Schleuters, the Richard Koehlers, the Howard Michels, and the Don Rhodes'. Mr. and Mrs. Obed Albrecht were asked to sponsor the group and for the past fifteen years have given splendid guidance. Miss Alma Hanneld, the present teacher, *prepares* a stimulating lesson each Sunday morning. (Miss Hanneld is a professional secretary and her lesson guides are meticulously typed and mimeographed!) The class also has four separate groups which meet on various evenings for the type of "Christian dialogue" which Pastor Washburn advocates often in his sermons. The resource group leaders for 1961 were: Dr. and Mrs. F. W. Boelter, Professor and Mrs. William Naumann, Professor and Mrs. James Will and Professor and Mrs. James Stein. The Couples' Class has had many projects to help meet world needs: goats and a portable organ for pastors in Japan; sewing machines to the Philippines and Africa; money for projects in Canada, Illinois, Ecuador (for a primary teacher), and Puerto Rico. They paid for a tutor to help a Hungarian refugee student at North Central College. Altogether this class has given about $6,000 for benevolent enterprises.

On Confirmation Sunday, which comes at the conclusion of the two-year catechetical program, each confirmand comes to the altar and kneels. The pastor presents each child with a wooden cross, on which his or her name and the date are inscribed, which then is held as Dr. Washburn lays his hands on the catechumen's head and says:

Defend, O Lord, this child with Thy heavenly grace, that he may continue Thine forever, and daily increase in Thy Holy Spirit more and more, until he comes into Thy heavenly kingdom.

Another class which is making its presence felt in First Church is known as T.N.T. (Twenties and Thirties) Class. Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Tholin gave four years of devoted service as teachers of the class. Then Mr. Vernon Hoesch served as teacher and under his guidance the class undertook a project of supporting two students at the Ifugao Academy and at Union College in the Philippines.

Under the leadership of Professor James Stein, an "out of high school" age group has again been formed. Perhaps classes for these young adults can best be started as the need arises. The very nature of the group, the poised-for-flight period of life, makes it impossible to establish a permanent class. Departure for college, marriage, and jobs in distant places keep the membership in a constant stage of fluctuation.

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The ebb and flow of Church School classes becomes apparent only when a long view is taken. In any given period of time there is a sense

of stability and accomplishment. While aware of the areas where improvement might be called for, Pastor Washburn felt the solidity of the Church School work as he began his ministry in 1952. He could turn his energies to "the weaving of the fabric of love" out of which he desired the visible garment of his congregation to be fashioned.

In September, 1952, the Council of Administration (which until 1945 had been known as the Church Board) voted to institute a two-year program of catechetical instruction. Pastors Schloerb, Grote, and Eder had held a series of Pastor's Classes for boys and girls in the period before Easter. The following interpretation of the new plan was given by Mr. Washburn:

"The decision for a two-year program was based upon our conviction that the study of our faith is of prime importance. It was decided to call it a Confirmation Class because the ultimate goal of this program is to lead members of the class to a Confirmation of Christ as Savior and to a confirmation of the responsibility for the living of a Christian life."

The church bulletin is often thought of as the guide to the Sunday morning worship service and the carrier of the week's activities. Both Pastors Eder and Washburn have used the bulletins (which were in printed form from September, 1948 on) for molding the thinking of their congregations. The meaning of advent, of communion, of baptism, and of spiritual preparation for Easter were brief excerpts from the pen of Dr. Washburn.

In 1953, First and Grace met together on Wednesday evenings during Lent while Reverend Wolf and Reverend Washburn united their efforts to bring colloquies on "Intimations of Calvary in the Life of Jesus."

This year also saw the beginning of the Lenten breakfasts for men, which have been continued through the years with deep spiritual meaning. In 1954, breakfasts were served for the youth of the church and these too have become an annual event during the Lenten season. A Lenten Bible Class for the women of the church has been held annually on Thursday mornings, with the pastor leading in discussions of challenging and inspirational books by such outstanding modern thinkers as Reuel Howe, and Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

To keep in sacred memory the names of loved ones of First Church, Miss Wilma Schell presented a delicately wrought "Book of Remembrance" in memory of her mother. When new pages are added, the book is sent by the Memorial Committee to Boston where the "engrossing and illuminating are in the noble tradition of the ancient arts. Those skills originated in the early Middle Ages when the monks patiently and laboriously copied the early Christian manuscripts with deft and facile hands. All the records of this book will be carefully executed hand-lettered certificates. To achieve this result, pure gold will be blended with a variety of colors of ink. These will be applied to fine parchment."

