

November 2006

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In March of this year when I began to clean and organize the church office, I found a lot of old records in no particular order and dutifully placed them in large plastic bins with the intention of going through them at some point and writing a church history. As we began to talk about having a special 125th Anniversary Celebration in the fall, we came up with the idea of a book containing the memories of Hillsider's during the time they attended this church. I began to think that a church history should also be part of this book. Little did I know what I was getting myself into! As I began sorting through and organizing the records, I realized I had in my hands a priceless treasure. I am extremely grateful to those who thought it was important to keep these records and not throw them away. As a church, we are very blessed to have records dating back to the very first meeting in July of 1881 when the church was named.

I read through all the Board and Society Meeting minutes of the church from 1881 to the present. It was a daunting task and I was very much afraid I wouldn't get it done in time. In fact, it wasn't completed until three days before the Anniversary Dinner. What follows is a historical record that includes excerpts from the official Board and Society Meeting minutes of the church as well as other interesting facts gleaned from Committee Meetings, legal papers, letters, church brochures and publications, scrapbooks, and newspaper clippings. Most excerpts from Board and Society Meetings are summarized for brevity; however, those statements in quotation marks are taken from the minutes exactly as they were written, including misspelled words and punctuation errors.

I am not a writer nor do I claim to be one. At times you may even find the reading somewhat on the dry side. What I hoped to accomplish in this historical record is to show you, dear reader, that from the very beginning, the people of this church have shown a deep, strong, abiding love of the Lord and sought to do His will in all things; preached the truth of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and did not compromise that truth or the Word of God; and has had a heart for missions, ministry, service, and reaching out to lost souls. Though we have had our share of ups and downs over 125 years, struggled in some areas of ministry more than others and chronic financial difficulties have been a like a plague, we continue to "press on toward the goal."

Grace and peace,

Faith E. Albano, Administrator
Hillside Free Methodist Church

Pastors 1881 - 2006

1993 –	Mark Adams
1980 – 1993	David Cooper
1979 – 1980	Lawrence Girts
1978 – 1979	James Reinhard
1966 – 1978	R. Douglas McGrew
1962 – 1966	Royal Bailie
1948 – 1962	Arthur Zahniser
1946 – 1948	C. B. Wickline
7/19/45 – Feb. 1946	No Pastor
1942 – 1945	W. W. McCormick
1940 – 1942	B. S. Lamson
1937 – 1940	C. L. Manning
1934 – 1937	A. H. Fleming
1932 – 1934	J. P. Taylor
1932	Don Miller
1930 – 1932	F. S. Parks
1927 – 1930	Simon V. Kline
1924 – 1927	J. T. Logan
1922 – 1924	George E. Kline
1919 – 1921	W. J. Bone
1916 – 1918	J. D. Marsh
1912 – 1915	Fred E. Bennett
1911 – 1912	Henry Lenz
1908 – 1910	F. D. Brooke
1907 – 1908	J. T. Logan
1906 – 1907	W. P. Ferries
1904 – 1905	J. D. Marsh
1901 – 1903	A. L. Whitcomb
1898 – 1900	W. M. Kelsey
1896 – 1897	O. V. Ketels
1895	C. W. Lyman
1893 – 1894	A. W. Parry
1891 – 1892	W. P. Ferries
1889 – 1890	J. D. Kelsey
1888	C. S. Gitchell
1887	W. M. Kelsey
1885 – 1886	J. D. Marsh
1884	W. F. Manley
1883	C. B. Ebey
1882	A. F. Ferris
1881	G. N. Whittingdon

MISSION STATEMENTS

Approximately 1971

Present Christ as the only One who can enable us to live clean and attractive lives.
Present Christ as the Giver of peace and satisfaction.

1979

In Christ, a Church Caring for the Whole Person to the Glory of God.
The Mission Scripture is Mark 12:29-31

Approximately 1981

To present Jesus Christ as the hope for today.
To present Jesus Christ as the Hope of the world today.
"Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God"

1998

In Love for God and Neighbor, Calling the North Shore to Holy Living
Through Faith in Jesus Christ.

2003

Setting People Free in Christ,
To Worship God,
Grow in Faith
And Serve Others in Love

Our Church Homes Evanston, IL

1881 – 1922: “The First Free Methodist Church of Evanston” - northwest corner of Ridge Avenue and Lyons Street

October 1922 – March 1961: Southwest corner of Maple Avenue and Simpson Street (currently Fireman’s Park)

March 1961 - present: Renamed “Hillside Free Methodist Church”, 2727 Crawford Avenue, Evanston, IL 60201

A group of traveling evangelists, Rev. W. Kelsey and two others, started a tent meeting on the corner of Lyons and Ridge in Evanston around 1879. Their effort to establish a permanent church took root and became a reality when Jacob Franz, Edward Foster, Frank and Anna Kline, and J. W. Beebe became interested and joined the group. Mrs. Eliza Pratt, a convert of the tent meeting, gave \$1,000 and the lot on which the tent stood. In less than a year from that time of the tent meeting the new church was occupied by 54 members. Two years later, Mrs. Pratt donated additional land so a parsonage could be built adjacent to the church.

The church building was the home of the First Free Methodist Church until 1922 when they purchased the Delano Chapel from the Baptist Church, which resided on the southwest corner of Maple Avenue and Simpson Street, and moved into that building in October of that year. In 1954 John Bell gave the church \$1,000 toward the building of a new church. Shortly thereafter a three acre site was purchased on Crawford Avenue adjacent to the Hillside Village and it was voted to rename the proposed building Hillside Free Methodist Church. The church moved to its present home in March of 1961. In January of 1964, the city of Evanston purchased the 2nd church and parsonage as well as three adjacent lots for the purposes of making a neighborhood park. The new park, Fireman’s Park, is there to this day.

In late September 2006 I had the privilege of visiting an elderly cousin of the Kline family who still lives in a 100 year old Sears Roebuck house across the street from what was our second church and is currently Fireman’s Park. She gave me a picture of J. D. Marsh, one of the early Pastor’s of our church. She also showed me the Kline family history in a booklet that was titled “The Klins of Evanston 1848 – 1970” and graciously allowed me to photocopy the book, which included many pictures of the Kline family as well as an amazing family history. Interestingly, the Kline’s, the Foster’s, and the Franz’s were Free Methodists way back in the 1880’s and quite possibly in the late 1870’s, and all three families were connected by marriages. All three families were founding members of the Evanston Free Methodist Church and well known in Evanston. We had two Kline’s that were Pastor’s of the church and Jacob Logan, our pastor in the early 1900’s and mid-1920’s, was the father-in-law of a Kline. One of the Kline children was

best friends with Carl Kelsey who was the son W. Kelsey who was our pastor in 1887 and again in 1898-1900.

W. F. Harding of Wessington Springs, South Dakota, wrote about the Evanston Free Methodist Church on July 30, 1939 -

"Sometime in the early "eighties" I heard Gen. Supt. Roberts relate, at a session of the So. Dakota Conference, the following incident, to illustrate the mighty working of the Holy Spirit.

A group of young men, known as the "Indiana Band," composed of Phil Hanna, W. G. Haumer, J. D. Kelsey, and W. M. Kelsey, held a tent meeting, to the north of Chicago (I always understand Evanston) in which a might revival began.

Some people of the community took exception to the introduction of "such a type of religion" into their midst.

One of such called on a lawyer and proposed they do something to stop it. After listening to his friend's suggestion he replied, "Those boys are preaching the old-fashioned religion. It is the kind your mother and my mother had. Instead of hindering I think we ought to stand by them." As I have recollected it the outcome was the inception of the Evanston F. M. Church.

Personally, I knew Jas. D. Marsh and W. P. Ferries pastors in its early history. Before entering the ministry Marsh had his membership at Dutch Hollow, later included in the Central Ill Conference. Ferries, at my first acquaintance with him – about the middle of the "seventies" lived with his parents, brother George and sister Celia, at Alma, a mining burg about 2 miles west of O'Fallon, 7 miles eastward from my home at Belleville, Ill. Later Ferries moved to Belleville and W. P. (Willie we called him) worked a little time in my father's coal mine. Celia later attended Evansville (Wis.) Seminary, going hence to a remarkable career in missionary work in India. "Jimmie" Marsh also was a miner. His younger brother, Thomas H. was converted about 1880. I cannot remember if he ever served as pastor at Evanston."

Beginning in the early 1880's through the early 1920's, Official Board Meetings were usually held in member's homes although sometimes the parsonage was used. By the 1920's the church was used as the regular meeting place. The meetings were always opened with "devotional exercises" and there was never any mention of when the meeting began or ended, although sometimes it was noted that it was held after prayer meeting. Beginning in 1940 the records note the time the meetings started, which was often after 7:30 or 8:00 PM in the evening and they were always opened with scripture and prayer. The dates and excerpts that follow are taken from the Official Board or Society Meeting minutes.

1881 - 1899

The following is a record of the first meeting of the church when it was officially named:

July 28, 1881 Society Meeting: "Pursuant to the call of the Pastor the Society met at the house of Jacob Franz. Edward Foster was elected Secretary. Resolved to call the Society The First Free Methodist Church of Evanston. Resolved to Elect Three Trustees. Bros. John Jacob Franz, J. W. Beebe and Edward Foster were elected. Resolved that the term of the Office should be Three Years." Edward Foster, Secretary Pro Tem

(Note: Edward Foster, a charter member of the church and elected Board Secretary on July 28, 1881 at the first Society Meeting, continued uninterrupted as Board Secretary through February 8, 1927. He died on July 11, 1927. He was the last of the charter members of the church. A Resolution of Condolence was entered into the Society Meeting on August 8, 1927.)

Mrs. Pratt, the woman who donated the land where the church began, had become known to the church as Mother Pratt. On November 12, 1883 she donated an addition to the lot making it 80'x150'. With the additional land the trustees decided to proceed with building the parsonage "as fast as money and material could be collected." One week later J. Walter Beebe was employed as janitor at \$4.00/month. After insurance was paid, the balance in the treasury was \$2.58. At that time the church used "The Evanston Bank" to hold their assets. Edward Foster was appointed a committee to draw up a petition for lamps and posts to light up Ridge Avenue and circulate it. It is often noted in the official minutes, from the very beginning in 1881 and well into the 1920's, that if something needed to get done in the church a committee was formed at the board meeting, even if the committee consisted of one person. That committee was given an appropriate name, charged with completing the task and reporting back to the board. Once this was accomplished, the committee was disbanded. In December 1883 the Parsonage Fund had \$56.00 and a building committee for the parsonage was formed. By February 1884 the Board had decided on plans for the parsonage.

The following is a handwritten recollection of the church. Unfortunately, the author is unknown:

"The earliest hymnals had no music, only words, which were designated at LM (long meter), SM (short meter), CM (common meter) and PM (particular meter). Anyone felt free to start a hymn when it was announced and they often started the wrong meter tune and would sing until words and tune would disagree, then someone else would try, perhaps the same tune with the same result. Finally, someone who was a little less forward and a little more familiar with the music would start a meter that would fit the verse. There were some "amen's" and "praise the Lord". It was all taken as a matter of course and there was no embarrassment. The lights in the church were kerosene lamps and the stove was a large heater that stood toward the rear of the church. Street meetings used to be a regular thing. Every Sunday evening a street meeting would be held down at Fountain Square and at its close the crowd would be invited to the church and the saints would march ahead singing *We're Marching to Zion.*"

Women were on the Church Board as noted in the minutes in 1887. In November 1888 Pastor J. D. Kelsey was granted the "privilege" of erecting a barn in the rear of the parsonage. His salary was \$8.00/week. From the 1880's through late 1920's pastors were paid in cash as the funds were raised. For instance, if \$4.26 was raised one week, he was given the \$4.26. Another week it might have been \$8.46. This continued weekly and a tally was kept until he was paid his full salary for the year. Pastors were given use of the parsonage rent free and the parsonage water tax was also paid by the church.

If a person was interested in becoming a member, they were placed on probation until their fitness to join was suitably determined. Some were taken off probation and approved for "full connection" within a few months with others remaining on probation for a longer period of time.

September 18, 1889 – The Board ordered that 4 tons of Hard coal be purchased for the winter.

April 7, 1890 – Electric lights were purchased for the church at a cost of \$18.00. The cost of papering the church was \$5.00. On April 8, a special Society Meeting was called for the following: "On motion, Sister Laura Douglass was recommended to the quarterly conference as a suitable person to grant an Evangelists license." This is the first mention of a woman being recommended for this license.

While the church had little funds to work with, frequently they made payments on the "notes" of members who had fallen on hard times. The money came out of the Relief Fund. The church did not have insurance and in November the Board made the pastor a committee of one to investigate getting the church insured. At the December 1 Board meeting the pastor reported that he was unable to insure in the Mutual Insurance Alliance. There is no further record of whether or not the church was able to be

insured. At the same meeting, the following motion was made: "On motion it was ordered that a committee of three be elected to write up a history of our society to be a pastors reference book." J. W. Beebe, Ernest Blanchard, and W. P. Ferris (the pastor) were the committee. However, at the February 2, 1891 Board meeting, "Brother Ernest Blanchard tendered his resignation as a member of the committee on Church History." "Ernest Blanchard intending to remove from Evanston tendered his resignation of all offices held by him." It is not known if a history was ever written or if it was, it may have been placed in a box in the cornerstone of the present church on Crawford.

May 11, 1891 – The balance in the Treasury over all liabilities was \$4.73. On September 1 the church was short \$3.66. This would not be the first time the church was short funds. At the September 3rd Society Meeting a major decision was made to increase the trustees from three to five members.

Church Positions in the 1880's:

Treasurer
Sunday School Superintendent
Delegates
Reserve Delegate
Class Leader
Stewards
Trustee
Janitor
Chairman

Church funds (*designated funds*) beginning in the 1880's (there were treasurers for each of the funds):

Incidental Fund
Relief Fund
Assessment Fund
Water Pipes Fund
Rent Fund
Pastor's Fund
Sidewalk Fund
Janitor Fund
Conference Fund
Sunday school Fund

What follows is a record of how the church handled a serious spiritual issue of one of its members. Everything in quotes is copied exactly as written.

On April 2, 1888 Martin Hanson became a member for full connection. It is noted that at times his last name was spelled either Hanson or Hansen.

The Society Meeting of September 3, 1891 records, "On motion Martin Hanson was recommended to the Official Board as a suitable person to hold an exhorters lisenche." September 11 Board Meeting - "a recommendation was read coming from the annual circuit meeting recommending Martin A. Hanson as a proper person for an exhorters lisenche. On motion the recommendation was laid on the table for two months." December 7 - "On motion Martin Hansen was granted an exhorters lisenche."

April 4, 1892 - "moved and seconded that Martin Hanson Sabbath School Superintendent and exhorter be requested to appear before the Official Board next Saturday evening to council with him in regard to his religious experience." April 9 - "Martin Hanson our present Sunday School Superintendent having lost his religious experience from his own testimony and his indiferance to his religious obligations to the Church and having been requested by the Official Board to appear before it at its present session and he practically having refused to do so Therefore be it resolved that we the Official Board request him to resign his position as Sunday School Superintendent and exhorter for the time being and also assure him of our interest in his spiritual welfare and hereby earnestly request him to seek until he again finds favor and grace from God." "On motion resolution was adopted. On motion it was ordered that a committee be appointed to call on Bro Hansen." At the Annual Society Meeting on September 22, 1892, Martin Hanson was elected one of 9 stewards of the church. At the Board Meeting of July 1, 1895 he tendered his resignation as Superintendent of the Sabbath School but was once again elected Superintendent on September 17, 1896.

On July 10, 1929 he was once again recommended to the Society as a suitable person for an exhorter's license. Martin Hanson went on to become very active in the church, serving in virtually every position of the church including, but not limited to, steward, treasurer, finance chair, trustee, and numerous positions in Sunday school through September 11, 1945. He took ill shortly after that and died on October 17, 1945 after many faithful years of service.

The church took a very firm stand on the character and integrity of its members. The following was noted in three board minutes. January 30, 1892 - "On motion the name of C. H. Henning was dropped a probationer was ordered dropped for immorality and violation of rules of Church." March 7, 1892 - "On motion a committee of three were appointed to wait upon Eddie Franz to admonish him concerning his unchristian life." April 4, 1892 - "Committee to wait upon Eddie Franz to admonish him concerning his unchristian life reported progress." Nothing more is noted about Eddie Franz after this date. Eddie Franz was related to Jacob Franz, one of the founding members of the church. He was either Jacob's son or brother.

The church owned a two-flat building and collected rent in 1892; however, records can not be found of when the two flat was purchased or if it was built by the church. Between 1892 and 1894 the church continued to move forward uneventfully, raising money for home and foreign missions, trying to meet tax obligations, paying conference claims, beginning an envelope system to help raise money to pay the pastor, helping those in need through a Relief Fund, adding and dropping members from the rolls, electing members to positions, and granting exhorters licenses. They were constantly working to keep the church and parsonage in good repair with papering, painting, buying glass for the windows, shingling the church, fixing drainage problems, running a sewer connection to the parsonage, and so forth and so on. By October 23, 1893 the Board decided they finally needed a janitor and Brother F. Lewis was engaged in this capacity at \$4.00/month.

In 1894 the church had one class (*religious class*) that met on Sunday afternoon. Later that year, the church paid a bill to the Index Company for 2,000 dodgers, cost \$2.53. Needing to look it up in the dictionary, a "dodger" is a small handbill. There are no records of what the dodger was for.

The parsonage was located at 1814 Ridge Avenue in Evanston as noted in the January 7, 1895 minutes of the Official Board. A motion was made on April 8, 1895 at the Official Board Meeting that the pastor should purchase a book for keeping a list of membership. We do have a membership book recording the pastors of the church and the membership between 1881 and 1943. On June 3, 1895 "it was decided to Notify Commissioner of Public Works that we would build our cement sidewalk on the north side of Lyons Street." Two members were made a committee to collect funds for the street improvement, which would cost \$96.00. This was considered a "Pavement Tax." By August 5 the church had raised \$97.50. At this same board meeting "on motion it was ordered that we dispense with janitor and divide the janitor work among ourselves." This must not have worked very well. At the October 13, 1895 Board meeting the Treasurer reported paying \$4.00 for "Janitor hire."

At the September 5, 1895 Board Meeting the Trustees of the church reported that the value of the church was \$10,000. In October there appeared to be a change in the pastor's salary and benefits. His salary was fixed at \$500.00 per year and the pastor was to pay his own water rent with the house rent free. On November 4, 1895, just before adjourning the Board Meeting, the "Pastor reported contemplating protracted meetings" but it is not known what he meant by that!

Financially, the church was barely making ends meet. They frequently took up collections for needed repairs and meeting the pastor's salary. They often borrowed money from one fund to pay expenses for another fund. The church did collect rent on a lease in the rear 50 feet of church property (*noted in February 3, 1896 Board meeting minutes.*) By December 6, 1896 the General Fund was down to 58¢. A notation at the Board meeting of that same date also notes the following: "Committee to confer with pastor in regard to salary think that on account of the hard times that \$475.00 per year water rent and house free would be about all the society could raise."

1900 - 1921

Financially, the church still had difficulties. At the February 5, 1912 Board Meeting, the balance on hand in the general fund was 36¢. On March 3, 1912 the church was overdrawn \$1.53.

July 21, 1913 - Brother Willings offered to paint the church and parsonage one coat of paint for \$65.00 and do all extra work for 25¢/hour and the motion was accepted.

May 13, 1914 – People who had not paid up their “subscriptions” were sent a letter to begin making payments. At the Annual Society Meeting on August 20, “Sister Logan was re-elected leader of Young People’s Class on first ballot. Brother E. Foster was elected leader of Old People’s Class.” (*There is no mention anywhere of the description of “Young People” and “Old People.”*)

More financial troubles. February 15, 1915 – Balance in General Fund was 52¢. By July 28, the church was overdrawn \$10.46, and by August 10, the church was overdrawn \$17.86. The treasurer resigned. At their meeting of November 1, 1915 the Board reported the church was in desperate need of funds. During the Board meeting they did a little fund raising among themselves to cover incidental deficiencies and the board members raised \$13.00 in cash and subscriptions right then and there. A committee was appointed to solicit funds of \$200. During the time of Pastor Bennett, September 1912 through September 1915, a notation was made that 23 members moved away. This certainly didn’t help the financial situation and more than likely contributed to it.

In early 1916 the church received a coal bill of \$45.15 but there was no money to pay it. At the February 6, 1916 Board meeting the Incidental Treasurer was “ordered” to take up a subscription of \$50 to pay it. A week later the balance in the general fund dropped to 16¢. (*The general fund paid the janitor (\$6.00-\$9.00/month), the water tax, the gas bill, the coal bill, hardware, and conference claims.*)

The June 12, 1916 Board Meeting minutes revealed the church met on Wednesday evenings for a prayer meeting. Brother F. J. Kline was appointed a committee of one to see about the deed of the church and unpaid taxes. By November 6 the Committee to build a shed in the rear of the church for toilet rooms reports the job was finished except for some gas jets for lighting purposes. In the Record of Members it is noted that Jacob Franz, one of the founding members of the church, “Died in peaceful triumph” in 1916.

By February 5, 1917, the church did not have enough funds to pay the pastor. A motion was approved to have the treasurer take up a collection for the Pastor’s salary any Sunday he saw fit to do so. There were also lighting issues in the church. A lighting committee was appointed and subsequently procured globes, mantles, and lamps for \$12. On April 2 the Board recorded that funds were borrowed to pay taxes on the church property. In May the Board looked into extending water pipes to the parsonage, which was completed in July.

The winter of 1917-1918 was extremely cold. On January 21, 1918 it was reported that coal shortages in the city force Wednesday evening prayer meetings to be in member's homes rather than in the church. At the end of the year, on December 3, 1918, the General Fund was referred to as the "Buggeh Report". It was thought this might be a written error; however, this term and spelling is used repeatedly in the minutes for well over a year. It is not known what this means and there are no records to explain why this term was used.

At the January 6, 1919 Board meeting, the Treasurer was "ordered" to purchase Frank Anderson Electric fixtures and by March 3 the electric lights had been purchased for \$10. In October the Trustees recommended raising funds to remodel the church. A committee was then formed to secure plans and solicit funds. By December 8, the Committee to raise funds for the church and obtain plans reported they secured conditional subscriptions to the amount of \$2,000. However, by May 3, 1920 the Committee on remodeling made a new motion: "because of restringency on that no loans could be made and that it seemed best to redecorate instead of remodeling." The motion was accepted. The Board then received a bid to paper the walls for \$110; wash and paint wood work, two coats for \$200; and stain all benches and varnish with one coat for \$95.

By October the financial status of the church was improving and the balance in Buggeh Fund was up to \$412.65. By August 29, 1921 the balance on hand was \$775.20. In 1921 the church was valued at \$12,000, the parsonage at \$8,000, and the 2-flat in the rear at \$8,000, for a total value of \$28,000. By October Pastor George E. Kline decided to advertise church meetings in the local paper. The Pastor's salary was now \$20/week.

1922 - 1929

The janitor's salary has been increased to \$12/month. By January 1922 electric lights have been installed in the parsonage for approximately \$130-135. The balance in Buggeh fund was steadily increasing and was up to \$931.02. The Board approved a motion to solicit police protection at the church Sunday and Wednesday evenings but it is not known why.

The following official meetings in October 1922 pertain to the purchase of the Delano Chapel property, which was owned by the First Baptist Church of Evanston. The property was located on the southwest corner of Maple and Simpson in Evanston and would become the second home to the Free Methodist Church. This corner is now home to Fireman's Park.

October 11, 1922 - Society Meeting convened at the church – "On motion it was ordered that the Society Authorize the committee on Church Location to purchase the Delano property a prior the committee may deem reasonable."

October 16, 1922 - Society Meeting at the home of T. B. Carson, 2043 Sherman Avenue, Evanston – A majority of the members were present – "On motion it was

ordered that the Society approve the action of the committee on Church Location by which they offered to give \$16,500 for the Delano Church property terms to be mutual agreed upon. On motion it was ordered that the Board of Trustees of the Society be empowered to sell the property on the northwest corner of Ridge Avenue and Lyons Street Evanston Ill as in their judgment may be deemed advisable."

October 16, 1922 – "To the Trustees of the First Baptist Church Evanston, Illinois – Gentlemen, Relative to the purchase of the Delano Chapel property
We the committee appointed by the Evanston Free Methodist Church to consider the matter of a new church location submit to you the following proposition: We will give you \$16,500.00 for the Delano Chapel property, terms to be mutually agreed upon."
Signed Committee, Rev G. E. Kline Chr."

October 30, 1922 – "Committee on purchasing new Church property reported through F. J. Kline that they had agreed to pay Sixteen thousand five hundred Dollars. (\$16,500.00) for the Delano Chappel The Baptist Church Committee agree to deliver the deed on the payment of 5000.00 but our Committee then said that we could not pay that much now. Baptist Committee then offered to accept 3000.00 and deliver contract for deed Our Committee then offered to make a cash payment of One Thousand Dollars (\$1000.00) and as much more as can be raised by the first of January next and Baptist Committee accepted proposition and agree to deliver contract for deed. On motion the report was adopted and the Committee continued. On motion the Committee on purchase of New Church was made a finance committee to secure money for same."

December 20, 1922 – Board meeting – Southwest corner of Simpson Street and Maple Avenue. *(This appeared to be the first official board meeting in the new church.)*

February 17, 1923 – The congregation of the church drew up a formal document to execute an option to sell their property at Ridge and Lyons to Charles E. Carson. The Trustees of the church were directed to sell this real estate at their discretion.

February 21, 1923 – At an official Board meeting it became apparent that there was disagreement over seats and linoleum in the new church and no immediate action was taken. A committee was elected to investigate and bring a definite report of all probable expenses to the next meeting. It was also ordered to get other estimates on the price of seats and carpet. Of note, it was decided to reconsider the action of a previous motion and "a substitute motion was made and carried that the old linoleum and seats be sold for \$100.00 to the collared people who have bought the old church."

Another motion was made and "it was ordered money for the sale of pianos be used for the purchase of an electric washing machine for the new parsonage to be placed and left in same." *(Note: Oh happy day for the pastor's wife!!!)*

February 28, 1923 – Special Society Meeting at the church – "The Parsonage Committee reported that the old Parsonage was being removed and that they recommend that the old parsonage in its new location be considered and financed separately from the other Church property and that the Trustees handle the same." On

motion the report was adopted. At this special Society meeting, other serious business took place. A representative of the American Seating Company brought samples and cross sections of seats and described their construction. Seating of Auditorium (*what we call the Sanctuary they called the Auditorium*) with three banks of pews would cost \$1,523.50 and seating with two banks would cost \$1,234.75. The Committee on pews recommended that new pews be purchased. On motion the congregation voted to seat the Auditorium with three banks of pews and a motion for the "five ply" back prevailed.

On February 28, 1923 the official Board minutes reported the following:

Assets:

Ridge Avenue Property \$25,000.00
Subscriptions \$4,785.00
Total \$29,785.00

Immediate Liabilities:

Due on the New Church \$16,500.00
Interest \$256.66
Maple Avenue Parsonage \$5,500.00
Improvements on New Parsonage \$500.00
Total \$23,756.66*

*(*This is an incorrect addition of liabilities in the minutes – it should be \$22,756.66)*

Proposed expenditures:

Carpet \$274.57 (should have been \$247.57 as noted in later minutes)
Additional carpet, to use old Linoleum \$30.00
Seats \$1,523.50
Altar Rail and Stain Windows \$100.00
Total \$1,928.07

The Board "ordered" that the pulpit and front of the church be carpeted. A final motion was made and carried out to furnish and maintain a guest room in the new parsonage. *(Note: While the pastor stayed in the parsonage rent free and the church paid the water tax, the guest room was to be used for the church.)*

On March 20, 1923 Ella Jane Stephens, Frank Stephens and Albert J. Corbett sold Lots 12 and 13 in Gaffield's subdivision to Mr. Freeborn D. Brooke, a widower, for \$11,500. Mr. Brooke sold the same lots to The First Free Methodist church three days later, March 23, 1923, for the same amount of money. At a March 30, 1923 Board of Trustees meeting, "On motion it was decided to purchase the Office of the Hines Lumber Company for One Hundred Dollars and move same to west side of church." It was also agreed to rent the barn in the rear of the parsonage for \$10/month.

The Trustees had also recommended purchasing the "Merrell house" for \$750 and this was approved. On April 5, 1923 the church purchased the two story frame house at 213 Ridge Avenue from Andrew Nilson for \$750. A Society Meeting was then held on April 27, 1923. The Society instructed the Trustees to purchase the Hines Lumber Company Office, pay \$100 for it, and move it in the rear of the church and build a porch and

foundation. A Special Society Meeting was called for August 8, 1923 at which time the treasurer reported the need of making a loan of \$2,500 in order to complete the building in the rear of the church or west of the church on the church property, and also to purchase the necessary heating plant for the church. On motion the trustees were authorized to make a loan on the building on Lyons Street known as number 1215 of \$2,500 and sign all the necessary papers. A committee was formed to select a steam heating plant for the church.

On December 29, 1922 a document was drawn up granting C. E. Carson of the C. E. Carson Company, General Contractors, Chicago, the option of purchasing the original church building at Ridge and Lyons for \$25,000 cash less a \$500 deposit. Apparently the purchaser was entering into a contract with the Cadillac Motor Car Company to construct a building and then lease it to this same company. If he was unable to agree upon a lease or obtain the necessary frontage consent for construction of the building or was prohibited by ordinances of the City of Evanston, then the option to purchase the property was void and the church would refund the \$500.

As of August 15, 1923, the value of the church was \$25,000, the value of the parsonage was \$12,000, and the value of 2141 Maple was \$10,000, totaling \$47,000 in assets.

At the September 17, 1923 Board meeting, another motion was made as follows – “On motion Mr. Peterson delegate for the Anti Saloon League was invited to hold a meeting in favor of Temperance. Time for holding the meeting to be left with the pastor.” The pastor was also instructed to take up a collection for the B.T. Roberts church in Washington.

In May of 1924 the Official Board approved a “No Smoking” policy on their rental unit as recommended by the Board of Trustees as follows: “On motion it was decided to forbid smokeing tobacco by tennents in house No 2141 Maple Avenue.” The Trustees also recommended that the house west of the church be rented to the Janitor for his services and recognized as a custodian’s cottage. (*Note: The custodial cottage was located at 1008 Simpson Street.*) At the August 7, 1924 Society Meeting it was reported that the old church property was sold and the church received \$25,000.

The following is a resolution at the August 25, 1924 Board meeting concerning the termination of the pastor. It is copied exactly as written:

“The last official Meeting of The Oficial Board convened at the Church” Pastor George E. Kline in the chair. “Martin A. Hansen offerd the following resolution
Whereas during the past three years our pastor George E. Kline has continuously shown an unusual interest in the Progress and development of our Evanston Soceitey and
Whereas his labors have been so fruitful in both temporal and spiritual blessings.
Be It Resolved that a record be placed on the minutes of the Official Board of this Soceitey with a copy to our pastor to the efect that we appreciate the services he has

rendered and regret that they must terminate for the time being in accordance with the rules of our church and Be it further Resolved that we all wish him God-speed and assure him of our continued interest and petitions to the throne of Grace that Gods richest blessings may go with and abide upon him and his family through out the coming years." On motion the resolution was adopted.

At the Board meeting of December 29, 1924 the following motion was approved: "On motion The Treasurer was requested to take up a collection of One Hundred Dollars for the purpose of having the Heating pipes covered with asbestos and a new bulb for the purpose of keeping the water pipes from freezing and painting the windows in the Audience room." *(Note: The pipes were covered with asbestos by February 2, 1925 at a cost of \$66.)*

The following is a beautifully written resolution entered into the Official Board Minutes of August 12, 1925. The resolution concerns the death of J. W. Beebe, a Charter Member of the church. The resolution is copied exactly as written.

Resolution

Your committee appointed to draft resolution's concerning the passing of Rev. J. W. Beebe beg leave to submit the following.

Whereas, Having learned of the death of Brother Johnathan W. Beebe, one of the charter members of the Evanston Free Methodist which occurred at the National Home for Soldiers at Milwaukee, Wisconsin on November 11, 1924. Therefore, be it resolved that we as members of the Official Board hereby express our confidence in his Christian character and our appreciation of his services in helping to carry on the work of the Lord among us. We bear testimony to his liberality in contributing to the cause of Christ in its various departments and to his loyalty to the church of his choice shown by his faithfull attendance at all services during the long period of which he was a member and extending over forty-three years excepting of the short period when on account of the infirmities of old age he was prevented from being present.

In fact he was always found at his port of duty, unless hindered by some circumstance over which he had no control, and was an encouragement and inspiration to his pastors by his hearty endorsement of the truth and by his interest in every project proposed for the upbuilding of the church of Christ.

He took his stand for righteousness and joined the church at a time it meant much to do so and with a few others who became charter members of this society gladly bore opposition and did his best to further its interests and extend its borders.

But he is gone, gone up, gone home his trials and tribulations are ended and he is at rest. We expect to meet him in the morning.

Signed J. T. Logan, Edward Foster, F. J. Kline

According to the Pastor's Annual Report of 1925, there were 65 members and four probationers. There was one Sunday school, 16 Officers and Teachers, and 94 Scholars enrolled (*youth and adults participating in Sunday school.*) The church owned one church valued at \$25,000 and three parsonages valued at a total of \$27,000.

Beginning with the following motion the church began a history of mortgaging their property to raise funds: "At the society meeting held April 14, 1926 a majority of the congregation being present, the following resolution on motion duly seconded was unanimously adopted: Resolved that the trustees of this society are hereby directed to mortgage the east 45 ft. of lots 12 and 13 in Gaffield's Subdivision otherwise known as 2137 and 2141 Maple Ave. for an amount not to exceed \$8000.00 in order to finance the placing of a building thereon." By August of 1926 the church was valued at \$40,000 and there was only one parsonage valued at \$12,000 with an encumbrance on the parsonage of \$8,000. There were 65 members and six probationers, one Sunday school, 16 Officers and Teachers, and 109 Scholars. In September the Board made the decision to allow the Anti-Saloon League to hold a meeting in the church prior to the November elections. The church also turned over one of its properties to become an Elders Home and appeared to be financially responsible for this home as well. Frank Kline, the treasurer of the church, was instructed to borrow money at the bank to pay bills due on the Elders house.

On August 8, 1927 the Board entered another beautiful Resolution of Condolence for Edward Foster, the last Charter Membes of the church:

RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE

WHEREAS, There is a vacant pew in our church, a familiar form is no more seen going to the house of God and the place of prayer, and his voice is no more heard in praise and testimony; and,

WHEREAS, Our faithful friend and brother, Edward Foster, the last of the charter members of this society, a member of the Board of Trustees and secretary of the official board for many years, has been called from our midst to his eternal reward; therefore, be it

Resolved, 1. That we hereby bear testimony to his noble, Christian character, and express our appreciation of his loyalty to the church – covering a period of over forty years; of his hearty cooperation in all our enterprises tending to build up the cause of God; and of his generous contributions to the various departments of the church's activities; and,

Resolved, 2. That we tender our sincere sympathy to his daughter, Miss Ruth I. Foster, and the other relatives who have been bereaved by his departure; and,

Resolved, 3. That these resolutions be spread upon our official records, and a copy of the same be sent to the family of our deceased brother.

Done by the society meeting of the Evanston Free Methodist Church on this 8th day of August, 1927.

Signed by J. T. Logan, Chairman and Grace G. Foster, Secretary

Revival and evangelistic meetings were very important to the church and usually held twice a year, typically in the spring and fall months. One sample of the plans for a revival are documented at a November 2, 1927 Board Meeting. A Dr. Blews had been secured to hold a Revival Meeting from November 6 through 20. Notice of the meeting were inserted in the Evanston Review, The News Index, Noyes Street Shoppers Guide, and the Daily Northwestern for an approximate cost of \$12.00. At the Board meeting on November 30 it was reported that costs for the Revival Meeting included \$57.74 for advertising, telephone calls, telegram, car fare, and board bill for the Evangelist and the Evangelist was paid \$215.00 for a total of \$272.74.

By 1928 the official committees in the church included Evangelistic, Budget, Anti Saloon League, Efficiency, Pastor Salary, Sunday school Convention, Entertainment, and Finance. Financial problems once again forced the church to mortgage property to raise funds and at a March 7, 1928 Society Meeting the Treasurer of the Board of Trustees presented the following resolution: "Whereas the balance of the amount of \$3000.00 owing on the parsonage property will be due on March 18, 1928 and whereas there is not enough funds on hand in the treasury to meet the same, therefore Be it resolved that the board of trustees is hereby authorized to place a mortgage of \$2000.00 on the parsonage and lot and the president and secretary of the board of Trustees are hereby authorized to sign all necessary papers." On motion the resolution was adopted with a unanimous vote. The Anti Saloon League continued to be a visible presence in the church and given another Sunday morning, July 29, 1928, to represent their work.

The church still owned property at 2141 Maple Avenue in August of 1929 and it was moved and seconded that \$148.00 be taken from the income on the house at this address in order to send Florence Murray to China. By 1929 the Pastor's salary was increased to \$25.00/week. The parsonage continued to be provided rent free and the church paid the parsonage water tax.

Unfortunately, the church does not have any records of the Board meetings in the 1930's. We are fortunate that we do have official minutes from the Sunday School Board meetings from 1927 through 1942, which gives us a great picture of the Sunday school program.

SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD: 1927-1942

The Sunday school officers and teachers had regular meetings from 1927 to 1942 and kept a record of their board meetings. They were called "The Sunday School Worker's Conference." The first recorded minutes that we have are from June 6, 1927 at which time it was reported that there were 13 officers and teachers of the Sunday school and a total of 74 attending – from beginners through adults who were called "Scholars." Teachers regularly made personal calls, and sent cards and letters to the students who didn't come. Most of the children attending Sunday school were from outside homes and not from the church families.

The Sunday school had a working budget. They had regular collections and kept a record of expenses. They were responsible for teacher training classes, purchasing all their supplies, furniture (such as bookcases) and books/Bibles. They funded and were responsible for programs that included Easter, Christmas, Rally Day, Mothers Day, Children's Day, Promotion Day, Vacation Bible School, and Superannuates Day. They also were responsible for keeping the Sunday school facilities in order and maintaining the library, which included books for all age levels. Their classroom collections supported numerous missions (*they voted each year which mission to support*), the conference and general Sunday school board, Olive Branch, Woodstock Home, Christmas or Thanksgiving baskets for the needy families in Sunday school, and the Lora Jones fund (*it is not known what type of fund that was*).

At their September 26, 1927 meeting the Sunday School Board had elections for their officer and teacher positions. It is interesting to note the names of their classes: King's Daughters, Anti Cigarette Class, Lamp Lighters, Standard Bearers, Willing Workers, Light and Life Class, Young People's Class, and Berean Class. They also had a Primary Class. In addition, officer's positions included the following superintendents: Home Department, Cradle Roll, Missionary, Temperance, and Memory Work. There was also a Librarian and an assistant, and a Chorister. By October 1927, due to increased enrollment (*in the mid-80's*), they decided to form two new classes – one for senior girls and one for senior boys. No one under the senior age was allowed to be a teacher. Central and Melrose Park Sunday schools challenged our church Sunday school to a contest and the Sunday school Board accepted the challenge in February 1928. A note from the August minutes states that "The District Contest was reported by the pastor." No mention of the outcome!!! By November 12, 1928 average attendance was at 100 although it dropped to be consistently in the 80's through the remainder of the Sunday school year and the following years.

In February 1929 the Sunday school decided to have a reading contest, "Trip Around the World," the following January 27 through March 3. Four prizes would be awarded. It appears the contest was begun; however, no outcome is mentioned in the records. The librarian informed the Sunday school Board that children use more books than adults. The librarian also fined you if you returned a book late. At one point, the library collected \$5.00 in fines in one month. By September 10, 1929 the library had 263 books. From the records, the Sunday school consistently tried to have reading contests at least once a year but there is never any notation as to the outcome.

Somewhere along the line, the "Anti Cigarette Class" was either dropped or renamed, and the Sunday school classes consisted of: Primary, Lamp Lighters, Jr. Boys, Standard Bearers, Willing Workers, Sr. Boys, Sr. Girls, Young Peoples Class, Light and Life Class, and Berean Bible Class. All the Sunday school teachers used Bibles in their classes, and children of all grade levels who didn't have one were given them as gifts by the church. Graduates of the primary class were given Bibles as gifts. Children were also given Bible verses to memorize as part of their class curriculum.

Sunday school teachers and officers were constantly being replaced. Teachers regularly resigned even in the middle of the school year and the Board scrambled to replace them. Some classes were without teachers and at one point two classes were

combined into one. By December of 1929, however, average attendance was up to 97 and the church was confronted with space issues. One class had a corner of the auditorium screened off for their use. Eventually Beginners were given the room that was used as the library. By 1931 they needed to remodel the church to allow for a Junior Department. Once again, the Sunday school classes were adjusted so that there were Beginners, Junior Boys, Junior Girls, Intermediate Boys, Intermediate Girls, Senior Boys and Girls (*ages 14-16*), Young Peoples, Light and Life, and Berean Bible Study.

Sunday school was year round; it did not break during the summer months. One day during the summer, typically in August, they took all the children on a one day outing to Wilmette Beach. Anywhere from 112 to 126 children and adults would go on this outing.

In November of 1931 the Sunday school board approved a motion, "that we express ourselves as The Board disapproving of the practice of bringing the Beginners and Primarys into the main Auditorium." (*The Auditorium, as previously noted, is the Sanctuary.*) It is not known what prompted this motion or what the outcome was. The Beginners and Primarys are the youngest children.

Prohibition in the United States lasted from 1920 to 1933. On January 11, 1932, Miss Murray reported her desire to give the children special instruction in temperance. The Board approved the motion and a committee of three was to act on "temperance instruction." In April of 1932 the Board thought that children of higher grades and Junior High School should write essays on subjects of their own choosing, and that the W.C.T.U. (Women's Christian Temperance Union) give prizes for the best essays on Temperance & Prohibition. Therefore, a motion was made and approved that the Sunday school children be encouraged to take up the study of the booklet, "Great Facts Concerning Prohibition." The Sunday School Superintendent was made a committee to put the study into effect. (*A note in the record of pastors stated that the pastor, F. S. Parks, resigned on March 21, 1932. No reason was given. The church was forced to find temporary help until a new pastor was assigned.*)

At the May 16, 1933 meeting the Superintendent of the Sunday school reported that while attendance was irregular, the spiritual status of the Sunday school is on the increase and that "many of the children reported a definite experience in the things of God." What clearly comes through in reading the minutes of the Sunday school Board is how much the teachers cared about the children and their spiritual growth. Memory work was particularly important. Personal visits were made and cards were sent to children who did not come.

Teachers were consistently reporting that students were late to class; however, it is noted that they weren't the only ones late. The teachers were also consistently tardy and the Board noted this problem. Finally, in the minutes of March 13, 1934 the Board took action and made the following motion, "it was decided to have an honor roll for teachers during the present quarter, showing attendance and punctuality." In May, the teachers were commended for their punctuality.

In 1934 the Sunday school again revised their classes and officer positions remained the same. They continued to have Beginners and Primary classes. The classes were now named: Lamplighters, Daniel's Band, Semper Fidelis, Standard Bearers, K.Y.B. Class (one for boys and one for girls), Young Peoples Bible Class, Light and Life Class, and Berean Class. They were "happy" with the Light and Life Sunday school literature and continued to use it for all the main classes. However, they did not like the Primary and Beginners literature and allowed the Superintendent of each of those departments to choose their own teaching materials.

1940 - 1947

As of July 1940, there were 71 members of the church; nine members were from the Kline family and six from the Foster family (*two of the founding families of the church*).

A Society Meeting was called in October 1940 for the sole purpose of electing officers and teachers of the Sunday school and election of the Superintendent of the YPMS. At this time they had the following offices for Sunday school: Superintendent of the Beginner's Department, an assistant and two teachers; Superintendent of the Primary Department and an assistant; a teacher of intermediate boys, a teacher of intermediate girls, a teacher for junior girls, and a teacher for 1st and 2nd year high school. There was also a Young People's Class and they were allowed to choose their own teacher(s). There was one Bible class. Other positions at this time included (with people elected to same): Cradle Roll Superintendent, Temperance Superintendent, Memory Work Superintendent, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian, Penny-A-Day Director, and someone to head the Home Department.

It is noted by November 22, 1940 that a new sign had been secured for the church at a cost of \$8.50. The Board of Trustees reported that "the property of the church is in fine condition, the church property is free from debt, and that repairs are being made to the parsonage." (*This is one of the few times so far in the history of the church that the property was debt-free.*)

In 1940-41 the monthly church income and disbursements were almost equal, leaving only \$30-70/month in the treasury. The Board was still collecting \$40/month rent from property at 2137 Maple Avenue, which helped keep them financially afloat. The church building desperately needed new lights in the Auditorium and within two months six new lights had been secured and installed for \$87.66 (*this fee included the fixtures, new wiring, bulbs, labor, wire, switches and boxes.*) The committee to raise funds for the lights had only been able to collect \$47.45 toward this cost. They still needed to do additional fund raising. New lights were also needed at the door of the church; however, the "committee on lights" was only authorized to put them in if enough money was received to pay for them. It was the same for the "committee on decorating the parsonage." This committee noted that the rear bedroom, living room and dining room all needed to be repapered, the woodwork in the bathroom and kitchen needed repainting, and the rear entry needed to be calcimined. However, until funds were available this was put on hold. The "committee on sending statements to budget subscribers" recommended that quarterly statements be sent to those who had not paid to date. At the Annual Society meeting in July of 1941, it was reported that for the fiscal

year 1940-41 the church had \$2,444.41 in receipts and spent \$2,406.20, leaving a balance on hand of \$38.21.

In February of 1941 our pastor received a letter from the pastor of the Beloit, Wisconsin church requesting monetary assistance for the needs of his church building and parsonage. It was approved that a collection be taken up during a church service and the treasurer was authorized to send a check for \$5.00. It was also noted that John H. Foster donated a ditto machine to the church and the pastor was authorized to purchase the supplies necessary to get it in working order.

By September 22, 1941 the church was insured for \$8,800 with two insurance companies. The parsonage was insured for \$2,000. The church also owned property at 2137 Maple, insured for \$5,200; 2141 Maple, insured for \$4,800; and at 909-911 Gaffield Place, insured for \$7,600. The church was attempting to pay off the mortgages on the Maple Avenue properties.

For the first time, at the November 3, 1941 Board meeting, the matter of a church bulletin was mentioned and would be considered. In March of 1942 the pastor pursued a plan to advertise the church in the Chicago Sun. The Board decided to try a three line ad for one month at 30¢ per line. During this same meeting the board decided to secure a one month supply of bulletin covers at a cost of 40¢ per hundred. At the April 7, 1942 Board meeting it was determined that the advertising in the Chicago Sun would be discontinued; however, the bulletins apparently were a success and would be continued for another month at a cost of 40¢ per week. The pastor was not happy about the discontinuing of the ad and at a special Board meeting on April 19, 1942 (*to specifically discuss this matter*), the advertising was reconsidered and it was decided to continue the ad for one more month.

At the July 1942 board meeting the following information was submitted by the Treasurer: In May of 1939 the financial obligations off the Evanston Church properties, as shown by the Board of Trustees, included three mortgage notes for \$2,000, \$3,000, and \$8,000 with a \$425 bank note and a \$200 note. Each of the mortgage notes were written at 6% interest, later reduced to 5%. The \$8,000 note had been reduced to \$7,600 and the \$3,000 note to \$2,500. The \$425 bank note had been paid in full. Interest was paid when due and money was available for interest approximately due as well as the second half of 1941 taxes. They expressed the hope that the properties would continue to be rented, which would reduce the principal balances by \$500 to \$1,000 over the next 12 months. The Gaffield property had had repair costs of \$1,353. There was a real estate company in charge of managing the properties. It is noted previously that the church received \$40/month from the real estate at 2137 Maple; however, the income from the other properties must have gone to pay off the mortgages.

At the October 6, 1942 Board meeting the issue of bulletins was brought up once again. It was determined that a new bulletin would be used that had a cut of the church on the front, which would also cost less than the previous bulletins used. The new cost would be \$19.50 for printing for a year; \$2.50 for a picture of the church; 85¢ for a cut; and mimeographing would cost \$1.50 per week. In late 1942 Bethany Church offered to give our church a printing machine and we agreed to take it and pay to have it shipped.

Envelope holders for the backs of the pews were also secured and put in place so that offering envelopes could be placed in them for the use of visitors.

In January of 1943 the church had to take out a loan of \$185 to cover delinquent lighting assessments that had been overlooked for seven years. Because of the war, the question of fuel oil was considered and the pastor reported having an interview with the local Rationing Board. It was decided to continue the church services as they were currently being held for the time being. In March of 1943 the subject of church stationery was considered and while the pastor had ordered some for his own use, the matter was deferred to the next month at which time the treasurer was ordered to purchase church stationery. This is the first mention of the church having stationery. At the July 13, 1943 Board meeting it was noted that a certified copy of the Articles of Incorporation of the First Free Methodist Church of Evanston was secured at a cost of \$1.55.

By September 15, 1943 there was a long list of Sunday school officer and teacher positions that were elected at the Society meeting and included: Assistant Superintendent, Secretary-Treasurer, Superintendent of Beginners and a Teacher, Superintendent of Primaries and Teachers, Junior Boys and Girls, Intermediate Girls, Intermediate Boys, High Schoolers and an Assistant, Light and Life Class, Class 8, Bible Class, Temperance Superintendent, Missionary Superintendent, Memory Work Superintendent, Cradle Roll, Home Department, Librarian, and Substitute Teachers.

Over the next year the church continued to do what churches do – minister to the sick and ailing, baptize infants, officiate at weddings and funerals, supported missionaries, built up the spiritual life of the members of the church, maintained and “beautified” the church property, constantly worked to stay financially stable, tried to meet conference obligations (*and was not succeeding*), dealt with resignations of church positions and replacements, and so forth. They continued to hold Evangelistic services, usually in the spring and fall, and invited an Evangelist to come to the church for what usually was a three week period to hold services, typically three Sunday’s in a row. At the Society meeting of July 5, 1944 the church had reduced their mortgage obligations on the properties they owned. The 909-911 Gaffield Place property had a balance of \$384.18, the 2137 Maple Avenue property had a balance of \$53.90 and the 2141 Maple Avenue property had a balance of \$581.44 for a total of \$1,019.52. They voted pay \$500 on the mortgage of 2141 Maple Avenue. (*Note: One has to wonder why they did not pay off the two smallest mortgages.*) By July 18, 1945, one year later, the three properties the church had owned had not been paid off. Instead, they must have taken out additional funds against these properties because the Gaffield Place mortgage was \$6,800, the 2137 Maple property mortgage was \$1,600, and the 2141 Maple property mortgage was \$1,300.

At the July 5, 1944 Society meeting, “The question of the use of instrumental music in our public worship services was taken up. It was moved and seconded that the Society request the Official Board to appoint a committee to prepare a ballot to be sent to each member of the church, a sealed ballot to be returned for counting – the ballot concerning the use of instrumental music in the church.” On August 1, 1944 the Board elected the secretary (*Grace Kline*), the pastor (*W.W. McCormick*), Vicki Kline, and V.A. Gillingham to this committee to prepare the ballot and bring it to the Board for

approval. At the next Board meeting on September 5 the committee had recommended that a form letter be sent to all members concerning the question, that a ballot be included for a yes or no vote, that a 90 day period be allowed for the return of the ballots, and that the ballots be returned to the pastor but opened and counted by the secretary at a regular meeting of the Official Board. It was also noted at this Board meeting that the deeds to the church are in the safe and all properties are insured. *(The safe was located in the Beginner's Room and in April 1950 it was moved to the basement of the church.)*

By December 5, 1944 the music ballots were sent to each member. By January 2, 1945 about 30 ballots had been returned and it was moved and seconded that they be opened at the regular official Board meeting of February 6. At that Board meeting, they counted the ballots. There were 35 "yes" votes and 13 "no" votes. It was therefore considered that this was the official consensus of the church and a committee of five was appointed to investigate costs and types of suitable instruments. Grace Kline, Vicki Kline, Frank Green, Martin Hansen and the pastor were the committee.

No other mention of World War II or its effects was recorded in the church records other than the earlier mention of the pastor talking with the Rationing Board regarding heating oil. However, at the March 6, 1945 Board meeting it was recorded that David G. Foster died on February 6, 1945 in the service of his country and the following Sunday bulletin was to be in the form of a memorial bulletin for David. During this same meeting Robert Jacobson was added to the "music committee" and several Chicago music companies had been contacted. It was also moved and seconded that a fund be set up to be designated the "Organ Fund" and definite promotional work needed to be done to build up this fund. The treasurer, Lowell Kline, was made promoter of this fund.

At the Board meeting the previous month *(February 1945)* it was reported that the vacuum cleaner used in the church was in need of repairs; therefore, they approved the purchase of a rebuilt machine, preferably a Hoover, at a cost not to exceed \$25-30. During the March Board meeting the treasurer reported that permission had been granted by the government to secure a new Hoover and on motion the purchase of a new machine was approved. *(Why would the government need to approve the purchase of a vacuum cleaner? Probably because it was toward the end of the war and the metal used to make vacuum cleaners and other basic items had been used for the war effort resulting in a shortage of materials.)*

In May 1945 the church received more bad news that another member of the church, George William Endicott, on February 25, 1945, died in service to his country. Messages of sympathy were sent to his parents and wife.

The Trustees reported on June 5, 1945 that \$8,800 was no longer enough insurance coverage on the church and it was recommended that the church be insured for \$15,000. The music instrument committee reported that a Milwaukee company, which makes small pipe organs to order, had one that the church could try. Therefore, the music committee was dispatched to Milwaukee to check it out.

Sometime after the Board meeting of July 18, 1945 the church was without a pastor. In the absence of a pastor, the District Superintendent, Rev. H. E. Goldsboro, presided over the September Board meeting. A motion was made to have a pulpit and advisory committee arrange for the services in the church during the interim in which they had no pastor, and to make inquiries about a suitable person to become the pastor. Martin Hansen, John Foster and Lowell Kline became that committee. Mr. Hansen had written the Bishop about a minister for the church and the reply was that he had the matter under consideration. Lowell Kline had written to another person but had not received a reply. Fortunately, the committee had made arrangements and from a schedule in the records they had booked ministers to come and preach on Sunday mornings and evenings beginning September 2, 1945 through February 17, 1946. The Church Board continued to work very hard in keeping the church and its many ministries functioning until they could secure a new pastor. The church and parsonage continued to need many repairs and at the Board meeting of January 8, 1946, John Foster reported that the furnaces in the church and parsonage were almost beyond repair.

Finally, at the Society and Board Meeting of January 13, 1946 presided over by Rev. H. E. Goldsboro, the District Superintendent, "it was unanimously voted that we invite Bro. Wickline to come to the Evanston Church as our pastor." The church would pay his moving expenses and his salary would be \$35/week. During the February 11 Board meeting it was reported that new furnaces were supposed to be installed in the parsonage and church, and that a welcoming committee would entertain the new pastor and his family upon his arrival that Friday. However, by June 1946 they still hadn't decided on a church or parsonage furnace system. A furnace for the church would cost at least \$1,100. Finally, in July, because of the tight financial situation of the church, they decided to contract with a company that would take the church furnace and install it in the parsonage and only buy a new furnace for the church.

At the June 7, 1946 Society meeting a motion was passed to sell the property at 909-911 Gaffield Place, that it be listed for \$15,000 and not less than \$14,000, and the net profit be tithed. It was noted by John Foster, the president of the Board of Trustees in July of 1946 that the 2137 Maple property is in "quite good condition," the property at 2141 Maple "needs work done," and the Gaffield Place property is up for sale. At the August 20 Board meeting, Mr. Faulkner of the Peterson Real Estate Company discussed the insurance of the church property. The church was insured for \$14,000 replacement value; however, he recommended insurance coverage of at least 80% of value, adding at least \$5,000-\$6,000 to the present coverage of \$14,000. The Board approved. Mr. Peterson also felt that the asking price of \$15,000 for the Gaffield property was too high. At a special meeting on November 6 it was noted the Gaffield property was being sold to Willis and Althea Weaver for \$14,000. At the January 7, 1947 Board meeting it was revealed that the sale of the property was completed and the church received \$6,039.84.

In April of 1946 the Board had made the decision to buy an organ and have it installed as soon as possible. The church pipe organ was purchased some time between April and September of that year. There is no mention of the date in the official Board records, however, there is a copy of a bulletin from an October 6, 1946 afternoon service at which time the pipe organ was dedicated. In January 1947 records reveal

that the organ had to be financed with two notes of \$1,000 and one note for \$900 from the Board of Trustees, for a total cost of \$2,900. The \$600 tithe from the sale of the Gaffield property was divided between the Osaka Bible School (\$400) and the Light and Life House (\$200).

At the March 4, 1947 Board meeting the pastor spoke of his problems in connection with his work, and the Board unanimously moved and approved the pastor continue his relationship as at present. The pastor was then requested to arrange for pre-Easter meetings to secure the help of the previous pastor, W. W. McCormick and two others if possible. By late 1947 the church had a few more regular committees, including the Evangelistic and Pulpit Committee, the Flower Committee, and a Music Committee. Interestingly, even though the church had a pipe organ and a contract with a Mr. Delle for service for the organ at a cost of \$25-35/year, there was never any mention of an organist. It appears the church had guest organists, and continued to use their piano regularly. It wasn't until September 21, 1948 that the Board requested the Music Committee submit a name or names as a permanent organist for Board approval. The Board asked the Music Committee to approach Marvin and Eleanor Dean to secure their services for the year.

At the end of the church year of September 30, 1947, the Organ Fund had a total of \$617.63. Repair and upkeep of the church totaled \$1,781.90, a significant amount of the yearly expenses. The church began the fiscal year of October 1, 1946 with a balance of \$242.78. The sale of the church property on Gaffield helped defray considerable expenses that year, and the church ended the fiscal year on September 30, 1947 with a balance of \$172.39.

1948

In the March 2, 1948 official Board minutes the treasurer reported that the treasury was in critical condition and after discussion the decision was made that the pastor bring up this matter during the Sunday morning service. There was still a deficit in the treasury as of September 21, 1948. During that meeting it was also decided to install a business telephone in the parsonage with an extension the pastor's study in the church. It would be listed as "Free Methodist Church." By October 6, 1948 it was agreed that Marvin and Eleanor Dean, who had been approached to serve as music minister and organist would be hired as Minister of Music and accompanist at \$10/week. However, since this expense was not in the budget, the Finance Committee had to raise the money to pay them.

Reverend Wickline departed as pastor at the end of the Society year in July 1948. The next pastor was Reverend A. D. Zahniser. He was pastor of the Evanston Free Methodist Church for about 14 years, most notably during the years when the church purchased the land and built the current church on Crawford Avenue in Evanston.

One chronic problem the church had to deal with for many years was the lack of heating in the basement of the church on Maple and Simpson. Due to the financial strain of the church, there wasn't enough money to be able to improve the basement and install heating so as to be able to use it for fellowship purposes all year round.

Therefore, at the December 1, 1948 Board meeting a motion was passed to raise \$500 for the Basement Improvement Project to specifically supply adequate heating of the basement in order to have year round fellowship activities. A motion was made to purchase the equipment immediately. Quite frequently through the years, many groups of people had requested use of the church; however, lack of heating facilities prohibited the church from accommodating anyone. Since the church was going to procure the proper heating equipment immediately they voted to allow Taylor University the use of the church basement during the holiday season to hold a banquet.

1949

Pastor Zahniser gave messages on radio station WMBI January 17-23, 1949, which were favorably received. According to the minutes of January 25, 1949 the church once again needed to find an organist at no more than \$10/week since the Dean's left the church as music ministers. Therefore, the Board "ordered" the pastor pass out envelopes at the Sunday morning service in order to raise funds to pay for several visiting organists. It was also noted that the church purchased much needed tables for the dining room at a cost of \$66 in cash and \$170 in pledges.

By June 14, 1949 the church had debt of \$1,000 owing to improvements on the church property. The Board of Trustees recommended that the church take out a loan from the First National Bank and Trust Company of Evanston to clear up the indebtedness. According to the minutes of the January 24, 1950 Board meeting the church had serious financial problems. The treasurer sent out letters to individual members concerning their budget pledges to date. Not only that, money was still owed on the organ. The Board made the decision that one member be elected to look over the list of pledges for the organ fund and to work out a plan for future payments to cover the amount still unpaid and Ed Cullison was elected.

What was most often noted in the official minutes was that over time, especially in the 1940's, the church Board had developed a pattern of almost always purchasing items, large and small, without actually having the cash to pay for the item, placing the item in the next year's proposed church budget, or even doing fund raising for the item before purchase. Sometimes they had a small amount of cash on hand to pay towards the item but most often they did not. They repeatedly went ahead and purchased an item and then would charge the finance committee to find a way to raise funds to pay for it. In the early years of the church the Board did not do this. They waited until they had the funds to pay for what they needed by doing advance fund raising. This new pattern that emerged greatly contributed to the problems of indebtedness and financial strain the church chronically experienced.

Another example of purchasing without the funds was when the church purchased a projector around January 1950. John Foster was made custodian of the projector and the Board decided that if another church requested use of it, a minimum fee of \$3.50 would be charged and the pastor or one other person in authority in that church would be responsible for it. However, at the April 19, 1950 Board meeting it was decided to refer the raising of the balance owed on the projector to the YPMI.

On a humorous note, the maintenance committee reported that crutch-tips had been bought and placed on the chairs in the beginners and primary departments (*Sunday school classes*) to silence the noise. What a clever idea!

According to a report of the Treasurer for the period of June 16, 1949 to June 14, 1950, the church had a \$1,000 outstanding mortgage on the 2137 Maple property. There was also a \$1,000 loan taken out on June 13, 1949 from the First National Bank and Trust Company to be used by the church to retire old debts and was coming due in 90 days. The note had been renewed and had been reduced to \$800. Lastly, in 1946 the Trustees advanced \$900 to the church to be applied to the organ fund and none of that amount had been repaid. The treasurer submitted a report for an eight month period ending May 31, 1950 in which the church had a deficit of \$42.30.

The earliest church Sunday worship bulletin found was from July 10, 1949. They are very similar in appearance to what we use in 2006, with the order of worship on the left side and announcements on the right. Of note is that above the date on each bulletin is the phrase: The CHURCH of the "Light and Life Hour" or The CHURCH of the "LIGHT AND LIFE HOUR". This phrase continued on the worship bulletins for many years.

In 1949 the morning worship service was held at 11:00 AM. There was also a Sunday evening service at 7:30 PM and a prayer service on Wednesday evenings at 8:00 PM. The Sunday evening service moved to 7:00 PM in 1951 and was renamed "Evening Gospel Service." During the first Sunday Evening Gospel Service of January 7, 1951, the Pastor preached a message from the subject, "Will Christ Come in Fifty-One?" In 1952 the Sunday evening service was renamed the "Evening Evangelistic Service." In 1955 it was renamed a "Prayer and Praise Service". This evening service continued through at least 1961.

1950 - 1952

In the early 1950's, the church had a youth program (typically with food) followed by a youth service every Sunday evening, men's meetings, a monthly class meeting, a ladies morning prayer group, a men's prayer group, a young people's prayer group, and the Women's Missionary Society. Also in 1951 the church began a consecutive Family Bible Reading program. The church planned to read through the entire Bible in one year. The Pastor's morning, evening and mid-week Bible study was taken from the book of the week. They were required to read at least one book a week. The week of January 7, 1951 they read the entire book of Genesis, the week of January 14 they read Exodus, and so on. No mention is made of how successful this endeavor was.

In late 1950 the issue of decorating the church came up. It was decided by the Board that they purchase gray carpeting. The decorating committee recommended that the walls of the auditorium be painted – the lower walls in Normandy gray, the upper walls and ceiling in lighter gray, and the woodwork in gray. Velvet draperies were part of the project. The church then took out a loan of \$2,500 to pay for the decorating. At the April 3, 1951 Board meeting the decorating committee was "highly commended for their superior judgment in choice of colors and materials used in redecorating the church." Unfortunately, the church had difficulty paying for the work that they had done and by

late the following year they were faced with back bills of \$365 that needed to be paid. Letters were sent to members that had pledged and a special offering was taken up the following Sunday, which raised \$250. Unfortunately, there was still a deficit in making payments in January of 1953. At the same time, the church was trying to raise pledges to pay an organist \$10.00 per week. By March of 1952 they had raised some pledges but not to the desired amount of \$10.00 per week.

In February of 1952 WMBI radio broadcasting contacted the church and extended an invitation to broadcast the Sunday morning worship services for seven Sundays. It would cost the church \$175. The Board vote was 9 to 8 in favor; however, the pastor suggested that since the vote was so close that they do not accept the invitation and it was agreed. However, at the Board meeting the following month the Board decided unanimously to go ahead and broadcast their services. By July of 1952 eight services were broadcast and well received. A total of \$185 had been raised to cover the cost.

The issue of caring for younger children during the worship service continued to remain a problem and the Women's Missionary Society (WMS) was made a committee to come up with a plan. At the next month's meeting they informed the Board that a nursery had been set up during the morning worship service and was functioning, which was received with much gratitude by the Board (*and most assuredly the members of the congregation trying to worship!*) However, by January 1953 the WMS decided that they would care for the nursery only when needed by children of guests.

In 1952 the church had the following official committees: Budget and Finance, Maintenance and Repair, Music, Ushers, Charities, and Promotional and Planning (*which used to be called Pulpit and Evangelistic and included a representative from each of the following organizations of the church – Sunday school, Women's Missionary Society, Y.P.M.S., the Official Board, and the Society.*)

In a note on October 14, 1952, the Women's Missionary Society reported that Eugenia Price, the author and director of the radio program "Unshackled" would be attending their January 20, 1953 meeting.

1953 - 1955

Average Sunday school attendance in 1952-1953 was approximately 120 per month. By May 12, 1953 the church needed rooms for the Sunday school and it was decided that the basement of the church would be used for this purpose. This would require masonry work as well as duct work and electrical wiring. The Board agreed to take out a loan from the North Shore National Bank (*the bank they had been working with for a long time*) not to exceed \$2,500 to cover the cost of the Sunday school rooms, decorating the outside of the church, and to secure lights for the front of the church. A subscription would be taken for a period of 90 days beginning on June 14 to secure as much as possible for the basement project. In August it was reported that there was a 17% increase in Sunday school members and "The Numerical Banner" given by the Conference was won by Evanston.

In the summer of 1953, a new music director was secured at a salary of \$100 per month. The first notation about a new church building is recorded in the minutes of September 22, 1953 as follows: "Moved and carried that a Savings Account be set up either with a Bank or Savings and Loan Association for the Fund for a New Building." John and Ruth Bell had given the church a \$1,000 check for starting a building fund for a new church.

The men's fellowship reported that they scheduled two dinner meetings to which the ladies would be invited. Eugenia Price, of "Unshackled" was invited back as a guest speaker for one of those meetings. The men also had tentative plans to hold a tent meeting the following summer. In November the Board appointed a survey committee to look into the problems involved in building a new church. In the meantime, the work in the basement continued and a fire department inspection had been performed informing the church of certain requirements that needed to be met to lessen fire hazards. When the Board met in December, it was noted that Sunday school increased to 137. John Bell gave a report for the Survey Committee. They had been looking at land for a new church. It is noted in the official minutes that "the most desirable was a triangular plot bounded by Crawford Avenue, Harrison Street and Ridge Road containing five acres and in a growing community. He also reported that an Armenian Group had expressed interest in purchasing the present church and parsonage."

In January 1954 the pastor reported that he had consulted with the Row Peterson Company concerning the property they were considering for the new church and the Survey Committee was to schedule a meeting with them and report back to the Board. The Committee was also instructed to continue their contact with the Armenian Church that was interested in the present property. Sunday school attendance continued to climb, with an average of 148 for the previous three months. The "young people", apparently high school aged boys and girls were looking to have some type of recreation program in the basement of the church once a week and it was suggested that the church could possibly secure the services of a young man and woman from M.B.I. (*Moody Bible Institute*) to direct the program. The Board granted approval to move ahead with the program. The following month it was reported that they had a Thursday evening recreational program and a games on Saturday evenings. Due to the interest this outreach program generated, 17 youth attended the high school Sunday school class the next day.

At the February 9, 1954 Board meeting, the Survey Committee reported that a Mr. L. A. Peterson suggested property on the southwest corner of the Glenview Road and Crawford intersection. Two acres were available for approximately \$28,000. It was expected that the church would receive about \$34,000 for the two Maple Street properties. No further action was noted.

The church still faced the problem of what to do with small children at the worship service and nursery volunteers on Sunday morning were desperately needed. It was decided to pass a sheet for volunteers after the worship service to see if that would generate some much needed help.

Sunday school continued to grow and another contest was set up with the Aurora church for six Sunday's before Easter. It appears that the church set up contests with

other churches at least once a year and typically between January and April; however, what is frustrating is that the nature or outcome of the contest is never mentioned!!! By March the high school recreation program was in full swing and handball courts had been put up (*in the basement?*) The Thursday evening program generated no less than 10 high school students each week.

At the April 13, 1954 Board meeting the Survey Committee reported about the tract of land east of Crawford that the church was considering. The church Expansion/Building Fund was made available to the Survey Committee to allow them to make the most favorable option possible on this tract of land. At this same meeting, Gordon Gosh, who led the high school youth program, was made "Athletic Director" of the church and given permission to organize a soft ball team.

A special Society meeting was called on May 4, 1954. The property at 2727 Crawford Avenue was presented to the congregation as a desirable location for a new church. Maps of Evanston were made available as well as plat of the subdivision showing boundaries and the size of the tract. Mr. Peterson, the real estate broker handling the church property, also attended the meeting. "He commented at length on the merits of the location and the scarcity of vacant lots large enough for church purposes." "John Bell, the Chairman of the Survey Committee, explained that after an extensive survey of tracts available, the committee agreed that this tract was the exceptional value. This was further concurred by Lowell Kline, Frank Boufford, and John R. Foster, who feel that a tract of this size should meet any need that might arise in the future, not only giving us ample footage for a new church, parsonage, and parking area, but would accommodate area for a future church school." The vote to give the Board of Trustees full authority to enter into a contract to purchase the described tract was 37-0. John H. Foster, the President of the Board of Trustees, reminded the congregation that the church still owned two frame residences as investments, located at 2137 and 2141 Maple Avenue. The property was appraised by several local real estate brokers and placed on the market for sale at a fair market price so that the proceeds would be available to purchase the site for the new church building. The Society voted to give the Board of Trustees full authority to offer and consummate the sale of those properties by a vote of 34-3. At the Board meeting a week after the Society meeting, the pastor reported for the Survey Committee "that difficulties had arisen which might make the purchase of the tract of land under consideration for a new church site difficult or impossible." It was not noted what those difficulties were.

Kenneth Kline, who was the Sunday school superintendent, reported that the average attendance for April was 186. He reported the result of the Sunday school contest – Aurora won. Unfortunately, the high school program has been struggling. Gordon Gosh reported that it had been difficult to stimulate interest among them. The church also had periodic "Decision Days" in which the children made a commitment to Jesus. The pastor would consult the parents before the children were taken into the church to make their public confession of faith. (*It was reported in June that 11 children responded to the recent "Decision Day."*)

The regular annual Society meeting was held on May 26, 1954 and John H. Foster, President of the Board of Trustees, reported "all church property free of debt for the first time."

In June the contract for the lot for a new church had not yet been signed but the lawyer the church had retained had been negotiating for such a contract. The pastor had contacted Mr. Rosenberg, the lawyer representing the owners of the property. It was also noted at that meeting that John H. Foster was asked to write a history of The Free Methodist Church of Evanston.

If there were meetings of the Board in July or August, they are not in the official records. In fact, there are two pages cut out of the official Board meeting minutes between the June and September 1954 meetings. In September the church agreed to meet with the Mennonite Brethren who requested the use of the basement of the church one night a week. In October the Sunday school attendance reached an all time average of 185. In December WBMI radio once again contacted the church requesting that the Sunday morning services be broadcast sometime in May-June of the following year and the Board agreed. The church employed a new youth worker. The two church properties on Maple Avenue were sold and the church was awaiting the money.

In March of 1955 it was written in the records that "the tangles in regard to the new church property were being straightened out." At the next Board meeting the church had to face a \$500 estimate for organ repairs. In April, aside from the usual monetary woes and repairs, some good news... the church basketball team won the Junior Championship in the church league of the YMCA. The Building Committee reported that "The Free Methodist Church now has title to the property and the attorney is proceeding on the Tax foreclosure." John Bell had a meeting with the representative of the Wells Organization (*professional fund raisers.*) The Board stated that "for \$2500.00 this organization would stay in the field until a minimum of \$40,000 was guaranteed and a possible potential of \$90,000."

May 10, 1955 – The church basement is still being worked on..... Taxes on the new church property would be processed in the fall or soon after. A Committee had been appointed to revise the History of the Evanston Free Methodist Church written by M. A. Hansen (*one of the earliest members of the church.*) Beginning on Sunday, May 15, 1955 the worship service was broadcast over WBMI for five Sundays.

During 1955 the Music Committee had the difficult job of dealing with an organ in really bad condition and a piano in not much better shape. They went on an exhaustive search of new and used pianos, visiting piano companies in the Chicago Loop in addition to pianos in private homes. The Finance Committee allowed no more than \$1,200 for a piano. After extensive discussion, it was decided to buy a Steinway owned by Mrs. Anna Munson in Evanston for \$1,000 because it had the best tone quality and fit the needs of the church the best of any piano they looked at. It was checked by a piano expert at Lyon and Healy, and even though it was 50 years old, the church purchased it on May 24, 1955. They stressed to the Official Board of the church of the importance of keeping an even temperature in the church (not less than 65 degrees.) The organ owned by the church was purchased around 1945-46. It was a rebuilt organ

(rebuilt by Mr. Delle) at the cost of \$3,800. A decision had to be made regarding moving the organ to the new church building (*on Crawford*) or purchasing a new organ for the building. After consulting a "distinguished organist and authority on organ building," it was reported that it would cost \$10,000 for a rebuilt organ equivalent to the one already owned or \$15,000 for a new organ. It would cost approximately \$2,500 to move the organ from the present church to the new church. The organ was moved and by 1967 the organ was in an alarming state of disrepair.

The Annual Society Meeting was held on the last day of May. It was revealed that the cost of the new church property would be about \$21,000. John H. Foster reported that the historical sketch of the Evanston Free Methodist Church had been completed. The pastor displayed a sign which an artist had drawn for the new church property and this sign was used for pre-publicity and advertising purposes.

By July 1955 the Board expressed its frustration that the church basement is still not done and requested that the repair committee finish it as soon as possible with donated labor. The Building Committee was given the job of procuring painting and erecting the sign for the new church location. Discussion began on the subject of fundraising for the new building. The Pastor quoted from a magazine article which indicated that "there is great economy and benefit in the use of professional fund raisers." Therefore, a motion was made that the Building Committee begin to study this issue, including the Wells proposal, and report back to the Board with recommendations.

From the August 14, 1955 Worship Bulletin: NEW CHURCH We definitely feel that we all ought to begin regular and earnest prayer for the proposed new church. Pray that God will guide us in every plan connected with it.

In addition to the regular or senior choir, in late 1955 the church had a teen choir and a junior choir (*4th through 8th graders.*) It was recommended that the new church have choir risers (*carpeted because the ladies high heels were catching in the cracks of the wood*) and that choir robes be purchased when in the new church.

From the November 27, 1955 Worship Bulletin: "We would suggest that all parents with small children feel free to use the supervised nursery. This will aid in your own enjoyment of the service." (*As of 2006, this hasn't changed!*)

In December the Board reported that the Building Committee erected two signs at the new church site at a cost of \$135 each. The church decided to use the Wells Organization for professional fund raising. It was also noted that the church won the Sunday school contest with an average of 222 and have the winner's cup for the North Shore Sunday School Contest.

1956 – 1959

I have inserted the following information regarding church publications at this point in the history as there will be references to some of these later on.

As early as 1956 the church published midweek bulletins and monthly or seasonal newsletters. In the late 1950's there was a *Free Methodist Midweek Bulletin* published every week that looked like a Sunday bulletin. We have three surviving copies from July and August 1956. Most likely the midweek bulletin was discontinued and the church began publishing *F M RECORDINGS* that also had the caption *Church of "The Light and Life Hour"* above the word *RECORDINGS*. It was slightly larger than a Sunday bulletin (*8 ½" x 14" paper folded in half*) and contained more information about the activities of the church. We have three surviving copies, two from 1957 and one from 1959. It appears *RECORDINGS* was published every two weeks. It is not known how long this publication continued. In late 1962 there is a reference to it. Vicki Kline was the editor, the Director of Music and Youth (*Jerry Edmonds*) was the associate editor, and Donna Feeley was the typist. Sometime in the early 1970's the church had another publication called "ACCORD" but there are no surviving copies. There is also reference in 1975 to a church newsletter called "Echo" but again there are no surviving copies. In 1981 the church was publishing a newsletter called *The Hillside Mirror, Reflecting God's Image*. It was the same size as the *RECORDINGS* publication and was published monthly. By December of 1981 the newsletter format changed, using *8 ½" x 11" paper*, and typically consisted of 2-3 double sided pages replete with reports of the ministry activities of the church, dates to remember, and sometimes recipes. It was a monthly publication until January of 1984 when it went bimonthly and gradually became more of a spring, summer, fall, winter publication. The last copy we have is from Thanksgiving 1989. In 1993 Pastor Mark Adams began a new newsletter. Volume 1, Issue 1 hit the stands in February 1993 under the name *Hillside Herald*. It was the same size as *The Hillside Mirror* and was similar in content, just more updated in its look and feel and was a monthly publication. In September of 1995 the name changed to *News and Views* and in 1996 *Hillsider* was born. The *Hillsider* continues to today (2006), although usually every 2-3 months, and we are once again in the process of reevaluating a church newsletter and how we can best use this type of medium since we have been using the internet more and more for communication. More recently, in the past few years, Pastor Mark has been sending out "Weekly Good Tidings," which is a short Wednesday internet newsletter as a way to give members and friends of Hillside some midweek spiritual food for thought and to keep people informed of current and upcoming events.

At the January 3, 1956 Board meeting it was recommended that the Sunday school funds be incorporated into the general church funds. Previous to this, the Sunday school had a treasurer and kept their collections and expenditures completely separate from the church. By February 14 the church was gearing up to begin fund raising with the Wells Organization. It was suggested that the church have a canvass treasurer and Carl Jacobson was elected. The pastor was instructed to get a phone installed in the

canvass office and Helen Neece was appointed the person to obtain potential names for the canvass secretary, which would then be given to the Wells director for selection. In April the Director of Religious Education reported that the youth program continues with two meetings a month, one religious and one recreational. An upcoming program would involve taking the youth to the Pacific Garden Mission in Chicago and also bowling. The pastor reported that an electric typewriter was purchased for the church. Approximately 150 calls in the new "territory" were made and produced a number of good prospects.

At the June 5 Board meeting the treasurer reported some bad news. The church owed approximately \$1,000 towards the conference budget and some unpaid bills that were outstanding, with only \$83 in the treasury. The decision was made that rather than send the three month follow up statement for the canvass at the regularly scheduled time, they would send it in 10 days and include a statement regarding the budget and building fund in the hopes that funds would be received to pay the conference before the end of the month. Meanwhile, the building committee was directed to meet and "get moving" with regard to plans for the new church.

There must have been problems with a canvass held in March because the Board adopted a resolution on July 10 as follows: "On motion a resolution was adopted to record it as the sense of this Board that further assistance should be given toward completion of our goal in view of the misfortune which hampered us at the time of the canvass in March." The Finance Committee recommended that \$2,800 that was designated for the Building Fund be transferred temporarily to the Operating Fund, to be repaid to the Building Fund as soon as possible. This recommendation was adopted. It was then recommended that the pastor's salary be increased to \$77 per week and his car allowance to \$10 per week retroactive to July 1. This recommendation was unanimously adopted. The Sunday school had a campaign going that was called "Beat the Summer Slump." The basement work was still ongoing. Records show that the nursery was in the basement. Average attendance in the youth program was 17. Of interest, the pastor proposed a sponsorship of refugee families. The Board referred this proposal to Glenn Winter's Sunday school class.

From a midweek bulletin of July 11, 1956, the following attendance figures were noted on July 1, 1956: 161 attended Sunday school, 117 were at morning worship, 75 at (Sunday) evening worship, and 19 at the mid-week service (*Wednesday evenings.*)

At the September 11 Board meeting, the Maintenance Committee reported that work at the church had come to a standstill because funds were exhausted. The pastor reported he had engaged someone for the missionary convention in November. Also available for one meeting during the convention was Mr. McCulley, father of one of the South American missionaries who was killed. (*He was referring to Ed McCulley, who along with Jim Elliot, Nate Saint and two others that were killed by the Auca Indians.*) The church also purchased a new mimeograph machine for \$30.00. New Bibles were donated to the church as a memorial for a member whose name cannot be deciphered in the minutes.

In October, two delegates from the JMY (?) attended the Board meeting and proposed plans for the young people. They planned a hayride to Harms Woods for Halloween, a Thanksgiving banquet, and a Christmas party and caroling in December. It was proposed at that meeting that the weekly youth meeting be moved to Wednesday night and conducted with the adult's midweek service. The plan would have both groups meet together at 7:30 for a half hour of prayer and then the young people would go by themselves for another half hour of prayer, Bible study, and choir, followed by games and refreshments. "It was observed that there is a need for a greater spiritual emphasis in the young people's program and benefit to the older group in having the youth group with them, and need for more understanding between youth and adults." It was further decided that a special Board meeting would be called for the following Sunday morning immediately after the worship service to consider this recommendation because it would involve a change in the adult's time schedule and there should be a greater representation before making a decision about the time change. (*The change was approved.*)

Other action items the Board attended to at this meeting included planning a 75th anniversary dinner at the upcoming missionary meeting. Bishop Taylor would be speaking at the dinner. The Building Committee had meetings with two architects and had a third scheduled shortly. The Nursery Committee reported "Evelyn Smith has taken more or less permanent charge of the nursery to provide the needed stability." John Bell and John Foster were made a committee to install an earphone in the auditorium for the use of Mrs. Bertha Engels, not to exceed \$20.00.

Beginning in January of 1957 some, though not all, of the Board minutes were typed. While a great deal of the minutes were written legibly, the minutes between July 1955 and October 1956 were especially difficult to decipher because of the secretary's handwriting. The most beautiful handwritten minutes were that of Edward Foster, who was secretary from July 1881 through 1927.

The education program of the church was very dedicated to ongoing training for their teachers. At least once a year there was some type of training or program to help teachers in their role as spiritual advisors to the youth of the church. One such opportunity was the North Shore Sunday School Laboratory scheduled to be held at the church March 5, 12, 19 and 26, 1957. Attendance of 100-150 was expected at a cost of \$3.00/person. Four churches were participating in this training program.

A special Society meeting was called on April 10, 1957 for the purpose of hearing the Building and Finance Committee reports and to select an architect for the new church. It was recommended that Charles Edward Stade and Associates be engaged as the architects to provide plans and supply supervision for the building of the new church on Crawford Avenue. The motion carried by unanimous ballot. Lowell Kline, the treasurer, reported that there was \$11,000 in the Building Fund. At the same time, he reported that \$12,800 had been collected for the budget year for operating expenses; however, that was still \$50 per week short of what was needed. The final piece of business was to hire an attorney to act in the church negotiations for the building operations.

The Finance Committee submitted a letter to all members of the church outlining the financial status of the church for the 1957-58 year. A Youth Director and Secretary to the Pastor were hired at a cost of \$1,683/year in lieu of an assistant pastor. A Steinway piano had been purchased recently and a major overhauling and renewing of the pipe organ had been paid. The present income of the church was \$46.00 per week short of budget needs. Current estimated real and liquid assets of the church included a three acre site for the new church (actual cost \$25,000) valued at \$50,000, the present parsonage valued at \$10,000, the present church valued at \$45,000, balance in the building fund (cash) \$10,000, and building fund pledges of \$60,000. The proposed budget for 1957-58 totaled \$15,909.00.

At the August meeting it was recorded that the "Hillside" property was being surveyed. The architect had the master plan and sketches of the church ready. The current church property was being fixed up and the kitchen was being renovated. While the church general fund struggled to pay outstanding bills, the building fund was growing and by September had over \$13,000 after some expenses. The official committees of the church consisted of Building, Finance, Charities, Ushers, Publicity, Personnel, Music, Junior Choir Director, Church Flowers, Nursery, Planning, Maintenance, Penny-A-Day, Spiritual Life, Missions, Christian Education, Trustees, and Hospitality. The Building Committee began every other week meetings with the architect for the new church.

By November the church resumed a "friendly visitation program." The Building Committee recommended that the present church property be sold; therefore, the Pastor called a Society meeting to consider that recommendation. The Pastor reported that property across the street from the new church site with a seven room house had been offered for sale to the church at a price of \$32,750. This was referred to the Building Committee.

Interestingly, it was consistently noted in the records that if someone submitted a resignation from their position to the Board, the Board did not automatically accept the resignation. Most of the time the Board deferred action or in some cases, did not accept the resignation and the person had to continue in the position. Exceptions were always made for health related issues.

By January 1958 the plans for the new building were coming along nicely. The Pastor sent out a Progress Report to the congregation that informed the congregation the Building Committee would be meeting with the church lawyer, Joseph Teitlebaum, in regards to financing the church. Both the lawyer and architect assured the church that they were in a financial situation far superior to many who begin building, particularly if those who had pledged to the building campaign begin as soon as possible to pay on those pledges. In closing the one page report, the pastor wrote the following: "WE ASK EVERY INTERESTED PERSON TO PRAY THAT GOD WILL BLESS our efforts to build and that from our work many eternal benefits will ensue." At the January Board meeting there was a discussion regarding the vital necessity that all members of the church, and particularly committees, function through the next several months of the building program and that all be urged to cooperate.

A special Society meeting was called on February 12, 1958 at which time the architect and lawyer were present. Interior and exterior plans and drawings were shown. The Building Committee stressed the unity and harmony displayed in every meeting and especially the architect's (Mr. Stade) kind cooperation in complying with the requests and wishes of the committee. It was estimated that the new church building would cost approximately \$177,000 and "could be completed one year from next June" and within 5% of the estimated cost. The lawyer, Mr. Teitlebaum, presented the financial status at the time: the new property, which was an ideal location, was free of all debt and has an estimated value of \$50,000. The value of the present church property on Maple and Simpson was between \$50,000 and \$60,000. Arrangements had to be made to finance the building program. Pledges to the building program amounted to \$70,000, of which \$20,000 in cash had been paid in. By unanimous ballot, the church agreed to sell the present church property. Ed Cullison, a consultant to the process, expressed appreciation of the spirit shown by all and "the leading of the Lord in every phase of our planning."

In April the church continued to be frustrated with their financial condition. They only had \$138.46 in the treasury with outstanding bills of \$1,100. Therefore, they decided to present this situation to the congregation, verbally and in the bulletin, itemizing the bills owed and to take a special offering as long as it took to get the necessary funds. The Women's Missionary Society continued to be very active in the church, and reported that they have gone over their quota for new members this year. Prayer requests for missionaries are regularly brought to the midweek prayer service. An official appraisal of the current church property and parsonage had been completed by George Dalgety, a real estate appraiser, and was valued at \$51,500. The Board voted to make the asking price \$64,500, accept \$55,000 but in no case less than \$51,000. The church then created a flier to try and sell the property, without using a real estate agency, that included the following information: The lot size was 68' x 136'. The church had been built in 1910 and was a brick one story with a basement. The basement had meeting rooms, kitchen, choir room, office, wash rooms and a boiler room. The first floor contained the Sunday school rooms, the minister's office, a classroom with a wood burning fireplace, and the sanctuary with 20 4-person pews and 10 8-person pews, and a linoleum floor with carpeting on the aisles and on the chancel. The parsonage had a living room, dining room, cabinet kitchen, two bedrooms, bath, and sun porch on the main level. The second floor had one bedroom. It was noted on the flier that the lot must be sold as a package and the asking price was \$58,750.

On June 11, 1958 the church had their Annual Society Meeting for the purposes of electing their stewards and trustee vacancies. The Finance Committee reported that there are still outstanding bills of over \$1,000 and the pastor asked for suggestions as to how to cover the shortage. The Building Committee had the final drawings of the new church.

In July the church received a notice from the city collector's office for a cast iron water main at the new property on Crawford and their share of the assessment would be \$1,818.74 due in five monthly installments. In the meantime, the current church was being readied for sale by installing fire extinguishers (*per the Fire Department.*) They still needed to install exit signs and lighting fixtures in the downstairs office and the

skylight needed to be fixed. Bidding for the new church was scheduled to begin on July 14.

At the Board meeting of September 16 the Board recommended the church observe Communion at least once every two months. It is not known from the records how often Communion had been served previous to this recommendation. The Building Committee reported that bids were opened on August 8 totaling \$176,152 and included general construction, heating, electricity and plumbing (*each was a separate bid.*) The contracts were binding for 30 days. The time limit had expired but the companies had been contacted and agreed to hold for a time. One company was willing to wait for 60 days at any time in construction for their money. If the church could raise an additional \$14,433 they could begin construction between now (*being September*) and Easter.

The companies the church signed contracts with were as follows:

O & O Construction for general construction at \$143,953,
Mid-City Heating at \$12,660,
Drum Electric at \$10,339, and
H. E. Snyder for plumbing at \$9,200.

The architect was paid his second installment of \$5,264.34.

Ground-Breaking Services were scheduled for Sunday, September 28, 1958. Bishop Marston agreed to come as well as the Mayor of Evanston, John R. Kimbark. (*Bishop Marston was paid \$25.00.*)

In November the church went on record with the City Council of Evanston opposing the opening of a pool hall at 1942-44 Maple Avenue. (*The church was located at 1948 Maple.*) At the December Board meeting the pastor reported "a friendly settlement had been reached with the party who was going to open a pool hall near the church, and the pool hall will not be opened there."

The church was very generous in its missionary giving. They gave to foreign missions as well as home missions. Foreign missions in the 1950's included India, the Schlosser's, and Formosa. Their home missions included: Light & Life, Woodstock, Evanston Welcoming Association, National Association of Evangelicals, Greenville, Junior Missionary Society, and Library Books. The mission's budget was kept separate from the general church budget.

Beginning in January 1959 the church organized a major clean-up campaign to get the church ready and presentable for sale. The Moody Chorale was scheduled to sing in the church at the end of the month. A "Zone Rally" was scheduled on January 31 that included three workshops. Nothing was noted about what a "Zone Rally" was.

A note in the February minutes revealed that the church fiscal year began on October 1 and the conference fiscal year began on July 1. There was also a notation from the Finance Committee: "A loan from H. McKee of \$100 to make payment of pool hall

obligation." The friendly settlement noted in December probably meant that the church agreed to pay the party who wanted to open a pool hall near the church a monetary settlement not to open the pool hall. Nothing was mentioned in the minutes as to how much the settlement was.

In March it was reported that four groups are making inquiries about buying the church property: Church of Christ, Amvets, The Sons of Norway, and the Mary E. Johnson Interracial School. The church requested prayer for a speedy sale. The Junior Church, which apparently worshiped separately from the rest of the congregation, was invited to worship in the sanctuary as a group on Easter Sunday morning. The church nursery continued to be a problem. Proper facilities were needed, and cribs "were desperately needed."

From the Sunday, April 19, 1959 Worship Bulletin: "Take a drive up to 2727 Crawford and look at the new church. Then pray."

In the Sunday, April 26, 1959 Worship Bulletin: "WE MUST SELL THIS CHURCH PROPERTY – WILL YOU PRAY?"

By early May, four cribs had been constructed and someone had offered to supply the webbing and mattresses. The pastor (*Arthur Zahniser*) had been offered the position as Executive Director of the Evangelical Child Welfare Agency by a unanimous vote of its board and the pastor was giving the matter due consideration. The new church was taking shape very rapidly and all was going well; however, financing was the main concern. The current church property needed to be sold and the Board was working with Homefinders Real Estate Agency. However, at a Board meeting a little over a week later (*May 20*) Kenneth Kline, who was the Chairman of the Building Committee, reported that it appeared necessary to mortgage the current church property since the church had not been sold and money was urgently needed. The new church project represents a loan value of \$125,000 to \$150,000 and at least \$300 per week was needed to cover the cost of the new church. The target date for moving into the new church was moved to November 1, 1959. Two other matters under consideration were 1) how to finish the parking lot – crushed stone for \$8,800 or blacktop for \$16,000 for 44,000 square feet and 2) a parsonage was needed. One could be built on contract for \$18,000-\$20,000. At this same meeting the pastor agreed to take the position of Executive Director of the Evangelical Child Welfare Agency provided it was not more than one half day per week.

In August it was revealed the new church was about two thirds complete and would probably be completed about November 1. However, the church needed \$110,000 to complete the construction and \$40,000 for equipment. They hoped that \$40,000 to \$50,000 could be raised within a few weeks by issuing direct obligation notes at 5% interest for 10 years to anyone interested. The notes would be in \$100 and \$500 denominations. It was reported that the church had borrowed \$40,000 from the First National Bank and Trust Company of Evanston for interim financing until the church and parsonage could be sold.

At this time the pastor suggested a spiritual and planning retreat for all church officers, including the Official Board, Sunday School Board and other church staff, and a committee was formed to plan for the retreat. It was also noted that the pastor was honored by the City Council and Mayor of Evanston in his role as Chairman of the Citizens Committee for Decent Publications.

At the November 2 Board meeting it was reported the new church was not yet done due to lack of funds. A church retreat had taken place September 18 and 19 at Cedar Lake, Indiana. From that retreat the following suggestions were made for "improving church services: nursery, CYC visitation program, reverence in service, specific prayer requests in Sunday bulletin, Junior Church bulletin once a month, show genuine interest in visitors, a smoothing out of transition period between Sunday School and church, more people involved and less overlapping of personnel of various committees." The minutes stopped being typed and were handwritten again. Fortunately, they are very legible.

At the December 1 Board meeting the Board was informed that there was a meeting scheduled for the next day "with another prospect for securing loan for new church." The construction company was seeking proper winter protection for the new church. There were still no prospects for the present church. On the bright side, a donor made it possible to purchase new hymn books and Junior Church continued to be a very successful program. It is also noted for the first time that the church has a "Sunday School Bus" and there is a line item in the monthly budget report for the monthly expenditure.

1960

January – the church was waiting on an interim loan to finish construction. The Greenville College a cappella choir was scheduled to perform a concert on Easter Sunday and the pastor was invited to give the commencement sermon at Greenville College in June.

The official Board met on February 2, 1960. Jerry Edmonds, the Minister of Music and Junior Church Director, was secretary pro tem for the meeting. *The minutes are handwritten, not typed, and are in his handwriting as follows:*

"The Official Board of the Evanston Free Methodist Church held its regular (monthly) meeting in the prayer room on Tues. Feb. 2, 1960 with the pastor presiding. Several verses regarding business were quoted from the Bible with prayer forthcoming. Reference was made to the lack of good attendance at the Official Board meetings. (I've chosen parentheses for this part of the minutes because it is not a recording of the last meeting, but it may be the most important issue listed. I do not mean to offend anyone by this, but if you have been chosen by the people to represent them, and under God have accepted the responsibility to carry out His business which determines the destiny of living souls, may I in all Christian love reprimand you if you are not taking an active part in the Official Board. Words are hard, but I mean to say them clothed with all the soothing qualities of Christ's love. Maybe the reason why I have said this is because He has spoken to my heart just recently and I have never experienced such

satisfaction in Christian service. Let's get behind this church and push for all our worth!)"

In March it was reported that the church was able to secure a loan from the Cook County Federal Savings and Loan. Unfortunately, the lawyer for the church, Mr. Teitlebaum, signed the loan as he was officially connected with the Savings and Loan Company. Therefore, the church needed to secure another lawyer for this transaction, which they did in Mr. Harold MacKenzie. Other business at hand: the Christian Education committee began a "Family Night" program; the church was trying to make necessary repairs to the present building; 26 real estate companies had been contacted in an attempt to sell the current church property on Maple; and a missionary from Africa would be attending the worship service in two days. Over \$2,000 had come in for missions in just two months. *(It is evident in the church records that this church has always had a heart for missions. Since the beginning of the church in 1881, this church has never wavered in their support for missions and often has financially supported missions more than financially supporting the church general budget or even the building fund. There has almost always been a yearly or twice yearly missions program in the church.)*

At a Society meeting of March 3, 1960 it was noted that there are 67 voting members on the church roll of which 35 were present at the meeting. The meeting was called to vote on the legal description of the Declaration of Trust regarding the property of the church, which was a requirement of the Free Methodist Church of North America, and the terms of the mortgage loan of \$105,000 to complete the new building at 2727 Crawford Avenue. The mortgage was approved unanimously.

While the church continued to carry on in its mission and ministries, including celebrating marriages and baptisms, and expressing sorrow on the death of members, by May the building of the new church and the financial worries were consuming the Board. Work was progressing on the new church in direct proportion to the amount of money being paid to the contractors. The Board was waiting word from utilities, the City of Evanston and some more signatures on necessary documents before the loan would be released and the funds would be available to complete the church.

Aside from building concerns, the church had a visitation program that was working very successfully. Approximately 10 people were visited every Monday. There was still a need for more people to take part in the program. Calls were made to Sunday visitors, the sick, and "encouraging Christians in the work of the church."

A Society meeting was called on May 19, 1960 and the Society was informed that a check for the loan to complete the new church was received that day. The Board of Trustees had approved indentures (a document containing the terms under which bonds are issued) the previous year that were 10 year 5% notes up to \$40,000. As of this Society meeting, 44 indentures were issued to 19 registered note holders for a total of \$14,800. Since the church received the necessary funding for the new church, by June the building was moving full speed ahead.

August – Once again work at the new church is at a standstill due to failure of plasterers to do their work as promised on two different dates. The architect and contractor are following up to “get workers moving again.” Other business: a Missionary Convention was being planned for October and the Visitation Committee reported a slump in the number of callers on Monday nights but it was recommended that in spite of the slump, visits be continued. To that end, Pastor Zahniser sent off a letter to Rev. C. B. Archer in Kansas to extend an official invitation to come to the church for 30 days in January 1961 to be the church Visitation Evangelism Pastor and leader “for as long as the Lord leads.”

From the August 28, 1960 Worship Bulletin: “If you are interested in purchasing an indenture in denominations of \$100 or \$500 with 5% interest, please notify the Pastor or Mr. Lowell Kline.”

At the September Board meeting it was reported that the parsonage was painted with the volunteer cooperation of at least 17 men. The Building Committee ordered a “For Sale” sign for the Maple Avenue property. A committee was formed to help push a sale of the property. The Building Committee purchased pews for the new church from Vern Gast’s company. Vern and Dorcus paid the difference between the line chosen and a better brand so that the church would have the best.

Unfortunately, the fiscal year ending on September 30 found the church \$500 in the red. On a positive note, the Missionary Convention at the church would be a three day affair in October with five missionary speakers attending.

December – full steam ahead with the new church – carpentry close to completion, grading being done on the parking lot, glaziers work complete, painters almost done, ceiling re-done, tile man ready to start, plumbers still working, chancel furniture and pews are ready to be installed. A decision was being made on whether or not to continue the church bus. On a sad note, Jerry Edmonds, the Minister of Music and Junior Church Director, resigned as of December 10.

1961

January 1, 1961 Worship Bulletin announcement: “\$10,000 needed for the parking lot immediately.”

At the January Board meeting Jerry Edmonds and his wife reconsidered his resignation and he remained with the church as Music Director and part time secretarial worker, helping with the *Recordings* publication. Brown choir robes were chosen for the new church to harmonize with the other colors of the church. The tall cross that was going to be placed outside the new church would be electrified. The kitchen equipment – cabinets, disposal sink and dishwasher, Formica countertops and more were donated to the new church by Mr. and Mrs. Howard Landgon of Winnetka.

By February the church was looking to take out a \$9,000 loan for the parking lot to be completed. Extra pipes were needed to install the organ and it was suggested that the Board look at getting a sheet metal worker to help. A Bus Committee was formed to

study the church bus situation and make a recommendation of whether or not to keep the bus.

In March, the church Building Committee reported the need for more money and more indentures. The sidewalks were almost the last thing to be done before the church can move to the Crawford Avenue building. It was hoped that they might be in for Palm Sunday, March 26. Lowell Kline and Carl Jacobson were given authority by the church to sign notes of \$2,104.63 so that the church would have furniture.

The following song is sung to the tune of Good Night Ladies. It is not known who wrote it but it concerns the move from the Maple/Simpson Church to the new church on Crawford.

Farewell Song

Goodbye Simpson, Goodbye Maple, Maple-Simpson
We're going to leave you now.
Sad we are to take our Leave
Take our Leave
Take our Leave
But we are not going to grieve
Faith does not allow.

We are ready, we are ready, we are ready
To change locations now.
For we know God said to go
Said to go
Said to go
And we want the world to know
To His will we bow.

Greetings Crawford, Hello Hillside, new Location
We'll soon be on our way.
Happy opportunity
We will see
How to be
Builders for eternity –
A wonderful new DAY.

April 11 – The architect was informed of several things in the new church that required completion. Apparently, they were able to move into the Crawford Avenue church in March because the first wedding in the new church was performed on March 25, 1961 uniting Virginia Almeraz and Clyde Israelson in Holy Matrimony. A note in parenthesis at the end of the official Board minutes stated the first service in the new church was Easter Sunday, April 2, 1961.

A note was found in the official minutes: "The Christian Education Committee and the Building Committee were requested to do something about dividers in the Educational Department." During the May 2 Board meeting, Mrs. Dorothy Soper paid a surprise visit to the Board upon completion of her evening of calling in the neighborhood. At the end of April she had made 26 calls in one day and today she had made 33. She found people interested in the church and six entire families completely unchurched. (*These were not phone calls. She went door to door.*) During this same Board meeting Mr. Harold McKee resigned as the Chair of the Finance Committee. However, the Board refused to accept his resignation and he consented to continue for a while longer. At the Society Meeting of May 23 it was reported that "Mrs. Dorothy Soper has made 156 contacts in the neighborhood and out of these about 35 prospects were found who are interested in attending our church." Also, a date of October 1 was set for the dedication of the church. The Maple Avenue church was still not sold. At the June Board meeting it was noted that Mrs. Soper went out on calls for three hours, pushed 44 doorbells and received 11 prospects. (*What an amazing woman!*) It was also noted in June that cars were using the church parking lot for a "race track" and measures needed to be taken to prohibit this activity.

It appears that Mrs. Soper was the only one making calls. In July she reported that in two weeks she made 86 calls and 16 prospects. Those in charge of the nursery requested that a "Dutch door" be installed. There was still a lot of work to be done in the church; therefore, the first and third Mondays were designated work nights to help the custodian care for the church. The Sunday school bus had been continued at the new church. In August it was reported that a buyer for the Maple Avenue property had contacted the pastor. In the Crawford Avenue church, all the odds and ends that needed to be completed have been taken care of. Two electric bells were installed to be used for Sunday school dismissal. (*One of them is near the ceiling at the entrance to Fellowship Hall. It does not work.*) The Hospitality Committee completed a set of rules for kitchen use which was to be posted on the kitchen door.

The financial situation of the church was very serious and the Board made a resolution at the September 5 meeting to have a 24 hour prayer vigil in half-hour periods until the situation improves. Evelyn Rydell was chosen to head up the prayer program. In October it was recommended that the locks on Hillside church be made more secure to keep out vandals. Not only that, the rains blows under the doors and drips down on to the nursery walls, a situation that needed immediate correction. With the dire financial situation of the church, the Trustees were authorized to borrow money to cover the needs of the church not to exceed \$25,000 if the necessary signatures were obtained. Aside from building and financial concerns, the church continued to have missionary conventions and the next one was scheduled in November over a three day period.

The Hillside Free Methodist Church Service of Dedication was held on October 8, 1961. Those participating in the service included Dr. George Kline, a former pastor; Mr. Paul Gorby, a Senior Councilman from the City of Evanston; Bishop L. R. Marston of the Free Methodist Church; Lowell Kline, the President of the Board of Trustees of the church; and Reverend K. M. Walton, the Pastor of the West Lawn Free Methodist Church.

1962

In January the church had to deal with heavy snowstorms that required the parking lot to be cleared. John Foster contacted a service station who had equipment and they came and cleared the parking lot twice. Mrs. Soper *strongly* recommended that an outdoor sign large enough to be read from the street be erected by the church and that entrance signs needed to be placed indicating the location of the parking lot! (*We have the same problem today of people not knowing the church parking lot is in the back of the church.*) It was reported that John Howard Foster, a long time and beloved member of the church who gave tirelessly in numerous positions of the church over the years and whose father was a Charter Member of the church, went home to the Lord. His funeral was conducted at the church on February 5, 1962. The Maple Street property still had not sold and the Trustees and Finance Committee were given permission to give an "exclusive" to a real estate company in an all-out effort to sell. In March the pastor reported to the Board that he had been chosen the Chairman for the Billy Graham Crusade for the City of Evanston. In July Jerry and Patty Edmonds resigned as Music Director and organist and it was accepted with reluctance.

Interestingly, no mention is made in the minutes that the Pastor, Reverend Arthur Zahniser, was leaving Hillside. A newspaper article from that time reported that he asked to be relieved of his duties at the July 22 Annual Conference. He would remain with the conference, devoting his time to evangelistic and counseling programs on a national basis. He was quoted as saying that he felt that after 14 years it was time for a change. Apparently the church wanted to give him a farewell party but he declined the offer. His successor was Reverend Royal Bailie, who was married and has three sons. He came from the Cambridge Methodist Church after serving there for four years, and had served in South Dakota and Milwaukee as well. Reverend Bailie worked as a guidance director in the public schools in Cambridge for two years and was active in youth organizations and youth camping programs. (*A notation was found in other records that he died in 1997.*) He arrived at the church on July 30 to receive the church key and met with Rev. Zahniser, left to prepare his family for moving, and arrived back at the church on August 2. His first Board meeting was August 7.

An August attendance report revealed that the average attendance at Sunday school was 107, morning worship averaged 108, the Sunday evening service averaged 62 and the midweek prayer service averaged 29. In September the members of the church had been worshipping in the new building for approximately six months. There were some minor problems that needed to be addressed, including cold air that was blowing down on the organist. Unfortunately, there wasn't anything that could be done until warmer weather. The church received a letter from the City of Evanston that they were looking into making a recreation center at the Maple Avenue property, if the church could interest someone in buying the property to donate it to the city! Mr. Kern, the

janitor, asked the Board if they would allow a Boy Scout Troop to use the church during the winter (*he was the leader.*) They favored this service to the community and the Christian Education Committee coordinated this activity with the church's youth programs. The nursery continued to be an issue and a motion was made to have paid nursery service. The matter was referred to the Nursery Committee for consideration but the consensus of most of the Board members was that they were not in favor of paying someone. Another missionary convention was scheduled for three days in October. It was noted in the October 2 minutes that the church had an annual retreat and it was already scheduled for September 13 and 14, 1963 at Cedar Lake, Indiana.

Hillside had a Public Relations and Publicity Committee. It was noted in their meeting of October 1 that they had two goals: "1) to let people know Hillside Church is here, and 2) To make them glad it is here." To help carry out these goals they decided to continue the *FM RECORDINGS*, which was intended to be a news outlet for each ministry area of the church. Their aim was to "keep the quality of this publication, as well as any other mailings in the name of Hillside Church, at the highest possible level." They also planned to advertise in the Evanston Review, The Daily Northwestern, other newspapers, radio and television. It was noted that Dorothy Soper (*the woman who made weekly visits to neighbors in the community*) resigned from this committee in order to assume her new duties as Chairman of the Evangelism and Visitation Committee.

The church had a \$40,000 mortgage plus interest on the Maple Street church property that was due at the end of November 1962. In December the Finance Committee reported that it was renewed only until May 29, 1963 at which time the bank "suggested that we have a substantial amount to pay on principal at that time." The nursery continued to have some problems in that there were some people who were appointed to work but would not work and there were too many children in the nursery during services, especially in the evening.

1963-1965

For many years Hillside supported teenage basketball and competed in the Evanston YMCA church league. They used basketball as a tool to bring boys into the church because of the tremendous appeal of basketball. They were concerned that many teenagers are never exposed enough to the gospel to the point that they ought to make a decision for Christ. Since many teens never go to church and many are not associated with a church at all, this was a way to bring teenagers into the church to hear the gospel and provide them with "wholesome Christian fellowship" through the Free Methodist Youth program. In order for a teenage boy to be in the league he would have to attend the church for which he plays no less than twice a month. The church sponsored a team which played games from January through March.

Good news - the church was going to be installing a permanent sign in front of the church and it should be ready by March. Bad news - financial problems continue. Good news - there was a note in the March minutes that there is the possibility of a new church being planted in Waukegan. Doug McGrew, the pastor at Irving Park FMC, and Reverend Bailie had been asked to take a Bible Study on alternate Wednesday nights if

this plan materialized. More good news - it was reported in April that the Hillside church basketball team were the winners of the YMCA league for the 1962-63 season and the church held a banquet in their honor. Bad news - the Nursery Committee needed reorganization and the office typewriter died. Good news - fortunately, the bank agreed to extend the church mortgage another six months. Bad news - the asking price of the Maple Church, which still had not sold, dropped to \$47,500. Good news - in a 10 day period the Visitation Committee rang 438 doorbells, contacted 309, and reported 68 prospects. In a three month period, approximately 15 people made 100 telephone calls to the sick and shut-ins, Sunday school follow-ups, visitors and friends, and new prospects from a survey that had been taken.

One year after the previous music director left, the church found a replacement choir director and organist in Mr. and Mrs. Donald Brown at a cost of \$130 per month. In October, the Visitation and Evangelism Committee continued to be hard at work in going door to door and making phone calls but there were still struggles. They made a number of recommendations to the Board for action including, 1) finding a strong youth director for high school, college and career groups as there have been many requests for this, 2) there needs to be cooperation of the Sunday school in the visitation program, 3) there needs to be a large sign in the front of the church legible at least ½ block away and floodlighted, 4) they recommend that home missions operate 50-50 with foreign missions and that this committee should share equally in the Women's Missionary Society and in all efforts of the church. "There are hungry souls in Evanston."

On a high note, it was reported in November that the City of Evanston offered to buy the Maple Street property. After extensive discussion, the church held firm to a \$43,000 minimum sale price. The outstanding loan of \$40,000 would be paid from the proceeds of the sale. Since the parsonage on the property was being sold as well, a new parsonage must be found.

The church property sale was completed in January of 1964. Shortly after that the Cos Corporation was planning to tear down a stone house at 2507 Ridge Avenue to make way for a parking lot. Instead of tearing it down, they gave the house to the church; however, the church had to move it, which would cost approximately \$15,000. Therefore, a foundation was built behind the church at 3434 Clifford Street and the house was moved in a circuitous route over a 24 hour period on May 6-7. The journey began at 9:00 AM on May 6, traveling along the lakefront and Sheridan Road into Wilmette, past Baha'i Temple and back again into Evanston in order to avoid low viaducts and stately trees from being damaged. After it was placed on footings at its new location, a basement was constructed and the house was made livable for the pastor and his family. They moved in on August 1.

Once again the church faced the loss of its choir director and organist after 21 months of service and there continued to be problems in the nursery. Finances were always an issue and repairs and maintenance had to be dealt with; however, the church continued to move forward with its programs and ministries. The Men's Fellowship sponsored a Boy Scout Troop, Christian Education was planning another Sunday School contest and a new class was formed for the college and post-college age group with a potential of

32 people attending, the Music Committee continued to arrange concerts and programs, Missions was planning their yearly Missions Convention, there were births to rejoice in and deaths to mourn, Junior members were taken into the church, new families were joining the church family, and Leon Nelson was hired as the new Minister of Music and organist. A first class stamp was 5¢.

1966 - 1969

In January of 1966 it was reported at the Board meeting that the "Nursery Comm is very unorganized as of this time and some are inactive." Therefore, the Board took action and added four people to the committee, including the Pastor's wife. The Boy Scout Troop sponsored by the church planned a family night in February and the church members were invited.

At the February 15 Board meeting it was reported that the Tiny Tot Play School asked to use some of the church facilities. The Board approved the use of the church for the play school and the Trustees were asked to draw up rules and bylaws. The amount of \$250 per month was requested from the school to offset the expenses of heat, lighting, janitorial services, etc. There was a request that the lower level be used as a polling place and it was granted by the Board. The Greenville Acapella Choir would sing at the Sunday morning service on March 6. On May 1 the Moody Bible Institute's Women's Glee Club and Handbell Choir would perform at the evening service. An official notice from the Evanston Zoning Board of Appeals dated March 10, 1966 stated that Hillside Free Methodist Church requested a variation from the use regulations of the Zoning Ordinance to permit a nursery school in the church building, which is located in the R2 Single-Family Residence District. Repair and maintenance of the organ pipes and heating of the organ loft will cost approximately \$1,000. At the annual church meeting in May it was reported by the Trustees that an agreement was negotiated with a representative of the nursery school. It was also reported by the Christian Education Committee that Children's Church for ages 5-9 had completed one full year with an average of 10 children. Ushering and greeting at the door had been excellent. The Visitation and Evangelism Committee reported that they visited every home in the immediate area, a total of 378 homes. All the new homes west of the church were also called on, a total of 78. This team also formed an ACTION group in December of 1965, a once a month meeting for fellowship and friendship evangelism in young and middle aged people to interest them in Hillside Church and Jesus Christ. An average of 30 people had been attending.

In July of 1966 Hillside welcomed a new pastor, Reverend Doug McGrew who had been the pastor of Irving Park Free Methodist Church for the past six years. In August plans were finalized for the annual retreat in September at Cedar Lake, Indiana and the Missions Convention for three days in mid-October.

The Financial situation of the church continued to be tenuous. A letter dated January 21, 1967 was sent by Pastor McGrew to "supporters" of Hillside Church and enclosed were two statements showing the treasurer's report for the previous three months. He eloquently stated, "We are concerned and we know you are too. Therefore, we are prayerfully informing you so that you can carefully ask and do what God would have

you do." He also noted at the end of the letter that everyone would be receiving a treasurer's report every month.

Other decisions and issues the Board was dealing with included: the Sunday evening service moving to 5:00 PM for two months, which will be reevaluated at the end of that period. The organ was in serious disrepair and would cost slightly over \$1,000 to bring it to condition. To modernize the organ with new pipes as required and replace all worn and defective part would cost over \$6,000. It was moved and approved that funds in the amount of \$1,200 be raised for the "Organ Project." In addition, hard finish enamel had to be applied to the organ walls, ceiling and floors before any service could be performed and this would be taken care of within a month.

Another appeal from the Pastor went out on May 7, not only outlining the outstanding bills but the need for immediate funds for the organ or it would become unplayable. Thanks was given for those who were doing as much as they could to support the church as well as admonishment, "However, maybe some of you could do just a little more." The Board of Trustees reported at the Annual Society Meeting in May that heating and insulating of the organ loft had been completed, the outside cross and parts of the church and parsonage had been painted, and while numerous repairs, upkeep and upgrading of the church property needed to be undertaken, this would have to wait until funds are available (landscaping, a sidewalk between the church and parsonage, resetting of some windows, a church sign, lighting of the church exterior, complete painting of the church, repairs of some doors, replastering, minor plumbing, and hard surfacing of the parking area.) The nursery school had been operating at the church for one year "and although there seem to be a fair share of problems, the proportionate sharing of church maintenance costs has proven quite acceptable." The church was planning for its annual Sunday school picnic and Children's Day in June. Fellowship was held after the Sunday night church services. The biggest event; however, was the annual Missions Convention in the fall. Children's Church completed two successful years with an average of 17 each Sunday. Children between the ages of 5 and 11 were being trained in the elements of worship and reverence through the program. A Children's Church choir had also been formed and participated in the morning worship service. The Sunday afternoon services at 5:00 PM would be continued during the summer months of June, July and August. It was noted in the minutes of June 20, 1967 that Hillside consisted of 75 full members, 12 preparatory members, and 13 junior members. The midweek (Wednesday) evening service was being reformatted. There had been a desire to have a less formal meeting time in favor of an open discussion with coffee served. In addition, the time was moved to 7:15 PM.

By October the church was incurring more expenses than anticipated with the nursery school using the church, including high electric bills, upkeep and more facilities used than covered by the initial contract; therefore, the terms of the rental and an increase in the rent was referred to the Trustees for action. The nursery school was paying \$3,000. Also, a sidewalk was desperately needed between the parsonage and church. It was designated a "special project" for immediate action and it was decided to display a collection box in a prominent place for this project. October was also the beginning of the fiscal year for the church and for the first time it was noted in the budget that the

Sunday school bus was no longer included in the budget. It stopped running as of June 1, 1967. The proposed budget for the 1967-68 year was \$35,096, an increase of \$310.

An agreement was reached with the nursery school (*Mrs. Mary Powell Fisher, the director*) and it was agreed that they would pay \$500 per month beginning December 1. This was double what they were paying when the school began in 1966. Their program ran Monday through Friday from 7:30 AM to 6:00 PM. The three west bays of Fellowship Hall were used along with one storage area for equipment and supplies. The kitchen facilities were also used. The agreement also allowed the school to put up a 25' x 100' play area, equipment installed by the school at their expense, and could be fenced with church approval. They were allowed to use our tables and chairs from the beginner's Sunday school room as well as the piano and the church was allowed to use their tables and chairs as needed. The school was responsible for clean up of their area and the church responsible for the regular janitorial needs. It goes without saying that the school had to be properly licensed and insured.

January 1968 began with a report that the Conference Sunday School Convention was scheduled to be held at Hillside on February 10, 1968. The Christian Education Committee determined they needed to rent 15 tables and 100 extra chairs (at conference expense) and "all men of Hillside are being contacted for service on that day." It was also noted that landscaping needed attention and it was emphasized that shrubs needed to be replaced "soon" along with some ground cover to protect the hill.

At a combined Trustee and Finance Committee meeting a new project was proposed to help raise funds for the church. It was suggested that each member bring one dollar for each year of their age to a Birthday-Anniversary Sunday service. It was suggested that Easter Sunday be the date each year and this year it would be the 7th anniversary of Hillside Church. "Funds received in this manner could be applied against building expenses in the form of improvements, repairs and mortgage retirement." At the present time the parking lot and driveways needed to be black topped and landscaping needed attention, specifically shrubbery and trees. This new funding project was brought to the February 21 Board meeting and was approved. Letters were to be sent to all current members, past members, attendees, and even previous Pastors.

As of February 29, 1968, seven years after moving into the church, the total amount invested was as follows: Church Building and Equipment - \$249,609.15, Parsonage - \$17,350.21, and Land - \$26,000 for a total investment of \$292,959.36. The debt obligations remaining included a mortgage of \$80,589.40 and Indentures (loans made by members, conference loan, and a personal loan) of \$39,560 (not including interest) for a total of \$120,704.63. The Indentures were required to be paid by September 1969.

Ruth and Eunice Totel purchased an addressing machine for the church for about \$350, which was gratefully received, and the Sunday School Convention was attended by over 215 people. Lunch was served for 250.

In March the Birthday-Anniversary letter went out to all Friends of Hillside outlining the opportunity to bring a gift to the church on Easter. It was recommended that everyone

bring \$1.00 for every year the Lord gave a person life. Everyone was encouraged to participate, including children. All monies collected from this special gift would go to debt retirement. According to the Treasurer's Report ending April 30, the Anniversary-Birthday Offering brought in \$2,638.78. *(The church paid off the mortgage of over \$180,000 in less than 16 years and all that remained on the 16th Anniversary-Birthday was obligations of \$40,300.)*

Annual reports for the year, dated the end of May 1968, revealed tremendous good and faithful service:

The Women's Missionary Society helped at the October Missionary Convention, the November International Weekend, and sponsored a Mother-Daughter Tea. They also sent boxes of clothing to Olive Branch Missions as well as school materials and baby needs overseas to foreign missionaries.

The Light and Life Men's Fellowship consisted of approximately 30 men. All the ushers in the church were part of this fellowship. Some of their events included the Chicago Sportsmen's Show, the Automobile Show, a Palm Sunday Breakfast at the Howard Johnson's Restaurant in Skokie, and a Memorial Day Family Breakfast in Harms Woods. They expressed sorrow at losing their most active member, Ralph Neece, "who is greatly missed by all."

Leon Nelson, the Minister of Music, noted that there had been some "very inspirational moments in the ministry of music." He went on to state that "Music has a very definite ministry and we must continue to plan and to make each worship service an experience to the worshipper by blending each phase of the service together in such a way that each need can be realized and then met." During the past year the music ministry brought in eight soloists, The Word of Life Ensemble, there was an organ recital, and a Brass Trio performed with our choir. The piano was reported to be in excellent shape but the organ is holding up considering the serious loss of air in the chambers. He had received weekly comments from the congregation regarding the music program and it was stated that "the level of our music at Hillside is pretty much balanced to such a degree that we are meeting the needs of 100% of the people in one way or another." He went on to express one problem, which was the lack of personnel in the choir as the choir lost a considerable amount of members during the year. He expressed hope that if the church continues to reach out and grow, it is expected the choir would also grow.

The Trustees reported good and bad news. The organ loft was heated, which protected and enhanced the musical quality of the instrument; a sidewalk bordering the parking lot and the parsonage was planned at a cost of roughly \$400; the nursery school continued to use the church lower level and the arrangements were satisfactory; the entire church needed to be painted; doors and windows needed repair; but the most worrisome was that the 10 year Indenture Plan would come to a close on September 1, 1969 and all notes will become due for their face amount to the tune of \$40,000. So far, the church accumulated approximately \$4,800 plus \$3,000 in U.S. Treasury Bonds. They decided to continue with the Anniversary-Birthday Offering and the Board approved retaining one half of the income from the nursery school for this purpose. To cover the balance needed for September 1 of the following year it was suggested that

either there will be an increase of the present mortgage and/or the church would offer another plan such as the current Indenture Plan.

The Hospitality Committee served a number of fellowship gatherings after special events and farewell gatherings after Sunday evening church. The largest effort of the year was the Conference Sunday School Convention, where they served coffee and rolls for breakfast and up to 250 people for lunch.

Interestingly, the Publicity Committee reported that the main function of their committee was to "try to build better relations with the Evanston Review Staff member who handles church publicity. Although many releases have been sent to the paper, many have not been printed. This job has involved tact, prayer, and meeting deadlines." They printed two issues of the FM Recordings and hoped to issue more in the future.

The CYC (Christian Youth Crusaders) had three groups in action consisting of about 20 children grouped together by grades 1-3, grades 4-6, and grades 7-9. The Nursery Committee continued to struggle a little. There were 14 women on the Nursery Staff and they tried a plan to schedule one person for one Sunday each quarter so each person would be in the nursery only four times a year. Two women, Urela McKee and Amy Foster, volunteered to take the nursery during the Sunday school hour each week. Children's Church explained that their program was geared for the 5-8 year old children and "is designed to prepare the child to better worship the Lord with added meaning." The average attendance was a total of 12 boys and girls.

The Steward's Report noted that each Steward was assigned a responsibility list of approximately 10 families. The Stewards were to assist the church family in a spiritual way either directly or in conjunction with the pastor. The Stewards prepared and served communion on a quarterly basis. Additionally, they made hospital visitation with the Pastor, reported needs to the Board and Pastor, and consistently prayed for each family on their responsibility lists.

At the September 11 Board meeting the Finance Committee recommendation of moving the church fiscal year to begin July 1 instead of October 1 was approved. This would allow the church to conform to the conference year.

At the December Board meeting it was reported that the Conference informed all the churches a "Pension Plan" for the ministers of the church was going to start as of January 1, 1969 and would be 3 ½% of the minister's salary and allowances. For Hillside, it amounted to \$325 per year.

At the February 1969 Trustees meeting, it was recorded that they were considering a new indenture program to succeed the present one, which would terminate on September 1. In April the Board accepted the report from the Trustees that a lease was issued to Tiny Tot Nursery for a two year period beginning on May 1. Apparently the city buses were using the church parking lot and the church asked them to discontinue this practice as of March 31. The next retreat was scheduled the weekend after Labor Day and Dr. James Reinhard will be the speaker (*he will become the pastor of Hillside*

in 1978!) The Finance Committee presented a plan to renew the Indenture Plan, and it was unanimously approved by the Board. The new plan paid 6% interest per annum, paid semi-annually, effective July 1, 1969. They decided to retain the 10 year mature duration to extend three years past the seven year mortgage expiration date and, it was proposed to call the new plan "Our 10 year plan of debt elimination and building improvement." A vote was to be taken at the Society meeting in May.

The Midweek Service was making a slight change to its schedule for the summer months. One group met during the summer months at Harms Woods for a cookout and devotions and the other group met at the church for services. An evaluation of the electric service was investigated and it was determined that the electric bill could be reduced by a considerable amount if fluorescent lights were installed in the sanctuary. It was recommended that we experiment with one of the bays at the back of the church to observe the effect.

At the Annual Society Meeting on May 21, it was noted that the church passed out ballots and members voted on whether or not to retain the pastor. The ballots were placed in an envelope which was sealed for mailing to Woodstock. The Indenture Program was approved unanimously and would begin June 1, 1969 with the notes expiring September 1, 1979. Back in 1959 the plan issued 169 notes.

For the first time it was noted that there was a Prayer Committee. Every Sunday there was prayer in the church office at 4:30 PM until the 7:00 PM groups organized. The 4:30 PM service was discontinued to relieve the heavy schedule of members. There were also prayer services on Tuesday mornings at the homes of different members and friends. According to Ed Cullison, the Committee Chairman, "these prayer services were of great benefit to the Church and those who attended. Many prayers were answered, and several outside families were reached, some took great interest. We thank God for our Praying People."

From the June 4 Board minutes: "The possibility of one of our services being interrupted by a group of outside demonstrators was considered. Alternative solutions to such a situation were discussed. It was concluded that any visitors would be received cordially and would conform to the Church Discipline in their conduct. If a problem should occur it would be handled by the judgement of our pastor in whether to dismiss the service, invite them to present their statement afterwards, or deny any statements that might be out of place in the House of God." (*It is not known why this was brought up.*)

Numerous musical groups requested an opportunity to perform concerts at our church. It wasn't just the new church that interested musical groups. Requests to perform at our church go back many, many decades. Musical groups included the Greenville Acapella group or the Moody Chorale or the Barrington College Choir, to name a few, and the church was always very accommodating to these groups.

1970 – 1974

The church had many members who generously gave of their time and out of their own finances to provide necessary services and items that the church could not afford to have taken care of or purchase outright. The church was very appreciative and thankful and this was duly noted in the official minutes of the church on a regular basis.

Since the minutes began to be typed, they have gotten briefer and are almost always only one typewritten page. Fortunately, the ministries of the church submitted a typewritten report for the annual Society Meetings so we do have records of what the various ministries of the church were doing throughout the year. There are only two months of minutes for 1970 with nothing significant reported during those two months.

In April of 1971 the church Board recognized that the church needed to be painted as soon as possible. They had received a bid of \$2,400 for two coats of paint, which would be accepted unless something more attractive developed within a few days. It must be mentioned that it is frequently noted in the minutes that John Foster was extremely generous to the church with not just his time, but with financial matters that arose in the church. He was constantly donating supplies and other needed items for the church. Also in 1971, two members of the Music Committee, Madell Lark and Leon Nelson, left the church for other positions and the church began a search for replacements. In the September 15, 1971 minutes Pastor McGrew requested the services of a church secretary for at least three hours a day five days a week. In October it was reported that Janet Krellwitz was hired as Minister of Music (*organist and choir director.*) The church was also paying Reverend Fred Breeden as an assistant pastor for \$30 per week and his wife was volunteering her services as church secretary.

Statistics covering the year 1971: Christian Youth Crusaders – 26, Free Methodist Youth – 14, Women's Missionary Society – 29, Junior Missionary Society – 26, Sunday School – 85, Light and Life Men's Group – 15, Cradle Roll – 6. Average weekly attendance for morning worship - 83, evening worship - 48, Sunday school – 57, and the midweek service - 40. The church had 148 members of which 105 were full adult members, 36 were junior members and 7 were preparatory members.

At the January 1972 Board meeting the Board decided that their monthly meetings were going to take place in various homes on the first Thursday of each month rather than at the church. The Tiny Tot Nursery School was still using the church facilities. It was also recorded that "on Brotherhood Sunday, February 20, Reverend Edward Bailie, a black minister who is the oldest minister in Evanston, will preach here in the Morning Worship Service." (*How do they know he is the oldest minister in Evanston?*)

In February Pastor McGrew presented a program for expansion, which "will consist of inspirational and instructional challenges during the month of February so that all members who wish to participate will be equipped to do so. The object is to reach our entire constituency and community in face-to-face visitation during the month of March that focuses on Easter Sunday and all Sundays during April." Attractive programs and speakers would be secured and the pastor and Visitation Committee were given a \$500 budget.

Air conditioning was needed for the pastor's and outer church offices and a collection was taken up. Once again the issue of black topping the parking lot was brought up. John Foster agreed to look into the issue or, as a possible alternative, oiling of the lot. John reported a cost of \$9,500 at a special meeting later in the month of June. The matter was referred to the Trustees and Finance Committee. At the same meeting it appears the church was looking for a permanent organist, again. According to the September minutes, Jim Fissel was hired as Music Director. The church was also ready to have the parking lot black topped. In October, John Foster gave the Trustees report that the cost of the project would be \$13,130 and included the front drive, the parking lot, the drive to the parsonage garage, and catch basins. A loan was to be taken out from the Conference Loan Board on their terms. The assistant pastor, Fred Breeden had also been hired for janitorial services at \$10 per week. Barbara Nicholson took over as church secretary. By the November Board meeting, it was reported that the church received a loan from the Conference for \$11,000 at the rate of 7% annual interest. The principal of the loan did not have to be paid back until the mortgage had been completely retired. The parking was finally blacktopped and striping would commence shortly.

In February 1973 the Board approved a letter written by the Pastor in response to a proposal from the City of Evanston indicating their intention to solicit funds or services from all tax exempt institutions. The church was against this type of "voluntary" solicitation.

In October of 1973 the Board of Trustees and Finance Committee became known as the Board of Directors (BOD) of The Hillside Free Methodist Church. An organizational meeting was held on October 14. Members of this new board consisted of: Lowell Kline (Treasurer), Al Perreault, Carl Peterson (who was elected Chairman), Lyle Burgess, Charles Tinker, John Foster, William Hepker, Benjamin Koenig, and Pastor McGrew. Later that month this board proposed the budget for the new year, which came to \$44,540. Debt retirement was also included in the new budget. The Tiny Tot Nursery School was still using the church but did not have a formal contract and either party was free to terminate the business relationship at any given point of time. The church was beginning to defer purchases until the present financial condition of the church was more stable.

At the January 9, 1974 Annual Society Meeting, the church created a Board of Strategy (BOS). Seventeen members of the church were elected to this board. On January 13, 1974 the first meeting of the newly formed Hillside Board of Strategy (BOS) met. Reverend McGrew informed this Board that "the biggest problem we face is involvement to be effective in the community." The purpose of this Board was to place administrative detail in the hands of the laymen with the power to act. The general scope of responsibility of this new Board was to assume the administration of the programs of the church. Therefore, this Board was made up of four commissions: 1) Commission on Outreach - the purpose was to involve the neighborhood, newcomers, and visitors into the life of the church and to involve the church into the life of the community; 2) Commission on Education and Missions - the purpose was to involve the constituency of the church into the life and work of the Sunday School, the Christian Youth Crusaders, the Free Methodist Youth, and the general missionary emphasis of the

church; 3) Commission on Worship and Music - the purpose was to involve as many people as possible in the spiritual life and musical enrichment of the faith and to be responsible, in cooperation with the pastor, in devising and promoting festivals and special events, in the selection and use of films and in the securing of speakers, and 4) Commission on Fellowship and Service - the purpose was to involve as many people as possible from the church into the visitation of those who are shut-ins or in hospitals, and to plan for and carry out plans for dinner events, etc. This commission would also see to it that flowers were sent to the ill or hospitalized and that the needs of any member in deep distress were met.

After the Commissions were organized, the people from the Board, including some from outside the Board, were divided up among the four commissions. Each Commission met independently to devise a plan of action for events related to their Commission and carry them out. The chairmen of each Commission met together as the BOS once a month to report on what their Commission was doing and to bring recommendations to the BOD for approval. By the end of 1974 the Board of Strategy determined there should be six Commissions instead of four – Worship and Music, Fellowship and Service, Education, Outreach, Missions, and Youth. This Board reported to the Board of Directors of the church.

One BOS report for May of 1974 survived. It is noted there was a Choir Spaghetti Dinner on March 16 that raised \$245, of which \$52 went toward a new microphone and \$193 went to the Organ Fund. The report for Fellowship and Service included the following: "encouragement was expressed to get people to move forward to the front of the sanctuary for the regular worship services" and "encouragement was further expressed to have meetings and services to start on time." The Fall Retreat was scheduled for Friday night and Saturday, September 13 and 14 and "should be a time of spiritual renewal and that it should be as unstructured as possible."

There are no Official Board Meeting minutes for the year 1974; however, there are BOD minutes. In September of 1974 it was reported a new day care facility requested use of the church facilities. The Tiny Tot Day School apparently was purchased by another program. The new organization was called the "Childhood Education Center" and the church consented to and signed a five year lease, from September 1, 1974 until August 30, 1979.

In September 1974 the BOD considered having indoor/outdoor carpeting installed in Fellowship Hall within the next several months primarily because "the musical practice of the Junior Choir on Sunday mornings is most disquieting to other classes in session at the same time, even with the dividers closed." (*It is 32 years later and we are still having a similar problem in Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings.*) During the same meeting it was recorded that the church needed to purchase 16 - 5' round tables and two storage carts (*which we still have.*)

A six month survey of the Sunday school program was undertaken. The period of March 1 through August 31, 1974 revealed an average enrollment of 128 but an average attendance of only 46. Sunday school collected offerings, which totaled \$315.72 for the

six month period. The question was asked - what should be the emphases of concentration for the growth of Sunday school?

Because of some major building repairs that needed to be dealt with (which included repairing the roof and doors; electrical and plumbing issues) and the lack of funds, the BOD decided to contact the Illinois-Wisconsin Conference about the possibility of borrowing between \$5,000-\$6,000. The Conference still held the note on the parking lot for \$11,000 but agreed to extend a loan of \$4,400 at 8% interest provided the church was willing to immediately begin paying \$75 per month on this loan, in addition to the \$500 per month it was supposed to be paying on the parking lot loan.

In October there was a major discussion of the pros and cons of laying carpet in fellowship hall. In addition, if carpet were to be laid, the dividers needed to be cleaned first and possibly even cut at the bottom to allow for the carpet. No decision was made. During the same period of time Hazel Hill was willing to extend the church a loan of \$5,000 at 7% interest and with repayment deferred until the church mortgage was paid off in 2 1/3 years. The only provision was that if she were in real need of the funds the church would repay it on demand. The church agreed. The amount Hazel offered to the church was exactly equal to the amount needed to repair the church roof and do electrical and plumbing repairs at the parsonage, purchase a lawnmower, typewriter, and a new 12' x 18' storage shed, and pay off the tables and chairs. The Chairman of the Board, Carl Peterson, "expressed strong conviction that our church cannot consider any more (non-emergency) major expenses until after our mortgage is paid (2 1/3 from now)."

At the Annual Society Meeting on December 18, 1974, Pastor McGrew reported that church membership consisted of the following: 32 Junior members, 7 Preparatory members, and 129 Members for a total of 168. Twenty-two adult members were added in one year and 4 lost to transfer or death. Pastor McGrew "encouraged members to be on time or preferably be early for Sunday school or worship services, and to sit toward the front of the church. Both these efforts, he said, show that we care about our church and about being closer together as the body of Christ." (*The same could be said in 2006.*)

1975 - 1979

In January of 1975 the Treasurer reported in his Annual Report ending December 31, 1974 that while the balance in the operating fund was \$1,049.93, and outstanding bills were \$1,875.93, the church raised \$4,097.62 for World Mission Outreach in the past year. There continued to be minor problems with the Childhood Education Center (CEC) that used the church facilities. The church needed to fulfill unfinished lease obligations, including replacing a vintage 1952 refrigerator freezer door or get a replacement second-hand refrigerator, and clarifying supplies and space issues. Custodial issues were a major concern. Interestingly, the budget for 1975 revealed that 10% of the budget went to Missions Outreach, which amounted to \$4,400, and 33.4% of the budget went to debt retirement. The rest went to local expenses and salaries. In 1975 guest preachers received \$25 for preaching during a Sunday worship service.

In April two city representatives of the City of Evanston's Park Planning Commission met with the BOD of the church. They came to speak about Lovelace Park, a 17 acre tract of land adjacent to the church property. It was formerly a city dump and had been filled with dirt. It was now ready for fine grading in preparation for creating a city park. The church was informed that it would probably take 4-5 years to complete the park, it would be funded through floating a bond issue, and walk-in entrances would be made from both Thayer and Clifford Streets. Therefore, the church was informed that they could choose the continuance of the present stockade fence or a different type of fencing between the property and the park. The church chose continuing the stockade fence with repairs. In addition, the Board was informed that there would be some inevitable use of the church parking lot by patrons of the park and that if the church chose to publicize the use of the parking facilities these representatives would recommend to the city to share in the cost of the parking lot maintenance. "No bandwagon concurrence came forth in response to such offer."

At this same meeting "the pastor presented an appeal from a young couple for an evening of social dancing (with an orchestra) in Fellowship Hall following their wedding in October. Lowell Kline and Lyle Burgess moved that social dancing not be allowed in Fellowship Hall. Motion Carried."

A new stove was needed for the church and the Free Methodist Youth agreed pay \$200-\$250 towards this purchase. This was gratefully accepted by the BOD. The church would need to run an 80 foot gas line from the furnace room to the kitchen at a cost of \$100, which was accomplished a few months later for \$80. The church originally intended to purchase a commercial stove (*Editorial note: Oh, if only.....*); however, the cost was prohibitive at \$600 new or \$875 new; therefore, they purchased two "domestic" stoves.

In July "it was moved that \$100 to \$150 be authorized for the purpose of installing drainage from the flying buttress into the main sewer – something which was inadvertently omitted from the original building plans, and hence from the structure itself, and which, John Foster and Dale Larsen advised us, was essential to preservation of the foundation of the building." By September nothing had yet been done to improve the drainage problem for the church.

In September it was noted that the hot-water pipes leading to the kitchen sprang a leak. It was temporarily repaired but the hot water pipes needed to be replaced within the year. A mix of copper and galvanized pipes had been installed, causing a reaction damaging to the pipes. They noted that "a plastic pipe has been authorized for use, which would be less expensive than copper and perhaps easier to work with." (*They were talking about PVC pipe – which the church did not use. When the church replaced the kitchen cabinets in March of 2006, the pipes under the kitchen sink didn't just spring a leak, it was more like a small geyser erupted – and at that time copper pipes were used to fix the problem.*)

There continued to be a problem with sound in the sanctuary. The microphone at the pulpit was actually a lapel mike and Dave Andreae agreed to look into a sound system and report back. In November the church had the opportunity to join the National

Association of Evangelicals. Lowell pointed out that this would be advantageous because of their many contacts and influence, and the Board unanimously agreed.

