN MEETING

DISPLAYS

CRAFTS FOR CHILDREN

BAKING DEMONSTRATION

5:00-5:30 P.M.

FILM  
"And Take Me By the Hand"

CHENANGO CANAL SLIDES  
William Weckel

FOLK DANCING

TOWN MEETING

DISPLAYS

CRAFTS FOR CHILDREN

BAKING DEMONSTRATION

5:40-6:00 P.M.

FLAG CEREMONY

BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

FEBRUARY 22, 1976

Order of Worship

HYMN - "O God Our Help In Ages Past"

INVOCATION - The Rev. C. James Jones

OLD TESTAMENT READING - Isaiah 10:1-4 -  
The Rev. Wilbur J. Votraw

NEW TESTAMENT READING - 2 Peter 1:3-11  
The Rev. E.D. Ellmore

ANTHEM - Combined choirs - "Go Not Far From Me, O God"-  
Zingarelli

SERMON - The Rev. Earl Brill, Director of Studies, College  
of Preachers, Washington, D.C.

LITANY - The Rev. L. Bradley Havens

PASTORAL PRAYER - The Rev. John L. Hollembeak

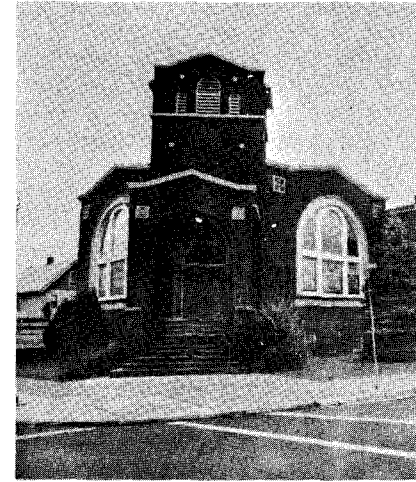
THE OFFERING - Organ Interlude

COMBINED CHOIRS - "Rejoice, The Lord is King" - Darwall

CLOSING PRAYERS - The Rev. George Arakelian

HYMN - "America the Beautiful"

CONKLIN AVENUE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH



Conklin Avenue First Baptist Church had its beginnings in 1829 when Chenango Point Baptist Church was established near the confluence of the Susquehanna and Chenango Rvs. This church became First Baptist of Binghamton and was directly responsible for establishing five "daughter" churches: Community Baptist in Port Dickinson (1884), Main St. Baptist (1889), Conklin Ave. Baptist (1891), Park Ave. Baptist (1894) and Calvary Baptist (1894)

Forty First Baptist members were led to branch out and establish Conklin Ave. Baptist.

Land was purchased (\$1,000), architectural plans were drawn up (\$26.12) and a building built (\$2,600). Membership grew quickly to 143 members in the first year. After surmounting severe financial difficulties during the early years, the church became a growing, vital part of the community under the leadership of dedicated ministers and lay people.

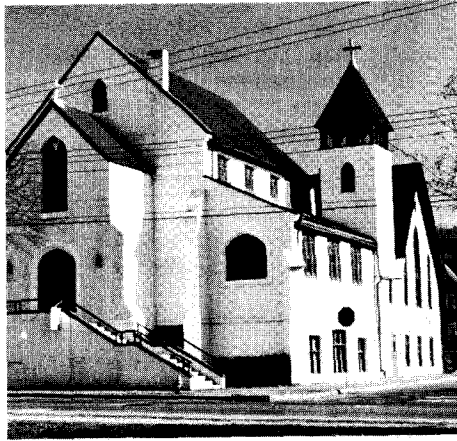
The building has been enlarged over the years to accommodate the growing membership, the last addition in 1960 containing a large fellowship hall and classrooms.

C.A.F.B. has been of service to the community through a wide range of worship, study and fellowship programs. It has provided a location for scouting, OFB pre-school and other civic activities. At present, a highly successful craft night is in operation.

With the declining membership in the downtown churches, First Baptist faced up to the necessity of closing its doors and was responsible for the erection of the hi-rise apartment building at 100 Chenango Street for Senior Citizens in its place. Its congregation merged with the daughter church on September 20, 1970 to form Conklin Avenue First Baptist Church.



## THE CHURCH OF GOOD SHEPHERD



One Hundred and three years ago, on February 3, 1873, the Society of the House of the Good Shepherd was called together for the purpose of electing Wardens and Vestrymen and forming an independent parish to be known as The Church of the Good Shepherd. Prior to the formation of the parish, the Chapel of the Good Shepherd had operated as a parish mission of Christ Church, Binghamton.

The funds for the erection of the House of the Good Shepherd

were provided by the voluntary gifts of the "Ladies of Christ Church", while the Chapel was designed and provided by Mrs. Helen Stuyvesant Wright. She recognized the need for a church on the south side of Binghamton.

The Church has undergone several structural changes. The first in 1892 when parish and Sunday School rooms were added to the original building. In 1910, following a disastrous fire, it was necessary to replace the main part of the church. In 1959, there was extensive rebuilding and expansion of the church facilities. Much of the redecorating was done by the families of the parish.

The parish has had 13 Rectors since its beginning. In 1973, the 100th anniversary of the Church was celebrated. At that time, a complete history was published. Shortly after this occasion, Father L. Densmore Jacobs, the Rector who had served the church well for 37 years, retired. At present, we are fortunate to have as our Rector, C. James Jones, who is leading the church with zeal and dedicated understanding into its second century.

At the time of the 75th anniversary, Mr. Tom Cawley wrote the following sentiments which expressed the theme at that time and still does today: "Church life and family life are synonomous, so intermingled that a separate identity sometimes is impossible. The Church of the Good Shepherd and her families have lived together for seventy-five years. Together they have weathered some rocky storms but tribulation is the essential element in any relationship. A test of a church and its people is their forthrightness and their courage, born of an inspiration as old as the Church."

## HIGH STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1873 1973 1976



For several years, as an outreach program of the Centenary Church, a Union Sunday School was conducted in the Tompkinsville School (later Alfred St.). This had to be discontinued because of the passage of a law forbidding the use of the Sunday School. With the aid of the pastor of Centenary Church, a room was secured in the carpenter shop of Willard Knowlton on Hancock Street. Little did they dream in 1873, when they met for worship, that they would become the nucleus of a mighty church.

Later, the same year, the members of the Centenary Church, living on the South Side of the Susquehanna River, asked their pastor to help them in securing a site and erecting a new church. Forty-three members were released from the Mother Church, a lot was secured at 22 High Street and a building was erected. Shortly afterward, twenty-two more were released from Centenary Church to join the new congregation. Before long, there were 111 members and 30 probationers.

Our present church was conceived and planned, completed and dedicated during the pastorate and devoted leadership of Rev. Ferris Cornell. The present site at the head of High Street on Vestal Avenue was purchased; the new church financed and the present church and parsonage were built by the year of 1926 in November. The Sunday School, which had started as the nucleus of the original church, now has several officers, teachers and though the membership fluctuates from time to time, has approximately 120 members.

In 1973, we observed our own Centennial, wondering what the future held. George Herbert said, "Nothing lasts but the church". Victor Hugo gave this definition, "A Church is God Between Four Walls". If, we, as the congregation of High Street United Methodist Church, keep these statements in mind and heart, we will perhaps experience what the Archbishop in Willa Cather's novel, "Death Comes to the Archbishop", meant when he talked of the Miracles of the Church: "The Miracles of the Church seem to me to rest not so much upon faces or voices or healing power coming suddenly near to us from afar off, but upon our perceptions being made finer so that for a moment our eyes can see and our ears can hear what is there about us always".

## ROSS MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



The Ross Memorial Presbyterian Church was erected in 1876 by Erastus Ross, a Binghamton banker, as a memorial to his mother, Elizabeth Drake Ross. It was built on an elevation on Corbett Avenue surrounded by hills and woods with beautiful Ross Park as a background.

For the first few years, the Church was maintained by Mr. Ross at his own expense, employing the minister and bearing all operating expenses. In 1879, he offered the proper-

ty to the Binghamton Presbytery with the provision that if, at any time, the Church was no longer used as a place of worship, it would revert to the Ross heirs.

The Presbytery of Binghamton accepted the trust and appointed a committee to make plans to organize the Church. On December 7, 1879, seventeen members were organized into a Presbyterian Church. A prayer room was added to the building in 1899.

During the ministry of Dr. George L. Tappan, D.D., a new Church was built at the corner of Morris Street and Mitchell Avenue. On July 19, 1927, building operations began and on December 11, 1927, the cornerstone was laid.

The Corbett Avenue Church was sold to the Armenian Apostolic Society, the same to be used for a house of worship.

It is especially appropriate that Ross Memorial Presbyterian Church participate in this 1976 Ecumenical Bicentennial Celebration, since our original church building was erected in 1876.

## ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH



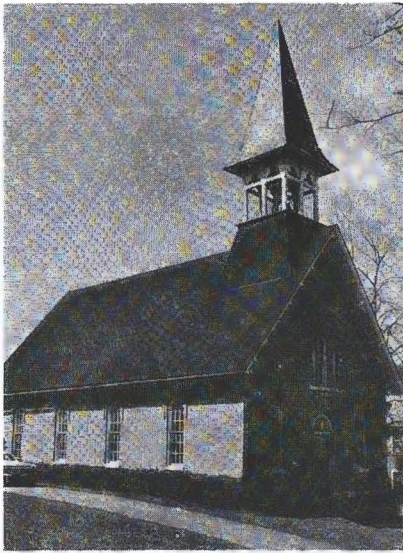
St. Andrew's Parish was established in November of 1955 by the Most Rev. Walter A. Forey, Bishop of the Diocese of Syracuse. The land on which the Church was built was a gift from Msgr. Clement D. Shaughnessy and the people of St. John the Evangelist Church. On March 27, 1958, Bishop Forey conducted a Ceremony of Dedication of the newly complete Church building and the Rev. George M. Hurley, first Pastor of the Parish, then celebrated a solemn Mass of Dedication. The first Sunday Masses to be celebrated in the new Church were on Palm Sunday.

In September of 1970, Rev. John J. Mulranen was appointed Pastor, followed by our present Pastor, Rev. Wilbur J. Votraw on July 1, 1974. In 1958, the first Associate was assigned to the Parish, Rev. Joseph B. Prugar, followed by Revs. Owen J. Rice in '60, Louis J. Nichols in April '60, Richard E. McNerney in '62, Thomas J. Manning in '66, William B. Rauscher in January '70, J. Michael Carney in September '70, R. Paul Mathis in '72 and present Associate Rev. James J. Cuddy in July '74.

In 1964, a Catechetical Center was constructed and a home for the Sisters was purchased. Presently, we have four Sisters from the Congregation of St. Mary of Namur: Sister Elizabeth Ann, Sister John Regis, Sister Anthony and Sister Bernadette Marie. All are involved in instructing our approximately 600 students in various religious programs.

In 1973, Father John J. Mulranen commissioned Sister Paula Matthew Brown to sculpture the RISEN CHRIST Statue which was hung in the newly renovated Sanctuary and dedicated on November 24, 1974. The first piece of original liturgical art to be used in a Catholic Church in this area.

## ST. GREGORY THE ILLUMINATOR ARMENIAN CHURCH



The Armenian community of Binghamton organized its first Parish Council in 1923. In 1924, the Women's Guild was formed. The church building, formerly Ross Memorial Presbyterian Church and constructed in 1876, was purchased in 1927. It was consecrated in 1930 as St. Gregory, the Illuminator Armenian Church.

Between 1950 and 1962, a new hall, kitchen and church school rooms were added to the original building.

In 1972, Deacon Raymond Arakelian became Deacon-in-charge of St. Gregory's. In the following year,

Deacon Arakelian was ordained to the priesthood as Father George Arakelian becoming the first permanent pastor of St. Gregory's. Presently, St. Gregory's has an active Church School, Youth Group, Choir, Women's Guild and Armenian School.

## BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

### ST. ANDREW'S

Rev. Wilbur J. Votraw  
Sister Elizabeth Ann  
Elsie Bucci  
Mary Dolan  
John Havholm  
Helen Hickey  
Robert Hickey  
Joseph Mack

### ST. GREGORY'S

Rev. George Arakelian  
Anoush Dekmejian  
Pauline House  
William House  
Ara Kradjian

### CONKLIN AVENUE FIRST BAPTIST

Rev. Edward D. Ellmore  
Dorothy George  
Eleanor Greenmun  
Judy Riley  
Helen Stevens  
Marilyn Taggart  
Mary Thompson  
Allen Thompson

### HIGH STREET METHODIST

Rev. L. Bradley Havens  
Doris Haight  
Webster Haight  
Doralene Heath  
Nina Mack  
Ed Thurston

### ROSS MEM. PRESBYTERIAN

Rev. John Hollembeak  
Beth Kattell  
Francis Kattell  
Marie Spicer  
Charles Spicer

### GOOD SHEPHERD

Rev. C. James Jones  
Asa Bement  
Marge Bement  
Joyce Coppola  
Beverly Costello  
Raymond McKeeby  
Ruby Rogers  
Doris Robinson  
Alice Sherman

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Creative Hands, Inc. and Mrs. O'Dea for loom weaving demonstration and display  
William Weckel for slide presentation of Chenango Canal  
Roberson Center for exhibits and displays  
Mr. and Mrs. Hughes Neeley for loan of melodeon  
Mrs. Janice Cole for loan of banjo  
Binghamton Elks #852 and God & Country Award Group from Boy Scout Troop #5 for Flag presentation  
Rev. Earl Brill, Director of Studies, College of Preachers, Washington, D.C. - Speaker at Ecumenical Service  
Conklin Avenue First Baptist Church and St. Andrew's Church for use of their facilities  
Clergy of participating churches and all committee members for their dedicated efforts  
To all who attended the Bicentennial Celebration - Thank You One and All!