

THE UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

The First Universalist Church—The Church of the Messiah had its inception at a meeting of 49 persons in the Dwight Post Hall at Court and Washington streets on February 19, 1890. The meeting was called for the purpose of organizing a Universalist parish and Cortland Wilber was elected chairman, George Stearns, moderator and secretary, Helen S. Potter, Clerk, and Alice E. Lamb, treasurer.

Dwight Post Hall was hired for one year beginning February 1, 1890. Regular preaching services were held monthly, the pulpit being supplied by James Curtis, a student in the St. Lawrence University. Mr. Curtis became the first resident pastor after ordination which took place in Dwight Post Hall in May, 1890.

At a meeting of the trustees held Nov. 13, 1891, it was decided to expend the sum of \$3,200 for the purchase of a lot at the corner of Exchange street and Exchange Place where the present church edifice now stands. The cornerstone of the present edifice was laid and the church dedicated in 1892.

The present pastor, Rev. A. D. Colson, was called January 15, 1909. During the pastorate of Rev. R. F. Butler, from 1903 to 1908, the church was relieved of the mortgage of \$1,500. Through the bequests of Mrs. A. R. Sawyer and Mrs. Katherine DeLong and the generosity of Mrs. Laura Beebe the church has this year purchased the property at the corner of Mill street and Conklin avenue for a parsonage to be occupied by the pastor in September. The church is now out of debt. The Sunday School has doubled its membership in the last two years. The Ladies' Aid Society and the Y.P.C.U. [Young People's Christian Union] are in a prosperous condition. The parish now numbers 110 families; the church organization, 150 members.

The Press, Binghamton NY, Sat. 15 Jun 1912

Transcribed on 8 Mar 2010 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY