

From the Rochester Magazine and Theological Review
Volume 1 Number 3, p. 48, March 1824
Rev. John S. Thompson, Editor

NEW SOCIETY

ON Wednesday the 18th ult. a number of persons believing the doctrine of Universal Salvation, met according to the public notice, at their usual place of worship in Carrol - street, and formed themselves into a society, according to the laws of the state. Having appointed the Rev. John S. Thompson, Chairman, and Henry S. Hanna, Clerk, to preside in the meeting, they proceeded to elect their officers and pass the following resolutions.

1. This society shall be denominated the First Universalist Society of Rochester, Monroe, N.Y.

2. The following CREED shall form the religious constitution of the society.

WE believe in an Eternal, Unchangeable, and Infinitely Wise, Good, and Powerful Lord God; Who is the SOLE Creator, Proprietor, and Governor of the Universe, the COMMON FATHER and IMPARTIAL BENEFACTOR of ALL MANKIND.

We believe Jehovah, who spoke in time past by the Jewish Prophets, hath spoken to us by his son Jesus, THE CHRIST; whom he hath appointed HEIR OF ALL THINGS; and by whom as the Mediator, he will bring all his intelligent offspring to eternal purity and happiness.

We believe virtue and happiness, vice and misery are inseparably connected, as cause and effect; and, consequently in order to be happy, men must do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with their God.

3. All Applicants, who maintain a good moral character, and are willing to sign the constitution, by giving their names to the Clerk, shall be eligible to membership, at any subsequent meeting of the Society.

Our Prospect in Rochester

From the *Herald of Truth*, Rochester NY, 14 Apr 1837

We are much gratified with being able to state that our friends in this city have purchased the Presbyterian Free Church, an event which we believe will terminate in the permanent establishment of our cause in this city. Who, that knows the conflicts of our brethren here, will but rejoice? We hope that we shall soon be able to show that our friends in Rochester are not in the least behind others in neighboring cities and villages in their zeal to advance the cause of Universalism. The church alluded to, including the session room, is about 90 feet by about 42. It is a neat, commodious and convenient house; and as pleasantly situated as it could be, being nearly opposite to Washington Square. We regret that we cannot get immediate possession of it; it is however but a little while before we can, and we, and so must our friends in the city, await the appointed time.

Our meetings are now held in the Court House, and although there are strong prejudices in the minds of many against [our] assembly there, still our congregations have continued to increase; we believe that considerable interest and inquiry have been awakened. All we ask for now is perseverance. Our name is not Legion, but still if united, zealous and Christian-like, we can effect all that can be reasonably expected.

We had almost forgotten to add, that through the liberality of Br. [Nathaniel] Bingham, of this city, the house will be furnished with a fine organ.

S. [Rev. Dolphus Skinner]

Dedication in this City

From the *Herald of Truth*, Rochester NY, 29 Sep 1837

The house recently purchased by the Universalists of this city was dedicated on the 20th inst. The house was full, though not as crowded as we anticipated. The body pews were filled exclusively by ladies.

The following was the order of services: 1. Anthem, "Holy Lord God of Sabbath." 2. Reading of the Scriptures, by Br. A[lfred] Peck. 3. Anthem, "O Give Thanks." 4. Prayer, by B. Hullinger. 5. Hymn. 6. Sermon, by Br. [Jacob] Chase - text, Rev. xxii. 7. Anthem. 8. Consecrating Prayer, by Rev. T[ownsend] P. Abell. 9. Dismission. 10. Benediction.

The sermon by Br. Chase was one of his best. We do not recollect of having heard a better one from him. We have the promise of it for publication. The other services were equally creditable and interesting, especially the singing, which was excellent.

The installation of Br. G[eorge] Sanderson as pastor of the Society in this city, took place in the afternoon in the following order: 1. Anthem, "How Beauteous are the Feet." 2. Reading of the Scriptures, by Br. A[lfred] C. Barray. 3. Hymn. 4. Prayer, by Br. O[rrin] Roberts. 5. Hymn. 6. Sermon, by Br. A[lfred] Peck. 7. Installation Prayer, by Br. [Jacob] Chase. 8. Charge and delivery of the Scriptures, by Br. Peck. 9. Right Hand of Fellowship, by Br. [Townsend] Abell. 10. Benediction.

These services were highly interesting, and listened to with apparent devout attention. Br. T. P. Abell gave us a sermon in the evening, when the congregation was not much inferior to that of the day. The day was very pleasant, and a deeply interesting one to our once disheartened brethren of this city. May they now take courage, for their redemption is high, which will give them the satisfaction they long since desired.

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BIEL'S

THE TRUSTEES OF THE FIRST UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY

OF THE

CITY OF ROCHESTER,

In consideration of the rent hereinafter reserved, and *seventy five dollars* to them in hand paid, by

Jacob Anderson

the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged; do hereby GRANT, BARGAIN, SELL, DEMISE and LET, to the said *J. Anderson*

number *four* and his assigns, *Slip* in the BRICK MEETING HOUSE, known as the FIRST UNIVERSALIST CHURCH, situate on South Clinton St., in the said City of Rochester.

To have and to hold the same unto *him*, the said *J. Anderson*

for and during the term of NINE HUNDRED AND NINETY-NINE YEARS, from the *first* day of *January* 1848; yielding and paying therefor to the said Trustees of said Universalist Church, their successors or assigns, such yearly rent as the slip-owners of said Church may levy by vote at any regular meeting of said society, ~~not exceeding seventeen per cent on the original assessment of value of said slip,~~ payable in equal quarterly payments in advance, in each year during the said term, so long as the said Meeting House shall rightfully be occupied as a place of religious worship by a congregation of the Universalist denomination of Christians, for the purpose of paying the salary of such minister of the said denomination as may rightfully there officiate, and of defraying the contingent expenses of such congregation.

UPON CONDITION, NEVERTHELESS, That if the said rent, or any part thereof, shall at any time hereafter remain unpaid for the space of six months after the same shall become payable, the said Trustees of the said Church, their successors or assigns, may occupy or lease the said *Slip* from year to year, and after the expiration of three years from the time of any such default, may lease the same for the residue of said term of nine hundred and ninety-nine years, and thereupon this lease shall become void. IT BEING ALWAYS UNDERSTOOD, that the payment of the arrearages of such rent, at any time within three years after such default, shall authorize the said *J. Anderson*

possession of the said *Slip*, if not rented, at any time; and if rented, at the end of the then current year; and from thenceforth to hold the same as if no such default had been made.

And the said *J. Anderson*

hereby covenants and agrees with the said Trustees of said Universalist Church, their successors and assigns, that the rent herein reserved, shall be punctually paid at the times herein limited for the payment thereof, so long as the said *Slip* shall be occupied by *him*.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, The said Trustees of the said Universalist Church have affixed their seal to these presents, and have caused the same to be signed by their chairman and clerk, and the said *J. Anderson*

has signed and sealed the same; this *first* day of *January* in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty *eight*.

Joseph Hall

Chairman of trustees

James S. Benton
Clerk

Jacob Anderson



Commencement of the Records of the First Universalist
Sabbath of the City of Rochester - March 6. 1839

At a meeting of the "First Universalist Society
of the City of Rochester N.Y." Bro J Morse was
Chairman & Bro Geo H Robt - Secretary. The object of
the meeting having been explained, which was to organ-
ize a Sabbath school in the Society - the meeting then
proceeded to elect officers for said school -
which action resulted in the nomination &
election of Bro Geo H Robt, as Superintendent
Willis O Smith Secretary and Bro Hiram Burr
Treasurer.

On motion it was resolved that the
school now constituted be known and called
the "First Universalist Sabbath School of the City
Rochester N.Y."

On motion it was further resolved:
that the annual election of officers take place
hereafter the sabbath preceding the expiration of
several officers annually.

It was further resolved that the
School commence its duties next sabbath
23rd 1839.

Adjourned in order
Rochester N.Y. Sunday June 16th 1839.

Geo H Robt
Secretary

J Morse
Chairman

16 Jun 1839

Sabbath School Opening

From the Evangelical Magazine and Gospel Advocate
Utica NY: Saturday Spetember 13, 1839, P.291
UNIVERSALISM IN ROCHESTER, N.Y.

I have for some time wished to give you some information relative to the condition of our cause in this city, but have not done so in consequence of not being able to make up my mind in regard to our prospects. But now I feel justified in giving you the following statements.

Before, and at the time, I accepted an invitation to settle here, I had many doubts and fears in relation to the progress of our cause in this place. Several trials had been made without much visible success, and our few friends had nearly despaired of keeping up a meeting. But feeling anxious to do all in my power to promote the interests of a cause which I love, and in which I have made no inconsiderable sacrifice, I enlisted, though with much fear and trembling. Our house was filled to overflowing; but there was a general religious excitement, and I feared that, then the excitement subsided, the zeal of many would grow cold. But I have thus far been happily disappointed. Our house continues to be well filled with attentive and respectable hearers; our friends are constantly increasing in number and zeal, and I am happy to say our condition is prosperous.

We have, as you are aware, a very convenient house of worship, for which I regret to say, we are considerably in debt. This is one discouraging circumstance, and is not easily overcome, considering the extreme pressure in money matters. But our brethren are sanguine in the opinion that the debt can be cancelled. Patience and perseverance will work wonders in a good enterprise. I have no sure means of stating the precise number embraced in what we may reckon as our society; but I think I may safely say that there are at least 150 of both sexes, who are ready and willing, when the call is made, to subscribe to our constitution. This, however, is but a part of our usual congregation.

We have a very interesting Sabbath school, embracing over 80 scholars and teachers; in addition to which, we have a good Bible class, comprising particularly the teachers of the Sabbath school. We are likewise about organizing a "Female Benevolent Society," which, I think, will prove pleasing and profitable. Our music is good - our friends, particularly many young gentlemen and ladies, are engaged and willing to go forward; and I think we have good reasons for hoping that our cause in this city has finally attained a firm and respectable establishment. - When I contemplate the struggle which we had last March, with the boasting and abusive Goliath of slander, vulgarity and falsehood, in the person of him whose name I can not conscientiously write, except as the Persians write the name of their "god of evil" - thus: - I am more than ever convinced of the truth of that saying - "The wrath of man shall praise Him, and the remainder of wrath he will restrain."

J. [JACOB] CHASE }

From the Evangelical Magazine and Gospel Advocate
Utica, NY, Friday November 21, 1834
and the Rochester Daily Democrat
Friday November 28 and Saturday November 29, 1834

NOTICE. A meeting of the Universalists will be held at the Court House, in the city of Rochester, on the 29th and 30th inst. The ministering brethren generally are invited to attend. There will also be a lecture on Thursday and Friday evenings previous, at the same place.

L.L.S.

From the Evangelical Magazine and Gospel Advocate
December 20, 1834

By a letter just received from Br. William Andrews, dated Rochester December 10, 1834, we learn that the brethren who assembled there a short time since to hold a conference, enjoyed a good and we think profitable meeting - that he has received and accepted an invitation to preach with the Universalist society there constantly every Sunday through the winter - meetings are to be held in the courthouse - and that some efficient efforts are about to be made to resuscitate our lately languishing cause in Rochester. We are glad to receive such intelligence from this long neglected or rather fanaticism - devoted place. We have no doubt our friends here, if united and persevering, will establish the cause of truth on a permanent basis under the judicious and efficient labors of Br. Andrews. We bid them Godspeed. Br.A. requested all letters etc. intended for him to be directed to Rochester.

From the Universalist Union
Saturday September 9, 1837

Dedication at Rochester. The meeting house recently purchased by the Universalists of Rochester, will be dedicated on Wednesday 20th inst. Services commence at half past 10 A.M. Services also in the afternoon and evening. Ministering brethren are invited to attend.

From the Evangelical Magazine and Gospel Advocate
Friday June 7, 1839, P.183
THE NEW-YORK CONVENTION

I am returning from our State Convention held at Rochester on the 29th and 30th ult. The entire week was showery - generally cold showers, with occasional gleams of sunshine and promises of pleasant weather that were not fulfilled. Our congregations were larger, by far, than I had expected - a city being, generally, the last place in which to get up a large meeting on a week day. - On the afternoon and evening of Wednesday, and the afternoon of Thursday, in particular, the house was crowded. The services were well received, and were of an interesting and profitable character. The deliberations of the Council were conducted with uniformly kind and affectionate feelings, and nearly every vote (I do not remember an exception) was unanimous! "Let brotherly love continue." An ordination and a marriage took place during the public services, and served to vary the exercises, and add to the deep interest ordinarily excited by the occasion. Br. Skinner was also with us, and able to preach a sermon, on the first day of our session. So that, on the whole, it has been a deeply interesting and highly profitable Convention to all who were present.

Our cause in Rochester appears in a good state and condition, at present, under the pastoral charge of Br. Chase. The friends have a neat and commodious house, and good congregations. I hope, however, that they will see fit to change the inscription on the front of the house - "UniversalEst" is offensive to a printer's eye, if to none other. By dividing their debt among the friends, and sinking it as rapidly as possible - by cherishing the spirit of brotherly affection and social intercourse among themselves, and of kindly feeling and the cause of God's impartial and universal grace must be permanently established in that beautiful and flourishing city, and go on from conquest to conquest for years and years to come. God grant that it may be even so!

A.B.G.

Packet Boat Owasco, June 1st.

From the Christian Ambassador
Saturday May 28, 1853

UNIVERSALISM IN ROCHESTER

In Rochester, which is one of our most populous and flourishing cities, Universalism has been occasionally or statedly preached, with some intervals of time, for the last thirty-five years. During that time there have been some true disciples of the Lord Jesus, whom no discouragement could dishearten in their endeavors for the establishment of Gospel truth. About seven years since, the Society of Universalists in that city could scarcely have been said to be alive, and as a society were doing literally nothing. In the good providence of God our much esteemed and faithful brother in the ministry, Rev. G.W. Montgomery, went among them, and engaged for short periods of time, to labor with them as an experiment, to ascertain whether a good and permanent society could be established and sustained, a house of worship erected, Christian privileges enjoyed, and Christian virtues maintained. Though many were fearful and unbelieving with respect to the result of the experiment, yet behold how great has been the change in seven short years! The diligent and untiring exertions of the minister were seconded by the cheerful efforts of the faithful and true. Hands and hearts were united, and they proceeded steadily onward to spiritual prosperity in the paths of wisdom, unity and peace. A commodious and substantial house of worship has been erected and paid for; which cost some ten thousand dollars. The minister has been well sustained; a very numerous and attentive congregation has been gathered, who cheerfully listen to the word of life; the exalted privileges of social existence and Christian communication are richly enjoyed; and they now "behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity," prosperity and spiritual peace!

May the riches of divine grace be ever continued to this portion of "the heritage of the Lord," and minister and people live and die in the full enjoyment of that grace.

Henderson, N.Y.

P.M.

{Rev. Pitt Morse}

(Rev. Morse notes that he first mailed this article to the Editors the previous February. The Editors replied that they never received it the first time.)

Dedication and Conference in Rochester

This interesting meeting took place, agreeably to previous notice, on Wednesday and Thursday, 15th and 16th ult. The Dedication of the new and beautiful church recently erected by the first Universalist society in Rochester took place on Wednesday morning. The services of the occasion were as follows:—

1. Anthem by the Choir.
2. Prayer by Br. J.M. [Rev. John Mather] Austin.
3. Hymn.
4. Reading Scriptures by Br. S. R. [Rev. Stephen Rensselaer] Smith.
5. Hymn.
6. Sermon by Br. G. W. [Rev. George Washington] Montgomery. Text, Psalm C:4, "Enter into his gates with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise; be thankful unto him, and bless his name."
7. Dedicatory Prayer by Br. D. [Rev. Dolphus] Skinner.
8. Benediction by Br. Montgomery.

The Church stands on the easterly side of the Genesee River, on a pleasant site, near the [Asbury] Methodist Church; it is built of brick, 86½ feet in length by 50 feet in width, of the Grecian style of architecture, with an excellent basement, (which though enclosed and plastered is not yet finished,) the Church proper being finished in a neat and plain, though rich and beautiful style throughout. The interior of the walls is handsomely marbelised, and overhead beautifully painted in fresco. There is a snug orchestra in the centre of the front a little elevated above the floor, for the choir and organ, on either side of which is a door of entrance to the body of the church. The pulpit and pews are finished in very good taste, the latter (86 in number we believe) being all uniformly cushioned with drab moreen, and the church furnished with a good organ, carpet, handsome chandeliers &c. The whole cost of the church, when finished, is estimated at \$6,500. The lot cost \$2300, so that the whole will not exceed \$9,000. The greater part of the debt is already paid. The society for the last two years has worshipped in Minerva Hall, and has raised during that time for the church property, sustaining meetings, and contingent expenses, over \$8,000.

A little more than two years since, the Universalist society in Rochester was all but (perhaps we should say quite) dead, having lost their old church and been for years without preaching. The only outward signs of life were seen in a little band of faithful teachers and children in the form of a Sabbath School, headed and led on by our zealous Br. Geo. H. Roberts. Fortunately and providentially, Br. G. W. [Rev. George Washington] Montgomery at that time (two years ago) visited and preached in

Rochester—a number of individuals were thereby aroused to see and feel the necessity of action—an effort was made to procure a suitable place for meeting and to retain Br. M. as their regular and permanent teacher, and succeeded.— The result of that effort is now before the world in the form of the beautiful church now dedicated and a respectable and we trust united and devoted society, gathered to worship therein for coming years; and it speaks in no measured terms in praise of the zeal, faithfulness, and perseverance of Br. M. and his co-laborers.