The beautiful repository for the "Book of Remembrance" was given in memory of Mr. and Mrs. John Arends by their family. Mr. Arends was chairman of the Board of Trustees of First Church for

many years. The repository stands at the center back of the sanctuary against the north wall. Each week a different page is turned for remembrance.

Only once has the book been removed. On May 9, 1954, the citation and medal given to Miss Lois Kramer by the Emporer of Japan rested in the repository so that all the congregation might see it. Miss Kramer had been so honored by the Emperor for her outstanding work as a missionary and as one of the founders of the Deaf-Oral School in Japan.

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While 1953 saw the link with the past made real through a Book of Remembrance, it also saw the forging ahead in many places. On June 25, 1953, the uniting and first session of the Illinois Conference of the Evangelical United Brethren Church was held in First Church. On July 7-9 Illinois Branches of the Women's Society of World Service held their merging convention at First Church in Naperville. Also in July, a dinner was given in honor of Dr. Paul V. Church, the newly elected superintendent of the Naperville district.

In the fall of that year, appeals again were made for good, warm clothing. Dr. Lowell Maechtle, chairman of the Social Action Committee, was supervising the sending of clothes to Korea.

In November, WMAQ and WNBQ broadcast and telecast a series of *Thoughts and Prayers* by Dr. Washburn. Recordings of meditations and prayers were used to open and close NBC's radio and television day in the Chicago area during that month.

The world situation is often made vivid to First Church as friends returning from distant places tell of their experiences. On July 6, 1960, Dr. and Mrs. Harold Schendel, who had returned only a few days before from South Africa where Dr. Schendel was working on problems of nutrition, told a thrilling and disturbing story of how they joined with others in an effort to help avert a political catastrophe in Capetown.

On January 1, 1954 the Washburn family held their traditional afternoon and evening Open House for the congregation and friends. The trustees assisted. A pleasant diversion was the display of poetry by members of the congregation for the Christmas season. It is Pastor Washburn's deep concern that religious and philosophical concepts be expressed through the creative arts. He feels the love of God should cause the worshipper to bring forth praise through original poetry, art, and music. He urges his people so to express their exultation.

During the summer a large new pulpit Bible was given in honor of Professor M. E. Nonnamaker, who had been the Sunday School Superintendent at the time of the building of the new unit.

September 5, 1954 was the last Sunday Clyde Galow was in his home church at Naperville before he left for England to prepare for missionary work in our African mission.

The General Conference of the Evangelical United Brethren Church, which met in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1954, elected a member of First Church to the Bishopric, Dr. H. R. Heininger, then serving as President of Evangelical Theological Seminary. At the farewell party for the Heiningers, many warm congratulations and expressions of goodwill were offered to them, but there was a certain sadness, too. The loss to First Church of one of its talented families was real, and the personal loss of warm friendship was real, also.

Back in 1945, the Report of the Administrative Council had given the following item of business: "The trustees were instructed to investigate and take the necessary steps to incorporate First Church with the Secretary of State (This suggestion has been made by Bishop George E. Epp for specific legal reasons.)" However, the culmination of that suggestion, for various reasons, did not come to pass until ten years later. On February 20, 1955, the congregation was given a mimeographed document, along with the bulletin, at the 11 o'clock worship service. The document set down the resolutions which had to be adopted by our congregation before our church could become an incorporated church. The trustees had been instructed at the annual meeting of the congregation in May, 1954 to secure a corporate charter for our church. They could not complete their assignment until the resolutions were adopted.

First Church furnished eight branch (Illinois State) officers for Mission Band work: Miss Clara Rickert, Mrs. William Schutte, Miss Gertie Rickert, Mrs. H. C. Gegenheimer, Mrs. J. C. Schaefer, Mrs. Floyd Shisler, Mrs. Amelia Umbach, Mrs. Clarence Eggestein.

At 11:40 o'clock, the minister concluded his sermon and held a brief congregational meeting. The resolutions were adopted, the Doxology sung, and church was dismissed at 12 o'clock as usual.

The Easter season at First Church was a sad one in 1955. On March 24, Maundy Thursday, Dr. and Mrs. Milton Bischoff and their small daughter, Joylene, were killed in an automobile accident. They were on their way to the church where Reverend Bischoff was serving as pastor. Dr. Bischoff was head of the Bible Department at North Central College and Mrs. Bischoff had been well-known for her children's work in our denomination. Both had served as leaders in the field of Christian Education. Our minister, who had taught Religion at Rockford College, completed the year of teaching in the Bible Department at the college in Dr. Bischoff's place.

Running all through the history of First Church is this thread of interrelationship with the college. With the changing times, the nature of the relationship has changed. This was evident in the 50's, when both First and Grace congregations dispensed with services in their own churches and went to Pfeiffer Hall to join in the College Baccalaureate Service. The college had changed its Commencement program schedule. Baccalaureate was now in the morning instead of the afternoon, and the graduation exercises were on Sunday evening.

The joining of the two churches in the service was rather symbolic of the changing relationship of the churches and the college. It marked a turning point. The college had shared in the church—the church was now sharing in the college.

For many years after the union of Zion and College Chapel Churches, First Church was considered the College Church. Mr. Eder had once written:

> When First Church was built in 1912 it was designed to be a Church Home for students of North Central and Evangelical Theological Seminary. During these four decades thousands of young people have worshipped here and hundreds have sung in its choir. Among those whom we welcome today are many new students. We pray that all may feel the warmth of God's Spirit at work in our great congregation. On Sunday evening, October 14th, First and Grace Churches will hold their annual 'At Home Night' when we will have an opportunity to get better acquainted with you in our homes.

On Ash Wednesdays of 1960 and 1961 an Agape (Love) Feast was held. The atmosphere and mood of the ancient Christians (160-235 A.D.) were recaptured. In complete silence the worshippers entered a Palestinian-type garden for the washing of hands. The bread was broken from the round loaf by the ministers and taken by each communicant. The simple food in baskets was passed from one to another as hymns were sung and scriptural exhortations given. It was an hour of preparation for the coming of Easter.

The holding of the joint Annual At-Home-Night was but another indication of the cooperatively sponsored college activities which had once been concentrated in First Church alone. The reunion of the Association and United Evangelical Churches had made the college the school belonging to all Evangelicals. In addition, when Reverend Wilmert Wolf became a professor at the college, he was a member of

First Church and was one of the professors who taught the college class of more than 200 students. Later, when Mr. Wolf became pastor of Grace Church, the close tie to his Alma Mater held, and Grace and First Churches shared, in a new way, a mutual concern for the religious life of the students.

With the coming of Chaplain George St. Angelo to the college in 1956, a different approach to campus religious life naturally was inaugurated. For a while the ministers, Sunday School superintendents and college representatives worked together to formulate a college-church program. But with the building of the new Student Union both the Sunday School and the Youth Fellowship meetings were moved to the campus. Also, in place of the old type of Religious Emphasis or Week of Prayer in which the churches once shared quite extensively, modern Student Retreats have been instituted which are very inspirational to students, but in which the churches have no part. Despite this separation, which by the very structuring of a new program was inevitable, both First and Grace Churches have a large number of students who worship with them on Sunday morning.

The mutual debt of First Church and the college to each other can never be truly evaluated. Just in the area of Church School superintendents who have served in the new building, it is interesting to note that every one has either been a college or seminary professor or a graduate of North Central: M. E. Nonnamaker, Edwin Theiss, Harold Heininger, E. N. Himmel, E. D. Riebel, C. E. Erffmeyer, I. A. Koten, C. J. Attig, H. L. Deabler, Harold Schmidt, Henry Moy, Vernon Hoesch, Jarvis Spreng.

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Another rewarding relationship over the years has been that of First Church and the Evangelical Theological Seminary. Professor James Stein of the Seminary has given us some interesting facts concerning this relationship in three different areas:

1. The pastoral ministry of our congregation has been one that in the main has been trained at the Evangelical Theological Seminary. Since 1910, with one exception, all the men who have occupied First Church pulpit were graduates of this seminary: W. A. Schutte, A. J. Boelter, R. W. Schloerb, W. E. Grote, Dewey Eder, and Paul Washburn. In 1929, the seminary inaugurated its Field Work Program—a plan whereby young seminarians might receive practical pastoral experience in a local congregation while they continued their seminary education.

   Since that period a long list of student ministers have served both in various capacities in the worship and work of First Church and have been served by their experience in the work of the congregation. Moreover, a number of young men of our congregation have received their ministerial training at Evangelical Theological Seminary.

2. The congregational life of First Church is likewise affected by the seminary. A number of faculty members and their families have been active participants in various phases of church work. The plaques on the walls of our church tower express the contribution of some of those who in the past played a significant role. These men served as Sunday School teachers and officers, trustees, guest preachers, etc. Their wives were active in choir, Sunday School, and in the Women's Society of World Service locally and denominationally. Mrs. Wilber C. Harr is currently President of the General W.S.W.S. of our denomination.

3. The seminary has made good use of First Church's physical accommodations. Most of its large public services, such as baccalaureates and commencements, have been held in this sanctuary. The last three seminary presidents, Dr. Kimmel, Dr. Heininger, and Dr. Eller, were installed at services held in our sanctuary. The installation services for a number of seminary professors have occurred at our church as well.

Perhaps there is some signficance in the fact that the sanctuary of our church and the administration building of the seminary had their cornerstones laid within a few months of each other. The former was laid in 1911; the latter is designated "1912." Moreover, Levi Goehring, a graduate of the seminary, was the contractor who built both buidings. These facts signify more than that both institutions moved into more commodious plants about the same time; they further indicate a common desire to build greater and better to glorify God.

Since the coming of Pastor Washburn, eight Church Life Retreats have been held. Full-scale schedules for the coming year were presented by the chairmen of the various committees. Church leaders received inspiration and information at these retreats. Wheatland Salem Church has frequently been the site of these retreats.

One of the pictures of First Church which emerges over the years is one framed by its good neighbors: the Seminary, the college, Grace Church, and other neighboring churches. For a number of years many of the churches of the community joined in a September reception for the North Central students and welcome speeches were given by pastors of the other churches. The Good Friday service for the combined Protestant Churches of Naperville has been an annual worship experience in First Church for more than a quarter of a century.

The Christmas Eve Service of 1956 was made especially meaningful as laymen of the Methodist Church joined the men of First Church in serving the communion emblems to the joint congregations. (The Methodist Church was being rebuilt following a fire.) In 1960, the members of the newly organized United Presbyterian Church shared in the Christmas Eve service. The Reverend Kenneth Lehman assisted Pastor Washburn, and six men from each church served communion.

With other Naperville churches cooperating, an inter-racial camp, under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. Chester McMartin of First Church, was held at Camp Seager, 1960 and 1961. Negro and Indian children from Chicago were welcomed.

Our neighborhood extended even farther, when in 1956 the Lombard Mission was established. By 1961, First Church had contributed nearly $20,000 for this project. The Reverend Ted Rockwood, who had been recommended to the ministry by First Church, was the minister of the new mission church of the Illinois Conference. The fund has been continued each year through 1962.

The word "fund" has found its way onto these pages again and again. Innumerable special projects have brought forth generous responses which usually exceeded the asking. This, in addition to the regular budget. Through the years the sending of CARE packages has been a favorite individual contribution.

Like so many other areas, the pulse and conditions of the times can be felt in the budget of the church. Mr. Vernon Hoesch, of the Board of Stewards, has prepared an interesting table showing the total amount raised for all purposes for ten year spans:

1910	$ 3,518	29.81 average per member
1920	$16,510	36.69 " " "
1930	$17,527	27.29 " " "
1940	$13,360	18.79 " " "
1950	$44,236	53.00 " " "
1960	$70,401	66.00 " " "
1962	$75,890	70.00 " " "

It is only fair to point out, however, that the average per member in 1910 represents more sacrifice than the much larger sum today.

William Kilgus inspired and directed the congregation's most recent improvement in stewardship. He did this by reinstituting the Every-Member Canvass which had been neglected for a number of years. Early attempts at this were disappointing, but chief Steward Kilgus persisted and succeeded.

The conference program, "Faith at Work," is an attempt to inspire churches to go far beyond what is required of them in their giving—a go-the-second-mile type of sacrifice. First Church responded to this program by moving up the amount paid to the Illinois Conference from about $640 to $1,000 a month.