

[Rochester, Monroe Co.]

Universalists Dedicate Church
Exercises Held by First Universalist Society
CLERGYMEN ATTEND CEREMONY

Rev. Marion Shutter Speaks on Universalism—Rev. Paul Moore Strayer
Says Church Must Reach Out and Touch Moral Disease Spots

Dedicatory exercises were held last night by the society of the First Universalist Church in its new edifice at Clinton avenue south and Court street. The church was crowded with members of the congregation, pastors of other city churches, and visiting clergymen. The pastor, Rev. Arthur W. Grose, D.D., presided at the ceremony and he and the members of the congregation received many expressions of good cheer from the ministers.

The exercises opened with an organ voluntary by Mrs. M. Geraldine Martin. Rev. William Channing Gannett, D.D., gave the invocation. The choir, which was composed of Mrs. H. W. Bacon [of Lake Ave. Baptist Church], soprano; Mrs. H. B. Chapin, alto and director; D. T. Evans, tenor; and C. F. Craigie, bass, sang "How Lovely Upon the Mountain," and there was responsive scripture reading by Rev. Lyman B. Weeks, superintendent of the Universalist Church.

Rev. Frank Oliver Hall, D.D., pastor of the Church of Divine Paternity [Fourth Universalist], of New York, was the first speaker. He was to have given the second address, but the programme was changed to enable him to leave for New York.

Rev. Marion D. Shutter, D.D., pastor of a Universalist Church in Minneapolis, Minn., gave a history of the Universalist Church. He said that if the members of the church desired to be worthy successors to the men who had labored zealously in its early history, the work of the church might go on and that they should take the great doctrine these old fathers preached and apply it to the problems of to-day.

Dr. Shutter paid a tribute to the former pastors of the First Universalist Church, Drs. Montgomery, Saxe and Tuttle. Dr. Tuttle, he said, had made Universalism respected in Minneapolis. These men illustrate just what I mean to-night," said Mr. Shutter. Now, how shall we practice Universalism? Dr. Montgomery, Dr. Saxe, Dr. Tuttle practiced it.

"When we say 'God is Love,' we are not to accept it as we would the statement that two and two make four. It must appeal to the intellect. No man can be religious who does not use his intellect. No one believes it unless he is working in accord with it. We must live the doctrine that God is love. The Universalist Church is one of the few churches that believe in a real penalty. We say it will be just not brutal. We affirm that this penalty

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cannot be avoided. There must be repentance reconciliation. Begin at once to cast off your burden. That is the evangel of Universalism."

The prayer of dedication was given by Rev. I. M. Atwood, D.D., secretary of the Universalist General Convention. The pastor delivered the dedicatory sentences, and afterwards pastors of city churches gave greetings.

From the Berith Kodesh Congregation Rev. [sic: should be Rabbi] Max Landsberg, D.D., brought a message of good will. During the time between the demolition of the former edifice of the First Universalist Church and the erection of the new one, the congregation worshipped in Berith Kodesh Temple. Rev. Edwin A. Rumball spoke for the Unitarian Church and Rev. Paul Moore Strayer, pastor of the Third Presbyterian Church, gave greetings from the church universal.

Mr. Strayer said that he did not belong to any denomination, but worked with one and was glad to be able to do so. He said he believed the church was preparing to come into its own. "The church," said Mr. Strayer, "is just beginning to tackle the city problem, and you and I are handicapped by our beautiful temples. The very success of the architect in this building makes it more difficult for you to grapple with the city problem. The church can be filled to the doors, but it will not accomplish its purpose unless it reaches out and teaches the moral disease in the city. The responsibility rests upon you."

There was a reception at the new church yesterday afternoon. Hundreds of persons visited the building and admired the harmony and beauty of the interior. The structure is in the form of a Maltese cross. It has splendidly equipped dining room and kitchen, kindergarten, Sunday-School room and gymnasium.

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Transcribed on 29 Jan 2008 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY