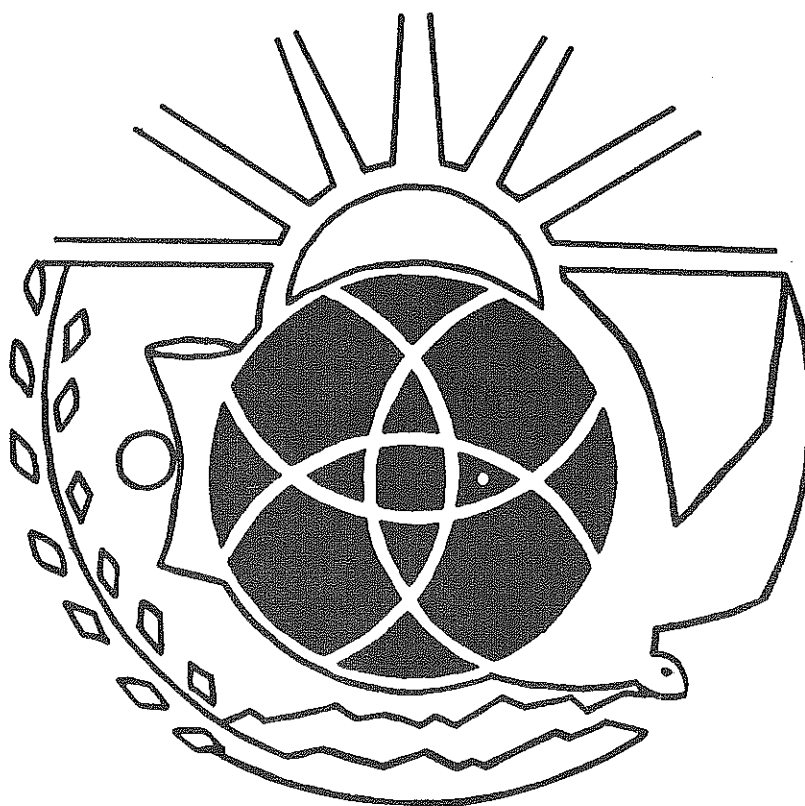


THE CONSECRATION OF THE BUILDING

Community United Methodist Church

Naperville, Illinois



The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 13, 1981

With the consecration of our building today, following a \$450,000 renovation and expansion project, Community Church completes work which began in 1975, with the formation of a Long Range Planning Committee.

The Administrative Board affirmed both the 1977 report of the committee and an all-church retreat: that we remain on this corner, maintain our life as a church with unique gifts in mission and ministry, and continue to relate significantly to North Central College.

The Building Study Committee completed its work on May 23, 1979, and the Building Committee was formed. Two innovative, understanding, humorous, and hard-working architects, David Lindquist and Gene Oakley, were hired. They helped us solve our problems (e.g., circulation of people through the entire building, space for young children, adequate space for our growing music program, more meeting rooms for adults, and a complete renovation of our electrical system), they changed plans to meet economic necessities (not enough money), and enabled us to see new possibilities.

To Gene and Dave we will forever be indebted, as we will to the R.C. Wegman Construction Co. of Aurora, and particularly to their foreman Nick Schuetz, whose determination and skill created a new building.

As a result of twenty-six meetings of the Building Committee, countless hours of consultation and planning, and hundreds of volunteer hours of painting and cleaning, we now have a safe, serviceable and beautiful building.

The sanctuary roof is completely new and the south and northeast towers have been rebuilt. The sanctuary windows are covered with Lexan for safety and heat conservation and have been repainted and releaded. The organ console has been rebuilt to include a solid-state system, and the organ has been cleaned.

After many years of deterioration and subsequent worry, we have a new electrical and fire alarm-smoke detection system throughout the building (at a cost of \$125,000).

When the 1911 building was linked with the 1925 education unit, architects could not use interior ventilation systems. Now, we have filled in the old courtyard between the two buildings and added 4,700 square feet of new space, including a new nursery, youth room, library, storage area, two new entrances, and a new banner and craft room.

Carpet has been installed in both new and old areas. Small rooms have been combined into larger, more useful areas for learning/teaching. Morr-Sharp Electric has brought new light to us through careful planning and imaginative selection of fixtures.

No longer is our building accessible only to those who can climb stairs. With the addition of a ramp for disabled people on the east side of the building and an adjacent restroom, people in wheelchairs, with walkers or canes can get to the sanctuary level as well as the first floor of the building.

Restoration of the kitchen, fellowship hall and several education areas have brought together the old and the new in the building. New ceilings, walls, and lights combined with carpeting and paint make the entire building sparkle.

However, the job is not complete. We still need furniture for several areas, i.e., the atrium/library (\$500), the chandelier area on the second floor (\$500), and the sitting area overlooking the library (\$500). We still need new doors on the three sanctuary entrances (\$4,500), and many people dream of restoring the skylights in the sanctuary and the assembly area (\$6,000).

Funds in memory of Erla Kreimeier have made possible much of the new library, and the family of Larry Eisele has given the beautiful Flemish chandelier in the second floor hallway.

Thanks be to God for His great gifts to the Church. Thanks to all those who have helped through gifts of money, time, and imagination to make possible what we celebrate today. And thanks already to those who will help Community Church grow in mission and ministry in years to come.

The Prelude: "Battle Hymn of the Republic"
THE COMMUNITY CHURCH BRASS: Dave Bittner, Ron Keller, Ruth Hamm,
Stan Cain, Bill Naumann, Mark Morris

The Processional Hymn "God of Grace and God of Glory" 470

[Please stand on the first note of the hymn]

The Greeting
The people standing

The mighty winds of God blow through our lives, calling us to a new birth, to be Church.

In the presence of God's power, we worship and bow down.

We assemble to celebrate our achievement in God's strength, to open our new building not for our own satisfaction, but for the glory of God.

We seek His blessing on this our work.

The Introit: "All Things Are Thine" Herr Jesu Christ
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

The Prayer Arlyn Shiffler
Chairperson of the Building Committee

O God, eternal and ever blessed, who delightest in the assembling of thy people in the sanctuary: Hear our prayer for this house, which we would devote henceforth to the honor of thy name. Grant, we beseech thee, that peace and prosperity may be found within these walls, that thy glory may be the light thereof, and that we, and all who come within it, may be satisfied with the goodness of thy house; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Then all shall say,

Blessed be thy name, O Lord, that thou hast given to thy servants a holy will and sacred desire, to erect and sanctify to thine own use this building, which we now open for thine honor and glory. Grant that we, and all who come within these portals, shall ever make right use of it, and that the splendor of thy presence shall be manifest therein, and the heart of thy people be ever blessed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Anthem: "The Lord Our God Alone is Strong" Hopson
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR: Dale McCurdy, Director

The Lord our God alone is strong;
His hands built not for one brief day;
His wondrous works, through ages long,
His wisdom and his power display.

Thou sovereign God, receive this gift
Thy willing servants offer thee;
Accept the prayers that thousands lift,
And let these halls thy temple be.

His mountains lift their solemn forms
To watch in silence o'er the land;
The rolling ocean, rocked with storms,
Sleeps in the hollow of his hand.

And let those learn, who here shall meet,
True wisdom is with reverence crowned,
And science walks with humble feet
To seek the God that faith hath found.

C. T. Winchester

Arise shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will be seen upon you.
And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.
The abundance of the sea shall be turned to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
Your gates shall be open continually,
day and night they shall not be shut.
Violence shall no more be heard in your land,
devastation or destruction within your borders;
you shall call your walls Salvation,
and your gates Praise.
The sun shall be no more your light by day,
nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you by night;
but the Lord will be your everlasting light,
and your God will be your glory.
Your sun shall no more go down,
nor your moon withdraw itself;
for the Lord will be your everlasting light,
and your days of mourning shall be ended.

Isaiah 60: 1-3, 5b, 11a, 18-20

The Gloria Patri

The Moments of Reflection

Gene Winkler, Pastor

The Pastoral Prayer

The Offering

Silent Reflection

From "Reaching for Rainbows" by Ann Weems

I keep reaching for rainbows...
Thinking one God's morning
I will wake up
With hurts painted over in hues that only angel wings could brush,
Black obliterated, chaos hurled beyond the rainbow and my vision,
The world created in a myriad of colors:
The hungry fed,
The dying held,
The maimed walking,
The angry stroked,
The violent calmed,
The oppressed freed,
The oppressors changed,
And every tear wiped away.

I keep reaching for rainbows,
But instead of colors in our storm,
Gray and black infiltrate, dirtying the sky,
And I hear human voices wailing in the darkness,
The never-ending darkness...
Just the same
I know the promise of the rainbow.
I keep thinking I'll turn a corner one day
And find a litany of rainbows
Flung across the sky,
Hosannaing back and forth
Through all the ages and
Out into the eternity forever amen!
Every tear wiped away --
It's a promise --
When we become rainbows to each other.

Offertory:

Randall Berner, Organist

The Doxology

The people standing

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord! Amen.**

The Lessons from Holy Scripture

David Hett, Associate Pastor

Genesis 28:10-17
Romans 11:33-36
John 15:1-17

The Sermon

“What Place Is This?”

Bishop Paul A. Washburn
Pastor, Community Church, 1952-1964
Bishop, Chicago Area, 1972-1980

The Affirmation of Faith

Let us unite in this historic confession of the Christian Faith:

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Minister: We promise and covenant with God and one with another to receive whatsoever light or truth shall be made known to us from his written Word, for we are confident that the Lord has more truth and light yet to break forth out of his holy Word. (Paraphased from a sermon delivered by John Robinson, pastor of the Pilgrims, before their departure from Leyden on July 22, 1620.)

Choir: Surely the Lord is in this place. This is the house of the Lord our God. (Gen. 28: 16-17)
How shall we sing in a strange land? (Ps. 137:4)

Sopranos: What a Friend We Have in Jesus (Gospel Song)

Altos: 'Tis the Gift to Be Simple (Shaker Hymn)

Tenors: Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen (Spiritual)

Basses: How Firm a Foundation (Folk Hymn)

May the peace of God unite and bless all our churches and may the Word of Truth be made each day the means of sanctification. So let us pray. (From a report to the American Baptist Home Mission Society, April 27, 1832.)

Congregation (led by Minister):

O God, we pray thee to revive in us the hardy spirit of our forebears that we may establish and complete their work, building on the basis of their democracy the firm edifice of a cooperative commonwealth, in which both government and industry shall be of the people, by the people, and for the people. May we, who now live, see the oncoming of the great day of God, when all human beings shall stand side by side in equal worth and real freedom, all toiling and all reaping, masters of nature but brothers and sisters of all, exultant in the tide of the common life, and jubilant in the adoration of thee, the source of their blessings and the Father of all, Amen.
From PRAYERS OF THE SOCIAL AWAKENING BY Walter Rauschenbusch, 1910, alt.)

Choir: If today you hear His voice, open your hearts. If today you hear His voice, greet Him with thanksgiving singing joyfully to our God. (Paraphrased from Psalms 95.)

Choir and Congregation join to sing:

The musical notation consists of three staves of music in a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The lyrics are written below the notes.

Sure - ly, sure - ly the Lord is in this place. Sure - ly,
 sure - ly the Lord is in this place. This is the house of the
 Lord our God. This is the house of our God.

The Consecration of the Building

In holy reverence, and in confidence that God our Father will accept that which we do in his name, I now declare this house to be open for the worship and service of Almighty God.

For nurture in the truth of the Holy Scriptures; for Christian teaching, fellowship, and service, we reverently set apart and consecrate this building, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Now therefore, O Lord, let Thine eyes be open toward this house day and night; and let Thine ears be ready toward the prayers of thy children, which they shall make unto Thee in this place. And whensoever thy servants shall make to Thee their petitions, do Thou hear them, and when Thou hearest, forgive.

Then shall the people say,

O God, who hast built thy Church upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone: Save the community of thy people from cowardly surrender to the world, from rendering unto Caesar what belongs to thee, and from forgetting the eternal Gospel amid the temporal pressures of our troubled days.

For the unity of the Church we pray, and for her fellowship across the embittered lines of race and nation; and to her growth in grace, her building in love, her enlargement in service, her increase in wisdom, faith, charity and power we dedicate our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Hymn

The Church's One Foundation

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The people standing

The Postlude:

The Building Committee:

The Rev. Nathan Bartel
Mrs. Nancy Best
Mr. Charles Bouton
Mr. Pete Eissler
Mr. Roy Funkhouser
Mr. Steve Helm
Mrs. Peg Hiltz
Mr. Don Langford
Mr. Don McLaughlin
Mr. Wayne Redeker
Dr. Arlo Schilling
Mr. Arlyn Shiffler

Architects:

David Lindquist
Gene Oakley
Hawthorn Woods, Illinois
Downers Grove, Illinois

Construction

R.C. Wegman
Aurora, Illinois

The cover drawing is by Kris Olson of Moline, Illinois. Most important in the design is the influence and presence of Father, Son and Holy Spirit in the life of a believer in today's world. From the waters of the Sacrament of Baptism, the growing branch emerges as the life nurtured in the church. The cup and circle of bread depicts the importance of the Eucharist in the growth. The dove as the symbol of the Spirit is adjacent to the orb of the world with God, the Father, evident in the rays of His sun over the world. The ancient symbol of Christ, the fish, is interwoven with the concave lines crossing the central circle. The Christ is here in the Communion of Saints living and active in their witness to the world. This is the church, equipped for its ministry of witness, service and worship. Community Church is seen as God working and speaking through His appointed people, the church, to embrace and reconcile the world to Himself.