The meeting was continued through Wednesday and Thursday, three services each day; and in addition to the Dedicatory services, sermons were preached by Brs. W.[William] B. Cook, H.[Henry] L. Hayward, S.[Stephen] R. Smith, and D.[Dolphus] Skinner, Br. J. R. Johnson also assisting in the services; Br. J.[John] M. Austin, we regret to say, being on Wednesday noon, by telegraph, called to return home on account of the sickness of his youngest child [his daughter Alatheia, who died shortly afterward] and thus prevented from preaching as was anticipated. The services were all well and respectably attended, especially the Dedicatory and two evening services; but the weather and going were such, the roads from recent heavy and continuous rains being intolerable and next to impassable, we doubt not [that] hundreds from the surrounding country were prevented from attending, who would otherwise have been present.

The Dedication sermon was appropriate and happily timed and listened to with earnest and gratified attention. The other sermons delivered at the meeting, so far as becomes us to speak of them, were also good and well adapted to leave a favorable impression and produce good practical results. And we devoutly hope and trust that much good has been done at this meeting in the name of the holy child Jesus, and that our friends in Rochester and the cause at large may continue to be prospered and blessed now and forever.

Evangelical Magazine and Gospel Advocate,
Utica NY, Friday January 7, 1848

Transcribed on March 22, 2007 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY

Sabbath School Excursion and Pic-Nic

The Sabbath School connected with the Universalist Society in Rochester, N. Y. had an Excursion and Pic-Nic near Avon Springs on Thursday the 13th inst. The Excursion was got up in a hurry; no notice having been given until the Sunday previous, but it came out a very creditable affair after all. The morning of Thursday was very cloudy and gave the appearance of rain; so much so that many who early assembled at the church were inclined to postpone the Excursion until the following Tuesday. The majority, however, decided it would not rain, and so we prepared to start. The children came pouring in with smiling faces, followed by teachers, parents and friends[,] and with Brs. [Revs.] Montgomery and Ottoway at the head for leaders, the procession moved off to the Genesee Valley Railroad Depot. There we found Mr. Pengra, Railroad Agent, who received us in a very gentlemanly manner, and did his best to have us all comfortably seated in the cars. We could not all be seated, however, for the crowd was too great and the cars too limited; but no one objected to that. It was impossible for anyone to be cross, even if compelled to stand up and be jostled a little; for the smiles that flooded that mass of children would have taken a frown from the face as suddenly as the spring sun melts away the frost. At a quarter before 11 o'clock, when the cars started, the heavens had brightened up, the sun was shining, and all hearts were cheered at the prospect of a pleasant time. After carrying us slowly about twenty miles through one of the finest portions of the State, or of the world, we arrived at the Grove, which is situated about a mile and a half from Avon Springs.

The school was immediately gathered into a circle, with the crowd outside, when Br. W. J. R. Ottoway, the Assistant Superintendent, read the Service written for such occasions, from Br. Bacon's S. S. Manual; a hymn was then sung, which was followed by a few remarks from the writer.—The School and friends were requested to dispose of the great abundance brought in their baskets, at such a time and in such a manner as they thought proper, and then, after a while, to assemble again to sing a few hymns and listen to speeches; but they did not come together again that day until they assembled in the cars at the depot. After dinner, if we may call it such, the multitude seated themselves over the woods as suddenly and with as much delight, as persons just set free from prison. O what a treat, after being shut up in the city all summer, to sniff that pure country air, and to unbend our care-worn spirits in innocent recreation. How it gladdened our hearts to see these scholars gambol and frolic, and to hear their merry voices ring through the grove!

The sylvan scene went on joyously for an hour or two, when lo! the multitude were missing!—Where had they gone? Some had gone to a military encampment a short distance off—some to the Springs to get a drink of the sulphur water—others had gone to the village, and others still had followed on to see where the rest had gone.—Well, said we who were left behind, there is no more prospect of any more exercises in the grove to-day; our Pic-Nic has ended in a general stampede over the county. We felt a little uneasy for fear some of the children might get lost, or injured, or do some mischief; but how could we help it. We had no means of calling them together, and as for catching them, it would have taken a hundred Indians on their horses, and each with a lasso.

The hour for returning home finally came. The few of us who remained on the ground marched down to the depot, where we found all the rest of our company seated in the cars, and appearing as happy as larks. Although in consequence of the early dispersion there had been less opportunity for forming acquaintances, and for social communion, yet they seemed generally to have had a very pleasant time, and to have secured what they left the city for—plenty of fresh air and fine exercise in the woods and fields. We reached the city about 6 o'clock—grateful that no accident had occurred to mar the pleasure of the day, and feeling that the excursion had done us good.... May God bless the Sabbath School cause and help us all to be its faithful supporters.

J. H. T. [Rev. James Harvey Tuttle, pastor]

From the *Christian Ambassador*, Auburn NY, 29 Sep 1855)

FIRST UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

Information about the construction of our church building gleaned from the minutes of Board of Trustees and congregational meetings.

March 18, 1907-- Trustees voted to hire Claude Bragdon as Architect.

May 2, 1907-- Voted to except his plans.

July 9, 1907-- Claude Bragdon was authorized to notify the following that their bids were accepted;

Gorsline & Swan Construction Co. Mason \$31,897.00
A. W. Hopeman, Carpenter \$13,638.00
Barr & Creeling, Heating & Plumbing \$3897.00
Wheeler-Green Electric Co., Electric \$1197.00

Nov. 25, 1907-- Spl. meeting of Society-Authorized Trustees to expend as much of the sum of \$80,000.00 as necessary to complete church building and equipment including new organ and to include sum expended in wrecking old building. No debt shall be incurred beyond said \$ 80,000.00.

Dec. 5, 1907-- Awarded Matthews & Boucher sum of \$ 432.40 for hardware for new building.
Awarded Abner Adams \$ 590.00 for quartered oak flooring for the auditorium.
Awarded Globe Furniture Co. \$1750.00 for pews.
The music committee was authorized to expend up to \$ 7500.00 for organ from the Hope-Jones Organ Co.

Jan. 4, 1908-- Awarded A.W. Hopeman \$ 1223.00 for new organ case.

Feb. 16, 1908-- Accepted bid from Pike Stained Glass Co. of \$ 1079.45 for resetting the old glass and furnishing new as specified by architect.

March 26, 1908-- Accepted bid of Langenbahr & Allen for \$ 1348.00 for decorating the auditorium according to specifications and architect's approval.
Accepted bid of Willet & Schultz of \$ 550.00 for 4 paintings for auditorium under supervision of architect.

April 30, 1908-- Resolved to purchase Pulpit furniture cost not to exceed \$ 630.00. According to plans of Mr. Bragdon.

May 7, 1908-- Accepted bid of \$ 1192.00 from Wile & Phillips for new lighting fixtures.

Gives Sketch of Church History on Anniversary

Trustee of Universalist Church is Speaker

MARKS ITS 75TH BIRTHDAY

**Universalists Mark Jubilee at Morning Service—Raymond H. Arnot
Tells of Distinguished Preachers Who Served Church in This City**

The seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universalist Church of this city was celebrated at services yesterday morning. Raymond H. Arnot, a trustee, gave a historical sketch, and the minister, Rev. William Wallace Rose, D.D., preached on the topic, "Yesterday, To-day and Forever." In the evening, an illustrated lecture on the play "Mary," in the series on "The Ancient Gospel in Modern Drama" was given by the minister.

In his paper on "The First Universalist Church of Rochester—Seventy-Five Years' Record," Mr. Arnot pointed out that in the year 1846, when the First Universalist Church was organized, Rochester had been incorporated as a city for twelve years and had a population of 28,000. Five years before this church came into being, a feeble body of [Universalists] had begun to disseminate the so-called liberal or non-orthodox ideas in Rochester, he said.

Beginnings Obscure

The time when Universalism began to be preached in this city is obscure, he said, but it is known that for probably more than ten years prior to the organization of this society services in the interest of the Universalist theology were held in Rochester and sermons were delivered by some of the most powerful preachers of the time. In 1839 a Sunday-School was organized and somewhat later [1843] a church building at Court and Stone streets was occupied, he said, but this church was subsequently sold to the Presbyterians, and the Universalists, being without a church edifice of their own, were forced to hold their meetings in the basement of the Unitarian Church and later in an auditorium on the fourth story of the Minerva building at Main street east and St. Paul street south.

The speaker paid a tribute to George H. Roberts, founder of the Sunday School and its first superintendent, and John J. Van Zandt, who, he said, were really the founders of Universalism in Rochester, and he urged a tablet be erected to commemorate their labors. Mr. Arnot sketched the career of Rev. George W. Montgomery, D.D., first pastor of the [society], who was instrumental in bringing about the erection of a church.

Organized in 1846

On April 18, 1846 the church was formally organized, he said. Trustees chose a lot in South Clinton street, near Main, and upon this site a church edifice was completed in December, 1847, free of debt, he said. This was occupied by the church until its sale in 1907. Dr. Montgomery relinquished his pastorate in 1853 because of impaired health but he lived in Rochester until his death in 1898.

In the fall of 1853 the Rev. James Harvey Tuttle, D.D., was chosen to succeed Dr. Montgomery, and his services were highly regarded. On March 1, 1860 Rev. Asa Saxe, D.D. succeeded Dr. Tuttle, entering upon one of the most notable pastorates in the history of the denomination or in the history of the city of Rochester, in the speaker's view. Only one other man in Rochester served a church longer here, Dr. Shaw of Brick [Presbyterian] Church, whose continuous ministry of forty-eight years in this city.

Dr. Saxe at the very beginning of his ministry in Rochester met the keen competition of three eminent clergymen, Dr. Shaw, Dr. Albert G. Hall, of the Third [Presbyterian] Church, and Rev. Henry A. Nealy of Christ Church [Episcopal]—subsequently raised to the episcopate as bishop of Maine—but he soon became the equal of these distinguished preachers. In the year 1860, when the foundations of the republic were shaken by the threat of civil war, Dr. Saxe rose to the occasion as one inspired and later was a consistent inspiration to the recruiting of regiments in

Gives Sketch of Church History on Anniversary

this city. On many occasions Dr. Saxe defended the Universalist faith and liberal religion in general against attack.

Anniversary Notable

On March 1, 1885, the twenty-fifth anniversary of Dr. Saxe's pastorate in Rochester was celebrated. Visiting clergymen present were Dr. James M. Pullman of Lynn, Mass., Dr. Isaac M. Atwood, Dr. Almon Gunnison, Dr. Montgomery, Dr. Tuttle and Professor L. B. Fisher. The occasion was also honored by the presence of Martin Brewer Anderson, first president of the University of Rochester.

Another festival in this church which drew here some eminent men in the denomination was the semi-centennial of the founding of the society, celebrated on Dec. 1, 1885 and the two following days. At that time Rev. Mr. [Lyman Hamilton] Squires was installed as pastor.

The church edifice, which was completed in 1847, stood without material change until 1871, when it was remodeled. The sermon of dedication preached by Dr. Saxe at this festival, entitled "Strength and Beauty," was regarded as a notable pulpit utterance.

Tribute to James Sargent

Rev. Mr. Squires was pastor of the church but three years when he was obliged to leave his work here [because of consumption, which eventually proved fatal], and he was succeeded by Rev. Isaac Philip Coddington, a preacher of distinction. Dr. Coddington, not content with the old church edifice, continually agitated for an improvement in its equipment, and through the munificence of James Sargent, a lot and a substantial building fund were presented to the society. By additions to the building land, the devoted members of the parish, the church structure was enlarged and reconstructed. The rejoicing over the reconstructed church and the dedication of three beautiful memorial windows took place on May 11, 1902.

Mr. Arnot, in paying tribute to James Sargent, said "a history of the seventy-five years of this church would not be adequate without mention in words of respect and veneration of the great laymen whose labors for this society and whose [continued?] generosity to it will ever be cherished."

In 1905 Dr. Coddington was succeeded in the pulpit by Rev. Arthur Wilder Grose, D.D. The society then sold the church property and began the erection of the present building, which was designed by Claude Bragdon. The services of dedication were held October 8, 1908.

Dr. Grose continued to serve the church as pastor until 1918, when he went abroad in the service of his country during the war, and Rev. William Wallace Rose, the present pastor, succeeded him in the pulpit.

Democrat and Chronicle, Rochester NY, Mon, 28 Nov 1921

Transcribed on 6 Feb 2008 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY

Jews and Christians Have Union Service, Resuming Former Custom

Universalist, Unitarian and Temple Berith Kodesh Congregations Meet Together:
America Must Learn Properly to Apply Its Blessings, Says Rabbi

Jew and Christian united yesterday morning to worship a common God in a Protestant church in commemoration of a national holiday set aside for the purpose of giving thanks to their Creator for blessings bestowed on them and their nation in the last year.

The union service was planned by the Universalist and Unitarian churches and Temple Berith Kodesh, and was conducted in the First Unitarian Church. It marked the revival of a custom of long standing which had been discontinued some years ago.

Sermon by Rabbi Bernstein

Vice-mayor Isaac Adler, member of Temple Berith Kodesh, read the President's Thanksgiving Proclamation. Rev. David Rhys Williams, minister of the First Unitarian Church, pronounced the invocation. Rev. Charles C. Blauvelt, minister of the First Universalist Church, offered the prayer of Thanksgiving, and Rabbi Philip Bernstein of Congregation Berith Kodesh preached the sermon and pronounced the benediction.

"Thanksgiving, in my judgment, is not an occasion for smugness and satisfaction. Rather does it call for a searching of the heart," Rabbi Bernstein charged his listeners. "We are grateful for the blessings that have been conferred upon us. Yet our gratitude must be of that intelligent, humanitarian variety which causes us to be aware at the same time that others have not been blessed as we, and that we possess shortcomings which challenge our happiness and our virtue.

Time for Heart Searching

"Thanksgiving calls for a searching of heart. I am convinced that we have been blessed in a material way beyond all the people of the earth. The words of our President, which were read to you a few moments ago, are, in my judgment, absolutely true.

"Our fields have been abundantly productive. Our industries have flourished. Our commerce has increased. Wages have been lucrative, and contentment has followed the undisturbed pursuit of honest toil."

Rabbi Bernstein then summarized successes of America in the last year, stressing the statement that efficient industrialization, what has been called the machine age, mass production and its attendant developments, have tended to better America.

American culture has been improved rather than handicapped by these activities, he said. Various scientific developments and their applications have made possible a spreading of culture and a raising of standards of living in general, although they have not assured them, he said.

Jews and Christians Have Union Service, Resuming Former Custom

Must Be Properly Applied

Despite this improvement, this adding of advantages and increase of blessings, reminded Rabbi Bernstein, America must make direct and profitable application of them to the benefit of humanity in order to realize their fullest promise.

"We should consider this now," he said. "How we used our wealth, our power over forces of nature, our efficiency? What message have we spoken to our own people, to the world, to ourselves?"

"We have not succeeded in applying our efficiency and our religio-ethical ideals to our own social life," he stated. "Our materialistic civilization cannot justify itself, cannot stand up against attacks from without unless it remedy these evils quickly, sympathetically, and effectively."

Rabbi Bernstein contended that America has lost its moral leadership gained through the World War when it took an unselfish stand and after which its President stated principles which were to become the basis of a new society.

Can Be Regained

The position may be regained, he said, but not if this country approaches the peace table with a covenant in one hand and "the dogs of war at leash" in the other.

Another serious danger, he asserted, is that this country shall become overwhelmed with the desire for prosperity to the detriment of its striving for certain valuable ideals.

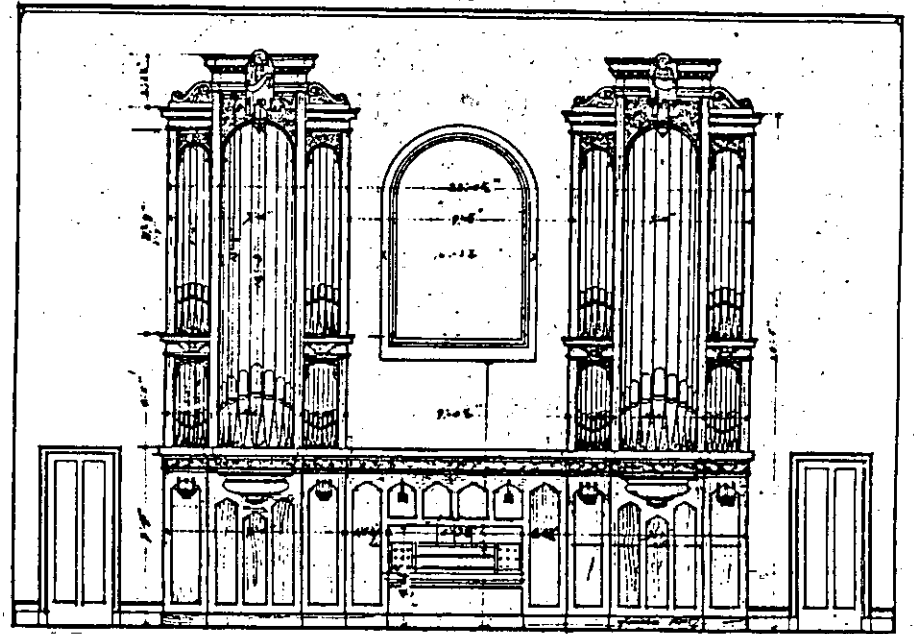
"What shortcomings there are in our America life can be overcome," said Rabbi Bernstein, "by religion—religion not so much in terms of churches and rituals, important though these are; but religion which gives men [sic] a vision of a better world that is to be, from which wrongs shall be vanished, whose inhabitants will know peace, whose foundation shall be justice and truth, understanding and love—religion which shall move us to the heroic sacrifice of our comforts, our pleasures, our positions, our means, in order that we shall speed the coming of the day when humanity shall be freed from disease and poverty, exploitation and tyranny, war and famine."

Democrat and Chronicle, Rochester NY, Fri 30 Nov 1928

Transcribed on 6 Feb 2008 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY

State Convention
Rochester 1934





**The Hope-Jones Organ:
Its Maker and History**

A Rare and Historic Instrument

The pipe organ of the First Universalist Church was built and installed in 1908. It is one of the few organs constructed under the personal supervision of the English inventive genius, Robert Hope-Jones, in the Elmira, New York factory he established in 1907. The organ's electro-pneumatic action, its system of pipe unification, its colored tablet stops (in contrast to the old fashioned draw knobs), its "horseshoe" console, and one of its sets of pipes — the unique "Tibia" — are all the inventions of Robert Hope-Jones.

Hope Jones introduced these and other revolutionary innovations to the organ builders of England and, after coming to this country in 1903, to various American organ builders with whom he was associated. Most of his ideas, however, were considered too radical a departure from the traditional art of organ building. Some of his concepts were adapted, but even these were only partially used.

Then, with local capital and a board of directors that included Samuel L. Clemens (Mark Twain), James (Diamond Jim) Brady, and Theodore N. Vail of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, the Hope-Jones Electric Organ Company was formed in Elmira. Hope-Jones now had a free hand; he could build as he wished. The first instrument produced in the new factory was for Park Church, Elmira; the second was the organ in the First Universalist Church of Rochester. Later the famous organ in the Ocean Grove Auditorium, Ocean Grove, New Jersey was built.

No more beautiful examples of the craft were ever built than those which came from Elmira. And though none would be considered large today, their materials, workmanship and scale were all monumental. Each one attested in its own way to a love and devotion for the organ which could regard nothing as too fine to incorporate in it.

This devotion to perfection and the habit that Hope-Jones had of adding improvements as he built — often resulting in the actual construction and installation cost exceeding that of the contract — led to the firm's financial failure. In 1910 the Rudolph Wurlitzer Company of North Tonawanda, New York bought the Elmira company, together with all of the Hope-Jones patents, and hired Robert Hope-Jones as a consultant. The Wurlitzer Company renovated and added chimes to the First Universalist Church organ in 1937.

The Wurlitzer company made full use of the Hope-Jones horseshoe console, tablet stops, and the Hope-Jones system of pipe unification. When the country entered the brief but exciting era of the motion picture palace, the Wurlitzer company was ready with the "Hope-Jones Unit Orchestra," a pipe organ with orchestral voices in addition to its traditional organ tones, which enabled a solitary organist to provide music of more variety and greater volume than the largest orchestra.

To this day there remains opposition to many of Hope-Jones's innovations, although most organ companies have adapted his electro-pneumatic action. This development replaced the cumbersome "tracker" action that literally tied the organ console to its pipes by hundreds of rods or stretched wires. The "remote control" of the Hope-Jones technique made possible the construction of very large organs and the placement of both the pipes and console wherever desired.

The merits of "unification" are still debated, even after the extensive use of this system by all theater organ manufacturers for several decades. By means of an intricate system of switches and relays, the Hope-Jones unit system made it possible for every rank of pipes to be played from every manual (keyboard) at many different octave pitches. Thus a unit organ of six ranks (six sets of pipes) each with a distinctive voicing, could be made to outshine in performance and tonal variety a "straight" organ requiring more than thirty ranks.

"The Winds Blew"

Early Sunday morning, March 17th, Rochester was hit by a wind storm that reached a maximum speed of forty-four miles per hour.

A few minutes after our janitor, Arthur Cooman, had reached the church to get things ready for the morning service he heard the sound of crashing glass. Running up the stairs to the side entrance of the auditorium, he was blown down by the force of the wind rushing through the church. Imagine his dismay when he saw that our beautiful Sargent memorial window, facing Clinton Avenue, had been shattered by the wind! Only a few minutes before the window fell "Art" had been standing directly beneath it, looking at the thermometer to check the temperature in the auditorium. Had the window fallen then he would undoubtedly have been terribly cut, if not something more tragic.

This happened about 7:15. As quickly as possible Donald Mansell, chairman of the House Committee, Clarence King, president of the Board, and Harry Rice, former chairman of the House Committee, were on the job, together with George W. Haskins, of the Haskins Stained Glass Studio, and some of his men. The two side sections of the window were practically demolished, but the center section, containing the figure of Jesus as the Good Shepherd, remained unharmed. In addition to the destruction to the Sargent window, another under the south balcony was ripped off its hinges and the door of the Court street entrance damaged.

Since it was impossible to hold service in our church that morning, we asked Rev. David Rhys Williams, minister of the First Unitarian Church, for the privilege of meeting in Gannett House. Mr. Williams graciously invited us to join his congregation, and insisted that Mr. Blauvelt deliver the sermon. As it was the seventh anniversary of Mr. Blauvelt's coming to Rochester, and the Rochester Chapter of the Order of De Molay was to attend our service in a body, we had an unusually large number to add to Mr. Williams' congregation. In spite of the sadness over the loss of our beautiful window it was an inspiring service, and every one of our own people went home determined to help restore the window to its original loveliness.

Official action toward this end was taken a few days later by our Board of Trustees. The contract for the work of replacing the window was given to Mr. Haskins, and the job is already started in his studio. It is our hope that the window will be in place for our Easter service.

Since the window had to go, we can be thankful that it broke with nobody in the auditorium. Had it happened during service we would have had a tragic situation on our hands, for people sitting in the rear pews might have been killed.

We wish to express our gratitude to the men already mentioned who were of so great assistance at the time of this accident, especially Harry Rice, Donald Mansell and Arthur Cooman, who worked for hours in a piercing cold wind to board up the window, thus preventing further damage to it and the interior of the auditorium.

First Universalist Church, Rochester NY
Our Outlook, issue of April 1935

Interesting Facts About Organ

The following story appeared in the Rochester *Democrat and Chronicle* for October 6, 1908:

"An accurate knowledge of the art of organ building combined itself with pure dastardliness in the mental makeup of the men or women who invaded the new church of the First Universalist Society Saturday night, October 3rd, and did his or their best to ruin the new Hope-Jones organ that the Society has installed. Fortunately the designer of the organ, with a corps of skilled workmen, was available for instant service, and the damage has been repaired so that the opening recital on the new instrument can be given tonight by Edwin H. LeMare.

"The miscreant who tried so hard to disable the organ removed at least 100 pipes from their proper places and bruised them so badly that they were utterly unfit for being replaced. Men employed in tuning the organ knocked off for supper Saturday night at 6 o'clock. On their return the work of the vandal was patent, for he had been disturbed in his work, and had left one of the pipes near the main manual. Every stop in the organ was put out of commission by the removal of the pipes. Mr. Hope-Jones who invented and perfected the instrument is at work at the church, and will have all the pipes replaced before Mr. LeMare takes his seat for tonight's recital."

It is difficult for us of this day to understand how anyone could have been guilty of such wanton destruction. We gain some insight into the reason, however, when we learn that Robert Hope-Jones completely revolutionized organ building by his many inventions, and it has always been suspected that the persons who mutilated our organ were directly connected with some one in the organ business who recognized the upheaval which the inventions of this English genius would cause in the construction of pipe organs. This was not the only experience of a similar nature which Hope-Jones had. In another organ installed by him the main electric cables were cut, necessitating the complete rewiring of the organ, while in still another instance a spike was driven through the main cable to short-circuit the wires. Thus does the old established order, whether in music, industry, or politics, seek to thwart progress!

We heard of another interesting bit of history in connection with our organ this past week. It seems that one of the principal stockholders in the Hope-Jones Organ Company was Samuel Clemens, better known by his pen-name of Mark Twain. When our organ was about completed Clemens came to Rochester to hear it, for it was only the second organ installed by the company in the United States. A youth who was one of the choirboys in Christ Church was invited to sing with the organ to test its quality as an accompanying instrument. When he stood in our choir loft to sing he looked down on Hope-Jones and Mark Twain sitting alone in the auditorium of our church to hear the results. That youth, now a man of mature years, will be one of the singers in the chorus of sixty voices who will take part in Mr. Grierson's concert this Sunday evening!

Interesting Facts About Organ

Many people have asked about the new Cathedral Chimes which were installed in the church his summer. The best way to describe them is to say that they look like twenty-five silver pipes of various lengths hanging from a wooden rack on the rear wall of the organ chamber. When the Chime stop on the organ console is depressed this establishes an electric contact with the chimes, and when a key on the Great Organ manual is struck this agitates a small hammer which strikes whatever chime is desired. A picture of the chimes has been taken, and we hope to make it available for all to see so that a clearer idea may be had of what these beautiful pipes look like.

From a remark dropped by one person there may be others of the opinion that the music of the organ issues from the sixty-two gold colored pipes visible above the console. In reality these pipes are merely decorative. The music comes through the spaces between them from some twelve hundred pipes in the organ chamber behind the choir loft wall. Only one who has been in the organ chamber can realize the intricate mechanism and numberless parts installed there. Each set of pipes, for example, consists of from sixty-one to seventy-three separate pipes, varying in size from sixteen feet to a few inches. To get the particular tonal quality sought each group of pipes has its own special shape and is made from different kinds of material, such as wood, pure tin, an alloy of tin and lead, etc. When a stop on the organ console is pushed down all the pipes in that particular set are made available for playing. By depressing several stops at the same time more groups of pipes are brought into action, and the result is a mixing of several tonal qualities which increase both the volume of sound and the richness of the effect. In the relay room there are literally miles of wires from the organ keys to the switches which open and close the two thousand tiny magnets through which the wind passes from the electric blower into the pipes, issuing in the various musical notes. This explanation may give some idea of how intricately an organ is constructed, and how difficult it is to play, since there are three manuals or banks of keys for the fingers and a row of large wooden keys on the floor played by the feet.

Our Outlook, First Universalist Church, issue of October 1937

Transcribed on March 28, 2007 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester ,NY

The members of First Universalist Church of Rochester
invite you to a service celebrating the
150th anniversary of our founding.

The guest speaker will be the Reverend Doctor
John A. Buehrens,
president of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Please join us Sunday, April 21, 1996
at 10:30 in the morning at the church,
150 Clinton Avenue South, Rochester, New York.

Reception to follow.
R.S.V.P. (716) 546 - 2826



The members of The First Universalist Church of Rochester wish to thank the New York State Convention of Universalists for their financial support for this and other sesquicentennial activities.

The First Universalist Church of Rochester

150



Serving Humanity in Fellowship since 1846

You are cordially invited to attend a series of programs
to celebrate

THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE
FIRST UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

- SEPT. 14 ROCHESTER IN 1907-8
Dr Joseph Barnes, city historian
Organ prelude and postlude
- SEPT. 21 CLAUDE BRAGDON AND HIS CHURCH
Mrs. Betsy Brayer, architectural historian
Organ prelude and postlude
- SEPT. 28 HOPE-JONES AND HIS ORGAN
Concert by Harold Weiss, Church Organist
Biographical comments on Hope-Jones,
Dr. Roland Bramlet
- OCT. 5 THE MESSAGE OF UNIVERSALISM - THEN AND NOW
Drs. Mark and Donna Morrison-Reed
Organ prelude and postlude - Harold Weiss

Wednesday evenings at 8:00 P.M.
at the Church

cor. Clinton and Court
Donation appreciated

Ample Parking

Flower Arrangements provided by
The 7th District Federated Garden Clubs of New York

The first three lectures are co-sponsored by the Landmark Society.

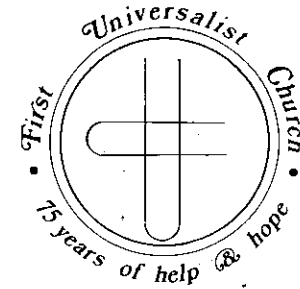
The First Universalist Church on the northeast corner of Washington Square is the most important remaining work of Rochester's distinguished architect, Claude Bragdon. Begun in 1907 it was dedicated 75 years ago on October 9, 1908.

The church is especially noteworthy for its wealth of decorative detail, both inside and out, the use of structural steel as an element in the design, its exceptionally fine stained glass windows, and its unique Hope-Jones organ.

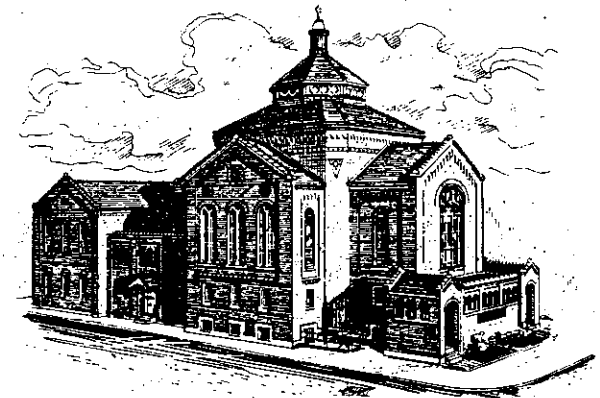
The church is listed on the National Register of Historic Places in Washington, D.C.

First Universalist Church
150 Clinton Avenue South
Rochester, NY 14604-1897

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TO CELEBRATE
THE 75TH BIRTHDAY
OF THE
FIRST UNIVERSALIST CHURCH



Claude Bragdon's remaining masterpiece, the First Universalist Church at the corner of Court Street and Clinton Avenue South, is a brief walk from the exhibit at Midtown Plaza. Through the courtesy of Dr. John W. Brigham and his congregation, the Church will be open to the public daily the week beginning September 25 from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. The Church organist, Mr. Harold J. Weiss, has arranged for noontime recitals by Eastman School of Music graduate students on the fine Hope-Jones organ.

CLAUDE BRAGDON EXHIBIT

September 24-October 8
Midtown Plaza

Coordinators: Mrs. Patrick Harrington for the Landmark Society
Mr. James Gemmill for the Rochester Society of Architects, A.I.A.

Exhibit Design: Miss Isabel Herdle

Photographs: School of Photographic Arts & Sciences, Photographic Illustrations Department Summer School, Rochester Institute of Technology

Slide Presentation: Dr. Carl Hersey
Mrs. Robert France

Booklet Design: Barbara Fuller, School of Art and Design, Rochester Institute of Technology

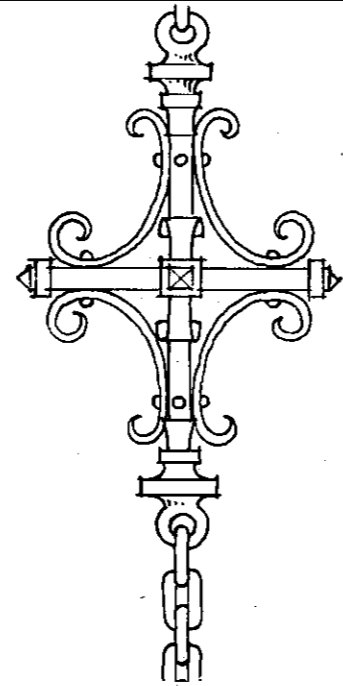
Text: Paul Malo, Syracuse University, with assistance from Mrs. Erville Costa

The handsome designs in this booklet were reproduced from Claude Bragdon's original drawings for the First Universalist Church through the courtesy of Mr. Harwood Dryer.

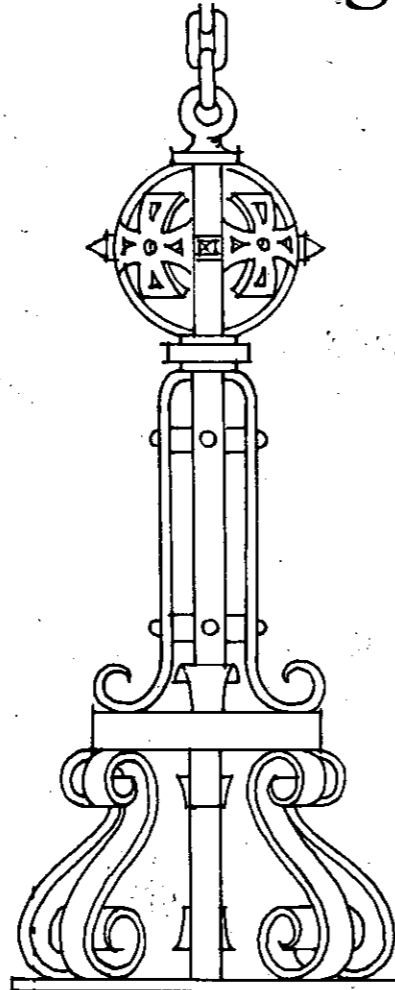
Sponsored by The Society for the Preservation of Landmarks in Western New York, Inc., and the Rochester Society of Architects, American Institute of Architects, with technical assistance from the New York State Council on the Arts.



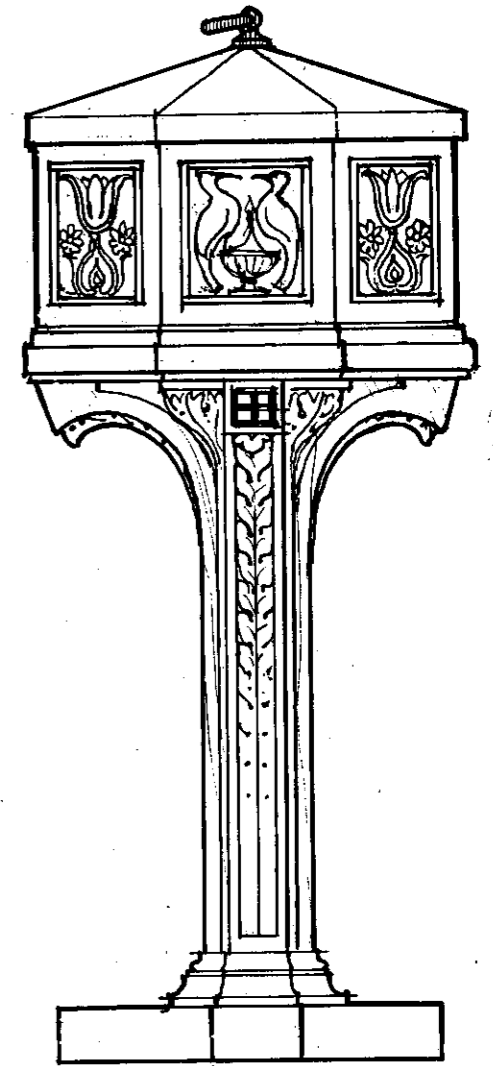
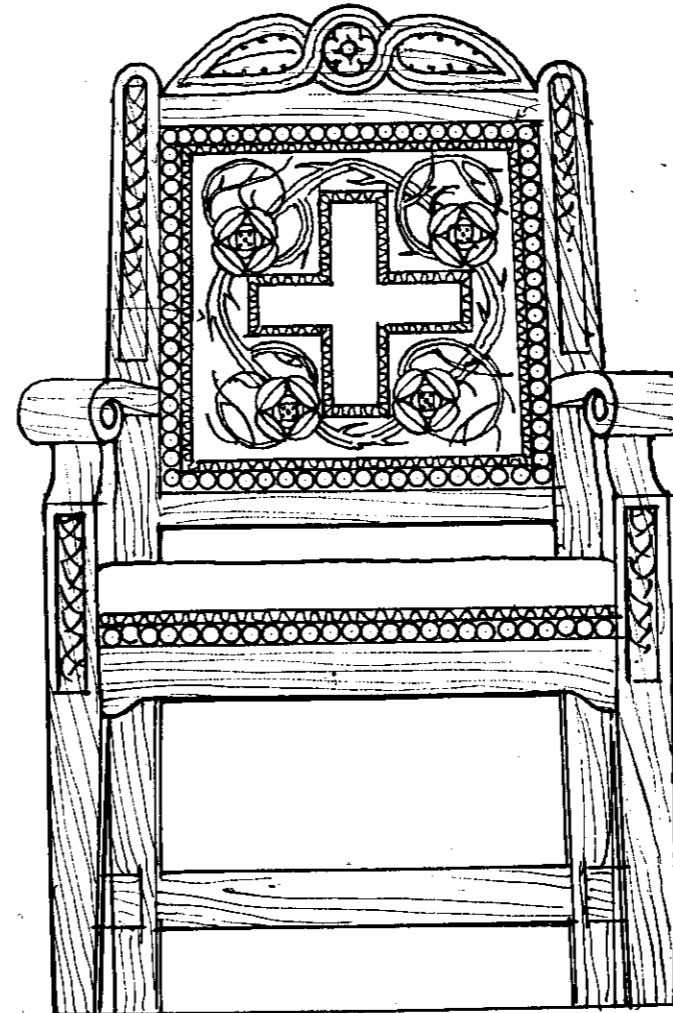
138 S. FITZHUGH STREET ROCHESTER, N. Y. 14608
TELEPHONE 546-7028



Claude Bragdon

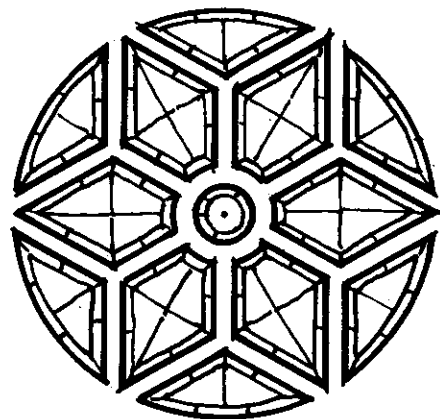


Master

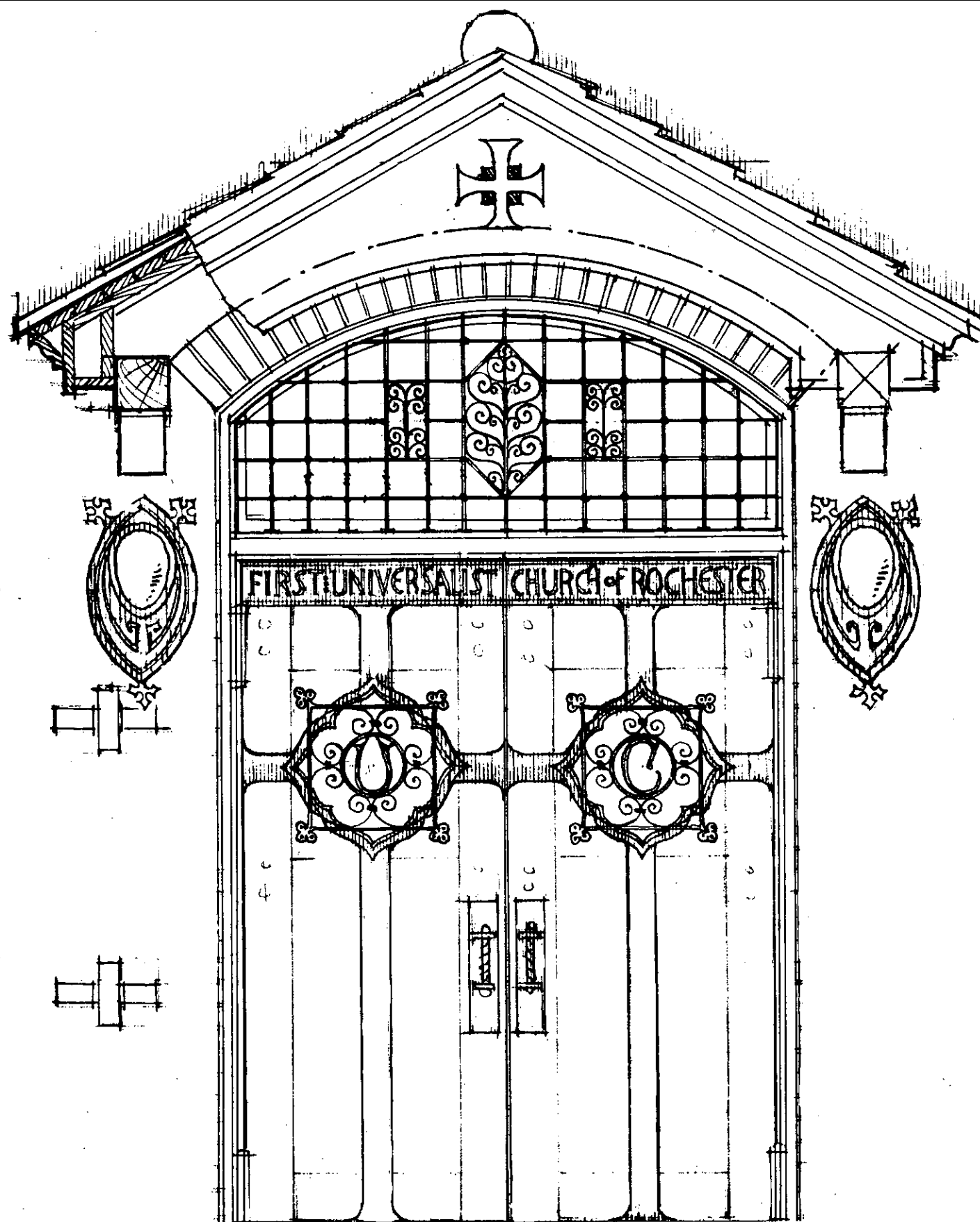


of Design

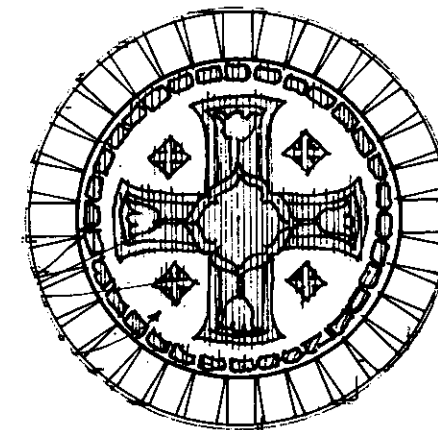
Versatility was one of Claude Bragdon's remarkable qualities, leading to several careers. Already a distinguished architect, he went on to become a leading scenic designer of the theatre. His writings also brought him wide recognition and reflect his many interests: poetry, mathematics, design—but especially philosophy and religion. He died at the age of eighty, after living, as he titled his autobiography, "More Lives Than One".



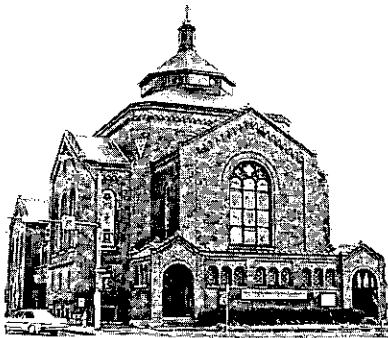
Bragdon's architectural career was shortened by his pursuit of other interests, and in the development of American architecture he was not a major influence for his own works. But he is recognized today as an artist.



While he freely adapted forms of the past, he was conscious of a need to make of them an architecture of a new place and a new time. Like Frank Lloyd Wright and Louis Sullivan before him, Bragdon felt himself a part of an American culture evolving from roots in Emerson and Whitman. He knew Sullivan well, and wrote the introduction to his last book. At a time when Bragdon was more successful than his contemporary, he worked importantly to widen recognition of Sullivan's genius.



Of some twenty-seven of Bragdon's architectural works in the Rochester area, the most important were two: the New York Central Railroad Station of 1913, and the First Universalist Church of 1908. Of these, the former was demolished, and the fate of the latter is presently uncertain. This must be considered the remaining masterpiece of his career, the monument of one of Rochester's most famous citizens, and one of its most architecturally distinguished buildings.



S.A.V.E. I.T.!

Support A Valued Edifice In Time!

The First Universalist Church, 150 S. Clinton Ave., Rochester, New York 14604

This letter is concerned with the serious state of one of the finest churches in our community — and an opportunity whereby you can help S.A.V.E. I.T.

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Dear Friend:

I think this is important.

Eighty years ago, Rochester's most notable architect, Claude Bragdon, finished a building which has been proclaimed one of America's finest 20th century churches. That building, designed at the height of the Arts and Crafts Movement, is the First Universalist Church.

Since 1908, the First Universalist Church has withstood the tests of time, urban renewal planning and dwindling financial support. Even though it is celebrated as one of the great architectural and cultural treasures of our community, its survival is threatened.

Deterioration, excessive water damage and exposure to the elements have taken a heavy toll. Extensive repair is urgently required. Very substantial sums - a total of \$1,000,000 - must be expended for preservation and to insure the proper long-range support of the property.

A campaign committee of concerned citizens has been formed to raise funds for this historic preservation project. Calling upon dedicated volunteers from businesses, industry, government and the non-profit sector, we intend to reach out to every segment of the community and ask for financial help - before it is too late to save this national landmark.

Why, might you ask, is this extraordinary effort being made to save the First Universalist Church? Beyond our concern for its beauty and cultural value, the church is a significant place in our community for thousands of citizens.

Over the years, the First Universalist Church has become a public building which has offered meeting space for Alcoholics Anonymous, Genesee Valley Gay Alliance, Narcotics Anonymous, the American Civil Liberties Union, Certified Public Accountants, the Rochester Square Dance Association, Arts for Greater Rochester, Geva Theatre, The Landmark Society, and a child daycare center.

In addition to aiding rehabilitation and counseling support services, arts groups, educational and recreational organizations, the First Universalist Church has provided immediate referrals for transients, the homeless and hungry. In short, it is a public space where the private space of individuals is recognized, respected, and supported.

(OVER)

As one who is frequently asked to contribute to cultural and historic preservation projects, you have probably developed a rating system for giving. I offer you the following standards:

- The artistic merit and total aesthetic value must be exceptionally high.
- The craftsmanship and quality of architecture must be impeccable.
- The quality of materials used should simply be the best attainable.
- A gift must be used exclusively for restoration or preservation purposes.

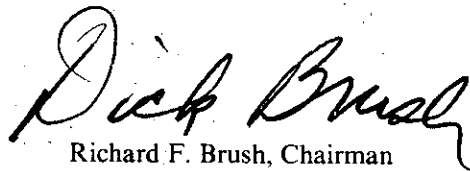
In my opinion, this preservation project meets these exacting requirements in every respect, and I commend them to your consideration.

We have received a challenge grant from an anonymous donor in the amount of \$25,000. The challenge is simple: for every \$2 donated a match of \$1 will be made. Your help is urgently needed to help us secure this grant before December 31, 1988.

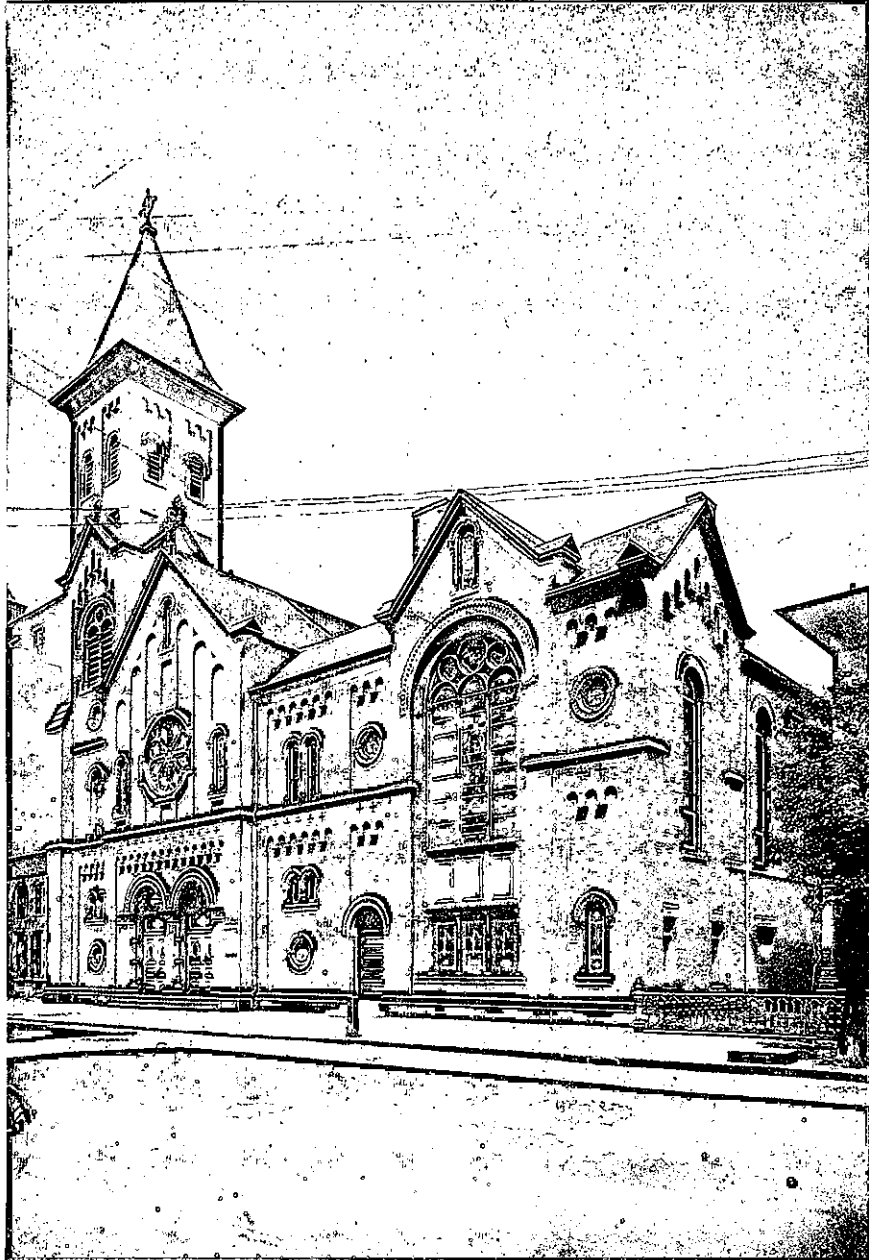
The rescue of this magnificent property depends on your financial help to Support A Valued Edifice In Time. Your early response will save us a telephone call. We have fifty volunteers who have agreed to follow-up this letter by telephone.

Won't you send in your tax-deductible contribution today? Thank you — in advance for your interest and generosity to S.A.V.E. I.T.!

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dick Brush". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Richard F. Brush, Chairman
Honorary Committee



**EARLIER CHURCH BUILDING
FIRST UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF ROCHESTER
PHOTO ABT. 1901**