

CHURCH ONCE PRESBYTERIAN

But the Career of Immanuel Congregation Has Not Been Happy or Entirely Successful

It is a well known fact that many of the churches of the Eastern District of Brooklyn are suffering through the moving to suburban localities of numbers of their members. All sorts of plans have been suggested to meet this difficulty. All Souls' Universalist Church, South Ninth street, near Bedford avenue, believes that it has solved the problem. A number of the families which held membership there have moved to Flatbush, including J. F. McKinney, T. J. Arnold, B. T. Butterworth, Benjamin W. Marinus, E. E. Patterson and others. Mr. Patterson is the chairman of a movement to have a church in that rapidly growing section.

All Souls' Church is satisfied with a Sunday morning service only and has given its pastor, the Rev. L. Ward Brigham, permission to go to Flatbush and hold evening services during the winter. In looking around for a house of worship Mr. Brigham was attracted to what is now known as the Stone Chapel, East Twenty-third street, near Foster avenue, which was built by the Immanuel Presbyterian Church, largely through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin F. Stephens. Mr. Brigham visited Mrs. Stephens, who is the owner of the property, and she readily consented to give the use of the building for Mr. Brigham's services, notwithstanding she is a well known and active Presbyterian. The edifice of Immanuel Church is now believed to be permanently lost to the Presbyterian denomination, for Mrs. Stephens has not had a very happy experience with the two pastors which the church had when it worshiped in the edifice. The Rev. George R. MacClelland and the Rev. Dr. Alfred Moment were these pastors and they were, as is well known, tried on charges by the Presbytery of Brooklyn. Immanuel Church still exists as an organization, worships in a hall and has an active pastor in the Rev. Dr. Marvin.

Mrs. Stephens has long desired to have preaching services in the Stone Chapel, even going so far, it is understood, as to advertise for a preacher. She therefore acceded readily to Mr. Brigham's request, for any one may attend the services who desire, there being no intention to confine them to Universalists. To carry out the plan of these winter Sunday evening services, a committee was appointed, consisting of Stanley B. Gunnison, George F. Wilder and Mrs. Agnes J. Jones. This committee has sent out in large numbers a circular of invitation, reading as follows:

CHURCH ONCE PRESBYTERIAN

YOURSELF AND FAMILY ARE
CORDIALLY
INVITED TO ATTEND
AN INAUGURAL RELIGIOUS SERVICE
TO BE HELD AT THE
STONE CHAPEL,
EAST TWENTY-THIRD STREET, NEAR
FOSTER AVENUE, FLATBUSH,
On Next SUNDAY EVENING, November 2
AT HALF AFTER SEVEN O'CLOCK.
PREACHING BY
THE REV. L. WARD BRIGHAM
Pastor of All Souls' Church, Brooklyn.
There will be preaching by Dr. Brigham on
every Sunday evening this winter.

The Rev. Dr. Brigham came to All Souls' Church as a successor to the Rev. Dr. J. Coleman Adams and is already a force in the community. He is a fine preacher and a young man full of energy. He has endeared himself to the people of All Souls' Church and the officers and members heartily indorse his proposed work in Flatbush. All the organizations have taken on new life at All Souls' Church and much progress has been made. On Sunday, November 2, ten memorial windows will be unveiled and other improvements are contemplated.

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Transcribed on 16 Mar 2011 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY