

[Third Universalist Society, New York City]

A FAREWELL TO THEIR CHURCH

The Third Universalist Church, at Bleecker and Downing streets, celebrated its final services in its old home yesterday. The church was dedicated in 1836, and was for many years the leading one of the denomination in the City, but owing to the marked change in the neighborhood its membership has greatly decreased, and a change of location became imperative. At the morning service the Rev. S. A. Gardner, of Milford, Mass., delivered a sermon devoted to the history of the church. The afternoon meeting was an informal gathering of the present and former members and their friends, and included a conference meeting and the christening of several children. In the evening the Rev. Dr. E. C. Sweetser, of Philadelphia, a former Pastor, delivered a sermon on man's need of God's word. The church has a membership of about 250, mainly from the old residents of the Ninth Ward, and is in a flourishing financial condition. It has no Pastor at present, but will continue its services at Trenor's Hall until a new location is secured. The old church has been sold to the Catholics, who will found in it the only colored Catholic church in the Northern States.

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Transcribed on 2 Oct 2009 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY