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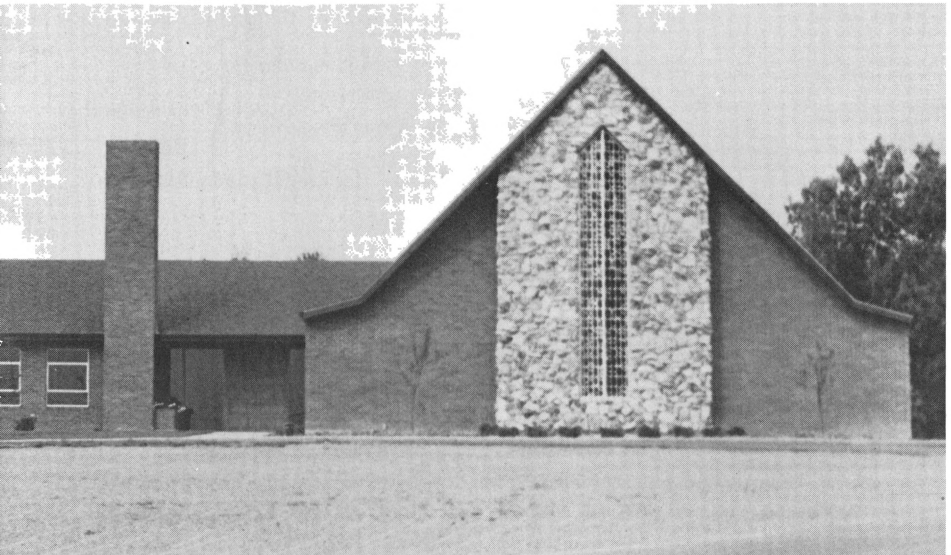
# SERVICES OF DEDICATION

## ITHACA SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

MAY 15, 1976

*One thing have I desired of the Lord,  
That will I seek after;  
That I may dwell in the house of the Lord  
All the days of my life,  
To behold the beauty of the Lord,  
And to enquire in His temple.*

*- Psalm 27:4*



HERITAGE ROOM  
James White Library  
ANDREWS UNIVERSITY  
Barron Springs, MI 49104

# SACRED CONCERT

7:30 P.M.

## CEDAR LAKE ACADEMY CHOIR AND MADRIGAL SINGERS

Welcome and Invocation

Paul Rendel

Concert

Gail Hall, Director of Choir  
Steve Hall, Director of Madrigals  
Karen Oard, Accompanist

Benediction

Robert Johnson

### CHOIR

Awake My Heart

Marshall

The Spacious Firmament

Haydn

Now Thank We All Our God

Bach

Hosanna

Rozsa

Junior Trio:

Mel Fraser, Sue Eckenroth, Margie Hunt

### MADRIGALS

Holy Manna

Carter

Saviour, Like a Shepherd

Bradbury

Senior Trio:

Cindy Mosher, Judy Racine, Rhonda Robinson

### CHOIR

I Want Jesus To Walk With Me

Arr. Jonson

Tener Solo: Don Eckenroth

Rocka My Soul

Cain

Laudamaus

Owen

O For A Thousand Tongues

Schubert

Go Not Far From Me

Morgan

Psalm 150

Franck

# SABBATH SCHOOL

9:30 A.M.

## THE CHURCH AT STUDY

SONG SERVICE	Roger DePaepe and Carolyn Williams
PRAYER	Brad Harlow
SABBATH SCHOOL OBJECTIVES:	Discussion by Superintendents Barbara Gruesbeck, Carol Hollar and Terry Hayes
REPORT OF THE SECRETARY	Kay Wold
MISSION STORY	Betty Jo Baerg
FOREIGN MISSIONS DIALOG	Junior Department
HOME MISSIONS	Victor Guajardo
VOCAL SOLO	Betty Johnson
LESSON STUDY	L. R. Ellison
BENEDICTION	Barbara Gruesbeck

*When a real love for the Bible is awakened,  
and the student begins to realize  
how vast is the field and how precious its treasure,  
he will desire to seize upon every opportunity  
for acquainting himself with God's word.  
Its study will be restricted to no special  
time or place. And this continuous study is one  
of the best means of cultivating a love  
for the Scriptures. Let the student keep his  
Bible always with him. As you have opportunity,  
read a text and meditate upon it. While walking  
the streets, waiting at a railway station,  
waiting to meet an engagement, improve the  
opportunity to gain some precious thought  
from the treasure house of truth. — Ellen G. White  
Education, p. 191*

# PREACHING SERVICE

11:00 A.M.

## THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP

PRELUDE	<i>Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring</i>	Bach
WELCOME		Freberin Baerg
MINISTERS ENTER		
HYMN OF PRAISE	<i>Lead Us, Heavenly Father</i>	No. 87
INVOCATION		John Loor
OFFERING		Educational Improvement
DOXOLOGY		
DEDICATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS		Gordon Carle
HYMN OF MEDITATION		Charles Keymer
RESPONSIVE SCRIPTURE:	<i>Exhortation To Godliness</i>	CH 596
PASTORAL PRAYER		Charles Keymer
PRAYER RESPONSE	<i>Hear Our Prayer</i>	No. 688
SERMON	<i>The Complete Church</i>	John Loor
HYMN OF RESPONSE	<i>The Church Has One Foundation</i>	No. 433
BENEDICTION		James Orrison
POSTLUDE	<i>For Spacious Skies</i>	Ward

Judy Racine, Pianist — Nancy Racine, Organist

Guests and Members  
are cordially invited to tour the  
Sanctuary and the Sabbath School departments  
following the Preaching Service. Plan to end your tour  
in the Fellowship Hall where the noon  
meal will be served today.

# DEDICATORY SERVICE

3:00 P.M.

## CONSECRATING THE BUILDING TO GOD

PRELUDE	<i>Love Divine</i>	Zundel
MINISTERS ENTER		
WELCOME		Alan Johnson
HYMN	<i>Christ Is Made The Sure Foundation</i>	No. 487
RESPONSIVE SCRIPTURE		Psalm 84
INVOCATION		Donald Eckenroth
HISTORY OF THE CHURCH		C. B. Burgess
BURNING OF THE MORTGAGE		Betty Johnson
HYMN OF MEDITATION		Edwin and Harold Racine
SERMON	<i>Christ The Sure Corner Stone</i>	Charles Keymer
THE ACT OF COMMITMENT		Freberin Baerg
PRAYER OF DEDICATION		John Loor
HYMN	<i>Now Thank We All Our God</i>	No. 90
BENEDICTION		L. R. Ellison
POSTLUDE	<i>Now Thank We All Our God</i> Judy Racine, Pianist — Nancy Racine, Organist	Bach

God is high and holy; and to the humble, believing soul, His house on earth, the place where His people meet for worship, is as the gate of heaven. The song of praise, the words spoken by Christ's ministers, are God's appointed agencies to prepare a people for the church above, for that loftier worship. -*My Life Today*, p. 286.

# THE ACT OF COMMITMENT

For as much as it pleased Almighty God to put it into the hearts of His servants to build this house in which to worship Him, let us now fulfill the holy purpose for which we have assembled.

To the glory of God, our Father, by whose favor we have built this house;  
To the honor of Jesus, the Son of the living God, our Lord and Saviour;  
To the work of the Holy Spirit, minister of life and light.

We give this house, O God, to Thee.

For worship in prayer and song,  
For the preaching and teaching of the Word,  
For the celebration of the holy ordinances,

We give this house.

For comfort to those who mourn,  
For strength to those who are tempted,  
For help in right living,

We give this house.

For sanctification of the family,  
For the guidance of children and youth,  
For the salvation of men,

We give this house.

For the defense of liberty,  
For the training of conscience,  
For aggressive warfare against evil.

We give this house.

For the help of the needy,  
For the relief of the distressed,  
For the defense of God's Sabbath,  
For hastening the coming of Christ,

We give this house to Thee, O God.

As a tribute of gratitude and love from those who have tasted the cup of Thy salvation and experienced the riches of Thy grace, we bring this house as a freewill offering to our God.

We, the people of this church and congregation, now consecrating ourselves anew, give this entire building to the cause and service of God. Amen.

# THE CHURCH HISTORY

One hundred eleven years ago, January 3, 1865, marked the beginning of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Ithaca, Michigan. With Elder I. D. VanHorn presiding, the believers gathered that day, "Resolved, that we enter into an organization known as Seventh-day Adventists of Gratiot County, Michigan."

At the second business meeting, 36 souls established their membership and elected officers. Franklin Squires became elder, Francis Nelson deacon, and Phillip P. Allen, church clerk. S. M. Butler and I. H. Evans, both born in Gratiot County, were the first to preach the Advent message in this community when they were very young men, and were called "boy preachers."

According to the 1884 edition of Gratiot County History, the Adventists were the second religious organization in the village, but the first to erect a church building. It is interesting to learn that Elder and Mrs. James White visited our church in the summer of 1867, for we read in Volume I of the Testimonies, page 600, "At Ithaca the Lord helped us to speak to a large congregation whom we had never met before."

One of the early members was Julia Burgess, who later lived in the home of the Whites. She married their hired man, J. O. Corliss, and they became pioneers in establishing our work in Australia.

The first church building was erected at 329 E. Newark St., but it burned two years later. Using the same location, a better building was erected with lumber hauled through deep snow by David Stevenson from his farm near Ola, eleven miles distant. Brother Stevenson also gave the lumber for the seats which were built within the church. Those pioneer days produced rugged individuals, and it is said that when the roads were too muddy to bring his family to Ithaca by horse and carriage, Brother Stevenson would walk the eleven miles to attend services here on the Sabbath. A few years later, 33 members transferred to Ola when that church was organized.

Among the members mentioned in the 1884 history, were Knowler and Sarah Gibbs, Their granddaughter, Ada Burgess, is a present member. One who was introduced to Sabbath School at the age of three weeks recalls the primitive facilities at the turn of the century. The basement, consisting of a dirt floor and

wood-burning furnace, was reached by an open stairway. For their Sabbath School class, the youth climbed a similar stairway to the long room above the entrance where the large campmeeting church-family tent was stored. To accommodate the little folk, curtains were strung on a wire at the front of the sanctuary and classes were held on either side between the pews and the platform.

Built across the back of the lot was a long shed consisting of stalls for the comfort and protection of the horses and rigs. One or two of these had doors at the front, presumably for the use of more affluent members.

Members who became employees of the denomination include, Claude White, Ira Woodman, Burt White and his son Wayne White, who became a successful evangelist. Elders Burt White and Woodman served as conference presidents and Elder Woodman was manager of the Pacific Press Publishing Association at the time of his retirement.

Among those who have given long years of service in the church were Glen S. Bugbee, who served as elder for about 16 years, and Bertha Burgess-Day who was church clerk for some 30 years. Both now sleep awaiting the call of the Life-Giver.

A parochial school was opened in 1905 in a building erected on the church property and continued in operation until 1918. The first teachers were Winifred Tefft, Ardenne May, Claude White and Ethel Dean, respectively. One of the first students, C. B. Burgess, became an employee of the denomination and gave over forty years of service.

In 1933, the Ithaca, St. Louis and Ola churches joined in establishing a church school in St. Louis. In 1956 a new two room school was built in the southeast part of Ithaca which houses our present enrollment of 44. During the years the enrollment has varied from 36 to 62.

As remembered by those grown older, the membership of the church during the 1890's grew to a total of around 75. During the thirties the membership had dwindled to less than half that number. Our present membership of 106 speaks well for the value of Christian education.

Pioneers who labored in Gratiot County include J. N. Loughborough and A. O. Burrell. Ministers who served the Ithaca church through the years include Charles Sanders, Fred Hoxie, O. M. Kittle, Chancy Wood, T. M. Sommerville, J. D. Reavis, H. P. Waldo, Stanley Hyde, T. I. Rush, E. R. Potter, H. R. Kehney, Paul Penno, O. L. Johnston, C. E. Bracebridge, Howard Boling, David Cosey,



Harry Freese, L. R. Ellison and E. E. Herr, who was the pastor during the erection of this building complex.

As membership of the church increased, facilities in the old church became inadequate, especially for the children's departments. In 1966 it was voted to purchase land upon which our church now stands. May 31, 1970, ground was broken for the construction of this building. This complex, completed at a cost of approximately \$180,000, including the land, was made possible by the continuing sacrifice of our members. Many hours of donated labor, under the direction of builder and supervisor Vernon Shively, made possible the completion in so short a time.

We would like to pay tribute to those of our members who have done so much to make this building possible. Fearing that some might be missed, we will simply say that the dedication in sacrifice and hard labor on the part of many has been such as is seldom seen in our day.

May 15, 1971, the opening service was held in this sanctuary, with Elder R. D. Moon as speaker at the morning service with Elder E. E. Herr leading in the Act of Consecration. In the afternoon Elder Herr baptized seven precious souls.

A few weeks after Elder Herr was called to another district, Elder Ed Schneider was assigned to our church as interim pastor. After three months Elder F. P. Baerg and family arrived having completed 13 years of service as missionaries in the Inter-American Division. Since July 1974, twenty-one souls have been added to our church by baptism.

Now, five years to the day since we held the first service in this sanctuary, we have met for the dedication service. With these adequate facilities, we look forward to growth. Facing the future with faith and courage, we anticipate the soon return of Jesus in fulfillment of His promise, "I will come again and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

Although God dwells not in temples made with hands, yet He honors with His presence the assemblies of His people. He has promised that when they come together to seek Him, to acknowledge their sins, and to pray for one another, He will meet with them by His Spirit. But those who assemble to worship Him should put away every evil thing. Unless they worship Him in spirit and truth and in the beauty of holiness, their coming together will be of no avail. Of such the Lord declares: "This people draweth nigh unto Me with their mouth, and honoreth Me with their lips; but their heart is far from Me. But in vain they do worship me." (Matt. 15:8, 9). Those who worship God must worship Him "in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him." (John 4:23). "The Lord is in His holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before Him." (Hab. 2:20).

- *Prophets and Kings*, p. 50.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BIBLE HOUR evangelistic meetings continue this afternoon at 5:15 in the Twin Cities SDA church with Elder Glenn H. Hill presenting the Topic: The Great Judgment Day.

AEROKHANAS, the CLA tumbling team, will be performing at the Academy tonight at 9:00.

THE RECEPTION for Bonnie and Lee Dahl will be held at the Twin Cities SDA Youth Center tomorrow at 4:30 p.m.

MINISTRY OF HEALING studies continue in Carson City at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday. Prayer Meeting in Ithaca will convene on Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

VBS LEADERS AND TEACHERS are invited to meet next Sabbath, May 22, at 3:00 p.m. in the church.

A NATURE WALK FOR SMALL CHILDREN has been planned and will leave immediately following the Preaching Service today and last until dinner is ready.

ITHACA WARRIORS Pathfinder Club received high honors at the Pathfinder Fair held last Sunday in Lansing. Our congratulations to each member of the club, the counselors, and Directors Jim and Mary Ann Orrison.

OVER 100 BOXES of clothing for disaster relief was shipped last Tuesday from our Community Service Centers in Carson City and Ithaca. Our heartfelt thanks to all who had a part in this labor of love.

DEDICATORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS Paul Rendel, Harold Racine, Marilyn Kiser, Virginia Pfeifle and Betty Johnson worked diligently along with many helpers to prepare the church building and the grounds for dedication. We wish to express our deep appreciation to all who had a part in this service for God.

GEM THOUGHT: CS 261 "When we give ourselves wholly to God, and in our work follow His directions, He makes Himself responsible for its accomplishment."

## PARTICIPATING MINISTERS

Charles Keymer, President  
Michigan Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Gordon Carle, Treasurer  
Michigan Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

John Loor, Departmental Director  
Michigan Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Donald Eckenroth, District Superintendent  
Michigan Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Lloyd Ellison, Treasurer  
Hinsdale Seventh-day Adventist Church

Freberin Baerg, Pastor  
Ithaca Seventh-day Adventist Church

