these women and their hundreds of helpers through the years for the excellent dinners which were prepared. (Just reading Mrs. Manshardt's private diary of auxiliary work with menus ranging from roast chicken to chop suey, makes one hungry!). The banquets served to church and college were unlimited—College and Seminary Alumni; Booster Clubs; Father-Son and Mother-Daughter; Woman's Club luncheons; North Central Homecoming; Annual Seminary Banquet; Junior-Senior and Football Banquets; Weddings; YWCA and Big-Little Sister; Faculty-Trustee; and any or all types of dinners, receptions and banquets asked for by the church. No matter what the pressure, however, the Ladies' Auxiliary steadfastly refused through the years to sponsor public dinners where the tickets were to be advertised for sale.

The Woman's Missionary Society, also, no longer existed as a separate entity. The tremendous influence of this organization for promoting world concepts of brotherhood among all ages in the church can never be estimated. Acting as sponsor for the Little Heralds, Mission Band, YWMC (or YPMC), as well as doing adult work, the leaders saw to it that all programs had a sound educational foundation and a depth of perception which led to a true understanding of other peoples of the world. Among the women who served as presidents of this group from 1912-1951 were: Mrs. A. J. Boelter, Mrs. S. J. Gamertsfelder, Mrs. G. Kimmel, Mrs. D. W. Staffeld, Mrs. E. E. Domm, Mrs. Frank Umbreit, Mrs. Chester Attig, Mrs. E. D. Riebel, Mrs. J. N. Lehman, Mrs. Clarence Eggestein, Mrs. Lester Schloerb, Mrs. H. R. Heininger.

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In February, 1951, the new organization of Women's Society of World Service (WSWS—pronounced Wiss Wiss by the initiated) was completed. The election of officers took place at the annual Birthday Dinner. The nominating committee consisted of Mesdames Eggestein, Koten, Michel, Schultz, Bradlee, Lehman, and Stover. All women over 18 who were members of the church were entitled to vote. The election results were as follows: President—Mrs. W. C. Harr, Vice-president—Mrs. A. J. Senty, Secretary—Mrs. Harold Henning, Treasurer—Mrs. P. G. Gamertsfelder, Sec. of Spiritual Life—Miss Ethel Spreng, Local Activities—Mrs. Paul Zimmermann, Social Relations—Mrs. Henry Moy, Missionary Education—Mrs. L. J. Schloerb. Circle Leaders: Number 1—Mrs. Charles Schuler, Number 2—Mrs. Lester Stover, Number 3—Mrs. Don Jamison, Number 4— Mrs. I. A. Koten, Number 5—Mrs. C. H. Eggestein, Number 6—Miss Leona Kietzman.

The WSWS has continued to serve the church in every facet of its total life. Through the afternoon and evening circles, all women have an opportunity to make a contribution. Mrs. Harr, who began the work as president of the new organization in First Church, proved such an able administrator that she was later elected to serve as president of the General Women's Society of World Service for the entire Evangelical United Brethren Church, which is a department of the Board of Missions.

The change-over to the unified work among the women in the local

church was not the only major change in First Church in 1951. It was also the time when an early morning service was initiated in the social parlor at 8:30. The "parlor-chapel", with the addition of altar and hangings, became a popular place for worship. After the scheduled five-Sunday trial run, the council decided to continue this early service until further notice.

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An even greater change outwardly came in the remodeling work done. The floor of the sanctuary was refinished and new carpeting laid in the chancel and aisles. The old carpeting was placed in the balcony. New heating units, a new ceiling in the banquet room, new washroom facilities, robing rooms for the senior choir, and the renewal of the hearing aid system, were all a part of the improvement pattern. The room behind the pulpit, which once served as the pastor's study, now became a well-planned workroom with counter space and cabinets for the use of altar guild and communion stewards.

When the sacrament of Holy Communion is shared in First Church, the reality of the priesthood of believers, in which every person is not only his own priest but priest to all other worshippers also, is emphasized. It is a true worship experience both to speak and to hear the words:

At the Communion of the Broken Bread,

The Lord Jesus Christ, who gave His body for thee, preserve thy soul unto everlasting life. Take and eat this bread in remembrance that Christ died for thee. Feed on Him in thy heart by faith with thanksgiving.

At the communion of the Wine,

The Lord Jesus Christ, who shed His blood for thee, preserve thy soul unto everlasting life. Drink this cup in remembrance that Christ shed His blood for thee. Partake of Him in thy heart by faith with thanksgiving.

