

NEW UNIVERSALIST CHURCH AT ELLISBURG, N. Y.

We are showing in this issue a cut of the new Universalist Church at Ellisburg. The old church, it will be remembered, was destroyed by fire in October, 1911. Last spring the work of clearing the ruins was begun by the men of the parish. A new concrete foundation was soon completed and on June 30 the corner-stone address was delivered by the Rev. Harry W. Reed.

The plans for the structure were secured from a firm in New Jersey and, after some delay, the contract was let to F. L. Webster of Adams. Work was soon begun and some of Mr. Webster's best men sent to the job. Their interest and ability has added greatly to the attractiveness of the result. The work was finished about the first of January. The interior furnishing, another specimen of good workmanship, was done under the direction of Mr. James Jimmerson, also of Adams.

The building consists of a main auditorium 32 ft. by 42 ft. with a small wing. Two entrances are located at either side near the front. A third opens directly into the front of the wing. The church sits back from and slightly above the level of the sidewalk, which position, together with the spire, gives it a commanding appearance. The sides and ends are shingled part way down in dark green. Below this the color is light green with an intermediate shade of green for trimmings. This combination was new to Ellisburg and at first the people were disposed to criticise, but second judgment proved more favorable.

Inside, the walls and ceiling are plastered and tinted. Above, the color is pale pink, the sides are a deeper pink, while below the chair rail is a wide border almost red. Two stencil designs of the latter color set off the proportions of the room. The wood work is of hard pine, stained to a medium shade to show the grain. The floor is of birch, well scraped and varnished. The pulpit is at the far end of the auditorium, in a small recess. In front of it is an altar rail, and at the minister's left, a choir platform with wainscoting. The Sunday school room is separated from the auditorium by folding doors with panels of ground glass.

A prominent feature of the church is the art glass windows, designed and manufactured by Mr. H. J. Horwood of Ogdensburg. At the front is a large window, representing the familiar scene of Christ as a shepherd. The other smaller windows contain conventional designs. Most of the windows are memorials. The others have been taken by members of the Sunday school. All this work is of high order, and the whole effect is that of religious good cheer.

The furnishings of the church have not yet been ordered, chiefly on account of financial reasons. It is planned to light the building with gasoline [fixtures] and to order pews and pulpit furniture of appropriate design at an

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early date. A new furnace has already been installed and a good reed organ presented by Mrs. Dora Kiblin of Ellisburg.

The total cost of the building will exceed somewhat the original estimate, probably reaching \$5200. This has all been raised with the exception of about \$1000. The receipts include \$1000 insurance from the old church [and] \$750 from the state convention. The remainder has come in contributions varying from fifty cents to \$200, raised by the local committee largely from local sources. Several persons to whose attention this article may come have signified their intention of contributing to our building fund. It would be a great convenience if all such, together with any others who may wish to, would make their payments, or at least a definite pledge, at once. The plans for dedication can not be made until the present indebtedness is covered.

It is hoped that the necessary amount may be raised within the next two months, in order that the dedication may be arranged for early in the summer, in connection with the Black River Association which is to meet in Ellisburg. No plans have been yet arranged for this, but probably many of the former pastors will be present.

The people of the parish are more interested in church affairs than they have been for some time before, and are already looking forward to the work for another year. The efficient secretary of the Building Committee, Mr. C. E. Brooks, has contributed largely to the success of the undertaking. The other members of the committee have given loyal support.

The present minister is Rev. Elmo A. Robinson, a graduate of the course in Sanitary Science and Public Health at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. His theological work was taken at Tufts college, Union Theological seminary and St. Lawrence university. At present he serves both Henderson and Ellisburg, but it is hoped that each parish may have a minister of its own.

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