In December the BOD had a major discussion concerning the Light and Life Magazine distribution and literature distribution and sales in the church. Apparently, the church sent out letters to 114 homes informing them they would be receiving a gift subscription from the church. After receiving the subscription for one quarter, the recipients would be contacted to determine if they wanted to have the subscription continued. If not, they would be removed. The church would be billed on a quarterly basis. Donations toward this new Literature Fund was to be requested from the congregation and all monies received would go towards the Light and Life publication as well as other literature for the church. The pastor pointed out that people are not aware of good Christian literature that is available and do not avail themselves of Christian bookstores as they should. There was discussion about using the church as a place for book sales and some expressed disapproval for this practice. Therefore, the matter of literature distribution and sales was referred to the Board of Strategy for further exploration.

At this same meeting the Board also passed a recommendation to develop a long-range planning committee. The church would be debt-free in three to four years at which time the church should be ready with plans for expansion. This new committee consisted of the pastor, the chairmen of the Board of Directors and the Board of Strategy, and two other people to be selected.

The BOS continued through 1975; however, only four months of minutes are available (*September through December.*) It is not known how regularly they met. It is recorded in the September 5, 1975 minutes that one member, William Hepker, reminded the Board of its history over the past few years and "suggested that the church analyze what had been done. It was further reported that "During "Key 73" the Brethren churches made a self-study to discover whether they were doing the right things and doing them efficiently, leading up to setting long-range goals. Looking back on the plan the Board of Strategy submitted last year, he said it now strikes him as very ambitious for only one year's time and perhaps should be stretched over several years." The pastor then was invited to present his thoughts on what Hillside will be in 1980. "The pastor pointed out that the conservative church is now the viable religious force in our society, and that we should never be conservative about "thinking big" in faith, but must shake off our fear of failing. The pastor stressed the fact that God knows what works and what will reach our neighbors – we must ask Him and then believe he will enable us to do it." The pastor predicted "a fantastic future for Hillside." Specifically, he predicted "attendance will double in five years; the church will have a crisis ministry; the church will have its own nursery school with plans for a day school; to reach the youth through innovative programming; change our name; change our facilities (add to); expand staff to full-time associate pastor, full-time secretary, full-time minister of education, full-time minister of evangelism; recruit, motivate and train laity for greater involvement; have more specialized services (singles clubs, senior citizens, college, etc.); and, expansion of small group concept."

William asked why they were called the Strategy Board and the pastor said, "It is our job to formulate a strategy that helps us reach a maximum number of people for Jesus Christ and after we have reached them to teach them and nurture them."

The Christian Education Commission proposed improvements in the Christian Education facilities (Fellowship Hall) which included acoustical treatment on the ceiling, carpeting, and a sound-barrier door to close off the last two bays. The church was using moveable equipment as dividers, which was proving unsatisfactory due to the noise and there was discussion of the merits of permanently fastened dividers. The church continued to have a fall retreat (attended by 60 people) and a Missions Festival in October over a two day period. Outreach was focusing on prayer in the life of the church and in reaching the neighbors through Wednesday night prayer meetings, special prayer in Sunday worship, ladies prayer groups and special times for individual prayer. The program received direct results, including offers of help in Junior church, increased interest in evangelism, and the influx of young people in the choir. The church began to send out bulletins to absentees, which the pastor proclaimed as one of the most effective things we have done. Beginning in January 1976 the church would begin a Sunday afternoon drama workshop that the young people (high school and older) had been asking for.

November 1975 – the BOS discussed the upcoming Festival of the Arts being held at the church. There was a question of whether the dancer who will be performing on Sunday morning was approved by the BOS. The full program had been presented to the Board and there had been no objection. From the minutes, "The dancer, Laurie Leslie, is the daughter of the minister of the LaSalle Street Church. There was some discussion of the Biblical basis of dance, the legitimacy of dance as a form of artistic expression, and the connotations of the word "dance" to our congregation. William said that if this is going to be something divisive, we should prepare ourselves in advance to face it creatively rather than waiting till it explodes. The pastor pointed out that lately the congregation had been exposed to several songs and sermons bringing in the idea of dancing – but that if dance is introduced in the wrong spirit, it will be a failure no matter how good it is artistically (the same is true of music or anything else in worship, he said). Pastor expressed his great confidence in our people that dance will be found meaningful and will be accepted."

In December the Chairman, William Hepker, reminded the Board that the purpose of the Board of Strategy is to coordinate and plan activities to assist the ministerial staff. He also challenged the Board to be "prayerfully creative" about the church program.

1976 - The biggest issue the church faced was upkeep of the physical plant. Leaking water seemed to be a chronic problem. Not a month went by without maintenance problems needing to be addressed. Al Perreault brought up the fact that preventive maintenance of the building is a must. In April it was noted in the BOD meeting that "since preventive maintenance has been lacking, money has to be spent frequently on major repairs to the church property; Phil (*Schneck – the chairman*) challenged the Board to re-establish priorities and start taking better care of the property to prevent these problems. Lyle Burgess suggested a building maintenance fund. The chairman urged the Board to take concrete action at the May meeting. The church also turned

down a request to use the church two nights a week for Lamaze classes since the building is unsuitable for this.

At the April 5 BOS meeting the pastor made several recommendations including: 1) printing 5,000 doorknob hangers advertising the Easter service, passed unanimously, 2) change the visible (not legal) name of the church to The Hillside Church. "Free Methodist" would be retained in the telephone directory and in a "small-print" reference on stationery, passed with one opposing vote, 3) devise a church logo to be used on stationery and in publicity, passed unanimously, and 4) change the pew Bibles from the King James Version to the Revised Standard Version, passed unanimously.

The following month the BOD minutes report that "The Board of Strategy has voted to change the visible name of the church to The Hillside Church; the pastor explained that he has discovered in talking with people that the name "Free Methodist" puts some people off and raises unnecessary barriers and questions. Lowell Kline questioned our trend toward disguising our Free Methodism, expressing the opinion that we should rather make it more visible rather than less, and explain what it means." Another issue the BOD wrestled with was the Childhood Education Center (CEC). The director of the program requested a lowering of rent for two reasons - the church was charging more than other churches and low enrollment in the program. After extensive discussion it was decided to lower their rent \$100 per month with re-evaluation at a later date. In June church maintenance was once again an issue. The floors were of particular concern. Carl Petersen suggested that a way to avoid the "crisis" approach was to appoint a small committee to set priorities and place a dollar value to each one. Once the mortgage was paid off the church would begin to work on the list. The BOD approved of this unanimously. Dale Larsen, who had been working as a part-time custodian for \$50 per week (15 hours) was doing all he could to keep up with repairs; however, it was recognized that a full-time custodian was actually needed to avoid maintenance crises that continually came up. If Dale worked three full days (24 hours per week) he could keep the church in fairly good repair until major repairs were done. It was agreed and his salary was raised to \$100 per week.

In August Pastor McGrew asked the Commissions chairmen to think about modifications to the physical plant (the church building) that would be helpful for their work. He said that what we do with our building should be determined by our program and goals. The church also had a new assistant pastor, Ron Tompkins, who was to be the ministries coordinator. Storage shelves were placed in the nursery closet and the hope was expressed that the nursery would soon be divided by age of children. By 1976 enrollment in the "Christian Life Hour" (Sunday school) increased to a total of 161 since 1974 when enrollment was listed as 128; however, attendance continued to be poor. Only 88 or 55% of those enrolled were actively participating. Those considered inactive had not attended for at least three months.

In September the BOD discussed policy for rental of the church facilities. The church decided to charge \$25 for a Saturday night social function; \$100 for a wedding using the sanctuary and fellowship hall; and \$50 for a wedding using only the sanctuary. The custodian would receive \$25 whenever there was a wedding. The Long Range Planning Committee met and agreed that outstanding debts and jobs that needed to be done

immediately were the priority. Therefore, the roof, east-side doors, glazing of all windows, replastering the worst areas, outside lighting, additional signs, re-doing the nursery, and repair of the parsonage, particularly the kitchen are all deemed "immediate" and the summer projects included painting the outside of the church, sealing the parking lot, and redecorating and carpeting the parsonage. The BOS recommended new hymnals in red with the church name in gold lettering, to be funded by each family purchasing at least two hymnals at a cost of \$3.95 each plus 20¢ for the gold embossing, and BOD approved the method of funding and purchased 125, but they changed the color to brown. There are continuing problems with the Childhood Education Center and Lyle Burgess agreed to be the church liaison in order to facilitate communication.

By 1976, the BOS consisted of seven ministries: Children's, Youth, Adult, Missions, Worship and Music, Outreach, and Fellowship and Service. The pastor expressed a concern that there were difficulties in getting important messages out quickly to a large number of people; therefore, a telephone communication chain was discussed. Since the church was already divided into commissions, they could be the structure for communication. The Board also voted to approve the collection of Campbell's soup labels to exchange for equipment for Sky Lodge. The pastor was in agreement with the plan but did not feel comfortable promoting Campbell's soup from the pulpit. As long as there was no overt publicity in the church, the plan moved forward. The Adult Commission brought forward a plan to institute a young adult class for post high school age people and the board approved a class for young adults up to age 26. Because of recent contacts with Inter-Varsity it was thought that there might be an increase in college age attendance. It was noted frequently in the minutes that the worship service on Sunday was considered an "adult" worship service. There was children's church and this was divided by ages 4-7 and 8-11. "After age 11, young people should be more involved in the 'adult' worship services." The Worship and Music Commission moved that their name be changed to Worship and the Arts Commission and the BOS approved. The Board also approved a plan for a church cookbook, the profits to go toward fixing up the kitchen.

At the October BOS meeting the pastor once again asked for any recommendations from the Commissions for physical alteration of the church plant. "Pastor also shared his vision that the Commissions are to be the task force of the church; their job is to envision programs and to implement them. If a proposed program does not require a drastic change or a huge amount of money, he said, we should pursue it immediately; we do want checks and balances, but we also want action and want the work to be done." The Outreach Commission was beginning a visitation program this month and it was requested that the pastors be available to take any inexperienced people with them when they make calls. The Outreach Commission also recommended that the church continue with the doorknob hangers for advertising, making them a trademark in the community. The new hymnals were scheduled to be dedicated on November 14. The Sunday before all the hymnals were to be removed from the church and the service was to be conducted without hymnals. The new assistant pastor noticed that people tended to sit more towards the back of the church and expressed his concern that the church would have a greater sense of corporate worship if everyone sits closer to the front of the sanctuary. He asked the ushers to encourage this. He also suggested that

the Commission people sit in the front and invite others to sit with them. The choir would also no longer sit together in the front to remove the feeling that the first few rows are "reserved."

At the December BOS meeting the pastor reported that he was unwillingly elected the Chairman of the Conference Board of Administration and now had additional responsibilities. At that time the church made a list called "Possibility '96." Some of their ideas in the next 20 years included air-conditioning; 50% of the budget to missions; build a fellowship center to include athletics, fellowship meetings, banquets, Christian Life classes and more; build a tower or cross, or some structure at the front of the church for more visibility; become front-door oriented instead of back-door; light the parking lot and have an entrance sign there; a sign placed a few blocks away; increase the beauty of the church with a fountain or tower; a church owned and operated nursery school; a church owned and operated grade school; the pastor speaking weekly, at a good listening time, on radio or TV; a theater presenting Christian musicals; a Christian day school; expanded church library; a Christian bookstore on the lower level; a tape ministry as part of the library and book store; a Christian radio station; a large outdoor movie screen showing Christian films to attract passersby; a fireplace; the church would have a full-time counseling center with qualified staff; and to preserve the area between the church and parsonage for sports and picnics by building on the other sides of the church.

In 1977 the church budget included salaries for a senior pastor, an assistant pastor, a minister of youth, a minister of music, a secretary and a caretaker. This amounted to 44% of the yearly budget. The debt retirement portion of the budget was down to 14%. World mission outreach continued to be high, slightly less than 10% of the budget.

A humorous note was found in the Children's Commission meeting of January 16. "Commission members who are good "tossers" are needed to throw out unusable items in nursery and closet. ("Savers" should not volunteer!)"

February 7, 1977 - The Children's Ministries of the BOS had concerns about the condition of the nursery and was planning on requesting that the BOD take action on renovating the nursery. The Outreach Commission "wishes to encourage a personal witness of every person in the church, so that each person has his or her own outreach ministry." This Commission was trying many different types of programs and campaigns to reach out to the neighborhood and community. Their primary concern was how to motivate people to see and be concerned about the spiritual needs of the community. Fellowship and Service reported that many people suggested that the church start a benevolence fund for particularly needy people. The BOS voted to recommend to the BOD that on communion Sunday's a second offering be taken, to be kept in a separate account not used for current expenses, to be available for special needs. The church cookbook was being bound and was to be sold at a cost of \$3.50 per book (the publication cost was \$1.50 per book.) The church continued to have the Anniversary-Birthday offering on Easter Sunday and this caused some people to question the heavy emphasis on finance and whether or not this was appropriate for Easter. It was

suggested that another date be chosen for an anniversary celebration and an appeal for finances.

The BOD met the day after the BOS to consider their recommendations. The Children's Commission is requesting that the BOD consider terminating the Christian Education Center's lease or in a new lease, making an arrangement for the church to have exclusive use of its premises for certain periods. There were some people in the church that preferred the church operate its own nursery school. The current lease had two more years.

The nursery had definite needs and requested the sale of a small organ to finance some of their needs. Unfortunately for the nursery, the BOD already determined that the money from the sale of the small organ was to go toward current expenses. Finances continued to be tight. Gas bills, in particular, were very high due to rising rates and severe weather. The lease with the Christian Education Center (CEC) contained a clause that allowed the church to request that the CEC assist in increased utility costs; therefore, the BOD made the decision to reinstate the \$500 per month rent to the CEC effective June 1, 1977. Communion was now being served on the first Sunday of the month and the BOD discussed the request from the BOS about taking up a second collection on Communion Sunday to help especially needy people. This subject generated considerable discussion: concerns over the method of securing the funds, the church finances needing no competition right now, the treasurer was not aware of any outstanding basic needs of anyone at the present time although the pastor mentioned two instances where financial help was needed, how to plan for the needs when they were usually emergency needs and unpredictable so they should be dealt with on an emergency basis, etc. The treasurer, Lowell Kline, requested that this be tabled for 90 days and it was. The BOS also requested that the balcony become an informal church lounge and meeting area. A sofa and carpeting were offered and the six pews in this area could be sold. The BOD voted to sell the pews and the proceeds were to be used to refurbish the nursery. The BOD also voted to move the Birthday-Anniversary celebration to the Sunday after Easter so it would not be a distraction from the Easter celebration and also would not turn off any visitors who come to worship on Easter.

Twenty three Society members gave opinions for Possibility '77. Some major concerns the church identified in April of that year and needed to find solutions for included: paid staff vs. volunteer help; lack of Christian education facilities; consistent programming; how to reach out to the neighbors in the immediate community; hesitancy in reaching children; too few people willing to witness, lack of concern, lack of training and teaching to put into practice; church finances; improving family ministries to reach out to all age levels in the church; too many administrative meetings for a church this size; signage and lighting issues; tension between the Christian Education Center and the church; advertising; and completing the nursery.

An administrative re-organization plan of the BOS was adopted by the church on May 17, 1977 and at the May BOD meeting, they revisited the issue of Benevolence Offerings taken on Communion Sunday. After extensive discussion, it was moved and approved that benevolence offerings be left to the discretion of the pastor. It was also reported in the minutes that the pastor received a letter from the Evanston Department

of Parks, Recreation and Forestry requesting a meeting with the BOD regarding Lovelace Park. The Board was very eager to meet with the representatives since "all of Lovelace Park is draining into our parking lot; it seems to have been deliberately graded to do this." The Pastor then met with the Director of the above department and the city agreed to build up a ridge of earth surrounding the park to prevent drainage into the church parking lot.

Pastor McGrew and his family took a two month leave of absence during the summer of 1977 at which time the church had an interim pastor named Norman Bendroth.

Beginning in September 1977 through August 1978, during the time Doug McGrew was pastor, Hillside published *The Northwest Corner*, a newspaper for those living in the northwest corner of Evanston. The area was roughly bounded by Old Glenview Road, Lovelace Park, Gross Point, Harrison, and Westmoreland Country Club. It was distributed free to neighborhood homes through the church office and was devoted to letting neighbors know the hobbies, interests, and enjoyments of those living in the area.

In September Kevin Mannoia came to Hillside as an assistant pastor. His main job was to work with young people and he planned to have a spring retreat for the youth as well as other weekly activities. The yearly retreat was now at Sky Lodge instead of in Indiana. The pastor reminded the BOS in October that "we are trying to get back to fundamentals—discovering who has which spiritual gifts, and building a confidence in the Lord rather than depending on people. It is vital, he said, that this Board provide a model of dependence on the Lord." Financially, the church continued to be in the red each month. The pastor reported that Forest Bush, the Conference Superintendent, worked out that Hillside is achieving 60% of potential tithe and 100% would amount to \$92,400 per year. The pastor would like both the BOD and the BOS to meet with the Superintendent at an informal dinner to further discuss this. The church also continued to have wonderful missions programming and the goal in 1978 was to raise \$12,000 for "United World Mission for Christ."

At the February 14, 1978 meeting of the BOD it was recorded that Sandy Larsen resigned as secretary and the consensus was that Phyllis Holdeman take over. (*She was volunteered without her knowledge.*) Other action items included continuing ongoing discussion about carpeting the narthex area. The tiles were in very poor shape and something needed to be done. The parsonage also needed to be looked over and repairs made in preparation for the new incoming pastor (*Dr. James Reinhard.*) The minutes of this particular meeting were recorded by Kevin Mannoia, who signed them, "Forgetfully yours, Kevin Mannoia, 4/18/78." The Worship and Arts Commission of the BOS requested that the yearly Anniversary-Birthday offering and celebration be taken over by the BOD, since it had nothing to do with worship or arts. The BOD dealt with church finances, therefore, it was felt that they should take more responsibility for the year round job of fund raising and teaching of stewardship. This was approved by the BOS; however, the BOD needed to approve this recommendation.

In March of 1978 the church was looking for an organist-choir director. Pastor McGrew submitted letters of inquiry to at least two institutions, Trinity College and Moody Bible

Institute. In this letter he stated that Hillside Church is an evangelical church with a very active music program, we have a 17 rank pipe organ and an 18 voice choir, and we also have a fine Steinway piano in the sanctuary. He further stated that the requirements for the job would be competency in playing classical music as well as gospel on piano and organ. Salary was negotiable.

After further investigation regarding carpet or tile for the narthex; while tile was only \$650 and carpet was \$700 it was decided to delay any decision until parsonage repairs could be taken care of, which are estimated to be approximately \$3,000. The church sent a letter to Hillside's requesting help in defraying the costs of these repairs. In addition, the roof was still leaking and the church was trying to keep up with maintenance, an uphill battle. The church is now being lit from the front as is the cross. It is noted that the Pastor McGrew will be leaving on July 9 to begin a new position as Assistant Administrator of Sunset Manor on July 10. Sometime between June 6 and September 12, 1978 the very tall cross in front of the church came crashing down in a wind storm. The Board favored restoration of the cross and elected to pursue the matter. Beginning October 1 the church engaged an associate pastor by the name of Doug Winters for one year while he was working on his doctoral degree. Lyle Burgess offered to do the janitorial work of the church without remuneration.

Beginning in 1979 the Board minutes were more concise than previously noted. On January 29, 1979 the organizational structure of the church was outlined at the Society Meeting: Worship Commission included the Music Committee, Sanctuary Décor and Ushers; Evangelism and Outreach Commission included Missions, Light and Life Men's Fellowship, Women's Missionary Society, Membership and Visitation; Nurture and Discipleship Commission consisted of Children's Ministries, the CYC, Youth Ministries, Adult Ministries, Sunday School Secretary, Social Life Committee, and the Communication Committee; and the Administration Commission consisted of the Board of Trustees, the Finance Committee and the Building and Grounds Committee. There was only one monthly meeting now and it was officially called the Board of Directors meeting.

At the March Administration Commission meeting they decided to send out a series of letters to congregants reminding them that on September 1, \$14,500 in indentures were due and to give them an opportunity to contribute toward this obligation. It was agreed that the church should concentrate making sure there was enough money to pay these indentures. Lyle Burgess and George Nickos were no longer able to perform janitorial duties for the church and the BOD was faced with finding a permanent janitor. Easter plans this year included an Easter Egg Hunt.

Pastor Reinhard left in July and the new Pastor of the church was Larry Girts. At the August Board meeting the major concern was paying the outstanding notes of the Indenture Program. The balance at this point was reduced to \$8,500 and the church had approximately one half of the needed funds. Aside from this pressing need, there were much needed repairs of the parsonage, and the "absolute necessity of extensive roof repair." Therefore, the Board approved an open-ended loan of \$10,000 through the Conference, to be drawn on as required. The day school renting the church facilities signed a three year lease at \$535 per month with a 7% increase each succeeding year.

The church was also used as a polling place and the Board felt that it was inappropriate to continue this practice in view of the day school's use of the facilities. The Board instructed Phyllis Holdeman, the secretary, to write the Board of Election Commissioners requesting that the polling place be removed from our facilities. After discussion with the Treasurer, Lyle Burgess once again resumed custodial services at the church but with assistance from a student or retired person.

Pastor Girts made an assessment of the needs of the church and it was his opinion that the primary needs were visitation and youth ministries with the music ministry having last priority even though it was admittedly needed. The Board directed the Pastor to actively pursue a minister of youth and visitation and to continue to search for an organist and choir director. At the September Board meeting the church did receive the much needed \$4,000 from the Conference to pay off the indentures but no word had been received on the additional \$6,000 line of credit. By December the church was still being used as a polling place.

1980 - 1984

Since the CEC did not object the church will continue as a polling place. The Worship and Arts Commission met in March and came up with some suggestions to enrich Sunday worship services, which included using more lay worship leaders, varying the order of worship periodically, including a "Passing of the Peace" or a friendly greeting once in a while, and obtaining more solo or ensemble work in addition to a choir number. It was also suggested that the church have some banners made. By May a Minister of Music still had not been found. The following statement was found in the October 21, 1980 Official Board minutes: "As a matter of record, The Evanston Police Department used Hillside Church as their headquarters during the Nazi Rally in Lovelace Park on Sunday October 19, 1980." The church was also looking into the possible purchase of a van to transport elderly and young people to church. By December John Foster found a 1975 Dodge Van that had been well maintained and could be purchased for \$1,800. The Board authorized the purchase and the Christmas offering was designated for this.

Many monthly minutes from 1980 are missing – January, February, June through September and December, so it is not known if anything significant may have happened during those months. The one thing that is known is that Dave Cooper became the Pastor in July.

At the Society Meeting of January 1981 Pastor Cooper reported that Adult Membership was down to 90, Junior Membership was 14 and there was 1 Preparatory Member. Sunday school average attendance was only 23. Sunday morning average worship was down to 48, Evening Worship was 18 and the Midweek Worship service 14. The highest Sunday morning worship numbered 70. He was encouraged that on the spiritual level, observable growth was seen. He requested that the church be devoted to prayer for spiritual and numerical growth. He also asked that people remember to invite others to the services. The 1981 proposed budget was \$54,404 and included was a budget for flexible part-time staff.

Other action items in 1981: On further inspection, the van John Foster recommended was too rusted out; therefore, the church continued to search for a reliable vehicle and eventually found one and loaned it to Irving Park for its Bible School as needed. At the June 2 Board meeting the need for Children's Church was brought up, although no action was taken. *(At some point it had been discontinued but could not find a record of when it had ceased.)* Tony Payne was hired as the Music Minister. The Board set a new fee schedule of \$200 for an outside wedding party using both the church and the lower level, \$75 for the Sanctuary and \$125 for the lower level. The Pastor determined the requirements for performing weddings, which would be that the couple must be members, regular attendees, or would agree to attend at least six worship services prior to the ceremony, and they must agree to counseling sessions. The parking lot was being coated and the church was investigating having it striped. The organ continued to be in serious disrepair and could run as high as \$1,000 to have it fixed. A special offering was taken in an attempt to raise funds for its repair. At the December 9, 1981 Annual Society Meeting it was reported the church increased adult membership by five. All other areas slightly increased in attendance since the beginning of the year. Morning worship services averaged 57, Sunday school 29, Evening worship 21, Prayer Meeting 15, Youth Fellowship 19 and Home Bible Study 7. The church was challenged to increase Sunday school attendance to 50, evening service should double, 15-20 new members should be received, and morning worship should average 75.

In 1982 the church continued to focus on church maintenance, debt retirement, ministry programs and welcoming new members. The church also purchased three 48" fans for the sanctuary to help with cooling. Pastor Cooper completed training with the Evanston Police Force and was recognized as an Evanston Police Chaplain. In the July Board minutes it was reported that the Korean Resurrection Church would like to become a Free Methodist Church and use our facilities on Sunday afternoons and one evening a week. They had a congregation of about 50 adults and 20 children. The Conference Superintendent met with this group and some of our Board members. At the same time the Childhood Education Center (CEC) continued to use the church building and had been given a new lease for three years. In July a liaison committee was formed to work with the Korean church regarding use of worship space, office space, signage, rental costs, and so forth, and meetings took place to work out the details. It was noted in the September Board minutes that the CEC had "live animals" on the church premises consisting of mice and guinea pigs. The Board made the recommendation to eliminate the mice and give the school a three month probationary period on the guinea pigs. By October the Music Minister reported that the organ either needed proper repair or the Board should consider purchasing a good electronic organ. One quote reported that proper repairs would amount to between \$22,500-\$25,500; however, an electronic organ with pipes augmented started at \$24,000. At a Worship and Arts Commission meeting the organ situation was discussed and John Foster described the history of the purchase of the present organ. "He related that our organ is a product of piecemeal, mismatched parts; it was never a unified instrument. It is partially situated in inaccessible regions of the church and thus parts of it are very difficult to reach for tuning. John felt that the church had been given a bad deal for the amount of money spent on purchasing it. He felt that putting any more money into what is basically a poor instrument is not wise." The decision was made to look at all

options with an open mind and determine the best course of action. The Festival of Missions continued to be a highlight of the autumn months. Due to excessive heating bills the church was trying to come up with ideas to help reduce these costs – repair broken windows, caulk where needed, consider plastic coating, etc. The Finance Committee recommended that the special Christmas offering be designated for the heating bill. At the December Annual Society Meeting the pastor reported that Sunday school attendance remained the same at 29, morning worship attendance increased to an average of 68, evening worship increased slightly to 28 and the midweek prayer meeting averaged 18. The Pastor expressed his desire to see conversion of souls, reception of 10 or more members, increased attendance of at least 18% in all services, and increased levels of stewardship in all areas.

In 1983 call forwarding was installed on the church telephone. Back in the fall of 1982 the Fire Inspectors requested a fire alarm system for the Childhood Education Center. They had determined that a special fire alarm system was required for more than 19 children. The Center was licensed for 40 and currently there were 22 registered but never more than 19 attended at one time. Therefore, the CEC requested an exemption. In early Spring of 1983, three members of the Administration Commission and the Pastor attended a hearing at the Illinois State Building regarding the exemption. No decision was made at that time. The Board subsequently reported at the May meeting that the CEC lost their appeal. The estimated cost for five smoke detectors, two pull stations, and one panel was \$2,836 for installation and an additional \$160 at the Fire Station, plus an annual maintenance fee of \$150. There was also the requirement of a city license costing \$25 and a monthly fee of \$16 for a telephone line. The Board moved that we negotiate with the Center to split the costs of installation 50/50 and the school should pay the monthly maintenance. If they did not agree, the school would have to go elsewhere. The Center had decided to get new quotes for installation and was reapplying for a license for less than 19 children. Regarding other matters, the church was losing its Music Director, Tony Payne, but found a replacement in Connie Hyder. The church continued to struggle with energy efficiency of the physical plant and parsonage and was looking for ways to insulate both. Plastic panels and sheeting over windows, weather stripping, and replacement of parsonage windows were recommended. Heating continued to be a major issue as well.

In early 1984 the church approved hiring Pat Cole for a period of six months as an assistant to the pastor in the field of women's counseling. This proved to be a positive program and it was recommended that she continue her counseling program under the Pastor's direction. In late 1984 the Board began to discuss doing the necessary research toward owning and operating our own pre-school program. The CEC lease would be expiring on August 1, 1985. In early October Pastor Kim of the Korean Resurrection Church expressed in a letter to Hillside that the lease of the CEC be terminated and cited numerous reasons why. Lowell Kline was directed to meet with Pastor Kim to explain why the CEC is housed in the church building. On another front, the organist and Music Director Connie Hyder, left the church and once again the church was searching for a replacement. At the December Annual Society Meeting it was reported that Sunday school attendance had increased to an average of 40, morning worship was at 74, evening worship 30 and the mid-week prayer service 25. There were four conversions. The total membership stands at 102.

1985 - 1989

By 1985 there continued to be problems between the CEC, the Korean Resurrection Church, and Hillside. Numerous grievances were aired and Lyle Burgess, the liaison between the church and the CEC for many years, had done a truly outstanding job in this capacity. The church did a fact-finding study of the costs of having the CEC use the church facilities and the maximum profit for the church amounted to \$325 per month. At the January Board meeting there was extensive discussion concerning the CEC. It was moved that the Board not renew the lease and it passed unanimously. There were also concerns that the Korean Church was not doing as much as they should in keeping the church clean. The Board then moved to prepare criteria for the Korean Church to follow. In May the church sent a letter to the director of the CEC informing her that the lease was not going to be renewed due to the fact that the church programs were demanding use of the lower level of the building. John Foster and Jim Mukoyama were then appointed the liaison committee to meet with the Korean Church. They were to request two lay persons from the Korean Church to meet with and discuss mutual problems. At the September Board meeting it was reported that the two church committees met and worked out arrangements for the physical layout of their respective Sunday school rooms and that due to inflationary increases in the operational expenses of the church as well as the recent revenue loss from the CEC, the Korean Resurrection Church monthly contribution needed to be increased to \$700 beginning January 1, 1986. The fire alarm system was also disconnected now that the CEC was no longer using the church building. In November the Board passed a motion to begin advertising in the Evanston, Wilmette, and Skokie telephone directories. The pastor reported at the Annual Society Meeting in December that "we have the common problems of an urban church near a big metropolis. The turnover of people (especially in the under 50 years category) can be exasperating, but the Lord always has the right people 'come our way.'"

In 1986 the church ordered new American and Church flags. Another group requested to rent space for services and this was turned down due to the church already sharing with the Resurrection Church. In April two members of the church, Jim and Deb Wilson, reported they were going on a two or three month mission trip in the summer, most likely the Philippines. Jim would remain with the church at least one more year. After he finishes seminary the conference expressed interest in placing Jim and Deb for service in the mission field. The church and parsonage continue to need repairs and a list was presented to the Board. It is noted that the roof still leaks. (*When has it not?*) It was noted in the June minutes that "It appears that 50% of the Hillside families will be moving within the next 2 or 3 years." Also, in mid-June the church received a letter from the City of Evanston Fire Department that we had five violations in the city codes and they were promptly fixed. Most were minor and inexpensive repairs. By December the church van can no longer be operated on interstate highways due to the floor deteriorating and it was not easily controlled if the speed went over 40 mph. At the December Annual Society Meeting it was reported that the church had decreased in number. Over a dozen attendees moved to other cities, two members died, and others would be moving in the coming year. The pastor desired additional measures to help the church reach out: advertise at the universities; increased prayer efforts; continued expanded advertisement in the yellow pages; and refurbish the church signs.

The year 1987 did not start off very well. There was a serious rift between the Korean Resurrection Church and Hillside in regards to the church sign. It was also noted that Korean letters were placed on the pulpit without approval by the church Board. There were some other issues that needed to be addressed as well. Above all, the church was desirous of a spirit of Christian fellowship, an understanding of one another, and that "cooperation will be pleasing to the Lord and conducive to reaching our common goals." The two church Liaison Committees met and addressed the issues of concern, which included the sign, improved communication between the two congregations, starting and ending times of worship services and use of space, timeliness of the monthly donation, a church library, and a joint worship service at least annually. The church purchased a 1984 Dodge van for \$7,000 to replace the old one. Ann Toadvine, the Minister of Music, resigned after two years of service. Ann and her husband were leaving to serve in Zaire.

The Board had a great deal of business to attend to in May. Pastor Cooper stated that Mark and Kerrie Adams from the Elgin Free Methodist Church were interesting in coming to Hillside as Director of the Youth Program at 20 hours per week. Mark also wished to take six hours at Trinity and do part-time counseling. The church gave an offer of free rent of a \$565/month apartment for someone to work with the youth. The Board then invited the Adams to the church to worship and meet the Board. Jim Wilson, who was the Chairman of the Worship and Arts Commission, was preparing to leave the following month. Hugh and Nancy Magill offered their services on a permanent basis to the Music Committee. Of note is that Carl Petersen and John Speredes have been faithful in performing all manner of church building repairs and upkeep for many years.

Mark and Kerrie Adams came in June. Mark's title was Assistant to the Pastor with the emphasis on Youth Director. The Board declined a request to use the facilities for opening a nursery school and passed a motion that no one except members and their families be allowed to use Fellowship Hall (with a \$100 custodial fee). The Planning Commission of Evanston informed the church they were considering paving Clifford Street. The Church was not desirous of having it paved and sent a letter of protest to the Planning Commission. In September the Board passed a motion that a quorum of at least 51% of its eligible voting members be at each meeting of the Official Board, Commissions and Committees. In the event a quorum did not exist, the Chairman or attending members would only vote on matters of an emergency nature or on matters that would not be of such importance as to require 51% quorum. In the November Board minutes it was recorded that "Ed Cullison who was the oldest member of the Hillside Free Methodist Church went to his heavenly reward on October 24, 1987." (*Ed Cullison became a member of the church in 1923.*) A new roof for the church was completed with a 10 year guarantee. At the Annual Society Meeting in December the pastor reported that there were no less than nine baptisms during the year. The church learned they would be assessed for the new road adjacent to the property (*Clifford was being paved.*) Lastly, the Pastor reported the results of a church survey revealed "the one area most felt weakness in is evangelism."

In 1988 the Korean church informed Hillside that their church was at a critical point. They had not seen growth as desired. Therefore, their budget was drastically cut and

they could barely afford the \$600 per month they were paying Hillside. Other items the Board considered in 1988: 1) the church considered joining the Evanston Ecumenical Association. The Board approved further investigation into this organization. The following month it was reported that "the Evanston Ecumenical Action Council is doctrinally okay except that it was started by the World Council of Churches. However, some of the procedural things of the EEC are not satisfactory. Pastor Cooper needs more time for scrutiny." 2) The issue of the large outside cross that was in front of the church was brought up again. Pastor Cooper met with a representative from Preferred Risk to discuss the matter. They agreed to pay the church \$5,500. 3) Organ repairs are once again a matter of concern. Repair and structural maintenance would cost approximately \$4,250. 4) The Board also began to investigate a restructuring plan. 5) Maintenance issues include a total repainting of the church and parking lot repair. To rebuild the cross, organ and shed, paint the exterior and refurbish the parking lot the church needed approximately \$20,000. The church considered another loan from the conference to do the work. In the end, the cross was put on hold for lack of funds. 6) Greg Herke became an intern at the church and was approved for a local preacher's license. 7) New pew Bibles in the New International Version were purchased with the Cullison Memorial Fund. At the December Annual Society Meeting the pastor noted that Children's Church, VBS, Youth Nights, WMFI, and other programs had been a plus and infused new life into the church. The challenge continued to be outreach. Morning worship was at an average of 75, evening worship 30, midweek prayer 27 and Sunday school attendance averaged 41. *(Phyllis Holdeman continued as the Board Secretary and it is duly noted (and appreciated) that since she has become secretary, the records of the minutes have not only been typed but organized in files in order, which has made the job of writing this historical record so much easier.)*

1989 – The Board gave the old King James pew Bibles to the Romanian Fundamentalist Church in Chicago. The restrooms were remodeled. Youth group was growing in number. On the down side, the parsonage needed more repairs. The parking lot needed to be sealed and striped. The church boiler needed repair. Sanctuary tiles were coming up. The church van needed a paint job and other work. Mark Adams left as Youth Director and Ralph Kurtenbach took his place. It was noted in the September records that there were three members of the church that should be under disciplinary action according to the Free Methodist Discipline and this was referred to the Pastor's Cabinet. The church area code changed in November. There was still a big problem with acoustics and noise in Fellowship Hall. A copy machine was donated to the church. The rest rooms in Lovelace Park were closed and people were coming over to use the church facilities. The council representative for the area has been contacted to discuss this problem. A double garage was built, partially funded by a contribution. The Pastor noted in the Annual December Society meeting that the Sunday evening worship service was replaced by other programs and the Wednesday evening service was replaced by the Christian Life Club. Both of those changes resulted in greater attendance. Morning worship continued in the high 70's and Sunday school averaged 44. Small groups were becoming more prominent and there was need for more.

The 90's

A new decade!!! In early 1990, the Board designated odd months for Board meetings and even months for Commission meetings with a brief Board meeting. Worship and Fellowship Commission stated a need for contemporary Christian music and the Board approved the funds for obtaining broad copyright release. The Board approved a limit on expenditures by individuals. Items or projects in excess of \$300 required Commission recommendation and Board approval. Preferred Risk cancelled the church Workman's Comp policy and it was to be renewed with Brotherhood Mutual. Ralph and Kathy Kurtenbach would be leaving as Youth Directors. The Evangelism and Missions Commission discussed reaching out and aiding poor families, with one particular family in focus. It was suggested that more help be given in management training both in handling money and in food management. It was also recommended that a line item for local benevolence be created in the budget. In June the church adopted a "Local Church Benevolence" policy with monetary parameters. At the Annual Society Meeting the Pastor reported that no new members were received and approximately 15 attendees moved to new locations. The midweek program saw increased growth to an average of 48. The church created a new Evangelism Commission and Committee to help with growth, increased small group formation, and outreach.

1991 – The church purchased a new copier machine. The library (*shelves built by John Speredes*) was renamed the Nelson-Hill Library in honor of Ruth L. Nelson and Hazel C. Hill. Unfortunately, one of the sanctuary windows had been broken in an act of vandalism. The church Board investigated the possibility of incorporating the church and establishing bylaws (*for its protection.*) At the February Board meeting it was reported that the window that had been previously vandalized was once again broken and three microphones, a mixer, and a microphone stand were stolen. A questionnaire concerning ministry and outreach was being prepared to present to the church family. Plans for a new church flier, a motivational weekend and a training program for witnessing were under way. An IBM computer was donated to the church. In March a new water meter had been installed; however, the water meter was never installed correctly so that it would not freeze. While the city admitted the error in installation, it would not correct the problem. The kitchen received some new cupboards, sink and other amenities. The Juniors served a spaghetti dinner to help raise funds for them to attend camp. The basketball hoop on the church grounds was vandalized. The Evangelism Committee designed a new brochure for the church. Nancy Wagoner was hired as the janitor. A Great Commission Planning Committee was formed. Building issues addressed included new doors for the front and parking lot side of the church and window replacement north of the parking lot doors. These projects were going to cost \$4,500 - \$5,000; therefore, the Board elected to use the cross insurance money and memorial money, and John Foster agreed to do the labor. The Administration Commission had meetings concerning general security of the church. Two security audits had been performed, and included the recommendations of trimming shrubs, more light in the parking lot, and interior electronic security. The police made the recommendation of putting up signs in the parking lot regarding unauthorized parking. Unfortunately, more vandalism was reported. A Caravan went through the parking lot and over the church lawn, and during the night it was felt this same party returned and

smashed glass over the parking lot. Upon further consultation with police, it was recommended the church use deadbolt locks and put in better lighting.

1992 – There was another attempt at vandalism in January at which time the license plates were reported to the police who later informed the church the teen driver was ordered to stay away from the church. By April it was noted that vandalism still continued in the area. The Christian Education Commission reported two new classes were started for Primary and Junior children. The Board agreed to try to hire someone for the nursery during Sunday morning worship services. Jim and Deb Wilson were scheduled to be the guest missionaries at the Missions Festival in November. The Great Commission Planning Committee met regularly and considered four issues that were put forward in a questionnaire to the congregation: 1) what should Hillside value in its ministry, 2) what are the few essential principles that should govern our ministry, 3) what aspects of Hillside's present ministry brings you joy, and 4) in what ways would you change our present ministry. The Commission planned to meet once the surveys were completed. In June the records note that once again the basketball hoop was vandalized. The Board was moving forward with a pictorial church directory. Dwight Nash, a student at Trinity, was doing an internship at Hillside and was appointed the Youth Pastor. The church received a \$5,000 bequest that was promptly used to repair the roof and windows that were damaged when the south overhang ceiling collapsed. After six years of service, Hugh and Nancy Magill turned in their resignation from the music ministry. The church began looking for an organist. In the November Board minutes it was reported the Pastor had received a proposal from Jhan Moskovitz of Jews for Jesus that he would like to purchase the church building. The church had no intention of selling the property at that time. However, they allowed the Jews for Jesus property consultant to evaluate the building for their own purposes. At the Annual Society Meeting the Pastor reported a very minor, yet positive change in the attendance of the church. He expressed frustration that while Hillside ministers to hundreds, "many who request Pastoral care have little desire to support the church in attendance or with finances." He asked for prayer to discern more effectively how to minister to the "outer parameters." Recognizing the potential, Team Evangelism had been introduced and they began a program that used a less-threatening method of outreach to the unchurched.

1993 – In February the Board moved to change the fiscal year ending date to April 30 and the Annual Society Meeting date was changed to the second Tuesday of May. All the present Officers and Commissions requested to stay in office until May 31. Every three years a Pastoral vote was taken and this was the year for the vote. It was scheduled in March. The floors in the parsonage were sanded and varnished. Evangelism reported that the "Living Proof" series was being taught on Wednesday evenings and during the Sunday school hour. The focus was how you as a Christian relate to non-Christians. Dwight Nash was finishing his internship and the church needed to begin looking for another part-time youth pastor. A speaker was installed in the nursery. A new wireless microphone was purchased for the church by the Foster's and the Andreae's replaced the microphones that went missing. J.D. Morris, who had been working with Dwight Nash, assumed the position as Youth Director. At the July Board meeting Pastor Cooper reported that the Superintendent would like the Cooper's to consider the possibility of assuming the pastorate at Woodstock. The Board also

looked into putting up playground equipment but decided to put this item on hold due to more pressing needs. Once again the parking lot had deteriorated and needed to be coated at a cost of over \$2,000. The parsonage required approximately \$5,000 in repairs. Pastor Cooper did accept the pastorate at Woodstock left sometime in late July or August. At the September Board Meeting it was noted that Lyle Burgess was the Chairman Pro Tem and an interim ministry team had been formed. By November the Board minutes report that Mark and Kerrie Adams would be moving into the parsonage in mid-November. The installation service for Mark as pastor of Hillside was scheduled for November 21. Long time members and faithful servants Pat and Bertha Malone moved away.

1994 – At the January 11 Board meeting it was learned the church would be receiving a bequest from an estate. Then, water, water everywhere!!! In late January, the church experienced a major disaster with frozen heating pipes which resulted in considerable damage to the church and organ. An emergency Board meeting was held in the parsonage on January 30 to discuss the situation. Estimated repairs were approximately \$25,000. In March the first annual St. Patrick's catered dinner took place. At the Annual Society Meeting in May it was again noted that Evangelism continued to be a weak spot in the church. By June a Refugee Ministry and small groups had begun and in September it was reported that the Refugee Ministry was assisting three Bosnian families. Resurrection Korean Church disbanded as of October 2. The Fall Festival of Missions continued to be a major event in the church. We still struggled with growth. Morning worship averaged 50, Sunday evening averaged 6, and the midweek program averaged 35. Some Board members attended a seminar, *Growing a Healthy Church*, and all Board members were asked to read the book. In the coming year, the Board would be discussing the principles of this program and applying them to Hillside. In November the Board created and adopted a Facility Use Policy, which were guidelines that applied to decisions related to use of space by outside groups. A special November 29 Board Meeting was called to consider allowing a new Korean church use of the building for worship. The Resurrection Church Pastor highly recommended the Pastor and church. The name of the church: New Hope. After talking to Reverend Isaac Kim of Resurrection Church and Reverend David Kim of New Hope, the Board voted to allow this new church to use our facilities. Lastly, the church was also notified that Thayer Road was going to be upgraded and Hillside's assessment was to be a little over \$10,000. The church also received another bequest in the amount of \$5,000.

1995 – January began on a high note with 35 first time visitors. The focus for this year was outreach and prayer. The Board agreed to pay the city assessment for Thayer Street in its entirety to avoid paying 7% yearly interest over a 10 year period. Pastor Mark had been selected by the Conference to train Chicago area pastors in the development of their churches (and ours) via the *Growing a Healthy Church* material for pastors referred to as "The 10 Life Systems." Hillside discussed various aspects of this retooling ministry over the year. New Hope Church donated funds to allow a new sound system to be purchased. At the Annual Society in May it was reported that since last year's Society Meeting there were six new members received into the church and three children were baptized/dedicated. Pastor Mark decided to run for the Evanston school board but came in fourth in a field of six for three seats. The church continued to try and keep up with building and parsonage repairs. With much sadness, the Board said

goodbye to Hugh and Nancy Magill, who served faithfully and generously for nine years as Music Ministers and at the Board level. Therefore, the Board actively looked for a music minister. Hillside decided to join the Evanston Ecumenical Action Group. The church switched from having a food pantry to using food vouchers to help those in need. An appeal to the congregation was made with the designation "Local Benevolence Fund." The Pastor and Board continued to work on effective outreach programs.

1996 – In January the Board offered the position of Music Minister to Paula Moon and she accepted. A computer was donated to the church, which helped the Pastor immensely. A Spiritual Development Team was formed to strategize ways to improve our ministries of prayer and spiritual disciplines. Children's Fun Night, a monthly outreach activity for children began and was attracting new neighborhood children. Hillside Church was highlighted in an article in Light and Life Magazine for its Refugee Ministry work. The youth ministry developed a new approach with a focus on community service, such as community hikes for food and shelter. Maiya Lueptow began to develop and coordinate a Children's Church program to meet the needs of younger children during the worship service. World Relief began using Hillside Church as a model for other churches in terms of ministry to refugees. The Board had to deal with two major repair issues, the painting of the church prow and resealing of the parking lot. The prow was considered a priority and was taken care of quickly. The problem with the parking lot was deterioration to the extent that while seal coating every two to three years helped (at a cost of over \$2,000), resurfacing was going to be necessary very soon at a cost of \$15,000. In June Pastor Mark announced that Hillside was on the World Wide Web. Outreach, church growth, and youth development continued to be the primary focus. On a side note, the movie Home Alone 3 was being filmed in Evanston and the church was approached in regards to using the parking lot while filming was taking place. The Board approved.

1997 – Hillside was recognized locally for its work in assisting racial reconciliation and nationally through Light and Life Press for the same. The church continued to work to meet the needs of the poor and oppressed through World Relief and Olive Branch Mission. The Refugee Ministry assisted in relocating our 16th refugee family. A new mission statement was being considered and a special task force was created to examine the Mission and Vision for Hillside Church into the year 2010. Other ministry in the church included a weekly prayer meeting, monthly children's activities, a bi-monthly teen group, a strong chapter of Women's Ministries International, a monthly ministry to mothers, multi-age Sunday school, and a monthly publication. Vacation Bible School, Children's Day Picnic, St. Patrick's Dinner, a Bonfire, and the Fall Festival of Missions continued to be annual events. The church entered a float in the Evanston 4th of July parade. Electronic outreach and ministry through the use of the Internet was not yet to where we desired it to be. The church Music Minister, Paula Moon, left to take a position at another church and Young Ju Lee was hired as the pianist/organist. At the Annual Society Meeting in May it was encouraging to note that Sunday morning attendance increased to an average of 65 and mid-week programs averaged 49. Eight adults became full members and another eight were received as youth members. There were five baptisms. As happens every year, there were a few members that left for other churches. This year a few babies were born and a wedding was performed.

Eight adults and five children made significant decisions for Jesus Christ, either in rededication or conversion. Several other people found a church home at Hillside without yet becoming members. Faith Decker stepped forward, began a style of contemporary worship and coordinated a worship band in June. Other members of the congregation participated as time and ability permitted. The Board continued to make interior and exterior repairs to the physical plant and parsonage. As of September there were two separate youth groups, one each for grades 6-8 and 9-12, and their meetings were held Friday evenings on alternate weeks.

1998 - After more than 54 years of faithful and dedicated service as Treasurer, Lowell Kline stepped down effective January 1, 1998. Carole Carpenter became treasurer. The church had 53 adult members and 12 youth members. Hillside Church received the Evanston Ecumenical Action Council's (EEAC) Flag of Racial Unity, a symbol of our efforts in racial reconciliation, on Martin Luther King Day in January. Lyle and Jean Burgess were chosen to represent Hillside Church as our Vision Keepers at EEAC's First Annual Vision Keeper's dinner in February. The church sponsored a refugee family from Bosnia. In March, the Board met with three members of the Congregation of Hope, a Messianic Jewish Synagogue of 20 years, who wanted to use the church facilities. They needed to vacate the Evanston Bible Fellowship facilities, where they had been meeting for six months. Previously they had been meeting in the St. James Episcopal Church on Albion in Chicago before their move to the EBF facilities. At a special Society meeting in late March, the Congregation of Hope, known also as Adat HaTikvah, was approved to use the church facilities in April. In regard to maintenance, the severe deterioration of the upstairs floor tiles needed to be addressed and the Board approved purchasing new floor tiles. (*The upstairs floor was completed in July.*)

At the Annual Society Meeting in May Pastor Mark reported that outreach still remained the most difficult task to accomplish. While we received new members into the church, we also lost members to illness, moving, distance, and sadly, death. Therefore, we still were not growing. A Strategic Planning Team was formed to study 1) the dynamics of church health in relation to Scripture, 2) research about church growth and health, our present culture and our own local church, and 3) from this articulate the values that define us, the mission that guides us, and the vision that compels us. The Society approved the new mission statement that came from this Team's work: "In love for God and neighbor, calling the North Shore to holy living through faith in Jesus Christ." The Society also approved a Conference recommendation and adopted the Wilson's in the Philippines and the Coleman's in Hungary as beneficiaries of Hillside's World Mission Offerings. Our church declared that Jeevan Jyot Premashram in Gujarat, India was to be our sister congregation. Reverend Edmond Christian, a member of Hillside, returned to his native land to create a ministry to the elderly Christians where none existed. The Refugee Ministry reported having aided 23 refugees over the past three years.

In June Kerrie and Lars Adams teamed up with the Elgin Free Methodist Church for a short-term mission trip to lead a Vacation Bible School for Navajo children in New Mexico. Because of the heat the Board moved the worship service time in August to 9:30 AM and agreed to change the weekly Wednesday evening prayer meeting to a time during the day.

1999 – In February a plan was presented to remodel the church nursery. It was due for a major overhaul. Organ problems continued. It was estimated that it would cost \$80,000 to overhaul the current organ; however, if the church went with an electronic organ the cost would be somewhere between \$30,000 and \$50,000. New doors for the church building were needed. A new refugee family from Bosnia was settled into an apartment and given supplies. The Evangelism Committee began handing out loaves of bread (*from Great Harvest Bread Company*) with a scripture tag attached, to all newcomers and visitors. Sally Speredes was chosen as the Vision Keeper for Hillside. A "Y2K" planning team was organized. Unfortunately, a fire set in the outside garbage area on February 14 destroyed the containers and bushes as well as several panes of glass where the kitchen is located. There was no structural damage to the church. In March it was reported that new doors were ordered for the parking lot entrance at a cost of \$4,000. Four teens participated in the World Vision 30-Hour Famine and raised \$300 for this relief fund. The Board agreed to have summer worship hours during June, July and August from 9:30-11:00 AM.

The need for a paid youth pastor was proposed, voted on at the Society Meeting in May and approved. Pastor Mark began a search. A men's ministry, Men on the Hill, started up this year as well as an additional Sunday school class for toddlers and another adult class for new believers. By June the nursery was remodeled and dedicated. A Girl Scout Brownie Troop began using the church facilities for the school year 1999-2000. It was noted in July that Will Decker of Adat HaTikvah built a structure around the garbage can area. In September the Board accepted the resignation of Young Ju Lee, the Minister of Music and our organist. In the meantime, the Organ Committee began pricing electronic organs, and Budget and Finance began to work on a fund raising campaign to raise approximately \$50,000. A special contribution of \$1,600 was used for new hymnals.

Jeremy Peterson was hired as a Youth Pastor in October. Women's Ministries International met regularly and continued to support missions, including Rip N Roll, Sweaters for India, Blankets for Sudan, and collections of personal items for Open Door Ministries. A Y2K sign was ordered and put up in front of the church. While attendance improved, giving declined. The pews needed to be addressed. They were in terrible shape with numerous tears and left stains on clothing during the hot months. An estimate for pew upholstery was given to the Board in October. The weekly prayer meeting moved from Wednesday evenings to Tuesdays at noon. In November the Board agreed to purchase a domain name for Hillside Church for the Internet and Hillside Church was featured on Clergy on Call, Evanston's live call-in cable programming. At the end of the year the lights in the sanctuary were replaced and there were plans for fluorescent lighting throughout.

2000 - Present

2000 - The Organ Committee recommended purchasing a Renaissance 250 Allen Organ and a sound system at a cost of \$45,400. The present organ had a trade-in value of \$3,000. A \$10,000 anonymous contribution was given to the church, to be used at the Board's discretion and the Board chose to allocate the entire amount to the organ fund. *(By April the church received all the money needed to purchase the new organ and sound system.)*

The new hymnals were dedicated on February 13. The youth group given the name "Carriers of the Light." The Evangelism team made permanent name tags for the congregation and wooden cases to hold them. Phyllis Holdeman was named Hillside's Vision Keeper for EEAC. Rev. Michael Summers, formerly of the Church of God Christian Life Center, agreed to participate as our small group coordinator. The Evangelism Team was working on beginning a program to make brief visits to new homeowners, which would also involve a brochure and gift (such as a refrigerator magnet) to be given at the time of visitation. Four groups of two people would meet for a short time of fellowship and prayer before leaving to visit assigned homes. The roof was leaking, again, and it was determined that a new roof was needed. Through the Refugee Ministry the church sponsored four refugees from the Sudan and one from Eritrea. Average worship attendance was 88. The church van was donated to the Aurora Church.

At a special Society Meeting in June the members approved creating a single-level altar in the sanctuary, which meant removing all dividers, choir pew risers and the organ chamber area. The present pulpit would be retained. Shortly after that work was begun and completed quickly. The next step would be to get carpeting for the new altar when funds were available. Yeeson Kwon was hired as Minister of Music. In July another Society Meeting was called for the purpose of taking out a loan for \$25,000 to offset the cost of a new roof on the church and on the parsonage, and the Society approved. The new organ was dedicated on July 16. The riding lawnmower was destroyed in a gas explosion and, Praise God, the operator suffered only minor burns. On a high note, Hillside was chosen Church of the Year by World Relief for its Refugee ministry work. The Budget and Finance committee switched to QuickBooks software to keep better track of church finances. The church participated in Operation Christmas Child and compiled 103 gift boxes for distribution. The Hillside Soup Kitchen Ministry began in November, serving a noon meal at the Baptist Church in Downtown Evanston. Jerry and Nancy St. Clair were chosen to represent Hillside at the annual EEAC Vision Keeper dinner to be held in February 2001.

On a sad note, in July it was noted that the health of long-time members John and Amy Foster deteriorated to where they no longer remembered Pastor Mark. Two other long time members died; Daisy Cullison at the age of 99 in July and Bertha Malone in August. Reverend Mike Summers, our small group coordinator, died in October.

2001 – In January, Maiya Lueptow was interviewed by the Board regarding her desire to become a Local Ministerial Candidate. Subsequently, the Board moved unanimously to grant this. A few months later the Board interviewed Jeremy Peterson for same and the Board granted approval for Jeremy as well. After many, many years of faithful service as the Board secretary, Phyllis Holdeman, stepped down and Sally Speredes took her place. Average attendance in Sunday school was up to 41. Alpha, a program designed to be a practical introduction to the Christian faith, began in January with approximately 40 Hillside's in attendance and ran 10 weeks. A second session, designed to bring in new people through Hillside's who went through the first session, was to begin in April. Mum's and Tot's playgroup ministry began in March through the efforts of Samantha Meadows. A Transportation Ministry was started so that refugees would be able to attend church. The Refugee Ministry continued to expand through word of mouth from refugees, rather than from World Relief. A Boy Scout Troop donated a van to the church to assist in transporting refugees to church. Children's Church had significant struggles due to too many children and many that did not speak English. The program was revamped later in the year. New carpeting was installed on the altar.

Irving Park Methodist Church closed and the conference appointed the minister, Sharon Baker-Johnson, to Hillside. Women's Ministries International (WMI) continued to support various missions: two children through the FMC Childcare Program, Sweaters for India, American Indian Bible Mission, Rip N Roll (bandages for Kibogora Hospital/Project Barnabas), collecting eyeglasses for the blind, collecting textbooks for a university in Africa, and more. Covenant Couples, a group for married couples, began a monthly fellowship to promote strong, healthy Christian marriages within and outside the church. Women in the Valley, another women's group with a different focus than the WMI, also started up.

In June Hillside began to look into the possibility of developing a portion of the church property as a way of expanding ministry opportunities. A Development Advisory Board was then created to begin further exploration of property development with the goals of endowing maintenance of the property and building, building a Christian Life Center, and repairing the infrastructure of the church. It was determined that residential units would be the best option to achieve the stated goals. The Building and Grounds Committee continued to struggle in keeping up with building and parsonage maintenance. Two new signs were installed in front of the church.

Fellowship organized some new events: a Christmas Ornament Workshop in addition to the Christmas Dinner, a Chili Party and Game night to take place in January, and a simple Soup and Bread meal to precede the Ash Wednesday service. New cloth pew covers were installed during the summer. A new communion table was purchased with money from the Daisy Cullison Memorial Fund. A church (non-smoking) bowling league was started as was a young adult group. The youth group changed formats, alternating Junior High and Senior High meetings on Fridays in an effort to attract more interest; however, this was not successful and the two groups were once again combined. Meetings were moved from Friday to Sunday afternoons. Mike and Faith Albano were chosen to represent Hillside at EEAC's Vision Keeper's Dinner in February 2002. A "12 Pillars of Evangelism" plan was instituted; however, intentional outreach continued to

be a struggle in the church. Attendance in 2001 was encouraging though, with an average of 103 in Sunday worship, 61 in midweek programs, and 43 in Sunday school. Unfortunately, in December the Pastor and Board had to take action to formally discipline a member.

2002 – The Development Advisory Board continued to meet and move forward with plans for property development. The proposed land development project was discussed with the proper conference and denomination authorities to make sure we were not in conflict with the Book of Discipline. Letters from the Bishops indicated we were not. Many discussion meetings were held at the church so that everyone would have opportunity not only to ask questions concerning the proposed project but to “speak their mind.” After these meetings took place, the Board then recommended a vote at the Annual Society Meeting in May, asking that the church pursue the building of a Christian Leadership Center, creating a maintenance fund endowment and provide for funding local and global ministries through the development of rental units on a portion of the church property. A 2/3 majority vote of 26 was needed to move forward; however, only 21 voted yes. This was discouraging to many in the congregation. However, Pastor Mark reminded the Society to live in harmony and love, no matter how disappointed or how satisfied by the decision, and to continue to seek the will of God in this matter. Due to the outcome at the Society Meeting, in July the Board voted to disband the Development Advisory Board for the time being.

The Board also underwent restructuring. The nominating committee recommended that Board positions be two year terms with staggered rotation. Therefore, it was voted and approved that half of the Board was to be elected in even years and the other half in odd years.

Other highlights during the year included ongoing improvements to the interior of the building. A new multi-media screen was installed in the sanctuary. The nursery wall adjacent to the entrance was improved. Bulletin boards were installed to give the Hillside, Adat HaTikvah and New Hope congregations a place to post fliers and announcements. Tim Albano, a member of the church and a Boy Scout, requested the opportunity to renovate the lower level (paint, renew the woodwork, and lay new flooring) in order to fulfill Eagle Scout requirements. The Board approved and the work was carried out in the summer. New heating and air conditioning was installed in the parsonage.

Frank Mensah, a pastor from the Free Methodist Church in Ghana, Africa and a North Park Seminary student, began attending Hillside and requested approval to begin an African ministry at the church and the Board gave its permission. Frank and Grace Mensah became members of the church in May, and Frank became our International Outreach Pastor. After September 11, 2001 our borders were closed to new refugees and many of the families attending our church lost their jobs in the economic downturn. The Refugee Ministry continued to support these families with basic necessities. There were four regular drivers who volunteered their time on Sunday to transport families to church in the church bus, each taking a month at a time. A new “used” bus was purchased in November to assist in bringing refugees to worship.

Due to the excessive heat in the summer months and no air conditioning, the Board voted to continue to have summer hours during June, July and August, with Sunday school resuming in September. Fellowship and the Youth Group combined efforts to have an "All You Can Eat Spaghetti Dinner" fund raiser to help fund youth group activities. The Youth Ministry began to participate in the Free Methodist "Bible Quizzing" competition.

The Music Minister, Yeeseon Kwon, accepted a position at Greenville College and left in July. Courtney Hay was then hired as Music Minister. Beth Douglass, a Moody student, was hired to play the organ and piano. It was also reported that our piano was in very poor condition and needed to be replaced because repair would not be cost effective.

A Revisioning Committee was formed later in the year to begin the process of identifying long term goals and strategies for the church. By the end of the year Hillside was in a weakened financial state and living "month to month." Many Hillside's lost jobs in the past year, which contributed to the financial deterioration. In December the Board called a special meeting to discuss a revised land development proposal and set a course of action. At the end of the year Pastor Mark and the Board found it necessary to discipline a member of the Church, and this member was also suspended from the Board until the matter was resolved.

In November Lyle and Jean Burgess, long time members and faithful servants for over 30 years, moved to the Free Methodist retirement community in Woodstock, and began to worship at the Woodstock Free Methodist Church under the leadership of our former Pastor, Dave Cooper.

2003 – The Trustees and the Board continued to wrestle with land development and a Land Development Committee (LDC) was formed to continue investigation. The Board and the LDC struggled all year to determine a course of action and clarify the purpose for land development. Meanwhile, Building and Grounds faced the challenge of improving the water pressure in the church building, and (expensive) plumbing improvements were made. Outdoor lighting was upgraded so that our signs were illuminated at night.

The Evangelism team continued to make follow up calls and visitations. The team also improved visitor welcoming by recruiting and training "spotters" to intentionally seek out and welcome new visitors. Covenant Couples held a Marriage Celebration Dinner for the first time and planned to make this an annual outreach event. Personal evangelism was taught in the small groups and a church-wide evangelism training seminar was held. An outreach program called GIG's (Groups Investigating God), which is a low-key introduction to faith issues from a Christian perspective, did not generate interest. Frank Mensah and Sharon Baker-Johnson began a Sunday Evening Prayer Meeting at the Irving Park Church in an effort to reach the international community of refugees and other nationalities living within the neighborhood of the Irving Park Church.

Technology/sound issues were becoming a serious problem and a barrier to worship. The Worship Team recommended purchasing some equipment to help with the problem. Due to financial constraints not all of their equipment recommendations were

able to be purchased. Our pianist/organist, Beth Douglass, graduated Moody Bible Institute and left us to pursue missionary work in Northeast Asia. Deb Stackhouse came as an interim pianist. The band continued to evolve and incorporate more instruments during worship time and encouraged young, talented members of the congregation to become part of the band.

Maiya Lueptow and Frank Mensah were approved as Conference Ministerial Candidates at the Annual Conference and appointed to Hillside. Sharon Baker-Johnson continued as an Assistant Pastor. Pastor Mark Adams began pursuing a D.Min at Garrett Seminary.

The Soup Kitchen Ministry began serving lunch every other month as part of EEAC's ministry at the Baptist Church in downtown Evanston. Rich and Maiya Lueptow were designated as Hillside's Vision Keeper's for the year.

Due to the severity of financial issues in the church, some difficult decisions had to be made. Based on a Finance Committee recommendation at the end of the previous year, the paid Youth Pastor position was eliminated and a mutual agreement was reached with Jeremy Peterson to terminate the position. Three members of the church stepped forward to begin working with the youth on a regular basis to continue to build on the foundation that Jeremy began. Faith Albano took over the position as Finance Secretary and created new personal stewardship forms to keep better track of individual contributions to the church.

The Revisioning Team continued to meet. A new mission statement was created through the efforts of this Team and presented to the Society at a special meeting in March. After extensive discussion and feedback, the new Mission Statement, "Setting people free in Christ to worship God, grow in faith, and serve others in love" was approved at the May Society Meeting.

The Education Team reported that a nursery director was needed to coordinate volunteers. Children's Church also struggled and was discontinued. Backyard Bible Club was substituted for Vacation Bible School.

The Fall Festival of Missions became the Spring Festival of Missions this year. An international potluck meal was served, asking people to bring a dish representative of their ethnic background. Food from 12 different countries was served. The church collected almost 100 boxes for Operation Christmas Child.

The Refugee Ministry continued to support many families on an ongoing basis; fully sponsored one family; held a concert fund raiser to raise funds for the ministry; brought in a former refugee and motivational speaker for an evening event; sponsored two young brothers of a church member to come to the USA from Zambia; and Pastor Mark began a Thursday African Bible study. One major concern was that refugees bringing friends to church had put a strain on the resources available. A Ministry Needs bulletin board was placed outside the sanctuary, which was used to promote purchase of miscellaneous household supplies that the church could keep on hand and distribute as needed.

2004 – Beginning in January the Board met every other month rather than on a monthly basis. Board meetings were restructured based on our new mission statement and each ministry of the church was placed under the appropriate heading of the Mission Statement. Therefore, under “Setting People Free in Christ,” the Outreach Team, Local Evangelism, and Women’s Ministries International gave their reports; under “To Worship God,” were the Worship Team, Stewardship Team (Finance and Treasurer), and Grounds Team; under “Growth in Faith,” was Christian Education; under “Serve Others,” were the Refugee Team and the Delegate to EEAC, and finally, under “In Love,” were the Fellowship Team and the Delegate to the Conference.

The World Ministry Center of the Free Methodist Church made some major changes to the governing structure of the church that included eliminating a Board of Trustees and merging the Trustees into the Board of Administration (BOA) and giving the Pastor the authority, as Chairman of the BOA, to sign on behalf of the congregation. The BOA continued to be the legal entity of the church. It was required that the BOA and the Society approve the changes, which they did at the May Society Meeting. On another matter, the church clarified its tax status as a not-for-profit religious corporation and amended the legal records to reflect that “The First Free Methodist Church” was also doing business as the “Hillside Free Methodist Church.” Amended articles of incorporation were filed with the State.

The ministry at Irving Park was given the name Irving Park International Ministry and was also known as IPIM. This ministry became an official church plant sponsored by Hillside. In August an outreach event at IPIM that included a Salsa band attracted 100 people.

The Refugee Ministry continued to be a strain on the resources of the church, both financially and physically. The church did not have the ability to transport everyone that wanted to come and the church also needed more drivers to share the driving responsibilities of the two vehicles already owned. By July, the Board approved purchasing a third bus but by the end of the year a bus had not yet been found. By the end of the year the ministry took a new turn. The needs became so great that two members of the church became volunteer caseworkers for several families. Irving Park International Ministry was growing slowly. Plans were made to begin computer classes to assist refugees in learning basic computer skills, which would help in job placement.

Through the generosity of an anonymous donor, the church received a much needed new copier. The church continued to have budgetary concerns. There was concern that New Hope Church might close, which would impact the church finances. Many Hillside’s continued to be out of work. Numerous items in the budget were cut from the previous year and the budget that passed was a bare-bones budget. Repair and structural needs continued to be a problem.

Church attendance was slowly increasing across the board – worship, midweek, and Sunday school. The church promoted “The Passion” movie and 75 people attended as a group, and many then returned to the church for prayer and discussion. The Tuesday noon prayer group continued to meet and pray every week. A church Care Team was

commissioned in February as a means of being in regular communication with all Hillsider's. Team members were given lists of Hillsider's to call on a monthly basis.

The Youth Group continued to participate in the 30 hour Famine and raised \$2,000 for hunger relief, and for the second year the youth participated in Ascension Convention, a youth retreat designed to promote spiritual renewal in the lives of teens.

SHAPE seminars were held to help everyone in the congregation identify their spiritual gifts. In March Children's Church for Kindergarten through 5th Grade began again that included a once a month Friday Fun Night. A nursery coordinator was hired. The church purchased playground equipment to assist in keeping children occupied and off the parking lot.

Monthly Communion was changed to intinction by Pastor Mark; in part because of the difficulty some people have in kneeling at the rail and also to be more sensitive of time constraints. (*New Hope Church worshipped at 1:00 PM.*) A special Board meeting was held in June to discuss the piano in the sanctuary. After getting expert opinion, it was deemed the 1912 Steinway was in very bad shape. Through a connection with Adat HaTikvah, the church was able to secure a two year old Wurlitzer grand piano in trade plus the cost of shipping the piano to Hillside. In August the church held immersion baptism's at Illinois Beach State Park in Zion, IL at which time 17 members of the church were baptized.

In September the Board began more serious discussion of land development possibilities and whether it was feasible to renovate and add on to the current church building or tear down and build new. A task force was formed to look into real numbers associated with each.

Late in the year the church received an \$80,000 bequest from the estate of Harriet Olson. The funds were placed in a separate account until a further decision could be made for its use. The Board tithed 10%, which went to the Free Methodist World Missions and the Evanston Ecumenical Action Council.

The focus on missions for the year was a visit from Tulley Lee of American Indian Bible Ministry in New Mexico and another special offering taken over a few weeks at the end of the year raised enough money to build four homes for the Batwa people of Rwanda.

Once again, the end of the year brought sad news with the death of John Foster, a pillar of the church. John's grandfather, Edward, was a founding member of the church. Another pillar of the church, Lowell Kline, moved to Florida. Lowell's family was also one of the founding families of the church.

2005 – In January the Board had a special retreat for the express purpose of clarifying vision for a building project, clarifying funding options, and determining necessary steps to move forward. The Board then decided to once again meet monthly to cover discussions needed for both land development and regular church business. Another special Board meeting was held in February to continue the discussion of land development. After extensive discussion the Board focused three areas – worship,

education and fellowship space. The value of the land was estimated to be \$2.4 million. It was also determined that the church would need approximately 20,000 square feet of building. In April the Board created a Renewal Team for the purpose of implementing a church redevelopment plan. Two informational meetings were held in May to bring information to the congregation and answer questions about the proposed plan. In September the Society approved a vote to allow the Board of Administration to move forward in the planning process and take steps necessary to determine the feasibility and means of building a new church. A detailed plan addressing the needs of the church would be brought forward for approval at another Society meeting. Shortly after the Society vote, the Building Team (*Renewal Team*) began contacting lawyers and architects. An environmental survey was also planned.

The computer classes at Irving Park International Ministry had proven to be successful with at least 30 in attendance. Sunday services were discontinued in January but Friday evening Bible study was continued and met a greater need. In July, the Conference appointed two Hispanic church planters to Irving Park church.

A major problem in worship concerned children not sitting with parents, which caused serious disruption in the worship service. This problem was also partially deemed a cultural issue that needed patience and understanding. Another problem concerned lack of continuity in the church nursery. Since the budget had not allowed for a paid nursery worker, the Board approved a special appeal to the congregation for funds to hire a nursery worker beginning in September. The funds were quickly raised and a member of the congregation was hired at \$15/hour to be the permanent nursery worker every Sunday. This year, instead of Vacation Bible School the Education team planned and carried out a "Family Fun Fest" outreach event in August, which consisted of games, a moonwalk, and food. It was somewhat successful and it was planned to have it again the following year.

The Refugee Ministry finally purchased another vehicle and two new drivers were found to assist in transportation. In January it was proposed that the Refugee Ministry be separated into distinct ministries. The Board approved and subsequently so did the Society. The new ministries became: 1) a Transportation Ministry, 2) a Benevolence Ministry, and 3) a Refugee Ministry, which returned to its original intent of resettling a refugee family.

At the beginning of the year, the church continued to be in dire financial straits. The congregation was informed of financial needs. Restrictions were placed expenditures with the Finance Committee or Board to approve anything over \$250 and by mid-year finances improved.

Once again the Missions Festival was held in the Spring instead of Fall due to availability missionaries on home assignment. The Youth group planned and carried out a missions trip to the Appalachian Mountain area of Tennessee for one week in the summer, participated in the 30-Hour Fast for World Vision and raised over \$3,400, and gathered at Irving Park International Ministry for a missions weekend to reach out to that community. Two new Women's Bible studies began, one during the day and another one on Thursday evenings. Both studies were taking place in a church member's home.

A once a month Sunday evening all church Prayer Meeting began as well, although attendance was quite low. Peter Goff was chosen as Hillside's Vision Keeper for this year and was honored at the EEAC dinner in February. The annual church bonfire was moved to the beginning of October to allow for better weather and attendance and proved to be successful.

The history of the church has clearly shown a continual struggle with growth. After much discussion the Board brought in a consultant from Natural Church Development (NCD), a program that over 35,000 churches all over the world have participated in. The NCD program helps churches identify the eight most important principles that lead to growth: empowering leadership, gift-oriented ministry, passionate spirituality, functional structures, inspiring worship, holistic small groups, need-oriented evangelism, and loving relationships. Through this structured program, the church takes a survey, identifies the weakest point and concentrates efforts in that area to build it up. This process is repeated until all eight areas score a quality index of 65. It has been proven that this program results in growth of churches. It is also mandatory that a church have both a Prayer Team of five members to give significant spiritual prayer support to this program and a Church Health Team. The church approved moving forward with the NCD program and in October a survey was taken.

2006

The following is a record of decisions made and information reported during Board meetings.

January

- Pastor Mark was relieved (*in more ways than one*) of calendar duties when someone else offered to take on the responsibility.
- The church brochures were being revised and updated with new pictures.
- The NCD survey results revealed Hillside's lowest mark was in "inspiring worship."
- The Building Team met with representatives of National Louis University (in December) regarding the expansion of their PACE program and the possibility of building on our land.
- Board meetings will continue monthly.
- 125th Anniversary celebration plans need to move forward. Volunteers requested.
- The church finances are healthy at present and on target for the year.
- The Board began to advertise in the Yellow Pages phone book as well as the Old Orchard Theaters flier on a one year trial basis.
- The church hired a temporary handyman to make repairs in and around the church building.
- The Board considered turning the meeting room in the back of the Sanctuary into a "crying room."
- New sound equipment has been integrated into our present system with controls eventually being moved to the back of the church.
- The Youth Group had a spaghetti dinner to raise funds for their activities.
- The Refugee Ministry is planning to sponsor another family in March.
- Chris Flood was nominated as the EEAC 2006 Vision Keeper.

February

- Sound equipment is still in the process of being moved to the back of the church.
- From now on, all designated monies received will be placed in a money market account and kept completely separate from the general checking account. A recent \$15,000 donation will be used to supplement the general budget; sponsor a new refugee family; build up the transportation fund to maintain the buses; build a crying room and move the sound equipment to the back of the church; and, upgrade and improve the kitchen (new cabinets.) The Budget Committee will develop a policy regarding designated monies that comply with current tax laws for not-for-profit institutions.
- The Soup Kitchen continues every other month.
- The Building Committee retained an attorney to help with a possible land lease deal with National Louis.
- The NCD team is meeting regularly to determine the next steps.
- Inactive members were removed from the membership rolls.

March

- Maiya Lueptow and Frank Mensah will be ordained at the Annual Conference in June.
- The Irving Park International Ministry will be closing soon.
- NCD has completed the Preparation Phase and will begin an Action Phase that includes setting up focus groups to gather data from the congregation to help better understand the minimum factor of Inspiring Worship. It is expected by May that the team will create a strategy to address the findings, present the strategy to the BOA and establish the next steps.
- The Building Committee reported that an Environmental Study was performed of the property. An underground 2,000 gallon heating oil storage tank was identified that was installed in 1959 but with no record of it have been exhumed. Should a construction project move forward further soil testing of the general area will need to be completed to determine if there has been any fuel leakage into the surrounding ground.
- Per approval of the BOA in February, a money market account was opened and designated monies were transferred from the checking account.
- A pamphlet was created to inform the congregation of the various ministries of the church and also explained appropriate ways of donating. The Board also adopted a policy that complies with its tax exempt status and furthers the Church's mission.
- The Annual St. Patrick's Dinner event will also include a concert by a Celtic band.
- The Refugee Ministry sponsored a new family from Liberia. They were picked up at the airport and settled into their new apartment. They will be helped with ongoing needs.

April

- The Pastor of the New Hope Church died very suddenly and Hillside took up a collection for his wife and children. A new pastor was appointed shortly thereafter.

- The Building Committee met with Church Building Consultants to determine if a new building is financially feasible or if we should consider remodeling and adding on. Figures are pending.
- Due to financial constraints, the “crying room” in the back of the sanctuary will be put on hold and moving the sound equipment to the back of the church/balcony will be pursued.
- The Irving Park International Ministry has closed and the building will be sold.
- Hillside’s worship team will be providing the praise and worship music at the Annual Conference in June.

May

- Our treasurer, Carole Carpenter, has decided to “retire” after over nine years of faithful service. Due to the church’s healthy financial state, there was enough money to pay off the roof loan in its entirety. After reviewing the proposed church budget for the new year, and in light of additional funds being freed up with paying off the roof loan, extensive discussion ensued regarding other needs including a paid nursery worker, salary for an assistant pastor, need for an administrative assistant, and parsonage repair. The Pastor and Board agreed the church needed a paid administrative assistant and this position was included into the proposed budget to be presented at the Society Meeting.
- Sound system issues continue to be addressed.
- The Society Meeting will be held immediately after church this year instead of the usual Sunday evening.
- NCD continues to evaluate the responses of the focus groups and will present its findings to the Board in the fall.
- New kitchen cabinets will be installed soon.
- The Youth Group is planning another mission trip to Appalachia.
- At its May meeting, the Evanston Ecumenical Action Council voted to become an interfaith organization and its name will be Interfaith Action of Evanston. At this time, Hillside will remain a member.
- At the May Society Meeting, a ceremony of anointing and laying on of hands for Frank Mensah and Maiya Lueptow was performed. They will be ordained as elders at the Annual Conference in June. The Society learned that Frank has been appointed to the Beloit Free Methodist Church and will assume pastoral duties at the end of June. The new Board was elected by ballot. Various committees presented their updates, including Building and NCD. The new budget for the year was presented and passed, and the nominating committee was elected.

There was no Board meeting in June due to the recent Society meeting, Annual Conference obligations, and vacations.

July

- Faith Albano was hired at the end of June as part-time church administrator. She will be the single point of contact for non-ministerial congregation or community needs and provide key elements of organizational support to the pastoral and ministry teams of the church, including coordinating and scheduling all activities within the church.
- The church finances were reviewed. The new and improved 2006 non-profit edition of QuickBooks was purchased, records were transferred from the old system to a new one, and a detailed numbered accounting system (Unified Chart of Accounts) was begun to keep track of income and expenses. Benevolence requests were discussed in regards to IRS regulations and it was agreed that Faith will meet with the Benevolence team to develop policy and procedures for handling benevolence requests so they comply with the current Hillside benevolence donation policy.
- The Building Committee reported that National Louis University decided to go elsewhere. Adat HaTikvah, the Messianic Congregation currently using our facilities, is also interested in a possible partnership and the Building Committee will pursue discussion.
- NCD reported that the results of the focus groups yielded four areas of action: a welcoming environment, worshipful atmosphere, worship flow, and technical assistance. The NCD team is presently working on a strategic plan and will make a presentation to the Board in September.
- The Annual Children's Day event was cancelled due to Pentecost and Annual Conference falling in early June. The 2nd Annual Fun Fest is scheduled in August and Children's Day activities will be incorporated into this weekend. Saturday will focus on the Fun Fest and annual cookout and Sunday worship will focus on children. This year, the Fun Fest will also include pony rides.
- The new kitchen cabinets were installed. Plumbing issues in the kitchen were addressed at the same time. A new exterior kitchen door entrance will be in place before the winter months as the current door and frame is completely rotted. Other repair/maintenance issues that need to be addressed include: parsonage basement insulation, replacing the siding on the sanctuary, the parking lot, parsonage windows/doors/siding, water pressure, and rotting wood.
- 125th Anniversary Celebration: A weekend event is scheduled for November 4-5. Plans are being finalized, including creating a book of memories.
- The new church brochure has been received from the printers.
- Maiya Lueptow and Frank Mensah were ordained elders in the church at the Annual Conference in early June. Frank preached for the last time in mid-June before leaving for Beloit. It was a very emotional and moving service, with the congregation laying hands on and praying over Frank and his wife Grace.

There was no meeting in August due to numerous Board member vacations.

September

- The church finances are currently sound.
- The Fun Fest was a success and a few new families expressed interest in Sunday school as a result.
- Hillside will be working with a Garrett Seminary student intern for one year beginning this month. Emmanuel Naweji is from the Congo and he will assist in Sunday school, youth work, the African Bible study, and some visitation.
- Funds were raised to pay a nursery worker for the year.
- A Policy and Procedures Manual is being created for the church. The Refugee/Benevolence/Transportation Ministries met and a policy was written for each ministry. They will be discussed at the October Board meeting. Other policies and procedures will be forthcoming including use of audio-visual equipment, youth group policies, weddings, etc.
- NCD updates: The four areas of concern identified and reported on in July were discussed at length. A plan of action was created for each area, which included 1) eliminating disturbances and disruptions in worship by recruiting and training adult ushers; 2) giving the worship band much needed time to set up and assess sound prior to worship by moving the Adult class downstairs and the High School class into the pastor's office, and establishing a plan for quiet, functional space for Sunday School in the lower level. This may mean purchasing new, improved sound barriers between the bays and creating a better walkway between the bays to cut down on disruption, 3) Revisiting the order of the worship service to create a better flow of worship segments and include pre- and post-service planning sessions, and 4) improve the quality of sound by purchasing a drum shield and improve visuals by purchasing a new projector and upgraded media software. The Board approved the NCD plan as presented and will move forward to implement the recommendations.
- A large group of teens and adults went to Appalachia for a one week mission trip in the summer. Our Missions focus this year will be in November with Jim and Deb Wilson, who are on home assignment from the Philippines. Pastor Mark and Kerrie will be traveling to Rwanda in June of 2007 under a VISA arrangement. Kerrie will teach nursing in Kibogora Hospital for 3 ½ weeks and Mark will be teaching pastors.
- An Evangelism project is scheduled for the end of September and involves an oil change service project.
- A member of the Building Committee met with Adat HaTikvah to assess their building needs. At this time, the building is on hold pending implementation of approved NCD plans.
- The Annual Bonfire, a community outreach event, is scheduled for the first Saturday evening of October. New large outdoor signs will be placed on the lawn to advertise the event to the community.

As of the end of October: The oil change Evangelism project did not fare well. Only one person responded and was very grateful. However, on the positive side, the Bonfire was a resounding success with approximately 175-200 people attending, most from the surrounding community. NCD plans have been implemented with new ushers during the month of October and this has helped with noise and distractions during worship. Changes have been made to the worship service to improve flow, which included more time for the worship team to set up and prepare for worship. The worship team has begun the prelude approximately 10-15 minutes prior to worship to allow people to enter into the sanctuary for a time of personal praise and meditation. Greeting time during worship has been dropped to improve flow. A new projection system, drum shield, and media software have been purchased and all components will be installed by mid-November. The adult Bible study on Sunday mornings moved downstairs. There is still distraction and excessive noise in Fellowship Hall during Sunday school time and this will be addressed by January. High school Sunday school has been meeting in the Pastor's office without problem.

As with every year in the life of a church, people leave for various reasons, others find a home here and join the Hillside family, and some long time friends pass away. In October, Hillside lost two long time friends and servants, Wynne Bauer and John Speredes.

With great joy and anticipation, we look forward to what the Lord has planned for us in the years to come. We continue to seek to do His will in all things, bring Glory and Honor to His name, reach out the poor and needy, and most of all, bring the gospel message to a lost and broken world.