A memorial gift of $5,000 by Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Lang of Detroit in honor of Mr. Lang's uncle, Professor E. E. Domm, had inspired the total program. The congregation set its financial goal at $35,000, of which $29,000 was raised by cash and pledges in November, 1950. The gift of Mr. and Mrs. Lang was used for the building of the new chancel, which has greatly enriched the worship of First Church. After careful research, the symbols of the chancel were meaningfully interpreted by Mrs. Floyd Shisler, who has made the care of the altar and the training of the acolytes an act of sincere dedication. We quote Mrs. Shisler's words:

The center aisle serves an important symbolic function. It has been called "a parable of the Way of Life reaching from birth to the Throne of God." It should be left open, a sign of the individual's free access to God.

The Christian altar is a perpetual reminder of Christ's death, the one full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice for all time. Here in gratitude we offer our gifts to God: bread and wine, sanctified in remembrance of our Savior's suffering and triumph; money, consecrated to the building of His Kingdom; flowers, to commemorate our Lord's resurrection.

The cross on the altar is the symbol not only of the passion of Christ but of His triumph. On either side of the cross are candles to remind us that Christ is the Light of the World. One stands for His divine nature; the other for his human nature. On the cross are the letters I H S, the first three capital letters from the Greek word for Jesus.

The ever-burning light above the altar lifts our eyes, our thoughts, our hearts to the ever-living, boundless love of God our Father. On the front of the altar in the center is the hand-carved symbol, "The Lamb of God" (Agnus Dei), the most beautiful of the ancient symbols to represent the Son of God. The head surrounded by the three-rayed nimbus signifies divinity, the banner indicates victory. The Lamb lies on the book of seven seals described in The Revelation. The sheaf of wheat and the cluster of grapes symbolize the Bread of Life and the Blood of Christ.

The principal carving on the pulpit is the open book, the Word of God open toward the people. On the lectern the cross and the crown remind us of Christ's suffering and His reward.

The shields of the four Evangelists on the wall from left to right are: St. Matthew, a winged man; St. Mark, a winged lion; St. Luke, a winged ox; and St. John, a winged eagle. These signify the humanity, the royalty, the sacrifice, and the divinity of Jesus.

The dedication service of the new chancel took place on Palm Sunday, March 18, 1951. Mr. Lang participated in the service and Bishop Stamm read these words as a part of the service of dedication:

> Bishop Stamm: In grateful remembrance of all who have loved and served the church and who have joined the Church Triumphant: and in special memory of Professor Edward E. Domm, faithful teacher of the Christian truth, willing counselor of teachers, friend of children and youth, devoted Christian minister and servant of the church;
>
> People: We dedicate this chancel.

Gifts for the chancel began to come in. A fund started by Marietta Hoffman Lambrecht at the time of her wedding resulted in two 7-branch candelabra; the Ira Oertlis gave two candle lighters and snuffers; Coral Manning donated a *Prie Dieu* in honor of her mother; the neighbors of Miss Emma Martin gave new bread plates for the Communion Service in her honor.

The two exquisite old pulpit chairs with their cathedral type backs placed on either side of the chancel had been used almost a

hundred years ago in the Old Brick Church. The chairs had not fitted into the square, heavy pulpit appointments of the 1912 chancel and so they had been relegated to a storeroom. However, they had not been idle. College students had discovered that the chairs made elegant thrones for the crowning ceremonies of the May Queen. They had even gilded the chairs to make them stunning for the May Day festivities with their red velvet backs and seats. The chairs did not lose their church relationship even on the campus, however, for they were often sat upon by our own Naperville Evangelical May Queens.

The first was Ruth Gamertsfelder, of the Class of 1915. Others from our two churches who have graced the "throne" were: Mildred Moyer Stauffer, Lois Rieke Stauffer, Dorothea Kimmel, Helen Dewar Norton, Ruth Groves Riebel, Phyllis Schendel Wedsworth, Dorothy Juhnke Kolb, Monie Gamertsfelder Kinney, Mary Lee Siemsen Wolf, Barbara Irwin Thompson, Donna Siemsen Larsen, and Mary Ann Uebele Sroufe. Probably Barbara Thompson in 1950 was the last queen who sat upon one of the chairs. Luckily Arnie and Bea Wolf discovered them and refinished them to match the new chancel. In restoring the chairs to their original beauty, the Wolfs forged a visual link with the historic Old Brick Church.

For a number of years the Palm Sunday procession by the Junior Choir was given special beauty as the children in their fresh, snowy-white surplices marched down the center aisle of the sanctuary carrying palm branches sent from Florida by the Reverend and Mrs. Harold Oeschger, who serve our church in St. Petersburg. Mrs. Oeschger is Mrs. John Hornback's sister.

It is also of interest to note here that the change in the chancel marked the passing of full-scale dramatic productions in the church. The big old circular platform could no longer be fitted on its wooden horses between altar rail and chancel. For more than thirty years plays, pageants, tableaux, and pantomimes had provided an outlet for creative energies. Professor and Mrs. Guy Eugene Oliver gave great leadership in this field. Many times, more than 200 people took part in the productions. Other names which come readily to mind for leadership in this are Jamison, Eigenbrodt, Finkbeiner, Moy, Daniels, Seager, Stoos, Hornback, Heininger, Eder, Schmidt, and Boelter.

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So many were the achievements of Reverend and Mrs. Eder in the service of First Church, and so vital had been their relationship to the church members, that it was to a shocked and unbelieving congregation on May 11, 1952, Reverend Eder preached his farewell sermon entitled "Uncharted Voyage."

When the realization came that the Eders had chosen to go out into wider fields of service, the congregation showed their high esteem and affection by presenting their minister and his wife with a new, black Chrysler. Reverend Eder wrote his final little homily to his people in these words:

> It would take "the tongues of men and of angels" to express the gratitude which we have in our hearts as we leave First Church. The past is flooded with pleasant memories which we will cherish as long as we live. The generous gift of a shiny new Chrysler sedan was altogether unexpected—*a complete surprise.* How it was done and with such secrecy will always amaze us. Any attempt to express our appreciation in words might be like a "noisy gong or a clanging cymbal." So, as St. Paul admonished, we will say it in LOVE enriched by seventeen years of your genuine Christian affection.

Here might end the story of the Eders' ministry at First Church, but the greatest tribute that can be paid to them is to let Professor W. H. Heinmiller describe what happened in the congregation when, after World War II, Mr. Eder asked that warm, practical cloaks of Christian love and fellowship be thrown about the shoulders of cold, hungry neighbors across the ocean:

> In June, 1946 Mr. Eder developed the project of sending cereal to Europe. After extensive investigation it was found that the Ralston-Purina Co. had developed a mixed cereal with high food value which they would sell at low cost. Since the amount of money to pay for a carload, about 50,000 pounds, was more than First Church could shoulder alone, the churches of the Illinois Conference were invited to participate and many responded. The total cost for cereal and transportation was $4,970 of which First Church paid $2,206. The food was distributed overseas through Church World Service.
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> In August, 1946, in conversation with Missionary Sundberg of China, Mr. Eder found that the pastors (native) of our church in China were in need of new suits or the conventional Chinese long garments. After scouring wholesalers and mills for the desired cloth, a mill was found in Pawtucket, R.I., which had just the required amount of suitable cloth. We had it shipped to the West Coast for Mr. Sundberg to take along on his return to China. The cost was $230. The results are recorded in the many letters of gratitude from Mr. Sundberg and a number of the Chinese ministers.
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> In March, 1947, a sizable shipment of dry milk was made to Dr. Paul Mayer in Japan at a cost of $127.
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> In the same year two shipments of insulin were made to Evangelical hospitals in Germany. Each of these contained 100,000 units. The Squibb Pharmaceutical Co. was very cooperative both in the matter of price and in preparation for shipment. Cost $370.
>
> In July of 1947 First Church gave $1,000 to the American Friends Service Committee (Quakers) toward their Child Feeding Program.

At the same time a sewing machine, sterilizer and sewing supplies were purchased for Miss Justine Granner, Missionary in China. The sterilizer pressure cooker was not to be used for medical purposes, but to make it possible for the missionaries to cook a variety of beans which could only by this method be made soft enough to eat. Food was very scarce.

The next project was really unique. In the fall of 1947 it came to our attention that a young man, the grandson of one of our pastors in Germany, was in need of assistance to continue his medical education. His family were Quakers and he had served in a non-combatant capacity in the medical corps of the German army. He had contracted tuberculosis and been sent to Switzerland. He wanted to continue his medical education there, but had no funds. His father had a fair income, but there was nothing in Germany to buy with the money nor could they send it to Switzerland. So an interesting plan was developed whereby we agreed to furnish the money for eight months. This was sent through the missionary office of the denomination to a representative of the church in Switzerland and he paid it to the young student. In turn, his parents agreed to pay back the money on an agreed basis of exchange to the pastor of the Evangelical Church in Kassel where they resided. Our church there had been completely bombed out. They paid back every dollar and the money was used toward the rebuilding of the church in Kassel which is in the American zone. Later Gert Legatis returned cured to Germany without interrupting his medical education. He is today a specialist in internal medicine, practicing in the city of Hanover. He is married to the daughter of the celebrated Bishop Lillje. One of the best investments we made. Cost $675.

In February, 1948 we raised $1,850 toward the purchase of a portable chapel for Berlin or Dresden. One could be purchased in Switzerland for $5,000. In Dresden all three Evangelical churches were totally destroyed.

In addition to these special projects hundreds of CARE packages of food and many packages of clothing were sent. In December of 1946 alone, 210 CARE packages at $10 each were sent. The postage and express on clothing shipments amounted to $381 for the period 1945-1948. There were also money contributions to the relief work of the American Friends and the Evangelical United Brethren Church. First Church raised a total of $11,628 for relief work overseas in this period and that *without any urging or pressure.*